

# Mikey's Icing On the Cake Workshop

Yarnspirations challenged me to figure out ways that you can add **'icing'** to an existing shawl pattern. Icing, in this case, means to add borders.

Of course, the 'go to' for shawls is adding fringe but not everyone is a fringe lover. However, sometimes it's the technique of the fringe that can be the deal breaker for those on the fence.



## Border Considerations

### Step 1

If you want something that has a stitch repeat, count the number of stitches on the side.

When counting, if you just want fringe or something where a repeat doesn't matter, you can skip this step. Just ensure you factor in the corner turn at the centre of the shawl.

### EXAMPLE

In the To The Point Shawl, shown above with pink background, there are **113 sts** from the edge to the ch 2 space at the point of the shawl.

I usually factor the first and last stitch as a buffer zone edge and I don't count the point space as a stitch as well.

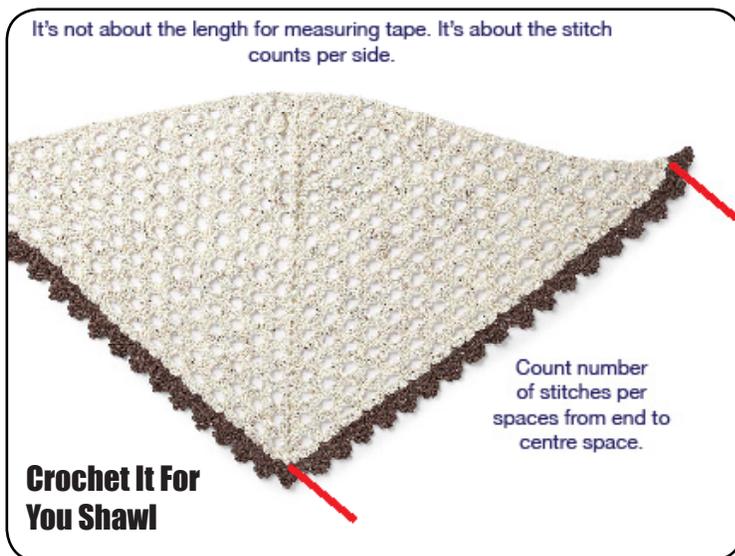
If subtract the two edge stitches = **111 sts**. What can 111 sts be divided by in a small repeat. Knowing 111 is an odd number, you need to use an odd number for a stitch repeat. Try 3, 5, 7, or 9.

**111 sts / 3 sts = 37 sets of repeat**

111 sts / 5 sts = 22.5 sets of repeat

111 sts / 7 sts = 15.8 sets of repeat

111 sts / 9 sts = 12.3 sets of repeat



We know **3** can be used as the multiple has no decimal point.

If you really loved a stitch multiple and it cannot be achieved in this finished row. There's nothing stopping you from adding more rows to get a different stitch multiple. You could frog rows too. Your call.

## Let's Add Rows to Example

Adding another row will increase to 115 sts.  
 Adding another row will increase to 117 sts.  
 Adding another row will increase to 119 sts.

115 sts - 2 edge sts = 113 sts. **No suitable multiples.**  
 117 sts - 2 edge sts = 115 sts. **Multiples of 5.**  
 119 sts - 2 edge sts = 117 sts. **Multiples of 3, 9, or 13.**

**If it were me, I would not end on 115 sts per side.**



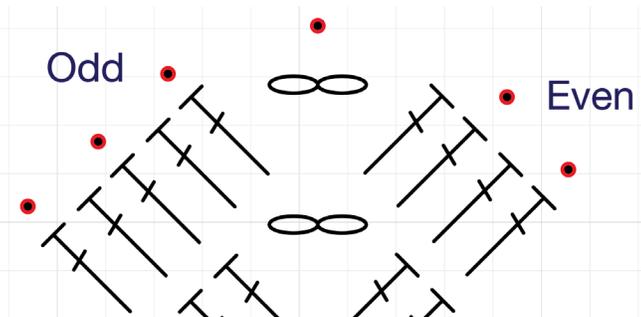
### Research Stitch Combos

You could pull out stitch library books that you may have or look at existing patterns online and figure out the stitch multiples. Many stitch library books already have the combination recorded for quick access.

Some stitches could just a row or it's a build up of rows to get the final look. The comfort shawl with the scalloped edging requires you to hit a certain number for the multiple and once that is achieved, the rest of the border will fall in line after that moment.



You may find something you love but just need to know two sides and how to turn a corner. You can always improvise.



### Fringe or Tassels Placement

If you know how many stitches you have per side, you will be able to factor in how many stitches you want to use without guessing.

