

Sweet Tee



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This little t-shirt has raglan sleeves and a placket for ease in pulling it on and off baby's head. In the beginning, the rows are worked back and forth forming the placket and, after the placket is the desired depth, the shirt is worked in the round. There are no seams to sew and the only finishing is one button loop at the neck.

I recommend that you read through the pattern before you begin knitting, so you have an idea of the total construction.

Materials: Approximately 250 yards of a dk weight cotton. You can use a light worsted weight, but I found that it makes for a very heavy and warm shirt. The shirt pictured was knit using Cascade Yarns Cotton Rich DK and took less than two skeins.

Eight stitch markers

One button

Gauge: 5 ½ stitches = 1 inch I have found that this pattern is very flexible when it comes to determining the gauge. With a heavier yarn, I got 5 stitches to the inch and the width increased only by about an inch.

Suggested Needles: U.S. 6/ 4.00 mm 16" circular needle and

U.S. 4/ 3.50 mm 32" circular needle for magic loop or a set of dpns

Size: 6 – 9 months. Chest measurement is 18 inches. This can be easily adjusted up or down a size in multiples of eight. If you do size up, make sure that you also extend the length!

Abbreviations:

k = knit

p = purl

p2tog.= purl two together

st. = stitch

PM = place marker

SM = slip marker

MIR = Make one right. Insert needle into bar between the last stitch worked and the one to its left, the next one you would be knitting. Lift the stitch onto the left needle so the left needle goes in from back to front, then knit that new stitch through the front loop. This makes an increase that leans slightly to the right.

MIL = Make one left. Insert needle into bar between the last stitch worked and the one to its left, the next one you would be knitting. Lift the stitch onto the left needle so the left needle goes in from front to back, then knit that new stitch through the back loop. This makes an increase that leans slightly to the left.

Here is a link to a video which shows exactly how the increases are worked.

<http://www.knittinghelp.com/videos/increases>

About joining yarn in the round. If you are using a cotton yarn, you know how difficult it can be to join it smoothly. I recently came across this method that I, personally, had never heard of before, but it works wonderfully. It's called the invisible braided join. My only suggestion is that if you have to join your yarn, do it so the join is under the underarm or on the side so it's not quite so noticeable!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-u66X5RYjc>

Pattern: Cast on 61 stitches with the larger needle. I like to use a German Twisted cast on, but you can use whatever method you prefer. (Tip: If you plan ahead and leave a couple of extra yards dangling from the cast on, you won't have to join yarn later to make the button loop. You can simply crochet a chain using this "extra" yarn. Wind it

into a small butterfly so it won't interfere with your knitting.) The first and last three stitches are knitted in seed stitch to form the placket.

Row 1 (right side): k1; p1; k1; PM; (k1; p1) across row to last three stitches; PM: p1; k1; p1.

Row 2: p1; k1; p1; SM; (p1, k1) to last three stitches; SM; k1; p1; k1.

Row 3: repeat Row 1.

Row 4: p1; k1; p1; SM; p8; PM; p8; PM; p23; PM; p8; PM; p8; PM; k1; p1; k1. (You have six markers separated as follows: placket, marker, back, marker, sleeve, marker, front, marker, sleeve, marker, back, marker, placket.)

Begin increases:

Row 5: k1; p1; k1; SM; *knit to one stitch before marker; MIR; k1; SM; k1; MIL;* repeat 3 more times; knit to last three stitches; SM; p1; k1; p1. (69 sts).

Rows 6 and 8: p1; k1; p1; slipping markers as you go, p to last three stitches, k1; p1; k1.

Row 7: Repeat Row 5. (77 sts.)

Begin heart pattern: The heart design is 15 stitches wide. I recommend that you find the center front stitch and count out 7 stitches from each side and mark these stitches. This will help you to make sure that you are placing the design in the correct position. If you are working from a chart, you won't need these markers once you do your first row. If you are working from the written instructions, the markers will be necessary to follow the pattern. (The chart, and the row by row written instructions, are on a separate page at the end of the pattern so you can print it and not have to flip back and forth through the pattern pages). Remember that the heart is worked from the **top down**. We don't want any upside down hearts!

Row 9: k1; p1; k1; SM; *knit to one stitch before marker; MIR; k1; SM; k1; MIL;* repeat 2 times; knit to marker for beginning of pattern; knit row 1 of heart design; SM: *knit to one stitch before marker; MIR; k1; SM; k1; MIL;*two times; knit to last three stitches; SM; p1; k1; p1. (85 sts.) **Double check** to make sure your design is centered correctly!

