

July 2009 Mystery Sweater - "Solid Color" Version

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Sizes: "Small" (child's 6-8, chest measurement approximately 27")
and "Large" (child's 12-14, chest measurement approximately 34")

Materials:

Bulky weight yarn measuring about 100 yards/100 grams.

Suggestions: Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Bulky, Knitpicks Wool of the Andes Bulky, Reynold's Lopi

Small size: 700 yards

Large size: 900 yards

Needles to knit to gauge of about **3.5 stitches per inch and 5 rows per inch**. I used U.S. size 10.5.

24-inch circular needle and needles for your favorite method of knitting sleeves in the round (set of 4 or 5 double points, short double point needle, long double point needle for "Magic Loop" method)

Waste yarn or several stitch holders or large safety pins

Tapestry needle for weaving in ends.

Pattern stitch:

		X		X				8
	X				X			7
X						X		6
							X	5
X						X		4
	X				X			3
		X		X				2
			X					1

Knit on right side, purl on wrong side

Purl on right side, knit on wrong side

Instructions are for "Small" size. Changes for "Large" size are in parentheses ().

Using the 24" circular needle, cast on 96 (120) stitches. Join, being careful not to twist stitches. Place marker to mark beginning of rounds.

Work 8 (9) rounds of K1, P1 ribbing

Begin working in pattern stitch, repeating pattern 12(15) times around the body of the sweater.

Repeat rows 1-8 of pattern stitch 7(8) times. End at stitch marker.

(Note: this is the suggested length for sweater body. As you approach this number of pattern repeats, decide whether the body looks long enough, proportionate to the width. Depending on your exact gauge, you may want to add or subtract a few rounds. It won't really matter whether or not you end at "row 8" of the pattern stitch)

Divide work for yokes:

Remove marker.

Knit 4, place the 4 stitches just worked on a stitch holder (or large safety pin) for underarm ease.

Work 44(56) stitches in pattern as established. (Note: These stitches will be the "front" of the sweater, and will be used later. You may place these stitches on a piece of waste yarn, on an extra circular needle, or just let them "rest" on the circular needle you are using for the other stitches)

Knit 4, place the 4 stitches just worked on a stitch holder (or large safety pin)

Work the remaining 44(56) stitches in pattern as established.

Do not break the yarn. The yarn is now at the left back of the sweater at the underarm.

Back Yoke:

You will now be working only on the back yoke. The stitches for the front yoke are not used, and should be "resting" on waste yarn, on an extra circular needle, or on the "other side" of your working circular needle.

Turn your work so the "inside" or "wrong side" of the back of the sweater is facing you.

Work across the 44 (56) back stitches in pattern stitch. Remember that you are working on the "Wrong side", so read the pattern chart accordingly, and remember that your rows are not beginning or ending with the first and last stitches of the chart (because some of the stitches have been removed for the "underarms").

Turn work.

Continue to work “Back and forth” across the yoke stitches in pattern stitch for 29 (33) more rows, ending with a right side row.

The yarn should be at the outside edge of the left shoulder. Break yarn. (Hint: do not weave this yarn in yet. Leave a “tail” of 6-8 inches. It may be useful later if there are small holes where sweater parts are attached to each other)

Divide the back stitches and place on stitch holders or waste yarn:

Small size:

15 stitches for shoulder, 14 stitches for neck, 15 stitches for shoulder.

Large size:

19 stitches for shoulder, 18 stitches for neck, 19 stitches for shoulder.

First Front

At this point, you need to decide whether you are making a “girl’s sweater” or a “boy’s sweater”. A girl’s sweater laps “right over left” and a boy’s sweater laps “left over right”. Otherwise, there is no difference.

You will NOT be using the 2 stitches saved on each side for the underarms, yet. You are only using the front 44 (56) stitches.

BOY’S VERSION:

With the sweater front facing you, attach yarn at the left underarm (the right side of the front of the sweater as it faces you) and work 15 (19) stitches in pattern as established.

Place a marker. Knit 14 (18) stitches.

Leave the remaining 15 (19) stitches on a stitch holder or waste yarn.

Turn sweater so that the wrong side of the front is facing you. Knit 14 (18) stitches. Slip marker. Work across the remaining 15 (19) stitches in pattern as established, back to the armhole edge. Remember to read the pattern chart from right to left when working from the “wrong side”.

Row 1: Work 15 (19) stitches in pattern stitch, slip marker, K 14 (18) .

Row 2: K 14 (18) stitches, slip marker, work 15 (19) stitches in pattern

Repeat these two rows 16 (19) more times for a total of 36 (42) rows, ending at the armhole edge

Hint #1: You should have 18 (21) garter ridges on the center section.

Hint #2: The front armhole should be longer (more rows) than the back armhole.

GIRL'S VERSION:

With the sweater front facing you, begin at the left underarm (the right side of the sweater as it faces you) and place the first 15 (19) stitches on waste yarn or on a stitch holder.

Attach yarn and knit 14 (18) stitches. Place a marker, then work 15 (19) stitches in pattern as established (this should take you to the end of the row).

Turn sweater so that the wrong side of the front is facing you. Work 15 (19) stitches in pattern, slip marker, then KNIT across the remaining 14 (18) stitches, back to where you started work on this section. (Remember to read the pattern chart from right to left when working from the “wrong side”).

Row 1: K 14 (18) stitches, slip marker, work 15 (19) stitches in pattern.

Row 2: Work 15 (19) stitches in pattern, slip marker, K 14 (18) stitches.

