



Pelica

by Rosa Pomar

The inspiration for this design came from two traditional garments I have long admired: The Portuguese *samarra* or *pelica*, the sheepskin vest worn by shepherds in the Alentejo, and the Austrian boiled wool *lodenweste*. The brass buttons were typical of the Portuguese *samarra* and were often upcycled from military uniforms.

CONSTRUCTION

This vest is knitted from the top down using the first steps of Julie Weisenberger's *Cocoknits* method: First, stitches are cast on for the back neck and increases are made to create the upper back and shoulder lines. Next, stitches are picked up from the sides of the upper back to create the right and left shoulders and upper part of the front. Stitches are added at the underarms (for the larger sizes) and the rest of the body is worked back and forth in one piece. An i-cord edge is worked at both ends of all rows.

SIZES

1 (2, 3, 4) (5, 6, 7, 8).

Recommended ease: 5 to 10cm | 2 to 4 in of positive ease at the bust and/or 2cm | 0.8in of positive ease at the shoulder. For a perfect fit, consider using the shoulder to shoulder measure as a reference, as well as the chest circumference.

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Chest circumference: 91.3 (93.6, 100.2, 112.4) (120.2, 131.3, 141.3, 151.3) cm | 35.9 (36.9, 39, 45.2) (48.2, 52.6, 56.5, 60.5) in

Shoulder to shoulder: 35.6 (36.7, 38.9, 40) (42.2, 43.3, 44.4, 46.7) cm | 14 (14.5, 15.3, 15.8) (16.6, 17.1, 17.5, 18.4) in

Length from neckline to back hem:

Short version: 44.2 (45.3, 45.8, 48.9) (49.5, 51.6, 52.6, 54.7) cm | 17.4 (17.8, 18, 19.3) (19.5, 20.3, 20.7, 21.5) in

Long version: 52.1 (53.2, 53.7, 57.4) (57.9, 60.5, 61.6, 64.2) cm | 20.5 (20.9, 21.1, 22.6) (22.8, 23.8, 24.3, 25.3) in

MATERIALS

Yarn

Short version: 4 (4, 5, 6) (6, 7, 7, 8) skeins of Rosa Pomar Brusca (100% Saloia and Portuguese Merino wool, 125m | 136yd, 50g) or approx. 459 (475, 524, 638) (680, 760, 808, 884) m | 502 (520, 574, 698) (744, 832, 884, 967) yd of a 100% wool, woolen spun, similar yarn.

Long version: 5 (6, 6, 7) (8, 8, 9, 10) skeins of Rosa Pomar Brusca (100% Saloia and Portuguese Merino wool, 125m | 136yd, 50g) or approx. 606 (626, 683, 828) (886, 994, 1058, 1165) m | 663 (685, 747, 906) (969, 1088, 1158, 1275) yd of a 100% wool, woolen spun, similar yarn.

Needles (suggested sizes): Please swatch and adjust sizes to match gauge: 4.5mm | US 7 circular needles.

Notions: Stitch markers, tapestry needle, spare cables or waste yarn, 4 (short version) or 5 (long version) 15 to 20mm buttons and 4 (5) small buttons for securing the main buttons safely in place (optional).

GAUGE

18 sts x 38 rows to 10 cm | 4in in garter stitch

To achieve the perfect texture, your garment should be washed in warm water and very slightly felted after it's finished. Knit a swatch and wash it in warm water with wool detergent to test.

NOTES

Increases are always worked at the beginning of the row only instead of at both ends of the same row.

Because the right side and the wrong side look almost the same, it is useful to mark the right side of the work with a removable stitch-marker.

CAST-ON

Provisional cast-on: with scrap yarn, cast-on 26 (28, 30, 30) (32, 34, 34, 36) sts using a long tail cast-on method.

Row 1 (Wrong Side): With working yarn, knit all sts.

Row 2: knit to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Start working i-cord edges and shoulder increases:

Row 3 (increase row): k 2 sts, kfb, Knit to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif (one st increased).

Repeat Row 3 until you have a total of 64 (66, 70, 72) (76, 78, 80, 84) sts on your needle.

Work a total of 32 (36, 36, 34) (34, 34, 36, 36) rows [16 (18, 18, 17) (17, 17, 18, 18) ridges] in garter stitch with i-cord edges (k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif).

Shape the armhole with one increase on every row as follows:

Next row (increase row): k 2 sts, kfb, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif (one st increased).

