

# Scarf for an Artful Gardener

Applied flowers, leaves and corkscrews adorn this felted i-cord scarf. The scale of both the i-cord and the embellishments is a little over the top, but all of the techniques can be applied to other (non-felted) projects or worked with finer yarns and all of these techniques can all be executed on the simplest machines.

Finished length after felting is approximately 8'.

Machine: sample was knitted on the SK-860 mid-gauge.

Materials: 100% wool yarns for felting. The i-cord was worked in Manos del Uruguay; the embellishments with Cascade Soft Spun (197 yds/3.5 oz skein).

## I-CORD

With waste yarn, working EON, cast on 6 stitches. Knit some rows, hang a weight and then change to main yarn (Manos) and stitch size 10. Set the carriage to knit circular: knit in one direction and slip in the other. Knit circular until the cord measures about 12', periodically latching up the float across the back of the cord and holding that stitch on a safety pin between latch ups. At the end of the knitting, latch up the rest of the ladder. Cut the yarn and with a yarn needle thread it through all 7 stitches and gather off. Use the beginning tail to gather off the beginning of the scarf. Work any ends to the inside of the cord and clip close.

Embellishments are all worked with one strand of Soft Spun on every needle with stitch size 10. Note that some rows are "hand knitted" to make sure that the stitches picked up from the surface of the i-cord knit smoothly. The yarn tails are used to secure the ends of leaves or petals to the surface of the cord and all tails are worked well inside the cord and then clipped close. They will be held in place later by the felting.

## LEAVES

Space several dozen leaves randomly along the length of the i-cord, grouping several at each end.

Pick up 3 stitches along the surface of the cord. Knit 3 rows i-cord. (Knit 2 rows stockinette and then increase 1 stitch at each edge) twice. 7 stitches. Knit 4 rows straight. (Decrease 1 stitch each edge then knit 2 rows) twice. Reduce to 1 stitch and bind off. You can vary the leaves by increasing to 9, rather than 7, stitches or by knitting more than 4 rows straight before decreasing. The leaves seem to hold their shape better if worked with full fashioned shaping, rather than edge increases and decreases.





**POPPIES** Pick up 2 stitches on surface of the i-cord. Use a contrast color to e-wrap the two picked up stitches plus 1 more empty needle. 3 stitches. Manually knit all 3 needles back to Working Position, thread the carriage and knit 4 rows.

\*Pick up 1 stitch from the i-cord and hang it on the left-hand needle. Hand knit the first row and then knit 5 more rows with the carriage.\*\* Repeat \* to \*\*, picking up around in a circle on the surface of the i-cord, For the last repeat, end by reducing to 1 stitch and binding off. Pull both ends through to the inside of the cord and clip close.

For a larger petal, work 6 rows, instead of 4. The last repeat can be worked at the center of the flower or you can accent the center of each flower with a 5-stitch popcorn or crocheted detail in a contrasting yarn.

**ROSES** Pick up 2 stitches on surface of the i-cord. Use a contrast color to e-wrap the two picked up stitches plus 1 more empty needle. 3 stitches. Manually knit all 3 needles back to Working Position, thread the carriage.

\*Knit 8 rows. Pick up 2 stitches from the i-cord and place them on the two left hand needles. Manually knit the next 2 rows then knit 6 rows with the carriage. Pick up all following stitches in a spiral on the surface of the i-cord. Reduce last petal to 1 stitch and bind off. Sew end of last petal through center of flower with yarn tail.

The main difference between the poppies and the roses is due to picking up one or two stitches from the cord after each petal is complete. The poppies lay flatter and more open, while the rose petals seem scrunched up on the surface.



**CALLA LILIES** These are pre-knitted and sewn to the cord . E-wrap cast on over 10 needles. Weave the yarn tail back across the shafts of the extended needles. Knit 1 row. Set carriage to hold needles in Holding Position. Short row by holding one needle every row until only 1 needle remains working. Then return 1 needle to Upper Working Position every row until all needles are knitting again. Set carriage for i-cord.