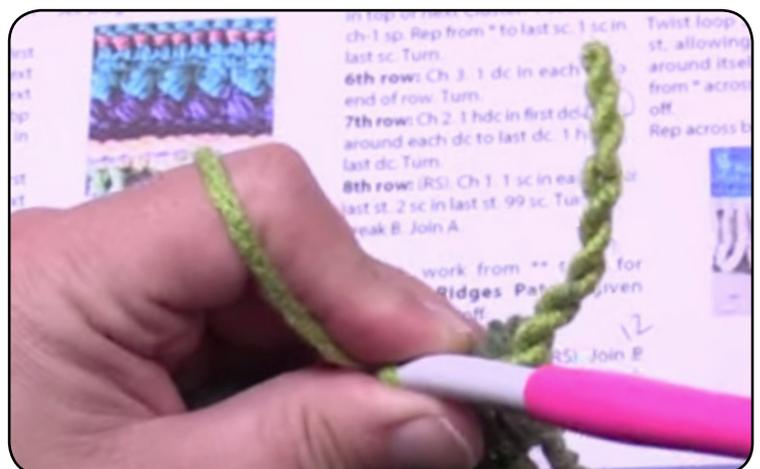


### Twisted Fringe

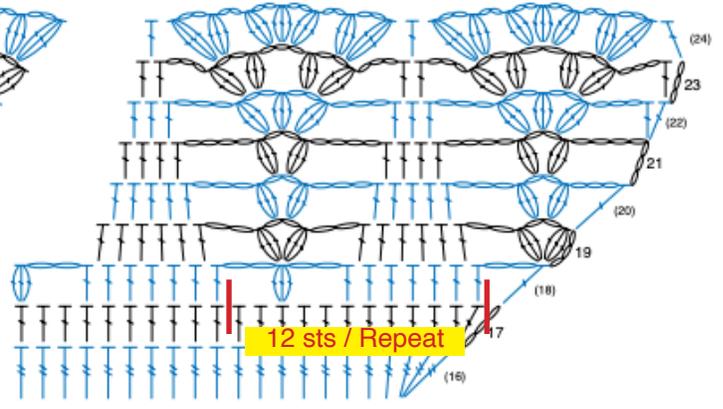
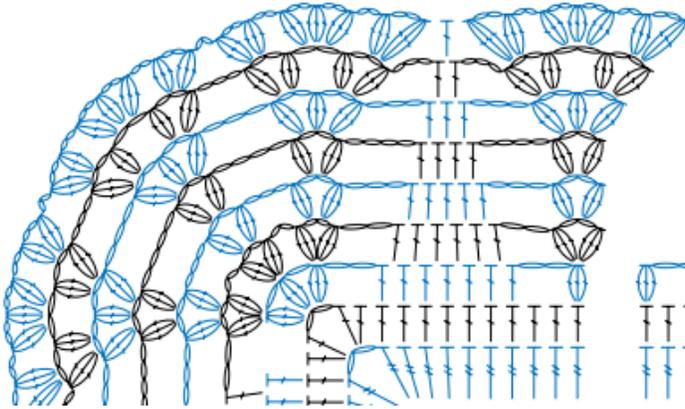
Lately, I have been hooked on twisted fringe.

**Twisted Fringe:** (RS). Join yarn with sl st to start of a row. Ch 1. \*Draw up a loop 8" [20.5 cm] long. Twist loop 30 times. Sl st in same st, allowing twisted loop to coil around itself. Sl st in next sc. Rep from \* across. Fasten off.

It looks really good and holds up over time. The longer the starting loop, the longer the fringe.



# How to Shift Border to Another Shawl



## Comfort Shawl Scalloped Border

Understanding how to read a stitch diagram or to make one will ease this opportunity for pulling a concept from one type of shawl to another. The trick is to know what the stitch multiples are so the last row will match.

In the instructions, it stated there are 140 sts on the row. Divided that by 2 = **70 sts per side.**

Count the number of stitches that repeat a section in this pattern. There are 12 sts in the repeat from what I can see in the diagram.

- $70 \text{ sts} / 12 \text{ sts} = 5.8 \text{ repeats}$ . Round down.
- $5 \text{ repeats} \times 12 \text{ sts} = 60 \text{ sts}$ .
- Total stitches  $70 - 60 \text{ sts} = 10 \text{ sts}$ .

Repeat is 12 + 10

You can work it out mathematically but if you have a picture you can verify it too. You can see 5 full sections and a portion of 1 section that I put a blue box around.



## Fringe or Tassels Placement

If you know how many stitches you have per side, you will be able to factor in how many stitches you want to use without guessing. You can always play with concepts as well.

## Let's Figure Out How to Get this Border to the Crochet To The Point Shawl.

*What do you notice immediately about the counts of the scalloped border?* It's an even number.

The final sides have to be an even number. So I would add **1 extra stitch, place 3 sts** at the beginning **and** at the end of a row to get the counts to go even.

The project as written is at 113 sts. Add 1 extra stitch to make this an even number. = 114 sts.

$114 \text{ sts} / 12 \text{ sts} = 9.5 \text{ repeats}$ .  $9 \text{ Repeats} \times 12 = 108 \text{ sts}$ . We know there are **10 extra stitches we need.**  $108 \text{ sts} + 10 \text{ sts} = 118 \text{ sts}$ . We need to do more rows to get to that multiple to hit 118 sts.

$118 \text{ sts} - 113 \text{ sts} = 5 \text{ sts}$ . Growth is 2 sts per side / row. We need 2 more rows with the last row to have that extra stitch and then we can begin this border as written.

## Let's Go Through Some Examples

Fringe is an obvious choice for a border but it depends on the application of the shawl.

Is the shawl an accessory add-on or is it a shawl that is for someone that wants to warm up on a chair or sofa?

Unworked Dangling Fringe looks nice but it can fray at the ends over time.

Tassels are in trend but again, the application of those is subjective to how you will use the shawl.

You should factor in washing, if required, as well when considering the final border. If you tie on with bow tie, you can untie these to wash the shawl and retie them back on later.

You could build up fringe so it is a slip stitch or single crochet along a chain to beef up the fringe so it's washable but also less likely to be as fiddly.

You could add stitch multiple add ons if you know the counts like the Bobble Fringe. Also, if you look at patterns like dresses, look to the edges of those types of projects for inspiration.

You could add loops and for an add on. Easy to wash and you can change the length of the loops.



**Unworked Dangling Fringe**



**Added Tassels**



**Slip Stitched or Single Crochet Along Chain**



**Looping Fringe**



**Bobble Fringe**

Fringe or borders are always subjective to the person who is crocheting. I find the added detail will take a 'liked' project and make it to a 'loved' project with a bit of extra attention.



# Adding Borders Workshop

