

# Beads of Joy

By James N Watts





This design is published in dedication to the life and legacy of Eisaku Noro, visionary artist and founder of Noro yarns. Thank you for bringing to life materials which are a constant source of inspiration in my work.

## BEADS OF JOY

Beads of Joy is modular knit wearable piece of art. Simple techniques such as picking up stitches, increasing, and decreasing are all that's needed to create this gorgeous and colorful sweater. Modular join as you go technique avoids the need for much seaming. This is the sort of knit that you will have a hard time putting down. The oversized drop shoulder silhouette is relaxed looking and easy to wear. Tag me @JamesNWatts on Instagram and TikTok, and use #BeadsOfJoySweater.

### YARN

Noro Yukata- sport weight, 200g, 787 yards, 50% Silk/ 25% Wool/ 25% Polyamide.

I used two colors for my sample:

Color 1- (05) Tokyo

Color 2- (08) Kyoto

Feel free to use only one colorway instead of two, or more than two if you want. You can use any yarn you get gauge in, including the many other offerings from Noro.

### SIZING

1(2, 3, 4, 5)

Sweater has a finished chest circumference of:

42.5(50, 57, 64, 71)" / [108 (127, 145, 162.5, 180.5cm]

This garment is designed to be worn with 6-14" / [15-35.5cm] of positive ease. Choose a size 6-14" / [15-35.5cm] larger than your own chest circumference.

### GAUGE

18sts x 28 rows = 4" x 4" in stockinette stitch knit flat, blocked.

Be aware that your gauge may change from your plain stockinette swatch to knitting this modular pattern. The tendency for most knitters will be to knit tighter in the actual pattern, so do check gauge after beginning the garment and adjust needle size as necessary.

### YARDAGE

This project requires a total of:

556(741, 1112, 1335, 1557) yards

[508(678, 1017, 1221, 1424) meters]

If you use two colors, you will need

278(371, 556, 668, 779) yards

[254(339, 509, 611, 712) meters]

In each color.

### NEEDLES AND NOTIONS

- US 6 (4mm) circular knitting needles or any size needed to get gauge. Larger circumference (24" minimum) is best for knitting the body of the sweater, 16" circulars are best for knitting the sleeves and collar.
- US 4 (3.5mm) circular knitting needles or a needle two sizes smaller than the needle you use to knit the body. The ribbed cuffs and hem will be knit on this smaller needle so it's helpful to have both a 16" circular for the cuffs and a longer circular for the hem. Of course, DPNs or magic loop are also options.
- Ring stitch marker
- Tapestry or darning needle for mattress stitch and weaving in ends.

## CONSTRUCTION

This sweater is worked in pieces that are joined as you go through modular technique. Each segment is a “strand” of beads that is knit bottom up. New segments are worked and attached to the left side of previous segments. In all sizes, each body panel is comprised of 9 segments, the two body panels are identical, knit separately, and seamed together. That means that there is not a distinct front and back, and you can wear your sweater whichever way you like. After seaming, the hem, sleeves, and collar are picked up and knit in the round.

## MODIFYING SWEATER LENGTH

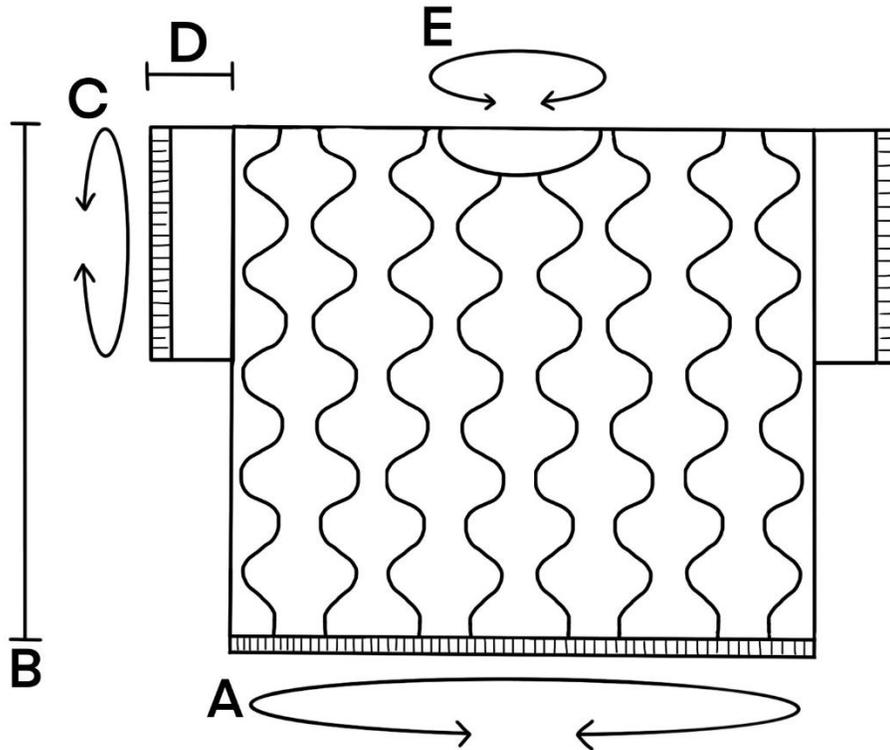
Take a look at the schematic on page 5 to check the intended length for your size. This sweater is designed to be worn cropped, but you can easily modify the length to your liking. The motif in this sweater is comprised of 24-row repeats. To shorten or lengthen your sweater, knit fewer or additional 24-row repeats. Each 24-row repeat is about 3.5” / [9cm] long. Be sure that once you decide to modify your sweater that you knit the same number of repeats on all 9 segments on both body panels.