Work this row a total of 16 (16, 18, 24) (28, 32, 36, 38) times, ending with a right side row. 80 (82, 88, 96) (104, 110, 116, 122) sts in total.

Next, work one more row (wrong side row) of garter stitch with i-cord edges.

The upper back is now finished. Break yarn (leaving a tail that is at least 10cm or 4in long) and place all sts on a spare cable or waste yarn.

RIGHT FRONT

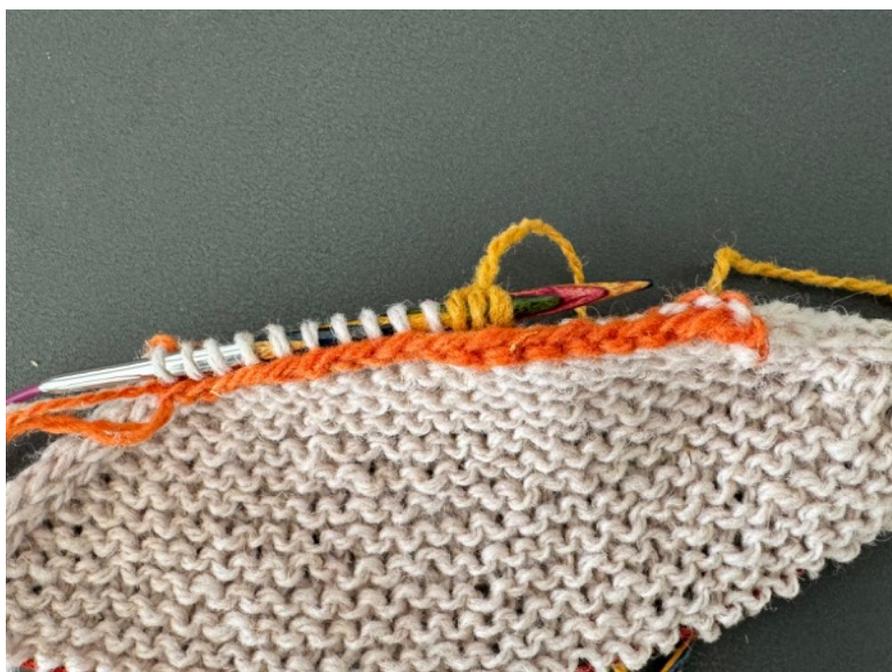


01: *pick-up the sts from the right side of the cast-on (right side of the work)*

For the right front, you will start by knitting an i-cord along the right half of the back neck cast-on sts.

Set-up:

Mark the center of the back neck cast-on with a stitch marker. With circular needle, and facing the right side of the work, pick-up the sts from the right side of the cast-on (right side of the back neck) by slipping them onto the needle (image 01). Remove scrap yarn from the picked-up sts.



02: *Cast-on 3 sts on the left hand needle for the base of the i-cord (WS, still with scrap yarn)*

Facing the wrong side of the work, hold needle so that the tip of the left-hand needle is at the center of the cast on (image 01).

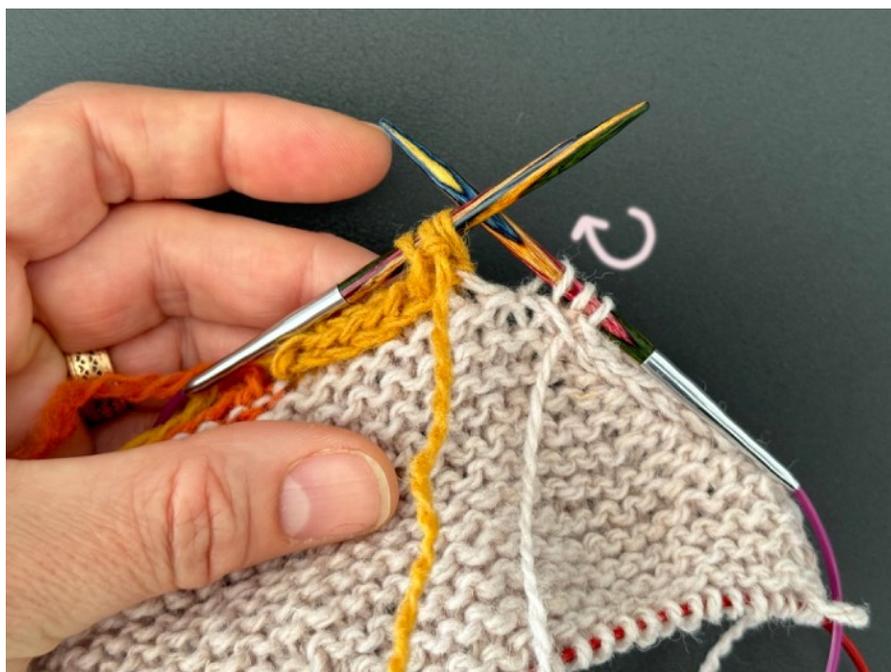
Cast-on 3 sts on the left hand needle for the base of the i-cord (image 02). Knit these 3 sts and slip them back to the left hand needle wyib.

