



Spanish Opera Hood
 By Mrs. Jane Weaver
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 Updated by Dianna Smith
 (comments made in parenthesis)

In the front of the number, we give a pattern, printed in colors, of a Spanish Opera Hood, taken from one worn by the Empress of the French (The Empress Eugenie seen here in a painting by Xavier). The materials are 2 ounces of white (about 90 grams or 400 yds) and 1 ½ (about 60 grams or 300 yds) ounces of scarlet Andalusian wool (in between fingering and sport weight), a pair of knitting pins, No 5 (US size 9/5.25mm) and one or two pairs of chenille tassels. For the feather border, one ounce (about 40 grams or 200 yards) of white Andalusian wool and a pair of knitting pins, No. 16 (US size 00/1.75mm); the pins should be measured in the circle of the Bell gauge. (I tested the original pattern with fingering weight wool and the needle sizes



above for the full-size version and lace weight alpaca and US size 4/3.5mm needles to make a hood the size appropriate for a girl.)

Plain knitting = Garter stitch
 Raise a loop = Pick up stitch

The White Border. – The whole of the hood is made in plain knitting (garter stitch), which should be worked loosely and lightly; the principal part of it being double. It is commenced at the border which runs round the shoulders.

With the white wool cast on 263 stitches, with two pins. (Consider using a provisional cast on. If not, use a very elastic cast on.)

1st and 2nd rows – All plain knitting (garter stitch), always slipping the 1st stitch.

3rd row – Slip the 1st stitch, knit 31 stitches plain, knit 3 stitches all together, knit 95 plain, knit 3 together again, knit 95 plain, knit 3 together, knit 32 plain.

4th row – All plain knitting, slipping the 1st stitch.

5th row – Slip 1, knit 30 plain, knit 3 together, knit 93 plain, knit 3 together, this is the center of the row; knit 93 plain, knit 3 together, knit 31 plain.

6th row – Plain, slipping the 1st stitch.

Repeat the last 2 rows 6 times more, knitting one plain stitch less at the beginning and end of each row, and 2 stitches less on each side of the center; the 3 stitches knitted together should always be worked over those of the preceding row.



Bell Gauge

7 th Row	sl 1, 29	91	91	30
9 th Row	sl 1, 28	89	89	29
11 th Row	sl 1, 27	87	87	28
13 th Row	sl 1, 26	85	85	27
15 th Row	sl 1, 25	83	83	26
17 th Row	sl 1, 24	81	81	25

19th Row – With the disengaged pin take off the first 24 stitches without knitting them, tie the scarlet wool into the last stitches, and with it and the pin which has the 24 stitches knit 3 together, then 79 plain, knit 3 together, knit 79 plain, knit 3 together; turn back, leaving 24 stitches on the other pin. The stitches left are for the side border. (You'll work these stitches off as you knit up.)

20th Row – Knit all the scarlet stitches plain, except the last two, then knit them and the next white stitches together (side decrease); turn back.

21st Row – Knit 78 plain, knit 3 together in the center as before, knit the rest of the scarlet stitches plain, except the last two, then knit them and the next white stitches together; turn back.

22nd Row – Knit all the scarlet stitches plain except the last two, then knit them and the next white stitches together; turn back.

23rd Row – Knit 76 plain, knit 3 together, knit the rest, except the last two, then knit them and the next white together; turn back.

Repeat the last 2 rows 22 times more, knitting 2 stitches less each time at the beginning and end of the row. Then these rows are worked all the white stitches will be used.

(This worksheet will help keep track of rows. The number shown is the number of stitches on either side of the knit 3 together in the middle.)

24 th Row	even		39 th Row	60		54 th Row	even
25 th Row	74		40 th Row	even		55 th Row	44
26 th Row	even		41 st Row	58		56 th Row	even
27 th Row	72		42 nd Row	even		57 th Row	42
28 th Row	even		43 rd Row	56		58 th Row	even
29 th Row	70		44 th Row	even		59 th Row	40
30 th Row	even		45 th Row	54		60 th Row	even
31 st Row	68		46 th Row	even		61 st Row	38
32 nd Row	even		47 th Row	52		62 nd Row	even
33 rd Row	66		48 th Row	even		63 rd Row	36
34 th Row	even		49 th Row	50		64 th Row	even
35 th Row	64		50 th Row	even		65 th Row	34
36 th Row	even		51 st Row	48		66 th Row	Even
37 th Row	62		52 nd Row	even		67 th Row	32
38 th Row	even		53 rd Row	46			

68th Row – Slip the 1st stitch, knit the rest plain to the last 2 stitches, then knit them together.

69th Row – Slip 1, knit 30 plain, knit 3 together in the center as usual, knit the rest plain to the last 2 stitches, then knit them together.

Repeat the last 2 rows 3 times more, knitting 2 stitches less at the beginning and end of the rows each time. (The following chart shows the stitches before and after the knit 3 together in the middle of the row.)

70 th Row	Even	
71 st Row	sl 1, 29	30
72 nd Row	Even	
73 rd Row	sl 1, 28	29
74 th Row	Even	
75 th Row	sl 1, 27	28



76th Row – Slip the 1st stitch, knit the rest plain, knitting the last 2 together.

Work 26 rows more as the last. (The following chart can be used to track rows worked.)

77	81	85	89	93	97	101
78	82	86	90	94	98	102
79	83	87	91	95	99	
80	84	88	92	96	100	

103rd row – Knit every 2 stitches together.

104th row – Plain

105th row – Knit every 2 stitches together.

