

THE  
KNITORIOUS



# The Knitorious RBG

by Park Williams

*Bottom-Up Version*

The RBG sweater is inspired by Ruth Bader Ginsburg. I wanted to find a way to honor the important work she has done and continues to do as a Supreme Court Justice, while also paying homage to her amazing collar collection. My hope is that this sweater will endow the wearer with the strength, perseverance, gravitas and integrity we so rightfully associate with The Knitorious RBG.

#knitoriousrbg

## Needles & Notions:

Size US 8 / 5mm 16" & 32" circular needle (cable length will vary depending on size of garment you are knitting)

Size US 8 / 5mm in DPNs (for bottom of sleeve)

Size US 6 / 4mm 16" & 32" circular (for the bottom & neck ribbing)

Size US 2 / 2.75mm DPNs (for the cuffs)

Stitch markers, tapestry needle, stitch holders or scrap yarn

## Sizing:

XS(S, M, L, XL) (XXL, 3XL, 4XL)

Bust: 30(34, 38, 42, 46) (50, 54, 58) inches;  
76[86, 97, 107, 117] [127, 137, 147] cm

The sweater is made to be worn with 0-4" of negative ease. If you are in-between bust sizes, I recommend sizing down. My bust is 36" and I wear a size Small and still have extra room. The sweater is slightly over-sized to emulate a judge's robe.

**Gauge:** 18.5 stitches and 24 rows/4" on a US 8 in stockinette stitch in the round, steam blocked.

## Yarn:

Berroco Ultra Alpaca

Worsted Weight

Color A: Black (#6245)

Color B: Natural (#6201)

Or ANY worsted weight yarn

## Yardage:

845(960, 1100, 1180 1300) (1440, 1590, 1700) yards in Color A

40(45, 50, 60, 85) (90, 95, 100) yards in Color B



## Notes on Construction:

- In true Elizabeth Zimmerman fashion, it is really fun to have a sleeve going (both sleeves, even!) at the same time as your body. I find it helps me avoid getting stranded on Sleeve Island and allows me to always have a very transportable project going.
- Colorwork charts are worked from right to left, bottom to top.



## Abbreviations:

CO: cast on  
 RS: right side of work  
 WS: wrong side of work  
 BOR: beginning of round  
 pm: place marker  
 k: knit  
 p: purl  
 kfb: knit front and back (increases one stitch)  
 k2tog: knit two stitches together (decreases one stitch)  
 sts: stitches  
 ColA: Color A  
 ColB: Color B

## Body:

Using US 6 / 4mm circular needle and Color A, CO 140(156, 176, 196, 212) (232, 252, 268) stitches. Place marker and join in the round.

Begin 2x2 ribbing (k2, p2) for  $1\frac{1}{2}(1\frac{1}{2}, 1\frac{1}{2}, 1\frac{1}{2}, 2)$  (2, 2.5, 2.5) " / 4[4, 4, 4, 5] [5, 6.25, 6.25] cm.

Change to US 8 / 5mm circular needle and continue in stockinette stitch until body measures 7(7, 7.5, 8, 8) (8.5, 8.5, 9) " / 17.75[17.75, 19, 20.25, 20.25] [21.5, 21.5, 22.75] cm from the CO edge.

Feel free to customize the length of your crop sweater to your preference. This will be the length of the body before the sleeves are joined at the underarms (about 2" / 5 cm away from underarm).

## Sleeves: (make two)

To get the balloon shaping of sleeve, we start with smaller needles to work cuff ribbing and then do a drastic increase and go back up to our larger needle.

Using size US 2 / 2.75mm DPNs and Color A, CO 40(44, 44, 48, 48) (52, 52, 56) stitches.

Join in the round, pm, and work in 2x2 ribbing (k2, p2) for 12(12, 14, 14, 14) (16, 16, 16) rounds.

This will feel a little weird on the tiny needles because of the worsted weight yarn, but the technique will ensure a tight, nice cuff at the bottom of the bubble sleeve.

