

Little Cotton Rabbits a selection of seasonal sweater patterns



This pattern contains a range of sweater designs from easy to more challenging knits. There is a Fair-Isle design sweater, a cabled sweater and a reversible top-down cardigan/button back sweater. There are also 3 different styles of simple sweater which can be customised by choosing from eight seasonal designs worked in duplicate stitch.

*More knitting patterns are available at
www.littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk*

One of my favourite things about making knitted toys is coming up with new designs for their clothing. Over the years I've worked on lots of different ideas and now I come to look at them I realise that they fit quite well into seasonal categories, so included here are designs that are fitting for Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

There are a couple of different options for the style of the sweater, including striped sleeves or a sleeve in a contrasting colour and there are also instructions for a cabled Aran sweater, a Fair Isle sweater and a reversible

top down cardigan / button back sweater.

Both the cabled Aran sweater and the Fair Isle design have written instructions rather than charts. All of the colour work charts for use with the simple sweater are intended to be worked in duplicate stitch as this is the easiest way to add multiple colours but you can adapt them to be worked using Intarsia during the knitting up if you prefer.

I hope you enjoy using these patterns to create a wardrobe of different sweaters for your knitted animals.

Abbreviations:

These increase methods are described in detail in the excellent knitting help website:
<http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>

M1A: MAKE 1 STITCH AWAY. I use the thumb method (see link above) to make a backwards loop in the working yarn and place this loop onto the right needle, so the working yarn is pointing away from you.

This is also a useful stitch to use when casting on between 2 sections of knitting (to make the bottom of the armholes on the top down cardigan)

These decrease methods are described in detail in the excellent knitting help website:
<http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/decreases>

SSK (SLIP, SLIP, KNIT) : Slip a stitch (as if to knit it) to the right-hand needle, slip a second stitch in the same way, slip both stitches together back to the left-hand needle and knit together through the back loops.

K2TOG : Knit 2 stitches together

P2TOG : Purl 2 stitches together

P2TOG TBL: Purl 2 stitches together through the back loops

And please note that when the pattern mentions cast on, I use a cable cast on.

Yarn suggestions:

Each pattern is knitted on 2.75mm needles with 4ply (fingering / sock weight yarn). I prefer to knit the clothing in 4ply cotton/cotton mix yarns. I particularly like Rowan Wool Cotton 4ply, DMC Natura or Drops Safran as all knit up nicely and have a good range of colours. Patons 4ply cotton also comes in a wide range of colours but is thinner, so you will need to check your gauge if the clothes are to fit.

It may be worth looking on [Ravelry](http://www.ravelry.com) to see what yarns others are using and recommending.

Gauge:



Gauge for all sweaters: 7 stitches x 10 rows to 1 inch using 4ply/fingering/sock yarn and 2.75mm (US size 2) needles

I plan to write up some extra tips about knitting and finishing techniques, so please pop by for a visit and check out my knitting tips section on the [Little Cotton Rabbits blog](http://www.littlecottonrabbits.com).

There is also a Little Cotton Rabbits group on Ravelry which is a great source of tips, information and friendly fun: <http://www.ravelry.com/groups/little-cotton-rabbits>

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I also plan to publish occasional free supplements with extra chart designs and additional accessories. You can download free copies of these from Ravelry: <http://www.ravelry.com/stores/little-cotton-rabbits>

Cosy Aran sweater:

Materials:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles
- 4ply/sock weight yarn in cream / natural
- a small button

Special abbreviations:

CDD: CENTRED DOUBLE DECREASE: slip 2 stitches together as if to knit them, K1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over (**note**: it is important that they are slipped together and NOT one at a time)

A moderately difficult sweater with simple cable work on the right side of the work only. This sweater is worked in separate pieces up to the armhole but from the armhole upwards to the neck is worked across all the pieces at once. **Please note**: it is very important that you work all of the pieces in the following order:

1st sleeve, front, 2nd sleeve, back

This will ensure that they are all in the correct place when you get to **row 16** and work back across all of the stitches.

When casting on the pieces for the front, second sleeve and back, keep the needle holding the piece/s already worked in your **right** hand and the empty needle in your left.



Cable abbreviations:

C2F, CABLE 2 FRONT: slip the next stitch onto the cable needle and hold at **front** of work, knit the next stitch from left-hand needle then knit the stitch from the cable needle

C2B, CABLE 2 BACK: slip the next stitch onto the cable needle and hold at **back** of work, knit the next stitch from left-hand needle then knit the stitch from the cable needle

T3F, TWIST 3 FRONT: slip next 2 stitches onto the cable needle and hold at **front** of work, purl next stitch from left-hand needle then knit the 2 stitches from the cable needle

T3B, TWIST 3 BACK: slip next stitch onto the cable needle and hold at **back** of work, knit next 2 stitches from left-hand needle then purl the stitch from the cable needle

C3B, CABLE 3 BACK: slip next stitch onto the cable needle and hold at **back** of work, knit next 2 stitches from left-hand needle then knit the stitch from the cable needle

C3F, CABLE 3 FRONT: slip next 2 stitches onto the cable needle and hold at **front** of work, knit next stitch from left-hand needle then knit the 2 stitches from the cable needle

C5B, CABLE 5 BACK: slip next 3 stitches onto the cable needle and hold at back of work, knit next 2 stitches from left-hand needle then knit the 3 stitches from the cable needle

CDD: CENTRED DOUBLE DECREASE: slip 2 stitches together as if to knit them, K1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over (**note**: it is important that they are slipped together and NOT one at a time)

On the wrong side of the work all knit stitches are knitted and all purl stitches are purled (I've still given you full written instructions for these reverse side rows in case you prefer to follow along).

First sleeve:

Using 2.75mm needles cast on 24 stitches, leaving a tail of yarn 7 inches long for sewing up side seam later.

- row 1:** (right side) P3, (K2, P2) five times, P1
row 2: K3, (P2, K2) five times, K1
rows 3 & 4: Repeat rows 1 and 2
row 5: P10, C2B, C2F, P10
row 6: K10, P4, K10
row 7: P10, K4, P10
row 8: K10, P4, K10
row 9: P10, C2B, C2F, P10
row 10: K10, P4, K10
row 11: P1, P2tog, P7, K4, P7, P2tog, P1 (22 stitches)

cut work from ball leaving a 5 inch tail for sewing in later and leave work on needle

Front:

Using 2.75mm needles cast on 27 stitches, leaving a tail of yarn 7 inches for sewing up side seam later.

- row 1:** (right side) (K2, P2) three times, K3, (P2, K2) three times
row 2: (P2, K2) three times, P3, (K2, P2) three times
rows 3 & 4: Repeat rows 1 and 2
row 5: P3, C2B, C2F, P1, K2, (P1, K1) 3 times, P1, K2, P1, C2B, C2F, P3
row 6: K3, P4, K1, P2, (K1, P1) 3 times, K1, P2, K1, P4, K3
row 7: P3, K4, P1, T3F, P1, (K1, P1) twice, T3B, P1, K4, P3
row 8: K3, P4, K2, P2, K1, (P1, K1) twice, P2, K2, P4, K3
row 9: P3, C2B, C2F, P2, T3F, P1, K1, P1 T3B, P2, C2B, C2F, P3
row 10: K3, P4, K3, P2, K1, P1, K1, P2, K3, P4, K3
row 11: P3, K4, P3, T3F, P1, T3B, P3, K4, P3
row 12: K3, P4, K4, P2, K1, P2, K4, P4, K3
row 13: P3, C2B, C2F, P4, C5B, P4, C2B, C2F, P3
row 14: K3, P4, K4, P5, K4, P4, K3
row 15 (front only): P1, P2tog, K4, P3, C3B, P1, C3F, P3, K4, P2tog, P1 (25 stitches)

cut work from ball leaving a 5 inch tail for sewing in later and leave work on needle

Second sleeve: Repeat the instructions for the first sleeve above.

