Chai Shawl

by Shaina Bilow

Soft, crescent-shaped striped shawl in fingering weight with picot lace edge.

The rounded center of the Chai Shawl is shaped with 18 increases.
In Judaism, 18 is the numerical value of the word "Chai" (pronounced "high"), meaning life.
This makes 18 a special number, representing good luck.

Sizing and Materials Details

Sizes: One size

Finished measurements: 56"/140 cm interior span at the top of the shawl, 84"/210 cm lower (rounded) edge, 18"/45 cm depth when laid flat. *See schematic on the last page.*

Gauge: 18 sts and 38 rows = 4"/10 cm in Garter Stitch stripes of Colors A and B (2 rows of each), blocked, using size needle to obtain gauge.

Needles: US 6 (4 mm) 24"/60 cm and 40"/100 cm circular needles or size needed for gauge. *Adjust needle size as necessary to obtain the correct gauge.*

Yarn:

Color A: 394 yards of fingering weight (CYCA #1) yarn. Shown in Hand Dyed Yarns by Shaina Bilow "Bounce" (85% Superwash Merino Wool, 15% Nylon; 394 yds/100 g).

Color B: 400 yards of fingering weight (CYCA #1) yarn. Shown in Hand Dyed Yarns by Shaina Bilow "Whirl" (Boucle - 100% Superwash Merino Wool; 492 yds/100 g).

Color C (optional, for lace edge): 78 yards of fingering weight (CYCA #1) yarn. Shown in Hand Dyed Yarns by Shaina Bilow "Bounce" (85% Superwash Merino Wool, 15% Nylon; 78 yds/20 g).

Other Materials: 4 stitch markers, tapestry needle.

Pattern Notes

- The Chai Shawl is worked from the center top towards the outer (long) edge.
- Increases are worked as yarn overs on the RS rows. On the following WS row, the yarn overs are worked through the back loop to twist them closed.
- There is Row Check Sheet available with this pattern to help keep precise track of row and stitch counts. It is a separate PDF and is included under the "downloads" where you purchased this pattern.
- The shawl is meant to be relaxing and repetitive. After setting up the beginning of the shawl, the pattern has a 16-row repeat in which the stitches are increased by two on most RS rows – one stitch at the beginning of the row and one stitch on the end. In order to create the rounded bottom edge, an additional 18 stitches are increased every 16 rows between sets of strategically placed stitch markers in the center of the shawl.
- As increase Rows 1, 17, 33, 49, 65, 81, 113, 129, and 145 are worked, pay close attention to where the yarn over placement is in relation to the stitch markers. The first and second markers will have the yarn overs worked BEFORE the markers are slipped and the third and fourth markers will have the yarn overs worked AFTER the markers are slipped.
- There are three stitches marked at the center of the shawl between the second and third markers. This section should always have three stitches in it.
- The Lace and Picot Bottom Border is optional. A simpler option is also provided and can be worked in Colors A and B or in Color C.

Abbreviations

Elastic Bind Off – knit 2 stitches, * insert the left-hand needle from left to right into the fronts of the two stitches on the right-hand needle. Knit the two stitches together. Knit one stitch; repeat from * until all stitches have been bound off. Fasten off.

inc – increase/increased.

k – knit.

k1tbl – knit one stitch through the back loop.

k2tog – knit two stitches together. One stitch decreased.

p – purl.

pm – place marker.

RS – right side (outside) of the fabric.

sm – slip marker.

ssk – slip one stitch as to knit, slip another stitch as to knit, insert the left-hand needle into the fronts of the two slipped stitches from left to right and knit the two stitches together. One stitch decreased.

st/sts - stitch/stitches.

WS – wrong side (inside) of the fabric.

yo – wrap the yarn over the needle counterclockwise to create an eyelet. One stitch increased.

Tutorial Videos

Shaina's YouTube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/shainabilow

Beginning the Shawl
https://youtu.be/RSlbIzUOdo4

Elastic Bind Off https://youtu.be/3g00ugpc2P8

Picot Bind Off https://youtu.be/rdsNX4Ccl9I

Special Stitches

Lace Chevron (multiple of 11 sts)

Note: This is an optional pattern used on the border.

Row 1 (RS): *K2tog, k3, yo, k1, yo, k3, ssk; repeat from * across.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 for Lace Chevron.

