

## The Tortoise and the Hare



**Fitted tee, featuring braids, colourwork, and steeks.**

**By Kate Davies**

**Gauge:** 7 sts and 9 rounds to 1 inch in pattern on 3mm needle.

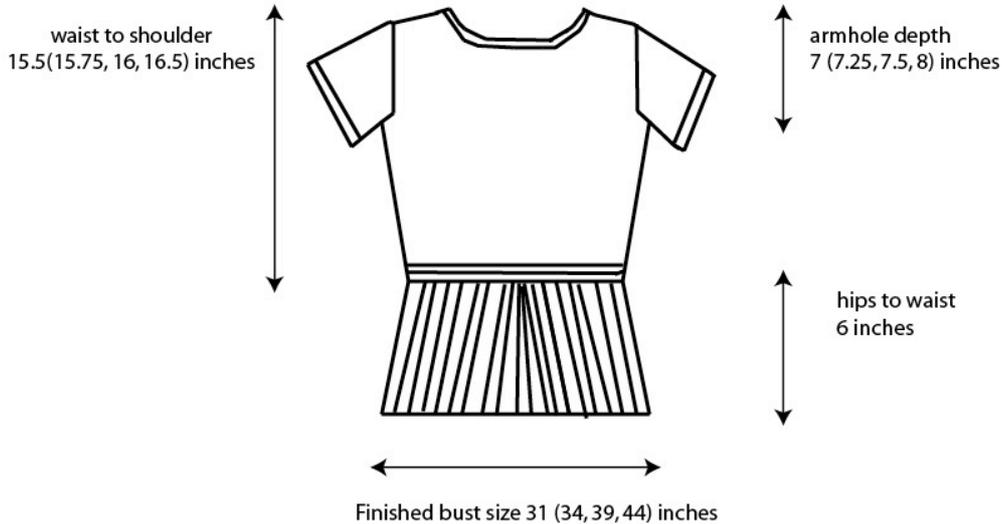
**Sizes:** Size 1 (30-32 inches), Size 2 (34-36 inches), Size 3 (38-40 inches) Size 4 (42-44 inches).

**Yarn and other materials:** Approximately 1(760), 2(950), 3(1050), 4(1150) yards of MC, 1(180), 2(190), 3(210), 4(220) yards of CC1; 1(180), 2(190), 3(210), 4(220) yards of CC2, and 1(70), 2(80), 3(90), 4(100) yards of CC3. (Check schematic - if lengthening body, be sure to buy an extra skein of MC). I worked the sample in Blacker Designs 4ply Shetland, which gives a traditional Fairisle finish to the colourwork. 60 cm / 3mm, 80cm / 3mm and 80 cm / 2.5 mm circular needles. Set of 3mm dpns (for grafting shoulders, and working sleeves, if preferred to circs). Tapestry needle. Lengths of waste yarn for holding stitches.

**Stitch markers:**

- 4 markers 'x' (to indicate position of side stitches and hip-to-waist shaping)
- 4 markers 'y' (to indicate pattern placement during bust shaping)
- 6 markers 'z' (to indicate beginning and end of armhole and neck steeks)

## Tortoise and Hare Schematic



### Abbreviations

b/o = bind off  
c/o = cast on  
k = knit  
p = purl  
mc = main colour/ working yarn  
cc1/2/3 = contrast colours  
m1 - make one (increase)  
pm = place marker  
sm = slip marker  
st(s) = stitch, stitches  
k2 tog = knit 2 stitches together (right slanting decrease)  
ssk = slip, slip knit (left slanting decrease)  
rs = right side  
ws = wrong side

**Fit and adjustments:** This sweater is designed to fit reasonably closely - with a little negative ease, but enough wriggle room to allow the wearing of a long-sleeved t-shirt underneath. The illustrated sample was knitted in a size 1 with 1" negative ease. Consult the schematic: the measurements given are the actual finished dimensions of the sweater. If you are particularly long or short waisted and wish to change the length of the sweater body, you can add/ remove rounds from the ribbing where indicated in the pattern.

