

# The stars of Barbro



Barbro's Stars is inspired by my great grandmother, textile artist Barbro Nilsson, and this knitted sweater is my tribute to her. The pattern of Barbro's Stars is an interpretation of a series of tapestries which Barbro designed for Sydsvenska Kraft AB in 1966.

With Barbro being close family, I grew up with her patterns, colours and designs. A sample of the fabric that this particular sweater is inspired by hung over my bed when I was a child. I remember finding it both enchanting and a little frightening; Among the beautiful stars, the Brook horse (from Scandinavian folklore) was illustrated in the background, and I always felt as if it was watching me. The Brook horse didn't make it onto the sweater, only the stars.

The sweater is knitted from the top down. After the two-coloured part, short rows are made to raise the back to make a good fit, then the work is divided for body and sleeves. The body and sleeves are cast off with an i-cord. The sweater has a low neckline and a loose fit.

## Size:

A(B)C(D)E(F)G = Bust circumference:  
84(90)100(108)114(124)132 cm (33,1  
(35,4)39,4(42,5)44,9 (48,8) 52 ")

These measurements indicate the finished size.  
The sweater is designed to be worn with 5-10cm  
(2-4") of positive ease.

Please note that some yarns stretch after washing and blocking. To be sure of how much your sweater will stretch in washing, make a 10x10cm (4x4") swatch and soak up to see how much bigger the sweater will be.



The Yellow sweater is size E, 115cm and is shown on me with a bust circumference of 110cm. The blue sweater is knitted in size D, 108 cm and is shown on Yasmina with a bust circumference of 85cm.

**Gauge:** 20 sts and 26 rnds = 10cm (4") with 4 mm (US 6) needles

Take time to check the gauge. Even small changes in the gauge can make a big difference in size. Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

## Material:

### Yarn:

Alt 1: Tant koftas strikkegarn (shown in the picture) or other wool yarn 220-250m - 100g.

Alt 2: Plötulopi or other similar unspun yarn.

### Alternative 1:

**Tant koftas strikkegarn** (or a similar yarn 200-250m-100g)

Color A: Vit (White) ca 70 (70) 70 (70) 100 (100) 100g  
Color B: Djup sjö (deap sea) ca 350 (370) 390 (400) 450 (480) 500g

### Alternative 2:

**Plötulopi** (or a similar unspun yarn 300 m 100g).

Colour A: ca 70 (70) 70 (70) 100 (100) 100g  
Colour B: ca 200 (225) 240 (250) 270 (280) 300 g

## Needles:

Circular needle 3,5 mm and 4 mm (US 4 and 6) in a length that fits your size. I work with the magic loop method which make it possible to knit the whole

work using the same cable-length. There are many videos on the internet that show this method.

5 markers. (*tip: you do not need anything fancy, I tie small loops of scrap yarn*)

**Abbreviations:**

- k** knit
- p** purl
- St(s)** stitch(es)
- rnd(s)** round(s)
- RS:** right side

