

A *eweknit* PATTERN

# VALENTINA CARDIGAN

by Claudia Q



## DESCRIPTION

The Valentina Cardigan is a classic cardigan that goes with everything and will never go out of style! It's an easy top-down knit made with either DK weight yarn or two strands of fingering held double.

## EXPERIENCE LEVEL

**Intermediate**

## TECHNIQUES USED

Long-tail cast on Knitting and purling in the round Increasing and decreasing  
Reading a chart  
Working with DPNs (optional)  
German Short-rows Binding off  
Kitchener Stitch or 3 needle bind off

## GAUGE

21 sts & 31 rows to 4" / 10 cm on US 6 / 4.0 mm needles in stockinette stitch, after blocking.

## MATERIALS

**Yarn A** - 4 (4, 4, 4, 6) (6, 6, 6, 6) skeins of Isager ALPACA 2 (50% alpaca, 50% merino wool, 273 yds / 249 m - 50 g)

**B** - 4 (4, 4, 5, 5) (5, 6, 6, 7) skeins of Isager SILK MOHAIR (75% mohair, 25% silk, 230 yds / 212 m - 25 g)

Yarn held double throughout pattern

## Needles

US 4 / 3.5 mm 16" / 40 cm circular needles (optional), 32" / 80 cm circular needles (or longer), and set of DPNs.

US 6 / 4.0 mm 16" / 40 cm circular needles (optional), 32" / 80 cm circular needles (or longer), and set of DPNs.

or needles required to obtain correct gauge

## Notions

6 (6, 6, 7, 7) (7, 7, 7, 7) 11/16" / 1.75 cm buttons, removable stitch markers, stitch holders or waste yarn, tapestry needle.

## SIZES

1 (2, 3, 4, 5) (6, 7, 8, 9) Recommended ease: 9-13" / 23-33 cm.

## Finished Measurements

**Bust circumference:** 42 (46.25, 50.25, 54.5, 58.75) (63, 67.25, 71.5, 75.5)" / 107 (117.5, 127.5, 138.5, 149) (160, 171, 181.5, 192) cm.

**Upper arm circumference:** 14.5 (15.5, 16.5, 17.75, 19) (20.25, 21.25, 22.75, 23.5)" / 37 (39.5, 42, 45, 48.5) (51.5, 54, 58, 60) cm.

**Length from underarm to hem:** 14 (14.5, 15, 15.5, 16) (16.5, 17, 17, 17.5)" / 35.5 (37, 38, 39.5, 40.5) (42, 43, 43, 44.5) cm.

**Sleeve length:** 16 (16, 16.5, 16.5, 17) (17, 17.5, 17.5, 18)" / 40.5 (40.5, 42, 42, 43) (43, 44.5, 44.5, 45.5) cm

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## NOTES

The Valentina Cardigan is a classic, seamless top-down knit worked in DK yarn or fingering held double, designed for a relaxed fit with 9–13" / 23–33 cm of ease. Sized to fit busts 42–75.5" / 107–192 cm, it features clean stockinette, German short rows, and buttoned front finishing. Knit at a gauge of 21 sts & 31 rows = 4" / 10 cm on US 6 / 4 mm needles, it uses Isager Alpaca 2 and Silk Mohair held together and is rated Intermediate, making it a timeless and versatile wardrobe staple.

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## STITCH GUIDE

### **M1L (make 1 stitch left leaning)**

Insert left needle, from front to back, under strand of yarn which runs between next st on left needle and last st on right needle; knit this st through back loop (1 stitch increased)

### **M1R (make 1 stitch left leaning)**

Insert left needle, from back to front, under strand of yarn which runs between next st on left needle and last st on right needle: knit this st through front loop (1 stitch increased)

### **Ssk (slip, slip, knit)**

Slip two stitches knit-wise one at a time from LH needle to RH needle. Insert point of LH needle into front of two slipped stitches and knit them together with right needle (1 stitch decreased)

**Make double stitch (German Short-rows)** Slip the first stitch on the left needle purl-wise and pull the working yarn over top of the right needle tightly to create a double stitch. This is really the two legs of the stitch in the row below.