### Note on colourwork:

I rarely weave my floats when knitting fairisle patterns, however, in this sweater, the tortoises and hares are worked over very long stretches of colourwork (in the hare's case, up to 14 stitches). To maintain an even tension, I recommend weaving your floats when working long stretches of one colour.

### Special techniques:

#### Vikkel braid

**Round 1:** k1A, k1B across round.

**Round 2:** Bring both colours in front of needles. p1A, p1B across round, bringing the next colour **over** the previous one each time you make a stitch.

**Round 3:** p1A, p1B across round, but bring the next colour **under** the previous one each time you make a stitch.

**Round 4:** k1A across round.

**Note:** on round 2, your yarns will twist together as you begin to make the braid. Don't try to untwist them (or you will get in a tangle). Rather, pull out a long length of yarn from each skein, and push the twist gently away from your work. On round 3, you will be working the braid in the opposite direction, and the yarn lengths will magically untangle themselves—leaving your work twist free.

#### Short rows

Sleeve caps are worked from the top down, and shaped using short rows.

Instructions for short rows are given here using Carol Sunday's method (similar to a Japanese short row) but you may prefer to use wrap & turn, or another method.

Cut two 3" pieces of fingering weight or sock yarn in a contrasting colour

**To turn** on both knit and purl sides:

1. Work to the turning point.
2. Turn the work.
3. Return working yarn to the front (knit side) or back (purl side) as if to work next stitch.
4. Place one piece of contrasting yarn across the working yarn, marking the turning point.
5. Work the next stitch.
6. Continue to work along the row as usual. The contrasting yarn will remain as a placeholder.

To take in the next stitch, and add another short row:

#### On knit side:

1. Work up to the turning point (you will see a gap, and the contrasting thread of yarn running through the fabric underneath)
2. Insert left needle into the loop of yarn that has the contrasting thread running through it.
3. Knit this loop together with the next stitch. (k2tog)
4. Turn, following instructions above

#### On purl side:

1. Work up to the turning point / gap.
2. Slip the next stitch purl-wise onto your right needle.
3. Insert your left needle into the loop of yarn that has the contrasting thread running through it, lifting it up from the bottom.
4. Return slipped stitch to left needle.
5. Purl slipped stitch together with loop.
6. Turn, following instructions above.

### Steeks!

This sweater uses traditional steeks at the armholes and neck to enable you to complete the colourwork in the round. I recommend reinforcing your steeks before cutting, using the crocheted method, described by Meg Swansen in her *Notes from Camp*, or here (with useful illustrations) by Eunny Chang.

[http://www.eunnyjang.com/knit/2006/01/the\\_steeking\\_chronicles\\_part\\_i.html](http://www.eunnyjang.com/knit/2006/01/the_steeking_chronicles_part_i.html)

This 10 minute video tutorial from letsknit2gether also clearly demonstrates the method:

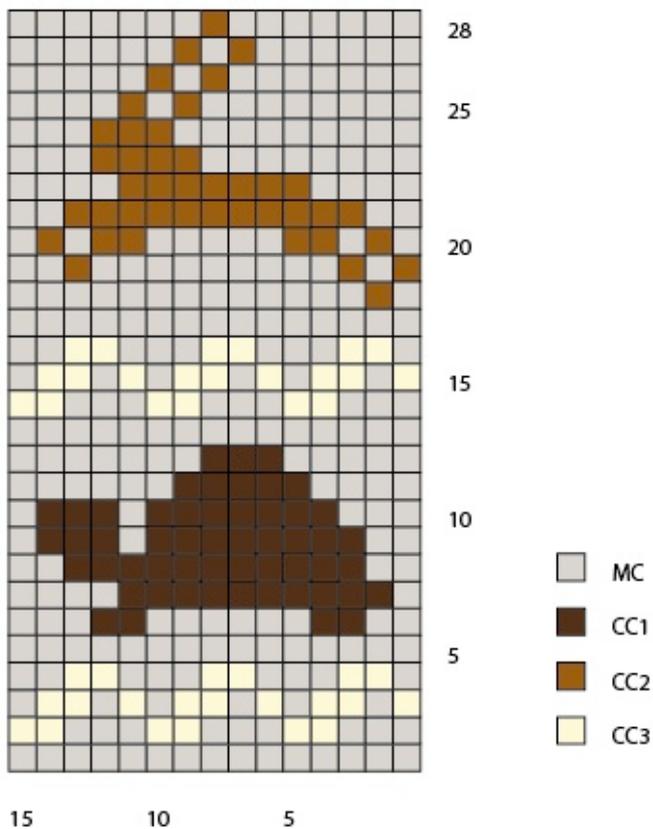
<http://vimeo.com/8089532>.

