

Little Cotton Rabbits Fair Isle Sweater Dresses / Sweaters



This pattern contains a range of designs for sweaters/dresses with Fair Isle patterning to the yoke. Each of these can be worked either as a longer length flared dress or a shorter and narrower sweater.

There are instructions for working the lower body and sleeves either flat and then seamed, or seamlessly in the round if preferred.

Also included is a single colour version with a simple textured yoke.

All are worked from the top down.

*More knitting patterns are available at:
<https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk>*

Materials:

- a combined total of approx. dress: 65m (71 yds), sweater: 45m (50 yds) of 4ply/fingering weight wool /wool blend yarn in main colour: **Yarn A** and a contrasting accent colour: **Yarn B**
- a small button

Notions:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles – a pair of straight and a set of 4 DPNS/circular needle
- Tapestry needle

Finished size:

Sweater: approx 8cm (3 ¼ inches) from the neck to the hem
Dress: approx 10cm (4 inches) from the neck to the hem



Gauge:

Gauge: 7 stitches x 11 rows to 1 inch

Yarn suggestions:

For this pattern I've used wool blend 4 ply/fingering weight yarns. Here I've used various shades of Scheepjes Metropolis but Jamiesons Shetland Spindrift and Camarose Økologisk Sommeruld work equally well. If you choose to substitute a cotton yarn then you might need to shorten the length of the dress by a couple of rows, as cotton yarns tend to knit at a slightly more open gauge due to the non-stretching nature of cotton when being worked with.

Tip: Before you start, get to know your yarn. Does it break easily? If so you will need to consider using a different yarn to sew up with as seaming can cause weaker yarns to snap.

Abbreviations:

Increases:

M1A : MAKE 1 AWAY. Make a loop with the working yarn so the tail is pointing backwards/away from you

YO: YARN OVER: Take the yarn to the back of the work over the top of the right needle, so making a loop that is worked into on the next row.

Decreases:

K2TOG : Knit 2 stitches together

P2TOG : purl 2 stitches together

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And please note that when the pattern mentions cast on, I use a cable cast on (unless otherwise stated).

Extra tips:

I hope you enjoy using this pattern. I have written up some extra tips about knitting and finishing, so please pop by for a visit and check out the knitting tips section on the Little Cotton Rabbits blog.

If you get stuck with any aspect of the pattern, please come and visit the Little cotton Rabbit group on Ravelry:
<https://www.ravelry.com/groups/little-cotton-rabbits>

Or the Little Cotton Rabbits Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/littlecottonrabbits>

Lots of knitters who've already used the patterns hang out there and one of us will do our best to help you. You'll also find lots of other projects made from these patterns, please come and share yours.

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How to use this pattern:

Thanks for buying a copy of this pattern. It is suitable for intermediate knitting skills and assumes an understanding of basic stitches and standard knitting terms.

This pattern comes with instructions for making a range of sweater dresses/sweaters which have a choice of patterning on the yoke. You can combine different elements to construct the garment of your choice, either working the lower body and sleeves flat and seaming them, or working seamlessly in the round. The yoke for each design is always knitted flat in order to accommodate an opening at the back of the neck, making it easy to dress your animal, and there is a functional button fastening at the back.

Begin by choosing the yoke design that you want to work, Pages 3 – 7.

Included in this pattern are the following options:

- A textured yoke in a single colour..... Page 3 below
- A curvy two colour Fair Isle design..... Page 4
- An angular two colour Fair Isle design..... Page 5
- A contrast coloured yoke with a curvy transition..... Page 6
- A contrast coloured yoke with an angular transition..... Page 7

Next choose from two options for the working the sleeves and lower body:

- flat and seamed..... Pages 8-9
- in the round..... Pages 10-11

Finally adjust the length of your garment to suit, either making a hip length sweater or a longer length dress, see Pages 8 & 11 for the row by row instructions.

Yoke with texture:

This design uses a single colour and simple bands of reverse stocking stitch to make a ridged texture to the yoke.

