

# PetiteKnit

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## BALLOON SWEATER

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- Sizes:** XS (S) M (L) XL (2XL) 3XL
- Measurements:** Bust circumference at underarm: 99 (107) 110 (114) 124 (135) 143 cm [39 (42) 43¼ (44¾) 48¾ (53) 56¼ inches]  
Length: 55 (56) 57 (58) 59 (60) 62 cm [21¼ (22) 22½ (22¾) 23¼ (23½) 24½ inches] (measured mid back excluding neck rib edge)
- Gauge:** 21 sts x 28 rows in stockinette stitch on 4 mm [US6] needles = 10 x 10 cm [4 x 4 inches], after blocking
- Needles:** Circular needles: 3 mm [US2½] / 40 and 80 cm [16 and 32 inches], 4 mm [US6] / 40, 60 and 80 or 100 cm [16, 24 and 32 or 40 inches]  
Double-pointed needles: 3 mm [US2½]
- Materials:** 250 (300) 300 (350) 350 (350-400) 400 g Arwetta by Filcolana (50 g = 210 m [230 yds]) **or** Sunday by Sandnes Garn (50 g = 235 m [257 yds]) **held together with** 125 (150) 150 (175) 175 (175-200) 200 g Kid Seta by Gepard (25 g = 210 m [230 yds]) **or** Tilia by Filcolana (25 g = 210 m [230 yds]) **or** Tynn Silk Mohair by Sandnes Garn (25 g = 212 m [232 yds]) **or** Silk Mohair by Isager (25 g = 210 m [230] yds)

## PATTERN

The Balloon Sweater has balloon sleeves that start low on the shoulder and are emphasized with close fitting rib cuffs. The Balloon Sweater is worked from the top down. For the first part of the yoke, shoulder increases and short rows are worked simultaneously to shape the neckline. After this, the front and back are worked separately (back and forth in stockinette stitch) to the bottom of the armholes. Next the front and back are joined for the body, which is worked in the round on the circular needles. Stitches are then picked up and knitted along the armholes and the sleeves are worked down from there. The sleeves are worked in the round, first on circular needles and then on double-pointed needles at the end (or on long circular needles using the Magic Loop technique). The Balloon Sweater has no finishing work besides weaving in the ends.

Start by knitting a swatch before beginning the project. Remember to wash and block the finished swatch, as the gauge changes when the yarn is washed.

### Size guide

The Balloon Sweater is designed to have 15 cm [6 inches] of positive ease, meaning it is designed to be 15 cm [6 inches] larger in circumference than your bust measurement. The sizes XS (S) M (L) XL (2XL) 3XL are designed to fit a bust circumference of 80-85 (85-90) 90-95 (95-100) 100-110 (110-120) 120-130 cm [31½-33½ (33½-35½) 35½-37½ (37½-39¼) 39¼-43¼ (43¼-47) 47-51 inches]. The measurements for the finished garment are on the front page of the pattern (note that these measurements are only achieved if the sweater is knitted in the correct gauge). Before beginning your project, measure yourself with a measuring tape around your bust or your widest upper body point to determine which size will fit you the best. For example, if you measure 94 cm [37 inches] around your bust (or wherever you are the widest) you should knit a size M. A size M sweater has a bust circumference of 110 cm [43¼ inches], which in the given example would give you 16 cm [6¼ inches] of positive ease.

### Shoulder increases

The shoulder increases are worked on either side of a center shoulder stitch on each shoulder. The increases either slant right (M1R) or left (M1L). There are a total of 4 increases on each row. The increases in this pattern are worked on **both RS and WS rows**. Take care that the increases are not worked too tightly. Work the shoulder increases as follows:

M1R:

From the RS: Insert the left needle under the strand that runs between two stitches from back to front, then knit this strand.

From the WS: Insert the left needle under the strand that runs between two stitches from front to back, then purl this strand through the back loop (twisted).

M1L:

From the RS: Insert the left needle under the strand that runs between two stitches from front to back, then knit this strand through the back loop (twisted).

From the WS: Insert the left needle under the strand that runs between two stitches from back to front, then purl this strand.

### Short rows and neckline

Short rows are worked to shape the neckline. The neckline is formed by raising the back of the neck edge, which is done by working short rows back and forth and turning on the front (in this pattern the turns are made 1 stitch after the last turn each time), but not working the stitches in the middle of the front. I recommend using the *German Short Rows* technique. See the video on [www.petitekmit.com](http://www.petitekmit.com).

