The Unicorn Tapestry Cardigan

WORKFLOW

This cardigan is knit flat, beginning with the back panel with short row shoulder shaping. The colorwork on the center back is worked flat from a color chart. The front panels of the cardigan are picked up along the shoulder and knit flat separately. The sides are seamed together joining the front and back, and the sleeves are then picked up and worked in the round, with optional colorwork at the sleeves. The folded collar and double-knit button band are added at the end, along with the optional duplicate stitch flower crest and the red and blue accent flowers in the unicorn chart.

GAUGE: 20 st, 26 rows = 4" (10.16 cm) on US 5 (3.75 mm) needles in stockinette, after blocking. **Tips**:

1. Stitch gauge *and* row gauge are important for this pattern-- if your row gauge has too few rows per 4", your unicorn will look vertically stretched and too skinny!

2. Use the chart to your right for your colorwork swatch, using the colorwork technique you'll use for the main chart. Take a photo of the swatch and convert it to black & white to ensure there's enough contrast to see the details, and wash it to ensure the yarn colors won't bleed!

3. You may also want to swatch in plain stockinette, as some people's tension differs with colorwork. If that's the case, you can change needle sizes while working the colorwork to maintain an even tension.

4. You can use your swatch as a patch pocket! See the Patch Pocket section at the end for an example and more info.
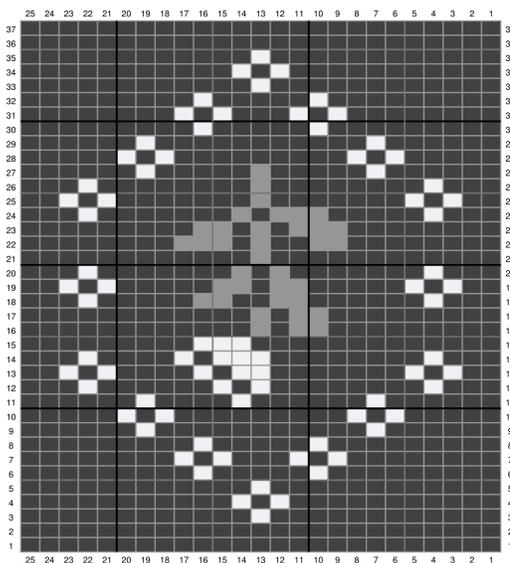
SUGGESTED NEEDLES & TOOLS:

- US 5 (3.75 mm) circular needles (or whatever needle size achieves gauge), with a 32"+ / 80cm cable; for knitting body flat, and knitting sleeves in the round with magic loop or traveling loop technique
- US 3 (3.25 mm) circular needles with with a 32"+ / 80cm cable; for ribbed hems on body and sleeves
- 2 locking stitch markers, tapestry needle for weaving ends
- 5-9 buttons; sample uses seven 5/8" (16 mm) metal shank buttons (these are the ones I used)

YARN: Cascade 220 Sport (100% Peruvian highland wool; 50g / 150m / 164 yds per skein). If substituting, I recommend a **non-superwash wool DK weight yarn**. Yarn estimates for sizes [1; 2; 3] (4; 5; 6) [7; 8; 9]:

Cardigan base (8393 Navy): [300; 325; 350] (395; 440; 490) [545; 585; 620] grams / [985; 1070; 1155] (1290; 1445; 1615) [1795; 1915; 2035] yards / [905; 980; 1055] (1180; 1320; 1475) [1640; 1750; 1865] meters

Unicorn & light flowers (8010 Natural): [20; 20; 20] (20; 25; 25) [25; 25; 25] grams / [65; 65; 65] (65; 85; 85) [85; 85; 85] yards / [60; 60; 60] (60; 75; 75) [75; 75; 75] meters

Green plants (8914 Granny Smith): [10; 10; 10] (10; 15; 15) [15; 15; 15] grams / [30; 30; 30] (30; 35; 35) [35; 35; 35] yards / [25; 25; 25] (25; 35; 35) [35; 35; 35] meters

Red & Blue accent flowers: ~5 yards / meters (you can use scrap yarn); or simply knit these flowers as white if you'd rather not use any extra colors.

FIT & SIZE GUIDE

This cardigan is meant to be worn with ~6" (15cm) positive ease at the bust and a slightly drop-shouldered silhouette. Add the positive ease to your full bust measurement, and then choose a size whose full bust measurement is closest to that measurement. If you're in between sizes, size up. All measurements listed are of the finished garment including ease. Stitch counts and instructions per size are given throughout the pattern as [1; 2; 3] (4; 5; 6) [7; 8; 9] where the placement corresponds to the size. *Sample is knit in a size 2 with a modified cropped length of 19" (48 cm) and worn on a 34" (86 cm) bust.*

Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Full bust circumference	35.5" 90 cm	39.5" 100.5 cm	43.5" 110.5 cm	47.5" 120.5 cm	51.5" 131 cm	55.5" 141 cm	59.5" 151 cm	63.5" 161.5 cm	67.5" 171.5 cm
Shoulder width	17.5" 44.5 cm	17.75" 45 cm	18.5" 47 cm	19" 48.5 cm	19.5" 49.5 cm	19.75" 50 cm	20.5" 52 cm	21" 53.5 cm	21" 53.5 cm
Upper arm circumference	14.5" 37 cm	15.25" 38.5 cm	16" 40.5 cm	16.75" 42.5 cm	18.5" 47 cm	19.25" 49 cm	20.75" 52.5 cm	22.5" 57 cm	24" 61 cm
Wrist circumference	11.25" 28.5 cm	11.5" 29 cm	12" 30.5 cm	12.5" 32 cm	12.75" 32.5 cm	13.25" 33.5 cm	13.5" 34.5 cm	14" 35.5 cm	14" 35.5 cm
Armhole depth	7.75" 19.5 cm	8.125" 20.5 cm	8.375" 21.5 cm	8.625" 22 cm	8.875" 22.5 cm	9.5" 24 cm	9.75" 25 cm	10.5" 26.5 cm	10.75" 27.5 cm
Body length from shoulder to hem; adjustable	20.5" 52 cm	20.5" 52 cm	20.5" 52 cm	21.75" 55 cm	23" 58.5 cm	24.75" 63 cm	26.25" 66.5 cm	26.25" 66.5 cm	26.5" 67.5 cm
Sleeve length from shoulder to cuff	22" 56 cm	22" 56 cm	22" 56 cm	22" 56 cm	22" 56 cm	22" 56 cm	22" 56 cm	22" 56 cm	22" 56 cm