For each 24-row repeat that you add/subtract, you will also need to add/subtract 12 picked up stitches to the start of every segment.

Photography by Marc Hercigonja IG: @Dreamarc



# Schematic



SCHEMATIC--inches	1	2	3	4	5
A. Chest Circumference	42.5	50	57	64	71
B. Length from Shoulder to Hem	18.25	18.25	21.5	21.5	21.5
C. Sleeve Circumference	17	19	20	21	23
D. Sleeve Length	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
E. Collar Circumference	17.5	19.5	21	23	25

SCHEMATIC--cm	1	2	3	4	5
A. Chest Circumference	108	127	145	162.5	180.5
B. Length from Shoulder to Hem	46.5	46.5	54.5	54.5	54.5
C. Sleeve Circumference	43	48.5	51	53.5	58.5
D. Sleeve Length	9	9	9	9	9
E. Collar Circumference	44.5	49.5	53.5	58.5	63.5

Abbreviations	
BO	Bind off
CO	Cast on
k	Knit
k2tog	Knit two together
M1L	Make one left
M1R	Make one right
p	Purl
p2tog	Purl two together
pm	Place marker
psso	Pass slipped stitch over
rm	Remove marker
RS	Right side
sl1	Slip one (purl wise)
sm	Slip marker
ssk	Slip slip knit
st(s)	Stitch(es)
WS	Wrong side

### Segment 1

If using two colors of yarn, start with whichever color you'd like and alternate between every segment. Follow the same color order when knitting the second body panel.

With a US 6 (4mm) needle, or whichever size you got gauge with, Using a Long Tail Cast On, CO 4(5, 6, 7, 8) sts.

Row 1 and all wrong side rows (WS): p to end of row.

(only RS rows are written out from this point on in Segment 1, WS rows are all as above.)

Row 2 (RS): k to end of row.

Row 4 (RS): k to last st, M1L, k1. (1 st increased)

Row 6 (RS): k to last 3 sts, (M1L, k1) three times. (3 sts increased)

Row 8 (RS): k to last st, M1L, k1. (1 st increased) 9(10, 11, 12, 13) total sts.

Rows 9-15: Work 7 rows of stockinette stitch.

Row 16 (RS): k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. (1 st decreased)

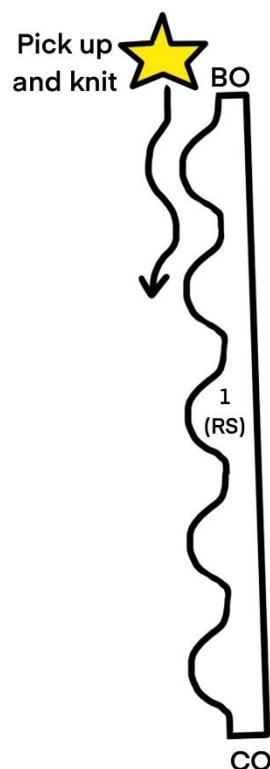
Row 18 (RS): k to last 7 sts, k2tog three times, k1. (3 sts decreased)

Row 20 (RS): k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. (1 st decreased) 4(5, 6, 7, 8) sts remain.

Rows 21-24: work 4 rows of stockinette stitch.

