

JULIE HOOVER



MELROSE VEST

A sleeveless v-neck pullover
Featuring Julie Hoover Studio Blend No. 1 yarn

PATTERN SPECS

Sizes

38½ (43, 47¼, 51¾, 56, 60¼, 64¾, 69)" / 98 (109, 120, 131.5, 142, 153, 164.5, 175.5) cm finished chest circumference

40¾ (45, 49½, 53¾, 58¼, 62½, 67, 71¼)" / 103.5 (114.5, 125.5, 136.5, 148, 159, 170, 181) cm finished hip circumference

Model wearing size 43" / 109 cm with + 9" / 23 cm ease in chest and + 9" / 23 cm ease in hips

Yarn

Julie Hoover Studio Blend No. 1

50% baby cashmere, 50% baby yak

149.8 yards / 137 meters per 50 g skein

6 (6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 9, 10) skeins

805 (895, 1005, 1045, 1180, 1195, 1335, 1385) yards / 736 (818, 919, 956, 1079, 1093, 1221, 1266) meters

Sample photographed in color Marble Tweed

Gauge

22 stitches and 31 rows = 4" / 10 cm in stockinette stitch with Needle A, after blocking

Needle A (Main Fabric)

One 24" / 60 cm circular needle

US 5 / 3.75 mm or size needed to obtain gauge listed

Needle B (for Ribbing)

One each 16" / 40 cm and 24" / 60 cm circular needles one size smaller than Needle A

US 4 / 3.5 mm

Needle C (for Neckband)

One 24" / 60 cm circular needle two sizes smaller than Needle A

US 3 / 3.25 mm

Other Materials

Waste yarn or stitch holder, spare 24" / 60 cm circular needle (size US 0–1 / 2.0–2.25 mm), stitch marker, blunt tapestry needle, blocking wires & T-pins (optional but recommended)

Skill Level

3 of 5

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

- Vest is worked flat in pieces from the bottom up and sewn together, using a circular needle to accommodate the large number of stitches. Neckband is worked flat from picked-up stitches. Armbands are worked circularly from picked-up stitches.
- A 1-stitch slipped selvedge is worked at each side edge, as shown in {brackets}. On RS rows, slip stitch knitwise with yarn in back. On WS rows, slip stitch purlwise with yarn in front.
- For best results, use the Sloped Bind Off Method (see Special Techniques) for neckline and shoulder shaping.

STITCH PATTERNS

2x2 Flat Ribbing

(multiple of 4 stitches +2; 2-row repeat)

Row 1 (RS): {Slip 1} (see Construction Notes), knit 1, *purl 2, knit 2; repeat from * to end.

Row 2 (WS): {Slip 1}, purl 1, *knit 2, purl 2; repeat from * to end.

Repeat Rows 1 & 2 for pattern.

2x2 Circular Ribbing

(multiple of 4 stitches; 1-round repeat)

Round 1 (RS): Knit 1, *purl 2, knit 2; repeat from * to last 3 stitches, purl 2, knit 1.

Repeat Round 1 for pattern.

BACK

Using 24" / 60 cm Needle B, CO 114 (126, 138, 150, 162, 174, 186, 198) stitches using the following method (or your preferred method for 2x2 ribbing):

Make a slipknot and place on needle (1 stitch cast on), CO 1 stitch using Long-Tail Cast On, *CO 2 stitches using Long-Tail Purl Cast On (see Special Techniques), CO 2 stitches using Long-Tail Cast On; repeat from * until required number of stitches have been cast on. Do not join.

Hem Ribbing

Beginning and ending with a WS row, work in 2x2 Flat Ribbing (see Stitch Patterns) until piece measures approximately 3" / 7.5 cm from CO edge (take measurement with fabric stretched to schematic width).

Establish Main Fabric

Switch to Needle A.

Next Row (RS): {Slip 1}, knit to end.

Next Row (WS): {Slip 1}, purl to end.

Work 2 rows even as established.

Shape Sides

Side Decrease Row (RS): [Slip 1], knit 2, k2tog, knit to last 5 stitches, SSK, knit 3. (2 stitches decreased)

Repeat the Side Decrease Row every 30th (30th, 30th, 32nd, 32nd, 32nd, 34th, 34th) row twice.

[108 (120, 132, 144, 156, 168, 180, 192) stitches remain] **

Work even for 27 more rows, or until piece measures 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ (14 $\frac{3}{4}$, 14 $\frac{3}{4}$, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$, 16, 16)" / 37.5 (37.5, 37.5, 39.5, 39.5, 39.5, 40.5, 40.5) cm from CO edge, ending with a WS row.

