



tonight top

by LILY KATE FRANCE

Inspired by the minimalism of Princess Diana's 90s style, the Tonight Top is your 'elegant everyday' item to wear for date nights, fun with friends, work occasions, or when you just want to feel that little bit fancy.

YARN: 4ply / fingering weight yarn, approx 588 (655; 732; 805; 883) [966; 1047; 1131; 1222] metres / 642 (715; 800; 879; 964) [1055; 1144; 1235; 1336] yards.

Sample shown in West Yorkshire Spinners Exquisite 4ply, (80% Falkland Island Wool, 20% Mulberry Silk, 400m per 100g skein). If using this yarn, you will need 2 (2; 2; 3; 3) [3; 3; 3; 4] skeins.

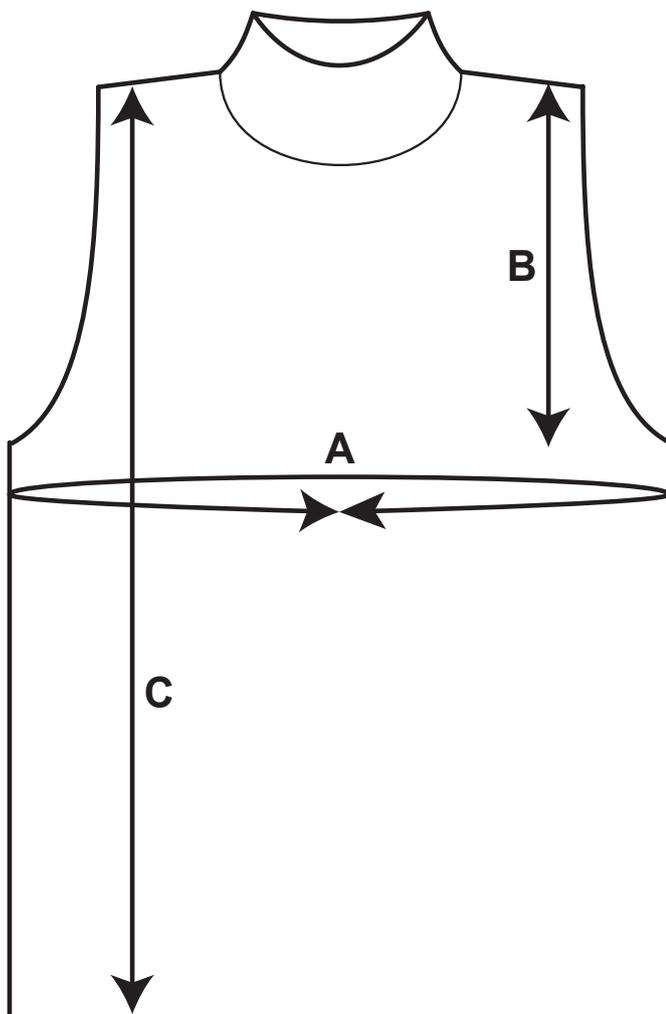
GAUGE: 26 sts and 36 rows to 4 inches / 10 cm in stocking stitch *blocked*. Suggested size 3.25 mm.

NEEDLES & NOTIONS:

3mm & 3.25mm circular needles of length 24" / 60cm or 30" / 80cm, depending on size
 3mm 16" / 40cm circular needle for neckband and armhole edgings
 Stitch markers
 Tapestry needle
 Scrap yarn

SIZING: 1 (2; 3; 4; 5) [6; 7; 8; 9] detailed below, designed to be worn with between 1-3 inches / 2.5-7.5 cm positive ease. Sample shown is a size 2 worn on a 34" bust with approx 1" positive ease.

Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
To fit bust (inches)	28-30	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46	48-50	52-54	56-58	60-62
To fit bust (cm)	71-76	81-86	91-97	102-107	112-117	122-127	132-137	142-147	152-157
A: Bust	31" 79 cm	35" 89 cm	39" 99 cm	43" 109 cm	47" 119 cm	51" 130 cm	55" 140 cm	59" 150 cm	63" 160 cm
B: Armhole depth	8" 20 cm	8.5" 22 cm	9" 23 cm	9.5" 24 cm	10" 25 cm	10.5" 27 cm	11" 28 cm	11.5" 29 cm	12" 30 cm
C: Total length	21.5" 55 cm	22" 56 cm	22.5" 57 cm	23" 58 cm	23.5" 60 cm	24" 61 cm	24.5" 62 cm	25" 64 cm	25.5" 65 cm



Construction: the Tonight Top is worked seamlessly from the top down. It begins by casting on across the shoulders and working back and forth in rows on the upper back down to the armholes. The back stitches are then set aside to work the front.

