



Smokeshow *by BabyCocktails*

Sizes 37.25(40.5,43.5,46.75,50,53.25)(56.5,59.5,62.75,66)"/94.5(103,110.5,118.75,127,135.25)(143.5,151.25,159.5,167.75)cm. Sizes reflect circumference around bust when buttoned, and are based on final fabric.

For fit shown, choose the size that allows for 4-6"/10-15.25cm positive ease at bust.

Yarn mYak Baby Yak Medium (100% baby yak, 128 yds/117m, per 1.75oz/50g skein). Shown in Shadow.

650(700,750,850,900,1000)(1050,1100,1200,1250)yds
595(640,685,780,825,915)(960,1005,1100,1150)m of a light worsted weight yarn needed.

Needles US#7/4.5mm needles, or size to get gauge. I suggest long circulars for body, preferred method for small circumferences around armholes, and DPNs to continue working button bands around neckline.

Notions Removable stitch markers, tapestry needle, cable needle, waste yarn or stitch holders. 4 buttons, about 0.75"/2cm diameter (or desired size to fit on button band), sewing needle, matching thread.

Gauge 20 sts and 28 rows in 4"/10cm in cable pattern.

Notes/Commentary Smokeshow is worked flat from hem to armholes. At armholes, the body is separated into three pieces which are worked separately to shoulders. Button bands are later continued upwards beyond shoulders in two long strips. After shoulders are seamed, these strips are seamed down to meet at center back neckline. Stitches are picked up around armholes and worked in the round to finish vest.

For fit shown, choose the size that offers 4-6"/10-15.25cm of positive ease (based on your actual bust). This classic vest silhouette will look good worn with more or less ease, but check other measurements to be sure your final garment will fit as desired. All measurements are listed on the last page of the pattern for reference.

Modifications to body width should be considered before casting on. This vest has an allover stitch pattern requiring a multiple of 16 sts per repeat, so creating an alternate size in this pattern will require some math. You can neatly divide the pattern into fronts and back, either between full 16-stitch repeats, or between chart columns 8/9. Divide the repeats as desired for your custom size, then add a section of reverse stockinette stitches under each arm until you have your desired body measurement for front vs. back. You could reconcile stitch counts as needed for upper body in armhole shaping or you could add side shaping as you work towards armhole if you want to reach pattern counts later on.

To alter lower body depth, work to desired measurement before armhole. This may affect both V-neck shaping and buttonhole placement. V-neck shaping begins below armhole on all sizes, so adjust the starting point on p.5 if needed.

To adjust body depth above armhole, note that an alternate depth will affect armhole circumference and the length available for V-neck shaping. Make sure that your V-neck shaping fits into actual rows worked, adjusting either the rate or starting point of shaping as needed, and adjust stitch count needed around armhole for ribbing.

Swatch in cable pattern before beginning. If substituting yarn, a light worsted weight wool in a soft fiber should give you the same look and feel shown here. For a similar fabric, a mix of alpaca and wool or your favorite MCN with that combo of cashmere and merino could be a good substitute. If you prefer this vest with less of a halo, a classic wool with a bit of heather or tweed would also be beautiful in the cable pattern and create a more rustic or wooly-feeling vest.

I purposely went with an undulating cable that knew would be subtle in my deep gray yarn. Both the halo and the color make my cables feel like a background, as intended. I then worked my button band and the purls in the cable chart as twisted stitches to ensure that they would be visible against the motif. Please note that you can choose to work both button band and these purls as non-twisted stitches if you don't like to work twisted stitches. The overall difference in the pattern will be a small one, and in many yarns this contrast between subtle and distinct will be less important.

Begin Body

With your US#7/4.5mm long circular needle, cast on 200(216,232,248,264,280)(296,312,328,344) sts. I suggest a cable cast-on for a nice edge.

Setup Ribbed Hem

Chart below shows ribbed pattern worked between markers as in Setup Rows 1-2 below.

As noted on the previous page, the edge detail is a mix of twisted and non-twisted stitches. If you prefer working your button band without the twisted effect, feel free. In my dark yarn, I wanted to be sure it would pop.

Setup Row 1, (RS): k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x4, p1, place cable marker, [p1, (k2, p2) x3, k2, p1] x 11(12,13,14,15,16)(17,18, 19,20) around body, place cable marker, p1, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x4, k2, k1tbl.

Setup Row 2, (WS): Slip 1 purlwise wyif, p2, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x4, k1, slip marker (sm), [k1, p2 (k2, p2) x 3, k1], x 11(12,13,14, 15,16)(17,18,19,20) around body, sm, k1, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x4, p2, slip last stitch purlwise wyif.