Important note before starting: If you intend to knit the lower body and sleeves flat and seam them (as detailed on Pages 8-9) you will first need to cut two 6m (7yds) lengths of your chosen yarn to join in on **row 14** for the sleeves.



Starting at the neck, cable cast on 32 stitches using 2.75mm needles and your chosen yarn, leaving a short tail for weaving in later.

- | | |
|--|--|
| row 1: (wrong side) Knit | row 7: K3, P47, K3 |
| row 2: <i>buttonhole row:</i> K4, (M1A, K3) 8 times, M1A, K2, YO, K2tog (41 stitches) | row 8: Knit |
| row 3: K3, P35, K3 | row 9: Knit |
| row 4: Knit | row 10: K4, (M1A, K3) 15 times, M1A, K4 (69 stitches) |
| row 5: Knit | row 11: K3, P63, K3 |
| row 6: K4, (M1A, K3) 11 times, M1A, K4 (53 stitches) | row 12: Knit |
| | row 13: Knit |

Next you'll need to choose whether to knit to lower body and sleeves flat and seamed (see Pages 8-9), or in the round (see Pages 10-11).

Angular two colour Fair Isle design yoke:

This design uses two colours with a Fair Isle pattern worked in a contrasting colour (**Yarn B**) to your chosen background yarn (**Yarn A**).

You can either work the design in a lighter or a darker colour to the background, here I've used a darker colour for the design against a lighter background.

It's advisable to use two colours/tones that have a lot of contrast, in order for the design to stand out.

Important note before starting: If you intend to knit the lower body and sleeves flat and seam them (as detailed on Pages 8-9) you will first need to cut two 6m (7yds) lengths of **Yarn A** to join in on **row 14** for the sleeves.



Starting at the neck, cable cast on 32 stitches using 2.75mm needles and **Yarn A**, leaving a short tail for weaving in later. Chaired instructions for the yoke are detailed at the bottom of the page.

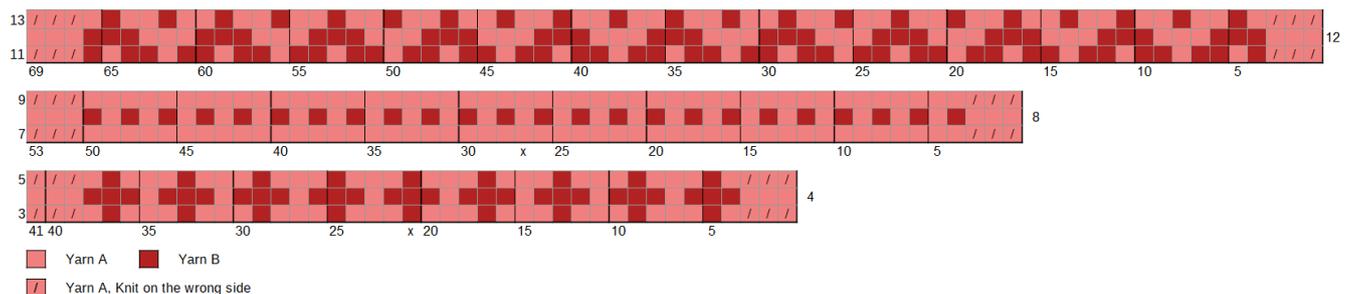
- row 1: (wrong side) **Knit**
- row 2: *buttonhole row:* **K4, (M1A, K3) 8 times, M1A, K2, YO, K2tog (41 stitches)**
- row 3: **K3, P1, join in Yarn B and P1, (P3, P1) 8 times, P1, K3**
- row 4: **K3, (K3, K1) 8 times, K3, K3**
- row 5: **K3, P1, P1, (P3, P1) 8 times, P1, K3**
- row 6: **K4, (M1A, K3) 11 times, M1A, K4 (53 stitches)**
- row 7: **K3, P47, K3**
- row 8: **K3, (K1, K1) 23 times, K1, K3**
- row 9: **K3, P47, K3**
- row 10: **K4, (M1A, K3) 15 times, M1A, K4 (69 stitches)**
- row 11: **K3, P1, (P1, P2), 20 times, P1, P1, K3**
- row 12: **K3, (K3, K3) 10 times, K3, K3**
- row 13: **K3, P1, (P1, P2) 20 times, P1, P1, K3**

Cut **Yarn B** from the work, leaving a short tail for weaving in later, and continue in **Yarn A** only.