Back: Repeat the instructions above for the front up to row 14.

- row 15 (back):** P1, P2tog, K4, P3, C3B, P1, C3F, P3, K4, P3 (26 stitches). At the end of the row **DO NOT** cut the work from the ball but instead turn the work and prepare to work across all the 95 stitches from the four separate sections now on the needle:
- row 16:** K3, P4, K3, P3, K1, P3, K3, P4, K1, P2tog (across the join between sections), K8, P4, K8, P2tog, K1, P4, K3, P3, K1, P3, K3, P4, K1, P2tog, K8, P4, K9 (92 stitches)
- row 17:** K1, SSK, P6, C2B, C2F, P7, CDD, C2B, C2F, P2, C3B, P1, K1, P1, C3F, P2, C2B, C2F, CDD, P7, C2B, C2F, P7, CDD, C2B, C2F, P2, C3B, P1, K1, P1, C3F, P2, C2B, C2F, K2tog, K1 (84 stitches)
- row 18:** P6, K2, P3, K1, P1, K1, P3, K2, P5, K7, P4, K7, P5, K2, P3, K1, P1, K1, P3, K2, P5, K7, P4, K6, P2
- row 19:** K1, SSK, P5, K4, P6, CDD, K3, P1, C3B, (P1, K1) twice, P1, C3F, P1, K3, CDD, P6, K4, P6, CDD, K3, P1, C3B, (P1, K1) twice, P1, C3F, P1, K3, K2tog, K1 (76 stitches)
- row 20:** P5, K1, P3, (K1, P1) twice, K1, P3, K1, P4, K6, P4, K6, P4, K1, P3, (K1, P1) twice, K1, P3, K1, P4, K6, P4, K5, P2
- row 21:** K1, SSK, P4, C2B, C2F, P5, CDD, C2F, P1, K2, (P1, K1) three times, P1, K2, P1, C2B, CDD, P5, C2B, C2F, P5, CDD, C2F, P1, K2, (P1, K1) three times, P1, K2, P1, C2B, K2tog, K1 (68 stitches)
- row 22:** P4, K1, P2, (K1, P1) three times, K1, P2, K1, P3, K5, P4, K5, P3, K1, P2, (K1, P1) three times, K1, P2, K1, P3, K5, P4, K4, P2
- row 23:** K1, SSK, P3, K4, P4, CDD, K1, P1, T3F, (P1, K1) twice, P1, T3B, P1, K1, CDD, P4, K4, P4, CDD, K1, P1, T3F, (P1, K1) twice, P1, T3B, P1, K1, K2tog, K1 (60 stitches)
- row 24:** P3, K2, P2, (K1, P1) twice, K1, P2, K2, P2, K4, P4, K4, P2, K2, P2, (K1, P1) twice, K1, P2, K2, P2, K4, P4, K3, P2
- row 25:** K1, SSK, P2, C2B, C2F, P3, CDD, P2, T3F, P1, K1, P1, T3B, P2, CDD, P3, C2B, C2F, P3, CDD, P2, T3F, P1, K1, P1, T3B, P2, K2tog, K1 (52 stitches)
- row 26:** P2, K3, P2, K1, P1, K1, P2, K3, P1, K3, P4, K3, P1, K3, P2, K1, P1, K1, P2, K3, P1, K3, P4, K2, P2
- row 27:** K1, SSK, P1, K4, P2, CDD, P2, T3F, P1, T3B, P2, CDD, P2, K4, P2, CDD, P2, T3F, P1, T3B, P2, K2tog, K1 (44 stitches)
- row 28:** P2, K3, P2, K1, P2, K3, P1, K2, P4, K2, P1, K3, P2, K1, P2, K3, P1, K2, P4, K1, P2

row 29: K1, SSK, C2B, C2F, P1, CDD, P2, C5B, P2, CDD, P1, C2B, C2F, P1, CDD, P2, C5B, P2, K2tog, K1 (36 stitches)

rows 30-33: Beginning with a Purl row and ending with a Knit work in stocking stitch (alternate Purl and Knit rows)

row 34: Cast off in Purl

Finishing off instructions:

Leaving a tail of around 8 inches cut the work from the ball and use a fine crochet hook (around 2mm) to make a chain of 6 stitches (or long enough to accommodate the size of button that you have). Join it back to the start point with a slip stitch to make a small loop (*fig. 1*) and weave in the end.

Before I sew up the seams I like to block the sweater to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread the tapestry needle with the cast-on tail for one of the sleeves and join the seam up to the armpit using mattress stitch.

Repeat with the other sleeve and then use the cast on end from the front to join the side seam and repeat with the cast on end from the back. Close a 1cm section of the open armhole seam, leaving the top part of the seam open so that when the button is undone the sweater can be easily taken on and off.

Weave in all the yarn ends along the inside seams and trim excess. Sew a tiny button on the opposite side to the loop (*fig. 1*) and your sweater is done (*fig. 2*).



fig. 1



fig. 2



Top down cardigan/button back sweater:

Materials:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles – a pair of straight and a set of 4 DPNS
- approx. 45m (50yds) of 4ply/fingering/sock weight yarn
- a small button
- a tapestry needle

Special abbreviations:

YO: YARN OVER: to make a buttonhole.

Note: on the following row make sure you work into the YO stitch so as to leave an open eyelet rather than twisting the loop closed.

M1A: MAKE 1 AWAY: make a backwards loop to create an extra stitch on the current row, with the yarn facing away from the direction of knitting

Note: Explanations and excellent video demonstrations of the abbreviations above can be found on the Knitting Help website: <http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>

This pattern is for a moderately easy cardigan/button-back sweater which is worked from the neck down to the hem with the sleeves knitted in the round on double pointed needles (DPNS). You can choose to either have it as a button back sweater or turn it round so that it becomes a front opening cardigan. If you make a cardigan you may want to include just the first three buttonholes and ignore the rest. If you are making it as a sweater then work all five of the buttonholes.



Body:

Starting at the neck, cast on 32 stitches using 2.75mm needles and your chosen yarn

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: Knit

row 6: K4, (M1A, K3) 11 times, M1A, K4 (53 stitches)

row 7: K3, P47, K3

row 8: *buttonhole row:* K51, YO, K2 tog

row 9: Knit

row 10: K4, (M1A, K3) 15 times, M1A, K4 (69 stitches)

row 11: K3, P63, K3

row 12: Knit

row 13: Knit

row 14: *On this row we separate out the stitches for the sleeves, it is also a buttonhole row:*

K12, cast on 8 stitches using M1A* (figs. 1 & 2), slip next 12 stitches onto a stitch holder or waste piece of yarn (fig. 3),

K21, cast on another 8 stitches in the same way, slip next 12 stitches onto a stitch holder or waste piece of yarn (fig. 3),

K10, YO, K2tog (61 stitches)

row 15: K3, P55, K3

row 16: Knit

row 17: K3, P55, K3

row 18: Knit

row 19: K3, P55, K3

row 20: *optional buttonhole row:*
K59, YO, K2tog

row 21: K3, P55, K3

row 22: Knit

row 23: K3, P55, K3

row 24: Knit

row 25: K3, P55, K3

row 26: *optional buttonhole row:*
K59, YO, K2tog

row 27: K3, P55, K3

row 28: Knit

row 29: Knit

row 30: Knit

row 31: Knit

row 32: cast off in purl

* 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.