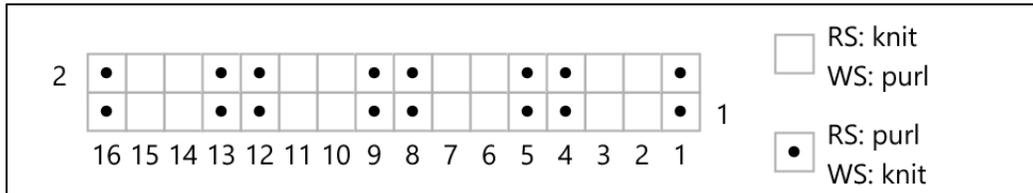


Chart Written Instructions

Row 1 (RS): P1, (k2, p2) x3, k2, p1. (16 sts)

Row 2 (WS): K1, (p2, k2) x3, p2, k1.

You have 12 edge sts at the beginning and end of each row for the button band, and 176(192,208,224,240,256)(272,288, 304,320) stitches across the body in ribbing, beginning and ending with a p1.

Work in ribbed hem pattern as established until work is 2.5"/6.5cm from cast on edge, and end after a WS row.



Begin Cables, Lower Body

Before you begin, see instructions on next page regarding buttonhole placement. You work the first one right away!

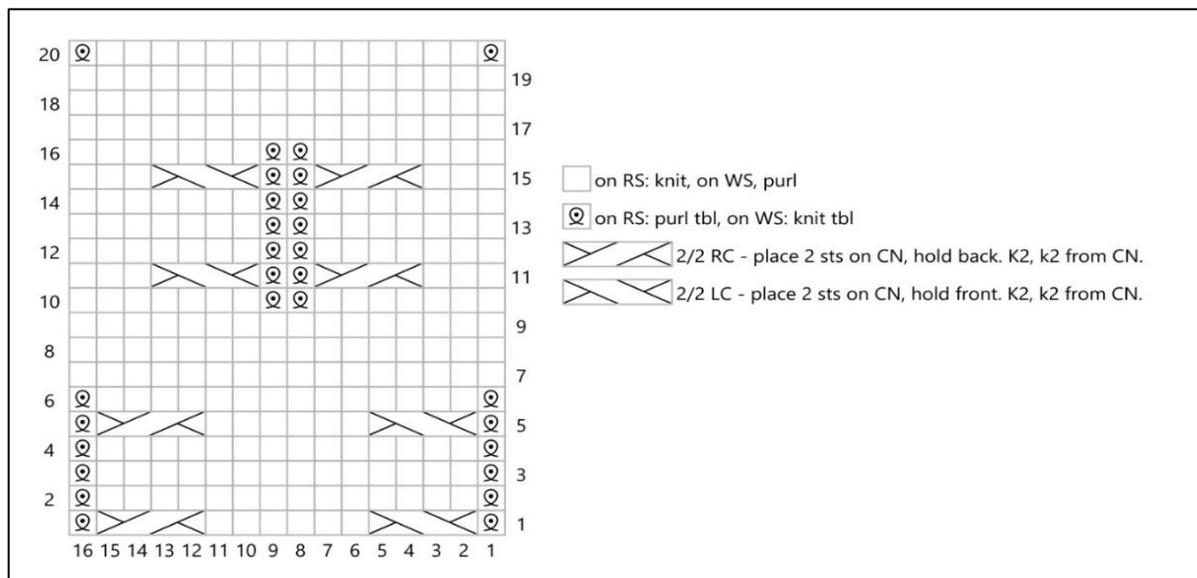
To work cable pattern, use the chart below, starting with Row 1 and working to Row 20, repeating Cols 1-16 x 11(12,13,14,15,16)(17,18,19,20) over the 176(192,208,224,240,256)(272,288,304,320) sts between cable markers on each row. Repeat Chart Rows 1-20 as you continue upwards to armholes.

Hint: You can place removable markers between the 16-stitch repeats for the first few rows, removing them once pattern is established and you can see where you are more clearly without the reminder.

Repeat Body Rows 1-2 below as you work upwards:

Body Row 1, (RS): k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x4, p1, sm, work Cols 1-16 of cable chart x 11(12,13,14,15,16)(17,18,19,20), sm, p1, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x4, k2, k1tbl.

Body Row 2, (WS): Slip 1 purlwise wyif, p2, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x4, k1, sm, work Cols 16-1 of cable chart x 11(12,13,14,15,16)(17,18,19,20), sm, k1, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x4, p2, slip last stitch purlwise wyif.



Written Chart Instructions

Rows 1 and 5 (RS): P1tbl, 2/2 LC, k6, 2/2 RC, p1tbl.

Rows 2, 4, 6, and 20 (WS): K1tbl, p14, k1tbl.

Row 3: P1tbl, k14, p1tbl.