In the *Tortoise and Hare* pattern, all steeks are 5 sts wide. For strength and neatness, you should work these 5 stitches by knitting the main colour and contrast colour alternately. After cutting your steek, you will have an edging comprised of 2 steek stitches and a line of single crochet. Don't pick up stitches from this edging, but rather ensure to take them from the first row of stitches in the main body of the work. *The steek stitches should not show through to the right side of the work.* After you have completed your sweater, you can secure your steek edges by stitching them lightly to the back of the work.

### Charts

For the majority of the colourwork, you will simply repeat the basic Tortoise and Hare chart, inserting a neck chart for the relevant size when it is time to work the neck decreases. All charts are read from right to left. You will find the basic chart below, and neck charts for all sizes at the final pages of the pattern.

### Basic Tortoise and Hare chart



## Now start knitting!



### 3. Work braids.

Change to 3mm needle and, following instructions above, work three consecutive vikkell braids using CC1 as colour A in the first braid; CC3 as colour A in the second; CC2 as colour A in the third and MC as colour B throughout. *Do not remove markers while working braids.*



### 1. Cast on, establish rib, place markers.

Using long tail c/o, 2.5mm needle and cc1, c/o 1(220), 2 (250), 3 (300), 4 (330) sts and join for working in the round.

On first round, change to cc2 and begin working 3x2 rib (k3, p2 every round).

On next round, change to mc and place side markers as follows: \*work 1(109), 2 (124), 3 (149), 4(164) sts, pm x, work one st, pm x.\*

Repeat from \* to \* once

### 2. Add waist shaping

Continuing to work 3x2 rib in MC:

A Work for 3 rounds

B \*Work to 2 sts before marker x, ssk, sm, work 1 st, sm, k2tog\* repeat from \* to \* once more.

Incorporating all decreases into rib, repeat steps A and B 1(9), 2(9), 3(14), 4(14) more times. 1(40), 2(40), 3(60), 4(60) sts decreased and 1(180), 2(210), 3(240), 4(270)sts remain. Continue straight until rib measures 6 inches and sits just below your waist. (Consult schematic - if you want a shorter/longer sweater, or are particularly short or long waisted, work fewer / extra rounds between each decrease round.)

### 4. Work body and bust shaping

Following basic Tortoise and Hare chart, and repeating 1(12), 2(14), 3(16), 4(18) times across each round, work 28 rounds.

#### note on incorporating bust shaping

**into pattern:** when you reach the increased stitches in the peerie part of the chart, continue the 5 st pattern over the increased stitches around the sweater sides. When on a tortoise or hare round, work the increased stitches in MC and weave in CC1 or CC2 along the back of the work.

**All sizes:** on next round (round 1 of chart) work **increase round A** as follows: k to 1 st before first marker x, m1, k1, m1, sm, k1, sm, m1; work to next marker x, m1, sm, k1, sm, m1. 5 sts increased.

Work peerie (rounds 2-4 of chart). On round 5 work **increase round B** as follows: k to first marker x, m1, sm, k1, sm, m1; k to 1 st before second marker x, m1, k1, m1, sm, k1, sm, m1. 5 sts increased.

To remind you of the chart placement, on the next round, place two markers y at each side: one at the end of the chart repeat before the side waist increases begin, and another before the chart begins again. (y markers remind you of the chart placement, and the x markers let you know where to add the increases.)