Next Round: Kfb the entire round, *loosely*. [80(88, 88, 96, 96) (104, 104, 112) stitches]

Next Round: Change to US 8 / 5mm DPNs. Knit.

These first couple rounds will be extra tight and feel like they are pulling or stretching the cuff, but do not worry! They will fall back into shape after a few rounds.

Feel free to switch to your US 8 / 5 mm 16" circulars when you no longer feel like the cuff is being stretched—this should be after an inch or so.

Knit until the sleeves measure 20" / 51 cm (including the cuff).

I **highly** recommend tailoring the length of the sleeves to **your** arm length! When taking the measurement, remember this section of sleeve is from your wrist to about 2" / 5 cm away from your armpit, not your full arm. For reference, my arms are 21" / 53cm from wrist to right in armpit (so 19"/48 cm if I measure from 2" away from my underarm), I knit my sleeves 20" / 51 cm which will give me about 1" / 2.5 cm extra for the bubble. As you decide the length of your sleeves, make sure to

add some extra length to create the dramatic bubble at the bottom (1" / 2.5 cm to 2" / 5 cm seems to be the sweet spot). The "yoke depth" measurement on the sizing guide could come in handy for this.

On your final round, knit to last 10(10, 10, 12, 13) (13, 15, 15) stitches, place these 10(10, 10, 12, 13) (13, 15, 15) stitches on stitch holder.

They will become the underarm stitches and will be joined to the underarm body stitches at the very end.

## Joining Sleeves & Body:

We are now ready to join the body and sleeves. If you have not worked a bottom-up sweater before this will seem like some sort of sorcery, but it is not as intimidating as it sounds!

If you placed any of your pieces on scrap yarn (besides the held underarm sleeve stitches) they now need to be put back on needles to be worked.

This is all one round:

With your longest circular needle, Knit 60(68, 78, 86, 93) (103, 111, 119) stitches from Body.

Place the next 10(10, 10, 12, 13) (13, 15, 15) stitches from Body on a holder or scrap yarn.

Line up\* the corresponding stitches on holder of 1<sup>st</sup> Sleeve.

Knit the remaining 70(78, 78, 84, 83) (91, 89, 97) stitches from 1<sup>st</sup> Sleeve.

Knit 60(68, 78, 86, 93) (103, 111, 119) stitches from Body.

Place next 10(10, 10, 12, 13) (13, 15, 15) stitches from Body on holder.

Line up\* corresponding stitches on holder from 2<sup>nd</sup> sleeve.

Knit remaining 70(78, 78, 84, 83) (91, 89, 97) stitches of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sleeve.

\*When I say "line up" I mean that the stitches on holders should be parallel to each other. These two sets of held stitches are where the underarm will eventually be. The Sleeve and Body should lay how a sweater lays, with the cuff and hem at the bottom and the needles holding the yoke stitches at the top. You are making one giant circle that goes from Back Body, to the circumference of the Left Sleeve, to Front Body, to circumference of Right Sleeve with the held underarm stitches dangling in the middle until the very final stages of construction.

[260(292, 312, 340, 352) (388, 400, 432) stitches total on needle]

## Yoke:

Follow yoke instructions for your size only! When completed, continue onto Neck Edging.