**WS:** wrong side

**Inc:** Increase

**W&t** Wrap and turn

**ssk** Slip 1 stitch knitwise, slip 1 stitch knitwise, knit the 2 slipped stitches together through the back loop.

**sl** slip one stitch

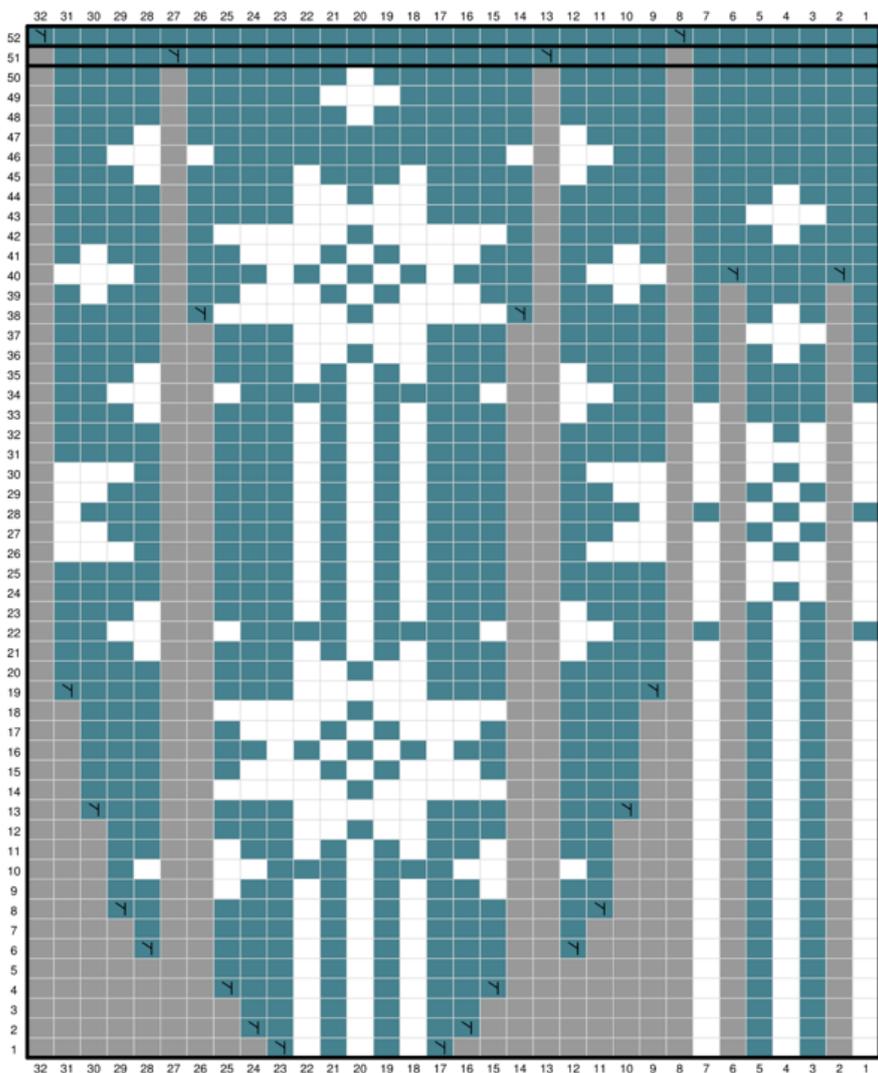
**k2tog** knit 2 stitches together knitwise through front loops

**\*\*** repeat what's between \*-\*

**Charts:**

**Chart 1:**

Repeat 10(10)10(10)12(12)12 times.

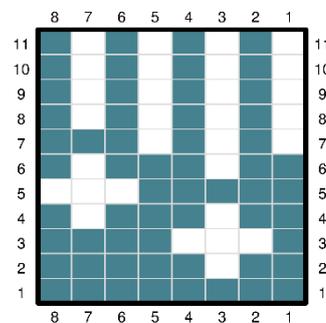


← End size C, F  
 ← End size A, B, E  
 ← Size A skips the increases here.

**Symbol explanation:**

- Color B
- Color B
- Increase 1 in color B
- No stitch

**Chart 2:**





### Neckline:

With colour A and using smaller circular needle, cast on 90 (90) 90 (90) 100 (110) 110 sts. Place marker and join to work in the round. K 4 rnd. On next rnd knit and increase 10 (10) 10 (10) 20 (10) 10 sts as follows:

\*K 9 (9) 9 (9) 5 (11) 11 sts inc 1\* repeat \*-\* the round out. Now you have 100 (100) 100 (100) 120 (120) 120 sts. I make the increase by lifting the loop between the stitches with the left needle and knitting it through the back loop.

*The sweater has a low neckline. If you prefer a higher neckline, you can easily adjust this by cast on fewer stitches at the beginning. Cast on as many stitches as you prefer and increase evenly on the last rnd to 100 (100) 100 (100) 120 (120) 120 sts before you start knitting according to the chart.*

### Yoke:

Switch to larger needle and knit chart 1. The chart is repeated 10(10)10(10) 12 (12) 12 times on the width. Please note that there are increases already on the first rnd. I make the increases by lifting the loop between the stitches with left needle and knitting it through the back loop. Knit until rnd 50 (50)51(52)50(51)52 is completed. **Size A** makes **no increases** on rnd 40. You now have, 260 (280) 300 (320) 336 (360) 384 sts. From now on the body is worked with only colour B.

*There will be some long floats when you knit the chart. Trap the float by twisting the yarn behind the work if the float is longer than 4 sts. Try to vary where you make the trap on the next row. If the "traps" are made directly over each other there is a risk that the colour will be visible through the work.*

### Place markers:

On the next row place markers as follows: Remove the marker at the beginning of rnd, knit 3 (4) 4( 4) 4 (4) 4 sts and place a new marker. This is now where the rnd begins. Knit 38 (41) 45 (48) 51 (55) 59 sts (back), place marker. Knit 53 (57) 59 (63) 65 (69) 73 sts (left sleeve), place marker. Knit 77 (83) 91 (97) 103 (111) 119 sts (front), place marker. Knit 53 (57) 59 (63) 65 (69) 73 sts (right sleeve), place marker. Knit 39 (42) 46 (49) 52 (56) 60 sts (back), to the start of the rnd.

### Short-rows:

You will now make short-rows to make the back of the sweater longer than the front to make the fit better. There are some different methods to make short rows. I prefer the wrap and turn (see description below) but you can use any short-row method you prefer. If you find the w&t hard to see on the next row you can put a marker on them.

