

Stormy Skies

by Leslie Gonzalez



Beyond the Pattern

Drawing inspiration from the drama of stormy skies, this poncho encapsulates the energy and allure of nature's tempest. Noro Malvinas provides the texture and color to mirror the shifting shades of the skies. The rolled neck and crossing elongated stitches evoke a sense of turbulence and create areas of visual interest. Worked from the top down, Stormy Skies offers a journey reminiscent of the ever-changing atmosphere above.

Sizes

S (M, L)

Finished Measurements

Neck Circumference: 24 (26, 28)''

Bottom Circumference: 46 (55, 66)''

Length 17 (18.5, 20)''

Materials

Noro MALVINAS (328 yds/300m, 150g/5.3oz, 100% wool): 2 (2, 3) skeins #38 Frost

Size 9 (5.5mm) circular needles or size needed to obtain gauge and in lengths (24'' [60cm] to 47'' [120cm]) to accommodate stitches

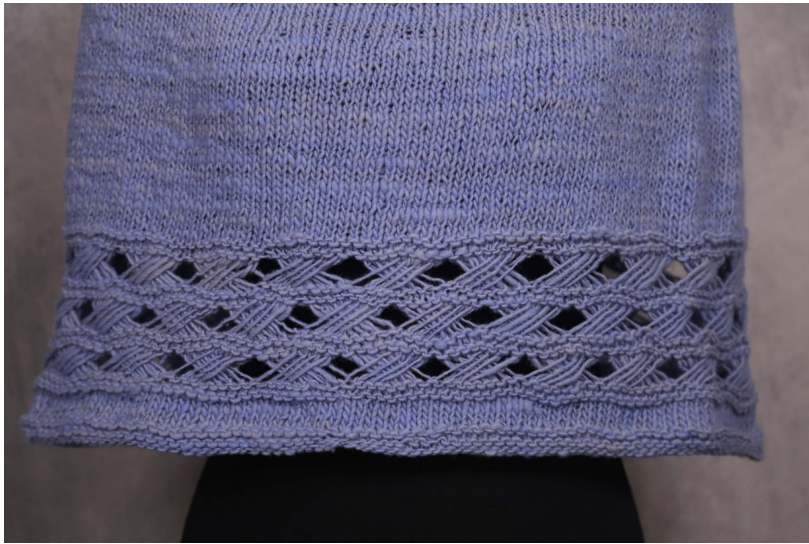
Stitch marker

Tapestry needle

TECHNICAL TIP—Circular needle lengths needed will vary with each size. Increase the cord length as the poncho becomes wider. Adjust the length as needed to prevent the stitches from crowding, ensuring more accurate length measurements.

Gauge

In St st, 14 sts & 20 rnds = 4''/10cm. To save time, take time to check gauge.



Stitch Pattern

Indian Cross Stitch (multiple of 8 sts)

Rnd 1: Purl.

Rnd 2: Knit.

Rnd 3: Purl.

Rnd 4: Knit, wrapping each stitch four times.

Rnd 5: *Sl 8 sts wyib, dropping all extra wraps, creating 8 long sts on right-hand needle. Insert left-hand needle into the first 4 of these long sts and pass them over the second 4 long sts. Return all sts to left-hand needle and knit the sts in the new order,

knitting the second 4 long sts first, and then the original 4 long sts. Rep from * for each group of 8 sts.

Rnds: 6: Purl.

Rnd 7: Knit.

Rnd 8: Purl

See [video](#) for Indian Cross Stitch: New Stitch A Day.

Poncho

Using shortest needles, CO 84 (91, 98) sts. Join in the rnd, being careful not to twist, and pm to mark beg of rnd.

Work in St st for 1.5 (2, 2)” from start.

Inc Rnd 1: Cont in St st, inc 24 (27, 30) sts evenly spaced—108 (118, 128) sts.

Cont in St st until piece measures 2.5 (3, 3)” from start.

Inc Rnd 2: Cont in St st, inc 20 (26, 32) sts evenly spaced over rnd—128 (144, 160) sts.

Cont in St st until piece measures 3.5 (4, 5)” from start.

DESIGNER NOTE—The total number of stitches at this point must be divisible by eight to work the Indian Cross Stitch pattern.

Beg working the Indian Cross Stitch pat.

TECHNICAL TIP—On Rnd 5, the first four stitches will be inside the second four stitches making an “X.” See photos.

Inc Rnd 3: Cont in St st, inc 16 (24, 36) sts evenly spaced over rnd, changing to longer needles as needed—144 (168, 196) sts.

Cont in St st until piece measures 6.5 (7.5, 8.5)” from start.

Inc Rnd 4: Cont in St st, inc 16 (24, 36) sts evenly spaced over rnd—160 (192, 232) sts.

Cont in St st until piece measures 11.5 (13, 14.5)” from start, or 5.5” from desired length. Then work the Indian Cross Stitch pat as follows:

Rnd 1: Purl.

Rnd 2: Knit.

Rnd 3: Purl.

Rnd 4: Knit, wrapping each stitch four times.

Rnd 5: *Sl 8 sts wyib, dropping all extra wraps, creating 8 long sts on right-hand needle. Insert left-hand needle into the first 4 of these long sts and pass them over the second 4 long sts. Return all sts to left-hand needle and knit the sts in the new order, knitting the second 4 long sts first, and then the original 4 long sts. Rep from * for each group of 8 sts. to end.

Rnds 6–9: Rep rnds 1–4.

Rnd 10: Remove rnd marker, then sl 4 sts wyib, dropping all extra wraps, creating 4 long sts on right-hand needle. Replace rnd marker. Then *sl 8 sts wyib, dropping all extra wraps, creating 8 long sts on right-hand needle. Insert left-hand needle into the first 4 of these long sts and pass them over the second 4 long sts. Return all sts to left-hand needle and knit the sts in the new

order, knitting the second 4 long sts first, and then the original 4 long sts. Rep from * for each group of 8 sts until 4 sts rem. Sl remaining 4 sts, dropping all extra wraps and return these stitches to the left-hand needle. Insert the left-hand needle into the 4 stitches slipped at the beginning of the rnd over and pass them over these 4 stitches. Then, knit the sts in the new order. The rnd start is now in a new position.

Rnds 11–14: Rep Rnds 1–4.

Rnd 15: Rep Rnd 10.

Rnds 16–18: Rep Rnds 1–3.

Rnds 19–23: Knit.

Rnds: 24–26: Rep Rnds 1–3.



TECHNICAL TIP—Slipping the first 4 stitches of Rnds 10 and 15 offsets the crosses by moving the round start ahead 4 stitches. Be sure to tension the yarn loosely behind the slipped stitches.

BO all sts. Weave in tails and block.