TECHNIQUES:

- **3-color stranded colorwork knitting**
- **backwards loop cast-on**
- **bind off in pattern**
- **double-knit button band with buttonholes**

- **duplicate stitch**
- **German short rows** **(GSR)**: turn your work so the opposite side is facing you, and move the yarn to the front between your needles, as if to purl. Slip the last stitch you made from the left needle to your right needle purlwise, tug the working yarn, and wrap it over the right needle to the back. If your next stitch is a purl, bring the yarn to the front in-between the needles, so you don't unravel the yarn-over. *(When you work these "double" stitches in a future row, knit or purl both legs together like a k2tog or p2tog)*
- **k2tog**: "knit 2 together". Place the right needle knitwise through the front legs of 2 adjacent stitches, then knit them together into 1 stitch (decreases by 1 right-leaning stitch)
- **long-tail cast on**
- **m1lk**: "make one left-leaning knit stitch". Place your left needle under the bar between two stitches from the <u>front</u>, pick the bar up onto the left needle, and <u>knit</u> into this loop through its <u>back</u> leg.
- **m1lp**: "make one left-leaning purl stitch". Place your left needle under the bar between two stitches from the <u>front</u>, pick the bar up onto the left needle, and <u>purl</u> into this loop through its <u>back</u> leg.
- **m1rk**: "make one right-leaning knit stitch". Place your left needle under the bar between two stitches from the <u>back</u> side of the work, pick the bar up onto the left needle, and <u>knit</u> into this loop through its <u>front</u> leg.
- **m1rp**: "make one right-leaning purl stitch". Place your left needle under the bar between two stitches from the <u>back</u>, pick the bar up onto the left needle, and <u>purl</u> into the loop through its <u>front</u> leg.
- **mattress stitch**
- **pick up and knit**
- **seaming folded collar**
- **ssk**: "slip, slip, knit". Slip 2 stitches knitwise, insert the left needle into the front of the two stitches, and knit them together through the back loops (decreases by 1 left-leaning knit stitch)
- **stockinette stitch**: knit all stitches on the RS, purl all stitches on the WS

ABBREVIATIONS
- **BOR**: "beginning of round"
- **dec**: decrease(s), ex: "1st dec" = "1 stitch decreased"
- **GSR**: German short row
- **inc**: increase(s), ex: "2 inc" = "2 increases"
- **k**: knit, ex: "k 2" = "knit 2 stitches"
- **p**: purl, ex: "p to end" = "purl to the end of the row"
- **RS**: "right side" of the work, with knitted V shapes visible
- **WS**: "wrong side" of the work, with purl bumps visible
- **st**: stitch, ex: "1 st inc" = "1 stitch increased"
- **sl1wyif**: slip 1 stitch purlwise with the yarn in front of your work

UPPER BACK

Cast on [87; 89; 93] (95; 97; 99) [103; 105; 105] stitches to your **US 5 (3.75mm)** needles with **long-tail cast-on**; avoid casting on too tightly, or it might cause the shoulder seam to pucker a bit when worn. Place 2 locking stitch markers *into* the [24; 24; 25] (26; 26; 27) [28; 28; 28] stitch in from each side on the cast-on edge (they'll help you see where the neck is when you do shoulder shaping and later pick up the shoulder stitches).

Now you'll shape the upper back using **German Short Rows** ("GSR"; see techniques).
Setup Row 1 (WS): purl all stitches
Setup Row 2 (RS): k past the first stitch marker and until you reach the 2nd stitch marker on the
        cast-on edge; turn work using GSR technique.
Setup Row 3 (WS): p back to the 1st stitch marker on the cast-on edge; turn work using GSR
        technique.

GSR repeat (beginning on RS): k or p to [4; 4; 5] (5; 5; 5) [5; 5; 5] stitches past the previous turn,
        turn work using GSR technique. *Note - you can see the last place you turned by looking for the
        double-stitch. When you pass these double stitches, knit or purl the two legs of the double-stitch
        together like a k2tog or p2tog.*
^ Work for [2; 2; 10] (8; 8; 6) [4; 4; 4] total rows. (Size 3 only: your final row should bring you to the end of the row, so no need to use GSR technique on the final turn.)

All sizes except 3: Next you'll space your turns slightly farther apart for the rest of the GSR shaping:
GSR repeat (beginning on RS): k or p to [5; 5; -] (6; 6; 6) [6; 6; 6] stitches past the previous turn,
        turn work using GSR technique. *Note - you can see the last place you turned by looking for the
        double-stitch. When you pass these double stitches, knit or purl the two legs of the double-stitch
        together like a k2tog or p2tog.*
^ Repeat this for [8; 8; -] (2; 2; 4) [6; 6; 6] total rows. Your final row should bring you to the end of the row, so no need to use GSR technique on the final turn.

