

Crochet Pelerine Cloak with Knit Border Pattern

Designer: Jamie Quick



This fun pattern was featured in Godey's Magazine in 1863.

I have to admit, out of fichu's, mantles, and sontags, I like pelerines the most. I think they can be pretty cute, and they are rather practical. Pelerines were used to hide low necklines on evening gowns and sheers. That way, you can wear your dress... and not have to bother with making a special bodice! They can also be used to keep you a bit warmer. You will see pelerines made out of the same fabric as the dress, beautiful laces (like fichus) and warmer styles worked in knit and crochet.

Here is just a small sampling of originals. I haven't come across any originals that are knit or crochet, but you can definitely find them in period magazines.



What I Changed

I started this pattern multiple times, and found it rather difficult to work on one needle. I was

having trouble keeping track of my stitches, and it was killing my arm! I decided that it needed to happen in panels, and I'm glad I made that change. Panels made the project not only manageable, but also much faster and more fun! For me, I found the stitch count made a nice sized pelerine, but I will include some sizing details.

I did have to change the upper neckline and decreasing. I also have more details on the border than the pattern gave. My border was worked in knit, but you could absolutely crochet it! Crochet will unfortunately have less stretch, so you will have to be a bit more mathematical if you crochet the border.

Materials

- Main Color – 9 oz of Sport Weight Wool
- Border Color – 3 oz of Sport Weight Wool
- I Crochet Hook – You can use a short hook for the panels, but will need a long afghan hook or cabled hook for the upper portion
- G Crochet Hook
- Size 6 Knitting Needles
- 2 Buttons
- Braid for trimming if desired

Gauge: In afghan stitch 1 inch = 6 stitches wide by 4 rows tall

Dimensions

Length – 15 inches

Sizing Notes: I found this to be a great length, at 5 foot 4. If you are much taller, you can add to the length at the very bottom of the cape, before the length decreases. If doing the knit border trim, each wave of the border is 4 inches long approx, but very stretchy. The short row portion that turns at the collar, is about 1.5 inches. If you add an inch to the length, you probably can get the border to stretch the distance. If adding more, I would add an extra wave to the border trim.

Collar – Adjustable

Bust Width – 44 inches.... on a dress form, I find a 37 inch bust to be max on fit/button stress.

Sizing Notes: You may want to measure your bust with your corset and dress on.

Discover the size you need. Six stitches is an inch. Find out how many stitches you need. If only an inch or two, I would add it to the front panels. If you need more than that.... take your

number of stitches needed to cover the bust, and add it to the 321 stitches already on the cape.

$321 \text{ (or whatever number of stitches needed)} \times 0.1277 = 40.99 = \text{Front panels would be 41 stitches}$

$321 \text{ (or whatever number of stitches needed)} \times 0.109 = 34.98 = \text{Side panels would be 35 stitches}$

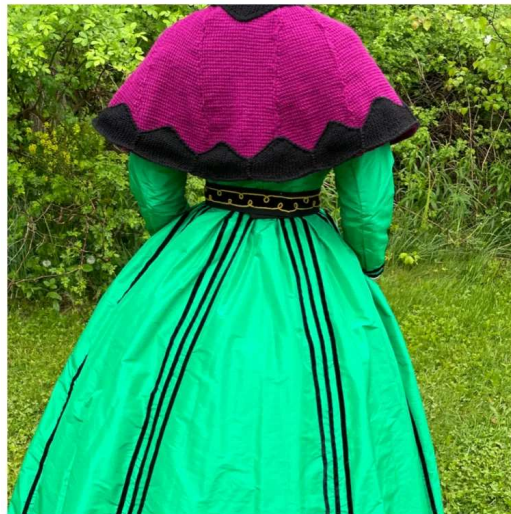
$321 \text{ (or whatever number of stitches needed)} \times 0.090 = 28.89 = \text{Back panel would be 29 stitches}$

Bottom Width – 60 inches

It may be silly to say, but you will need more wool if adjusting the size!!