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3

Tip: Here in *fig. 3* I've used a hair pin as a stitch holder – they're great for holding a small amount of stitches

Sleeves:

Using a set of 2.75mm DPNS (double pointed needles) and the same yarn as above knit into each of the 8 M1A cast on stitches from the underarm by sliding the tip of the needle from front to back through each single front loop (*fig. 4*), wrapping the yarn knit-wise and drawing it through to make an extra stitch (*fig. 5*). Picking up and working the stitches in this way will give a seamless look to the underarm.



fig. 4



fig. 5

Continue by knitting into a loop from the side of the armhole (*fig. 6*) to make an extra stitch

(the arrow is indicating the 'bar' that you need to knit into in order to make a stitch from the side of the armhole)

and then by sliding the 12 stitches held on waste yarn (or stitch holder) onto two further double pointed needles (*fig. 7*) and knitting across them. 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 22 stitches spread over 3 double pointed needles.

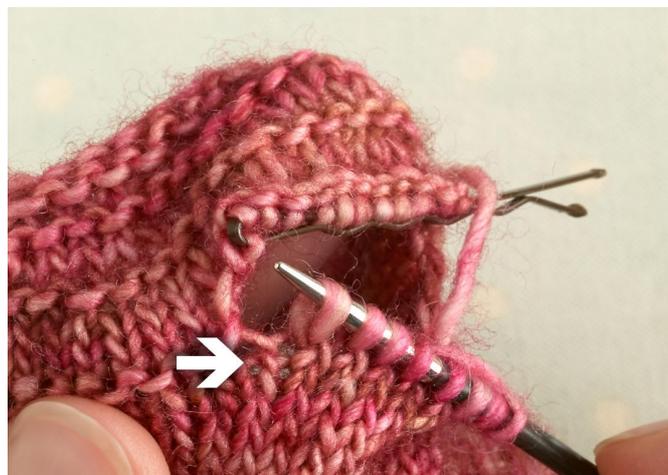


fig. 6

rows 2-12: Continue working in rounds, knitting these 22 stitches (*fig. 8*). Use the yarn tail from the first stitch as an indicator of where each row ends and a new one begins.

row 13: Purl this round

row 14: Knit this round

row 15: Purl this round

row 16: Cast off loosely in purl



fig. 7



fig. 8

Making up:

There are no seams so just weave in all the ends on the wrong side. Sew on buttons in the correct places to correspond with the buttonholes.

Nordic sweater:

Materials:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles
- Yarn A: 4ply/sock weight in main colour
- Yarn B: 4ply/sock weight in contrasting colour
- a small button

Special abbreviations:

CDD: CENTRED DOUBLE DECREASE: slip 2 stitches together as if to knit them, K1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over (**note:** it is important that they are slipped together and NOT one at a time)

A moderately easy sweater with a simple stranded /Fair Isle design

This sweater is worked in separate pieces up to the armhole but from the armhole upwards to the neck is worked across all pieces at once.

Where there are colour changes do not cut the threads for each (unless indicated) but carry the un-worked colour up the side of each piece until it is next needed.

Please note: it is very important that you work all of the pieces in the following order:

1st sleeve, front, 2nd sleeve, back

This will ensure that they are all in the correct place when you get to **row 13** and purl back across all of the stitches.

When casting on the pieces for the front, second sleeve and back, keep the needle holding the piece/s already worked in your left hand and the empty needle in your right.



First sleeve:

starting at the cuff and working up to the armhole use **Yarn A** and 2.75mm needles to cast on 23 stitches leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) **Knit**

row 2: **Knit**

row 3: **Knit**

row 4: Join in Yarn B (**K1, K1**) 11 times, **K1**

row 5: **Purl in Yarn A only**

rows 6-12: Beginning and ending with a **Knit row** work in **stocking stitch** (alternate **Knit** and **Purl** rows)

Cut work from both colours, leaving 3 inch tails for sewing in later and leave work on needle.

Front:

First cut 3m (3.3yds) of Yarn B to work the design with. Starting at the bottom edge and working up to the armhole use **Yarn A** and 2.75mm needles to cast on 27 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) **Knit**

row 2: **Knit**

row 3: **Knit**

row 4: Join in the length of Yarn B (**K1, K1**) 13 times, **K1**

row 5: **Purl**

row 6: **Knit**

row 7: **P1, P1, (P4, P1) twice, P3, P1, (P4, P1) twice, P1**

row 8: **K1, K1, K3, K3, K3, K2, K1, K2, K3, K3, K3, K1, K1**

row 9: **P1, (P1, P4) twice, P5, (P4, P1) twice, P1**

row 10: **K2, K3, K3, K3, K2, K1, K2, K3, K3, K2**

row 11: **P2, P2, P5, P2, P1, P1, P1, P1, P2, P5, P2, P2**

row 12: **K2tog, K1, K3, K1, K3, K2, K1, K1, K1, K2, K3, K1, K3, K1, SSK (25 stitches)**

Cut **Yarn A** from the work, leaving a 3 inch tail for sewing in later and leave work on needle. DO NOT cut Yarn B as you will need this to work the rest of the design in the upper part of the front.

Second sleeve: repeat instructions exactly as for first sleeve

Back:

repeat the instructions exactly as for the front BUT **DO NOT** cut the work from either yarn at the end of row 12. Instead turn the work and follow the instructions below which are worked across all 96 stitches from the four separate sections now on the needle: *Note:* Continue using **Yarn A** from the main ball and use the corresponding strands of **Yarn B** to work the pattern across the back and the front.

row 13: P1, P2, P5, P2, P1, P1, P1, P1, P1, P2, P5, P1,
P1, P2tog, P21, P2tog, P1, P1, P5, P2, P1, P1,
P1, P1, P1, P2, P5, P1, P1, P2tog, P22 (93 sts)

row 14: K1, SSK, K18, CDD, K2, K3, K3, K2, K1, K2, K3,
K3, K2, CDD, K19, CDD, K2, K3, K3, K2, K1,
K2, K3, K3, K1, K2tog, K1 (85 stitches)

row 15: P4, P1, P4, P5, P4, P1, P27, P1, P4, P5, P4, P1,
P24

row 16: K1, SSK, K16, CDD, K1, K3, K3, K2, K1, K2, K3,
K3, K1, CDD, K17, CDD, K1, K3, K3, K2, K1, K2,
K3, K3, K2tog, K1 (77 stitches)

row 17: P3, P1, P4, P1, P3, P1, P4, P1, P23, P1, P4, P1,
P3, P1, P4, P1, P21

row 18: K1, SSK, K14, CDD, K17, CDD, K15, CDD, K16,
K2tog, K1 (69 stitches)

row 19: Purl

row 20: K1, SSK, K12, CDD, (K1, K1) 7 times, K1, CDD,
K13, CDD, (K1, K1) 7 times, K2tog, K1
(61 stitches)

row 21: Purl

row 22: K1, SSK, K10, CDD, K13, CDD, K11, CDD, K12,
K2tog, K1 (53 stitches)

row 23: Purl

row 24: K1, SSK, K8, CDD, K11, CDD, K9, CDD, K10,
K2tog, K1 (45 stitches)

row 25: Purl

row 26: K1, SSK, K6, CDD, K9, CDD, K7, CDD, K8,
K2tog, K1 (37 stitches)

row 27: Purl

row 28: Knit

row 29: Purl

row 30: Knit

row 31: Cast off in Purl

Finishing off instructions:

Leaving a tail of around 8 inches cut the work from the ball and use a fine crochet hook (around 2mm) to make a chain of 6 stitches (or long enough to accommodate the size of button that you have). Join it back to the start point with a slip stitch to make a small loop and weave in the end.