Rows 7, 9, 17, and 19: K16.

Rows 8 and 18: P16.

Rows 10, 12, 14 and 16: P7, k1tbl x 2, p7.

Rows 11 and 15: K3, 2/2 RC, p1tbl x 2, 2/2 LC, k3.

Row 13: K7, p1tbl x 2, k7.

Again, I used twisted purls between the cables to be sure the texture would be crisp in my dark yarn. If you prefer working traditional purl stitches instead, the difference to the overall effect will be very subtle.

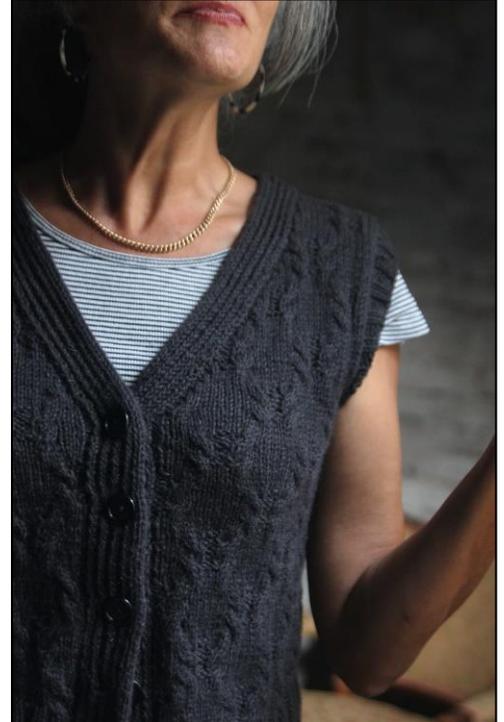
Lower Body

Buttonhole Notes

As you work the lower body, you will add buttonholes to your Right Front button band. I suggest using 4 buttons, about 0.75/2cm in diameter, spaced evenly between the top of the ribbed hem and the beginning of V-neck shaping. The measurements below reflect the given lengths for hem, body, and V-neck shaping in this pattern. If adjusting your vest measurements or using more or fewer buttons, note total distance from first to last button and space buttons out evenly in length as needed.

If working pattern as written, you have 6.5(6.5,7.5,8.5,8.5,8.5)(8.5,8.5,8.5,8.5)"/16.5(16.5,19,21.5,21.5,21.5)(21.5,21.5,21.5,21.5)cm between top of hem and beginning of V-neck shaping in which to place buttons.

I used one row buttonholes, and I love Ysolda's method, which you can find online if you Google. However, feel free to use any buttonhole method you prefer.



Body Instructions:

Repeat Body Rows 1-2 to work lower body, while adding buttonholes to Right Front, as noted below.

Placing Buttonholes: Add your first buttonhole as you work your first RS Body Row. As you continue upwards, work 3 more holes, approx. 2(2,2.25,2.5,2.5,2.5)(2.5,2.5,2.5,2.5)"/5(5,5.75,6.5,6.5,6.5)(6.5,6.5,6.5,6.5)cm apart on RS rows, above the hole below. This places the last hole at approx. 0.5(0.5,0.75,1,1,1)(1,1,1,1)"/1.25(1.25,2,2.5,2.5,2.5)(2.5,2.5,2.5,2.5)cm below the beginning of your V-neck shaping.

As noted above, I used Ysolda's One-Row Buttonhole method, and worked a 3-stitch hole for my buttons, beginning the row as follows: k1tbl, k2, p1, k1tbl, work buttonhole over next 3 sts, k1tbl, p1tbl... then continuing row as established.

Work until you are 9(9,10,11,11,11)(11,11,11,11)"/22.75(22.75,25.5,25.5,26.25,28)(28,28,28,28)cm from cast on edge and have completed your last buttonhole. You should be about 1(1,1,1,1.5,1.5)(1.5,2,2,2)"/2.5(2.5,2.5,2.5,3.75,3.75)(3.75,5,5,5)cm below actual armhole, and will begin your V-neck shaping next.

Check that you will like your final body length once you work the initial shaping, and then stop after a WS row.

Hint: Note which pattern rows you end on so you can easily resume in pattern when you work Back and Left Front later.

Begin V-Neck

As you begin, you will move your cable markers so shaping can be easily worked outside the edge detail.

V-Neck Shaping Setup, Row 1 (RS): k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p1, place new marker, **k1, p1**, removing old marker, p1, then work in pattern until 13 stitches remain at end of row, p1, **k2tog** removing old marker, then place new marker, p1, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k2, k1tbl. (1 st dec'd)

V-Neck Shaping Setup, Row 2 (WS): Slip first stitch purlwise, p2, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k1, slip marker, p1, k1, work in pattern until you have 53(57,62, 65,69,73)(77,82, 86,89) sts for left front (including 10-st button band), place side marker, work next 92(100,106,116,124,132)(140,146,154,164) sts across back, place side marker, work in pattern to last 12 stitches, k1, p1, slip marker, k1, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p2, slip last stitch purlwise wyif.



