

# The Unbelievably Soft, Quick to Knit Roving Scarf Pattern from Painted Ewe Rovings

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## SUPPLIES

2- 3 ounces Painted Ewe Border Leicester cross roving (about 4 -6 yards of fat, fluffy roving as thick as your wrist at least)

## TOOLS

1 pr. #13 US knitting needles  
Tape Measure  
Large-Eyed Tapestry Needle

NEED ROVING? SEE:

[HTTP://WWW.PAINTEDWE.COM/](http://www.paintedewe.com/)

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Gauge doesn't really matter because this doesn't fit, but about 2 stitches per inch. What does matter is how suitable the roving is to this project. The fiber length has to be long enough for one fiber to be included in at least three or four stitches or the scarf will shred in no time. Luster wools like Romney, Border Leicester, and Coopworth are ideal for this project. Fine fibers like Corriedale, Targhee, and Merino are not suitable. Finn might work due to its length of staple, albeit with much finer needles and more stitches per inch!

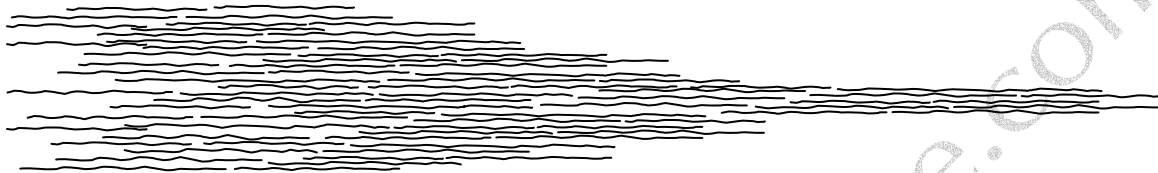
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## DRAFTING

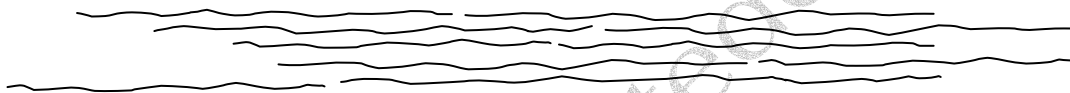
The idea behind this scarf is that you can knit it without having to spin first. It's a super idea for a last minute gift because you go right from digging through your stash to actually making the scarf so no time is spent on intermediate activities! Because the roving is unspun, it won't make good fringe. There are three solutions to this: spin the roving into yarn just for the fringe; don't have a fringe; or do an alternative fringe.

To do the drafting, just start making the roving thinner without disconnecting the piece you are working on from the remainder of the roving. Pick up an end and pull on it a little holding your hands far enough apart so that the wool 'moves' but still close enough together that you maintain control over the process. For most wool that is suitable for this project, this translates to holding your hands 5 to 9 inches apart so that 4 to 7 inch long fiber can slide past each other. I like to wind the drafted fiber into little bundles on my fingers until I can't hold any more. Once I've finished a bundle, I let it rest on my midriff and keeping my hands close to it, continue drafting a new bundle. That way, they all stay together and stack up in little mounds that look like boxes of layers with each layer being a bundle of roving.

Think about the roving as a ribbon of fibers rather than focusing on an individual fiber. Pull it out until it is about as big around as your thumb or twice as large as the needles you are going to use to knit it. (I have fat fingers and yours will probably be thinner!) Try knitting with a bit of it and see if it works for you. And yes, it is possible to rip out stitches, but you must be very careful not to pull too hard. If the roving 'breaks' simply lay new fiber over the old for a few inches (half the fiber length) and draft them together to reconnect the fibers to the roving. You can do this if you have a break in the roving while knitting as well.



NARROWING DOWN THE ROVING INTO THE SIZE YOU WANT IT TO BE...



CLOSE UP OF FIBERS OVERLAPPING AND SLIPPING PAST EACH OTHER

## KNITTING

With the #13 US needles, don't leave much of a tail and make a reverse 'e' on one needle. Using the other needle and the 'knitting on' cast on method, make 14 or 15 stitches. To knit on, you make a loop and put it over one needle and then insert the other needle and make a loop as if to knit. Rather than slipping the old stitch over the new one and dropping it, slide the new stitch onto the left hand needle next to the stitch you knitted into. Then knit into that stitch and pull up a loop that will become the next stitch. At just about the time you master and then perfect this cast on method, you will discover that you've got enough stitches and it is time to knit.

Knit for 36 to 40 inches. You might want to end with the same color with which you started. For me, this was 118 rows and 40" to end with the same deep blue with which I started. Do feel free to start and end with the color of your choice and to manipulate the roving to make this happen. (Remember that you can break off the roving and overlay the fibers so that it ends with the color you choose!) Bind off loosely to match the cast on, leaving as short an end as possible. Use a tapestry needle to weave the little bits of tails back into the knitting so that they don't stick out.

## FRINGE IDEAS

Spin some roving into enough yarn to ply and make fringe with. Add it as loopy fringes or half hitch lengths of yarn around first and end row stitches. Sew beads or purchased trim to edges. Knot fringe just onto the corners or just leave the edges plain!