Lace Boot Cuffs
by Katherine Misegades

I once danced with a cowboy.
I fell in love with the sound of his boots
tapping out the rhythm of a Texas Two Step.
The cowboy rode into the sunset, but
I’ve owned a pair of cowboy boots ever since.

These boot cuffs can be worn right-side out showing above the top of a boot, or wrong-side out with the top lace folded over the top of a boot. They are knit back and forth on two needles using a sock-weight yarn (Shetland jumper weight is shown here) and require less than a ball or skein. Gauge: 20 sts/3" (7.62cm), 32 rows/3" (7.62cm). This pattern includes both a charted version of the lace and a written-out version.

Here are skills involved in knitting this project:
• Cast on
• Knit and purl
• Yarn over increase
• Knit two or three together decrease
• Slip stitch and knit in back of loop edge
• Chart reading and/or abbreviation reading
• Three-needle bind off.
Materials
• 1 skein or ball of sock-weight yarn
• 1 pair of U.S. Size 2 (2.5 mm) needles
• Needle with eye, scissors

Charted Instructions
The boot cuff can be knit using only the chart below. Use the stitch key to understand the symbols. Follow the list of instructions under the chart to understand the specifics of knitting the cuff. Details that require special attention are:
• Working the edge stitches.
• Reading each row in the direction of the row-number arrows

STITCH KEY

knit (k) on right side (odd numbered rows) and purl (p) on wrong side
knit on wrong side (even numbered rows)
knit 3 together (k3tog)
knit 2 together on right side (k2tog), purl 2 together on wrong side (p2tog)
yarn over (yo)
knit in back of first stitch in each row (kb) :: yarn to front then slip last stitch in each row (ytf, sl1)

Row 16 > < Row 15
Row 14 > < Row 13
Row 12 > < Row 11
Row 10 > < Row 9
Row 8 > < Row 7
Row 6 > < Row 5
Row 4 > < Row 3
Row 2 > < Row 1

Cast on 42 sts |
Set-up Row (wrong side): Kb, purl 11, marker, k20, marker, p11, sl1 |
Start working from the chart at Row 1, reading right to left |
Read Row 2 and other even rows left to right |
Special instructions for edge sts are in the stitch KEY |
Work lace borders in stockinette, work center 20 stitches in garter |
Place markers on each side of the center 20 garter stitches |
Written Instructions

If you are unfamiliar with knitting from a chart, you can teach yourself how to do it by comparing these row-by-row instructions with the chart rows.

Cast on 42 sts.

Set-up Row (wrong side): Kb, purl 10, marker, k20, marker, p10, sl1.

Row 1 (right side): kb, k2, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k3, marker, k20, marker, k3, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, k2ytf, sl1.

Row 2: Kb, purl 11, marker, k20, marker, p11, sl1.

Row 3: kb, k2, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k2, marker, k20, marker, k2, k2tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k2, yo, k2 ytf, sl1.

Row 4: Kb, purl 12, marker, k20, marker, p12, sl1.

Row 5: kb, k2, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k2tog yo, k2, yo, k2tog, k1, marker, k20, marker, k1, k2tog, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2, ytf, sl1.

Row 6: Kb, purl 13, marker, k20, marker, p13, sl1.

Row 7: kb, k2, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k2tog, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, marker, k20, marker, k20, marker, k2, k2tog, yo, k2, yo, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2, ytf, sl1.

Row 8: Kb, purl 14, marker, k20, marker, p14, sl1.

Row 9: kb, k3, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k2tog, yo, k2, marker, k20, marker, k2, k2, yo, k2tog, k2tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k3, ytf, sl1.

Row 10: Kb, p2tog, purl 12, marker, k20, marker, p12, p2tog, sl1.

Row 11: kb, k3, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k2tog, yo, k3, marker, k20, marker, k3, yo, k2tog, k2tog, yo, k1, k2tog, yo, k3, ytf, sl1.

Row 12: Kb, p2tog, purl 11, marker, k20, marker, p11, p2tog, sl1.

Row 13: kb, k3, yo, k2tog, k1, k2tog, yo, k4, marker, k20, marker, k4, yo, k2tog, k1, k2tog, yo, k3, ytf, sl1.

Row 14: Kb, p2tog, purl 10, marker, k20, marker, p10, p2tog, sl1.

Row 15: kb, k3, yo, k3tog, yo, k5, marker, k20, marker, k5, yo, k3tog, yo, k3, ytf, sl1.

Row 16: Kb, p2tog, purl 9, marker, k20, marker, p9, p2tog, sl1.

Nine or 10 repeats of these 16 rows make a piece long enough to cuff most boots. Add or subtract a repeat to change the circumference of the boot cuff.

Finish

Pick up 42 stitches along cast-on row. Work a three-needle bind off on the wrong side to join ends. Wash and pat out to dry on a towel.

This pattern is given to you complements of Katherine Misegades, A Time To Knit Publications, LLC. You are welcome to reprint it and, if you wish, use it as a resource for teaching a workshop. Thank you Mary Shue for helping me proof this pattern.