### Yoke

Cast on 90 (94) 94 (98) 106 (110) 110 sts on 3 mm [US2½] / 40 cm [16 inches] circular needles using the Italian cast-on technique (see video on [www.petitekmit.com](http://www.petitekmit.com)). Join to knit in the round, making sure that the cast-on edge is not twisted and place a marker for the beginning of the round (center back of neck). Work 7,5 (8) 8,5 (8,5) 8,5 (8,5) 8,5 cm [approx. 3 (3¼) 3¼ (3¼) 3¼ (3¼) 3¼ inches] of (k1, p1) rib tightly. Change to 4 mm [US6] / 40 cm [16 inches] circular needles by knitting the sts onto the new circular needles.

Divide the work for working the shoulder increases by placing stitch markers on either side of each shoulder stitch (a total of 4 markers) as follows:

22 (23) 23 (24) 26 (27) 27 sts (right side of back), place marker, 1 shoulder stitch, place marker, 44 (46) 46 (48) 52 (54) 54 sts (front), place marker, 1 shoulder stitch, place marker, 22 (23) 23 (24) 26 (27) 27 sts (left side of back).

Now work shoulder increases on either side of each shoulder stitch, while at the same time working short rows. Note that the shoulder increases are worked on both RS and WS rows and not too tightly (see section on 'Shoulder increases' above).

Shape neckline with short rows and shoulder increases in 3 steps, as follows:

**Step 1 (RS):** Knit across right side of back, M1R, knit shoulder stitch, M1L, k1, turn (2 increases have been worked on the right shoulder in Step 1).

**Step 2 (WS):** Purl back to right shoulder stitch, M1R, purl shoulder stitch, M1L, purl across right and left side of back (slip beginning of round marker) to the left shoulder stitch, M1R, purl shoulder stitch, M1L, p1, turn (2 increases have been worked on both the right and left shoulder for a total of 4 increases in Step 2).

**Step 3 (RS):** Knit to left shoulder stitch, M1R, knit shoulder stitch, M1L, knit to beginning of round marker (2 increases have been worked on the left shoulder in Step 3).

Now a total of 8 increases and 2 turns have been worked.

Repeat Steps 1-3 a total of 15 (17) 18 (19) 21 (22) 24 times, but each time working to 1 stitch after the last turn on the same side (meaning you work the turning stitch from the last turn on the same side, then work 1 more front stitch before turning again). Change to a longer circular needle (60 or 80 cm [24 or 32 inches]) along the way to accommodate the increasing number of sts.

A total of 30 (34) 36 (38) 42 (44) 48 short rows and 120 (136) 144 (152) 168 (176) 192 shoulder increases have now been worked. There are 210 (230) 238 (250) 274 (286) 302 sts on the needles.

Distribution of sts: 52 (57) 59 (62) 68 (71) 75 sts (right side of back), 1 shoulder stitch, 104 (114) 118 (124) 136 (142) 150 sts (front), 1 shoulder stitch, 52 (57) 59 (62) 68 (71) 75 sts (left side of back).

For the rest of the yoke, the front and back are worked separately. Each section is worked back and forth in stockinette stitch.

Divide the work into front and back as follows:

Knit from beginning of round (mid back) to right shoulder stitch. Place a marker through the shoulder stitch so it does not run and let the shoulder stitch rest on the marker. Turn and purl back across the sts for the back to the left shoulder stitch (remove beginning of round marker when you come across it) and place the left shoulder stitch on a marker as well. Slip the sts for the front onto a stitch holder or to a spare cable.

Now work back and forth in stockinette stitch across the 104 (114) 118 (124) 136 (142) 150 sts for the back until the armhole measures 21,5 (21,5) 23,5 (23,5) 23,5 (23,5) 24 cm [8½ (8½) 9¼ (9¼) 9¼ (9¼) 9½ inches] (measured from where the front and back were split), while **at the same time** working decreases at the beginning and the end of the row on a RS row every 0<sup>th</sup> (10<sup>th</sup>) 11<sup>th</sup> (8<sup>th</sup>) 6<sup>th</sup> (0<sup>th</sup>) 0<sup>th</sup> cm [0 (4) 4¼ (3¼) 2 (0) 0 inches] a total of 0 (1) 1 (2) 3 (0) 0 times, as follows:

K2, k2tog, knit to 4 sts before end of row, k2tog tbl, k2 (2 sts have been decreased).