### **X-Small:**

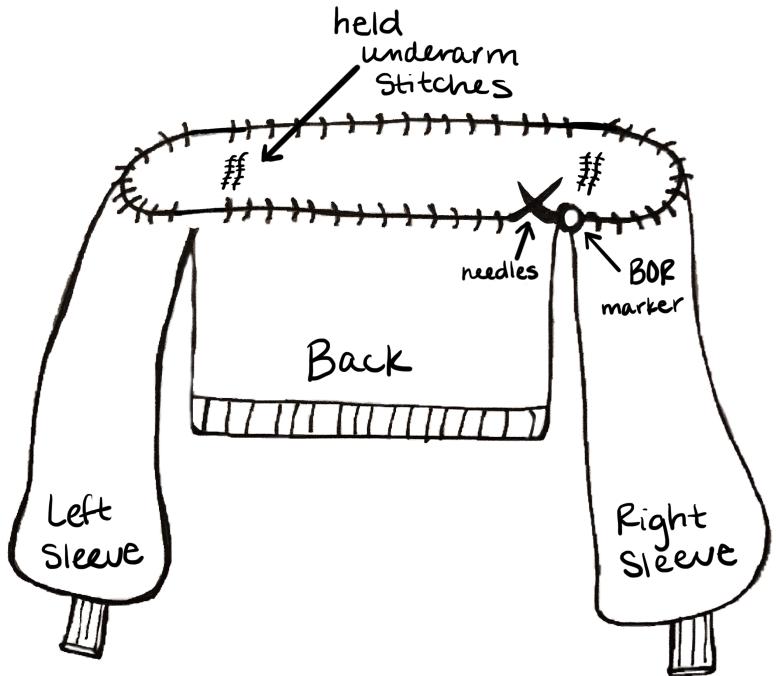
Knit 8 rounds.

1<sup>st</sup> Decrease: (k15, k2tog) to last 5 stitches, k5. [245 stitches]

Knit 6 rounds.

2<sup>nd</sup> Decrease: (k14, k2tog) to last 5 stitches, k5. [230 stitches]

Knit 4 rounds.



3<sup>rd</sup> Decrease: (k13, k2tog) to last 5 stitches, k5 [215 stitches]  
Knit 4 rounds.

4<sup>th</sup> Decrease: (k12, k2tog) to last 5 stitches, k5 [200 stitches]  
Knit 4 rounds.

Big Decrease: (k1, k2tog) to last 2 stitches, k2tog. [133 stitches]  
Knit 1 round.

Work Chart #1 for size XS.

Round 8: Knit ColB for entire round.

Round 9: Continuing in ColB, (k1, k2tog) to last 7 sts, k7. [91 stitches]  
Work Chart #2 for size XS.

Knit one final round of Color B and break yarn.

Using Color A, (k1, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [62 stitches]

### **Small:**

Knit 6 rounds.

1<sup>st</sup> Decrease: (k14, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [274 stitches]  
Knit 5 rounds.

2<sup>nd</sup> Decrease: (k13, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [256 stitches]  
Knit 5 rounds.

3<sup>rd</sup> Decrease: (k12, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [238 stitches]  
Knit 5 rounds.

4<sup>th</sup> Decrease: (k11, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [220 stitches]  
Knit 5 rounds.

Big Decrease: (k2tog, k1) to last stitch, k1 [147 stitches]  
Knit 1 round.

Work Chart #1 for size S.

Round 8: Knit ColB for entire round.

Round 9: Continuing in ColB, (k1, k2tog) to end of round. [98 stitches]  
Work Chart #2 for size S.

Knit one final round of Color B and break yarn.

Using Color A, (k1, k2tog) to last 2 stitches, k2. [66 stitches]

### **Medium:**

Knit 10 rounds.

1<sup>st</sup> Decrease: (k18, k2tog) to last 12 stitches, k12. [297 stitches]  
Knit 5 rounds.

2<sup>nd</sup> Decrease: (k17, k2tog) to last 12 stitches, k12. [282 stitches]  
Knit 5 rounds.

3<sup>rd</sup> Decrease (k16, k2tog) to last 12 stitches, k12. [267 stitches]  
Knit 5 rounds.

4<sup>th</sup> Decrease (k15, k2tog) to last 12 stitches, k12. [252 stitches]  
Knit 5 rounds.

Big Decrease (k1, k2tog) to end of round. [168 stitches]

Knit 3 rounds.

Work Chart #1 for size M.

Round 8: Knit ColB for entire round.

Round 9: Continuing in ColB, (k1, k2tog) to end of round. [112 stitches]  
Work Chart #2 for size M.

Knit one final round of Color B and break yarn.

Using Color A, (k1, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [76 stitches]

**Large:**

Knit 7 rounds.

1<sup>st</sup> Decrease: (k22, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [326 stitches]

Knit 7 rounds.

