

BREEZE RACERBACK

BY JESSIE MAE MARTINSON of JESSIE MAED DESIGNS

I love minimal design and believe that the open and intuitive approach I took in creating this tank lives and breathes in the finished object, a breezy summer top that's elegant in its simplicity and perfect for anyone looking for a quick meditative knit.



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#breezeracerback**

SIZES: XS (S, M, L, 1XL)(2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL) to fit bust measurement of:
28-30 (32-34, 36-38, 40-42, 44-46)(48-50, 52-54, 56-58, 60-62)"
71-76 (81-86, 91.5-96.5, 101.5-106.5, 111.5-117)(122-127, 132-137,
142-147, 152-158)cm
Actual measurement of finished garment at bust:
36.5 (40.5, 44.5, 48.5, 52.5)(56.5, 60.5, 64.5, 68.5)"
92.5 (103, 113, 123, 133.5){143.5, 153.5, 164, 174}cm
Choose a size with 6-8"/15-46cm of positive ease

Materials: Fingering weight yarn, circular needles, stitch markers, scrap yarn or stitch holders, extra needle for 3-needle bind off, darning needle

Recommended Needles: US 6 - 4.0 mm circular needles
US 7 - 4.5 mm circular needles

Gauge: 18 stitches & 26 rows = 4x4 in. stockinette in the round, blocked
23 stitches & 26 rows = 4x4 in. stockinette flat, blocked

(Note: I highly recommend swatching both in the round and flat to get gauge before beginning this knit.)

Yardage: 400 (475, 550, 625, 700)(775, 850, 925, 975) yards

Techniques: knitting in the round, bottom up, decreasing, holding stitches, 3-needle bind off, wet blocking

Construction:

This pattern is worked in fingering weight at a loose gauge from the bottom up in the round until the underarm, and then separated at the front and back and worked flat on each side. The left and right sides of the front are worked separately before knitting both straps together and holding the stitches. The back panel is then worked. After both the front and back sides are complete, they are joined using a 3-needle bind off. The top is then wet blocked to maximize airiness and drape.

PATTERN:

BOTTOM HEM

On smaller circular needles CO 166 (184, 202, 220, 238)(256, 274, 292, 310) sts. Join in the round being careful not to twist stitches. PM for BOR.

Work k1p1 for 8 (8, 10, 10, 12)(12, 14, 14, 16) rounds.

On next round, work (sl1pwyib, p1) until end. Knit 1 round.

MAIN BODY

Switch to larger circular needles.

Work in stockinette (knit all rows) until piece measures 9.5 (10.25, 11, 11.75, 12.5){13.25, 14, 14.75, 15.5}"/[24 (26, 28, 30, 32){33.5, 35.5, 37.5, 39.5}cm] (or desired length from underarm.)

On next round, BO 13 (20, 26, 28, 31)(35, 39, 42, 42) sts using a non-stretchy method; these bound off stitches will form the right underarm. Knit 58 (56, 56, 62, 66)(70, 74, 76, 86) sts; these 58 (56, 56, 62, 66)(70, 74, 76, 86) sts you have just worked will form the back of the garment. BO another 13 (20, 26, 28, 31)(35, 39, 42, 42) sts; these bound off stitches will form the left underarm. Do not cut yarn. You have now reached the front of the garment. From this point on, the piece will be worked flat.

FRONT

You should have 82 (88, 94, 102, 110)(116, 122, 132, 140) sts total for the front side of the garment (not including the 58 (56, 56, 62, 66)(70, 74, 76, 86) sts resting on the cord for the back.) Make sure you include the one stitch on your right needle left over after binding off the left underarm in your count!

We will work a setup row in order to mark the halfway point of the front, such that there are 41 (44, 47, 51, 55)(58, 61, 66, 70) sts for each side of the front.

Setup row 1: Knit 40 (43, 46, 50, 54)(57, 60, 65, 69) sts, place marker, knit to end of row. Turn.

Setup row 2: Purl. Turn.

Count to make sure that you have 41 (44, 47, 51, 55)(58, 61, 66, 70) sts on each side of the marker for the front.

You are now ready to begin working the left side of the front.

LEFT SIDE FRONT

Left side denotes left side of the garment when worn.

Row 1 (RS): Sl1kwyib, ssk, knit to 3 stitches before marker, k2tog, sl1kwyib. Turn. (2 sts decreased.)

Row 2 (WS): Purl. Turn.

Repeat rows 1-2 until 23 (26, 27, 27, 29)(32, 33, 34, 36) sts remain.

Row 3 (RS): Sl1kwyib, knit to 3 sts before end of row, k2tog, sl1kwyib. Turn. (1 st decreased)

Row 4 (WS): Purl. Turn.

Continue rows 3-4 until there are 5 sts left on the needle, ending with a WS row. Cut a 30"/76cm tail; you will use this tail to join the left and right straps together, and to join the front and back of the garment with a 3-needle bind off later. Place 5 sts on holder.

(Hint: I like to hold small quantities of stitches on a removable lockable stitch marker.)

RIGHT SIDE FRONT

Right side denotes right side of the garment when worn.

The remaining 41 (44, 47, 51, 55)(58, 61, 66, 70) sts on the left needle (not including the stitches resting on the cord for the back) will form the right side of the front.

Row 1 (RS): With new strand of yarn, sl1kwyib, ssk (you will join the yarn on this st,) knit to 3 stitches before end of row, k2tog, sl1kwyib. Turn. (2 sts decreased)

Row 2 (WS): Purl. Turn.