Shape Armholes

After binding off stitches, re-establish the 1-stitch selvedge at edges.

BO 6 (8, 10, 12, 12, 12, 14, 14) stitches at the beginning of the next two rows.

[96 (104, 112, 120, 132, 144, 152, 164) stitches remain]

Armhole Double Decrease Row (RS): [Slip 1], knit 2, [k2tog] twice, knit to last 7 stitches, [SSK] twice, knit 3. (4 stitches decreased)

Repeat the Armhole Double Decrease Row every RS row 0 (1, 2, 2, 4, 4, 4, 4) more time(s).

[92 (96, 100, 108, 112, 124, 132, 144) stitches remain]

Work 1 WS row even.

Armhole Single Decrease Row (RS): [Slip 1], knit 2, k2tog, knit to last 5 stitches, SSK, knit 3. (2 stitches decreased)

Repeat the Armhole Single Decrease Row every RS row 5 (5, 5, 8, 8, 11, 11, 14) more times, then every 6th row 3 (3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4) times.

[74 (78, 82, 84, 88, 94, 100, 106) stitches remain]

Work 25 (25, 25, 23, 23, 21, 23, 25) rows even, or until armhole measures 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ (7 $\frac{3}{4}$, 8, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, 9, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$)" / 19 (19.5, 20.5, 21.5, 23, 24, 26.5, 29) cm, ending with a WS row.

Shape Neckline & Shoulders

Use the Sloped Bind Off method for best results.

Next Row (RS): [Slip 1], knit 28 (30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 38, 41), then transfer these 29 (31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 39, 42) stitches to waste yarn or holder for Right Shoulder, BO next 16 (16, 18, 18, 20, 20, 22, 22) stitches for neck, knit to end. [29 (31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 39, 42) stitches remain for Left Shoulder]

Left Shoulder

Work 1 WS row even.

At the beginning of RS rows, BO 7 stitches once, then BO 5 stitches once, then BO 2 stitches twice, then BO 1 stitch once.

[12 (14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 25) stitches remain]

Next Row (WS): BO 3 (4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 7, 8) stitches, purl to end.

Next Row (RS): BO 1 stitch, knit to end.

Next Row: BO 4 (4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 8) stitches, purl to end.

[4 (5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8) stitches remain]

Work 1 RS row even.

BO remaining stitches purlwise from the WS.

Right Shoulder

With WS facing, return 29 (31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 39, 42) held Right Shoulder stitches to Needle A and rejoin yarn at neck edge.

At the beginning of WS rows, BO 7 stitches once, then BO 5 stitches once, then BO 2 stitches twice, then BO 1 stitch once.

[12 (14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 25) stitches remain]

Next Row (RS): BO 3 (4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 7, 8) stitches, knit to end.

Next Row (WS): BO 1 stitch, purl to end.

Next Row: BO 4 (4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 8) stitches, knit to end.

[4 (5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8) stitches remain]

Work 1 WS row even.

BO remaining stitches knitwise from the RS.



FRONT

Work as for BACK until **.

Work even for 4 (4, 4, 6, 6, 8, 10, 12) more rows, or until piece measures 12 (12, 12, 12¾, 12¾, 13, 13¾, 14)"/30.5 (30.5, 30.5, 32.5, 32.5, 33, 35, 35.5) cm from CO edge, ending with a RS row.

Braiding Row 1 (WS): Purl 46 (52, 58, 64, 70, 76, 82, 88), knit 16, purl to end.

Braiding Row 2 (RS): Knit 46 (52, 58, 64, 70, 76, 82, 88), k2tog-tbl, [transfer 1 stitch from R needle back to L needle, YO, k2tog-tbl] 14 times, knit to end. (1 stitch decreased)

Braiding Row 3: Purl 46 (52, 58, 64, 70, 76, 82, 88), [purl 1-tbl] 15 times, purl to end.

[107 (119, 131, 143, 155, 167, 179, 191) stitches remain]

Shape Neckline, Armholes, & Shoulders

Neckline and Armhole shaping are worked at the same time: Neckline shaping begins first, Armhole shaping begins and ends before Neckline shaping is complete, and Shoulder shaping is worked last. Please read the following section through to the end before beginning. Use the Sloped Bind Off method for best results.