Instructions

Shawl Set-Up

With 24"/60 cm size US 6 (4 mm) needles and Color A, make a slipknot that will tighten when the tail is pulled. Place the slipknot onto the left-hand needle. Work (k1, yo) three times into the slipknot, k1 more stitch into the slipknot. 7 sts.

Note: See "Tutorial Videos" on page 3 for a tutorial on starting the shawl in this way.

Set-Up Row 1 (WS): With Color A, knit.

Set-Up Row 2 (RS): With Color A, k2, [yo, k1] 3 times, yo, k2. 4 sts inc – 11 sts.

Set-Up Row 3: With Color A, k2, [k1tbl, k1] 3 times, k1tbl, k2.

Set-Up Row 4: With Color A, k2, [yo, k1] 7 times, yo, k2. 8 sts inc – 19 sts.

Set-Up Row 5: With Color A, k2, [k1tbl, k1] 7 times, k1tbl, k2.

Set-Up Row 6: With Color B, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 21 sts.

Set-Up Row 7: With Color B, k2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Set-Up Row 8: With Color A, [k2, yo] 5 times, k1, [yo, k2] 5 times. 10 sts inc – 31 sts.

Set-Up Row 9: With Color A, [k2, k1tbl] 5 times, k1, [k1tbl, k2] 5 times.

Set-Up Row 10: With Color B, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 33 sts.

Set-Up Row 11: With Color B, k2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Set-Up Row 12: With Color A, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 35 sts.

Set-Up Row 13: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Set-Up Row 14: With Color B, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 37 sts.

Set-Up Row 15: With Color B, k2, k1tbl, k6, pm, k8, pm, k3, pm, k8, pm, k6, k1tbl, k2.

Proceed with Shawl Body instructions.

Shawl Body

Note: Switch to longer needle when sts do not fit comfortablyl on the shorter needle.

Row 1 (RS): With Color A, k2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, [k1, yo] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [yo, k1] 8 times, sm, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 20 sts inc – 57 sts.

Row 2 (WS): With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to marker, k1tbl, sm, [k1, k1tbl] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [k1tbl, k1] 8 times, sm, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 2 in other words: With Color A, knit across the row, working k1tbl over each yo to close it.

Row 3: With Color B, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 59 sts.

Row 4: With Color B, k2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 5: With Color A, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 61 sts.

Row 6: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 7: With Color B, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 63 sts.

Row 8: With Color B, k2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 9: With Color A, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 65 sts.

Row 10: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 11: With Color B, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 67 sts.

Row 12: With Color B, k2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 13: With Color A, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 69 sts.

Row 14: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 15: With Color B, k2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 71 sts.

Row 16: With Color B, k2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 17: With Color A, k2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, [k2, yo] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [yo, k2] 8 times, sm, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 20 sts inc – 91 sts.

Row 18: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to marker, k1tbl, sm, [k2, k1tbl] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [k1tbl, k2] 8 times, sm, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 18 in other words: With Color A, knit across the row, working k1tbl over each yo to close it.

Rows 19-32: Repeat Rows 3-16 once. 14 sts inc – 105 sts.

Row 33: With Color A, k2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, [k3, yo] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [yo, k3] 8 times, sm, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 20 sts inc – 125 sts.

Row 34: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to marker, k1tbl, sm, [k3, k1tbl] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [k1tbl, k3] 8 times, sm, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 34 in other words: With Color A, knit across the row, working k1tbl over each yo to close it.

Rows 35-48: Repeat Rows 3-16 once. 14 sts inc – 139 sts.

Row 49: With Color A, k2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, [k4, yo] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [yo, k4] 8 times, sm, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 20 sts inc – 159 sts.

Row 50: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to marker, k1tbl, sm, [k4, k1tbl] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [k1tbl, k4] 8 times, sm, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 50 in other words: With Color A, knit across the row, working k1tbl over each yo to close it.

Rows 51-64: Repeat Rows 3-16 once. 14 sts inc – 173 sts.

Row 65: With Color A, k2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, [k5, yo] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [yo, k5] 8 times, sm, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 20 sts inc – 193 sts.

Row 66: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to marker, k1tbl, sm, [k5, k1tbl] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [k1tbl, k5] 8 times, sm, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 66 in other words: With Color A, knit across the row, working k1tbl over each yo to close it.