Reposition the yarn as needed for the next stitch: to the front for a purl stitch, to the back for a knit stitch. Work the next few sts tighter than usual. Later, when working the double stitch, work it as a single stitch (like a k2tog). This is the key feature of the German Short Row.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**approx.** Approximately

**BOR** beginning of round

**Dec(d)** decrease(d)

**DPNs** double pointed needles

**Inc(d)** increase(d)

**k(K)** knit

**k2tog** knit 2 stitches together (decrease)

**LH** left hand

**M1L** (see Stitch Guide)

**M1R** (see Stitch Guide)

**p(P)** purl

**p2tog** purl 2 stitches together (decrease)

**PM** Place marker rep Repeat

**RH** right hand

**rnd(s)** Round(s)

**RS** Right side of fabric

**Sl, k2tog, pssso** (see Stitch Guide)

**SM** slip marker

**ssk** (see Stitch Guide)

**st(s)** Stitch(es)

**St st** Stockinette/ stocking stitch

**tbl** through back of loop

**tog** together

**w&t** (see Stitch Guide)

**WS** Wrong side of fabric

**wyif** with yarn in front yo yarn over (increase)

**yo** yarn over

\* Repeat instructions from asterisk as directed

[ ] Repeat instructions inside brackets as directed

## Pattern Begins

### BACK NECK

Using US 6 / 4.0 mm 24" / 60 cm circular needles and the long-tail cast on, CO 40 (44, 48, 52, 56) (60, 64, 68, 72).

Next row (WS): P to end.

Row 1 (RS): K4, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k4.

Row 2 (WS): P4, M1R, p to last 4 sts, M1L, p4.

Work rows 1-2 8 (9, 10, 11, 12) (12, 13, 14, 15) more times.

### Sizes 6, 7, 8, 9 ONLY:

Row 3 (RS): K4, M1L, k to last 4 sts, M1R, k4.

Row 4 (WS): P to end.

You should now have 76 (84, 92, 100, 108) (114, 122, 130, 138) sts. Place these sts on stitch holder and break yarn.

### SHOULDERS

**Right shoulder:** with RS facing, pick up and knit 19 (21, 23, 25, 27) (29, 31, 33, 35) sts from the right side of back neck, starting from the right edge.

Next row (WS): P to end.

Row 1 (RS): K to end.

Row 2 (WS): P to end.

Repeat rows 1-2 x 10 (11, 11, 12, 13) (13, 14, 15, 15) more times. Place these sts on stitch holder and break yarn.

**Left shoulder:** with RS facing, pick up and knit 19 (21, 23, 25, 27) (29, 31, 33, 35) sts from the left side of back neck, starting from the left edge.

Row 1 (RS): K to end.

Row 2 (WS): P to end. Repeat rows 1-2 10 (11, 11, 12, 13) (13, 14, 15, 15) more times. Do not break yarn.

Join back neck and shoulders as follows:

**Next row (RS):** K to last 2 sts, ssk, pm, pick up and knit 17 (18, 18, 19, 21) (21, 22, 24, 24) sts along left side towards held back neck sts, pm, place following 76 (84, 92, 100, 108) (114, 122, 130, 138) sts on left needle ready to be worked, k2tog, k to last 2 sts, ssk, pm, pick up and knit 17 (18, 18, 19, 21) (21, 22, 24, 24) sts along right side towards held right shoulder sts, pm, place held right shoulder sts onto left needle ready to be worked, k2tog, k to end.

You should now have a total of 144 (158, 170, 184, 200, 210, 224, 240, 252) sts - 18 (20, 22, 24, 26) (28, 30, 32, 34) for left front, 17 (18, 18, 19, 21) (21, 22, 24, 24) for left sleeve, 74 (82, 90, 98, 106) (112, 120, 128, 136) for back, 17 (18, 18, 19, 21) (21, 22, 24, 24) for right sleeve, and 18 (20, 22, 24, 26) (28, 30, 32, 34) for right front.

Next row (WS): P to end.

Work raglan increase section 1 as follows:

Row 1 (RS): \*K to m, sm, M1L, k to m, M1R, sm\*; rep from \*-\* once more, k to end (4 sts increased).