Stitches are picked up across each shoulder separately, the shoulder/neck is shaped with short rows and increases, then the separate shoulder fronts are joined together by casting on the centre front neck stitches.

The front is then worked back and forth in rows down to the armholes to match the back. The held back stitches are then replaced on the needle to work the main body in one piece from the armholes down to the hem, working in rounds. Optional bust darts are included for fuller busts.

Stitches are picked up around the neck to work the ribbed neckband, which can be made to whatever length you wish. The armhole edgings are worked in applied double knitting for a smooth, minimal edging. Short rows are used to curve the edgings around the underarm.

Terminology: left and right means as worn, not as looking at the garment.

Pattern support: for pattern support queries please **EMAIL lilykate@jolihouse.com** rather than sending an Instagram DM.

ABBREVIATIONS & TECHNIQUES

k: knit
inc: increase
k2tog: knit 2 together
PM: place marker
s1: slip 1 stitch purlwise
BOR: beginning of round

p: purl
dec: decrease
M: marker
SM: slip marker
st(s): stitch(es)

k2togtbl: knit 2 stitches together through back loop

KFB: knit into the front and back of next stitch

m1R: make one right. (Insert left needle tip under bar between needles from back to front, place bar on left needle tip, knit this stitch through the front loop normally).

m1L: make one left. (Insert left needle tip under bar between needles from front to back, place bar on left needle tip, knit this stitch through the back loop).

s1wyif: slip 1 stitch with yarn in front

SSK: slip next stitch knitwise, slip another stitch knitwise, then slip both stitches back to left needle (stitches now sit twisted). Knit these stitches together through the back loop.

GERMAN SHORT ROWS

1) Work the required number of stitches, then turn work (leaving the remaining stitches on the previous round unworked).

2) With the yarn held in front, slip the first stitch on your left needle (the GSR stitch) purlwise.

3) Pull your working yarn firmly up and over the right needle. This is referred to as 'pull yarn' in the pattern.

4) The stitch below is stretched up and over the needle and now appears as a 'double stitch'. If next working a knit stitch, the yarn is now on the correct side of the work. If next working a purl stitch, bring the yarn to the front between the needles.

5) Work in pattern as directed to the end of the row. When you encounter a GSR stitch on the next row, work both legs of the 'double stitch' together as one stitch.

VIDEO TUTORIALS

[long tail cast on](#) / [backwards loop cast on](#) / [knit stitch](#) / [stocking stitch](#) / [2x2 rib](#) / [basic decreases](#) / [German short rows](#) /



UPPER BACK

Using 3.25mm needle and the long tail method, cast on 69 (71; 75; 77; 83) [83; 89; 91; 95] sts.

Place marker on cast on edge 18 (18; 19; 19; 20) [20; 21; 21; 23] sts in from each end. *Be sure to place marker on the actual cast on itself, not between sts on the needle – this marker will be used as a reference point later. Must be removable marker or scrap yarn.*

Row 1 (RS): knit

Row 2 (WS): purl

You will now work short rows to shape the back neck and shoulders. For a full explanation of how to work German Short Rows, see Abbreviations & Techniques.

Row 3a (RS): k 19 (19; 20; 20; 21) [21; 22; 22; 24], turn.

3b: S1, pull yarn, p 4 (4; 4; 4; 4) [4; 5; 5; 5], turn.

3c: S1, pull yarn, k 7 (7; 7; 7; 7) [7; 8; 8; 8], turn.

3d: S1, pull yarn, p 11 (11; 12; 12; 12) [12; 13; 13; 14], turn.

3e: S1, pull yarn, k 15 (15; 16; 16; 16) [16; 17; 17; 18], turn.

3f: S1, pull yarn, p 20 (20; 21; 21; 21) [21; 22; 22; 24], turn.

3g: S1, pull yarn, k 24 (24; 25; 26; 26) [27; 28; 28; 30], turn.

3h: S1, pull yarn, p 29 (29; 30; 31; 32) [33; 34; 34; 36] / to end.

Row 4 (RS): K across all sts.

Row 5a (WS): p 19 (19; 20; 20; 21) [21; 22; 22; 24], turn.