All sizes are now on row 14: **Row 14 (RS)**: k to end of row

You'll now continue knitting flat in stockinette for [17; 19; 19] (21; 21; 27) [31; 31; 31] more rows before beginning the color chart below. (See box below for how to change the vertical placement of the color chart, if you're adjusting the length of your sweater).

COLORWORK TIPS

Recommended technique: I used **3-color stranded knitting** worked flat for the colorwork with the (1) **white flower/unicorn**, (2) **green plant**, and (3) **background color** yarns, then added the red and blue accent flowers with duplicate stitch at the end. Otherwise, you could use Intarsia and/or duplicate stitch for the color chart.

Yarn dominance: For stranded knitting, hold the **white flower/unicorn** yarn as the most dominant color, the **green plant** yarn as the middle-dominant color, and the background color yarn as the least dominant. See this article for more info on yarn dominance and how to hold your yarn to have consistent color dominance.

Floats & reading the chart: You should carry the white flower/unicorn & green plant yarns only across the center color chart on the back, and carry the main background color yarn across the whole back panel including the chart. I tried to catch my floats every ~5 stitches or so; avoid catching floats in the same place on multiple rows or they will show through to the front. You can also use the **Ladderback Jacquard** technique for long distances of a single color in the chart, like the body of the unicorn, to prevent floats from showing through.

Since this colorwork is worked top-down flat, read the chart starting at the bottom row. Read it from right-to-left on RS rows and left-to-right on WS rows (the chart's row numbers will be on the side of the row you will begin reading from, to help you remember).

Fixing mistakes: If you work a stitch in the wrong color and don't notice until later, you can fix it afterwards by using duplicate stitch with the correct color over top, to avoid having to frog!

BEGINNING THE COLOR CHART

You're now ready to begin working the color chart on the next RS row! Place stitch markers on your needle [17; 18; 20] (21; 18; 19) [21; 22; 22] stitches in from each side of the work, with [53; 53; 53] (53; 61; 61) [61; 61; 61] stitches between the markers. The color chart will span these middle stitches.

IMPORTANT: **Before** you start working the color chart, **<u>mark the rows on your chart</u>** where you need to work armhole shaping: **[23; 23; 23] (17; 15; 9) [5; 7; 3].** Also mark row [24; 27; 29] (27; 28; 25) [22; 26; 27] of the chart, where you'll cast on stitches for the underarm

Continue knitting in flat stockinette working from the chart for the stitches between the markers, until your next row is row [23; 23; 23] (17; 15; 9) [5; 7; 3] on the color chart.

ARMHOLE SHAPING

When you reach row [23; 23; 23] (17; 15; 9) [5; 7; 3] of your color chart (or at row [41; 41; 41] (39; 37; 37) [37; 39; 35] when measured from the edge of your work), you'll begin shaping the underarms while continuing to work the color chart:

    RS: k2, **m1lk**, k to 2 before end, **m1rk**, k2 (2 stitches increased)

    WS: p2, **m1rp**, p to 2 before end, **m1lp**, p2 (2 stitches increased)

^ Work these increase rows for [1; 4; 6] (10; 13; 16) [17; 19; 24] **total rows** - it's fine if you end on a RS row and don't complete the repeat. You've now increased by [2; 8; 12] (20; 26; 32) [34; 38; 48] stitches and have [89; 97; 105] (115; 123; 131) [137; 143; 153] stitches on your needles.

You'll now cast on underarm stitches:

Use the **backwards loop cast-on** to cast on [2; 3; 4] (4; 5; 6) [8; 10; 10] stitches to your left needle at the start of the row, then work across those new stitches and continue across the entire row to the other side of the work, then then use backwards loop cast-on to cast on [2; 3; 4] (4; 5; 6) [8; 10; 10] more stitches in extension onto your right needle. You've now completed the armhole shaping and cast on the underarm stitches. You should now have [93; 103; 113] (123; 133; 143) [153; 163; 173] stitches in total. On the next row work across all stitches including the newly cast on stitches, and carry on until you finish the color chart.

COLOR CHARTS

Work the color chart corresponding to your size. There are full-color charts at the end of this pattern too. The red & blue flowers (stitches marked with symbols here) can be added at the end with duplicate stitch, so you can work those stitches in the background color or in white as you pass them for now.

White

Red (duplicate stitch)

Green

Blue (duplicate stitch)

Navy

FINISHING THE COLOR CHART

Work to the end of the color chart, then cut the green and white yarns, leaving tails to weave in.

Continue working in flat stockinette for another [17; 18; 18] (21; 21; 27) [31; 31; 31] rows, or [2.5; 2.75; 2.75] (3.25; 3.25; 4.25) [4.75; 4.75; 4.75] inches / [6.5; 7; 7] (8.5; 8.5; 11) [12; 12; 12] cm. *Note: for my size 2 sample, I only knit for ~1.5" (4 cm) below the color chart, to make it slightly more cropped. You're welcome to adjust this length as well to suit your preferences.*

Switch to your **US 3 (3.25mm)** needles for the hem. If your next row is a WS row, purl across all stitches. Now you'll work the hem in rib: *k1, p1* repeat until end
Work in ribbing for 2.5" (6.5 cm), then **bind off in pattern**.

RIGHT FRONT (when worn)

With the RS of the work facing you, beginning at the outer edge, use your **US 5 (3.75 mm)** needles to pick up and knit [24; 24; 25] (26; 26; 27) [28; 28; 28] stitches along the cast-on edge. This is picking up 1 stitch per stitch, and working inwards from the shoulder edge to the closest back of the neck marker, along the cast-on edge.
Work in flat stockinette for **7 rows**, beginning and ending on a WS. Now you'll begin increasing for the neck every other row:

>   **RS**: k to 2 before end, **m1rk**, k2 (1st inc)
>   **WS**: p all

^ Increase every-other row as shown above for [10; 10; 10] (10; 12; 12) [12; 12; 12] total rows. You should now have [29; 29; 30] (31; 32; 33) [34; 34; 34] stitches.