Repeat these two rows 16 (19) more times.

Work Row 1 once more, for a total of 37 (43) rows, ending at the armhole edge

Hint #1: You should have 18 (21) garter ridges on the center section.

Hint #2: The front armhole should be longer (more rows) than the back armhole.

BOTH VERSIONS:

Place the garter stitch section stitches (collar) on a stitch holder or waste yarn.

Turn the sweater inside out.

Find the “back shoulder” that matches up to the “front shoulder” that you have just completed. Place those 15 (19) shoulder stitches on an extra needle. Use a 3-needle bindoff to attach the shoulders together, working from the armhole toward the neckline. Fasten off and cut the yarn. (**Hint:** leave a yarn tail of 6-8 inches here, and do not weave it in yet. It may be useful later to close up any gaps in the work after the collar is finished)

Alternate, EASIER version:

The “side panel” at the armhole edge may be worked in stockinette stitch (K 1 row, P 1 row) instead of pattern stitch. The center collar section remains in garter stitch (Knit every row)

Second Front and Collar

Turn the sweater inside out and place it so the inside of the front is facing you. Remove the 15 (19) side front stitches from holder or waste yarn and put them on your circular needle. Then, use the end of the needle nearest the center of the front to pick up 14(18) stitches across the bottom of the garter stitch panel (pick up one “loop” from each purl stitch). Attach yarn at the junction between the garter stitch panel and the previously worked side front.

Working the collar underlap and side panel**Boy’s version:**

Turn the sweater around so you are working from left needle to right needle.

Both Versions:

Row 1: Knit 14 (18) stitches, place marker, work 15 (19) stitches in pattern as established.

Row 2: Work 15 (19) stitches in pattern, Knit 14 (18) stitches

Repeat these two rows 17 (20) more times for a total of 36 (42) rows.

Work Row 1 one more time, ending at the armhole edge.

Place the back shoulder stitches on a spare needle and use a 3-needle bind-off to attach the shoulders together, working from outer shoulder edge toward neckline. Fasten off last stitch, but do not cut yarn.

Turn sweater right side out.

Knit one more row across the collar section. This puts your yarn at the collar edge farthest away from the body of the sweater.

Move all of the collar stitches toward one end of your circular needle. Use the OTHER end to pick up three stitches across the shoulder seam area, then pick up the 14 (18) back neck stitches from their holder, then pick up 3 more stitches across the other shoulder seam. 34 (42) stitches on needle (do NOT pick up the stitches from the other front collar section).

Knitting the back collar section:

Begin with the yarn at the outer edge of the collar.

Row 1: Knit 13 (17). Knit next two stitches together (last stitch from the collar section and the first of the picked-up stitches). Turn work.

Row 2: Knit 14 (18). This puts you back at the edge of the collar. Turn work.

Repeat these two rows 19 (23) more times until you have worked all the way around the neckline stitches. There should be 14 (18) stitches on the needle.

Finishing the collar:

Place the 14 (18) stitches from the first collar section on a spare needle. Use Kitchener Stitch to graft the two collar sections together, working from edge of collar in toward the neckline. Fasten off yarn.

Weave in all ends, using yarn tails to close up any holes that may have formed at junctions.

Use the yarn tails at the base of the collar “overlap” to put a couple of reinforcing stitches at the bottom corners of the collar.

Sleeves

Use your favorite method for working sleeves in the round (short circular needle, 4 or 5 double pointed needles, “Magic Loop”). Directions are general and apply to all methods.

Abbreviations used:

ssk - slip knitwise, slip knitwise, return slipped stitches to left needle and knit them together (left slanting decrease)

K2tog - knit two stitches together (right slanting decrease)

Move 4 reserved “underarm” stitches to needle.

Pick up and knit 50 (58) stitches evenly spaced around the armhole. Remember that the shoulder seam is not centered at the top of the armhole, so there will be more stitches “in front” of the seam than “in back”. Total armhole stitches: 54 (62)

Knit 2 stitches, place marker. This is the bottom center of the sleeve.

Round 1: P

Round 2: K

Round 3: P

Round 4: K

Round 5: P

Round 6: K 1, ssk, K to 3 stitches before marker, k2tog, K1. 52 (60) stitches remaining.

Round 7: P

(Large size only:

Round 8: K

Round 9: P)

Next 7 rounds:

K2, work 48 (56) stitches in pattern stitch, K2

Decrease round: K1, ssk, work in pattern stitch to 3 stitches before marker, K2tog, K1

Next 3 rounds:

Work even in pattern stitch as established, keeping 2 stitches on either side of the marker as Knit stitches

Decrease round: K1, ssk, work in pattern stitch to 3 stitches before marker, K2tog, K1

Repeat these 4 rounds until 28 (32) stitches remain. Remember that you are using up pattern stitches at each decrease, so read the pattern chart accordingly.

Work from 1 to 3 more rounds so that you end with either Row 1 or Row 5 of the pattern chart (finishing out a row of diamonds)

Work 9 (10) rounds in K1 P1 ribbing for cuffs.

Bind off stitches loosely.

Weave in yarn ends.

Second sleeve is worked just like the first.

Alternate easier version:

Work as above through the first pattern repeat plus one pattern row (complete one row of diamonds)

Next 3 rounds: Knit even

Decrease round: K1, ssk, Knit to 3 stitches before marker, K2tog, K1

Repeat these 4 rounds until 28 (32) stitches remain.

Work cuff ribbing as above.