5b: S1, pull yarn, k 4 (4; 4; 4; 4) [4; 5; 5; 5], turn.

5c: S1, pull yarn, p 7 (7; 7; 7; 7) [7; 8; 8; 8], turn.

5d: S1, pull yarn, k 11 (11; 12; 12; 12) [12; 13; 13; 14], turn.

5e: S1, pull yarn, p 15 (15; 16; 16; 16) [16; 17; 17; 18],

turn.

5f: S1, pull yarn, k 20 (20; 21; 21; 21) [21; 22; 22; 24], turn.

5g: S1, pull yarn, p 24 (24; 25; 26; 26) [27; 28; 28; 30], turn.

5h: S1, pull yarn, k 29 (29; 30; 31; 32) [33; 34; 34; 36] / to end.

Beginning with a purl row, work in stocking stitch until work measures 6 (6; 5.5; 5.5; 5.5) [4.5; 4.5; 4; 4] inches / 15 (15; 14; 13; 13) [11; 12; 10; 10] cm from cast on, measured along armhole edge (important due to short rows).

This will be approximately 51 (51; 49; 45; 45) [37; 39; 33; 31] rows.

End with a purl row.

Write down the number of rows worked straight in this section here (should be an odd number).

Rows worked straight (A): _____

UNDERARM SHAPING

Inc row (RS): k1, KFB, k to last 3 sts, KFB, k2. 71 (73; 77; 79; 85) [85; 91; 93; 97] sts.

Next row (WS): purl.

Repeat last 2 rows a further 9 (12; 15; 20; 22) [28; 30; 35; 38] times, for a total of 10 (13; 16; 21; 23) [29; 31; 36; 39] inc rows. 89 (97; 107; 119; 129) [141; 151; 163; 173] sts. **##**

Break yarn and place sts on scrap yarn.

UPPER RIGHT FRONT

With RS facing, rejoin yarn at cast on edge of back. Pick up and k 18 (18; 19; 19; 20) [20; 21; 21; 23] sts from top right corner of fabric to marker on cast on edge. Remove this marker.

Row 1 (WS): purl

Row 2 (RS): knit

You will now work short rows to shape the right shoulder.

Row 3a (WS): P 5 (5; 5; 5; 5) [5; 6; 6; 6], turn.

3b: S1, pull yarn, k to end.

3c: P 9 (9; 10; 10; 10) [10; 11; 11; 12], turn.

3d: S1, pull yarn, k to end.

3e: P 13 (13; 14; 14; 15) [15; 16; 16; 17], turn.

3f: S1, pull yarn, k to end.

Work 3 rows in stocking stitch, beginning with a purl row.

You will now work increases to shape the front neck.

Inc row (RS): k to last 2 sts, m1L, k2. 19 (19; 20; 20; 21) [21; 22; 22; 24] sts.

Next row: purl.

Repeat last 2 rows a further 5 (6; 7; 7; 8) [8; 10; 11; 11] times, for a total of 6 (7; 8; 8; 9) [9; 11; 12; 12] inc rows. 24 (25; 27; 27; 29) [29; 32; 33; 35] sts.

Next row (RS): k to end, cast on 3 sts using backwards loop method. 27 (28; 30; 30; 32) [32; 35; 36; 38] sts.

Break yarn and place sts on holder / scrap yarn.

UPPER LEFT FRONT

With RS facing and beginning at remaining marker on cast on edge, pick up and knit 18 (18; 19; 19; 20) [20; 21; 21; 23] sts across left shoulder from marker to edge. Remove marker.

Row 1 (WS): purl.

You will now work short rows to shape the left shoulder.

Row 2a (RS): K 5 (5; 5; 5; 5) [5; 6; 6; 6], turn.

2b: S1, pull yarn, p to end.

2c: K 9 (9; 10; 10; 10) [10; 11; 11; 12], turn.

2d: S1, pull yarn, p to end.

2e: K 13 (13; 14; 14; 15) [15; 16; 16; 17], turn.

2f: S1, pull yarn, p to end.

Work 4 rows in stocking stitch, beginning with a knit row.

You will now work increases to shape the front neck.

Inc row (RS): k 2, m1R, k to end. 19 (19; 20; 20; 21) [21; 22; 22; 24] sts.

Next row: purl.