Now you'll increase every row:

>   **RS**: k to 2 before end, **m1rk**, k2 (1st inc)
>   **WS**: p2, **m1rp**, p to end (1st inc)

^ Increase every row as shown above for [5; 6; 6] (6; 6; 6) [6; 7; 7] total **rows**. You should now have [34; 35; 36] (37; 38; 39) [40; 41; 41] stitches on your needles.
If your last row worked was a WS row, knit across all stitches to bring you to the neckline edge.
Use **backwards loop cast-on** to tightly cast on [7; 7; 8] (8; 8; 8) [9; 9; 9] stitches in extension on your right needle at the neckline edge, for the bottom of the neckline. After this cast-on, you now have [41; 42; 44] (45; 46; 47) [49; 50; 50] stitches.

On the next row after casting on the stitches, begin by purling those newly cast-on stitches as regular stitches. Continue working in flat stockinette for [33; 31; 31] (29; 25; 27) [29; 31; 29] more rows, beginning and ending with a WS row.

You'll now begin shaping for the underarms.

        RS: k2, **m1lk**, k to end (1st inc)

        WS: p to 2 before end, **m1lp**, p2 (1st inc)

^ Work as shown above for [1; 4; 6] (10; 13; 16) [17; 19; 24] total rows (it's fine if you finish with a RS row). You've now increased by [1; 4; 6] (10; 13; 16) [17; 19; 24] stitches and have [42; 46; 50] (55; 59; 63) [66; 69; 74] stitches on your needles.

UNDERARM CAST-ON

If your last row worked was a RS row, purl across your work until you reach the armhole edge.

You'll now cast on for the underarms:

Use the backwards-loop cast-on to tightly **cast on** [2; 3; 4] (4; 5; 6) [8; 10; 10] stitches in extension onto your right needle; these will be half of your underarm stitches. You should now have [44; 49; 54] (59; 64; 69) [74; 79; 84] stitches.

Continue working in flat stockinette for [66; 64; 62] (67; 74; 83) [90; 86; 85] more rows, or [10.25; 9.75; 9.5] (10.25; 11.5; 12.75) [13.75; 13.25; 13] inches / or [26; 25; 24] (26; 29; 32.5) [35; 33.5; 33] cm (when measured from below underarm shaping).

Tip: There should be the same length between the underarm cast-on and the beginning of the ribbed hem on both the front & back panels, since that's where you'll seam them together. If you shortened the back panel, you should shorten this part of the front panel the same amount.

Switch to your **US 3 (3.25 mm)** needles for the hem. If your next row is a WS row, purl across all stitches. On your next RS row, work in 1x1 ribbing: *k1, p1* repeat to end of row.

Work in established rib for 2.5" (6 cm), then **bind off in pattern**.

LEFT FRONT *(when worn)*

The left front is worked in mirror image to the right. With the RS of the work facing you, use your **US 5 (3.75 mm)** needles to pick up and knit [24; 24; 25] (26; 26; 27) [28; 28; 28] stitches beginning at the

back neck stitch marker along the cast-on edge. This is picking up 1 stitch per stitch, and working outwards until you reach the outer edge.

Work in flat stockinette for **7 rows**, beginning and ending on a WS.
Now you'll begin increasing for the neck every other row:

> **RS**: k2, **m1lk**, k to end (1st inc)
> **WS**: p all

^ Increase every-other row as shown above for [10; 10; 10] (10; 12; 12) [12; 12; 12] total rows. You should now have [29; 29; 30] (31; 32; 33) [34; 34; 34] stitches.

Now you'll increase every row:

> **RS**: k2, **m1lk**, k to end (1st inc)
> **WS**: p to 2 before end, **m1lp**, p2 (1st inc)

^ Increase every row as shown above for [5; 6; 6] (6; 6; 6) [6; 7; 7] total **rows** (it's fine if you end on a RS row). You should now have [34; 35; 36] (37; 38; 39) [40; 41; 41] stitches on your needles.

If your last row worked was a RS row, purl across all stitches to bring you to the neckline edge.

Use **backwards loop cast-on** to tightly cast on [7; 7; 8] (8; 8; 8) [9; 9; 9] stitches in extension onto your right needle; these will be the bottom of the neckline. After this, you should now have [41; 42; 44] (45; 46; 47) [49; 50; 50] stitches for this panel.

 Begin your next RS row by knitting those newly cast on stitches. Continue working in flat stockinette for [34; 32; 32] (30; 26; 28) [30; 32; 28] rows, beginning with a RS row and ending with a WS row.

You'll now begin shaping for the underarms.

> **RS**: k to 2 before end, **m1rk**, k2 (1 st inc)
> **WS**: p2, **m1rp**, p to end (1 st inc)

^ Work as shown above for [1; 4; 6] (10; 13; 16) [17; 19; 24] total rows (it's fine if you finish with a RS row). You've now increased by [1; 4; 6] (10; 13; 16) [17; 19; 24] stitches and have [42; 46; 50] (55; 59; 63) [66; 69; 74] stitches on your needles.

If your last row worked was a WS row, knit across front until you reach the underarm edge.
Use the backwards-loop cast-on to tightly **cast on** [2; 3; 4] (4; 5; 6) [8; 10; 10] stitches in extension onto your right needle; these will be half of your underarm stitches. You should now have [44; 49; 54] (59; 64; 69) [74; 79; 84] stitches.