You have 54(58,63,66,70,74)(78,83,87,90) sts for right front, 53(57,62,65,69,73)(77,82,86,89) sts for left front, and 92(100,106,116,124,132)(140,146,154,164) sts at back. 199(215,231,247,263,279)(295,311,327,343) sts total.

Markers show fronts vs back and mark button bands. Shaping will be done using the first and last 2 body stitches as you continue upwards. *Stitch count difference between the Left and Right Fronts will be reconciled later.*

Work V-Neck Shaping Rows 1-2 below 2(2,2,2,4,4)(4,6,6,6) times, to reach your final body length before separation.

When shaping in cable pattern, work remaining stitches in stockinette when you do not have enough stitches to complete a 4-stitch cable. Remaining cables along the opening on each side will mirror one another as you work.

V-Neck Shaping, Row 1 (RS): k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p1, slip marker, **ssk**, p1, work in pattern until 13 stitches remain at end of row, p1, **k2tog**, slip marker, p1, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k2, k1tbl. (2 sts dec'd)

V-Neck Shaping, Row 2 (WS): Slip first stitch purlwise, p2, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k1, slip marker, p1, k1, work in pattern to 2 sts before edge marker, k1, p1, slip marker, k1, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p2, slip last stitch purlwise wyif.

After working final WS row above, 52(56,61,64,66,70) (74,77,81,84) sts remain on right front and 51(55,60,63,65,69) (73,76,80,83) sts remain on left front. Back stitch count is unchanged. 195(211,227,243,255,271)(287,299,315,331) total.

Your body is approximately 10(10,11,12,12.5,12.5)(12.5,13,13,13)"/25.5(25.5,28,28,29.25,29.25)(30.5,33,33,33)cm from the cast-on edge to armhole.

Right Front

Right Front, Row 1 (RS): k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p1, slip marker, **ssk**, p1, work in pattern to last stitch before side marker, k1, discard marker. Place next 92(100,106,116,124,132)(140,146,154,164) back sts, and remaining 51(55,60,63,65,69)(73,76,80,83) Left Front sts on holders, noting the chart row you are on for later.

You now have 51(55,60,63,65,69)(73,76,80,83) sts for Right Front, including 10-st button band.

Right Front, Row 2, (WS): Bind off 3(3,3,3,4,4)(4,4,4,4) sts purlwise at armhole, work to end in pattern.

Right Front, Row 3, (RS): k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p1, slip marker, **ssk**, p1, work in pattern to 2 sts, k2. (1 st dec'd)
4(4,4,4,5,5)(5,5,5,5) sts dec'd, 47(51,56,59,60,64)(68,71,75,78) sts remain.

Right Front, Row 4, (WS): Bind off 2(2,2,2,2,2)(3,3,3,3) sts purlwise, work to end in pattern.

Right Front, Row 5, (RS): k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p1, slip marker, **ssk**, p1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, k2. (1 st dec'd)

Repeat Rows 4-5 above 1(1,2,2,2,2)(1,1,1,1) more time(s).
6(6,9,9,9,9)(8,8,8,8) sts dec'd, 41(45,47,50,51,55)(60,63,67,70) sts remain.



Sizes 62.75"/159.5cm and 66"/167.75cm ONLY, work Rows 4b and 5b below before moving on to Row 6. All other sizes, go straight to Row 6.

Right Front, Row 4b, (WS): Bind off 2 sts purlwise, work to end in pattern.

Right Front, Row 5b, (RS): k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p1, slip marker, **ssk**, p1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, k2.

Repeat Rows 4b-5b above once more. 6 sts dec'd, 61(64) sts remain.

All Sizes:

Right Front, Row 6, (WS): k1, **p2tog**, work to end in pattern. (1 st dec'd)

Right Front, Row 7, (RS): k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p1, slip marker, **ssk**, p1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, k2. (1 st dec'd)

Right Front, Row 8, (WS): k1, p1, work to end in pattern.

Right Front, Row 9, (RS): k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p1, slip marker, **ssk**, p1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, k2. (1 st dec'd)

Repeat Rows 6-9 above 1(1,1,1,1,1)(2,2,2,2) more time(s). 6(6,6,6,6,6)(9,9,9,9) sts dec'd, 35(39,41,44,45,49)(51,54,52,55) sts remain.

In total, 9(9,11,11,12,12)(13,13,17,17) sts have been decreased at the armhole. You will shape at V-neck only next, as you continue working upwards to shoulder.

