

DARLING CARDIGAN



#DARLINGCARDIGAN

The Darling Cardigan is a classic and timeless cardigan with a dropped shoulder and wide neckline opening. The contemporary silhouette makes this design easy to style for any occasion. The cardigan is worked from the top down making it easy to customize the length to suit your preferences and body perfectly.

The cardigan is worked flat in Stockinette stitch on 5 mm / US 8 needles. First the back is worked back and forth while shaping the shoulders. Stitches are picked up for the upper front separately, then all stitches are worked flat through the body. Stitches are picked up for the sleeves and worked in the round and lastly stitches are picked up along the front edges for a double knitted placket. You can choose to either attach regular buttons (instructions on how to knit the buttonholes are included in the pattern) or attach snap buttons instead.

Watch the full video tutorial for this pattern on YouTube at youtube.com/c/kutovakika
#knitwithkika

Darling Cardigan

Sizes:

XS (S, M, L) (XL, 2XL, 3XL) (4XL, 5XL)

Finished garment measurements:

Bust circumference: (including placket, which measures 2.5 cm / 1" width):

104 (120, 130, 145) (155, 166.5, 171.5) (180, 186.5) cm / 41 (47.25, 51.25, 57) (61, 65.5, 67.5) (70.75, 73.5)".

Length from back neck cast-on edge to hem:

51 (54, 57, 59) (62, 63, 65) (67, 68) cm / 20.25 (21.25, 22.5, 23.25) (24.5, 24.75, 25.5) (26.5, 26.75)".

Sleeve length from underarm to hem:

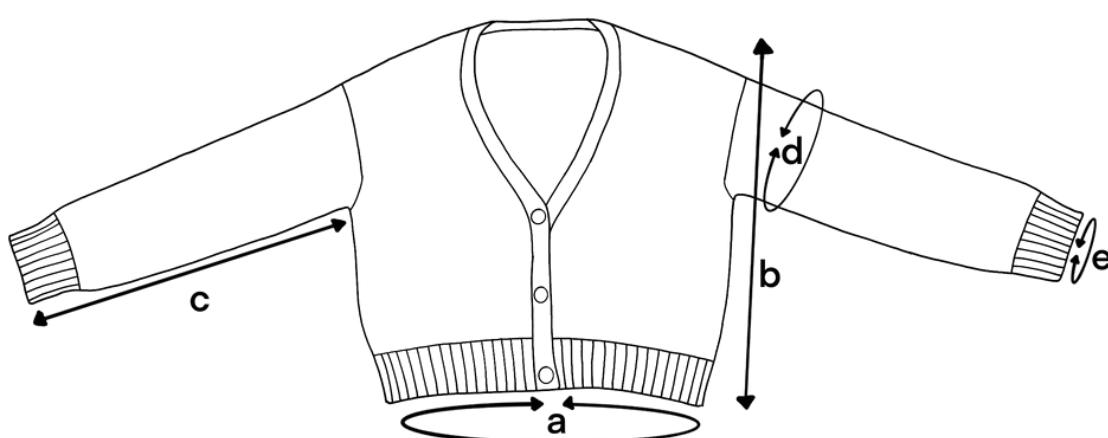
35 (37.5, 39, 41.5) (44, 45, 46.5) (47.5, 49) cm / 13.75 (14.75, 15.25, 16.25) (17.25, 17.75, 18.25) (18.75, 19.25)".

Upper sleeve circumference:

26.5, (30, 30, 33.5) (36.5, 36.5, 36.5) (36.5, 40) cm / 10.5 (11.75, 11.75, 13.25) (14.25, 14.25, 14.25) (14.25, 15.75)".

The Darling Cardigan is designed to have about 20-30 cm / 8-12" positive ease for a relaxed and oversized fit.

Pink sample in size S, green and gray in size M, Kika has a bust of approx. 87 cm / 34.25".



Gauge:

16 sts x 24 rows/rnd = 10 cm / 4" in **Stockinette stitch flat** on 5 mm / US8 needles, after blocking.

18 sts x 30 rows/rnd = 10 cm / 4" in **2 x 1 rib flat** on 3 mm / US2.5 needles, after blocking.

