



CLASSIC SHIRT

by Sally Melville

This project is a great one to make on your path to becoming a more creative, more accomplished, or more successful knitter. The classic "button-down shirt" construction features shaping at the shoulders and waist as well as set-in armholes for a professional finish.

Skill Level

Intermediate

Sizes

S (M, L, 1X, 2X)

Finished Measurements

Bust (and hem): 36 (40, 44, 48, 52)" [91 (101, 111.5, 122, 132)cm]

Waist: 30 (34, 38, 42, 46)" [76 (86, 96.5, 106.5, 117)cm]

Length: 22½ (23, 23½, 24, 24½)" [57 (58, 59.5, 61, 62)cm]

Waist length: 16½ (17, 17½, 18, 18½)" [41.5 (43, 44, 45.5, 47)cm]

Shoulder width: 14" [35.5cm]

Sleeve length (with cuff extended): 31" (31½, 32, 32½, 33)" [78.5 (80, 81, 82.5, 83.5)cm]

Materials

865 (960, 1060, 1150, 1250) yd [780 (865, 955, 1035, 1125)m] / 4 (5, 5, 5, 6) balls Needful Mohair Royal (80% kid mohair, 20% nylon, each approximately ⅞ oz [25g] and 235 yd [215m]), in color #1650 Off White,  fine/sport weight or

1080 (1200, 1320, 1440, 1560) yd [970 (1080, 1200, 1320, 1440)m] / 4 (5, 5, 6, 6) skeins

Louet Euroflax Sport Weight (100% linen, each approximately 3½ oz [100g] and 270 yd [246m]), in color #01 Champagne,  fine/sport weight
1 Pair size 6 [4mm] needles, or size needed to obtain gauge
1 Pair size 4 [3.5mm] needles

Stitch markers

Stitch holder

Yarn needle

Steam iron or garment steamer

10 Buttons, ⅜" [9mm] wide

2 Optional buttons (for turned-back cuffs)

Gauge

20 stitches and 28–30 rows = 4" [10cm] over stockinette stitch using larger needles (after steam-pressing)

Pattern Notes

This garment is hourglass-shaped, so it could fall between your ideal lengths for Short and Midlength Sweaters. The linen version is shown to the length written above, and the mohair version is 2" [5cm] longer. Adjust the Back Waist length (between the waist and the armhole) and the Finished Garment length (between the waist and the hem) as indicated on page 12.

The final measurements were 28 rows = 4" [10cm] for the linen version and 30 rows = 4" [10cm] for the mohair version. The pattern is written to accommodate either row gauge.

Neither I nor the yarn companies can explain why the heavier linen—which was knitted to a looser row gauge—took more yarn. But it definitely did!

Work all pieces in stockinette stitch unless otherwise indicated.

Work all increases as lifted increases.

The sleeves are long enough for the cuffs to be turned back. If you do not wish them to be worn this way, make the sleeves 1½" [3.8cm] shorter.

Beginning with a WS row, work in stockinette stitch until piece measures 2" [5cm] from cast-on edge, ending after working a RS row.

Instructions

Back

With larger needles, use the long-tail cast-on method to cast on 92 (102, 112, 122, 132) stitches.

Next row (WS): P30 (35, 40, 45, 50), place marker, p32, place marker, p30 (35, 40, 45, 50).

Decrease row (RS): K1, skp, knit to 2 stitches before marker, skp, slip marker, k32 (to marker), slip marker, k2tog, knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1.

Work 9 rows even. (Shorten or lengthen the Finished Garment length here, page 12, by changing the number of rows worked even between decreases.)

Repeat decrease row.

Repeat the last 10 rows twice more—32 stitches between markers, 22 (27, 32, 37, 42) stitches at sides.

Work even for 2" [5cm].

Increase row (RS): K1, increase 1, knit to 1 stitch before marker, increase 1, slip marker, knit to 1 stitch before marker, increase 1, slip marker, knit to last 2 stitches, increase 1, k1.

Work 9 rows even. (Shorten or lengthen the Back Waist length here, page 12, by changing the number of rows worked even between increases.)