Continue adding V-neck shaping EVERY RS Row (as on Right Front Rows 7 and 9), 2(4,4,5,3,6)(9,10,3,3) more times. Work non-shaping rows in pattern as established. 33(35,37,39,42,43)(42,44,49,52) sts remain in total, with 23(25,27,29,32,33)(32,34,39,42) sts outside button band.

Then, add V-neck shaping EVERY OTHER RS Row (every 4th row) 5(5,5,5,6,5)(4,4,7,8) more times. Work non-shaping rows in pattern as established. 28(30,32,34,36,38)(38,40,42,44) sts remain in total, with 18(20,22,24,26,28)(28,30,32,34) sts outside button band.

Once shaping is complete, work as below until Right Front measures 7(8,8.5,8.5,9,9)(9.5,9.5,10,11)"/17.75(20.5,21.5, 21.5,22.75,22.75)(24.25,24.25,25.5,28)cm from first armhole shaping row, ending after a RS row. *If working to pattern, 11(13,14,12,16,14)(13,11,13,16) rows remain to final shoulder measurement.*

Upper Right Front, RS Rows: k1tbl, k2, (p1tbl, k1tbl) x3, p1, slip marker, k1, p1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, k2.

Upper Right Front, WS Rows: k1, p1 at armhole edge, work in pattern as established to end.

On your next WS row, bind off 16(18,20,22,24,26)(26,28,30,32) shoulder stitches as if to purl, break yarn. Leave the 10 button band stitches, your previous decrease stitch and the purl next to that (12 sts total) on waste yarn or a holder to be picked up and worked later. These will form the collar around back neck once you seam shoulders.

Back, Armhole Shaping

Slip 92(100,106,116,124,132)(140,146,154,164) back stitches on to needles, and join yarn with RS facing. Discard side marker between Left Front and Back. *At armhole and shoulders, when stitches did not exist to work the cable/purl/cable detail due to shaping, I chose to work in stockinette, rather than work a half cable along the edge.*

Add armhole shaping as follows:

Back Armhole Shaping, Row 1, (RS): Bind off 3(3,3,3,4,4)(4,4,4,4) sts purlwise, work to last st, k1.

Back Armhole Shaping, Row 2, (WS): Bind off 3(3,3,3,4,4)(4,4,4,4) sts purlwise, work to last st, k1.

6(6,6,6,8,8)(8,8,8,8) sts dec'd, 86(94,100,110,116,124)(132,138,146,156) rem.

Back Armhole Shaping, Row 3, (RS): Bind off 2(2,2,2,2,2)(3,3,3,3) sts purlwise, work to last st, k1.

Back Armhole Shaping, Row 4, (WS): Bind off 2(2,2,2,2,2)(3,3,3,3) sts purlwise, work to last st, k1.

Repeat Rows 3-4 above 1(1,2,2,2,2)(1,1,1,1) more time(s). 8(8,12,12,12,12)(12,12,12,12) sts dec'd, 78(86,88,98,104, 112)(120,126,134,144) sts remain.

Sizes 62.75"/159.5cm and 66"/167.75cm ONLY, work Rows 3b and 4b below before going to Row 5. All other sizes, go straight to Row 5.

Back Armhole Shaping, Row 3b, (RS): Bind off 2 sts purlwise, work to last stitch, k1.

Back Armhole Shaping, Row 4b, (WS): Bind off 2 sts purlwise, work to last stitch, k1.

Repeat Rows 3b-4b above once more, 8 sts dec'd. 126(136) sts remain.

All Sizes:

Back Armhole Shaping, Row 5, (RS): k2, **ssk**, work to last 4 sts in pattern, **k2tog**, k2. (2 sts dec'd)

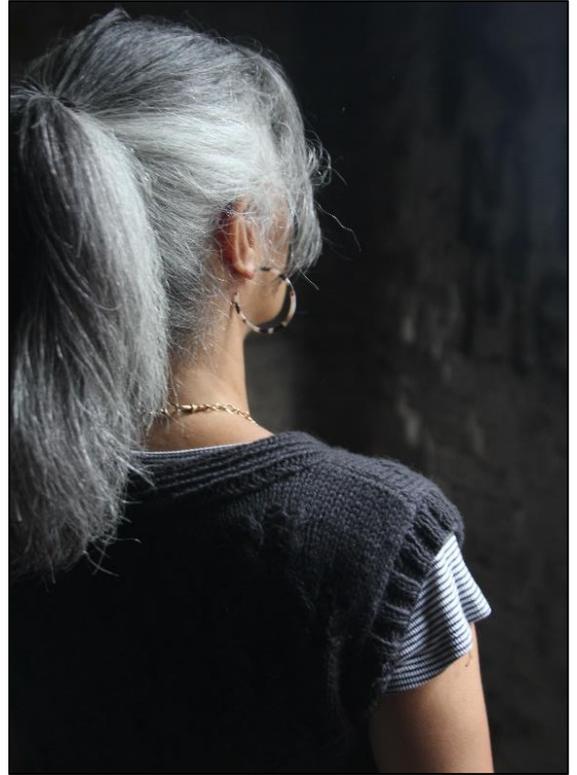
Back Armhole Shaping, Row 6, (WS): k1, p1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Back Armhole Shaping, Row 7, (RS): k2, work in pattern to last 2 sts, k2.