Needles:

3 mm / US2.5: circular needle 80-100 cm / 32-40" for rib hem, and DPNs for sleeve rib cuffs and front edge placket (or, use Magic Loop technique).

5 mm / US8: circular needle 80-100 cm / 32-40" for body, and circular needle 40 cm / 16" for sleeves or DPNs (or, use Magic Loop technique).

Notions:

Removable stitch markers, tapestry needle, stitch holder or scrap yarn, 3 sets of snap buttons 1.5 cm / 1.6" diameter or three normal buttons 2.5 cm / 1" diameter.

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Suggested yarn:

Pink sample:

300 (325, 350, 375) (400, 425, 450) (475, 500, 525) g of Sandnes Garn Børstet Alpakka (96% brushed alpaca, 4% nylon - 110 m / 120 yds / 50 g) in color 4324 - Warm Pink.

Grey Sample:

250 (275, 300, 300) (325, 350, 375) (400, 425, 450) g of Sandnes Garn Kos (62 % baby alpaca, 29 % polyamide, 9 % wool - 150 m / 164 yds / 50 g) in color 1043 - Gey Melange.

Green sample:

400 (450, 475, 500) (525, 550, 600) (625, 650) g of Sandnes Garn Sunday (100% Merino Wool - 235 m / 257 yds / 50 g) in color 9062 Olivegreen together with 125 (125, 150, 150) (175, 175, 200) (200, 225) g Gepard Kid Seta (70% Super Kid mohair, 30 % Shappe Silk - 210 m / 230 yds/ 25 g) in color 820.

Green sample is worked **holding two strands of merino and one strand of mohair together.**

Further yarn suggestions:

Drops Air (65% alpaca, 28% polyamide, 7% wool - 150 m / 164 yds / 50 g)

Drops Melody (71% alpaca, 25% wool, 4% polyamide - 140 m / 153 yds / 50 g)

Viking Garn Alpaca Bris (60% alpaca, 11% merino, 29% nylon- 150 m / 164 yds / 50 g)

CaMaRose Snefug (55 % alpaca, 35 % cotton, 10 % merinowool -110 / 120 yds / 50g).

Drop Brushed Alpaca Silk (77% alpaca, 23% silk- 140 m / 153 yds / 25 g) holding two strands together.



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UPPER BACK

Cast on 26 (30, 30, 30) (30, 34, 34) (34, 36) sts with the Backwards Loop Cast-On Method on 5 mm / US8 needles.

Work the Setup Row as follows and place removable stitch markers in the first and last st to mark where sts will be picked up for the shoulder seams later:

Setup Row (WS): P1 and place removable stitch marker in this first st, p to last st, p1 and place removable stitch marker in this st.

Start shaping the back and shoulders as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K2, M1L, k to last 2 sts, M1R, k2. 2 sts *increased*.

Row 2 (WS): P2, M1Rp, p to the last 2 sts, M1Lp, p2. 2 sts *increased*.

Repeat Rows 1-2, 12 (14, 16, 18), (20, 21, 22), (23, 24) more times.

You have 78 (90, 98, 106) (114, 122, 126) (130, 136) sts in total.

Continue working in Stockinette stitch (k all RS rows, and p all WS rows) until the total work, measured from the cast-on edge is 21 (23, 25, 27) (29, 30, 31) (32, 33) cm / 8.25 (9, 9.75, 10.75) (11.5, 11.75, 12.25) (12.5, 13)" in total. End on a WS row (so that the next row will be a RS row).

Cut the yarn and place sts on hold while you work the front next (you can for example transfer the sts onto a stitch wire or some scrap yarn).

RIGHT FRONT

Pick up and knit 26 (30, 34, 38) (42, 44, 46) (48, 50) sts from the right outer edge to the right side stitch marker (when looking at the piece with the RS facing you and the cast on edge facing up towards the top) with 5 mm / US8 needles, you can remove this marker now.

Row 1 (WS): P to end.

Row 2 (RS): K to end.

Row 3 (WS): P to end.

Next, begin shaping the shoulder by working decreases as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K2, ssk, k to end. 1 st *decreased*.