Before I sew up the seams I like to block the sweater to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread the tapestry needle with the cast-on tail for one of the sleeves and join the seam up to the armpit using mattress stitch.

Repeat with the other sleeve and then use the cast on end from the front to join the side seam and repeat with the cast on end from the back. Close a 1cm section of the open armhole seam, leaving the top part of the seam open so that when the button is undone the sweater can be easily taken on and off. Weave in all the yarn ends along the inside seams and trim excess. Sew a tiny button on the opposite side to the loop and your sweater is done.



A simple sweater three ways

1. plain sweater:

Materials:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles
- Yarn A: 4ply/sock weight in main colour
- a small button

Special abbreviations:

CDD: CENTRED DOUBLE DECREASE: slip 2 stitches together as if to knit them, K1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over (**note:** it is important that they are slipped together and NOT one at a time)

This is an easy sweater worked in simple stocking stitch and a single yarn colour. It is worked in separate pieces up to the armhole but from the armhole upwards to the neck it is worked across all the pieces at once.

Please note: it is very important that you work all of the pieces in the following order:

1st sleeve, front, 2nd sleeve, back

This will ensure that they are all in the correct place when you get to **row 13** and purl back across all of the stitches.

When casting on the pieces for the front, second sleeve and back, keep the needle holding the piece/s already worked in your left hand and the empty needle in your right.



1. First sleeve:

starting at the cuff and working up to the armhole
Use chosen 4ply yarn and 2.75mm needles to cast on 23 stitches leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

row 2: Knit

row 3: Knit

row 4: Knit

row 5: Purl

row 6-12: Beginning and ending with a knit row work in stocking stitch (alternate knit and purl rows) cut work from ball, leaving a 3 inch tail for sewing in later and leave work on needle.

3. Second sleeve:

Repeat instructions as first sleeve

2. Front:

starting at the bottom edge and working up to the armhole. Use chosen 4ply yarn and 2.75mm needles to cast on 25 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Knit

row 2: Knit

row 3: Knit

row 4: Knit

row 5: Purl

row 6-12: Beginning and ending with a knit row work in stocking stitch (alternate knit and purl rows) cut work from ball leaving a 3 inch tail for sewing in later and leave work on needle

4. Back:

Repeat the instructions for the front **BUT DO NOT** cut the work from the ball. Instead turn the work and follow the instructions below across all 96 stitches from the four separate sections now on the needle:

row 13: P24, P2tog, P21, P2tog, P23, P2tog, P22 (93 stitches)
 row 14: K1, SSK, K18, CDD, K21, CDD, K19, CDD, K20, K2tog, K1 (85 stitches)
 row 15: Purl
 row 16: K1, SSK, K16, CDD, K19, CDD, K17, CDD, K18, K2tog, K1 (77 stitches)
 row 17: Purl
 row 18: K1, SSK, K14, CDD, K17, CDD, K15, CDD, K16, K2tog, K1 (69 stitches)
 row 19: Purl
 row 20: K1, SSK, K12, CDD, K15, CDD, K13, CDD, K14, K2tog, K1 (61 stitches)
 row 21: Purl

row 22: K1, SSK, K10, CDD, K13, CDD, K11, CDD, K12, K2tog, K1 (53 stitches)
 row 23: Purl
 row 24: K1, SSK, K8, CDD, K11, CDD, K9, CDD, K10, K2tog, K1 (45 stitches)
 row 25: Purl
 row 26: K1, SSK, K6, CDD, K9, CDD, K7, CDD, K8, K2tog, K1 (37 stitches)
 row 27: Purl
 row 28: Knit
 row 29: Purl
 row 30: Knit
 row 31: Cast off in Purl

Finishing off instructions:

These instructions work for all three versions

Leaving a tail of around 8 inches cut the work from the ball and use a fine crochet hook (around 2mm) to make a chain of 6 stitches (or long enough to accommodate the size of button that you have). Join it back to the start point with a slip stitch to make a small loop and weave in the end.

Before I sew up the seams I like to block the sweater to make it neat. I usually do this by carefully steam blocking but if you prefer wet blocking that is fine too. After blocking thread the tapestry needle with the cast-on tail for one of the sleeves and join the seam up to the armpit using mattress stitch. Repeat with the other sleeve and then use the cast on end from the front to join the side seam and repeat with the cast on end from the back. Close a 1cm section of the open armhole seam, leaving the top part of the seam open so that when the button is undone the sweater can be easily taken on and off. Weave in all the yarn ends along the inside seams and trim excess. Sew a tiny button on the opposite side to the loop and your sweater is done



.....
 On [pages 17 - 20](#) you'll find 8 designs that can worked in Swiss darning /duplicate stitch to decorate the front of any of these three simple sweaters.

Basic tips for working duplicate stitch:

Work the design before you seam your sweater – it's easier to work on duplicate stitch when the piece is flat and you can turn to the wrong side more easily.

Always start at the bottom of a design and work back and forth across each row in turn

I've written a post with more detailed explanations of the best way to work duplicate stitch on my blog.

2. sweater with coloured sleeves:

Materials:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles
- **Yarn A:** 4ply/sock weight in **main colour**
- **Yarn B:** 4ply/sock weight in **contrasting colour**
- a small button

Special abbreviations:

CDD: CENTRED DOUBLE DECREASE: slip 2 stitches together as if to knit them, K1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over (**note:** it is important that they are slipped together and NOT one at a time)

This is a moderately easy sweater with some colour contrast. It is worked in separate pieces up to the armhole but from the armhole upwards to the neck it is worked across all the pieces at once.

Please note: it is very important that you work all of the pieces in the following order:

1st sleeve, front, 2nd sleeve, back

This will ensure that they are all in the correct place when you get to **row 13** and purl back across all of the stitches.

When casting on the pieces for the front, second sleeve and back, keep the needle holding the piece/s already worked in your left hand and the empty needle in your right.



A note on spools:

I like to wind my cut lengths of yarn for each section onto strips of corrugated cardboard. I label each one (which helps to ensure I'm using the right spool for each section) and I cut a slit in the end of each to hold the yarn when that section is not in use and this prevents that spool from unravelling.