Repeat increase row.

Repeat the last 10 rows twice more—92 (102, 112, 122, 132) stitches.

Work even until the piece measures 14" [35.5cm] from cast-on edge, ending after working a WS row, removing markers on the last row.

Shape Armholes

Next 2 rows: Bind off 4 (5, 7, 9, 11) stitches, work even to end—84 (92, 98, 104, 110) stitches.

Decrease row (RS): K1, skp, knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1.

Purl 1 row.

Repeat the last 2 rows 6 (10, 13, 16, 19) times more—70 stitches. (Adjust the Shoulder width here, page 15.)

Work even until armhole measures 7½ (8, 8½, 9, 9½)" [19 (20.5, 21.5, 23, 24)cm], ending after working a WS row.

Shape Shoulders

Next 2 rows: Bind off 5 stitches, work even to end—60 stitches.

Shape Right Shoulder and Back Neck

Next row: Bind off 5 stitches, knit to 12 stitches on right needle, place remaining 43 stitches on holder. Turn.



Bind off 1 stitch at the next 2 neck edges and 5 stitches at the next 2 armhole edges.

Shape Left Shoulder and Back Neck

Return to remaining 43 stitches, RS facing. Slip 26 stitches onto a stitch holder.

Knit a RS row over 17 stitches.

At the next armhole edge, bind off 5 stitches.

Bind off 1 stitch at the next 2 neck edges and 5 stitches at the next 2 armhole edges.

Right Front

With larger needles, use the long-tail cast-on method to cast on 45 (50, 55, 60, 65) stitches.

Next row (WS): P30 (35, 40, 45, 50), place marker, p15.

Work even until piece measures 2" [5cm], from cast-on edge, ending after working a RS row.

Decrease row (RS): Knit to marker, k2tog, knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1.

Work 9 rows even. (Shorten or lengthen the Finished Garment length here, page 12, as for Back.)

Repeat decrease row.

Repeat the last 10 rows twice more—37 (42, 47, 52, 57) stitches.

Work even for 2" [5cm].

Increase row (RS): Knit to marker, increase 1, knit to last 2 stitches, increase 1, k1.

Work 9 rows even. (Shorten or lengthen the Back Waist length here, page 12, as for Back.)

Repeat increase row.

Repeat the last 10 rows twice more—45 (50, 55, 60, 65) stitches.

Work to same length as Back to armhole, ending after working a RS row and removing marker on the last row.

Shape Armhole

Bind off 4 (5, 7, 9, 11) stitches at the beginning of the next WS row—41 (45, 48, 51, 54) stitches.

Decrease row (RS): Knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1.

Purl 1 row.

Repeat the last 2 rows 7 (11, 14, 17, 20) times more—33 stitches. (Adjust the Shoulder width here, page 15, as for Back.)

Work even until armhole measures 5½ (6, 6½, 7, 7½)" [14 (15, 16.5, 18, 19)cm] from cast-on edge, ending after working a WS row.

Shape Neck

Bind off 4 stitches at the next neck edge, 3 stitches at the next neck edge, 2 stitches at the next neck edge, then 1 stitch at the next 4 neck edges—20 stitches.

Work even until armholes measures same length as Back, ending after working a RS row.

Shape Shoulder

Bind off 5 stitches at the next 4 armhole edges.

Left Front

Work as for Right Front until piece measures 2" [5cm] from cast-on edge, ending after working a RS row.

Next row (WS): P15, place marker, p30 (35, 40, 45, 50).

Decrease row (RS): K1, skp, knit to 2 stitches before marker, skp, slip marker, knit to end.

Work 9 rows even. (Shorten or lengthen the Finished Garment length here, page 12, as for Back.)

Repeat decrease row.

Repeat the last 10 rows twice more—37 (42, 47, 52, 57) stitches.

Work even for 2" [5cm].

Increase row (RS): K1, increase 1, knit to stitch before marker, increase 1, slip marker, knit to end.

Work 9 rows even. (Shorten or lengthen the Back Waist length here, page 12, as for Back.)

Repeat increase row.

Repeat the last 10 rows twice more—45 (50, 55, 60, 65) stitches.