Back Armhole Shaping, Row 8, (WS): k1, p1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Repeat these 4 rows 1(1,1,1,1,1)(4,4,2,4) more time(s). 4(4,4,4,4,4) (10,10,6,10) sts dec'd.

9(9,11,11,12,12)(13,13,17,17) sts have been decreased at each armhole in total. 74(82,84,94,100,108)(110,116,120,126)sts rem.



Work in pattern as below until back measures 6(7,7.5,7.5,8,8)(8.5,8.5,9,10)"/15.25(17.75,19.5,19.5,20.25,20.25) (21.5,21.5,22.75,25.5)cm from first armhole shaping row, ending after a WS row. This is 1"/2.5cm from final depth.

Upper Back Rows (RS): k2, work in pattern to last 2 sts, k2.

Upper Back Rows (WS): k1, p1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Back, Right Shoulder

Back Right Shoulder Row 1, (RS): Work first 20(22,24,26,28,30)(30,32,34,36) sts in pattern and turn. Place remaining 54(60,60,68,72,78)(80,84,86,90) sts on holder for later.

Back Right Shoulder Row 2, (WS): k2, **p2tog**, work in pattern to last 2 sts at armhole edge, p1, k1. (1 st dec'd) 19(21,23,25,27,29)(29,31,33,35) sts remain.

Back Right Shoulder Row 3, (RS): k2, work in pattern to last 3 sts at neckline, k3.

Repeat Shoulder Rows 2-3 twice more. 17(19,21,23,25,27)(27,29,31,33) sts remain for back shoulder. *This should match your front shoulder bind-off amount, with one more stitch for seaming down the collar around back.*

On next WS row, bind off 17(19,21,23,25,27)(27,29,31,33) shoulder stitches as if to purl and break yarn.

Shoulder is 7(8,8.5,8.5,9,9)(9.5,9.5,10,11)"/17.75(20.5,21.5,21.5,22.75,22.75)(24.25,24.25,25.5,28)cm from first armhole shaping row and should match depth of Right Front.



Back, Neck and Left Shoulder

Back Left Shoulder Row 1, (RS): Attach yarn with RS facing and bind off center 34(38,36,42,44,48)(50,52,52,54) sts as if to knit. As you bind off, work a k2tog and bind that stitch off x 0(0,0,0,0)(0,2,2,2) across back neck, spacing the decrease stitches apart from one another along the neckline.

Work remaining 20(22,24,26,28,30)(30,32,34,36) sts in pattern to last 2 sts, k2. Turn to work WS.

Back Left Shoulder Row 2, (WS): k1, p1, work in pattern to last 4 sts, **p2togtbl**, k2. (1 st dec'd) 19(21,23,25,27,29)(29,31,33,35) sts remain.

Back Left Shoulder Row 3, (RS): k3, work in pattern to last 2 sts at armhole, k2.

Back Left Shoulder Row 4, (WS): k1, p1, work in pattern to last 4 sts, **p2togtbl**, k2. (1 st dec'd)

Repeat Shoulder Rows 3-4 once more. 17(19,21,23,25,27)(27,29,31,33) sts remain for back shoulder, as on other side.

Work until shoulder is 7(8,8.5,8.5,9,9)(9.5,9.5,10,11)"/17.75(20.5,21.5,21.5,22.75,22.75)(24.25,24.25,25.5,28)cm from first armhole shaping row and matches depth of the Right Front and Back Right Shoulders. On next WS row, bind off remaining shoulder stitches as if to purl.

Left Front

Slip your 51(55,60,63,65,69)(73,76,80,83) Left Front stitches back onto needle and join yarn with RS facing.

Left Front, Row 1 (RS): Bind off 3(3,3,3,4,4)(4,4,4,4) sts purlwise, work in pattern to 3 sts before marker, p1, **k2tog**, slip marker, p1, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k2, k1tbl.

Left Front, Row 2, (WS): Slip first stitch purlwise, p2, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k1, sm, p1, k1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, p1, k1. 4(4,4,4,5,5)(5,5,5,5) sts dec'd, 47(51,56,59,60,64)(68,71,75,78) sts remain.