A note about intarsia technique: It is important that you intertwine the strands of contrasting colours as you switch between them at the join points for the sleeves. Here is a helpful video:

<http://www.knittinghelp.com/video/play/intarsia-color-knitting>

First sleeve:

Before starting cut 2m (2.2yds) of **Yarn A for the cuff** and **6.5m (7.1yds) of Yarn B** and wind onto spools or centre pull balls (see picture above). Starting at the cuff and working up to the armhole use the 2m length of **Yarn A** and 2.75mm needles to cast on 23 stitches leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Knit	row 5: Purl
row 2: Knit	rows 6-12: Starting and ending with knit rows work in stocking stitch (alternate knit and purl rows)
row 3: Knit	leave work on the needle
row 4: Change to the 3m of Yarn B and Knit	

Front:

Before starting cut 8.5m (9.3yds) length of **Yarn A** and wind onto spool or centre pull ball.

Starting at the bottom edge and working up to the armhole use the 9m of **Yarn A** and 2.75mm needles to cast on 25 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later

row 1: (wrong side) Knit	rows 4-12: Beginning and ending with a knit row work in stocking stitch (alternate knit and purl rows)
row 2: Knit	leave work on needle
row 3: Knit	

Second sleeve: repeat instructions exactly as first sleeve

Back: repeat instructions exactly as for the front (except this time use **Yarn A** from the main ball)

At the end of **row 12** turn the work and follow the instructions below from **rows 13-31** which are worked across all 96 stitches from the four separate sections now on the needle:

Important notes: *work each sleeve, front and back in their respective strands, intertwining them where the sections meet in the way you would with intarsia work and being careful not to mix them up.*

row 13: P24, P2tog, P1* , P20, P2tog, P23, P2tog, P1* , P21 (93 stitches)	row 21: P18, P12, P18, P13
<i>*Note: working the first stitch on each sleeve in Yarn A makes a neat CDD decrease on the next row. The same will happen on all purl rows</i>	row 22: K1, SSK, K10, CDD, K13, CDD, K11, CDD, K12, K2tog, K1 (53 stitches)
row 14: K1, SSK, K18, CDD, K21, CDD, K19, CDD, K20, K2tog, K1 (85 stitches)	row 23: P16, P10, P16, P11
row 15: P24, P18, P24, P19	row 24: K1, SSK, K8, CDD, K11, CDD, K9, CDD, K10, K2tog, K1 (45 stitches)
row 16: K1, SSK, K16, CDD, K19, CDD, K17, CDD, K18, K2tog, K1 (77 stitches)	row 25: P14, P8, P14, P9
row 17: P22, P16, P22, P17	row 26: K1, SSK, K6, CDD, K9, CDD, K7, CDD, K8, K2tog, K1 (37 stitches)
row 18: K1, SSK, K14, CDD, K17, CDD, K15, CDD, K16, K2tog, K1 (69 stitches)	row 27: Purl across all stitches using Yarn A from the main ball
row 19: P20, P14, P20, P15	rows 28-30: Beginning and ending with a Knit row, work in stocking stitch (alternate purl and knit rows)
row 20: K1, SSK, K12, CDD, K15, CDD, K13, CDD, K14, K2tog, K1 (61 stitches)	row 31: Cast off in Purl

Finishing off instructions:

[See page 12 for instructions for making button loop and sewing up.](#)

3. sweater with striped sleeves:

Materials:

- 2.75mm (US 2) needles
- **Yarn A:** 4ply/sock weight in main colour
- **Yarn B:** 4ply/sock weight in contrasting colour
- a small button

Special abbreviations:

CDD: CENTRED DOUBLE DECREASE: slip 2 stitches together as if to knit them, K1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over (**note:** it is important that they are slipped together and NOT one at a time)

This is a moderately easy sweater with some colour contrast. I work this in two colours but if you are feeling adventurous you could work it in 3 colours; one colour for the front and back and 2 different colours for the stripy sleeves.

It is worked in separate pieces up to the armhole but from the armhole upwards to the neck it is worked across all the pieces at once.

Where there are colour changes between rows on the sleeves do not cut the threads for each (unless indicated) but carry the un-worked colour up the side of each piece until it is next needed.

Please note: it is very important that you work all of the pieces in the following order:

1st sleeve, front, 2nd sleeve, back

This will ensure that they are all in the correct place when you get to **row 13** and purl back across all of the stitches. When casting on the pieces for the front, second sleeve and back, keep the needle holding the piece/s already worked in your left hand and the empty needle in your right.



A note on spools:

I like to wind my cut lengths of yarn for each section onto strips of corrugated cardboard. I label each one (which helps to ensure I'm using the right spool for each section) and I cut a slit in the end of each to hold the yarn when that section is not in use and this prevents that spool from unravelling.

A note about intarsia technique: It is important that you intertwine the strands of contrasting colours as you switch between them at the join points for the sleeves. Here is a helpful video:

<http://www.knittinghelp.com/video/play/intarsia-color-knitting>

1. First sleeve:

Before starting cut 8m (8.8yds) of **Yarn A** and 3.5m (3.8yds) of **Yarn B** and wind onto spools (see picture above) or centre pull balls. Starting at the cuff and working up to the armhole use the 8m length of **Yarn A** and 2.75mm needles to cast on 23 stitches leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1: (wrong side) **Knit**
 - row 2: **Knit**
 - row 3: **Knit**
 - row 4: Change to the 3.5m of **Yarn B** and **Knit**
 - row 5: **Purl**
 - row 6: Change to **Yarn A** and **Knit**
 - row 7: **Purl**
 - row 8: Change to **Yarn B** and **Knit**
 - row 9: **Purl**
 - row 10: change to **Yarn A** and **Knit**
 - row 11: **Purl**
 - row 12: Change to **Yarn B** and **Knit**
- Leave work on the needle

4. Back:

Repeat instructions exactly as for the front (including cutting an additional 9m (9.8yds) length of **Yarn A**) At the end of **row 12** turn the work and follow the instructions below from **rows 13-31** which are worked across all 96 stitches from the four separate sections now on the needle:

Important notes: *work each sleeve, front and back in their respective strands, intertwining them where the sections meet in the way you would with intarsia work and being careful not to mix them up.*

- row 13: **P24, P2tog, P1***, **P20, P2tog, P23, P2tog, P1***, **P21** (93 stitches)

Note: working the first stitch on each sleeve in **Yarn A makes a neat CDD decrease on the next row. The same will happen on **rows 17, 21 and 25***

- row 14: **Change to Yarn A, K1, SSK, K18, CDD**,
*change to **Yarn A** for front **K21, CDD**,
*change to **Yarn A** for 2nd sleeve **K19, CDD**,
*change to **Yarn A** for back **K20, K2tog, K1**
(85 stitches)

*note: * it is important after each CDD to swap over the the relevant **Yarn A** spool for each section on this row and on **rows 18 and 22***

- row 15: **Purl all sections in Yarn A using the respective strands from each section**
- row 16: **Change to Yarn B, K1, SSK, K16, CDD, K19, CDD, K17, CDD, K18, K2tog, K1** (77 stitches)
- row 17: **P22, P16, P22, P17**
- row 18: **Change to Yarn A, K1, SSK, K14, CDD, K17, CDD, K15, CDD, K16, K2tog, K1** (69 stitches)
- row 19: **Purl all sections in Yarn A using the**

2. Front:

Before starting cut 9m (9.8yds) length of **Yarn A** and wind onto spool or centre pull ball. Starting at the bottom edge and working up to the armhole use the 9m of **Yarn A** and 2.75mm needles to cast on 25 stitches, leaving a tail of 5 inches for seaming with later.