Repeat the previous 24 rows 4(4, 5, 5, 5) more times. On the final repeat, Bind off on Row 24 on the RS. If you are switching balls of yarn between segments, cut yarn, if you are going to continue with the same ball of yarn on the next segment, you can go straight into the Segment 2 pick up without cutting and reattaching the yarn, just make sure to bind off your final stitch by passing it over your first picked up stitch.

### Segment 2



Pick up and cast on: Beginning at the star marked in the diagram above (at the top of segment 1 where you just finished your bind off), work your way down the left side (the wavy side) and pick up and knit into every other row until you get to the bottom. 60(60, 72, 72, 72) sts picked up. Turn work around to WS, using a cable cast on, CO 1 st, pm, CO 16(18, 20, 22, 24) sts.

Row 1 and all wrong side rows (WS): p to marker, sm, p2tog, turn work.

(only RS rows are written out from this point on, WS rows are all as above.)

Row 2 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 4 (RS): k1, sm, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. (2 sts decreased)

Row 6 (RS): k1, sm, ssk three times, k to last 7 sts, k2tog three times, k1. (6 sts decreased)

Row 8 (RS): k1, sm, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. (2 sts decreased) 6(8, 10, 12, 14) sts to left of marker.

Row 10 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 12 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 14 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 16 (RS) k1, sm, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1. (2sts increased)

Row 18 (RS): k1, sm, (M1R, k1) three times, k to last 3 sts, (M1L, k1) three times. (6 sts increased)

Row 20 (RS): k1, sm, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1. (2sts increased) 16(18, 20, 22, 24) sts to left of marker.

Row 22 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 24 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row. (on final repeat do not k to end of row. Remove marker and BO all sts.)

Repeat previous 24 rows 4(4, 5, 5, 5) more times. All initial picked up sts should be resolved by p2tog stitches. After BO, cut yarn if changing colors on next segment.

### Segment 3

Pick up and cast on: Beginning at the top of segment 2 (where you just finished your bind off), work your way down the left side and pick up and knit into every other row until you get to the bottom. 60(60, 72, 72, 72) sts picked up. Turn work around to WS, using a cable cast on, CO 1 st, pm, CO 6(8, 10, 12, 14) sts.

Row 1 and all wrong side rows(WS): p to marker, sm, p2tog, turn work.

(only RS rows are written out from this point on, WS rows are all as above.)

Row 2 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 4 (RS): k1, sm, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1. (2sts increased)

Row 6 (RS): k1, sm, (M1R, k1) three times, k to last 3 sts, (M1L, k1) three times. (6 sts increased)

Row 8 (RS): k1, sm, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1. (2sts increased) 16(18, 20, 22, 24) sts to left of marker.

Row 10 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 12 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 14 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 16 (RS): k1, sm, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. (2 sts decreased)

Row 18 (RS): k1, sm, ssk three times, k to last 7 sts, k2tog three times, k1. (6 sts decreased)

Row 20 (RS): k1, sm, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. (2 sts decreased) 6(8, 10, 12, 14) sts to left of marker

Row 22 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 24 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row. (on final repeat do not k to end of row. Remove marker and BO all sts.)

Repeat previous 24 rows 4(4, 5, 5, 5) more times. All initial picked up sts should be resolved by p2tog stitches. After BO, cut yarn if changing colors on next segment.

### Segment 4

Pick up and cast on: Beginning at the top of segment 3 (where you just finished your bind off), work your way down the left side and pick up and knit into every other row until you get to the bottom. 60(60, 72, 72, 72) sts picked up. Turn work around to WS, using a cable cast on, CO 1 st, pm, CO 16(18, 20, 22, 24) sts.

Following the directions for Segment 2, knit rows 1-24 4(4, 5, 5, 5) times total (without binding off on row 24), continuing to use segment 2 as a guide, knit rows 1-16 once more. Continue below.

### Remainder of Segment 4

From this point forward, WS rows are written out.

Row 17 (WS): BO (in purl) 4(5, 6, 7, 8) sts, p to marker, sm, p2tog, turn work. 4(5, 6, 7, 8) sts remain to left of marker.

Row 18 (RS): k1, sm, (M1R, k1) three times, k to end of row (size 1 already at end of row). 7(8, 9, 10, 11) sts to left of marker.

Row 19 (WS): sl1, p1, pssso, p to marker, sm, p2tog, turn work. 6(7, 8, 9, 10) sts to left of marker.