2<sup>nd</sup> Decrease: (k21, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [312 stitches]

Knit 7 rounds.

3<sup>rd</sup> Decrease: (k20, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [298 stitches]

Knit 7 rounds.

4<sup>th</sup> Decrease: (k19, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [284 stitches]

Knit 7 rounds.

Big Decrease: (k1, k2tog) to last 2 stitches, k2tog. [189 stitches]

Knit 1 round.

Work Chart #1 for size L.

Round 8: Knit ColB for entire round.

Round 9: Continuing in ColB, (k1, k2tog) to end of round. [126 stitches]

Work Chart #2 for size L.

Knit one final round of Color B and break yarn.

Using Color A, (k1, k2tog) to end of round. [84 stitches]

**XL:**

Knit 7 rounds.

1<sup>st</sup> Decrease: (k20, k2tog) to end of round. [336 stitches]

Knit 7 rounds.

2<sup>nd</sup> Decrease: (k19, k2tog) to end of round. [320 stitches]

Knit 7 rounds.

3<sup>rd</sup> Decrease: (k18, k2tog) to end of round. [304 stitches]

Knit 7 rounds.

Big Decrease: (k2tog, k1) to last stitch, k1. [203 stitches]

Knit 3 rounds.

Work Chart #1 for size XL.

Round 12-13: Knit ColB for entire round.

Round 14: Continuing in ColB, (k1, k2tog) to last 2 sts, k2. [136 stitches]

Work Chart #2 for size XL.

Knit one final round of Color B and break yarn.

Using Color A, (k1, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [92 stitches]

**XXL:**

Knit 6 rounds.

1<sup>st</sup> Decrease: (k27, k2tog) to last 11 stitches, k11. [375 stitches]

Knit 6 rounds.

2<sup>nd</sup> Decrease: (k26, k2tog) to last 11 stitches, k11. [362 stitches]

Knit 6 rounds.

3<sup>rd</sup> Decrease: (k25, k2tog) to last 11 stitches, k11. [349 stitches]

Knit 6 rounds.

4<sup>th</sup> Decrease: (k24, k2tog) to last 11 stitches, k11. [336 stitches]

Knit 6 rounds.

Big Decrease: (k1, k2tog) to end of round. [224 stitches]

Knit 3 rounds.

Work Chart #1 for size XXL.

Round 12-13: Knit ColB for entire round.

Round 14: Continuing in ColB, (k1, k2tog) to last 8 sts, k8. [152 stitches]

Work Chart #2 for size XXL.

Knit one final round of Color B and break yarn.

Using Color A, (k1, k2tog) to last 2 stitches, k2. [102 stitches]

### **3XL:**

Knit 12 rounds.

1<sup>st</sup> Decrease: (k16, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [378 stitches]

Knit 12 rounds.

2<sup>nd</sup> Decrease: (k15, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [356 stitches]

Knit 12 rounds.

Big Decrease: (k1, k2tog) to last 2 stitches, k2. [238 stitches]

Knit 2 rounds.

Work Chart #1 for size 3XL.

Round 12-13: Knit ColB for entire round.

Round 14: Continuing in ColB, (k1, k2tog) to last 4 sts, k4. [160 stitches]

Work Chart #2 for size 3XL.

Knit one final round of Color B and break yarn.

Using Color A, (k1, k2tog) to last 4 stitches, k4. [108 stitches]

### **4XL:**

Knit 14 rounds.

1<sup>st</sup> Decrease: (k17, k2tog) to last 14 stitches, k14. [410 stitches]

Knit 12 rounds.

2<sup>nd</sup> Decrease: (k16, k2tog) to last 14 stitches, k14. [388 stitches]

Knit 12 rounds.

Big Decrease: (k1, k2tog) to last stitch, k1. [259 stitches]

Knit 2 rounds.

Work Chart #1 for size 4XL.

Round 12-13: Knit ColB for entire round.

Round 14: Continuing in ColB, (k1, k2tog) to last 10 sts, k10. [176 stitches]

Work Chart #2 for size 4XL.