Work even to same length as Back to armhole, ending after working a WS row and removing marker on the last row.

Shape Armhole

Bind off 4 (5, 7, 9, 11) stitches at the beginning of the next row—41 (45, 48, 51, 54) stitches.

Purl 1 row.

Decrease row (RS): K1, skp, knit to end.

Purl 1 row.

Repeat the last 2 rows 7 (11, 14, 17, 20) times more—33 stitches. (Adjust the Shoulder width here, page 15, as for Back.)

Work even until piece measures 5½ (6, 6½, 7, 7½)" [14 (15, 16.5, 18, 19)cm] above armhole, ending after working a RS row.

Shape Neck and Shoulder

Work as for Right Front, Shape Neck and Shape Shoulder.

Sleeve (Make 2)

With larger needles and the long-tail cast-on method, cast on 38 (42, 46, 50, 54) stitches. Beginning with a WS row, work in stockinette stitch for 7 rows.

Increase row (RS): K1, increase 1, knit to last 2 stitches, increase 1, k1.

Work 5 (5, 5, 3, 3) rows even.

Repeat the last 6 (6, 6, 4, 4) rows 15 (16, 18, 20, 22) times more—70 (76, 84, 92, 100) stitches.

Work even until piece measures 16" [40.5cm] from cast-on edge, ending after working a WS row. (Shorten or lengthen the Sleeve length here, page 13.)

Shape Cap

Next 2 rows: Bind off 4 (5, 7, 9, 11) stitches, work in pattern as established—62 (66, 70, 74, 78) stitches.

Decrease row (RS): K1, skp, knit to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1.

Purl 1 row.

Repeat the last 2 rows 15 (17, 19, 21, 23) times more—30 stitches.

Next 2 rows: Bind off 2 stitches, work even to end—26 stitches.

Next 2 rows: Bind off 4 stitches, work even to end—18 stitches.

Bind off all remaining stitches.

Finishing

Steam-press all pieces.

Left Front Button Band

Row 1 (pick-up row): With RS facing and larger needles, pick up and knit 3 stitches for every 5 rows. (**Note:** To work 3 stitches for 5 rows, pick up and knit 1 stitch in 2 rows then pick up and knit 2 stitches in 3 rows.)

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Row 3 (RS): Knit.

Rows 4–7: Repeat Rows 2 and 3 twice to work in stockinette stitch.

Row 8 (turn row) (WS): Knit.

Row 9 (RS): Knit.

Rows 10–14: Work even in stockinette, beginning with a purl row.

Bind off loosely and cut the yarn, leaving a long tail.

Using the long tail and a yarn needle, sew bind-off row to selvedge. Sew lower edge of band closed.

Steam-press band.

Mark spaces for 7 evenly spaced buttons, with the first 1" [2.5cm] from the top and the last 4" [10cm] from the bottom.

Right Front Buttonhole Band

Work as for Left Front Button Band to end of Row 3.

Make buttonholes to match placement of buttons as follows.

Row 4 (WS): Make buttonholes while purling the row, [yo, p2tog] at all marked spaces—7 buttonholes made.

Rows 5–7: Work even in stockinette stitch, beginning with a knit row.

Row 8 (turn row) (WS): Knit.

Row 9 (RS): Knit.

Rows 10 and 11: Work even in stockinette, beginning with a purl row.

Row 12 (WS): Make buttonholes, in same manner and in same place as for Row 4, on WS of band.

Rows 13–14: Work even in stockinette.

Bind off loosely, leaving a long tail.

With long tail, sew bind-off row to selvedge, and sew buttonholes together. Sew lower edge of band closed.

Steam-press band.

Neck Band

Sew shoulder seams.

With RS facing and smaller needles, begin at upper edge of Right Front band to pick up and knit as follows:

2 stitches for every 3 rows through both layers at top edge of Front bands,

1 stitch for every bind-off stitch and 1 stitch for every 2-row step between bind-off stitches around Front and Back neck shaping,

1 stitch for every stitch on holder,

3 stitches for every 4 rows along rows worked even—96 stitches.