- row 1: (wrong side) **Knit**
 - row 2: **Knit**
 - row 3: **Knit**
 - rows 4-12: **Beginning and ending with a knit row, work in stocking stitch** (alternate knit and purl rows)
- Leave work on needle

3. Second sleeve:

Repeat instructions exactly as first sleeve except this time you will **only need 5m (5.5yds) of Yarn A** and 3.5m (3.8yds) of **Yarn B**.

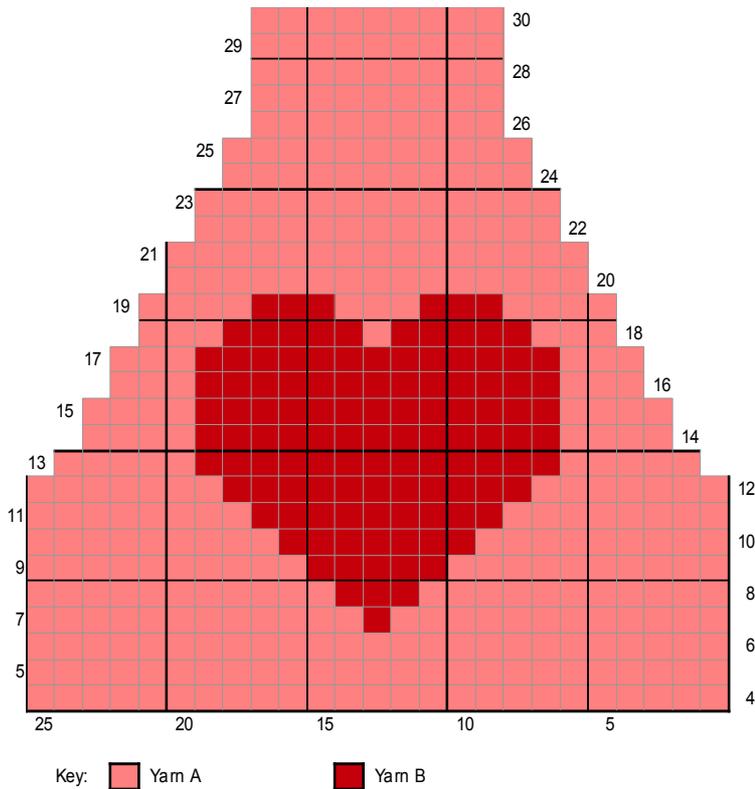
- row 20: **Change to Yarn B, K1, SSK, K12, CDD, K15, CDD, K13, CDD, K14 K2tog, K1** (61 stitches)
- row 21: **P18, P12, P18, P13**
- row 22: **Change to Yarn A, K1, SSK, K10, CDD, K13, CDD, K11, CDD, K12, K2tog, K1** (53 stitches)
- row 23: **Purl all sections in Yarn A using the respective strands from each section**
- row 24: **Change to Yarn B, K1, SSK, K8, CDD, K11, CDD, K9, CDD, K10, K2tog, K1** (45 stitches)
- row 25: **P14, P8, P14, P9**
- row 26: **Change to Yarn A** and use this strand from the first sleeve across the whole row, cut all other strands from the work as they will no longer be needed
K1, SSK, K6, CDD, K9, CDD, K7, CDD, K8, K2tog, K1 (37 stitches)
- row 27: **Purl**
- row 28-30: **Beginning and ending with a knit row work 3 rows in stocking stitch** (alternate purl and knit rows)
- row 31: **Cast off in Purl**

Finishing off instructions:

See page 12 for instructions for making button loop and sewing up.

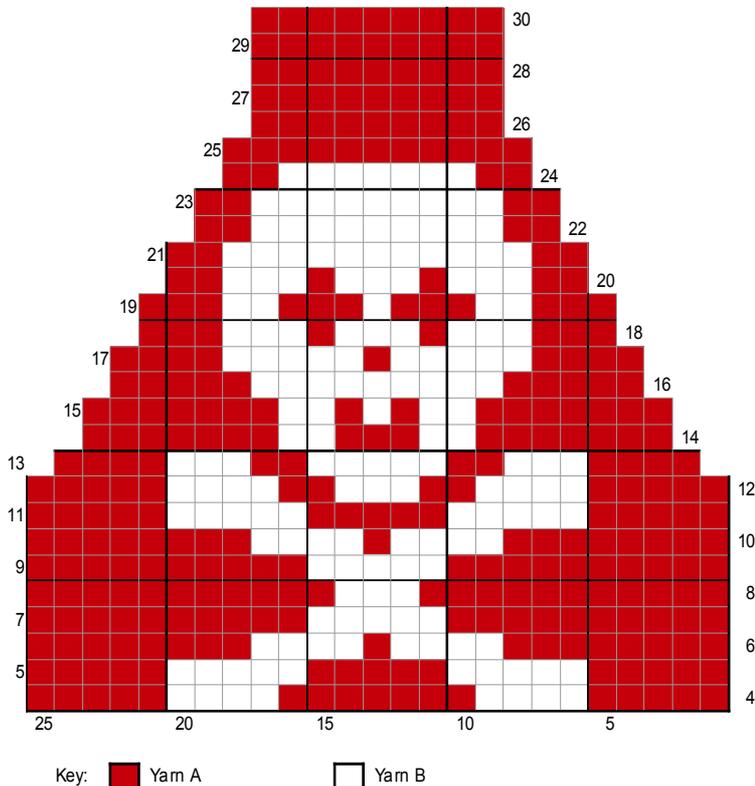
Charts to use with simple sweaters:

Love heart



For the heart design cut one long strand of **Yarn B** and starting at the bottom point work upwards across each row in turn. If you reach the end of your strand before completing the design then it is easy to join in a second length and carry on. You can either knot the ends together on the back of the work and trim off or weave them in.

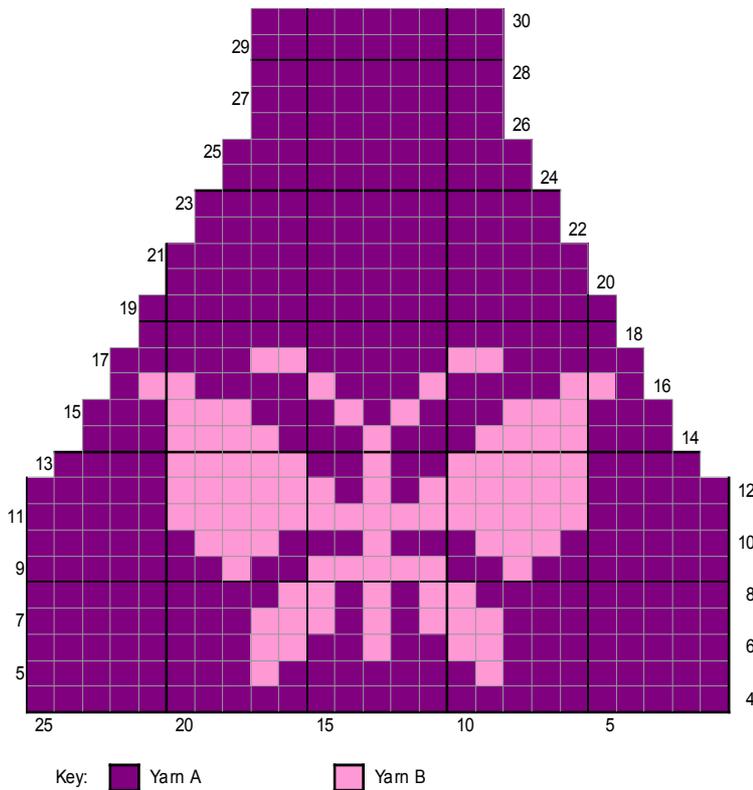
Skull & crossbones



For the Skull design cut two lengths of **Yarn B** and start at the bottommost outer corners of the design. Continue to work the design in two halves working up from the bottom and joining in extra lengths of yarn as necessary.