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

Row 3 (RS): K to end.

Row 4 (WS): P to end.

There are 25 (29, 33, 37) (41, 43, 45) (47, 49) sts in total.

Repeat Rows 1-4, 4 more times.

There are 21 (25, 29, 33) (37, 39, 41) (43, 45) sts in total.

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Start shaping the front neckline as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K to last 2 sts, M1R, k2. *1 st increased.*

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

Row 3 (RS): K to end.

Row 4 (WS): P to end.

There are 22 (26, 30, 34) (38, 40, 42) (44, 46) sts in total.

Repeat Rows 1-4, 6 (7, 7, 9) (9, 10, 10) (11, 11) more times.

There are 28 (33, 37, 43) (47, 50, 52) (55, 57) sts in total.

Cut the yarn and place the sts on hold while you work the Left Front next.

LEFT FRONT

Pick up and knit 26 (30, 34, 38) (42, 44, 46) (48, 50) sts from the left side stitch marker to the outer left edge (when looking at the piece with the RS facing you and the cast on edge facing up towards the top) with 5 mm / US8 needles, you can remove this marker now.

Row 1 (WS): P to end.

Row 2 (RS): K to end.

Row 3 (WS): P to end.

Next, begin shaping the shoulder by working decreases as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2. *1 st decreased.*

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

Row 3 (RS): K to end.

Row 4 (WS): P to end.

There are 25 (29, 33, 37) (41, 43, 45) (47, 49) sts in total.

Repeat Rows 1-4, 4 more times.

There are 21 (25, 29, 33) (37, 39, 41) (43, 45) sts in total.

Start shaping the front neckline as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K2, M1L, k to end. *1 st increased.*

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

Row 3 (RS): K to end.

Row 4 (WS): P to end.

There are 22 (26, 30, 34) (38, 40, 42) (44, 46) sts in total.

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Repeat Rows 1-4, 6 (7, 7, 9) (9, 10, 10) (11, 11) more times.

There are 28 (33, 37, 43) (47, 50, 52) (55, 57) sts in total.

Don't cut the yarn yet as we'll join everything on the same circular needle for the body next.

BODY

Next, join the Left and Right Front sts together with the Upper Back sts to work the body flat. The neckline will continue to be shaped and additional sts will be cast on for the underarms on the first row.

Row 1 (RS): K2, M1L, k all remaining Left Front sts, cast on 6 (8, 8, 10) (10, 12, 12) (14, 14) sts with the Backwards Loop Cast-On Method, k all Upper Back sts, cast on 6 (8, 8, 10) (10, 12, 12) (14, 14) sts with the Backwards Loop Cast-On Method, k all Right Front sts until last 2 sts, M1R, k2.

There are 148 (174, 190, 214) (230, 248, 256) (270, 280) sts in total.

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

Row 3 (RS): K to end.

Row 4 (WS): P to end.

Continue shaping the neckline as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K2, M1L, k to last 2 sts, M1R, k2. *2 sts increased.*

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

Row 3 (RS): K to end.

Row 4 (WS): P to end.

There are 150 (176, 192, 216) (232, 250, 258) (272, 282) sts in total.

Repeat Rows 1-4, 5 more times.

There are 160 (186, 202, 226) (242, 260, 268) (282, 292) sts in total.

Continue working in Stockinette stitch until the body measured from the underarm is 22 (23, 24, 24) (25, 25, 26) (27, 27) cm / 8.75 (9, 9.5, 9.5) (9.75, 9.75, 10.25) (10.75, 10.75)" in total (or, 8 cm / 3.25" less than total desired length). End on a WS row.

ONLY SIZES XS, M, L, 3XL, 5XL:

Row 1 (RS): K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. *2 sts decreased.*

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

ONLY SIZES S, 4XL:

Row 1 (RS): K to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. *1 st decreased.*

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

There are 158 (185, 200, 224) (242, 260, 266) (281, 290) sts in total.

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Change to 3 mm / US 2.5 needles and work the rib hem as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K2, *p1, k2* to end.

Row 2 (WS): p2, *k1, p2* to end.