Continue working in flat stockinette for [66; 64; 62] (67; 74; 83) [90; 86; 85] more rows, or [10.25; 9.75; 9.5] (10.25; 11.5; 12.75) [13.75; 13.25; 13] inches / or [26; 25; 24] (26; 29; 32.5) [35; 33.5; 33] cm (when measured from below underarm shaping).

Tip: There should be the same length between the underarm cast-on and the beginning of the ribbed hem on both the front & back panels, since that's where you'll seam them together. If you shortened the back panel, you should shorten this part of the front panel the same amount.

Switch to your **US 3 (3.25 mm)** needles for the lower hem. If your next row is a WS row, purl across all stitches. On your next RS row, work in 1x1 ribbing: *k1, p1* repeat to end of row.
Work in established rib for 2.5" (6 cm), then **bind off in pattern**.

SEAMING SIDES

For the neatest result you may want to block your back and front panels before seaming, especially if your yarn's gauge grew/shrank much after blocking.
With your tapestry needle and main background color yarn, use **[mattress stitch](#)** to seam the front panels to the back of the sweater together from the underarms to the bottom of the hem. It can be helpful to loosely pin the two sides in several places before beginning, to help ensure you seam them evenly without bunching.

SLEEVES

The sleeves are knit in the round; you can use the same cables as you used for the body, using [magic loop](#) or [traveling loop](#) to adjust to the smaller circumference.

With your **US 5 (3.75mm)** needles, pick up and knit [72; 76; 80] (84; 92; 96) [104; 112; 120] stitches along the armhole of the sweater with the RS of the work facing you, beginning in the center of the underarm. This is picking up roughly 3 stitches out of every 4 stitches/rows. Join in the round, placing a BOR marker.

You'll now decrease gradually to taper to the wrist.
> **Non-decrease rounds**: knit for [12; 12; 10] (8; 6; 5) [5; 4; 3] rounds
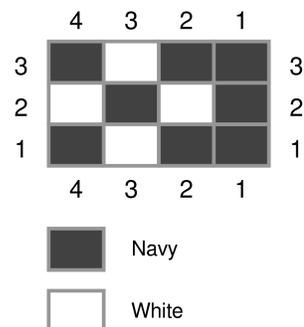> **Decrease round**: k1, **k2tog**, k to 3 before end, **ssk**, k1 (2 st decreased)

^ Follow this repeat [8; 8; 10] (12; 14; 16) [18; 22; 24] times, or for [104; 104; 110] (108; 98; 96) [108; 110; 96] total rows. You should now have [56; 60; 60] (60; 64; 64) [68; 68; 72] stitches.

[Skip these plain rounds if you're adding flowers to the cuff below]: Continue knitting in the round for another [7; 7; 1] (3; 13; 15) [3; 1; 15] rounds (or until ~2" /5 cm less than you'd like the sleeve length to be, to account for the ribbed cuff).

OPTIONAL FLOWER DETAIL

On the next round, rejoin your flower color yarn, and use stranded knitting to add a small flower border to the bottom of the sleeves over the next 3 rounds. For each round, repeat the 4-stitch sequence for that round until you reach the end of the round, then move on to the next round. Hold your light colored yarn as the dominant color.

Work at least another 3 rounds in plain stockinette after finishing the color chart (or work until 2" / 5 cm less than the length you'd like the sleeve to be).

	4	3	2	1	
3	Navy	White	Navy	Navy	3
2	White	Navy	White	Navy	2
1	Navy	White	Navy	Navy	1
	4	3	2	1	

■ Navy
□ White

SLEEVE CUFF

Switch to your **US 3 (3.25mm)** needles. Knit one round in stockinette, then switch to 1x1 ribbing:
Ribbing: *k1, p1* repeat until end.
Work in ribbing for 2" (5 cm), then **bind off in pattern**.

Repeat these instructions for the second sleeve.

FOLDED COLLAR

With your **US 3 (3.25mm)** needles and the RS of the work facing you, start at the right front of the cardigan when worn, and pick up and knit 7 stitches per every 8 rows/stitches along the entire collar until you reach the left front edge, ending with an odd number (you can also work 2 stitches together in the next row to bring you to an odd number):
Work the collar flat in 1x1 ribbing:
WS: *p1, k1* repeat until 1 before end, p1
RS: *k1, p1* repeat until 1 before end, k1

Work in ribbing for 3" (7.5 cm). Once you've reached this length, bind off and cut your yarn leaving a tail that's at least twice the collar circumference. Use this tail and a tapestry needle to **seam the folded collar down** on the WS of your work. You can also choose to weave an elastic thread on the inner edge of where the collar folds, to help the collar keep its shape over time.

DOUBLE-KNIT BUTTON BAND

This **youtube tutorial** walks you through every step of this process, from picking up stitches to placing buttons evenly to making buttonholes, etc!

DOUBLE-KNITTING GAUGE: The row gauge for the double-knit button band needs to match the row gauge for the rest of the sweater, otherwise it can flare out or pull up. Some people find that sizing down 1-2 US needle sizes (0.25 - 0.5 mm), and/or picking up 4 stitches for every 5 rows, suits their gauge better. You can create a small double-knit gauge swatch first by casting on 10st and alternating *k1, sl1wyif* across all stitches until you've worked 4" (10 cm) of height. If your swatch has fewer rows per 4" (10 cm) than the body of the sweater after blocking, size down a needle size, or pick up fewer stitches. If your swatch has more rows per 4" (10 cm) than the body of your sweater, size up a needle.

