



# Tater Chip



## The Purple Tater Chip

Width 72 inches/183 cm

Depth 20 inches/51 cm

Made from handspun, lace weight, single ply silk/wool of questionable yardage. Knit with one set of US#7/4.5 mm straight needles.

A can't-go-wrong scarf/shawlette/shawl/triangle-thingy suitable for knitters of all levels. Made with yarn of any material, weight or yardage.

## First, a bit of a story...

There's something very strange about this pattern. I simply cannot stop making it. I don't even know what it IS. A scarf? A shawl? An ever-changeable triangle thingy, wider than it is deep, that you can knit anywhere with any type of yarn? I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS THING IS! All I can tell you for sure is that every time I finish one, I've got another on the needles before the next day has dawned. I finally named it "Tater Chip". Yes. It's much like that favorite snack. And I'll admit it. I could not make just one.

This craziness started with a simple ball of handspun silk. I came across it one day as I was rifling through my stash. The colors were lovely – purple melting into gray and then back to purple again. I had a vague memory of spinning it but absolutely no idea of its yardage. Too lazy to re-skein, I thought I might get away with making something from the bottom up, increasing as I went. I've always liked the shape





### Green Tater Chip with Tassels

Width 60 inches/152 cm

Depth 12 inches/30 cm

Made with Cascade Yarns Baby Alpaca Chunky (100% baby alpaca; 108 yards/100m per 100g/3.5 oz skein); color #581, 2 skeins. Knit on US #9/5.5 mm straight needles.



of a very wide but not very deep triangle. So I grabbed some relatively large needles, cast on a couple stitches, increased at each end on every row, and before I knew it, I was producing a lovely, light scarf. When it seemed like I was going to run out of yarn, I cast off. "Wow!" I thought, holding it up. "Look at that! I made a thingy! It was easy. And fun. And quick! And it came out really beautiful! Wonder how this would look with really thick yarn?" So I tried the same process with some bulky alpaca. The squishy alpaca triangle shouted out for tassels. Then I found another, smaller ball of silk I'd spun and made a tiny triangle. That one got snatched by a friend right away. Then I found some lovely, variegated bamboo/wool yarn at a local LYS and wanted to see how the colors would work with the increases. I took it with me on a trip. Heck, it was small and easy to work. Perfect for travelling. Later, I found more stash yarn with questionable yardage and decided it would be fun to make a really gigantic one.

You can see my problem. In fact, I just cast a new one on this morning. "Hey! What happens when I introduce a lace pattern to Tater Chip?" (I've finally named the thing, though I still can't tell you what it IS.)

Here are some more great things about Tater Chip:

- You can use yarn of any weight, yardage, or material. Any needle size will do. A fine yarn paired with large needles creates a light, lacy Tater Chip – one that quite deep in relation to its width. Chunky yarn on big needles makes a thick, squishy Tater Chip, perfect for burying your cold nose into when walking outside. A medium weight yarn on small-ish needles produces a much wider than deep triangle. I wrap mine around my neck multiple times and love to run my fingers over its perfect texture and colors.
- You can make a small one in a weekend and a larger one in not much longer depending upon your yarn and needle size. Perfect when you need to make something special in a jiffy!
- I find Tater Chip the perfect antidote to a long, intricate project. I get bored easily. Taking a break from a sweater or blanket by making a quick Tater Chip is just the thing. Then, when I go back to work on my original project, it's so very fresh and exciting again!
- Beginners will find Tater Chip a satisfying next project after their first (rectangular) scarf. Sure, it's garter stitch. But it's garter stitch with increases! Just when the beginner fears s/he'll never be able to make anything interesting... Voila! A triangle! And there's no way to



### Contrasting Stripe Tater Chip

Width 60 inches/152 cm

Depth 12 inches/30 cm

Made with Louisa Harding Yarns Pittura Superwash Merino with Bamboo (75% wool/25% bamboo; 437 yards/400m per 100g skein); color #605, 2 skeins and contrasting handspun, hand dyed, single-ply skein of bamboo/wool yarn purchased from vendor at Milgavie Maker's Market, Scotland, during spring travels 2016. Approx 130 yds. Knit on 16 inch US #4/3.5mm circular needle.



make a Tater Chip incorrectly. Beginners just love when I say that.

- You can make this pattern as simply or with as much complexity as you like. Garter stitch only? Great for stitch group get togethers, where you'd better not work on anything complicated or you'll just have to rip it all back once you get home. Want to play a bit? Experiment by introducing lace, stripes, change the frequency of increases or even tack on an i-cord in a crazy, swirly pattern. The possibilities for embellishing a Tater Chip are endless.

You now have permission to ALWAYS pick up a scrumptious skein (or two, or three) of yarn. Because what can you do with just a little really great yarn? Yep, you guessed it. *You can make a Tater Chip!!!* So, dear friends in the wide world of fiber, I respectfully (and deviously) offer up the Tater Chip. Simple to knit, quick to complete, no finishing required, and showcases every type of yarn beautifully. I dare you to make just one.

### Pattern (Yes, finally!)

Using yarn and needles of your choice, CO 3 stitches.

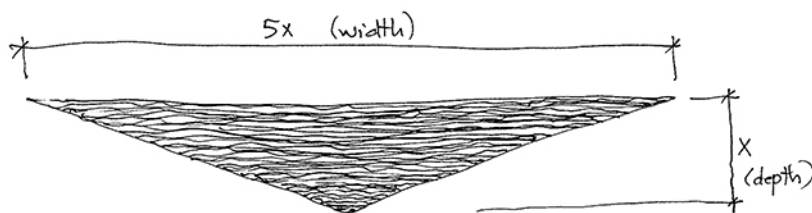
Row 1: Kfb, knit, kfb.

Row 2: Kfb, knit until 1 stitch remains, kfb.

Repeat Row 2 until you near the end of your skein, reach desired depth or just can't stand knitting on this project any more.

BO loosely. Weave in ends.

If you've worked a light, lacy shawl with large needles, take time to block it. Or, if you're like me, fudgetahboutit. Your Tater Chip is ready for you (or a friend) to wear and enjoy! Start another one.



Tater Chip is generally five times wider than deep when using needles matched to yarn thickness. Large needles in combination with thinner yarn will change the width to depth ratio, making the garment deeper.