### Sizes 1 and 2

Work increase round A on round 13 of chart, and increase round B on round 17. Then work increase rounds A and B on rounds 1 and 5 of next chart repeat. Work to top of chart (round 28)

3 chart repeats worked and 30 sts increased.  
1(210), 2 (240) sts.

### Sizes 3 and 4

Work increase round A on round 13 of chart, and increase round B on round 17.

Then work increase rounds A and B on rounds 1 and 5, and rounds 13 and 17 of next chart repeat.

3 chart repeats worked and 40 sts increased.  
3(280), 4(310) sts.

### 5. armhole steeks and shaping

On round 1 of next chart repeat:

\*work to first marker y, k 1(3), 2(3), 3(3), 4(3) and slip next 1(10), 2 (10), 3(14), 4(14) sts to waste yarn, removing marker x. Pm z to mark start of steek, and using backward loop cast-on, c/o 5 steek stitches above the held sts. Pm z to mark end of steek. k 1(2), 2(2), 3(3), 4(3) sts, removing remaining marker x \* Repeat from \* to \* once.

Working in pattern as set, on next round (round 2 of chart) \*work to first marker y, k 1(1), 2(1), 3(1) 4(1) st, k2tog, sm z, work 5 steek sts, sm z, ssk, k 1(0), 2(0), 3(1), 4(1) sts, sm y. \* repeat from \* to \* once.

**Sizes 1 and 2 only:** On next round

\*work to first marker y, sm, k2tog, sm z, work 5 steek sts, sm z, slip 1 st to right needle, remove marker y, return st to left needle, ssk \* repeat from \* to \* once. On next round (round 4) \*work to 1 st before marker y, slip this st onto right needle, remove marker, return slipped st to left needle k2tog, sm z, work 5 steek sts, sm z. \* repeat from \* to \* once.

**Sizes 3 and 4 only:** On next round, \*work to first marker y, k2tog, sm z, work 5 steek sts, sm z, ssk, sm y. \* repeat from \* to \* once. On next round, \*work to 1 st before marker y, slip this st onto right needle, remove marker y, return slipped st to left needle k2tog, sm z, work 5 steek sts, sm z slip next st to right needle remove marker y, return slipped stitch to left needle, ssk \* repeat from \* to \* once.  
1(10), 2(10), 3(14), 4(14) sts on hold at each underarm and 1(5), 2(5), 3(6), 4(6) sts decreased each side. 1(180), 2(210), 3(240),

4(270) body sts and 1(10), 2(10), 3(10), 4(10) steek sts remain.

Continue working from chart until round 28.

### 6. centre steek and neck shaping.

On next round (round 1 of basic chart) Work 1(30), 2(37), 3(45), 4(52) sts, slip next 1(30), 2(30), 3(30), 4(30) sts to waste yarn, pm z to mark start of steek and, using backward loop cast on, c/o 5 steek stitches above the held sts. Pm z to mark end of steek. Work in pattern to end of round. Select neck chart for your size, and insert chart to work centre front decreases and steek sts as set. (neck chart begins on round 2 of basic chart, and decreases are worked adjacent to the steek). Work 1(30), 2(35), 3(40), 4(44) rounds to end of neck chart.

### 7. Set aside sts for back neck and shoulders

Using MC only, knit 1(15), 2(22) 3(27) 4(34) sts at left front shoulder, bind off 5 centre steek sts, knit 1(15), 2(22) 3(27) 4(34) sts at right front shoulder; bind off 5 sleeve steek sts, knit 1(15), 2(22) 3(27) 4(34) at right back shoulder. Knit centre 1(60), 2(61), 3(66), 4(67) sts at back neck, and then slip these sts onto waste yarn. K 1(15), 2(22) 3(27) 4(34) sts at left back shoulder, bind off 5 sleeve steek sts.

### 8. Graft shoulder sts.

Slip 1(15), 2(22) 3(27) 4(34) left front and left back shoulder sts onto two dpns. Rejoin MC, and, from the rs, graft (kitchener stitch) these 2 sets of sts together, (take care that the tension of your grafted sts matches that of the knitted sts). Repeat for right shoulder.