106th row – Plain. Draw the remaining stitches together to fasten off.

The Lining. – This is worked exactly the same as the part already made, with the exception that the white wool is used throughout. If it is worked separately, it must be commenced by casting on the 263 stitches; but the neatest way is to raise (pick up) all the stitches which were first cast on, as this avoids sewing the two parts together. To raise the stitches, commence at the 1st row of the work, put the pin into the 1st stitch cast on, keep the wool at the back, and with the point of the pin bring the wool through in a loop, which raises one loop; put the pin to the next stitch, bring the wool through, and continue the same until there are 263 loops on the pin, then commence at the 1st row, repeat the whole of the direction, using white wool. (If you used a provision cast on, pick up the stitches from the original cast on.) When finished, the selvages of the two pieces should be sewed together across the front.

(Following are the charts from the previous section that can be used to work the lining, if needed.)

7 th Row	sl 1, 29	91	91	30
9 th Row	sl 1, 28	89	89	29
11 th Row	sl 1, 27	87	87	28
13 th Row	sl 1, 26	85	85	27
15 th Row	sl 1, 25	83	83	26
17 th Row	sl 1, 24	81	81	25

24 th Row	even		39 th Row	60		54 th Row	even
25 th Row	74		40 th Row	even		55 th Row	44
26 th Row	even		41 st Row	58		56 th Row	even
27 th Row	72		42 nd Row	even		57 th Row	42
28 th Row	even		43 rd Row	56		58 th Row	even
29 th Row	70		44 th Row	even		59 th Row	40
30 th Row	even		45 th Row	54		60 th Row	even
31 st Row	68		46 th Row	even		61 st Row	38
32 nd Row	even		47 th Row	52		62 nd Row	even
33 rd Row	66		48 th Row	even		63 rd Row	36
34 th Row	even		49 th Row	50		64 th Row	even
35 th Row	64		50 th Row	even		65 th Row	34
36 th Row	even		51 st Row	48		66 th Row	Even
37 th Row	62		52 nd Row	even		67 th Row	32
38 th Row	even		53 rd Row	46			

70 th Row	Even	
71 st Row	sl 1, 29	30
72 nd Row	Even	
73 rd Row	sl 1, 28	29
74 th Row	Even	
75 th Row	sl 1, 27	28

77	81	85	89	93	97	101
78	82	86	90	94	98	102
79	83	87	91	95	99	
80	84	88	92	96	100	

The Second Border. – With the white wool cast on 121 stitches, loosely as before (don't use a provisional cast on for this piece).

1st and 2nd rows – Plain knitting (garter stitch)

3rd row – Slip 1, knit 58 plain, knit 3 together, knit 57 plain, knit the last 2 stitches together.

4th row – Slip the 1st stitch, knit the rest plain to the last 2, then knit them together.

5th row – Slip 1, knit 56, knit 3 together, knit 55, knit 2 together.

6th row – The same as the 4th row.

7th row – Slip 1, knit 54, knit 3 together, knit 53, knit 2 together.

8th row – As the 4th row.

9th row – Slip 1, knit 52, knit 3 together, knit 51, knit 2 together.

10th row – As the 4th row.

Join the scarlet wool, and repeat the last 2 rows 16 times more, knitting 2 stitches less each time, in all 32 scarlet rows.

11	16	21	26	31	36	41
12	17	22	27	32	37	42
3	18	23	28	33	38	
14	19	24	29	34	39	
15	20	25	30	35	40	

Knit 20 rows plain, slipping the 1st stitch and knitting the last 2 together every row.

43	48	53	58
44	49	54	59
45	50	55	60
46	51	56	61
47	52	57	62

63rd row – Knit every 2 stitches together.

64th row – Plain.

65th row – Knit every 2 stitches together, and draw the remaining stitches close together to fasten them off.

Sew the scarlet selvedge to the front of the hood, so that it may fall back, as in the engraving; the front is then finished with the following feather border, which can, if wished, be continued round the edge of the 2nd white border.

Feather Border. – With the white wool and No. 16 pins (US size 00/1.75mm) cast on 6 stitches.

1st row – Knit the first stitch plain, put the pin into the next stitch, pass the wool between the points of the pins from the front to the back, round the tops of the 1st and 2nd fingers to the front, pass the wool between the pins again, and round the fingers to the front as before; pass the wool between the pins again, which will make three turns or loops of which are round the fingers; bring the three turns of wool through the stitch, and take it off the left pin to finish the stitch; take the fingers out of the loops and work the remaining 4 stitches the same. (See photos below for further explanation. You will pull 3 strands through the stitch but it will create 2 loops on the back side.)

2nd row – Knit the three turns of wool together as one stitch; repeat, knitting the last stitch plain.

Repeat these 2 rows until sufficient length is made, and cast off. The loops of wool should be about three-quarters of an inch in length; and if they appear too long, the wool need only be passed round one finger. It is then to be sewed to the hood.

(To finish off the hood in keeping with the photo, I measured out 6 strands of the colored yarn to about 24 inches, doubled them at the top [making 12 strands of 12 inches] and tied off a small loop at the top with an overhand knot. I then braided it. When it looked long enough, I tied an overhand knot at the bottom and cut the strands leaving about ½” to form a small tassel. Make 2 and attach to the white points at the neck. Then I made 2 pompoms about 2” long and attached over where the ties had been attached.)



Pattern tested and updated by Dianna Smith, Wanda Grayson Designs, 2009. Blog: <http://knitNmore.blogspot.com>.

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