Repeat Rows 1-2 until rib hem measures 8 cm / 3.25" in length.

Bind Off using the Standard Bind off method (be careful not to bind off too tightly to not make the hem shrink) or use the Ruke Cast Off method. The Ruke Cast Off method adds a bit of a rolled bump detail to the hem that is style choice that you can choose to add or skip depending on personal preference (see photo below).



Ruke cast off with tapestry needle

Work as follows:

Cut the yarn so that you have a tail that is about 4 x times the total length of the hem and thread the yarn onto a blunt tapestry needle.

Step 1:

Insert tapestry needle purl wise into the first 3 sts on the knitting needle and pull yarn through.

Step 2:

Slide the first stitch off the knitting needle. *1 st bound off.*

Step 3:

Insert tapestry needle purl wise into the first 3 sts on the knitting needle and pull through.

Step 4:

Slide the first stitch off the knitting needle. *2 st bound off.*

Repeat Steps 3-4 until all sts are bound off.

SLEEVES

The sleeve sts are picked up and knit along the armhole openings. The sleeves are worked in the round in Stockinette stitch on either 5 mm / US8 40-60 cm / 16-24" circular needles, double-pointed needles or a longer circular needle for Magic Loop technique.

Work as follows:

With the RS facing, pick up and knit 58 (62, 64, 68) (72, 74, 76) (78, 80) sts evenly around the armhole opening starting from the middle of the underarm. Join to work in the rnd and place a marker to mark the beginning of rnd.

Work in Stockinette stitch until sleeve measured from underarm is 10 cm / 4". Then work one **decrease rnd** as follows: K1, k2tog, k to last 3 sts, ssk, k1. *2 sts decreased.*

There are 56 (60, 62, 66) (70, 72, 74) (76, 78) sts in total.

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Work in Stockinette stitch until sleeve measures 40 cm / 15.75" (or, 8 cm / 3.25 " less than total desired length) **while at the same time working** decrease rnd 4 (3, 4, 3) (2, 3, 4) (5, 3) more times 5 (6, 5, 6) (7.5, 6, 5) (4.5, 6) cm / 2 (2.25, 2, 2.25) (3, 2.25, 2) (1.75, 2.25)" apart as follows: K1, k2tog, k to the last 3 sts, ssk, k1.

There are 48 (54, 54, 60) (66, 66, 66) (66, 72) sts in total.

Change to 3 mm / US2.5 needles and work *k2, p1*- ribbing until the cuff measures 8 cm / 3.25" in total.

Bind Off using the Standard Bind off method (be careful not to bind off too tightly to not make the hem shrink) or use the Ruke Cast Off method. The Ruke Cast Off method adds a bit of a rolled bump detail to the cuff that is style choice that you can choose to add or skip depending on personal preference.

Ruke cast off with tapestry needle

Work as follows:

Cut the yarn so that you have a tail that is about 4 x times the total length of the hem and thread the yarn onto a blunt tapestry needle.

Step 1:

Insert tapestry needle purl wise into the first 3 sts on the knitting needle and pull yarn through.

Step 2:

Slide the first stitch off the knitting needle. *1 st bound off.*

Step 3:

Insert tapestry needle purl wise into the first 3 sts on the knitting needle and pull through.

Step 4:

Slide the first stitch off the knitting needle. *2 st bound off.*

Repeat Steps 3-4 until all sts are bound off.

FRONT EDGE PLACKET

For the front edge placket sts are picked up along the front edges and back neck cast on edge with a 3 mm / US 2.5 circular needle. The front placket is worked in double knitting with a 3 mm / US 2.5 double-pointed needle. *Full video tutorial can be found at www.youtube.com/c/kutovakika.*

You can choose to either attach buttons and work 3 buttonholes on one side of the front edge plackets, or attach snap buttons.

SNAP BUTTON VERSION:

Start by picking up and knitting sts as follows:

Pick up and knit 1 stitch for every stitch along the complete edge of the cardigan, starting with the bottom left side (when looking at the cardigan from the front, RS facing you), around the back neck, and down to the end of the right side with a 3 mm / US 2.5 80-100 cm/ 32-40" circular needle or a longer needle (or, you can also use two circular needles for this). The amount of picked up sts will depend a bit on how long your cardigan is. Cut the yarn.