Next you'll need to choose whether to knit to lower body and sleeves flat and seamed (see Pages 8-9), or in the round (see Pages 10-11).

Chart for the colour-work bands:

Read these from the bottom up, beginning with **row 3** (which is on the wrong side of the work). Wrong side rows are read from left to right and right side rows from right to left. I've not charted **rows 6 or 10** as these are increase rows worked solely in the main colour. Please also check the line by line instructions above as they give extra details.



Yoke with rounded transition:

This design uses two sections of contrasting colour with Fair Isle patterning at the transition between them on **rows 11-13**.

Here I've worked the yoke in a darker colour (Yarn A) than the body (Yarn B) but you can choose to work the yoke in a lighter colour than used for the body and sleeves if you prefer.

It's advisable to use two colours/tones that have a lot of contrast, in order for the design to stand out.

Important note before starting: If you intend to knit the lower body and sleeves flat and seam them (as detailed on Pages 8-9) you will first need to cut two 6m (7yds) lengths of **Yarn B** to join in on **row 14** for the sleeves.



Starting at the neck, cable cast on 32 stitches using 2.75mm needles and **Yarn A**, leaving a short tail for weaving in later. Charted instructions for the yoke are detailed at the bottom of the page.

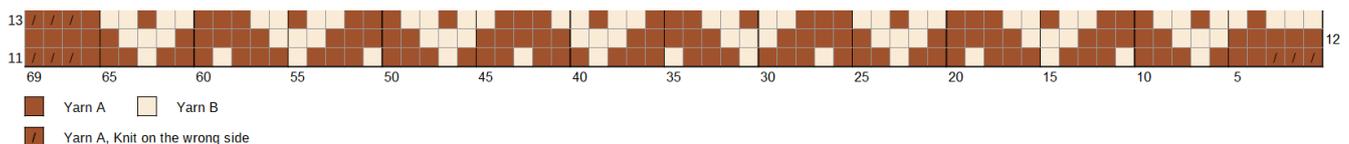
- row 1: (wrong side) **Knit**
- row 2: *buttonhole row:* **K4, (M1A, K3) 8 times, M1A, K2, YO, K2tog (41 stitches)**
- row 3: **K3, P35, K3**
- row 4: **Knit**
- row 5: **K3, P35, K3**
- row 6: **K4, (M1A, K3) 11 times, M1A, K4 (53 stitches)**
- row 7: **K3, P47, K3**
- row 8: **Knit**
- row 9: **K3, P47, K3**
- row 10: **K4, (M1A, K3) 15 times, M1A, K4 (69 stitches)**
- row 11: **K3, P3, join in Yarn B and P1, (P3, P1) 14 times, P3, K3**
- row 12: **K5, (K3, K5) 8 times**
- row 13: **K3, P1, (P2, P1, P2, P3) 7 times, P2, P1, P2, P1, P3**

Cut **Yarn A** from the work, leaving a short tail for weaving in later, and continue in **Yarn B** only.

Next you'll need to choose whether to knit to lower body and sleeves flat and seamed (see Pages 8-9), or in the round (see Pages 10-11).

Chart for the colour-work transition:

Read this from the bottom up, beginning with **row 11** (which is on the wrong side of the work). Wrong side rows are read from left to right and right side rows from right to left. Please also check the line by line instructions above as they give extra details.