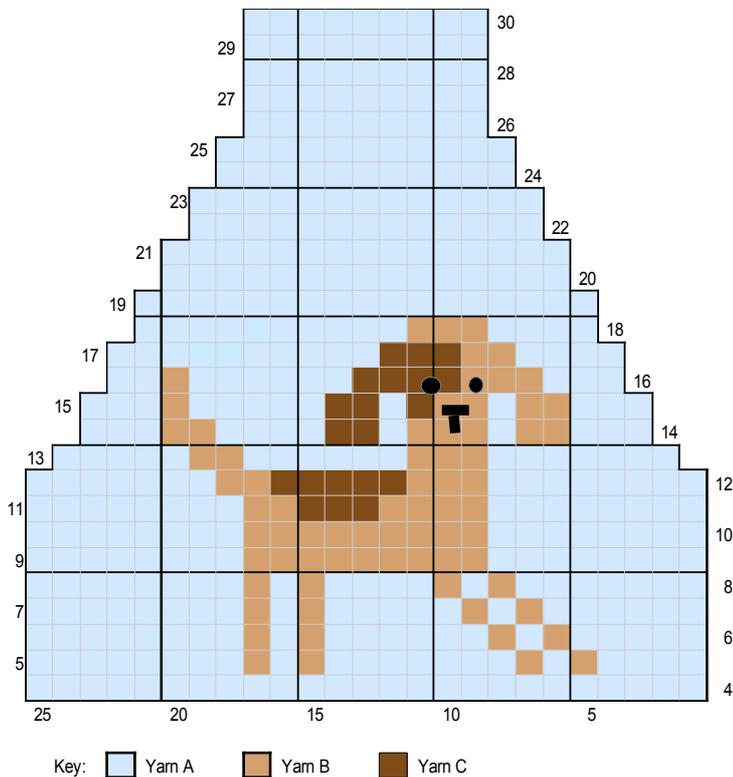
Charts to use with simple sweaters:

Butterfly



For the butterfly design you can either choose to work the design in a single colour or use two colours – 1 for the wings and one for the body. Always start at the bottom of the design and work upwards across each row in turn. If you reach the end of your strand before completing the design then it is easy to join in a second length and carry on. You can either knot the ends together on the back of the work and trim off or weave them in.

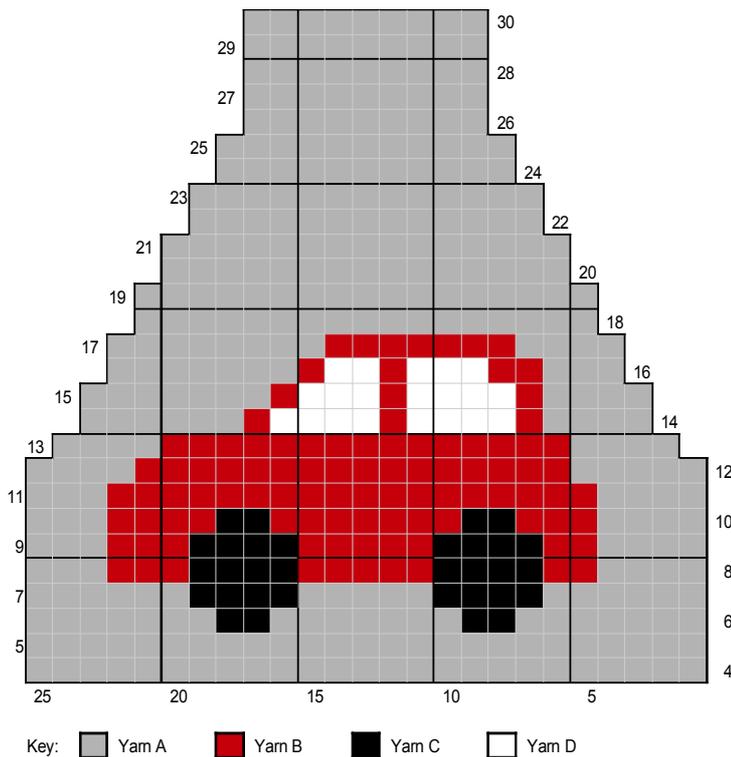
Playful puppy



For the puppy design cut two lengths of **Yarn B** and start at the bottom of the legs – working upwards across two legs at a time. When you reach the body work this in two halves and join in **Yarn C** where indicated and extra lengths of **Yarn B** as necessary. The eyes and nose were embroidered in black yarn at the end. For the eyes make a single knot in the yarn on the right side of the work.

Charts to use with simple sweaters:

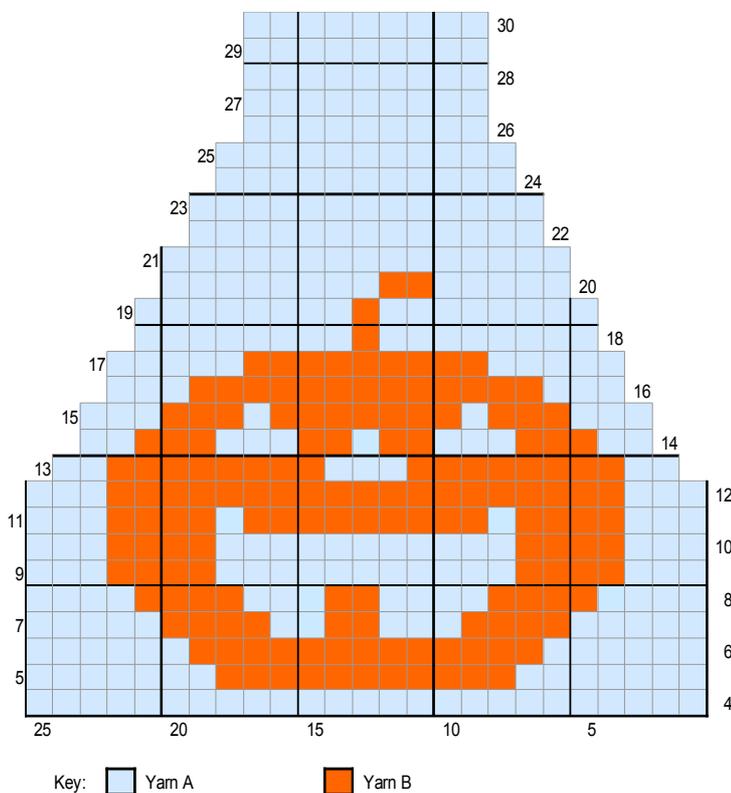
Family car



For the car design cut one long strand of Yarn C for each wheel and work from the bottom of the design to the top. Use 3 separate strands of Yarn B to work both sides and the middle of the design and two separate strands of yarn D for the windows.

If you reach the end of any strand before completing the design then it is easy to join in a second length and carry on. You can either knot the ends together and trim off or weave them in.

