



## STEPS TO MIDNIGHT

And the night is dark.

Let's imagine. Dark night, just this side of midnight. Still. Quiet. Crisp air, moving slowly amongst wisps of clouds.

And you step closer.

Step closer to midnight, feeling the chill, drawing yourself in for warmth, pulling garments around close to protect and seal.

This is a cowl for night time memories. A simple but precise description of small steps through a landscape which will have its own story, in whatever colour or weight yarn you choose. The pattern is inspired from one of my favourite socks – Jewelled Steps by Cat Bhordi This can be easily adjusted for tighter step patterns, or for thicker wools by varying the stitch count – as long as the number is divisible to get an even number of stitches between each set of wraps.

## MATERIALS

Shibui Sock Yarn – Ink, 1 skein

2.5mm circular needle [40cm]

1 stitch marker

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## GAUGE

14st x 21 rows = 5cm

## ABBREVIATIONS

**K** – Knit

**P** – Purl

**W2** – Wrap 2 stitches. Slip two stitches from left needle knit wise to right needle, pass yarn around from front to back, slip both stitches back to left needle, bring yarn to back, wrap around back and repeat slipping and wrapping – you have now wrapped 2 stitches with two threads of yarn, creating a 'step'. Now knit the two stitches as normal, making sure the yarn wraps are not pulled too tight.

## TO MAKE

Cast on 140 stitches and join for working in the round. Place stitch marker at beginning of round, and Purl one row. Knit one row. Purl 2 rows.

Set up pattern rows – Note: pattern is worked over 4 rows and 10 stitches, and each pattern repeat shifts one stitch to the right, creating a diagonal pattern line running vertically.

Pattern Row 1 – Knit

Pattern Row 2 – Knit

Pattern Row 3 – \*K8, W2\* repeat to end of round

Pattern Row 4 - K10, W2 \*K8, W2\* repeat to end of round

On second pattern repeat, knit Pattern Rows 1-2 as above, then continue as follows.

Pattern Row 3 – K7, W2 \*K8, W2\* repeat to end of round

Pattern Row 4 – K9, W2 \*K8, W2\* repeat to end of round

On third pattern repeat, knit Pattern Rows 1-2 as above, then continue as follows.

Pattern Row 3 – K6, W2 \*K8, W2\* repeat to end of round

Pattern row 4 – \*K8, W2 \* repeat to end of round

Continue as established, shifting stepped stitches 1 stitch to the right each time till piece measures 16cm from cast on edge or desired length has been reached – I think it would be really good to go longer, and use a second skein to get a good depth and scrunch. End with a Pattern Row 2. Purl 2 rows. Knit 1 row. Purl 1 row. Cast off using EZ Sewn Cast Off [see note at end]. Weave in ends and gently steam press or block as desired.

*NOTE: EZ Sewn Cast Off:*

*Cut yarn leaving a length about 5 times the circumference of the cowl. Thread a wool needle, and pass the needle through the first two stitches on the left needle as if to purl, and pull thread through. Pass needle back through first stitch as if to knit, and pull stitch off, pulling thread snug. Pass needle back through first two stitches on left needle as if to purl, and continue until all stitches have been sewn off, and firmly sew in the last stitch and weave in ends. This gives a nice neat, and very natural, bind off which has some stretch.*