Start working applied i-cord:

Applied i-cord row: still facing the wrong-side of the work, knit 2 i-cord sts, ssk (last i-cord st and first cast-on st). Slip i-cord sts back to the left hand needle wyib.

Repeat this row until you have 3 sts remaining on the left hand needle and the three i-cord sts on the right-hand needle (photo shows the right side of the work).

Next, carefully drop the 3 last sts on the left hand needle (the i-cord sts from the right shoulder line) and pick them up again in reverse order, making sure the i-cord rotates clockwise (image 03).



03: i-cord sts from the right shoulder line before being rotated (RS view but i-cord is worked on the wrong side)

Continue working applied i-cord row until only the 3 sts on the right-hand needle remain.

Now, with the 3 i-cord sts on your right-hand needle, facing the wrong side of the work, and starting at the neck, pick-up and purl 18 (18, 19, 20) (21, 21, 22, 23) sts (see photo) along the right shoulder i-cord edge (pick-up one stitch from each i-cord row, slipping the needle into the right half of the first i-cord st) (image 04) . Pick up 3 more sts for the armhole edge i-cord. 24 (24, 25, 26) (27, 27, 28, 29) sts in total.



04: *pick-up and purl sts along the right shoulder i-cord edge (WS).*

Start working the right front panel:

Set-up row (right side row): knit to 3 sts before end, slip 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Next row: k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Work 19 (21, 21, 19) (19, 19, 19, 19) more rows of garter st with i-cord edges, ending with a right side row.

Start working neckline increases:

Wrong side row: k 2 sts, kfb, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif (one st increased).

Right side row: k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

TIP: To make counting the increases easier, place a marker on your needle after the first increase. When you reach 21 (22, 22, 26) (26, 28, 28, 29) sts between the i-cord and the marker (note that the number of increases is the same as the number of repetitions) you have finished the increases. Use this technique for all the increase sections.

Work these two rows a total of 21 (22, 22, 26) (26, 28, 28, 29) times (42 (44, 44, 52) (52, 56, 56, 58) rows in total). 45 (46, 47, 52) (53, 55, 56, 58) sts in total.

Next, work 2 (2, 4, 4) (6, 2, 6, 6) rows of garter st with i-cord edges. Your last row will be a right side row.

Next, work the first buttonhole row as follows:

Buttonhole row: K 4 sts, ssk, m2 (use backwards loop increase method), k 2 sts tog, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Next, work 7 (7, 7, 1) (1, 1, 1, 1) rows of garter st with i-cord edges, ending with a right side row.

Start working armhole increases:

Wrong side row: k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Right side row: k 2 sts, kfb, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif (one st increased).

Work these two rows a total of 8 (8, 9, 12) (14, 16, 16, 17) times (16 (16, 18, 24) (28, 32, 32, 34) rows in total), ending with a right side row. 53 (54, 56, 64) (67, 71, 72, 75) sts in total.

SIZES 1 - 5 ONLY

Next row (wrong side row), work one more row of garter stitch with i-cord edges.

SIZE 6 - 8 ONLY

Next row (wrong side row): work a buttonhole row (second buttonhole).

SIZES 7 - 8 ONLY

Next row (increase row and right side row): k 2 sts, kfb, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif (one st increased). - (-, -, -) (-, -, 73, 76) sts in total.

Continue working armhole increases:

Next row (wrong side row): k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Next row (right side row): k 2 sts, kfb, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif (one st increased). - (-, -, -) (-, -, 74, 77) sts in total.

Next, work one more row (wrong side row) of garter stitch with i-cord edges.

ALL SIZES

Break yarn (leaving a tail that is at least 10cm or 4 in long) and place all sts on a spare cable or waste yarn.