### Wrap and turn (W&t):

From RS: slip 1 st purl-wise, place yarn in front of work, slip st back on to the left needle, turn and work the row back.

From WS: Place yarn in back of work, slip 1 st purl-wise, place yarn in front of work, slip st back on left needle, turn and work the row back.

When working next row and getting to the wrapped st: work wrap and stitch together as one stitch.

**Make the short-rows as followed:**

Row 1. From RS. Knit over back and left sleeve, knit 4 sts on front, w&t.

Row 2: From WS. Purl to marker at beginning of row, continue to purl over back and right sleeve. purl 4 sts on front, w&t.

Row 3: From RS: knit to w&t, work wrap and stitch together as one stitch, knit 4 sts, w&t.

Row 4: From WS: purl to w&t, work wrap and stitch together as one purld stitch, purl 4sts, w&t.

Row 5: Same as row 3.

Row 6: Same as row 4.

Row 7: From RS: knit to start of the row.

Row 8: From RS: knit 1 rnd and work wrap and stitch together as one stitch for the last 2 w&t.

Work in stockinette stitch until the work measures 20,5 (21) 21,5 (21,5) 22 (23) 23,5cm (8,1 (8,3) 8,5 (8,5) 8,7 (9) 9,2"). measured from the center of the front. Try on to make sure the fit feels right for you before you go on to separating body and sleeves.

**Separate body and sleeves:**

Slip the beginning of the row marker and knit to the next marker. Transfer next 53 (57) 59 (63)65 (69) 73 sts to stitch holder or waste yarn (left sleeve). Cast on 7 (7) 9 (11) 11 (13) 13 new sts under the sleeve. Knit over the front sts to the next marker. Transfer next 53 (57) 59 (63) 65 (69) 73 sts to stitch holder or waste yarn (right sleeve). Cast on 7 (7) 9 (11) 11 (13) 13 new sts under the sleeve. Knit to beginning of the rnd marker. Now you have 168 (180) 200 (216) 228 (248) 264 sts on the needle for making the body.

**Body:**

Work in stockinette stitch until the work measure 30 cm (11,8") measured from the new stiches under the sleeves, or 5cm (2") shorter than your preferred finished length of the sweeter. Change to the smaller needle. Knit twisted rib \*k 1 through the back loop, p1\* for 4,5cm (1,8") bind off with an i-cord as described below.

**I-cord:**

Cast on 3 new sts on right needle, move the new sts to left needle whit the yarn held behind the work. \*Knit 2, ssk, put the 3 sts you just knitted back to right needle\* repeat \*-\* until there are no live stiches remaining on the left needle and 3 live stiches remaining on the right needle. Bind off the 3 remaining sts in the method of your preference. If you find the i-cord difficult there are a lot of good instruction videos on the internet.

**Sleeves:**

Start in the middle of the armhole using the larger needles and pick up 3 (3) 4 (5)5(6)6 sts, + 1 extra sts in the joint between sleeve and bodyin. Transfer 53 (57) 59 (63) 65 (69) 73 sleeve sts from stitch holder to the same needle. Pick up 1 sts in the joint between sleeve and bodyin and the last 4 (4) 5

(6) 6 (7) 7 from under the arm on the same needle. Place a marker for beginning of the round. You now have a total of 62 (66) 70 (76) 78 (84) 88 sts on the needle.

Work in stockinette stitch 15 rnds.

On the next rnd decrease as followed:

Slip the marker, K1, k2tog., knit until 2 sts before the marker, ssk.

Make these decreases on every 14 (11) 9 (7) 9 (7) 6th rnd , a total of 7 ( 9) 11 (14) 11 (14) 16 times until the total amount of sts on the sleeve is 48 (48) 48 (48) 56 (56) 56. Continue to work in stockinette stitch until the sleeve is 4 cm (1,6") shorter than your preferred finished length of the sleeve. On the next row start knitting the pattern from chart 2. When the chart is completed, change to smaller needle and k one row whit only colour A. Bind of with i-cord (same as described for the body) in colour A.

Make the next sleeve in the same way.

### **Finishing:**

Sew the i-cords together in the joint. Weave in all ends and block as desired.

I hope you will like the pattern and your finished sweater. If you have any questions or have found something in the pattern that is wrong, contact me by email [Maja.aakerstrom@gmail.com](mailto:Maja.aakerstrom@gmail.com) or on ravelry, Majaakerstrom. this is my first pattern translated into english so any feedback on the language is very welcome.

Feel free to use the hashtags #barbrosstjarnor or #thestarsofbarbro or tag my Instagram @maja\_åkerström on social media so I can see how your sweater turned out.

### **Thanks to:**

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