LEFT FRONT BUTTON BAND (when worn)
First determine your double-knitting gauge as described above, to decide your needle size and pick up rate (I used US 5 / 3.75 mm, and picked up 1 stitch per row).
With the RS of your work facing you, use your needles to pick up and knit 1 stitch per row/stitch (or your custom pick up rate) along the front edge of the cardigan, beginning at the top left neck edge (when worn) and working down until you've reached the bottom left edge (when worn). Cut the yarn leaving a tail to weave in later.

Return to the needle at the top left collar of the cardigan when worn, where you picked up the first stitches for the button band. Turn the cardigan so the WS is facing you. Join the new yarn, and use the **Italian tubular cast-on** to cast on **12 stitches** in extension to the needle attached to the button band, beginning with a purl stitch and ending with a knit stitch. Turn your work so the RS is facing you again.

You'll now work across these stitches in double knitting. On each RS, you'll knit the last stitch of the button band together with the stitch you picked up along the front edge, which joins the button band

to the cardigan as you work. **Note:** For all turns in the button band, <u>don't</u> use GSR technique while turning-- just turn your work without using any short row technique.

Double-knitting repeat:

Row 1 (RS): *sl1wyif, k1* repeat between ** for a total of 5 times, sl1wyif, k2tog tbl (you've now worked all button band stitches, and knit together the final button band stitch with one of the stitches you picked up along the edge, joining your button band to the cardigan). Turn work.

Row 2 (WS): *sl1wyif, k1* repeat between ** to end of row. Turn.

Continue working the **double-knitting** repeat until there are only 13 total stitches on the left needle (e.g. there's only 1 picked up stitch left). On the next RS row, bind off in pattern:

RS: sl1wyif, *k1, pass first stitch on right hand needle over second binding it off, sl1wyif, pass first stitch on right hand needle over second binding it off*, repeat between ** until last two stitches. k2tog tbl, pass first stitch on right hand needle over second binding it off, cut yarn leaving a tail to weave in and pull it through last stitch on right needle.

RIGHT FRONT BUTTON BAND (when worn): WITH BUTTONHOLES

The right front button band is worked similarly, but with the addition of buttonholes! With the RS of your work facing you, pick up and knit 1 stitch per row/stitch along the center edge of the cardigan, beginning at the bottom right hem and working up towards the top right collar (when worn). Cut the yarn leaving a tail to weave in later.

Pause here to place a stitch marker each place you'd like a buttonhole to be. I recommend placing one button ~0.5" (1.25 cm) below the top of the button band, one button ~0.5" (1.25 cm) above the bottom of the cardigan hem, and the rest of your buttons evenly spread out between these two holes. Distribute them evenly so there is an equal number of stitches between each marker. (See my [youtube tutorial](#) if you want more help with this).

Turn the cardigan so the WS is facing you. Join the new yarn, and use the **Italian tubular cast-on** to cast on **12 stitches** in extension to the needle attached to the button band, beginning with a purl stitch and ending with a knit stitch. Turn your work so the RS is facing you again. Work the same double-knit repeat shown in the section above, until you reach the first buttonhole stitch marker, ending with a WS row. Every time you meet a stitch marker, follow these instructions to add a **vertical buttonhole** (and you can remove the stitch markers as you work past them):

Row 1 (RS): *sl1wyif, k1* repeat between ** 3 total times. This should bring you to the halfway point of your button-band stitches. Turn work (without using a short row technique); you'll just be working the outer half of the button band for now and will join back to the other side after.

Row 2 (WS): *sl1wyif, k1* repeat between ** 3 total times, to end of row. Turn.

Row 3 (RS): *sl1wyif, k1* repeat between ** 3 total times, YO, *sl1wyif, k1* twice, sl1wyif, k2tog tbl. (You've now joined the outer edge back to the inner edge that's attached to the cardigan with a YO between them). Turn.

Row 4 (WS): *sl1wyif, k1* twice, sl1wyif, knit next stitch and YO stitch together. Turn.

Row 5 (RS): *sl1wyif, k1* twice, sl1wyif, k2tog tbl. Turn.

**Row 6 (WS)**: *sl1wyif, k1* repeat between ** to end of row. Turn.

You've finished the buttonhole. Continue with the **Double-knit repeat** until you reach the next buttonhole, at which point repeat these instructions. After the last buttonhole is complete, continue working the **Double-knit repeat** until there are only 13 total stitches on the left needle (i.e. there's only 1 picked up stitch left), then follow the same bind-off instructions as with the previous button band side.

DUPLICATE STITCH DETAILS

Use **Duplicate Stitch** to add in the red and blue flowers shown in the unicorn stitch chart.

The sample's crest is 1.5" (4 cm) from the bottom of the neckline and 0.25" (0.5 cm) from the edge of the button band, but try your cardigan on to make sure you're happy with the placement on your own body first! Place locking stitch markers in a rectangle 21 stitches wide by 33 stitches tall; this will be the outer edges of the stitch chart.

Work from the RS of the fabric, with the cardigan facing **upside-down**; this will ensure your duplicate stitches match the top-down orientation of the stitch chart on the back. The stem of the flower should be pointing towards the bottom of the cardigan.