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Join in new yarn and work the double knitted placket. Start from the bottom of the left side (when looking at the cardigan from the front, RS facing you) and following up and around the entire edge of the cardigan.

Work as follows:

Turn the work so you have the WS side facing you and cast on 9 new sts on the 3 mm / US 2.5 circular needle in addition to the picked up sts on the left front edge of the cardigan using the Italian Cast-On method (make the first and last st of the cast on sts purl sts). Turn work so that the RS side is facing you.

Row 1 (RS):

K1, sl1 wyif, repeat from * to * a total of 4 times, k2tog-tbl (knit the last st of the 9 that you just cast on together with one stitch from the picked up sts through the back loops). Turn work.

Row 2 (WS):

Sl1 wyif, k1, repeat from * to * to the last st, sl1 wyif. Turn work.

Repeat Rows 1-2 across all the picked up sts along the front edges and back neck until there is only 1 of the picked-up sts left (until there are only 10 sts in total remaining on the needle).

Bind off from the RS using the Italian Bind-Off method. When working the last 2 sts of the Italian Bind- off, seam these 2 sts as if they were 1 st (as if you had knitted them together tbl).

BUTTONS AND BUTTONHOLES VERSION:

Start by picking up and knitting sts as follows:

Pick up and knit 1 stitch for every stitch along the complete edge of the cardigan, starting with the bottom up the left side (when looking at the cardigan from the front, RS facing you), around the back neck, and down to the end of the right side with a 3 mm / US 2.5 80-100 cm or a longer needle (or, you can also use two circular needles for this). The amount of picked up sts will depend a bit on how long your cardigan is. Cut the yarn.

Place 3 removable stitch markers to mark where the bottom of buttonholes will be worked along the left front edge of the cardigan (when looking at the cardigan from the front, RS facing you). Place the bottom buttonhole 4 sts from the bottom edge of the hem, and place the 2 other buttonholes approx 11 cm / 4.25" apart. See the instructions on how to work the buttonholes below.

Join in new yarn and work the double knitted placket. Start from the bottom of the left side (when looking at the cardigan from the front, RS facing you) and following up and around the entire edge of the cardigan.

Work as follows:

Turn the work so you have the WS side facing you and cast on 9 new sts on the 3 mm / US 2.5 circular needle in addition to the picked up sts on the left front edge of the cardigan using the Italian Cast-On method (make the first and last st of the cast on sts purl sts). Turn work so that the RS side is facing you.

Row 1 (RS):

K1, sl1 wyif, repeat from * to * a total of 4 times, k2tog-tbl (knit the last st of the 9 that you just cast on together with one stitch from the picked up sts through the back loops). Turn work.

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Row 2 (WS):

Sl1 wyif, k1, repeat from * to * to the last st, sl1 wyif. Turn work.

Repeat Rows 1-2 across all the picked up sts along the front edges and back neck until there is only 1 of the picked-up sts left (until there are only 10 sts remaining on the needle) **while at the same time** working 3 buttonholes along the left front edge at your markers.

Bind off from the RS using the Italian Bind-Off method. When working the last 2 sts of the Italian Bind- off, seam these 2 sts as if they were 1 st (as if you had knitted them together tbl).

How to work the buttonholes

To create the buttonholes the front edge placket is divided into two parts and each side of the buttonhole is knitted separately one at a time. After working each buttonhole the two parts or "columns" are joined together again. Start working the buttonholes where the markers are placed.

First work one side of the buttonholes across the first 4 sts. Work from the RS as follows:

Row 1 (RS): *K1, sl1 wyif*, repeat from * to * a total of 2 times. Turn work.

Row 2 (WS): *K1, sl1 wyif*, work from * to * a total of 2 times. Turn work.

Repeat Rows 1-2, 3 more times (work 8 rows in total), or for a larger buttonhole, work 10 or 12 rows instead of 8.

