

GoldFreckles.  
Pattern



Bowie Vest

## Bowie Vest Pattern

A versatile knit to help you through the transitional seasons. When I designed this vest, it originally had sides, but I kept imagining a woman sitting on a beach wearing a bikini & layering it over the top because the wind had slightly picked up & it made me change the bows to being not just decorative but having a purpose. The spring version of this piece is made in brushed alpaca yarn, but I can easily see this being created in more breathable cotton mixes for the summer months ahead.

The pattern is written for the smallest size with differing instructions for the larger sizes shown increasing in brackets i.e., XS/S (S/M,M/L,L/XL).

## Abbreviation

Action	Abbreviation
Stitch	st
Stitches	st(s)
Knit	k
Purl	p
Right Side	RS
Wrong Side	WS
Knit 2 stitches together	k2tog
Slip, slip, knit	ssk
Slip 1 stitch knitwise	sl1k
Slip 1 stitch purlwise	sl1p

## Materials

- 4 (4,5,6) balls of 'Bulky' weight yarn (50g/110m) I recommend Sandnes Garn Børstet Alpakka (Brushed Alpaca) to achieve my results.
- 6 mm (US 10) straight knitting needles
- 6 mm (US 10) 60cm circular knitting needles
- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape
- Stitch markers (Both locking & movable)
- Scissors
- Stitch Counter

## Tension

Approx. 16sts and 20 rows to 10 cm x 10 cm (4"x 4") square over stocking stitch on 6mm needles.

## Sizing (Approx.)

Measurements taken from item lying flat. Please remember this piece has open sides when considering what size to make. My advice would be to measure the width against the width of your shoulders for best fit.

Size	XS/S	S/M	M/L	L/XL
UK Size	8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22
Length	39cm/15.3in	44cm/17.3in	49cm/19.2in	54cm/21.2in
Width	32cm/12.5in	41cm/16.1in	50cm/19.6in	59cm/23.2in
Shoulder Length	8cm/3.1in	10.5cm/4.1in	13cm/5.1in	15.5cm/6.1in
Bow Ties Lengths	50cm/20in	50cm/20in	62cm/24.5in	62cm/24.5in

## Front Body

- Working from the bottom up. Cast on 57 (71,85,99) sts using the long tail cast on method onto 6mm straight needles.
- **Row 1** sl1p (k1, p1) to end.
- **Row 2** sl1k (p1, k1) to end.
- **Rows 3-16** repeat rows 1 & 2 a further 7 times.
- **Row 17** (WS) Repeat row 1 once more for all sizes.
- **Row 18** (RS) sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, (place a locking stitch marker) k 37 (51,65,79) (place a locking stitch marker) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.

- **Row 19** (WS) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, (place a moveable stitch marker) p37 (51,65,79) (place a moveable stitch marker) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1.
- **Row 20-61** (20-67, 20-73, 20-79) (RS) Repeat rows 18 &19 (using the placed stitch markers to count & recognise the stitch changes) a further 21 (24,27,30) times.

### Shaping Of 1st Shoulder

From this point you will only be working across a select number of stitches, the remaining stitches will remain on the straight needles unworked. You will return to them further down the pattern.

- **Row 62** (68,74,80) (RS) working only across first 21 (26,31,36) sts, sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, k7 (12,17,22) k2tog, k2 place a stitch marker.
- **Row 63** (69,75,81) (WS) p10 (15,20,25) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1.
- **Row 64** (70,76,82) sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, k6 (11,16,21) k2tog, k2.
- **Row 65** (71,77,83) p9 (14,19,24) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1.
- **Row 66** (72,78,84) sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, k5 (10,15,20) k2tog, k2.
- **Row 67** (73,79,85) p8 (13,18,23) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1.
- **Row 68** (74,80,86) sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, k4 (9,14,19) k2tog, k2.
- **Row 69** (75,81,87) p7 (12,17,22) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1.
- **Row 70** (76,82,88) sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, k3 (8,13,18) k2tog, k2.
- **Row 71** (77,83,89) p6 (11,16,21) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1.
- **Row 72** (78,84,90) sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, k2 (7,12,17) k2tog, k2.
- **Row 73** (79,85,91) p5 (10,15,20) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1.

- **Row 74** (80,86,92) sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, k1 (6,11,16) k2tog, k2.
- **Row 75** (81,87,93) p4 (9,14,19) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1. [14][19][24][29]
- **Row 76** (82,88,94) (RS) sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, k4 (9,14,19).
- **Row 77** (83,89,95) (WS) p4 (9,14,19) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1.
- **Row 78** (84,90,96) Repeat row 76 (82,88,94) once more.
- **Row 79** (85,91,97) Repeat row 77 (83,89,95) once more. Place these 14 (19,24,29) sts onto a stitch holder, measure 3 x the shoulder width of yarn tail before removing yarn, you will use this to seam up shoulder(s) later in the pattern.