Navy

White

Green
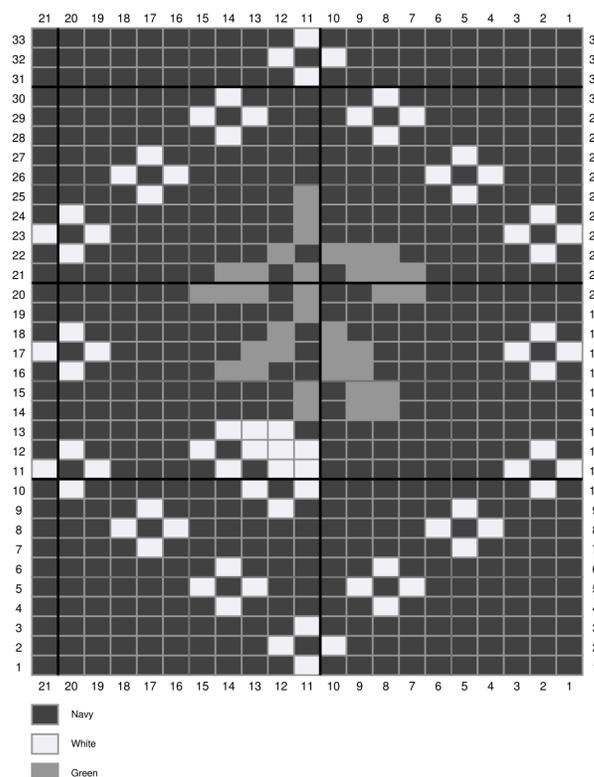
PATCH POCKETS

You can add patch pockets to your cardigan by knitting another square to match your swatch, using the mirrored chart below. Pin the two swatches so they are aligned just above where the bottom hem's ribbing begins. Use **mattress stitch** to seam the left, bottom, and right sides of the swatch, leaving the top open. *Thank you to @gramandaknits for this charming idea and for her lovely test sample!!*
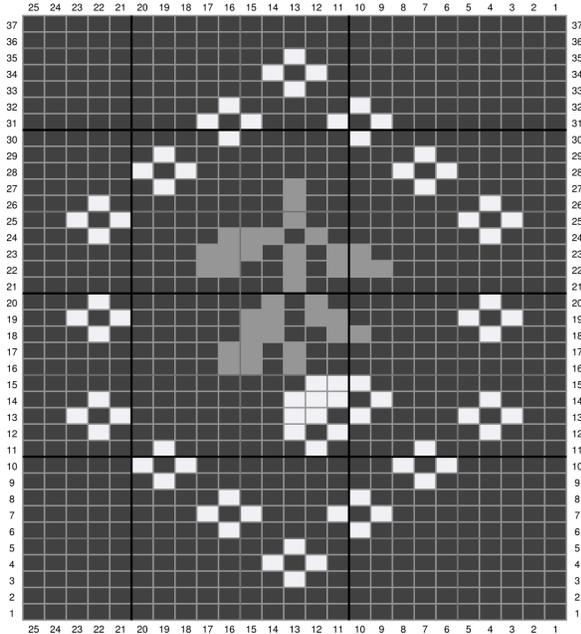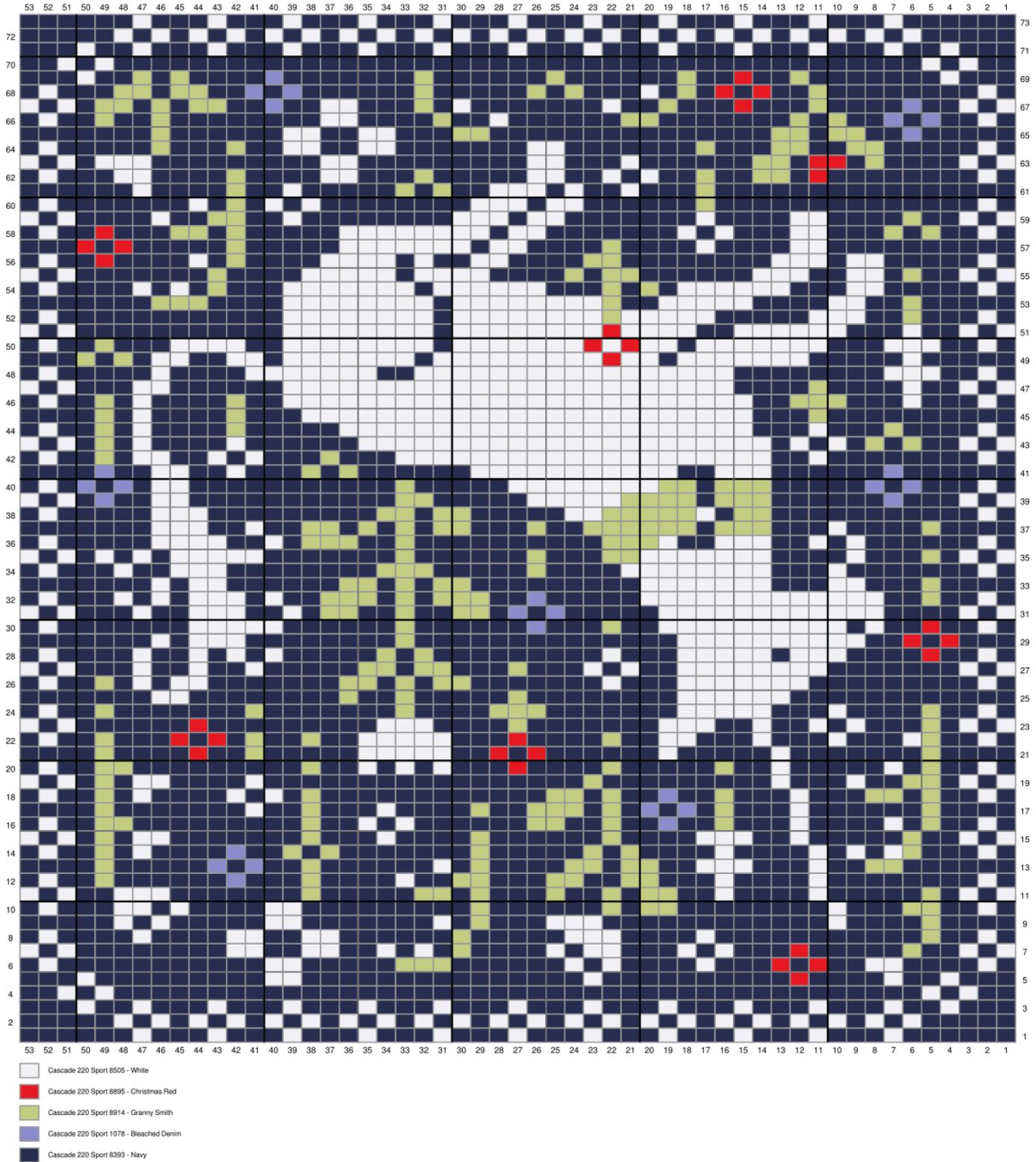