If you want and need a larger size, you could also work the pattern with DK weight yarn, but do not use worsted. They didn't use worsted weight wool for projects such as this during the period. Dk was about as heavy of a weight as it got for clothing.

Let's Get Crocheting



Cape is worked in the afghan stitch, or Tunisian crochet. You do not need a long hook for the panel portion. You will need the longer hook for the neckline.

Front Panels (Make 2)

You need two front panels. These are worked straight along the opening, and the decreases face the sides of the cape. Therefore, your two front panels will have mirroring decreases.

Cast 41 stitches onto your crochet hook

Row 1 – 7: Work plain (41)

Row 8: Work plain till last three stitches, decrease 1 stitch by picking up two loops together, pick up last stitch as normal (40).

Row 9: Work plain (40)

Row 10 – 52: Alternate between rows 8 and 9. You will be decreasing one stitch every other row. At the end of row 52, you will have 19 stitches. Break off.

For the other front, cast on the same number of stitches. Mirror your work, so that the decreases are on the opposite side. Do this by picking up the second and third stitches together... the edge stitch on the needle is considered your first stitch.

Side Panels (Make 6)

This cape has six side panels. These are also mirrored, just like the front panels. Three will decrease in one direction, and three will decrease in the other.

Cast 35 stitches onto your crochet hook

Rows 1 – 7: Work plain (35)

Row 8: Work plain till last three stitches, decrease 1 stitch by picking up two loops together, pick up last stitch as normal (34)

Row 9: Work plain (34)

Row 10 – 52: Alternate between row 8 and 9, so that you are decreasing one stitch every other row. You will decrease 22 stitches, and have 13 stitches left.

Break off

Mirror the other three panels, by decreasing the second and third stitch. The first stitch, is the first loop on the hook.

Back Panel (Make 1)

Cast 29 stitches onto your crochet hook

Rows 1 – 52: Work plain (29 stitches) Break off.

Sewing

Sew together your panels. Take all the panels that decrease in the same direction, and sew them together, sew the decreased side to the side without decreases. You want all the decreases to face the same direction.



Top of the Cape

It's time for your afghan hook, or cabled hook. In row 53, you will be picking up stitches along the top of all the sewn together panels. If it is difficult to pick up the stitches that were sewn together, don't worry about it, and just pick up one stitch in the center of the panels.

Row 53: Work 17 stitches along front panel, pick up two loops from the front panel, and one loop from the side panel, and pull through all three so that you are decreasing two stitches. Work 11 stitches, pick up one loop from each side of the two panels, so that you are decreasing 1 stitch. Work 11 stitches, pick up two loops from each side of the panel again for your decrease. Work 11 stitches, pick up one loop from the side panel, and two loops from the back panel, so that you are decreasing two stitches. Mirror on the way back.

Row 54: Work 16 stitches, pick up three stitches together (1 stitch from each panel side and the center), work 9 stitches, decrease again, work 9 stitches, decrease, work 9 stitches, decrease, work 24 stitches, decrease, work 9 stitches, decrease, work 9 stitches, decrease, work 9 stitches, decrease, work 16 stitches.

Row 55: Work 14 stitches, pickup four stitches together (2 stitches from front, 1 center, 1 from side), work 7 stitches, pick up three stitches together, work 7 stitches, pick up three stitches together, work 7 stitches, pickup four stitches together (1 stitch from side, 1 center, 1 from back), work 20 stitches, pickup four stitches together, work 7, pickup three stitches together, work 7, pickup three stitches together, work 7, pickup 4 stitches together, work remaining 14 stitches.

