



Smart Bitches Outlandish Cowl

Designed by Elyse D.

When I started watching *Outlander* on Starz I was like "OMFG ALL THE KNITTED THINGS." If you show a knitter a bitchin' 18th century cowl, she's going to want to make it. And Claire's cowl is *gorgeous*. I love how chunky and slumpy it is, the perfect accessory for her everyday dress.

I needed this cowl.

I needed it wear it when I am picking herbs in the garden with Geillis, staring wistfully at Jamie off the distance.

Or more accurately when I'm sitting under a vent constantly blowing cold air on me at work and typing with shivering fingers.

So I went to Ravelry, but didn't find exactly the pattern I wanted. I had two weeks off and plenty of time to improvise. This is the pattern I came up with. It's incredibly simple and can be easily adapted. My cowls knit up in about 2 hours sober, and significantly longer while taking Percocet.

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Ingredients:

I used one skein of Malabrigo Rasta yarn (90 yards). You can find some at Yarn.com or at JimmyBeansWool.com.

But any super bulky weight yarn should do. You could also use several strands of lighter weight yarns held together.

I used size 35 needles. Huge needles are important to get loose stitches. You can find these bad boys at most craft stores, like [JoAnnFabrics](#) or [Amazon](#).

Pattern:

I cast on 19 stitches, although you can add more or less depending on how wide you want the cowl.

Knit in garter stitch (knit every row) until the skein is used up, leaving a good sized tail for seaming. My finished cowls were about 23" long.

Finishing:

I **blocked the shit out of my cowls**. I knit tightly so the cowls would have been too short had I not blocked.

If you are a really super new knitter and don't know what blocking is, it's when you **wet the piece with cold water and pin it down to a piece of foam so that it stretches out** while the cat tries to eat the pins and pull on the cowl and you swear at him and your husband comes downstairs to see what the fuck you are doing and then accidentally stab yourself with a pin.

Once dried, I seamed it by lining up the cast off ends unevenly so there was a little point at the top and bottom of the cowl.



But Elyse, you say, Claire's cowl isn't seamed that way.

I KNOW, GODAMNIT. I SAID I IMPROVISED.

I like doing cowls this way because it gives you a little more versatility in wearing it, but do whatever makes you happy. Unless what makes you happy is knitting tiny cowls for your penis and sending me pictures of it. Don't do that.

Et voila. Your cowl is made. Rejoice and wear it while watching Jamie play shinty and drinking Colum's Rennish.