Basic Top-Down Triangle Shawl (with variations)

Supplies:
Worsted Wight (#4) yarn, approx. 530-yards
US Size 9 straight needles, and 24" or longer circular needles
2 stitch markers
Row counter is helpful if using some of the variations (see below)

Abbreviations:

Beg	Beginning
Dec	Decease
K	Knit
K2tog	Knit next two stitches together
KFB	Knit into front of stitch then into back of same stitch (makes 2 Sts out of 1 st)
Inc.	Increase
P	Purl
PM	Place Marker
SM	Slip Marker
Sts	Stitches
X	Evenly spaced number of rows i.e. every 10 or 14 or 20… rows, on RS (applicable only in the 'jazz it up' variations to the shawl)
YO	Yarn Over

Pattern:

Using straight needles, cast on 5 Sts **using long-tail method** leaving a tail about 6" long. (If you don't know this method, use any method you know but K 1 row for stability before you start pattern)

Row 1 (RS): KFB, K1, YO, PM, K1, PM, YO, K1, KFB (9 sts) Note: the stitch between the markers is your center stitch which will form a 'spine' up the shawl

Row 2 (WS): K3, P1, SM, P1, SM, P1, K3 note: the K3 on each side form a garter stitch border on your work

Row 3: K3, YO, K1, YO, SM, K1, SM, YO, K1, YO, K3 (13 sts)

Row 4: K3, P3, SM, P1, SM, P3, K3

Row 5: K3, YO, K3, YO, SM, K1, SM, K3, YO, K3 (17 sts)

Row 6: K3, P5, SM, P1, SM, P5, K3 note: the number of stitches you purl on each side of the center stitch increase by 2 every WS row as a result of the YO's made on the previous RS row

Proceed in this manner adding 4 sts on each RS row (one St 3 sts in from each edge and one St each side of the center (spine) st) and knitting 3 sts at Beg and end of each WS row, slipping markers as you come to them. Change to circular needles, 24" or longer as needed when the work gets wider. Continue until spine, slightly stretched, is approx. 26 inches long, ending after a RS row then

WS row: Knit all stitches
RS row: K3, YO, K1, (YO, K2tog) to marker, YO, SM, K1, SM (YO, K2tog) to last 4 Sts, YO, K1, YO, K3
WS row   Knit all stitches
RS row   K3, YO, K to marker, YO, SM, K1, SM, YO, K to last 3 sts, YO, K3
WS row   Cast off loosely in K

Using tail at Beg of work, straighten center of top edge if needed, weave in remaining ends and block if necessary. This is the basic pattern.

JAZZ IT UP VARIATIONS to the basic shawl

You can 'jazz' up the Basic Top-Down Basic Shawl by using any of the following variations:
1) Changing the look of the spine by:
    2) Creating a garter stitch spine by knitting the center spine stitch on every row (RS & WS), or
    3) K the center stitch on WS and P on RS (reverse stockinette stitch), or
    4) Knit into the back of the center stitch when K on RS to create a twisted stitch
5) Using a multicolored yarn
6) Using 2 or more colors or using lots of leftovers from previous projects
7) Knitting across an entire WS row every X number of rows to give a garter ridge effect
8) Periodically working a RS row with a different color and knitting the following WS row with that different color then returning to the main color (so all the garter ridges are a different color from the main shawl work)
9) Throwing in an entire row of eyelets on every X rows by on RS row
    a. K3, YO, K1, (YO, K2tog) to marker, YO, SM, K1, SM (YO, K2tog) to last 4 Sts, YO, K1, YO, K3
10) Making a row of eyelets (#6 above) using a different colored yarn from the main shawl – either one contrast color or different colors for each eyelet row
11) Making an eyelet row bordered top and bottom by garter ridges as follows:
    12) Knit 1 RS row every X row with a 2nd color (or a different color for each set of eyelets)
    13) Knit across the following WS row
    14) Make a row of eyelets (#6 above)
    15) Knit across the following WS row
    16) Return to main color and work RS row
17) Randomly doing any of the above rather than using X (evenly spaced rows)
18) Any combination or all of the above

Remember to carry your yarn up the side of your work when working in a contrast color for more than 2 rows by wrapping the contrast color around the main color yarn until ready to return to main color

It is a good idea to count your Sts if you decide to do an entire row of eyelets just to make sure you have done it correctly – each RS row results in an increase of 4 Sts – (2 on each side of shawl as detailed above for the basic shawl)