Row 56: *Work 13 stitches, pickup three, work 5 stitches, pickup three, work 5 stitches, pickup 3, work 5 stitches, pickup 3*, work 18, mirror by working from *to* back

Row 57: Work 11 stitches, pickup four, work 3, pickup three, work 3, pick up 4, work 14, pickup

4, work 3, pickup 3, wok 3, pickup 3, work 3, pickup 4, work 11

Row 58: *Work 10 stitches, pickup three, work 1, pickup three, work 1, pickup 3, work 1, pickup 3*, work 12, mirror work from *to*

Row 59: Sc across to end, decrease if desired. If this lays to tight around your neck, rip out a row or two, until it is comfortable. Break off

Border

I recommend knitting the border over crochet. Knitting is stretchier and will be easier to fit. If you do not knit, follow the pattern in crochet... Tunisian tends to have more stretch than regular single crochet. You may have to adjust your stitch count or number of waves required.

Size 6 knitting needles, and your border wool.

Gauge: I found each knit portion to be about 4 inches long.

Fronts and Collar

Cast on 9 stitches.

Row 1: Slip 1, knit

Row 2: Slip 1, kfb, knit across

Row 3 and all odds: Repeat row 1

Row 4: Repeat Row 2

Repeat rows 3 & 4: Until you have 19 stitches. Then, instead of kfb you are going to decrease every other row with a k2tog. Decrease until you have 9 stitches, and then start increasing again.

You will stop when you have three border repetitions to the side front. You are going to end on Row 3. Now, do short rows so that you have a turn for the collar.

Short Rows:

Row 1: Slip 1, k1, turn

Row 2: Knit 2, turn

Row 3: Slip 1, k2, turn

Row 4: Knit 3, turn

Row 5: Slip 1, k3, turn

Row 6: Knit 4, turn

Row 7: Slip 1, k4, turn

Row 8: Knit 5 turn

Row 9: Slip 1, k5, turn

Row 10: Knit 6, turn

Row 11: Slip 1, k6, turn

Row 12: Knit 7, turn

Row 13: Slip 1, k7, turn

Row 14: Knit 8, turn

Row 15: Slip 1, k8, turn

Row 16: Knit 9, turn

Short rows are complete. Go back to increasing and decreasing, so that you have three more pattern repetitions. Short row again, then do three more pattern repetitions for the other side. Sew on.

Bottom

Cast on 2 stitches.

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Slip 1, kfb

Row 3: Slip 1, k2

Row 4: Slip 1, kfb, k1

Row 5: Slip 1, Knit 3

Continue increasing until you have 19 stitches. Then, you are going to decrease down to 9 stitches again. You do not need any short rows, and will end by decreasing into a 2 stitch point. Sew on

Braid or Crochet Border

If desired, you can add another border. The original pattern suggests a Berlin Wool braid, or a crochet border where you swap the stitches between white and black. My cape had enough going on with the coloration, so I did an all black border in crochet.





Tips here

- Use a smaller crochet hook to get through both layers of the cape and its border.
- Don't worry about the stitch count, just make it lay nicely.
- Single crochet around the neckline, when you get to the narrow points, or short row sections, stop. Take your work, and single crochet right through the top ridges of the knit row.
- Do a slip stitch when you get to the end.
- Break your yarn, several yards long and pull the yardage through.
- Take your crochet hook and pull the yarn through to the other side of your work.
- Create a slip stitch into your previous crochet.
- Single crochet the border once again.
- When you arrive at the bottom, join. Single crochet both borders together at a slant. And literally, join the two pieces of border.