Row 20 (RS): k1, sm, m1r, k to end of row. 7(8, 9, 10, 11) sts to left of marker.

Row 21 (WS): sl1, p1, pssso, p to marker, sm, p2tog, turn work. 6(7, 8, 9, 10) sts to left of marker.

Row 22 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 23 (WS): sl1, p1, pssso, p to marker, sm, p2tog, turn work. 5(6, 7, 8, 9) sts to left of marker.

Row 24 (RS): BO all sts.

All initial picked up sts should be resolved by p2tog stitches. After BO, cut yarn.

### **Segment 5**

Pick up and cast on: Beginning at the left edge of the initial bind off worked on row 17 of segment 4, work your way down the left side and pick up and knit into every other row until you get to the bottom. 56(56, 68, 68, 68) sts picked up. Turn work around to WS, using a cable cast on, CO 1 st, pm, CO 6(8, 10, 12, 14) sts.

Following the directions for Segment 3, knit rows 1-24 4(4, 5, 5, 5) times total (without binding off on row 24), continuing to use segment 3 as a guide, knit rows 1-9 once more. Continue below.

Row 10 (RS): k1, sm, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1. (2sts increased) 18(20, 22, 24, 26) sts to left of marker.

Row 12 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 14 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 16 (RS): All picked up stitches should be resolved at this point. Loosely BO all sts. (Sizes 1 and 2 be especially

careful to keep your bind off loose, if your bind off is tight you could have trouble getting your sweater over your head.) Cut yarn if changing colors on next segment.

### **Segment 6**

Pick up and cast on: Beginning at the top of segment 5 (where you just finished your bind off), work your way down the left side and pick up and knit into every other row until you get to the bottom. 56(56, 68, 68, 68) sts picked up. Turn work around to WS, using a cable cast on, CO 1 st, pm, CO 16(18, 20, 22, 24) sts.

Following the directions for Segment 2, knit rows 1-24 4(4, 5, 5, 5) times total (without binding off on row 24), continuing to use segment 2 as a guide, knit rows 1-13 once more, then continue below.

Row 14 (RS): k1, sm, M1R, k to last st, M1L, k1. (2sts increased) 8(10, 12, 14, 16) sts to the left of marker.

Row 15 (WS): p to marker, rm, p2tog, turn work. All picked up stitches are now resolved.

Row 16 (RS): BO 4(5, 6, 7, 8) sts, k to last 3 sts, (M1L, k1) three times. 8(9, 10, 11, 12) sts total.

Row 17 (WS): p to end of row.

Row 18 (RS): sl1, k1, pssso, k to last st, M1L, k1. 8(9, 10, 11, 12) sts total.

Row 19 (WS): p to end of row.

Row 20 (RS): sl1, k1, pssso, k to last st. 7(8, 9, 10, 11) sts total.

Row 21 (WS): p to end of row.

Row 22 (RS): sl1, k1, pssso, k to last st 6(7, 8, 9, 10) sts total.

Row 23 (WS): p to end of row.

Row 24 (RS): BO all sts.

Cut yarn if changing colors on next segment.

### Segment 7

Pick up and cast on: Beginning at the top of segment 6 (where you just finished your bind off), work your way down the left side and pick up and knit into every other row until you get to the bottom. 60(60, 72, 72, 72) sts picked up. Turn work around to WS, using a cable cast on, CO 1 st, pm, CO 6(8, 10, 12, 14) sts.

Knit Segment 7 following all instructions for [Segment 3](#).

### Segment 8

Pick up and cast on: Beginning at the top of segment 7 (where you just finished your bind off), work your way down the left side and pick up and knit into every other row until you get to the bottom. 60(60, 72, 72, 72) sts picked up. Turn work around to WS, using a cable cast on, CO 1 st, pm, CO 16(18, 20, 22, 24) sts.

Knit Segment 8 following all instructions for [Segment 2](#).

### Segment 9

Pick up and cast on: Beginning at the top of segment 8 (where you just finished your bind off), work your way down the left side and pick up and knit into every other row until you get to the bottom. 60(60, 72, 72, 72) sts picked up. Turn work around to WS, using a cable cast on, CO 1 st, pm, CO 4(5, 6, 7, 8) sts.

Row 1 and all wrong side rows (WS): p to marker, sm, p2tog, turn work.

(only RS rows are written out from this point on, WS rows are all as above.)

Row 2 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row

Row 4 (RS): k1, sm, M1R, k to end of row (1 st increased).