Left Front, Row 3, (RS): Bind off 2(2,2,2,2,2)(3,3,3,3) sts purlwise, work in pattern to 3 sts before marker, p1, **k2tog**, slip marker, p1, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k2, k1tbl.

Left Front, Row 4, (WS): Slip first stitch purlwise, p2, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k1, sm, p1, k1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Repeat Rows 3-4 above 1(1,2,2,2,2)(1,1,1,1) more time(s). 6(6,9,9,9,9)(8,8,8,8) sts dec'd, 41(45,47,50,51,55)(60,63,67,70) sts remain.

Sizes 62.75"/159.5cm and 66"/167.75cm ONLY, work Rows 3b and 4b below before going to Row 5. All other sizes, go straight to Row 5.

Left Front, Row 3b, (RS): Bind off 2 sts purlwise, work in pattern to 3 sts before marker, p1, **k2tog**, slip marker, p1, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x 3, k2, k1tbl.

Left Front, Row 4b, (WS): Slip first stitch purlwise, p2, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k1, sm, p1, k1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Repeat Rows 3b and 4b above once more. 6 sts decreased, 61(64) sts remain.

All Sizes:

Left Front, Row 5, (RS): k2, **ssk**, work in patt to 3 sts before marker, p1, **k2tog**, slip marker, p1, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k2, k1tbl.

Left Front, Row 6, (WS): Slip first stitch purlwise, p2, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k1, sm, p1, k1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Left Front, Row 7, (RS): k2, work in pattern to 3 sts before marker, p1, **k2tog**, slip marker, p1, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k2, k1tbl.

Left Front, Row 8, (WS): Slip first stitch purlwise, p2, (k1tbl, p1tbl) x3, k1, sm, p1, k1, work in pattern to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Repeat Rows 5-8 above 1(1,1,1,1)(2,2,2,2) more times. 6(6,6,6,6)(9,9,9,9) sts dec'd, 35(39,41,44,45,49)(51,54,52,55) sts rem. In total, 9(9,11,11,12,12)(13,13,17,17) sts have been decreased at each armhole.

Next, continue adding V-neck shaping EVERY RS Row (as on Left Front Rows 5 and 7), 2(4,4,5,3,6)(9,10,3,3) more times. Work non-shaping rows in pattern as established. 33(35,37,39,42,43)(42,44,49,52) sts remain in total, with 23(25,27, 29,32,33)(32,34,39,42) sts outside button band.

Then add V-neck shaping EVERY OTHER RS Row (every 4th row) 5(5,5,5,6,5)(4,4,7,8) more times. Work non-shaping rows in pattern as established. 28(30,32,34,36,38) (38,40,42,44) sts remain in total, with 18(20,22,24,26,28)(28,30,32,34) sts outside button band marker.

Once shaping is complete, work in pattern until Left Front measures 7(8,8.5,8.5,9,9)(9.5,9.5,10,11)"/17.75(20.5,21.5, 21.5,22.75,22.75)(24.25,24.25,25.5,28)cm from first armhole shaping row and matches Right Front. End after a WS row.

Upper Left Front, RS Rows: k2, work in pattern to end as established.

Upper Left Front, WS Rows: Work in pattern as established to last 2 sts, p1, k1.

Next RS row: Bind off 16(18,20,22,24,26)(26,28,30,32) shoulder stitches as if to knit and break yarn. Leave the 10 button band stitches, plus the decrease stitch and the purl next to that (12 sts total) on waste yarn or a holder to be worked later.

Pre-Finishing

In order to complete the button bands, you need to block the vest and seam the shoulders together. This way you can visualize the final length needed for the pieces to meet at center back. I suggest steam-blocking the vest, then using a mattress-seam to seam your shoulder stitches together before working the next section.

Finish Collar, Back Neckline

Next, you continue working the button band pieces upwards so that each side is long enough to be laid flat around the finished shoulders and back neck, ending just before the center back point. I suggest using DPNs for this part.

Read below before doing so.

Work the 11 button band stitches in the established rib pattern, and knit the last stitch at the shoulder edge on both WS and RS for a garter stitch edge. Work each side towards center back neckline to form the collar.

I estimate this length is about 4.5(5,4.75,5.5,5.5,5.75)(6.5,6.75,6.25,7)"/11.5(12.75,12,14,14,14.5)(16.5,17.25,16.75,17.75)cm from top of front shoulder to center back.

When you are comfortable that your collar pieces almost meet at center back, bind off each piece in rib pattern, making sure they are the same length from shoulder to end. Using removable markers or pins to tack the pieces down as you work is helpful. Otherwise, just keep checking the length of your piece down against the top of the sweater as you work.