Neckline Division Row (RS): {Slip 1}, knit 45 (51, 57, 63, 69, 75, 81, 87) stitches, then transfer these 46 (52, 58, 64, 70, 76, 82, 88) stitches to waste yarn or stitch holder for Left Shoulder, BO next 15 stitches for neck, knit to end. [46 (52, 58, 64, 70, 76, 82, 88) stitches remain for Right Shoulder]

Right Shoulder

Re-establish the 1-stitch selvedge at neck edge.

Work 7 rows even.

Right Neckline Decrease Row (RS): {Slip 1}, knit 2, k2tog, work to end. (1 stitch decreased at neck edge)

Repeat the Right Neckline Decrease Row every 6th row 5 (6, 5, 6, 6, 7, 8, 11) more times, then every 4th row 12 (11, 13, 12, 13, 12, 12, 9) times.

AT THE SAME TIME, when piece measures 14¾ (14¾, 14¾, 15½, 15½, 15½, 16, 16)"/37.5 (37.5, 37.5, 39.5, 39.5, 39.5, 40.5, 40.5) cm [20 (20, 20, 18, 18, 16, 14, 12) rows after Neckline Division Row], begin shaping armhole edge, as follows:

Next Row (WS): BO 6 (8, 10, 12, 12, 12, 14, 14) stitches, work to end.

Right Armhole Double Decrease Row (RS): Work to last 7 stitches, [SSK] twice, knit 3. (2 stitches decreased at armhole edge)

Repeat the Right Armhole Double Decrease Row every RS row 0 (1, 2, 2, 4, 4, 4, 4) time(s).

Work 1 WS rows even.

Right Armhole Single Decrease Row (RS): Work to last 5 stitches, SSK, knit 3. (1 stitch decreased at armhole edge)

Repeat the Right Armhole Single Decrease Row every RS row 5 (5, 5, 8, 8, 11, 11, 14) more times, then every 6th row 3 (3, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4) times.

Continuing Neckline shaping, work 38 (38, 38, 36, 36, 34, 36, 38) rows, or until armhole measures 9 (9¼, 9½, 10, 10½, 11, 12¼, 13¼)"/23 (23.5, 24, 25.5, 26.5, 28, 31, 33.5) cm, ending with a RS row.

[11 (13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 24) stitches remain]

At the beginning of WS rows, BO 3 (4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 7, 8) stitches 1 (2, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2) time(s), then BO 4 (5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8) stitches 2 (1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1) time(s).

[no stitches remain]

Left Shoulder

Re-establish the 1-stitch selvedge at neck edge.

With WS facing, return 46 (52, 58, 64, 70, 76, 82, 88) held Left Shoulder stitches to Needle A and rejoin yarn at neck edge.

Work 7 rows even.

Left Neckline Single Decrease Row (RS): Work to last 5 stitches, SSK, knit 3. (1 stitch decreased at neck edge)

Repeat the Right Neckline Decrease Row every 6th row 5 (6, 5, 6, 6, 7, 8, 11) more times, then every 4th row 12 (11, 13, 12, 13, 12, 12, 9) times.

AT THE SAME TIME, when piece measures 14¾ (14¾, 14¾, 15½, 15½, 15½, 16, 16)"/37.5 (37.5, 37.5, 39.5, 39.5, 39.5, 40.5, 40.5) cm [19 (19, 19, 17, 17, 15, 13, 11) rows after Neckline Division Row], begin shaping armhole edge, as follows:

Next Row (RS): BO 6 (8, 10, 12, 12, 12, 14, 14) stitches, work to end.

Work 1 WS row even.

Left Armhole Double Decrease Row (RS): {Slip 1}, knit 2, [k2tog] twice, work to end. (2 stitches decreased at armhole edge)

Repeat the Left Armhole Double Decrease Row every RS row 0 (1, 2, 2, 4, 4, 4, 4) time(s).

Work 1 WS row even.

Left Armhole Single Decrease Row (RS): {Slip 1}, knit 2, k2tog, work to end. (1 stitch decreased at armhole edge)

Repeat the Left Armhole Single Decrease Row every RS row 5 (5, 5, 8, 8, 11, 11, 14) more times, then every 6th row 3 (3, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4) times.

Continuing Neckline shaping, work 37 (37, 37, 33, 33, 31, 35, 37) rows, or until armhole measures 9 (9¼, 9½, 10, 10½, 11, 12, 13)"/23 (23.5, 24, 25.5, 26.5, 28, 30.5, 33) cm, ending with a WS row.

[11 (13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 24) stitches remain]

At the beginning of RS rows, BO 3 (4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 7, 8) stitches 1 (2, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2) time(s), then BO 4 (5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8) stitches 2 (1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1) time(s).