To knit the lower body and sleeves flat

(Instructions for both dress and sweater):



fig. 1

fig. 2

fig. 3

Work your chosen yoke design (Pages 3-7) up to **row 13** and then continue as follows:

On this next row we separate out and work the sleeves, this part is the same for both the dress and the sweater:

row 14: Slip the first 12 stitches onto a stitch holder and leave the yarn joined to the main ball hanging for now. Join in the first extra length of sleeve yarn and Knit 13 stitches, then cast on 9 stitches using M1A thumb method (*fig. 1*), turn and work on these 22 stitches only, which form the first sleeve:

sleeve 1 row 1: (wrong side) Purl

sleeve 1 row 2: Knit

sleeve 1 rows 3-12: Beginning with a Purl rows and ending with a Knit, work 10 rows of stocking stitch

sleeve 1 row 13: Knit

sleeve 1 row 14: Knit

sleeve 1 row 15: Knit

sleeve 1 row 16: Cast off in Purl (*fig. 2*)

With the cast off tail end mattress stitch the seam from cuff to armpit (*fig. 3*). Seaming this now will make it easier to pick up the arm hole stitches later.

row 14 (continued): Working from the first sleeve onwards: slip the next 19 stitches onto a stitch holder/waste yarn. Use the second extra length of sleeve yarn to cast on 9 stitches onto the right-hand needle using M1A thumb method then Knit the next 13 stitches, turn and work on these 22 stitches which form the second sleeve.

sleeve 2 row 1: (wrong side) Purl

sleeve 2 row 2: Knit

sleeve 2 rows 3-12: Beginning with a Purl rows and ending with a Knit, work 10 rows of stocking stitch

sleeve 2 row 13: Knit

sleeve 2 row 14: Knit

sleeve 2 row 15: Knit

sleeve 2 row 16: Cast off in Purl

With the cast off tail end mattress stitch the seam from cuff to armpit.

Next slip all of the stitches from the stitch holders/waste yarn back onto the left hand needle in sequence, ready to work across the whole row in order to continue the lower body of the dress/sweater.

Instructions for completing the dress and the sweater are both on Page 9, so choose which you are going to work and follow the instructions accordingly.

Dress lower body worked flat:

With the right side of the work facing and using the yarn from the main ball continue working:

row 14 (continued): Cast off the first 2 stitches (for the placket), K1, (M1A, K3) twice, M1A, K2, pick up and Knit 9 stitches from the underside of the first sleeve (*fig. 4*), K2, (M1A, K3) 5 times, M1A, K2, pick up and Knit 9 stitches from the underside of the second sleeve, K2, (M1A, K3) twice, M1A, K4, M1A (*72 stitches*)

row 15: P15, P2tog, P7, P2tog, P23, P2tog, P7, P2tog, P12 (*68 stitches*)

rows 16-42: Beginning and ending with Knit rows, work 27 rows of stocking stitch

row 43 Knit

row 44: Knit

row 45: Knit

row 46: Cast off in Purl

Cut the work from the ball, leaving a long tail for seaming with. It's worth blocking at this point if you'd like a nice neat finish (*fig. 5*). Continue by following the finishing instructions at the bottom of this page.

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Sweater lower body worked flat:

With the right side of the work facing and using the yarn from the main ball continue working:

row 14 (continued): Cast off the first 2 stitches (for the placket), K9, pick up and Knit 9 stitches from the underside of the first sleeve (*fig. 4*), K19, pick up and Knit 9 stitches from the underside of the second sleeve, K12, M1A (*60 stitches*)

row 15: P12, P2tog, P7, P2tog, P17, P2tog, P7, P2tog, P9 (*56 stitches*)

rows 16-30: Beginning and ending with Knit rows, work 15 rows of stocking stitch

row 31 Knit

row 32: Knit

row 33: Knit

row 34: Cast off in Purl

Cut the work from the ball, leaving a long tail for seaming with. It's worth blocking at this point if you'd like a nice neat finish (*fig. 5*). Continue by following the finishing instructions below.