Rows 2 & 4 (WS): P to end.

Row 3 (RS): K2, M1L, \*k to m, sm, M1L, k to m, M1R, sm\*; rep from \*-\* once more, k to last 2 sts, M1R, k2 (6 sts increased).

Repeat rows 1-4 3 (3, 3, 3, 3) (4, 4, 4, 4) more times, then repeat rows 1-2 0 (0, 0, 1, 1) (0, 0, 1, 1) more times.

You should now have a total of 184 (198, 210, 228, 244) (260, 274, 294, 306) sts - 22 (24, 26, 28, 30) (33, 35, 37, 39) for left front, 33 (34, 34, 37, 39) (41, 42, 46, 46) for left sleeve, 74 (82, 90, 98, 106) (112, 120, 128, 136) for back, 33 (34, 34, 37, 39) (41, 42, 46, 46) for right sleeve, and 22 (24, 26, 28, 30) (33, 35, 37, 39) for right front.

Work raglan increase section 2 as follows:

**Row 5 (RS):** \*K to 2 sts before m, M1R, k2, sm, M1L, k to m, M1R, sm, k2, M1L\*; rep from \*-\* once more, k to end (8 sts increased).

**Rows 6 & 8 (WS):** P to end.

**Row 7 (RS):** K2, M1L, \*k to 2 sts before m, M1R, k2, sm, M1L, k to m, M1R, sm, k2, M1L\*; rep from \*-\* once more, k to last 2 sts, M1R, k2 (10 sts increased).

**Repeat rows 5-8 7 (8, 9, 10, 11) (12, 13, 14, 15) more times.**

You should now have a total of 328 (360, 390, 426, 460) (494, 526, 564, 594) sts - 46 (51, 56, 61, 66) (72, 77, 82, 87) for left front, 65 (70, 74, 81, 87) (93, 98, 106, 110) for left sleeve, 106, 118, 130, 142, 154) (164, 176, 188, 200) for back, 65 (70, 74, 81, 87) (93, 98, 106, 110) for right sleeve, and 46 (51, 56, 61, 66) (72, 77, 82, 87) for right front.

Work back yoke shaping as follows:

**Short-Row 1 (RS):** K229 (251, 272, 297, 320) (344, 367, 393, 414), mDS.

**Short-Row 2 (WS):** P129 (141, 151, 167, 179) (193, 207, 221, 233), mDS.

**Short-Row 3 (RS):** K to 6 (7, 7, 8, 9) (10, 11, 11, 12) sts before double st, mDS.

**Short-Row 4 (WS):** P to 6 (7, 7, 8, 9) (10, 11, 11, 12) sts before double st, mDS

Rep Short-Rows 3-4 2 more times.

**Short-Row 5 (RS):** K to 8 (8, 9, 9, 10) (10, 11, 12, 13) sts before double st, mDS. **Short-Row 6 (WS):** P to 8 (8, 9, 9, 10) (10, 11, 12, 13) sts before double st, mDS Rep Short-Rows 5-6 2 more times.

**Short-Row 7 (RS):** K to end, working all double sts as k2tog.

**Short-Row 8 (WS):** P to end, working all double sts as p2tog.

## BODY

Separate the sleeves from body as follows:

**Setup row (RS):** Place removable sm on first st of last worked RS row, directly below needle to mark where your buttonholes will begin later in the pattern. K to m, rm, pl next 65 (70, 74, 81, 87) (93, 98, 106, 110) left sleeve sts on hold, CO 8 sts using the backwards loop method, k to m, rm, pl next 65 (70, 74, 81, 87) (93, 98, 106, 110) right sleeve sts on hold, CO 8 sts using the backwards loop method, to end. You should now have 214 (236, 258, 280, 302) (324, 346, 368, 390) sts for the body.

**Next row (WS):** P to end.

**Row 1 (RS):** K to end.

**Row 2 (WS):** P to end.

Rep rows 1-2 until sweater measures 11 (11.5, 12, 12.5, 13) (13.5, 14, 14, 14.5)" / 28 (29, 30.5, 32, 33) (34.5, 35.5, 35.5, 37) cm from underarm.