LEFT FRONT

Start by knitting an i-cord along the left half of the back neck cast-on sts:

Set-up:



05: *pull needle so that the tip of the left-hand needle is at the center of the cast on (RS)*

Facing the right-side of the work, pick-up the sts from the left side of the cast-on (left side of the back neck) by slipping them onto the needle. Remove scrap yarn from the picked-up sts and pull needle so that the tip of the left-hand needle is at the center of the cast on (image 05).

Next, with circular needle, and facing the right side of the work, pick-up and knit three sts from the base of the i-cord that runs along the right side of the back neck. Slip these sts onto the left-hand needle (image 06).



06: *i-cord sts (RS, still with scrap yarn)*



07: Repeat i-cord row until no sts remain on the left-hand needle (RS)

Start working applied i-cord:

Applied i-cord row: knit 2 i-cord sts, ssk (last i-cord st and first cast-on st). Slip i-cord sts back to the left hand needle wyib.

Repeat this row until no sts remain on the left-hand needle (image 07).

Next, pick-up and knit 18 (18, 19, 20) (21, 21, 22, 23) sts along the left shoulder i-cord edge (pick-up one stitch from each i-cord row, slipping the needle into the right half of the first i-cord st) (images 08 and 09).

Pick up 3 more sts for the armhole edge i-cord. 24 (24, 25, 26) (27, 27, 28, 29) sts in total.

Start working the left front panel:

First row (wrong side row): knit to 3 sts before end, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

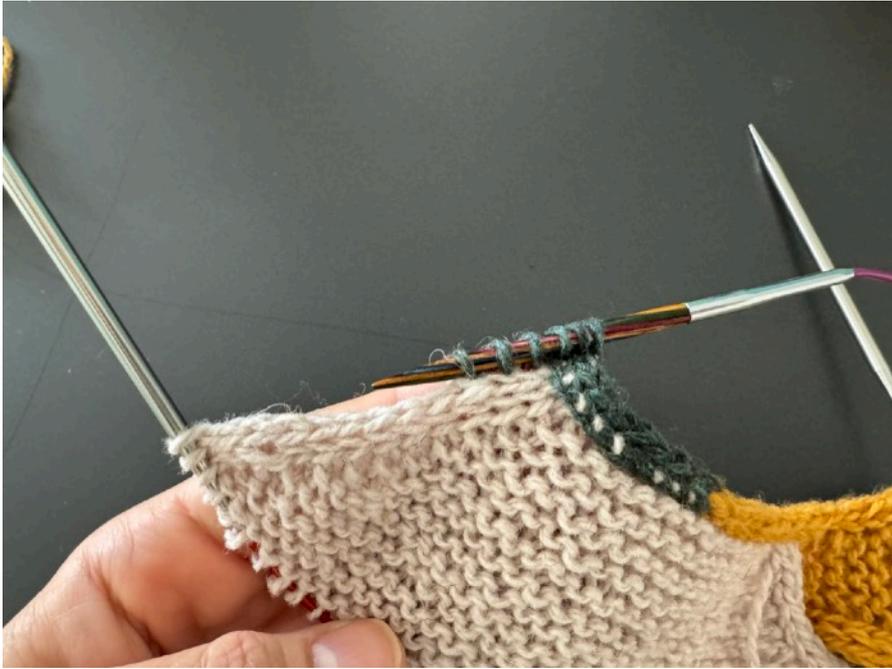
Work 20 (22, 22, 20) (20, 20, 20, 20) more rows of garter st with i-cord edges, ending with a wrong side row.

Start working neckline increases:

Right side row: k 2 sts, kfb, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif (one st increased).

Wrong side row: k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Work these two rows a total of 21 (22, 22, 26) (26, 28, 28, 29) times. (42 (44, 44, 52) (52, 56, 56, 58) rows in total). 45 (46, 47, 52) (53, 55, 56, 58) sts in total.



08: *pick-up and knit sts along the left shoulder i-cord edge (RS)*



09: *pick-up and knit sts along the left shoulder i-cord edge (WS)*

Next, work 10 (10, 12, 6) (8, 4, 8, 8) rows of garter st with i-cord edges, ending with a wrong side row.

Start working armhole increases:

Right side row: k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Wrong side row: k 2 sts, kfb, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif (one st increased).

Work these two rows a total of 8 (8, 9, 12) (14, 16, 18, 19) times (16 (16, 18, 24) (28, 32, 36, 38) rows in total). 53 (54, 56, 64) (67, 71, 74, 77) sts in total.

Don't break yarn.