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Finishing instructions for both dress and sweater:

Thread a tapestry needle with the cast off tail end and use mattress stitch to close the seam at the back of the dress/sweater, working from the bottom hem edge upwards to the base of the placket (*fig. 6*). Sew the bottom of the button placket in place so that the side with the button hole overlaps the side with the button. Use the tail ends inside the sweater to close up any gaps around the arm holes, then weave the ends in and trim. Sew on a button in the correct place to correspond with the buttonhole (*fig. 11*) and then you're finished and the dress/sweater is ready for your toy to wear.



fig. 4



fig. 5



fig. 6

Dress lower body in the round:



fig. 7



fig. 8

After working the yoke of your choice flat on 2 needles (*fig. 7*), change to 2.75mm DPNS/circular needle and work the rest of the dress in the round in a single colour only. The work is joined on round 15.

round 14: (right side) On this row we separate out the stitches for the sleeves:

Cast off the first 3 stitches (for the placket), (M1A, K3) twice, M1A, K2, slip next 13 stitches onto a stitch holder or waste yarn (*fig. 8*), cast on 8 stitches using M1A*, K2, (M1A, K3) 5 times, M1A, K2, slip next 13 stitches onto a stitch holder or waste yarn, cast on another 8 stitches using M1A*, K2, (M1A, K3) twice, M1A, K4 (*68 stitches*)

* I recommend using the M1A thumb method of casting on these stitches because when you pick the stitches up later for the arm, knitting into the front of them gives a completely seamless look.

rounds 15-42: Work 28 rounds in Knit

round 43: Purl

round 44: Knit

round 45: Purl

round 46: Cast off in Purl and cut the work from the ball, leaving a short tail for weaving in.

Continue by following the instructions for the sleeves on Page 11.

Sweater lower body in the round:

After working the yoke of your choice flat on 2 needles, change to 2.75mm DPNS/circular needle and work the rest of the sweater in the round in a single colour only. The work is joined on round 15.

round 14: (right side) On this row we separate out the stitches for the sleeves:

Cast off the first 3 stitches (for the placket), K8, slip next 13 stitches onto a stitch holder or waste yarn (*fig. 7*), cast on 8 stitches using M1A*, K19, slip next 13 stitches onto a stitch holder or waste yarn, cast on another 8 stitches using M1A*, K12 (*56 stitches*)

* I recommend using the M1A thumb method of casting on these stitches because when you pick the stitches up later for the arm, knitting into the front of them gives a completely seamless look.

rounds 15-30: Work 16 rounds in Knit

round 31: Purl

round 32: Knit

round 33: Purl

round 34: Cast off in Purl and cut the work from the ball, leaving a short tail for weaving in.

Continue by following the instructions for the sleeves on Page 11.

Sleeves in the round: (same instructions for both a sweater or a dress)



fig. 9

fig. 10

fig. 11

Using a set of 2.75mm DPNS (double pointed needles) or circulars and your chosen yarn pick up and Knit each of the eight M1A cast-on stitches from the underarm (*fig. 9*), like so: Slide the tip of the needle through each single front loop from front to back, then wrap the yarn knit-wise and draw it through on to the right-hand needle, that is one stitch picked up and knitted. Picking up and knitting the stitches in this way will give a seamless look to the underarm. Continue by knitting into a loop from the side of the armhole to make an extra stitch and then knit across the 13 stitches held on stitch holder. Make 1 stitch from the other side of the armhole in the same way as the first and you should find yourself back where you started with 23 stitches spread over double pointed needles/circulars (*fig. 10*).

rounds 2-12: Continue working in rounds, knitting these 23 stitches. Use the yarn tail from the first stitch as an indicator of where each row ends and a new one begins.

round 13: Purl

round 14: Knit

round 15: Purl

round 16: Cast off loosely in Purl and cut the work from the ball, leaving a short tail for weaving in.

Work the second sleeve in the same way. Continue by following the finishing instructions below.



Finishing instructions for both dress and sweater:

There are no seams so just weave in all the ends on the wrong side. Sew the bottom of the button placket in place so that the side with the button hole overlaps the side with the button. Sew on a button in the correct place to correspond with the buttonhole (*fig. 11*) and pop the dress/sweater on your animal, see pictures below.



These animals are also wearing shoes and boots made from my 'Removable Shoes' pattern.