**\*before beginning the next step, ensure you familiarise yourself with instructions for steeks and short rows above\***

### 9. Cut sleeve steeks, pick up sts, work sleeve caps.

Crochet reinforcements along each side of sleeve steek. Cut steek. With MC, 3mm circular needle or 3mm dpns if preferred, and from the rs, beginning at point just after sts on hold for underarm, pick up 1(39), 2(41), 3(45), 4(48) sts up sleeve edge, pick up 1st at centre shoulder top (mark this st with a piece of waste yarn), and 1(39), 2(41), 3(45), 4(48) sts down opposite sleeve edge. Break yarn. Rejoin yarn at point 1(5), 2(5), 3(7), 4(7) sts to the right of marked st. Remove waste yarn from centre st. **K** 1(11), 2(11), 3(15), 4(15) sts, turn. **P** 1(11), 2(11), 3(15), 4(15) sts, turn. **K** 1(12), 2(12), 3(16), 4(16) sts, turn. **P** 1(13), 2(13), 3(17), 4(17) Continue in this manner, adding 1 st before each turn until all sts are incorporated into sleeve cap, ending with a purl row. Turn and **K** across sleeve cap sts, and then **k** across 1(5), 2(5), 3(7), 4(7) underarm sts held on waste yarn. Pm to mark new start of round, **k** across remaining 1(5), 2(5), 3(7), 4(7) held sts, and continue knitting around sleeve cap, closing the final short row from the rs, and removing markers. 1(89), 2(93), 3(105), 4(111) sts. Work 6 rounds. On next round, decrease 1(4), 2(3), 3(5), 4(6) sts, placing decreases close to underarm. 1(85), 2(90), 3(100), 4(105) sts. Continue straight until sleeve measures 1(2), 2(2.25), 3(2.5), 4(2.5) inches. Change to 2.5mm circular needle, and work in 3x2 rib for 1(1), 2(1), 3(1.5), 4(1.5) inches Change to CC2 and work one round. Change to CC1 and b/o all stitches in rib.



### 10. Cut neck steek and work edging.

Crochet reinforcements along each side of neck steek. Cut steek. With MC, 2.5mm circular needle, and from the rs beginning at back left shoulder, pick up 1(15), 2(17), 3(22), 4(24) sts down left front neck; slip 1(30), 2(30), 3(30), 4(30) centre sts from waste yarn onto left needle and knit across these sts; pick up 1(15), 2(17), 3(22), 4(24) sts up right front; slip 1(60), 2(61), 3(66), 4(67) sts from waste yarn onto left needle and knit across these sts, pm to mark start of round. 1(120), 2(125), 3(140), 4(145) sts. Work in 3x2 rib for 1(1), 2(1.25), 3(1.5), 4(1.5) inches. Change to CC2 and work one round. Change to CC1 and b/o all sts in rib.



