

Nautilus-Knit-Along: Pacific Ocean Blanket

Contributed by: Lead Science
Communication Fellow Jenny Woodman

The water to the right of the knitting project is the Pacific Ocean—churning behind Exploration Vessel (E/V) *Nautilus*, a 64-meter (211-foot) ship that can accommodate a 31-person science team (including student interns, educators, scientists, engineers, communication professionals) in addition to the 17-member permanent ship crew.



The E/V *Nautilus*' mission is to explore unknown and poorly understood places in our oceans, developing and using technologies that enable us to push the boundaries of ocean exploration. These expeditions are shared with the public via telepresence technology and a wide-range of outreach activities for a global audience.

Much of this exploration relies on robotics. Whenever E/V *Nautilus*' remotely operated vehicles, *Hercules* and *Argus*, are deployed, the data and video they capture are streamed back to their audience in real-time. This allows scientists, students, and viewers all over the world to travel with the *Nautilus* to locations normally inaccessible to humans.

I joined the E/V *Nautilus* Corps of Exploration as a science communication fellow during the 2017 expedition in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. We helped sanctuary managers to learn about areas they had never been able access before, leading to discoveries of new species of deep sea sponges and a better understanding of this special underwater national park. You can read more about this mission here and here.

In late August, I'll rejoin the team as lead science communication fellow when the Nautilus launches the multi-year SUBSEA (Systematic Underwater Biogeochemical Science and Exploration Analog) Research Program, a partnership between NASA, NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, and various academic centers. The work will take place at Lō'ihi Seamount off the coast of Hawaii. You can read about the 2018 season and all the exciting projects underway from now until November [here](#). There's plenty of time to work on this knit-along project while watching live footage from the Pacific Ocean!

Feel free to use any shade of yarn you like, but the color used here was part of my inspiration for the pattern. The geometric design repeats endlessly like waves moving across the vast surface of the ocean, which covers 70 percent of Earth, but remains largely unexplored today. Thanks to programs like those found on board E/V Nautilus, the majority of our home planet won't remain a mystery forever.

The blanket is super easy to execute with enough variation to keep you interested from beginning to end. I've made it in several sizes and love the weight when made with Cascadia Eco+ yarn because it's so warm and squishy. You can easily adjust to use less yarn and make it any size you like.

Share your progress with us while we explore using #NautilusLive
#NautilusKnitAlong and #OceanBlanket!

Supplies:

- One 42" Circular Needle in size US 8
- 5 skeins [Cascadia Eco+](#) Peruvian wool yarn, 478 yards/250 grams, (any bulky weight yarn you like the feel of will do). Color pictured: #3101
- 2 Stitch markers

Abbreviations:

- Place Marker, PM
- Slip Marker, SM

Getting started:

Cast on 240 stitches with long tail method. The pattern is composed in sets of 8 plus a border of 12 stitches on either end. You can make it wider or narrower if you prefer.

Garter Stitch Border:

Knit every row until you have 12 garter ridges. Then begin the following pattern until the blanket is as long as you'd like. Repeat border, knitting every row until you have 12 garter stitches.

Pattern

Row 1: K12, PM, Repeat until 12 stitches remain [P1, K7], PM, K12

Row 2: K12, SM, K1, Repeat until last 7 before marker [P5, K3], P5, K2, SM, K12

Row 3: K12, SM, P3, Repeat until last 5 before marker [K3, P5], K3, P2, SM, K12

Row 4: K12, SM, K3, Repeat until last 5 before marker [P1, K7], P1, K4, SM, K12

Row 5: K12, SM, P4, Repeat until last 4 before marker [K1, P7], K1 P3, SM, K12

Row 6: *Repeat row 4*

Row 7: *Repeat row 3*

Row 8: *Repeat row 2*

Row 9: *Repeat row 1*

Row 10: K12, SM, Repeat until marker [K1, P7], SM, K12



Comments or questions about the pattern? Email: jennywoodmanwrites@gmail.com

Happy Knitting!

For personal use only. Ship image courtesy of OET/Nautilus Live. All rights reserved.