Repeat last 2 rows a further 5 (6; 7; 7; 8) [8; 10; 11; 11] times, for a total of 6 (7; 8; 8; 9) [9; 11; 12; 12] inc rows. 24 (25; 27; 27; 29) [29; 32; 33; 35] sts.

At end of final purl row, cast on 3 sts using backwards loop method. 27 (28; 30; 30; 32) [32; 35; 36; 38] sts.

Knit 1 row.

JOIN FRONTS

You will now join both fronts together.

Next row (WS): purl across left front sts, cast on 15 (15; 15; 17; 19) [19; 19; 19; 19] sts using backwards loop method, then place held right front sts on needle and purl across. 69 (71; 75; 77; 83) [83; 89; 91; 95] sts.

If you worked the recommended number of rows for the back, now work 38 (36; 32; 28; 26) [18; 16; 8; 6] rows in stocking stitch for the front.

If you worked a different number of rows for the back, calculate your front rows **(B)** as follows:

(A) - 13 (15; 17; 17; 19) [19; 23; 25; 25] = **(B):** _____

For example if you worked 47 rows on the back for a size 1, you would need to work 34 rows for the front.

UNDERARM SHAPING

Work underarm as for back from # to ##.

MAIN BODY

You will now join the front and back together to begin working the main body in the round.

Next round: k across 89 (97; 107; 119; 129) [141; 151; 163; 173] front sts,

Cast on 10 (16; 18; 20; 22) [24; 26; 28; 30] sts using the backwards loop method. **PM** after 3 (6; 7; 8; 9) [10; 11; 12; 13] of these sts.

Place 89 (97; 107; 119; 129) [141; 151; 163; 173] held back sts on needle and knit across.

Cast on 10 (16; 18; 20; 22) [24; 26; 28; 30] sts using the backwards loop method. **Place BOR M** after 3 (6; 7; 8; 9) [10; 11; 12; 13] of these sts.

198 (226; 250; 278; 302) [330; 354; 382; 406] sts.

Knit 1 round.

Body rounds 1 & 2: *p2, k2, k to M, SM, repeat from * once more.

Body rounds 3 & 4: *k2, p2, k to M, SM, repeat from * once more.

If you are not working bust darts, continue to repeat rounds 1-4 until work measures 10.5 inches / 27 cm from underarm, or 2 inches / 5 cm shorter than desired finished length, ending with round 3.

If you are working bust darts, repeat rounds 1-4 for approx 1.5" / 4cm, ending with round 3.

OPTIONAL BUST DARTS

You may wish to add bust darts at this point if you have a particularly full bust. I would only recommend using the bust darts if you are above a D cup as this top is not especially tight. Using the bust darts unnecessarily will give awkward excess fabric.

These short row bust darts will not add any width to the top, but will add length so that a fuller bust doesn't cause the hem to ride up. Approximately 1 (1; 1; 1; 1) [1.25; 1.25; 1.25; 1.25] inches / 2.5 (2.5; 2.5; 2.5; 2.5) [3; 3; 3; 3] cm of length will be added.

Row numbering begins from 1 again for this section.

Row 1 (RS): k2, p2, k 75 (85; 94; 105; 115) [126; 134; 144; 155], turn.

Row 2 (WS): s1, pull yarn, p 54 (60; 66; 74; 82) [90; 94; 100; 110], turn.

Row 3: s1, pull yarn, k to 4 (5; 6; 7; 7) [7; 7; 8; 8] past GSR stitch, turn.

Row 4: s1, pull yarn, p to 4 (5; 6; 7; 7) [7; 7; 8; 8] past GSR stitch, turn.

Row 5: s1, pull yarn, k to 4 (5; 6; 6; 7) [6; 7; 7; 8] past GSR stitch, turn.

Row 6: s1, pull yarn, p to 4 (5; 6; 6; 7) [6; 7; 7; 8] past GSR stitch, turn.

Row 7: s1, pull yarn, k to 4 (5; 5; 6; 7) [6; 7; 7; 7] past GSR stitch, turn.

Row 8: s1, pull yarn, p to k to 4 (5; 5; 6; 7) [6; 7; 7; 7] past GSR stitch, turn.

Row 9: s1, pull yarn, k to 4 (5; 5; 6; 6) [6; 6; 7; 7] past GSR stitch, turn.

Row 10: s1, pull yarn, p to 4 (5; 5; 6; 6) [6; 6; 7; 7] past GSR stitch, turn.

Row 11: s1, pull yarn, k to 4 (4; 5; 5; 5) [5; 6; 7; 7] past GSR stitch, turn.

