

Tatiana's or Minerva's Pearl Lariat

Pearls peek out of spiraling pockets in this Lariat necklace that might have been woven by ocean currents or knitted by a mermaid. Minerva's Pearl Lariat can be worn long or short, doubled, draped or loosely knotted - even as a belt.

Skill level: Easy

Sizes: Minerva's Pearl Lariat can be knit to any length, in wire of fiber. The 200' wire spools will knit about 66 to 70 inches at the recommended gauge. Following are some length guidelines:

- S (to knot loosely in a single strand) = 38" long;
- M (wrapped 2x for a short double necklace or singly for a longer line) = 45" long;
- L (can be worn as one short and one long strand or as a belt) = 66" long

Model size: Long (66")

Materials:

3 spools 32g Coated Copper Craft Wire: (available at craft stores)

Beads:

60 (70, 100) 4 x 6 mm oval or potato shaped fresh water gold hue pearls, or beads of your choice. (available at bead and craft stores)

Any small scissors with a sharp point; nail scissors will do.

Needles: (2) size 3 dpn (6" or 7" double pointed Bamboo needles are recommended if knitting with wire is new to you)

Gauge: 6 sts and 9 rows = 1" (in stockinette, with 3 strands of 32g wire knitted together as one). This design can be knit in any gage or weight to suit your imagination.

Special abbreviations:

Place Bead (pb): (you will have already strung all the beads on the wire) Pull a bead all the way up to your RH needle. Purl the next stitch, as per the instructions. The bead will be held on the wire between two stitches on the side facing you.

Turn RH Needle (TRHN): With yarn/wire in back, turn the RH needle 180° clockwise and slide stitches to opposite end of the needles that then becomes the working end of the needle. This twists the knitting to form the pockets. Continue knitting. (see Turn Row Diagram)

Cast on one stitch (co1): Cast on one stitch using the backward loop (single cast on) method.

Designer's note:

If you are knitting Tatiana's Lariat in wire and knitting with wire is new to you, I suggest practicing until the tension of the new material is comfortable. Try a single strand of 30g wire or three strands of 32g knit together on size 2 or 3 double pointed bamboo needles (6-7"). Cast on 12 stitches very loosely using the backward loop method. Give yourself time and permission to have messy, loopy stitches at first. Practice until you get an even, comfortable tension. In time you will be just as accomplished in wire as you are in fiber and able to knit every stitch pattern you know. You can also watch my Knit Kit Jewelry videos on youtube. (video demo1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3_rb4IMF-8)

Lariat Instructions:

Use the three strands of wire as one. (or knit a single strand of fingering weight or light cotton yarn)

String all the beads you will need plus 10% extra (just in case) on the three stands of wire. They will slip down and sit by the spools.

Make a slipknot leaving a 4" tail (coil the tail and twist into a butterfly to keep it from getting in the way and tickling your arms)

Row 1: Pb, (k1, p1) into st (2 sts)

Row 2: P

Row 3: K1, co1, k1 (3 sts)

Row 4: P

Row 5: K1, co1, k1, co1, k1 (5 sts)

Row 6: P

Row 7: K2, (k1, p1) into next stitch, k2 (6 sts)

Row 8: P

Row 9: K3, pb, p1 (the bead will naturally come to the front of the knitting), k2

Row 10: P

Row 11: K

Row 12: P

Row 13: K4, TRhN, k2 (see diagram)

Row 14: P

Row 15: K

Row 16: P3, pb, p3

Row 17: K

Row 18: P

Row 19: K

Row 20: P4, TRhN, p2

Row 21: K

Repeat Rows 8 - 21 until Lariat reaches desired length

Row 1 of finishing (Row 1F): P2, p2tog, p2 (5 sts)

Row 2F: K

Row 3F: P2, p2tog, p1 (4 sts)

Row 4F: K

Row 5F: P2tog, p2 (3 sts)

Row 6F: K

Row 7F: P1, p2tog (2sts)

Row 8F: K

Row 9F: Pb, p2tog. Cut wire leaving a 4" tail, thread tail through loop, tighten loop.

Finishing: Work in the ends by threading the tail through and wrapping it tightly around a nearby loop of knitting. Wrap it three times, pulling tight after each wrap. The wraps will practically disappear. Cut the end as closely as possible. Feel the spot with your fingertip. If you feel a sharp end, press it a few times with your fingernail. It will disappear.

Enjoy!

