

Girl's Best Friend

Designed by Sarah Wilson
Difficulty: Intermediate

Everyone knows diamonds are a girl's best friend, and now you can proudly display your love of them in this cute shrug! Cleverly knit entirely in one piece, the main section is worked flat, then the sleeves and collar are picked up and knit in the round. Quick to knit, this garment is also a great introduction to log cabin knitting!

SIZE

Women's S (M, L)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

34 (36, 38) inches at bust; 17 inches long from shoulder

MATERIALS

- 4 skeins Malabrigo [100% wool, 216 yards per 3.5 oz skein]; color: #137 Emerald Blue
- US #7/4.5mm straight needles
- US #7/4.5mm double pointed needles
- US #7/4.5mm 32 inch circular needle
- Scissors
- Blunt Needle
- One 1 ¼" button (optional)

GAUGE

20 sts/34 rows = 4 inches in garter stitch

PATTERN NOTES

The wrapped stitches used in this pattern do not need to be picked up and knit later; they are not used for reinforcement, and the purl "bumps" will not be noticeable on the front side of the work due to the garter stitch pattern.

The sleeves of this garment are meant to fit closely to one's arm. If you desire your sleeves to be a little looser, work them a size or two larger.

INTRODUCTION TO LOG CABIN KNITTING:



Step 1: Cast on indicated number of stitches and work in garter stitch, measuring progress by counting purl "ridges." Each ridge represents two rows of knitting. Bind off, leaving one stitch in the upper left hand corner of your patch.





Step 2: Turn work to the right, so that the top of the piece has the single stitch on the far right, and the row ends along the top. Pick up one stitch in each horizontal loop between the garter ridges. Knit in garter stitch for number of ridges indicated. Bind off, leaving one stitch in the upper left hand corner of your patch.



Step 3: Turn work to the right. Pick up stitches in horizontal ridges of the last strip (for this pattern you will be picking up 2 stitches), then one stitch for each bound-off stitch across the row. Knit in garter stitch for number of ridges indicated. Bind off, leaving one stitch in the upper left hand corner of your patch.

Repeat Step 3 until you have worked the number of strips indicated. In this pattern, the original square will have five strips on each of its four sides.

PATTERN

DIAMOND

Cast on 10 sts. Work 8 garter ridges. Work in log cabin method as described above, making 3 garter ridges per section until there are 5 strips on each side of the original square.

LEFT SIDE

Pick up 81 sts along two sides of the diamond.

Corner shaping:

Row 1: K2tog, k18, wrap and turn.
Row 2 (and all even rows): Knit.
Row 3: K2tog, k19, wrap and turn.
Row 5: K8, wrap and turn.
Row 7: K2tog, k20, wrap and turn.
Row 9: K2tog, k21, wrap and turn.
Row 11: K10, wrap and turn.
Row 13: K2tog, k22, wrap and turn.
Row 15: K2tog, k23, wrap and turn.
Row 17: K12, wrap and turn.
Row 19: K2tog, k24, wrap and turn.
Row 21: K2tog, k25, wrap and turn.
Row 23: K14, wrap and turn.
Row 25: K2tog, k26, wrap and turn.
Row 27: K2tog, k27, wrap and turn.
Row 29: Knit. (71 sts)

Repeat Rows 1-29 once more. (61 sts) Work even in garter stitch for 2.5 (3.5, 4.5) inches.

Set sleeves:

Row 1: k5, provisionally cast on 24(26, 28) sts, slip next 24(26, 28) sts onto a st holder, knit across.

Work 8 (12, 16) rows garter st, keeping sts on st holder and knitting across provisionally cast on sts.



Front shaping:

Decrease one st each side every 6th row 5 times, every 4th row 4 times and every other row 3 times. (37 sts) Bind off.

RIGHT SIDE

Repeat instructions for left side, making sure to place sleeve opening opposite of left sleeve opening.

SLEEVES

With double pointed needles, pick up and knit the 24(26, 28) stitches from each side of the armhole. Arrange as follows: Needles 1 & 2, 12(13, 14) sts, Needle 3, 24(26, 28) sts. Knit one round, picking up 1 st between Needles 3 & 1 and 2 sts between Needles 2 & 3. 50(54, 58) sts: Needles 1 and 2, 14(15, 16) sts, Needle 3, 24(26, 28) sts. Work in pattern as follows:

Round 1: Purl.

Round 2: Knit.

Work these two rows until sleeve measures 5 inches. Work 4 inches of K2, P2 rib. Bind off.

BORDER

Using circular needles pick up and knit 276(292, 308) sts around outside edge of garment using technique described above. Work 4 inches of K2, P2 rib. (Insert optional buttonhole after working 2 inches ribbing.) Bind off.

Buttonhole (Center at right front of ribbing):

Row 1: Bind off 2 sts; continue with pattern.

Row 2: Work to bound off sts on previous row, cast on 2 sts; continue with pattern.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends. Attach button to left front of garment, if desired.

ABOUT THE DESIGNER



Sarah Wilson lives in West Palm Beach with her husband and two dogs. She's been knitting for just over 15 years and though she's been designing for many of them, she only started writing out her patterns recently. You can read more about Sarah's adventures with yarn at her blog,

www.notayarnsnob.blogspot.com.

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