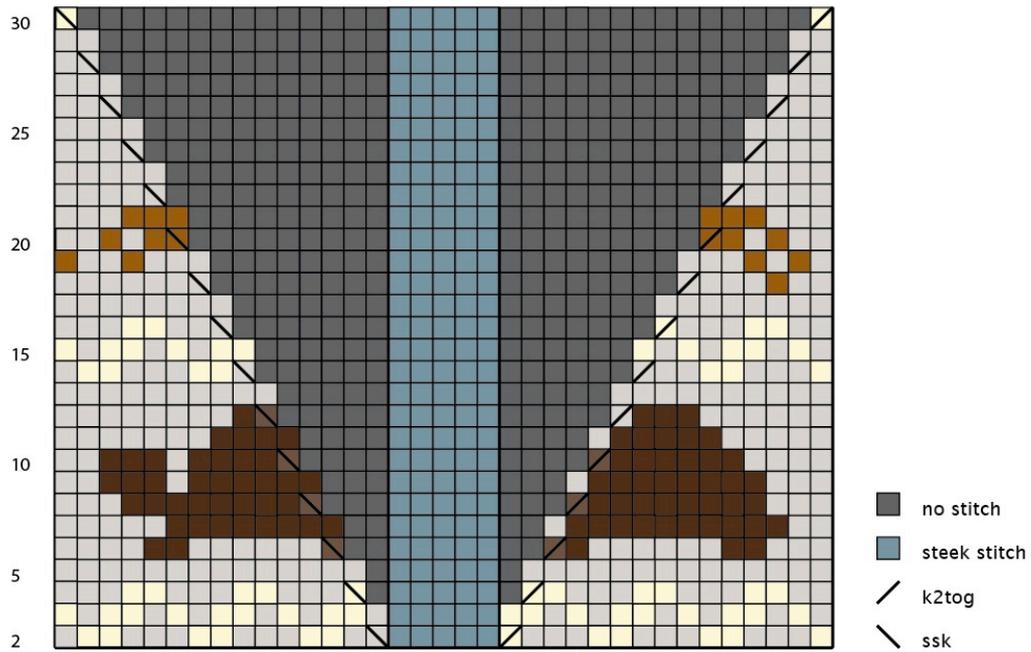
### 11. Finishing

Secure steek edges by stitching lightly to the back of the work. Weave in all ends.

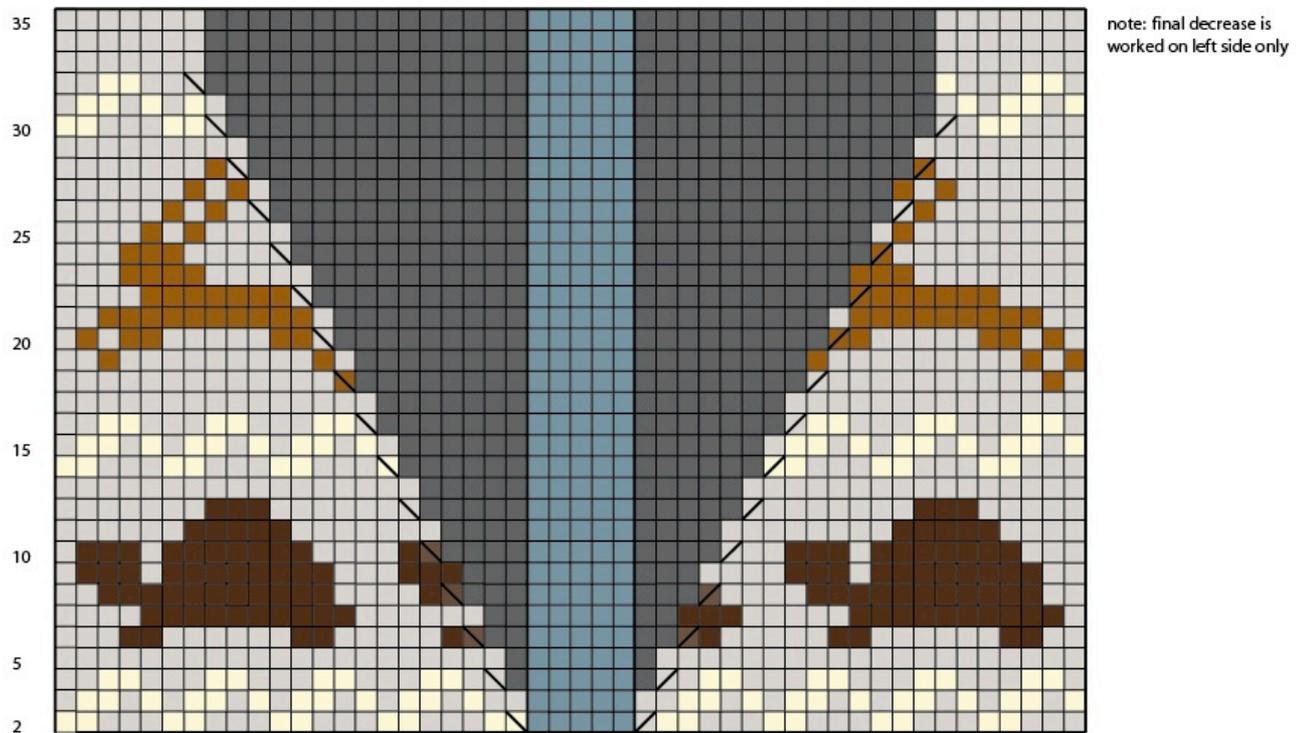
**Block** by soaking the sweater in cool water and wool wash for at least 20 minutes to allow stitches to relax and bloom. Rinse carefully, then remove excess water by rolling and squashing between a couple of dry towels. Turn the sweater inside out and stretch to shape, smoothing out the long floats. Spend five or ten minutes stretching and smoothing the back of the work (the floats should lie nice and flat) then turn the sweater the right way round. Stretch the fabric out to shape again, but do not rub or smooth the front of the work (to avoid any risk of felting). On a blocking board, or other flat surface, pin the sweater out to the correct dimensions and allow to dry flat. About half way through the drying process, turn the sweater over and pin it out again (don't stretch it again or change its shape when you are doing this: simply turn it over and pin it out). (This enables both sides of the sweater to get the benefit of lying flat against the blocking surface). Leave to dry completely.