### Shaping Of 2nd Shoulder

From this point you will return to the awaiting stitches remaining on the straight needles. Move the next 15 (19,23,27) sts onto a stitch holder (place another stitch marker) these stitches will form the neckline later in the pattern.

- **Row 62** (68,74,80) (RS) working only across remaining 21 (26,31,36) sts k2, ssk, k7 (12,17,22) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.
- **Row 63** (69,75,81) (WS) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, p10 (15,20,25).
- **Row 64** (70,76,82) k2, ssk, k6 (11,16,21) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.
- **Row 65** (71,77,83) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, p9 (14,19,24).
- **Row 66** (72,78,84) k2, ssk, k5 (10,15, 20) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.
- **Row 67** (73,79,85) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, p8 (13,18,23).
- **Row 68** (74,80,86) k2, ssk, k4 (9,14,19) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.
- **Row 69** (75,81,87) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, p7 (12,17,22).
- **Row 70** (76,82,88) k2, ssk, k3, (8,13,18) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.

- **Row 71** (77,83,89) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, p6 (11,16,21).
- **Row 72** (78,84,90) k2, ssk, k2, (7,12,17) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.
- **Row 73** (79,85,91) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, p5 (10,15,20).
- **Row 74** (80,86,92) k2, ssk, k1 (6,11,16) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.
- **Row 75** (81,87,93) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, p4 (9,14,19).

[14][19][24][29]

- **Row 76** (82,88,94) (RS) k4 (9,14,19) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1 .
- **Row 77** (83,89,95) (WS) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, p4 (9,14,19).
- **Row 78** (84,90,96) Repeat row 76 (82,88,94) once more.
- **Row 79** (85,91,97) Repeat row 77 (83,89,95) once more. Place these 14 (19,24,29) sts onto a stitch holder, cut and remove yarn, leave enough of a yarn tail to weave in later.

### Back Section

- **Row 1-61** (1-67,1-73,1-79) Repeat the front section.
- **Row 62-75** (68-81,74-87,80-93) you will continue to repeat rows 18 & 19 from the front section, for a further 7 sets, all sizes.
- **Row 76** (82,88,94) (RS) Now you will only be working across the first 16 (21,26,31) sts, sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, k2 (7,12,17) k2tog, k2 (place a locking stitch marker). Leave unworked stitches on straight needles you will come back to them later in the pattern. [15][20][25][30]
- **Row 77** (83,89,95) p5 (10,15,20) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1.
- **Row 78** (84,90,96) sl1k, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p2, k1 (6,11,16) k2tog, k2.

[14][19][24][29]

- **Row 79** (85,91,97) p4 (9,14,19) k2, p2, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1. Place these 14 (19,23,27) sts on a stitch holder, measure 3 x the shoulder width of yarn tail before removing yarn, you will use this to seam up shoulder(s) later in the pattern. Then move the next 25 (29,33,37) sts onto another stitch holder, these will make up the back neckline later in the pattern (place a locking stitch marker).
- **Row 76** (82,88,94) Con. Returning to remaining 16 (21,26,31) sts left on needles, k2, ssk, k2 (7,12,17) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.
- **Row 77** (83,89,95) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, p5, (10,15,20).
- **Row 78** (84,90,96) k2, ssk, k1 (6,11,16) p2, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.
- **Row 79** (85,91,97) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p2, k2, p4 (9,14,19). Place 14 (19,24,29) sts on stitch holder. Cut and remove yarn leaving enough of a yarn tail to weave in later.

### Seaming Shoulders

- You will be using the **three-needle cast off method** to cast off and seam the shoulders all in one process. Turn work inside out and line up corresponding front and back shoulder seams, taking the 6mm straight needles place the stitches from one set of shoulder seams onto the needles from the stitch holders. One needle for the front shoulder seam and the other needle for the back (see image guidance for reference). When moving the stitches, work from left to right so the knitting needle pointed ends position out towards the outside edge of the work. Then taking the end of the 6mm circular needle and the extra-long yarn tail (you measured earlier) start casting off the stitches in

pairs. Hold the straight needles together side by side in one hand and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 6mm knitting needle in the other to work along the row until the last set of stitches have been cast off. Video direction help is available on my Instagram. Repeat the method for second shoulder seam. If you haven't left an extra-long yarn tail, you can just use a new length of yarn, there will just be more weaving in at the end.