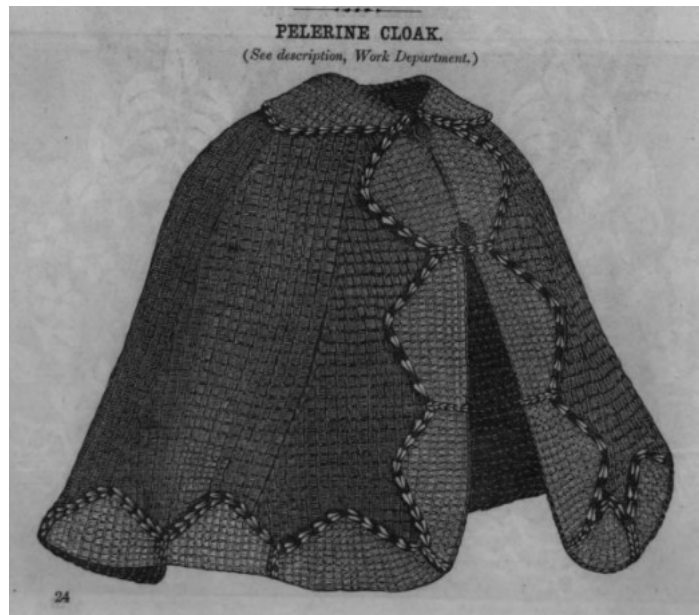
- For buttonholes – I did a five chain, and skipped four single crochet. I did pull through under my buttonhole and started working again right where I left off on the single crochet.
- Sew on your buttons. I used Dorset buttons.

Blocking

The edge of Tunisian crochet is known for its curling. The border does help a great deal when it comes to keeping the edge flat. However, blocking will give the best results.

If you have never blocked before, all you have to do is wet the wool with some cool water, and pin it to a blocking board, carpet, or another surface to stretch it out.

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7 rows. In the 8th row begin the narrowing, which will be 8 times in the row; work the 8th row as follows: work 39 stitches, take 2 together, work 33, take 2 together, repeat this twice. You will have 4 narrowings each side of the cloak. Work for the middle 29 stitches, narrow 1; you will have to keep these 29 stitches all the way up and narrow on each side of them to go toward the fronts. Work 2 rows plain, narrow, so the plain part between the narrowing will be one stitch less. Narrow every 2d row all the way up, and at the same places. After you have done 52 rows there will be 22 rows of narrowing.

In the 53d row you must narrow on the 8th stitch, and between, twice in the middle part, work 9, narrow, work 7, narrow, work 9, narrow. This narrowing keep on the same as the 3 on each side, 5 times in every 2d row and 4 times in every row. When you begin the narrowing in the middle of the back you will have to narrow 1 stitch on beginning and end of the row. When you have 62 rows work the 63d as follows: two stitches together, 4 stitches plain, 2 together, 5 plain, narrow, 5 plain, narrow, 5 plain, narrow, 3 plain, narrow, 7 plain, narrow; these 7 stitches are the inside of the row, the other side must be repeated.

64th row. Take the 3 first stitches together, 1 plain, 2 together, 4 plain, 2 together, 4 plain, 2 together, 4 plain, 2 together, 2 plain, 2 to-

gether, 7 plain; this is the middle; repeat for the other side.

65th row. 2 together, 13 plain, 2 together, to the middle plain, and repeat to the end of the row.

66th row. Leave 8 stitches of the last row and begin to work on the 9th, work plain, and leave 8 at the end of the row, the same as at the beginning.

67th row. Leave 5 stitches of last row, and work plain, leaving 5 stitches at the end of the row. This is the last row. Finish the neck the same as you would an Afghan stripe.

For the points of the cloak, take *chinee* worsted, and use No. 3 needle, but work very loosely. The points are worked crosswise. Set up 9 stitches; the 1st row widen on the left

side by picking up the chain between the 2d and last stitch; do this every row up to 19 stitches, then narrow on the same side 1 stitch every row down to 9 stitches, then begin the widening again; work in this way until you have 21 points. It will take 3 for the neck, 3 up the fronts for each side, and 12 for the rest of the cloak. Sew the points all round, and join the pointed side on with 1 stitch of black and one of white. On the corner the pointed edge must be fulled in a little, so it will set evenly. The little bars in the narrow part of the points are made of 6 threads of worsted, braided, or they can be done in crochet, 1 stitch of black and one of white. There are two buttons and two buttonholes to fasten the cloak in front.