## Neck Charts

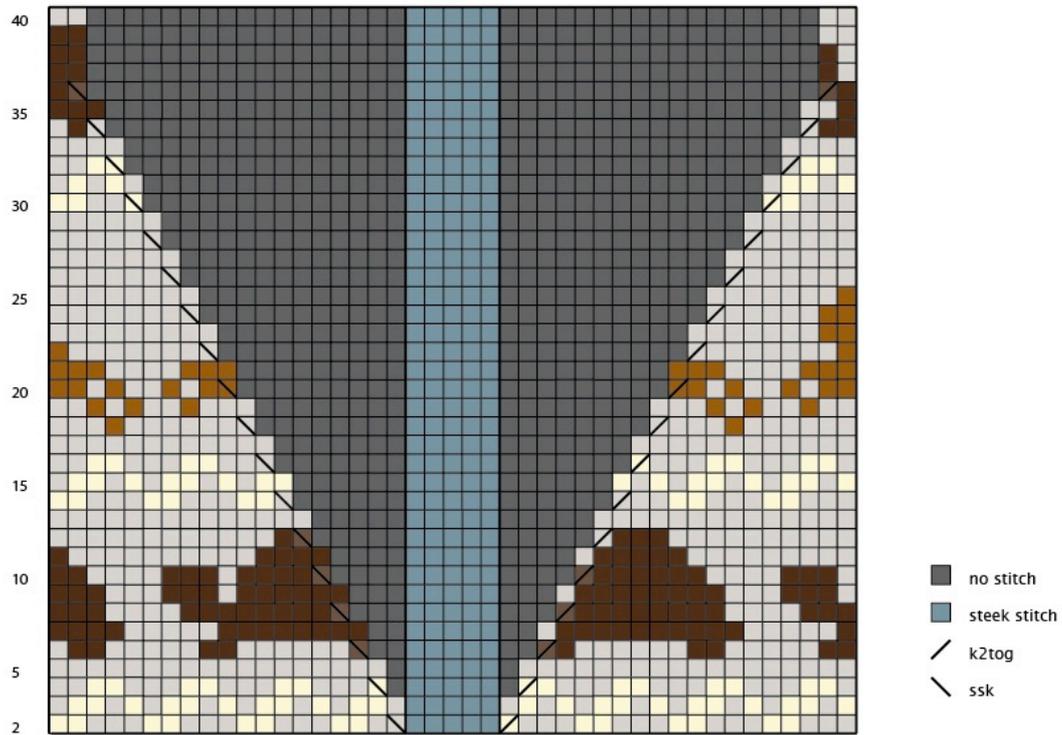
### Size One



### Size Two



### Size Three



### Size Four



**Acknowledgements:** Grateful thanks to Momoko Ando, Tanya Westerman and particularly Melanie Ireland.

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 Kate Davies, Edinburgh, Scotland, November, 2010.