

THE ANTICRAFT

by Abbie Swanson

photo by Ka-Man Tse



When I think of knitting, I automatically see my grandma with balls of yarn all tangled up around her. She'd click those needles and a second later, she's giving a full-on sweater to my cousin who just relocated up north. That image was with me when I checked out "You're Going To Die Anyway, So You May As Well Knit," the first issue of *The*

AntiCraft (www.theAntiCraft.com), a Web zine for crafters and knitters with subversive tendencies. Check it out: The *AntiCraft* is a collective of women who make things with their hands but reject the "cheery representations of feminine wiles" that marketers shove down our throats. To quote their letter from the editrices:

"They forgot to ask who we were. Where are the sweaters to enshroud our dark hearts? Where are the afghans to blanket our angst? Where is the macabre? The dark sensuality? We've brandished our needles in defiance."

The Issue the First has patterns of all the favorites you remember from growing up—but not the old 1950s American ones from *Knitting Magazine*. For example, the "Curse Your Boyfriend" sweater gives directions on how to dump your partner right: "Mix one hand-knit sweater with a generous dash of the appropriate runes. Serve cold." There are also patterns for a "Heart-Shaped Box," a "Skeleton & Skin," and armwarmers with a snowflake-to-skull design ("Snowball's Chance in Hell"). We tested out the pattern for a labyrinthine, zig-zag scarf called "**Mere Indecision**"—and the finished product helped warm my cold, cold heart through the winter months. Even if you'll throw that scarf under your bed during the summer, follow the instructions below and make your own.

the money issue // OUT THE BOX

MERE INDECISION

Materials

Main Color: Lamb's Pride Bulky [85% wool/15% mohair; 125 yds/114m per 4oz/113g skein] color M06 Deep Charcoal, 2 skeins

Contrasting Color: Lamb's Pride Bulky [85% wool/15% mohair; 125 yds/114m per 4oz/113g skein] color: M05 Onyx, 1 skein

US 13/9.0mm knitting needles

US 10/J/6.0mm crochet hook

Finished Measurements: 56"x8" (can be blocked wider)

Gauge: 11 sts = 4"

Pattern Notes: This pattern uses short rows to make the points crisp. Short rows are given a letter designation; full rows are given a number designation.

Begin: CO 22 sts (or any even number)

First Right Slant: (differs from subsequent Right Slants)

1 (RS): K2, *yo, K2tog*. Repeat from * to last two stitches, K2.

2 (WS): K2, purl to last two stitches, K2.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 nine more times.

Left Slant:

A: K2, turn.

B: K2, turn.

1 (RS): K2, *ssk, yo*. Repeat from * to last two stitches, K2.

2 (WS): K2, purl to last two stitches, K2.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 nine more times (but not rows A and B).

Right Slant:

Row 1: (RS) K2, *yo, K2tog*. Repeat from * to last two stitches, K2.

A: K2, turn.

B: K2, turn.

2: (WS) K2, purl to last two stitches, K2.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 nine more times (but not rows A and B).

End: Alternate Left Slant, Right Slant until 1 yard of yarn is left.

Finishing: Single crochet around the edges in contrast color, 1 crochet stitch to each knit stitch (horizontally) or row (vertically), except where the direction changes. In peaks, sc, dc, sc into apex stitch, in valleys skip over the nadir stitch. Weave in ends and block, paying special attention to pin peaks and nadirs into crisp points.

Bind off; weave in ends.

Notes to the Pattern Notes: Maybe it's my whack knitting skills, or the fact that my granny wasn't there to help a girl out, but this pattern for MoonPrincessRavenDark (this is *Beginner* in *AntiCraft* speak) was not as simple as it looked! You gotta know your stitches, especially the "skk" (slip-knit-knit). Also, to achieve those peaks, nadirs, and crisp points that the pattern talks about, keep the tension fairly tight throughout the knitting. We also tried the scarf with 22 stitches the first time and then just 16 stitches across the second time. We found 16 to be the better width—more scarf-like and less shawl-like. (Although, as my girl AHS pointed out, "Wide is in.") *Knitting instructions courtesy of The AntiCraft.*

Mere Indecision design © Zabet Stewart