[no stitches remain]

FINISHING

Hand wash pieces using lukewarm water and a gentle fabric wash with a neutral pH, allowing them to soak a minimum of 45 minutes. Do not rub, agitate, wring, or twist fabric. Rinse pieces well in lukewarm water. Keeping pieces compressed in shape, gently remove excess water by rolling between two thick towels. Block pieces to measurements on schematic (blocking wires and T-pins are highly recommended to achieve best results). Allow pieces to dry thoroughly.

Assembly

Sew shoulder seams using invisible method. Sew side seams from hem to underarm using mattress stitch. (See Special Techniques for all methods mentioned.)

Neckband

Using spare 24" / 60 cm circular needle (size US 0–1 / 2.0–2.25 mm), make a slipknot on needle. With RS facing, and beginning at base of right neck (directly above final braiding row), pick up and knit 67 (69, 70, 70, 73, 75, 78, 82) stitches along right neck, 58 (58, 60, 60, 62, 62, 64, 64) stitches along back neck, and 67 (69, 70, 70, 73, 75, 78, 82) stitches along left neck. Using backward loop method, CO 1 stitch onto end of needle. [194 (198, 202, 202, 210, 214, 222, 230) stitches on needle] Do not join.

Switch to 24" / 60 cm Needle B.

Braiding Row 1 (WS): Knit to end.

Braiding Row 2 (RS): YO, k2tog-tbl, *transfer stitch back to L needle, YO, k2tog-tbl; repeat from * to end.

Braiding Row 3: *Purl 1-tbl; repeat from * to end.

Next Row (RS): {Slip 1}, *purl 2, knit 2; repeat from * to last stitch, knit 1.

Next Row (WS): {Slip 1}, *purl 2, knit 2; repeat from * to last stitch, purl 1.

Continue ribbing as established until neckband measures 1¾" / 4.5 cm (take measurement with fabric slightly stretched).

On the next row, begin shaping back neckline as follows:

Work in pattern to shoulder seam with current Needle B, change to Needle C and work 58 (58, 60, 60, 62, 62, 64, 64) back neck stitches only, change to spare Needle B and work in pattern to end.

Continue ribbing using needle sizes as established until neckband measures 2¾" / 7 cm, ending with a WS row.

Loosely BO all stitches in pattern.

Sew selvedge edge of right neckband to the bind-off edge of center neckline so that the seam is hidden to the WS. Overlap left neckband behind right neckband on the WS of garment and sew selvedge edge to the previously sewn seam using whipstitch.

Armhole Bands

With 16" / 40 cm Needle B, RS facing, and beginning at underarm seam, pick up and knit 108 (116, 124, 132, 136, 144, 160, 168) stitches evenly around armhole edge. Place marker for BOR and join for working in the round.

Note: The number of stitches you pick up may vary slightly, just be sure to pick up a multiple of 4.

Work in 2x2 Circular Ribbing until armhole band measures 1" / 2.5 cm from picked-up edge.

Loosely BO all stitches in pattern. Repeat instructions for second armhole.

Weave in all ends invisibly on WS of garment. Steam-block neckband and armhole bands and all sewn edges to smooth fabric and relax the seams, or wet-block entire garment again, if desired.

SPECIAL TECHNIQUES

Long-Tail Purl Cast On

Place both strands in left hand with working yarn looped over the index finger and the tail looped over the thumb (held the same way as for Long-Tail Cast On). *With needle in right hand, insert needle into working yarn loop around index finger by going under the side of the loop on the far side of the finger, then catch the tail yarn loop over the thumb on the side in back of the thumb by bringing the needle under the strand. Pull the tail yarn loop through the working yarn loop, then release and tighten slightly. Repeat from * until desired number of stitches have been cast on.

Visit juliehoover.com/techniques for additional tutorial links to the Long-Tail Purl Cast On, LLI, RLI, Sloped Bind Off, and recommended seaming methods.

ABBREVIATIONS

BO: Bind Off

CO: Cast On

K2tog: Knit 2 stitches together

K2tog-tbl: Knit 2 stitches together through their back loops

LLI: Lift the L leg of the stitch 2 rows below the first stitch on the R needle onto the L needle and knit it through the back loop

Purl 1-tbl: Purl stitch through the back loop

RLI: Lift the R leg of the stitch below the next stitch on the L needle onto the L needle and knit it

RS: Right Side

SSK: Slip 2 stitches knitwise, transfer stitches back to the L needle in new orientation, then knit the stitches together through the back loops

WS: Wrong Side

SCHEMATIC