Repeat rows 1-2 until 23 (26, 27, 27, 29)(32, 33, 34, 36) sts remain.

Row 3 (RS): Sl1kwyib, ssk, knit to last st, sl1kwyib. Turn. (1 st decreased)

Row 4 (WS): Purl. Turn.

Continue rows 3-4 until there are 5 sts left on the needle, ending with a WS row. Cut yarn. Leave stitches on needle.

(Note: if you want to lengthen the front straps, you should do so here. Just continue to work the five stitches for each strap separately in pattern until you've reached the desired length.)

JOINING THE FRONT STRAPS

Row 1 (RS): Slip held stitches from left strap onto the left needle, taking care to ensure neither strap is twisted. Both straps should now be on the left needle. Use the 30"/76cm tail you cut to knit across the 5 sts that form the left strap. Then knit across the 5 stitches that form the right strap. You should have 10 sts on your needle. Turn.

Row 2 (WS): Purl. Turn.

Do not cut remaining tail. You will be using it to join the front straps to the back of the garment using a 3-needle bind off after we work the back.

BACK

You will now work the 58 (56, 56, 62, 66)(70, 74, 76, 86) sts remaining on the needles for the back.

Row 1(RS): With new strand of yarn, sl1kwyib, ssk (you will join the yarn on this st,) knit to three stitches before end of row, k2tog, sl1kwyib. Turn. (2 sts decreased)

Row 2 (WS): Purl. Turn.

Repeat rows 1-2 until there are 10 sts left on needle, ending with a WS row.

(Note: if you want to lengthen the back, you should do so here. Just continue knitting the 10 stitches in pattern until you reach the desired length.)

JOIN THE FRONT AND BACK

Turn the garment inside out with right sides facing. Transfer the 10 held front sts to needle. Use the remaining tail from the front to join the 10 front sts to the 10 back sts using a 3-needle bind off.

FINISHING & BLOCKING

Weave in ends. Wet block to measurements specified in schematic on page 4. Breeze around in your new top!

Abbreviations:

CO – cast on

PM – place marker

BOR – beginning of round

k– knit

p – purl

sl1kwyib – slip one st knitwise with yarn in back

sl1pwyib – slip one st purlwise with yarn in back

st - stitch

sts – stitches

ssk - slip one st knitwise, slip one st purlwise, knit both slipped stitches together through the back loop (*note: I like to work my ssk sts this way, because it gives me a cleaner left leaning decrease. Feel free to work this stitch the standard way if you prefer.*)

k2tog - knit 2 stitches together

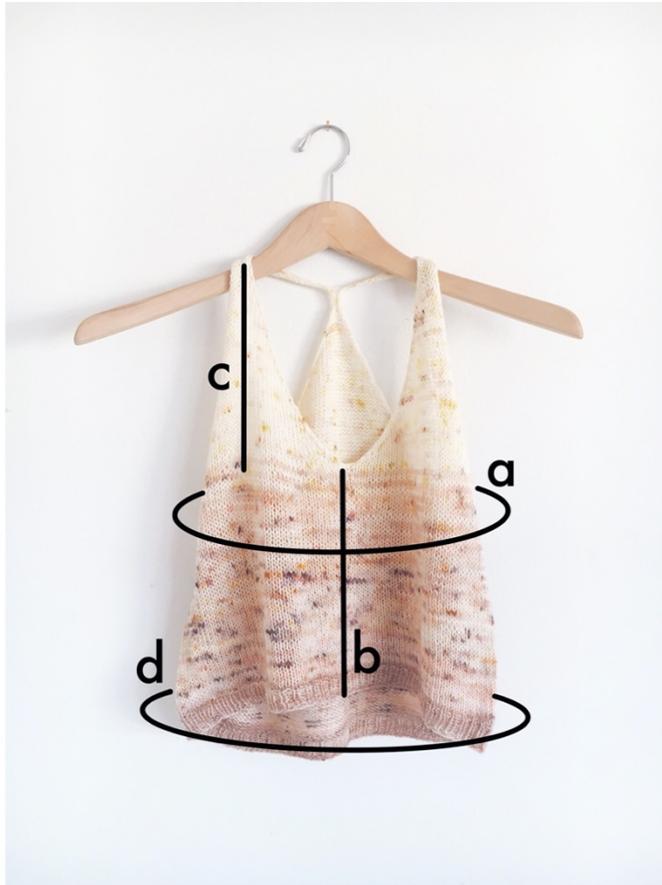
BO – bind off

RS - right side

WS - wrong side

DISCLAIMER: I am happy to allow small scale commission hand knitting of my designs, but you may not sell or reproduce this pattern, or commercially labor and intellectual property.

Schematic



inches	XS	S	M	L	1X	2X	3X	4X	5X
A – Bust	36.5	40.5	44.5	48.5	52.5	56.5	60.5	64.5	68.5
B – Body Length	8	8	10	10	12	12	14	14	16
C – Upper Front Height	9	10	10	11	12	13	13	14	15
D – Waist	37.5	41.5	45.5	49.5	53.5	56.5	61.5	65.5	69.5

cm	XS	S	M	L	1X	2X	3X	4X	5X
A – Bust	92.5	103	113	123	133.5	143.5	153.5	164	174
B – Body Length	20.5	20.5	25.5	25.5	30.5	30.5	35.5	35.5	40.5
C – Upper Front Height	23	25.5	25.5	28	30.5	33	33	35.5	38
D – Waist	95.5	105.5	115.5	125.5	136	143.5	156	166.5	176.5
A – Bust	21	20.5	20.5	22.5	24	26	27.5	28	32