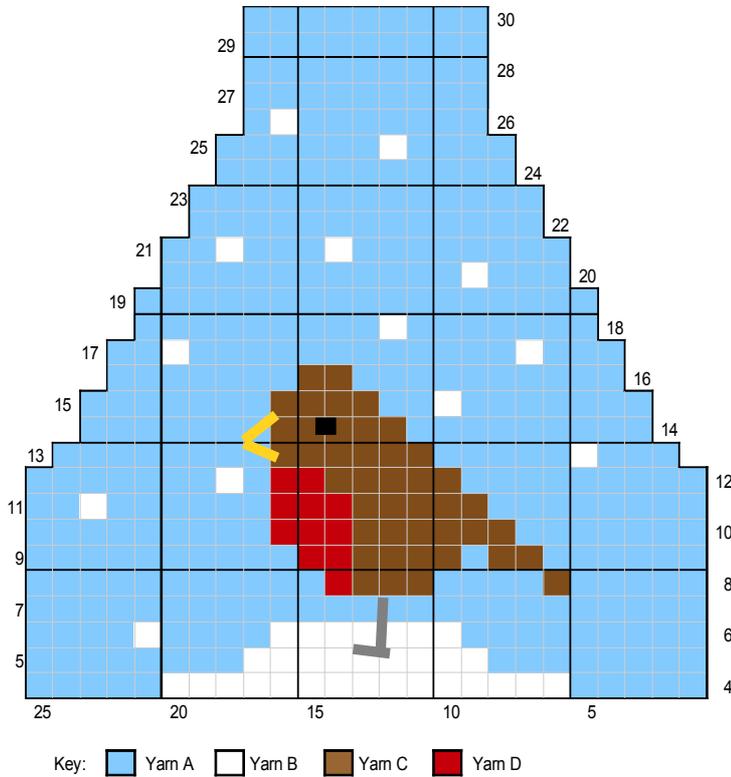
Jack o'lantern



For the pumpkin design cut one long strand of Yarn B and starting at the bottom right hand corner of the design work upwards across each row in turn. Join in a second strand at the beginning of the tooth and use this to work the left side of the face. If you reach the end of your strands before completing the design then it is easy to join in a second length and carry on. You can either knot the ends together and trim off or weave them in.

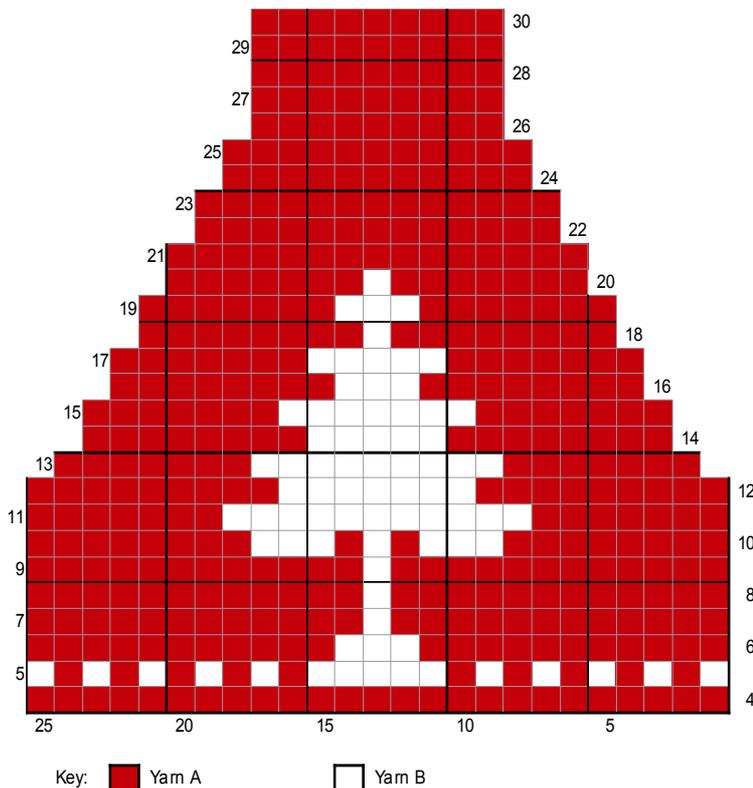
Charts to use with simple sweaters:

Robin redbreast



For the robin design you can work the little white hillock during the knitting up using the intarsia method. (I also knitted the cuffs and collar in white). Work the robins brown body and red breast in duplicate stitch working from the bottom of the design to the top. I also worked a scattering of snowflakes at random with one long strand of the white yarn. Lastly embroider the leg, beak and eye before knotting off all ends inside the sweater and trimming them.

Oh Christmas tree



For the tree design use a length of Yarn B to work alternate stitches around the second row of each sleeve and the base of the front and back. Use a longer length to work the tree in the middle of the sweater, working from the bottom of the design to the top.

Little Cotton Rabbits chart for a dog

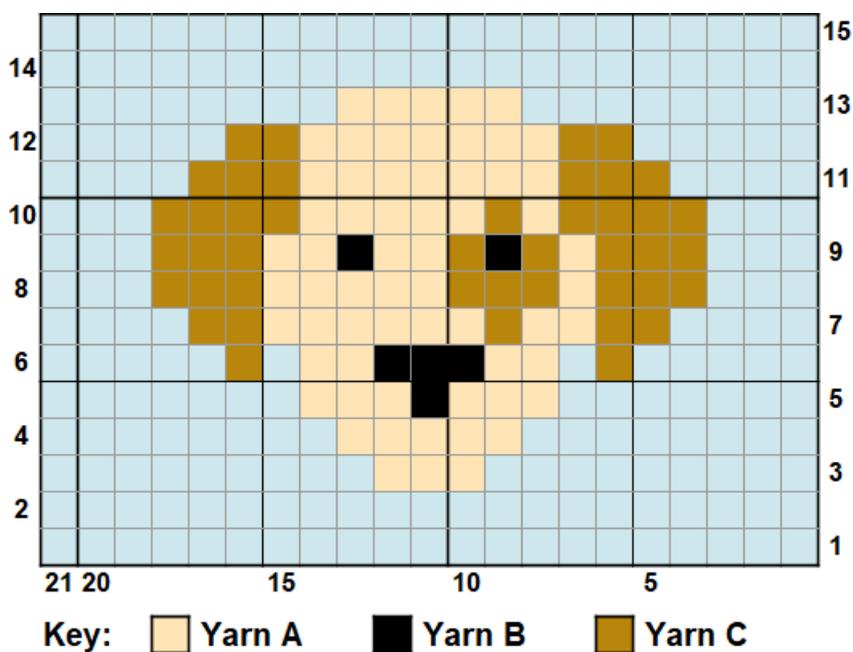


Here is a free little chart that you can use to add a doggy duplicate stitch motif to your little cotton rabbits sweater. It will work on both the small size sweater for 7 inch animals and the larger sweaters for the 9 inch animals.

If you're new to duplicate stitch/Swiss darning then I have a tutorial which will hopefully explain how to work this technique – it's a useful method of adding a multi-coloured design to the front of an already finished sweater and avoids the fiddly aspects of knitting with three colours at the same time.

For these sweaters I've worked Yarn A and Yarn C in duplicate stitch and then over the top of this I've embroidered the nose and added knots for the eyes.

Duplicate stitch tutorial: https://littlecottonrabbits.typepad.co.uk/my_weblog/2014/07/duplicate-stitch.html



The little bones pictured above are made from my free pattern here:
<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/little-dog-bone>

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