\*Knit 2 rows. Decrease 2 stitches *each* edge by using a 2-prong tool to remove the two edge stitches and move them to the next 2 needles.\*\* Repeat \* to\*\* until 3 stitches remain. Knit 1 row and then latch up the ladder, placing the latched up stitch on the center needle. Move all stitches to the center needle and bind off, leaving yarn tail 8-10". Clip the beginning yarn tail that was woven through the first

row.

**Stamens:** Turn the lily inside out and pick up 2 stitches from the base of the flower. Pull needles to Holding Position. E-wrap these two needles, knitting them back to Working Position and also e-wrap 1 additional needle at *each* edge. 4 stitches. Work i-cord for 6-9 rows, reduce to a single stitch and bind off. Thread the ending tail through the stamen and out the base of the flower. Turn flower right side out and use the yarn tails to secure the flower to the i-cord. Work **all ends** to inside and clip close.

**CORKSCREWS** These are knitted separately and sewn onto the cord. With the carriage on the right, chain cast-on

from left to right. Thread the carriage and set carriage to hold needles in Holding Position. Hold all needles except the first 2 on the carriage side.



\*Knit 4 rows. Move the first stitch to the second needle and put the empty needle in Non-Working Position. Move the next needle from Holding Position top Upper Working Position.\*\* Repeat \* to \*\* For the last repeat, just knit 2 rows and then bind off. Leave tails long enough to use for sewing corkscrews to the i-cord.

NOTE: You must use a transfer tool or your fingers to tension the stitches on the working needles so they do not drop off the needles.

**ADDITIONAL EMBELLISHMENT SUGGESTIONS** Crochet trims can easily be worked along the i-cord and the following techniques in Hand-Manipulated Stitches for Machine Knitters might be of interest as well: Ruffled trim and flowers (p 54), Applied i-cord (161), gathered flowers (180), rippled trim (160), Flaps and fringes (161), curled sockinette (163), assorted cords (168), Judith Duffy edging (183), leaves (186). In More HMS beading (20), ruffle (98), zig-zags (51).

**Giant Ruffled I-Cord** This ruffled scarf uses 2 skeins Cascade “Soft Spun” and is also worked as an over-sized i-cord. The knitting alternates sections of i-cord with short row shaping for the continuous ruffle. Electronic machines can be programmed to do the whole thing automatically in slip.

The sample scarf is about 8’ long and not felted. It can also be knitted 50% longer and felted, which would require an additional skein of yarn. The sample has (optional) giant cotton cording threaded through the i-cord to accentuate the cord portion of the scarf.

With waste yarn, cast-on 18 stitches. It will be easiest to keep track of the short row holding sequence if you cast-on 10 needles to the left and 8 needles to the right of center zero. Knit some rows, hang weights and then use the main color to e-wrap cast-on over the same needles from left to right. Weave the starting tail over and under the extended needles. Thread carriage with MC and set carriage to hold needles in Holding Position. Knit 1 row to left.



### Ruffle Repeats

\*Hold needles 1-8 on right of zero. Knit 1 row and hold next needle. Hold 1 more needle every row until all needles except #10 are in Holding Position. Then return 1 needle to Upper Working Position every row until only the 8 needles are right are in Holding Position and the carriage is on the right.\*\*

### I-Cord Repeats

Set carriage to knit needles back from Holding Position from right to left and to leave them in hold from left to right.\* Knit 1 row from right to left. Return 8 needles at right to Holding Position.\*\* Repeat

\* to\*\* 4 more times. The large floats that form will drop off the needles on the next knitted row.

Alternately knit ruffle and i-cord sequences for the length of the scarf. At the same time, about every 10 repeats, latch up the floats across the back of the i-cord. Hold the latched up stitch on a safety pin between latch-ups. End the last ruffle repeat on the left. Bind off stitches 10-1 left (ruffle stitches) and then cut the yarn and thread the tail through a yarn needle. Thread the yarn through the latched-up stitch and then through the 8 stitches of the i-cord. Fasten off.

Optional cotton cording: If you decide to insert the cotton cording do so before gathering each end of the i-cord closed.