Repeat Row 1 (RS) once more, so that the working yarn is now in the middle of the front edge placket sts. Cut the yarn and let the sts rest on a stitch holder or an extra double-pointed needle while working the other side of the buttonhole.

Join new yarn and work from the RS as follows:

Row 1 (RS): *K1, sl1 wyif*, repeat from * to * a total of 2 times, k2tog tbl (knit the last st of 5 sts from the front edge place sts together with a picked up stitch through the back loops). Turn work.

Row 2 (WS): *Sl1 wyif, k1*, repeat from * to * to the last stitch, sl1 wyif. Turn work.

Repeat Rows 1 -2, 3 more times (work 8 rows in total), or for a larger buttonhole, work 10 or 12 rows instead of 8.

Repeat Row 1 (RS) once more, so the next row is a WS row.

Now join together the both sides of the buttonhole on the same needle, work as follows:

Row 1 (WS): *Sl1 wyif, k1*, repeat from * to * across all the front edge placket sts to the last stitch, sl1 wyif. Turn work.

The buttonhole is now complete. The next row is a RS row.

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FINISHING

Weave in all ends.

Tip! You can carefully weave in the yarn ends at the top and bottom of the buttonholes into the seam between the front edge placket sts and pick up edge.

You can choose to steam block or wet block the cardigan. If you wet block the cardigan, soak it in cold to lukewarm water. Squeeze out all excess water and be careful not to stretch out the cardigan when it's wet. You can roll it up in a towel to get as much water out as possible before shaping it and laying it to dry flat. This will allow the stitches to relax which will create a more even fabric.

SNAP BUTTON VERSION:

Spread out the bottom piece of the 3 snap buttons evenly along one of the front placket edges. Place the bottom snap button approx. 1 cm / 0.5" from the hem edge, and the 2 other snap buttons approx 11 cm / 4.25" apart. Attach them using the same yarn you worked the cardigan in. Then attach the other corresponding part of the 3 snap buttons on the backside of the other front placket edge making sure the buttons on the front and back align with each other.

BUTTONS AND BUTTONHOLES VERSION:

Spread out the buttons along the right front edge (when looking at the cardigan in front of you with the RS facing up) so that they correspond with the buttonholes on the left side. Attach them by hand sewing.

That's it, you're ready to snuggle up in your new mega cozy cardigan!



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ABBREVIATIONS

BO = bind off

BOR = beginning of round

CO = cast on

K = knit

K2tog = knit 2 stitches together through front loops. (*1 stitch decreased*)

M1L = make 1 left (left-leaning increase), knit the strand between two sts by inserting the left needle from front to back and knit the stitch twisted (through the back loop). (*1 stitch increased*)

M1Lp = make 1 left purl (left-leaning increase), purl the strand between two sts by inserting the left needle from front to back and purl the stitch twisted (through the back loop). (*1 stitch increased*)

M1R = make 1 right (right-leaning increase), knit the strand between two stitches by inserting the left needle from back to front and knit the stitch (through the front loop). (*1 stitch increased*)

M1Rp = make 1 right purl (right-leaning increase), purl the strand between two stitches by inserting the left needle from back to front and purl the stitch (through the front loop). (*1 stitch increased*)

P = purl

PM = place marker

RS = right side

Rnd(s) = round(s)

Sl1 wyif = slip 1 stitch purlwise with the working yarn held in front

Ssk = slip, slip, knit. Slip the first stitch as if to knit, slip the second stitch as if to knit. Slide both stitches from the right needle back to the left hand needle. Knit both stitches through the back loops together as if they were one stitch. (*1 stitch decreased*)

St(s) = stitch(es)

St st = Stockinette stitch. When worked flat (back and forth): knit all stitches on the right side and purl all the stitches on the wrong side. When worked in the round: knit all stitches.

Tbl(s) = through back loop(s)

WS = wrong side

- = repeat the steps between the *-*

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Hope you enjoyed this pattern!

You can use the hashtags **#darlingcardigan** and **#knitwithkika** when you post on Instagram so we can admire your work :)

If you have any questions, please send them to support@kutovakika.com

Watch the full video tutorial for this pattern on YouTube at youtube.com/c/kutovakika
#knitwithkika