Rows 67-80: Repeat Rows 3-16 once. 14 sts inc – 207 sts.

Row 81: With Color A, k2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, [k6, yo] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [yo, k6] 8 times, sm, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 20 sts inc – 227 sts.

Row 82: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to marker, k1tbl, sm, [k6, k1tbl] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [k1tbl, k6] 8 times, sm, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 82 in other words: With Color A, knit across the row, working k1tbl over each yo to close it.

Rows 83-96: Repeat Rows 3-16 once. 14 sts inc – 241 sts.

Row 97: With Color A, k2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, [k7, yo] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [yo, k7] 8 times, sm, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 20 sts inc – 261 sts.

Row 98: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to marker, k1tbl, sm, [k7, k1tbl] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [k1tbl, k7] 8 times, sm, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 98 in other words: With Color A, knit across the row, working k1tbl over each yo to close it.

Rows 99-112: Repeat Rows 3-16 once. 14 sts inc – 275 sts.

Row 113: With Color A, k2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, [k8, yo] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [yo, k8] 8 times, sm, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 20 sts inc – 295 sts.

Row 114: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to marker, k1tbl, sm, [k8, k1tbl] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [k1tbl, k8] 8 times, sm, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 114 in other words: With Color A, knit across the row, working k1tbl over each yo to close it.

Rows 115-128: Repeat Rows 3-16 once. 14 sts inc – 309 sts.

Row 129: With Color A, k2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, [k9, yo] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [yo, k9] 8 times, sm, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 20 sts inc – 329 sts.

Row 130: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to marker, k1tbl, sm, [k9, k1tbl] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [k1tbl, k9] 8 times, sm, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 130 in other words: With Color A, knit across the row, working k1tbl over each yo to close it.

Rows 131-144: Repeat Rows 3-16 once. 14 sts inc – 343 sts.

Row 145: With Color A, k2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, [k10, yo] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [yo, k10] 8 times, sm, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 20 sts inc – 363 sts.

Row 146: With Color A, k2, k1tbl, k to marker, k1tbl, sm, [k10, k1tbl] 8 times, sm, k3, sm, [k1tbl, k10] 8 times, sm, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 146 in other words: With Color A, knit across the row, working k1tbl over each yo to close it.

Rows 147-148: Repeat Rows 3-4 once. 2 sts inc – 365 sts.

Proceed with either Plain Bottom Border or Lace and Picot Bottom Border instructions.

Shawl Border Options

Plain Bottom Border (in Colors A and B or in Color C)

Rows 149-156: Repeat Rows 5-12 once. 8 sts inc – 373 sts.

Using Color B or Color C, bind off loosely using the Elastic Bind Off.

Lace and Picot Bottom Border (in Color C)

Row 149: K2, yo, k to the last 2 sts, yo, k1. 2 sts inc – 367 sts.

Row 150: K2, k1tbl, k to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k1.

Row 151: K2, yo, [k2tog, k3, yo, k1, yo, k3, ssk] repeat between [ ] to the last 2 sts, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 369 sts.

Row 152: K2, k1tbl, purl to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 153: K2, yo, k1, [k2tog, k3, yo, k1, yo, k3, ssk] repeat between [ ] to the last 3 sts, k1, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 371 sts.

Row 154: K2, k1tbl, purl to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Row 155: K2, yo, k2, [k2tog, k3, yo, k1, yo, k3, ssk] repeat between [ ] to the last 4 sts, k2, yo, k2. 2 sts inc – 373 sts.

Row 156: K2, k1tbl, purl to the last 3 sts, k1tbl, k2.

Bind off loosely, working a picot on the top of each k1 spine (the stitch between the yarn overs) as follows:

Bind off until the "k1" stitch between the yarn overs from Row 155 is on the right-hand needle. *Slide the stitch from the right-hand needle to the left-hand needle. Using the Knit Cast On, cast on 2 sts. Bind off until the next "k1" stitch is on the right-hand needle. Repeat from * to the end of the row. Fasten off.

Note: See "Tutorial Videos" on page 3 for a tutorial on working the Picot Bind Off.

Finishing

Weave in tails. Pin the shawl to measurements and steam block to set. If you added picots, place a pin in each picot to help define it.

Schematic

28"/70 cm

18"/45 cm

84"/210 cm