

Silk Smoke

Silk Smoke is a versatile accessory you can wear laid on your shoulders as a dressy cowl neckline, or pulled over your head as a wimple.

The inherent elasticity and drape of the semi-ribbed lace stitch pattern combined with luxurious silk makes this article a decorative yet functional addition to any outfit.

This smoke ring is knitted circularly to make a seamless tube. Although the lace pattern looks complicated, the spectacular results are accomplished with a stitch sequence that is repetitive and relatively easy.

There are no special knitting techniques needed to make the fluted scallop edge — the shaping occurs naturally as a result of the bias structure of the lace pattern stitch.



Sample model was knitted with Treenway Silks 8/2 reeled Bombyx silk yarn in color #12 Pomegranate. Although smoke rings seem to be more traditionally made in subdued natural or grayed-down colors, I chose a fiery red for this model. After all, where there is smoke there is fire!

Sizing

Instructions are written for finished circumference of 22¼", with changes for 24" and 25¾" written in brackets. Finished length is 17[18,19]".

Yarn and Needles

Although smoke rings are often made in exotic animal fibers such as qiviut and cashmere, silk is also a good choice because of its warmth and softness. Reeled silk is made from the long filaments of silk to produce a high quality shiny silk yarn. The sheen of the silk compliments and enhances the texture in the undulating design of this twisted rib lace pattern. If using reeled silk as in the pictured model, it is prudent to hand-wind skeins into a ball rather than using a mechanical ball winder. An alternative would be to wind the skein onto a large cardboard spool.

525 [600, 680] yards lace or fingering weight yarn.

Size 3.5 mm / US 4 circular needle or size required to obtain gauge, 16 inch length. If using silk or another slippery yarn, you may want to choose a knitting needle that has a non-slippery surface such as wood, bamboo or coated metal .

Gauge: 7 sts and 8 rounds per inch over lace stitch pattern.

Note: Measurements are taken after thoroughly wetting, laying flat and gently blocking with fingers to open up the lace pattern nicely.