Knit one final round of Color B and break yarn.

Using Color A, (k1, k2tog) to last 2 stitches, k2. [118 stitches]

## **Neck Edging:**

### All Sizes:

Using US 6 / 4mm, 16" needle and Color A, work 1x1 ribbing (k1, p1) for 12(12, 12, 12, 14, 14, 14) rounds.

Bind Off *loosely*, with all knit stitches.

Binding off not in pattern will help give a very obvious edge that will help us when we sew down the folded collar. If you have a hard time binding off loosely, please go up a needle size or two!

Leave a long enough tail to sew down folded neck ribbing.

## **Finishing:**

Fold over neck ribbing and sew into place.

Make sure you do not do this too tight or you won't be able to get your head through. From the inside of the garment, line up the neck edge with the last round of Color B colorwork. These bumps in the contrast color will help make sure you stay even as you sew. Then I like to sew into every stitch so I know that it all lines up and it also helps keep some elasticity.

Using Three-Needle bind-off (or Kitchener Stitch) close up both underarm seams.

There will most likely be holes on both sides of these seams—You can either pick up more stitches and do larger seams with Three-Needle bind-off (or Kitchener Stitch) or you can use close these up as you weave in your ends.

Weave in your ends.

Block your garment.

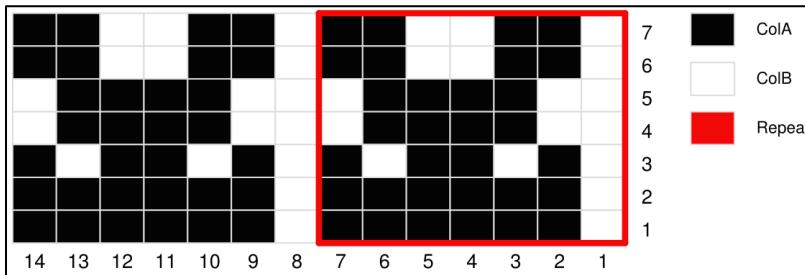
I prefer steam blocking or spray blocking so you have more control, but you do you!

And you are done!!! Now rock your Knitorious RBG with pride while fighting that good fight!!!

Share pics of your new sweater on Instagram using the hashtags #knitoriousrbg & #parknknit. ❤



Chart #1 for XS, S, M, L



Written Instructions for Chart #1 for XS, S, M, L:

Rounds 1 & 2: (k1 ColB, k6 ColA), repeat to end of round.

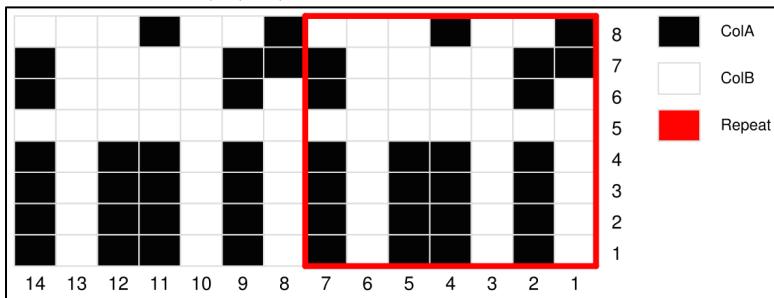
Round 3: (k1 ColB, k1 ColA, k1 ColB, k2 ColA, k1 ColB, k1 ColA), repeat to end of round.

Rounds 4 & 5: (k2 ColB, k4 ColA, k1 ColB), repeat to end of round.

Rounds 6 & 7: (k1 ColB, k2 ColA, k2 ColB, k2 ColA), repeat to end of round.

**\*\*\*Once you complete Chart #1 refer back to Yoke instructions for your size!\*\*\***

Chart #2 for XS, S, M, L



Written Instructions Chart #2 for XS, S, M, L:

Rounds 1-4: (k1 ColB, k1 ColA, k1 ColB, k2 ColA, k1 ColB, k1 ColA), repeat to end of round.

Round 5: Knit ColB for entire round.