JOINING FRONT AND BACK

Place right front sts, back sts and left front sts on a circular needle. Your first row will be a right side row and you can work with the yarn from the Left front panel.

First row: k to last 3 sts of Left front panel. Next, you need to rotate the i-cord sts counterclockwise: to do this, carefully drop the 3 last sts from the Left front panel (the i-cord sts) and pick them up again in reverse order. Knit these 3 sts and cast-on 0 (0, 0, 0) (2, 5, 8, 11) gusset sts. K to last 3 sts of Back section and rotate the 3 last sts (the i-cord sts) counterclockwise. Knit these 3 sts and cast-on 0 (0, 0, 0) (2, 5, 8, 11) gusset sts. K to last 3 sts. Sl 3 sts purlwise wyif. 186 (190, 200, 224) (242, 262, 280, 298) sts in total.

SIZE 5 ONLY

Next row (wrong side row): Second buttonhole row: K 4 sts, ssk, m2, k 2 sts tog, k to the i-cord sts at the base of the first armhole, p the 3 i-cord sts, p the 0 (0, 0, 0) (2, 5, 8, 11) gusset sts, p the 3 i-cord sts, k to the i-cord sts at the base of the next armhole, p the 3 i-cord sts, p the 0 (0, 0, 0) (2, 5, 8, 11) gusset sts, p the 3 i-cord sts, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Sizes 1 - 4 and 6 - 8

Next row (wrong side row): k to the i-cord sts at the base of the first armhole, p the 3 i-cord sts, p the 0 (0, 0, 0) (2, 5, 8, 11) gusset sts, p the 3 i-cord sts, k to the i-cord sts at the base of the next armhole, p the 3 i-cord sts, p the 0 (0, 0, 0) (2, 5, 8, 11) gusset sts, p the 3 i-cord sts, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

ALL SIZES

Next row (right side row): k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Starting with a wrong side row, work 2 (2, 0, 2) (30, 30, 26, 28) rows of garter st with i-cord edges.

Next row (wrong side row): work a buttonhole row: K 4 sts, ssk, m2, k 2 sts tog, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif.

Starting with a right side row, work 29 (29, 29, 31) (31, 33, 33, 35) rows of garter st with i-cord edges.

Next row (wrong side row): work a buttonhole row.

ONLY SIZES 1 - 4

Work 29 (29, 29, 31) (-, -, -, -) rows of garter st with i-cord edges.

Next row (wrong side row): work a buttonhole row (fourth buttonhole).

ALL SIZES**ONLY LONG VERSION**

Work 29 (29, 29, 31) (31, 33, 33, 35) rows of garter st with i-cord edges.

Next row (wrong side row): work a buttonhole row (fifth buttonhole).

SHORT AND LONG VERSIONS

Work 3 rows of garter st with i-cord edges.

Start working decreases:

Next row: k 2 sts, ssk, k to last 3 sts, sl 3 sts purlwise wyif (one st decreased).

Repeat this row until 10 (10, 10, 10) (10, 12, 12, 12) sts have been decreased (half on each side). 176 (180, 190, 218) (232, 250, 268, 286) sts in total.

Work one last wrong side row of garter st with i-cord edges.

Cast-off with applied i-cord:

Knit 2 i-cord sts, ssk. Slip i-cord sts back to the left hand needle wyib.

Repeat this row until you have 3 sts remaining on the left hand needle and the three i-cord sts on the right-hand needle.

Carefully graft the 6 remaining stitches together using kitchener stitch.

FINISHING

Weave in ends with tapestry needle. Soak in warm water and wool wash. Wash gently, rinse and remove excess water without wringing. Lay flat for drying and block to size. Sew buttons in place.

ABBREVIATIONS

bef - before

CO - Cast on

k - knit

Kfb - increase one by knitting the stitch through the front and then back of the loop.

m2 - make two. Increase 2 sts using backwards loop method (or this alternative technique). Used for buttonholes and gussets.

p - purl

RS - right side of the work

sl - slip (purlwise wyif unless stated)

ssk - slip, slip, knit (work a left leaning decrease)

st(s) - stitch(es)

tog - together

WS - wrong side of the work

wyib - with yarn in the back of the work

wyif - with yarn in the front of the work

Tag your project with #pelicavest

Pattern page on Ravelry: <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/pelica>

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Thank you Inês, Sónia, Nelson and Débora. Photo by [Ágata Xavier](#) at [Cortiço & Netos](#).