Row 6 (RS): k1, sm, (M1R, k1) three times, k to end of row. (3 sts increased)

Row 8 (RS): k1, sm, M1R, k to end of row (1 st increased). 9(10, 11, 12, 13) sts to left of marker.

Row 10 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 12 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 14 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 16 (RS): k1, sm, ssk, k to end of row. (1 st decreased)

Row 18 (RS): k1, sm, ssk three times, k to end of row. (3 sts decreased)

Row 20 (RS): k1, sm, ssk, k to end of row. (1 st decreased)

Row 22 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row.

Row 24 (RS): k1, sm, k to end of row. (on final repeat do not k to end of row. Remove marker and BO all sts.)

Repeat previous 24 rows 4(4, 5, 5, 5) more times. All initial picked up sts should be resolved by p2tog stitches. After BO, cut yarn.

### SECOND BODY PANEL

Repeat all instructions from start of pattern to make a second body panel.

### SEAMING

Note: if you are using Noro or any other similarly constructed single ply yarn that is loosely spun and can break easily, use a different yarn for working mattress stitch seams. I usually use a wool/nylon blend sock yarn, but any plied yarn that can withstand a bit of tension will do. If I have a complimentary color I'll use it, if not, I'll use whatever I have on hand. Properly executed mattress stitch is not visible from the outside of the garment.

Line up the top edge of your two body panels. Starting with either shoulder, use mattress stitch to seam together the body panels starting from the point where neck shaping begins and working your way to the outer edge of the garment. Repeat for second shoulder.

Next, you'll stitch together your side seams, leaving an opening for the armhole. From the shoulder seam, measure down the side of your garment 8.5(9.5, 10, 10.5, 11.5)" / [21.5(24, 25.5, 26.5, 29)cm]. This should be about 60(67, 70, 74, 81) rows from the top of the

shoulder. The fabric edge on stockinette can be extra stretchy and difficult to measure, so do check your row count. Place a locking stitch marker near the edge of the fabric at this point, this marks the underarm of the arm hole and will let you know how far to work your mattress stitch.

Starting with either side, line up the side seam of your body panels and work mattress stitch beginning at the hem of the garment and working your way up to the point you have just measured and marked. Repeat for second side seam.

## SLEEVES

If using two colors, it's up to you which you use for the sleeves. Since I used "Color 1" for segments 1 and 9, I decided to use "Color 2" for my sleeves, and switched to Color 1 for my ribbing.

Starting at the underarm, on a US 6 or whichever needle size you used to knit the body of your sweater, pick up and knit 78(86, 90, 96, 104) sts. Pick up your stitches at about a rate of 2:3 (meaning you pick up into 2 out of every 3 stitches along the edge of the armhole.) Place marker and join to work in the round.

Work in stockinette until sleeve measures about 2.75" / [7cm] or until sleeve reaches your desired length minus ribbing.

Optional: change colors. (If changing colors, work one round in stockinette in the new color before beginning ribbing)

Switch to US 4 or a needle two sizes smaller than the needle you were just using, work 1x1 (k1, p1) ribbing for .75" / [2cm] Bind off all stitches. Repeat for second sleeve.

## HEM

On a long circumference US 4 or a needle two sizes smaller than the needle you used to knit the body of your sweater, using the same color you used to work your ribbed cuffs, pick up and knit into 2 out of every 3 stitches around the entire hem of your sweater, place marker and join to work in the round. I do not provide a stitch count here because the exact number of stitches is not so important. You will be working 1x1 ribbing though, so you do need an even number of picked up stitches, but rather than waste my precious time counting so many stitches, if I get to the end of my first round of ribbing to find I've picked up an odd number of stitches, then I work a purl 2 together over the last two stitches to bring me to an overall even number. Work smarter not harder :-)

Work 1x1 (k1, p1) ribbing until hem measures .75" / [2cm]. Bind off all stitches.

## COLLAR

On a 16" US 6 needle or whichever needle size you used to knit the body of your sweater, start at either shoulder seam and pick up and knit into every stitch around the edge of the neckline, place marker and join to work in the round. Work 3 rounds of stockinette. Bind off all stitches loosely.

## FINISHING

Weave in and trim all loose ends. Blocking is non-negotiable in this pattern. Giving your sweater a proper 20-minute soak in warm water will even out the texture immensely. Wet block and lay flat to schematic measurements, pinning if necessary. Enjoy! :)