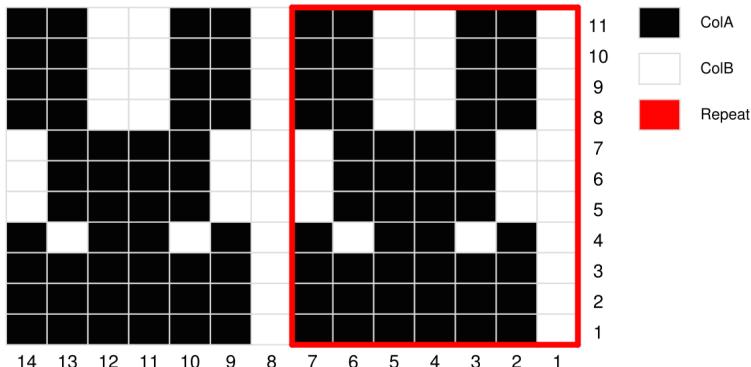
Round 6: (k1 ColB, k1 ColA, k4 ColB, k1 ColA), repeat to end of round.

Round 7: (k2 ColA, k4 ColB, k1 ColA), repeat to end of round.

Round 8: (k1 ColA, k2 ColB, k1 ColA, k3 ColB), repeat to end of round.

**\*\*\*Once you complete Chart #2 refer back to Yoke instructions for your size!\*\*\***

Chart #1 for XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL



Written Instructions for Chart #1 for XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL:

Rounds 1-3: (k1 ColB, k6 ColA), repeat to end of round.

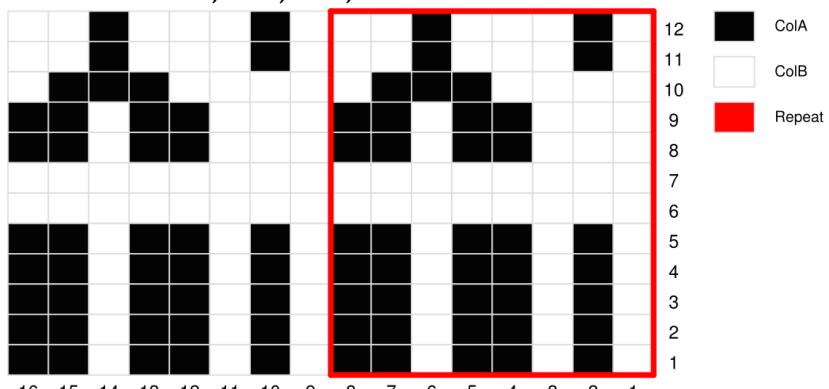
Round 4: (k1 ColB, k1 ColA, k1 ColB, k2 ColA, k1 ColB, k1 ColA), repeat to end of round.

Rounds 5-7: (k2 ColB, k4 ColA, k1 ColB), repeat to end of round.

Rounds 8-11: (k1 ColB, k2 ColA, k2 ColB, k2 ColA), repeat to end of round.

**\*\*\*Once you complete Chart #1 refer back to Yoke instructions for your size!\*\*\***

Chart #2 for XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL



Written Instructions Chart #2 for XL, XXL, 3XL, 4XL:

Rounds 1-5: (k1 ColB, k1 ColA, k1 ColB, k2 ColA, k1 ColB, k2 ColA), repeat to end of round.

Rounds 6 & 7: Knit ColB for entire round.

Rounds 8 & 9: (k3 ColB, k2 ColA, k1 ColB, k2 ColA), repeat to end of round.

Round 10: (k4 ColB, k3 ColA, k1 ColB), repeat to end of round.

Rounds 11 & 12: (k1 ColB, k1 ColA, k3 ColB, k1 ColA, k2 ColB), repeat to end of round.

**\*\*\*Once you complete Chart #2 refer back to Yoke instructions for your size!\*\*\***

### Size Guide:

XS(S, M, L, XL) (XXL, 3XL, 4XL)"

XS[S, M, L, XL] [XXL, 3XL, 4XL] cm