There are now 104 (112) 116 (120) 130 (142) 150 sts on the needles. End on a WS row. Let the sts rest while working the front.

Now work back and forth in stockinette stitch across the 104 (114) 118 (124) 136 (142) 150 sts for the front until the armhole measures 21,5 (21,5) 23,5 (23,5) 23,5 (23,5) 24 cm [8½ (8½) 9¼ (9¼) 9¼ (9¼) 9½ inches] (measured from where the front and back were split), while **at the same time** working decreases the same way as for the back (=104 (112) 116 (120) 130 (142) 150) sts).

Count the number of rows worked on front and back to make sure they are exactly the same length.

Now join front and back to continue working in the round from the RS for the body on 4 mm [US6] / 80 or 100 cm [32 or 40 inches] circular needles. There are a total of 208 (224) 232 (240) 260 (284) 300 sts on the needles. Place a marker for the beginning of the round in the middle of the right armhole. Work in the round in stockinette stitch until the sweater measures 45 (46) 47 (48) 49 (50) 52 cm [17¾ (18) 18½ (19) 19¼ (19¾) 20½ inches] measured mid back from the transition between neck rib edge and stockinette stitch.

You can also knit to desired length before bottom ribbing – I recommend trying your sweater on to determine the perfect length for you before starting the hem – but keep in mind that making it longer might increase the yarn requirements.

Change to 3 mm [US2½] / 80 cm [32 inches] circular needles and work 10 cm [4 inches] in (k1, p1) rib for all sizes. Bind off using the Italian bind-off method (see video on [www.petitekmit.com](http://www.petitekmit.com)).

## Sleeves

The sleeves are worked first on circular needles and then on double-pointed needles or on a long circular needle using the Magic Loop technique.

Pick up and knit 44 (44) 49 (49) 49 (49) 49 sts evenly along the armhole edge on the front with the 4 mm [US6] / 40 cm [16 inches] circular needles (this is the approximate equivalent of picking up 2 sts for every 3 rows), slip the shoulder stitch resting on a stitch holder onto the needle, then pick up and knit 45 (45) 49 (49) 49 (49) 49 sts evenly along the armhole edge on the back. There are a total of 90 (90) 99 (99) 99 (99) 99 sleeve sts on the needles.

Join to knit in the round and begin the round at the underarm, where front and back meet.

Work in the round in stockinette stitch until the sleeve measures 32 (33) 34 (35) 35 (34) 33 cm [12½ (13) 13½ (13¾) 13¾ (13½) 13 inches] or to the desired length before the ribbed cuff.

Now work decreases to create the balloon effect on the sleeve, as follows:

Round 1: \*Knit 8 (8) 9 (9) 9 (9) 9 sts, k2tog \*. Repeat from \* to \* a total of 9 (9) 9 (9) 9 (9) 9 times.

Round 2: Knit to end of round.

Repeat these 2 rounds a total of 6 (6) 7 (7) 7 (7) 7 times but knit 1 stitch less between the decreases each time. There are now 36 (36) 36 (36) 36 (36) 36 sts on the needles. Change to double-pointed needles or use the Magic Loop technique when it becomes necessary.

Change to 3 mm [US2½] double-pointed needles and work 11 cm [4¼ inches] of (k1, p1) rib. Bind off using the Italian bind-off technique (see video on [www.petitekmit.com](http://www.petitekmit.com)).

**Note:** This is a very tight ribbed cuff, which emphasizes the balloon effect on the sleeves. If you have large wrists, you can omit the last round of decreases for a wider cuff. Also note, though, that the cuff will stretch with wear – so it feeling tight to begin with should be fine.

## Finishing

Weave in all ends.

## Abbreviations

k	knit
k2tog	decrease; knit two stitches together
M1L	increase; make one left, left leaning (see “Shoulder increases”)
M1R	increase; make one right, right leaning (see “Shoulder increases”)
p	purl
RS	right side of your work
st(s)	stitch(es)
tbl	through the back loop(s)
WS	wrong side of your work



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Happy knitting!