Row 12: s1, pull yarn, p to 4 (4; 5; 5; 5) [5; 6; 7; 7] past GSR stitch, turn.

Sizes 6, 7, 8 & 9 only:

Row 11: s1, pull yarn, k to - (-; -; -; -) [5; 6; 7; 7] past GSR stitch, turn.

Row 12: s1, pull yarn, p to - (-; -; -; -) [5; 6; 7; 7] past GSR stitch, turn.

All sizes: s1, pull yarn, k to M, SM, k2, p2, k to end.

Continue to repeat **Body rounds 1-4** until work measures 10.5 inches / 27 cm from underarm, or 2 inches / 5 cm shorter than desired finished length, ending with round 3.

HEM

Change to 3mm needle.

Sizes 2, 3, 6 & 7 Next round: *k2, p2, k - (5 3 ; 59; -; -) [79; 85; -; -], k2tog, k to M, SM, repeat from * once more. - (224; 248; -; -) [328; 352; -; -] sts.

Sizes 1, 4, 5, 8 & 9 Next round: k2, p2, *k 22 (-; -; 32; 35) [-; -; 45; 48], k2tog, repeat from * once more, k2tog, k to M, SM, repeat from beginning of round once more. 192 (-; -; 272; 296) [-; -; 376; 400] sts.

All sizes: You will now work the rib hem.

Next round: [p2, k2] to end.

Repeat last round until rib measures 2 inches / 5 cm.

Cast off all sts **loosely** in rib (stitches should be almost double their usual size, not just a tiny bit looser). If you struggle to maintain an even tension when casting off loosely, you may find it easier to use a larger needle.

ARMHOLE PICK UP

Note: when picking up around the armholes, it is more important to pick up the correct **ratio** of stitches than it is to pick up a specific number. If you worked a different number of straight rows than specified, then 4 sts in every 5 rows may give you a different total. Ensure you follow this **4 in 5 ratio**.

With 3mm needle and beginning at centre of underarm, pick up and knit:

5 (8; 9; 10; 11) [12; 13; 14; 15] sts in underarm cast on (1 in every st), **PM**,

62 (67; 70; 75; 78) [81; 86; 89; 93] sts up to shoulder seam (approx. 4 sts in every 5 rows)

62 (67; 70; 75; 78) [81; 86; 89; 93] sts down to underarm cast on (again approx. 4 in 5), **PM**,

5 (8; 9; 10; 11) [12; 13; 14; 15] sts in underarm cast on.

134 (150; 158; 170; 178) [186; 198; 206; 216] sts.

Note: the 2 markers placed should be at either side of the underarm cast on. You will be working back and forth, not in the round, so there is no need to place a BOR marker.

BEGIN DOUBLE KNITTING

Using the cable method, cast on 6 sts onto **left** needle tip.

Setup row: [k1, cast on 1 st onto **right** needle tip using backwards loop method] x5, k2togtbl.

You should now have 11 sts on your right needle tip. You will work back and forth across these 11 sts **only** (never around the whole armhole in rounds).

Each pair of rows will 'use up' 1 of your picked up sts. You will always be working perpendicular to the armhole opening.

Turn work so you have the WS facing for the next row.

Size 1 only: work double knitting WS row as below, then proceed to Curve Armhole Edging.

Sizes 2-9: begin to work in double knitting as below:

Double knitting WS row: [s1wyif, k1] to last st, s1wyif.

Double knitting RS row: [k1, s1wyif] x 5, k2togtbl, turn.

These 2 rows establish double knitting.

Continue to work in double knitting until 4 sts remain 'unused' before marker. End with a WS row.