## HEM

Change to US 4 / 3.5 mm needles and work as follows:

**Row 1 (RS):** \*K1, p1\*, repeat \*-\* to end.

**Row 2 (WS):** \*K1, p1\*, repeat \*-\* to end.

**Rep rows 1-2** for 3" / 7.5 cm. Bind off all sts in pattern.

## SLEEVES

Place held sts onto working needle. Starting at the underarm, pick up and knit 4 sts, k to end of sleeve sts, then pick up and knit 4 more sts. You should now have 73 (78, 82, 89, 95) (101, 106, 114, 118) sts. Place a BOR marker and join for working in the round.

**Rnd 1:** K to end.

**Rep rnd 1** 13 (13, 13, 12, 12) (12, 11, 11, 10) more times.

**Decrease rnd:** K1, k2tog, k to last 3 sts, ssk, k1 (2 sts decreased).

Repeat above section 4 (4, 4, 5, 6) (6, 6, 6, 7) more times. You should now have 63 (68, 72, 77, 81) (87, 92, 100, 102) sts.

**Rep rnd 1** until your sleeve measures 13 (13, 13.5, 13.5, 14) (14, 14.5, 14.5, 15)" / 33 (33, 34.5, 34.5, 35.5) (35.5, 37, 37, 38) cm.

## BUTTONHOLES

**Buttonhole Row 1:** Sl1 purl-wise, k1, p1, k1, yo, k2tog (for buttonhole), p1, k1, p1, sl last st knit-wise, yo, skip next "hole" of right front edge, insert right hand needle into next "hole" of right front edge and pull up st on to right hand needle, past the sl st and yo over this st, turn.

**Buttonhole Row 2:** Sl1 purl-wise wyif, [k1, p1] to last st, p1.

Change to US 4 / 3.5 mm needles and work as follows:

**Rnd 1:** \*K1, p1\*, repeat \*-\* to end.

**Rep rnd 1** for 3" / 7.5 cm. Bind off all sts in pattern.

## NECKLINE

Using US 4 / 3.5 mm 16" / 40 cm circular needles, and with WS facing, pick up and knit 1 st by inserting the needle between the first and second cast on st of lower right front (ie. first "hole") and knitting it. Move needle to left hand and holding the tail firmly, cast on 13 more stitches using the cable cast on method for the front band. Your neckline band is now 14 sts. Turn work to RS.

Connect neckline to sweater fronts as follows:

**Row 1 (RS):** K1, [k1, p1] to last neckline st, sl1 knit-wise, yo, pick up and knit 1 st by inserting the right needle between the first and second st of lower right front (ie. first "hole") and knitting it, pass the sl st and yo over this st and off the needle, turn.

**Row 2 (WS):** Sl1 purl-wise wyif, [k1, p1] to last st, p1.

**Note:** You will attach neckline to sweater fronts by picking up a sweater front st every other row.

**Row 3 (RS):** Sl1 purl-wise, [k1, p1] to last st, sl1 knit-wise, yo, skip next "hole" and pick up and knit 1st by inserting the right needle into "hole" 2 rows above last picked up st of lower right front (ie. second "hole") and knitting it, pass the sl st and yo over this st and off the needle, turn.

Row 4 (WS): Sl1 purl-wise wyif, [k1, p1] to last st, p1.

Rep rows 3-4 for neckline up right front, down slope of right back neck, along center back neck, down the slope of left back neck and down the left front until you reach the removable sm.

Rep rows 3-4 for a total of 20 (22, 22, 18, 20) (20, 20, 20, 22) rows, then work Buttonhole Rows 1- 2. Continue repeating this section until you have created 5 (5, 5, 6, 6) (6, 6, 6, 6) buttonholes.

Rep rows 3-4 for until .75" / 2 cm from the lower edge of the left front, and work Buttonhole Rows once more to create your last buttonhole.

Rep rows 3-4 until you've reached the lower edge of the left front. Bind off all sts in pattern.

## **FINISHING**

Weave in ends. Sew buttons on right front neckline band to correspond to buttonholes on left front neckline band. Weave in ends and block.



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