(Count stitches. If needed, adjust decreases on next row.)

Row 2 (WS): [P8, p2tog] 3 times, [p4, p2tog] 6 times, [p8, p2tog] twice, purl to end—85 stitches.

Rows 3–4: Work even in stockinette.

Row 5 (RS): Make buttonhole as follows: k3, yo, k2tog, knit to end.

Row 6: Purl.

Rows 7–9: Knit.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11 (RS): Make buttonhole, in same manner and in same place, as Row 5 to make buttonhole on WS of band.

Rows 12–13: Work even in stockinette.

Row 14 (WS): [P8, increase in next stitch] 3 times, [p4, increase in next stitch] 6 times, [p8, increase in next stitch] twice, purl to end—96 stitches.

With larger needle, bind off loosely, leaving a long tail.

With long tail and yarn needle, sew bind-off row to selvedge, and sew buttonhole together.

Sew open edges of band closed.

Steam-press band.

Sew buttons onto Left Front band to correspond to buttonholes on Right Front band.

Collar

With RS facing and smaller needles, begin in 4th stitch from edge of Right Front neck band. Pick up and knit 9 stitches for every 10 purl bumps along edge of neck band, ending in 4th stitch from edge of Left Front neck band—73 stitches.

Next row (WS): Cast on 1 stitch at the beginning of row, purl across. Turn. Cast on 1 stitch—75 stitches.

Increase row (RS): K2, increase 1, knit to last 3 stitches, increase 1, k2.

Work 3 rows even.

Repeat the last 4 rows 4 times more—85 stitches.
 (Lengthen collar here, if desired, by making more rows, increasing each alternate RS row, as above.)
 Purl 1 row.
 Knit 1 row.
 Change to larger needles.
Turn row (WS): Knit.
Next 2 rows: Work even in stockinette, beginning with a knit row.
Decrease row (RS): K2, skp, knit to last 4 stitches, k2tog, k2.
 Work 3 rows even.
 Repeat the last 4 rows 4 times more—75 stitches.
 Purl 1 row.
Last row (RS): Bind off 1 stitch, knit to end. Turn. P1, slip 1, bind off 1 stitch, slip 1 stitch from the right needle to the left needle. Cut yarn, leaving a 1-yd [0.9m] tail.
 Graft live stitches evenly to inside edge of neck band (remembering that there are 9 collar stitches for every 10 stitches of neck band). Pull grafting tight enough to seam but not so tight as to bind.
 Taking 1 stitch from each edge into seam allowance, sew open front edges of Collar closed.
 Steam-press collar.
 Sew Sleeves into armholes.
 Sew side and Sleeve seams.

Cuffs

With larger needles, use the long-tail cast-on method to cast on 42 (46, 50, 54, 58) stitches.
 Work even until piece measures 3" [7.5cm] from cast-on edge. End after working a RS row.

Turn row (WS): Knit.
 Work even until piece measures 3" [7.5cm] past turn row, ending after working a WS row.
Last row (RS): Bind off 1 stitch, knit to end. Turn. P1, slip 1, bind off 1 stitch, slip 1 stitch from the right needle to the left needle. Cut yarn, leaving a 1-yd [0.9m] tail.
 With RS facing, graft live stitches to cast-on edge of Sleeve as follows:

Attach Right Cuff

Hold cuff above Sleeve, matching 1st stitch of cuff to 8th stitch to left of Sleeve seam.
 *Beginning at this point, and grafting from right to left, graft stitches of cuff to cast-on row of Sleeve—4 stitches.
 Sew remaining 4 stitches to cast-on row under grafted edge of cuff.

Attach Left Cuff

Hold cuff below Sleeve, matching 1st stitch of cuff to 8th stitch to left of Sleeve seam.
 Work as for Attach Right Cuff from * to end.

Both Cuffs

Fold cuffs over, and steam-press.
 Sew cast-on edges of cuffs to seam allowances.
 Taking 1 stitch from each edge into seam allowance, sew open edges of cuffs closed.
 Sew 1 button through all layers of each cuff. To wear cuffs turned back, sew a button to WS of each cuff.