Next, starting at each shoulder and working towards center back, seam collar pieces to the bound off edge of the body around the shoulders and back. If you need to adjust length one more time as you reach center, it's easy to frog a couple of rows and re-bind off as you hit center. I've used this construction before and sometimes need to do this! It only takes a moment.

I used a mattress stitch to seam collar down, working upper back stitches to the bars of the garter edge stitch so the first knitted rib lies right above the top edge of the back. When collar is seamed down, work the two ends of the collar together at center back neck. Again, I used a mattress stitch, and the seam is not invisible, but the ribs line up with each other in a straight line.



Armhole Ribbing

Assuming about 0.5"/1.25cm for the seam, your circumference around each armhole opening is 13.5(15.5,16.5,16.5,17.5,17.5)(18.5,18.5,19.5,21.5)"/34.25(39.5,42,42,44.5,44.5)(47,47,49.5,54)cm. Based on a gauge of 5 sts per 1"/2.5cm, begin under arm and evenly pick up and knit 68(76,80,80,84,84)(88,88,92,104) sts around the opening. Place an EOR (end of round) marker centered under armhole.

Pickup Hints: If altering total, you need a multiple of 4 stitches around opening.

I find it helpful to place a few evenly spaced markers at the halfway point so I can count my stitches to be sure they are picked up properly around the opening.

Armhole Rib Rounds 1-6: *(k2, p2), repeat from * to end.

Hint: If your yarn has less memory than mine, your ribbing may be loose. Feel free to decrease around the EOR on Rounds 3 and 5 to bring your ribbing in if needed.

Bind off in pattern on your next round, and break yarn, leaving a tail to weave in.



Finishing

Block vest once more to set ribbing and collar. Double check that seam at back collar is even and centered before weaving in all ends. If your yarn has some bounce to it, the button band may squish up at the bottom end. I find weaving in a few ends neatly along the cast on edge and the bottom of band helps, as does adding a crochet edge. Either method stabilizes the edge and adds a little weight to the bottom if needed.

Make sure your buttonholes don't have loose spots around the opening. Weaving in ends along any weak points is a great way to close up or stabilize any spots you think need a little extra love.

Sew buttons onto band opposite buttonholes and enjoy!



Construction

Vest is knit flat from hem to armhole in one piece. Fronts and back are separated at armhole and worked to shoulder.

Button bands are continued beyond shoulders and wrapped down around neckline to meet at center back.

Stitches are picked up around seamed armholes and worked in the round.

Schematic Measurements

Circumference around body, worn closed:

37.25(40.5,43.5,46.75,50,53.25)(56.5,59.5,62.75,66)"/94.5(103,110.5,118.75,127,135.25)(143.5,151.25,159.5,167.75)cm

Width of each front, unbuttoned (band adds 2"/5cm when worn open):

10.5(11.25,12.25,12.75,13.5,14.5)(15.25,16.25,17,17.75)"/26.75(28.5,31,32.5,34.25,36.75)(38.75,41.25,43.25,43.75)cm

Width of back before underarm shaping:

18.5(20,21.25,23.25,24.75,26.5)(28,29.25,30.75,32.75)"/47(50.75,54,59,63,67.5)(71,74.25,78,83.25)cm

Width of back after shaping:

14.75(16.5,16.75,18.75,20,21.25)(22,23.5,24,25.25)"/37.5(42,42.5,47.75,50.75,54.5)(55.75,61,61,64.25)cm

Body depth from hem to armhole:

10(10,11,12,12,12)(12,13,13,13)"/25.5(25.5,28,28,29.25,29.25)(30.5,33,33,33)cm

Armhole depth:

7(8,8.5,8.5,9,9)(9.5,9.5,10,11)"/17.75(20.5,21.5,21.5,22.75,22.75)(24.25,24.25,25.5,28)cm

Width of shoulder:

3.25(4,4.5,4.75,5.25,5.25)(5.25,5.5,6,6.5)"/8.25(10.25,11.5,12,13.5,13.5)(13.5,14,15.25,16.5) cm

Width of back neck:

7(7.5,7.5,8.25,8.5,9.25)(10,10,10.5,10.5)"/17.75(19.5,19.5,20.75,21.5,23.5)(25.5,25.5,26.75,26.75)cm

Abbreviations not in chart legend All abbreviations used are standard and can be found in any stitch dictionary or glossary. *k* = knit, *p* = purl, *tbl* = through back loop, *st(s)* = stitch(es), *dec'd* = decreased, *k2tog/p2tog* = knit 2 together/purl 2 together, *ssk* = slip, slip, knit, *CN* = cable needle, *RS/WS* = right side/wrong side, *Cols* = columns, *DPNs* = double pointed needles, *patt* = pattern, *rem* = remaining, *wyif* = with yarn in front.

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