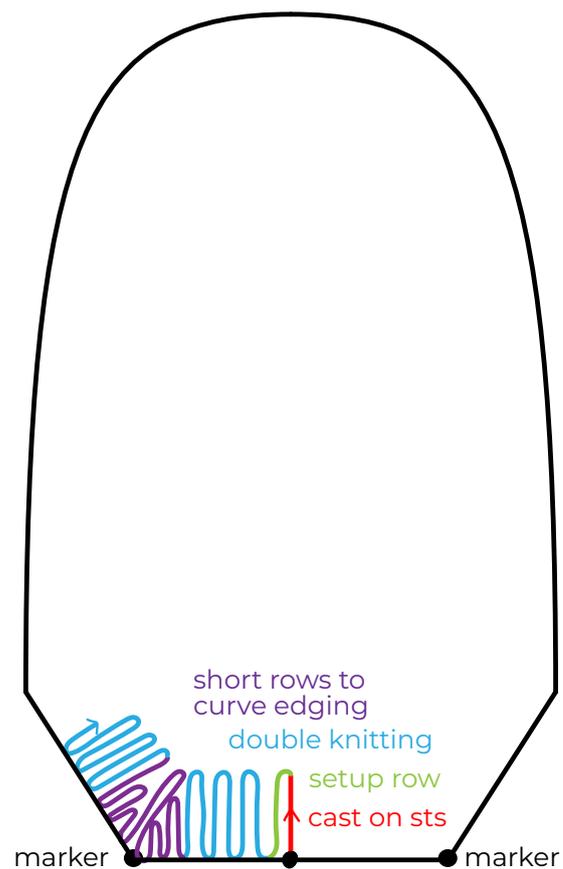


Diagram above shows how the double knit edging is worked around the armhole opening, and how the short rows curve the edging. Diagram is for illustrative purposes only, not to show specific number of rows.

CURVE ARMHOLE EDGING

You will now work short rows to curve the edging around the armhole. Note that when you encounter a GSR double stitch, you will need to either slip or knit both legs of the double stitch **together**.

Work 1 regular double knitting RS row.

Next row (begin WS): [s1wyif, k1] x4, p1, turn.

S1, pull yarn, [s1wyif, k1] x3, s1wyif, k2togtbl, turn.

[s1wyif, k1] x2, p1, turn.

S1, pull yarn, [s1wyif, k1] x1, s1wyif, k2togtbl, turn.

You should now have 1 remaining unused stitch before marker.

Work regular 1 WS then RS row. Remove marker.

Work another WS then RS row.

Next row (begin WS): [s1wyif, k1] x2, p1, turn.

S1, pull yarn, [s1wyif, k1] x1, s1wyif, k2togtbl, turn.

[s1wyif, k1] x4, p1, turn.

S1, pull yarn, [s1wyif, k1] x3, s1wyif, k2togtbl, turn. **##**

MAIN ARMHOLE EDGING

Continue to work in double knitting until 4 sts remain 'unused' before next marker. End with a WS row.

Repeat curve armhole edging from # to ##.

Continue to work in double knitting until 1 st remains unused, ending with a WS row. Size 1 will already have only 1 st remaining at this point.

You will now cast off all sts in double knitting as follows.

Next row (RS): SSK x2, pass first st over second (like a regular cast off). *SSK, pass another st over, repeat from * until 2 sts remain on left needle tip. K2togtbl, pass final st over.

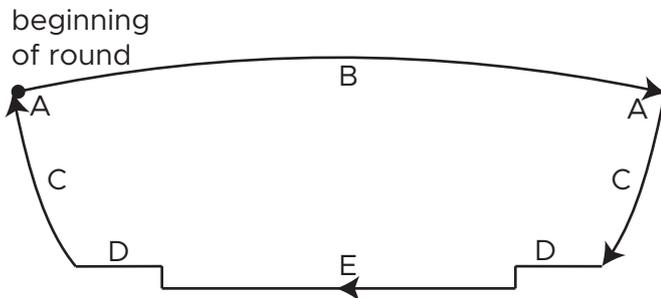
Fasten off, leaving yarn tail quite long.

Using yarn tail, sew start and end of double knit edgings together with mattress stitch.



NECKBAND

With RS facing, 3mm needle and beginning at right shoulder seam, pick up and knit 96 (100; 104; 108; 120) [120; 128; 136; 136] sts around neck opening. See diagram / table for a clearer description of how many sts to pick up in each section.



Work in [k2, p2] rib for 2.75 inches / 7 cm, or to desired finished length.

Cast off all sts **loosely** in rib (stitches should be almost double their usual size, not just a tiny bit looser). If you struggle to maintain an even tension when casting off loosely, you may find it easier to use a larger needle.



FINISHING

Weave in all ends and block, laying flat to dry.

Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A: in shoulder seam	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
B: across back neck	33	35	37	39	43	43	47	49	49
C: between shoulder and cast on 'step'	20	21	22	22	25	25	27	30	30
D: in cast on 'step'	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
E: across centre front	15	15	15	17	19	19	19	19	19
Total	96	100	104	108	120	120	128	136	136

HAPPY KNITTING!

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