

July 2009 Mystery Sweater -“Use Up the Scraps” 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

Make sure you have 150-200 yards of a single color; this will be referred to as “contrast color” and will be called for specifically later in the pattern.

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.

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 OR K2, P2 ribbing (your choice)

Begin working in stockinette stitch (Knit every round), using a stripe pattern or colorwork pattern of your choice, if desired, to use up yarn leftovers.

Work 56 (64) rounds. End at stitch marker.

(Note: this is the suggested length for sweater body. As you approach this number of rounds, 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)

Divide work for yokes:

Slip marker.

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

Knit 44(56) stitches. (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)

Knit the remaining 44(56) stitches.

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.

Purl across the 44 (56) back stitches. Turn work.

Continue to work “Back and forth” across the yoke stitches in stockinette stitch (K 1 row, P 1 row) for 29 (33) more rows, ending with a right side row. You may work the yoke all in one color, or add stripes or color work of your choice.

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.

Take a moment now and weave in any ends resulting from changing yarn for stripes.

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 need the yarn designated as “Contrast color” for this step. You will also need yarn of another color. You can continue with a stripe pattern in the “other color” section, but it’s easier just to use your designated contrast color and one other color.

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 knit 15 (19) stitches.

Change to your “Contrast color” and 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 in contrast color. Twist the contrast yarn with your other yarn, then PURL across the remaining 15 (19) stitches, back to the armhole edge.

Row 1: K 15 (19) stitches in any color, K 14 (18) stitches in contrast color.

Row 2: K 14 (18) stitches in contrast color, P 15 (19) stitches in any color.

(Remember to twist the yarns together at each color change, or your collar will not be attached to your sweater.)

Working “back and forth”, 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 contrast color 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.

With “Contrast color” yarn, knit 14 (18) stitches.

Change to yarn of any other color and knit 15 (19) stitches (this should take you to the end of the row)

Turn sweater so that the wrong side of the front is facing you. PURL 15 (19) stitches. Twist the contrast yarn with your other yarn, then KNIT across the remaining 14 (18) stitches, back to where you started work on this section.

Row 1: K 14 (18) stitches in contrast color, K 15 (19) stitches in any color.

Row 2: P 15 (19) stitches in any color, K 14 (18) stitches in contrast color.

(Remember to twist the yarns together at each color change, or your collar will not be attached to your sweater.)

Working “back and forth”, 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 contrast color section.

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

BOTH VERSIONS:

Break off the contrast color yarn, leaving an 8-inch tail. Place the contrast color 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: This entire section may be worked in a single color. Omit all references to “contrast color”, switching yarns or twisting yarns together. You may want to put a marker between the groups of 14 (18) stitches and the groups of 15 (19) stitches to save yourself a lot of counting.

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 main color yarn (**yes**, use the main color here) 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.

Base row: Knit across to armhole edge.

Row 1: Purl 15 (19) stitches in main color, Knit 14 (18) stitches in contrast color

Row 2: Knit 14 (18) stitches in contrast color, Knit 15 (10) stitches in main color.

Repeat these two rows 17 (20) more times for a total of 37 (43) rows, ending at the armhole edge.

Girl's Version:

Base row: Knit 14 (18) stitches, Purl 15 (19) stitches.

Row 1: Knit 15 (19) stitches in main color, Knit 14 (18) stitches in contrast color.

Row 2: Knit 14 (18) stitches in contrast color, Purl 15 (19) stitches in main color.

Repeat these two rows 17 (20) more times for a total of 37 (43) rows, ending at the armhole edge.

Both Versions:

Place the back shoulder stitches on a spare needle and use a 3-needle bind-off to attach the shoulders together. Fasten off main color yarn, leaving a 6-8 inch tail to use later if necessary to close up small holes at junctions.

Turn sweater right side out. Knit one more row across the collar section with contrast color. 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.

Using Contrast Color yarn, 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)
Switch to “main color” yarn or begin stripe or colorwork pattern of your choice.

Next 7 rounds: Knit even
Decrease round: K1, ssk, Knit to 3 stitches before marker, K2tog, K1

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.

Knit 2 rounds even.

Work 9 (10) rounds in either (K1 P1) ribbing or (K2 P2) ribbing for cuffs.

Bind off stitches loosely.

Weave in yarn ends.

Second sleeve is worked just like the first.