### Neckline

- Once both shoulders are seamed, you will be able to move onto completing the neckline. Taking the 6mm 60cm circular needles move the front neckline awaiting stitches from the stitch holder & then remove the back awaiting stitches. Once all stitches are moved onto the circular needles, you will start picking up stitches for your neckline starting from the left shoulder seam, working clockwise around the neck opening. First you will pick up **18** stitches from the shoulder seam down to your 1<sup>st</sup> stitch marker, you will now pick up **15 (19, 23,27)** sts going back over the central stitches that are now waiting on the circular needles from the stitch holder, pick up a further **18** stitches from the 2<sup>nd</sup> stitch marker, back up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> shoulder seam. Then starting on the back section, pick up **3** stitches before going over the stitches already waiting on the circular needles from the stitch holder, picking up **25 (29,33,37)** lastly pick up **3** more stitches finishing back at the starting point. Once complete you should have **82 (90,98,106)** sts in total on the circular needles. These stitch amounts have been worked out specifically with the pattern but if find you

have picked up more or less than stated, just make sure your stitches are even to be able to work in 1x1 ribbing.

- **Rows 1 - 6** (k1, p1) working in ribbing stitch on 6mm 60cm circular knitting needles.
- **Row 7** Cast off neckline using the tubular cast off method, see tips section for help & video guidance on my Instagram page. If you don't feel confident enough to try this method you can use the stretchy blind off method of knitting all the knit stitches and purling all the purl stitches as you cast off, this method is also available on my Instagram page to follow.

### Making The Bow Ties

- You will repeat the instructions four times to make both sets of ties. Cast on 8sts onto 6mm straight needles using long tail cast on method.
- **Row 1** (WS) sl1p, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1.
- **Rows 2-100** (2-120) Repeat row 1 until length measures approximately 20" (20", 24.5", 24.5") cast off in basic cast off.

### Finishing

- Attach the bow ties, by laying your piece flat, inside facing up. Then take each tie and line the cast-off edge to the inside row of first run of knit stitches that sit along the central main purl section (there will be a large purl section framed with two vertical runs of knit stitch), directly above the ribbing (please see image guidance for reference). Secure the stitches together by sewing the horizontal bars from each row together (the vertical invisible seam method)

once attached make sure the ends are secured with care as you will be using the ties to fasten, so the seam needs to hold strong. Repeat the process for all 4 ties making sure to line them up as directed so they pair up at the same position on both sides of your work.

- Weave in the tail ends using the tapestry needle and then enjoy wearing your new 'GoldFreckles' woolly.

### Tips

- **How To Cast Off Using Tubular Cast Off Method** - First measure a yarn length 3 x the circumference of your neckline opening, before cutting it and removing the ball of yarn. Then take a tapestry needle and thread the yarn tail onto it. First use 2 locking stitch markers on the first & second stitch on the row, this will be important at the end. You will now take the tapestry needle through that **(1)** first stitch as if to knit (left to right) and then remove the stitch off the circular needle. Then you will **(2)** skip the next stitch on the row and go into the **(3)** second stitch as if to purl (right to left) leaving it on the needle, go back to the **(4)** first stitch and again thread the yarn tail though as if to purl, you can remove this stitch now off the circular needle. Then from the **(5)** back take your tapestry needle and push it through between the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> stitch next on the row, pull that through, **(6)** then go knitwise into the second stitch. That completes all the steps, you will continue working around fulfilling each step from **1-6** continuously until you come to the last two stitches on the needles. To complete the round, find your first stitch marker, place this stitch back on your needle joining the last two stitches on the round, then do the same with

the second stitch marker, making sure these stitches are placed on the needle flowing in the right direction, so you don't twist the stitch(es). You should now have four stitches to work with, work the first stitch as if to knit using the tapestry needle and take it off the needle, again skip the next stitch and work the second stitch on the row purlwise, remove the first stitch off the needle as if to purl, then go through the back between the two stitches, finally go knitwise through the last stitch on the row and you will be able to remove both stitches off the needle completing your cast off on the round. Leave a long enough yarn tail to weave in on the inside seam.

**Please use the Hashtags #GFKnits and #BowieVest if you add your creations to social media so I can find them because I love seeing them all, thank you!!!**

## Bowie Vest (Stage Guidance Images)



1. Casting on.



2. Ribbing section complete.



3. Main body complete showing use of stitch markers.



4. Marking out first shoulder & start of decreases to create neckline.



5. First shoulder complete & using a piece of cotton for a stitch holder.



6. Placing middle central stitches on a stitch holder and shaping started on second shoulder with decreases.



7. Front section completed & all stitches on stitch holders.



8. Longer back body section completed.



9. Shaping completed on first shoulder on back section.



10. Second shoulder on back section completed.



11. Detail image of lining up the shoulders preparing stitches on needles to do a three-needles cast/bind off.



12. Completed seamed shoulder using three-needle cast/bind off.



13. Both shoulders completed, now to move onto neckline.



14. After all stitches have been transferred and picked up on circular needles for neckline.



15. Ribbing completed on neckline ready for casting off.



16. Making of the ties.



17. Where to position the ties onto the main piece to seam.