FINISHING

Weave in all ends. Block your cardigan the same way you blocked your swatch, following the yarn's care instructions. Pin the sides of the unicorn chart so the edges will lay straight.

Use a needle and thread to sew down your buttons across from their corresponding button holes. *Tip:* I like to button the cardigan in between each additional button I sew down, to ensure they're being sewn correctly as I go, so the button band will lay completely flat. Shank buttons also leave more room below them for the double-knit button band to fit.

Congratulations on your new cardigan! This pattern is very dear to my heart, so it means a lot to me that you wanted to create your own as well. If you share it online, tag #UnicornTapestryCardigan so I can see & re-share your beautiful work! Please email instead of DM for pattern support issues.
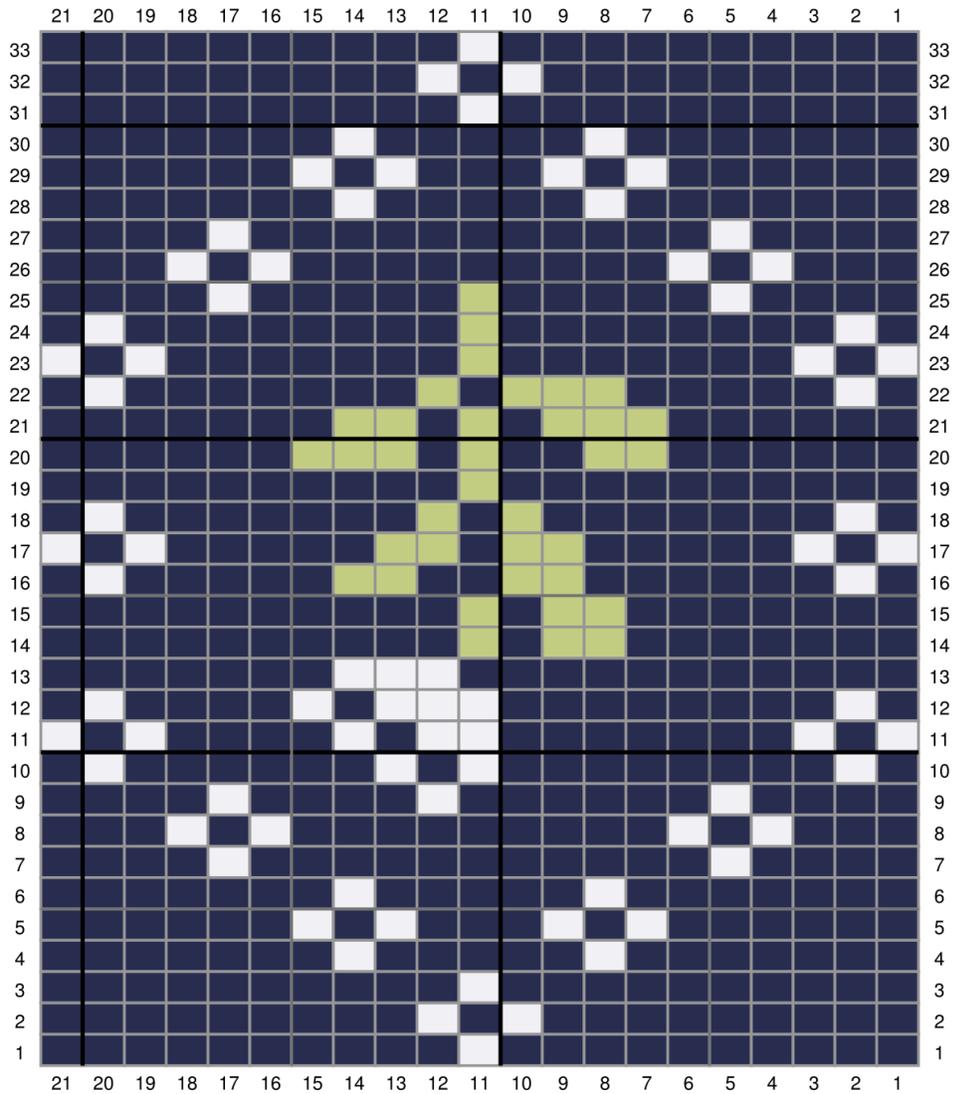
♥ tamara / hi@starcrossedknits.com

FULL COLOR CHART FOR SIZES 1 - 4: *(don't forget to mark underarm shaping rows!)*

Cascade 220 Sport 8505 - White
Cascade 220 Sport 8895 - Christmas Red
Cascade 220 Sport 8914 - Granny Smith
Cascade 220 Sport 1078 - Bleached Denim
Cascade 220 Sport 8393 - Navy

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DUPLICATE STITCH CREST (ALL SIZES):

Cascade 220 Sport 8393 - Navy

Cascade 220 Sport 8505 - White

Cascade 220 Sport 8914 - Granny Smith