Row 10: p1; k1; p1; SM; p to first design marker; SM; work second row of design; SM; p to last three stitches, SM; k1; p1; k1.

Row 11: k1; p1;k1; SM; keeping the continuity of the increases, k to design marker; SM; work next row of design; SM, k to last three stitches; SM; p1; k1; p1. (93 sts.)

Row 12: p1; k1; p1; SM; p to marker for design, SM; work next row of design; SM; p to last 3 sts.; SM; k1; p1; k1.

From this point, you'll repeat the last 2 rows, following the heart pattern until you have knit a total of 10 increase rows. You should have 21 stitches for the back; 28 stitches for the sleeve; 43 stitches for the front; 28 stitches for the sleeve; and 21 stitches for the back. (141 sts.) End with a wrong side row. (If you followed the heart pattern correctly, you should be ready to start Row 17 on the chart).

Join in the round and finish placket:

The placket is finished by joining the seed stitch borders and tapering the seed stitches down to a single purl stitch.



K1; p1; k1; PM; k around, keeping the continuity of the increases, and continuing with the heart pattern, until you come to the last 3 stitches; SM; p1; k1; p2tog.; (You'll be using the last and first stitches of the backs. Make sure that you pull this stitch tight!) k1; p1. You should have 5 sts. between the markers. (148 sts.)

Next round: Work in the round and continue with the heart pattern, **without making any increases**, until you reach the marker for the beginning of the placket; SM; k1; p1; k1; p1; k1; SM. (Remember that from this point forward, the chart is read from right to left.)

Next round: Work in the round and continue with the heart pattern, and the increases, until you come to marker for placket (you can now remove this marker); k2; p1; k2. This marker will now be the beginning of the round. (You might want to make sure it's a different color.)

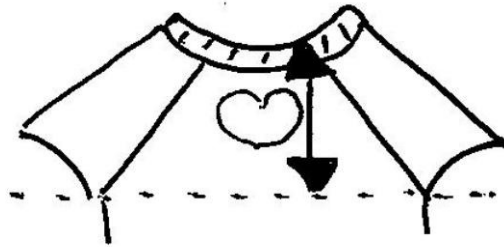
Next round: Work in the round and continue with the heart pattern, **without making any increases**.

You should have now completed the heart pattern and you can remove these markers.

Next round: Work in the round and make the increases. (164 sts.)

Next round: knit to beginning of round marker.

At this point, you will have completed a total of 13 increase rows. Make sure that you have the correct number of stitches and that the depth of your armhole is at least 3 ¾" – 4". Measure from the neck edge straight down. If your measurement is less, then you'll have to knit extra rows, without increases, until you reach the necessary depth.



Begin body:

Next round, slip the 34 sleeve stitches onto a piece of waste yarn, cast on two stitches for underarm; knit across front, slip the next 34 sleeve stitches onto a piece of waste yarn; cast on two stitches and knit to end of round. You should have a total of 100 stitches for the body of the shirt.

Knit even for about 4 ½ inches. If you want the shirt longer or shorter, you can adjust this measurement, but remember that cotton shrinks, so it might look long initially, but after it's washed, it probably will tighten up!

Begin border hearts:

Round 1: (k3; p2; k1; p2; k2) x 10.

Round 2: (k2; p1; k2; p1; k2; p1; k1) x10.

Round 3: knit.

Round 4: (k2; p1; k5; p1; k1) x10.

Round 5: (k3; p1; k3; p1; k2) x10.

Round 6: (k4; p1; k1; p1; k3) x10.

Round 7: (k5; p1; k4) x10.

Round 8: knit.

(k1, p1) for 5 rounds.

Bind off in k1, p1, ribbing and weave in ends.



Finishing sleeves:

Slip 34 sleeve stitches onto smaller needle and join yarn. Pick up 6 stitches across underarm and knit to one stitch before end. Knit this stitch together with the first stitch you picked up. Knit until you come to the last stitch you picked up and knit this stitch with the next stitch. This closes the gap and makes a tighter join so you won't have holes in your underarms. PM for beginning of round. You should have 38 stitches.

(k1; p1) for 3 rounds.

Bind off in k1, p1, ribbing and weave in ends.

Repeat for other sleeve.

Button loop.

Sew your button at top of the neck placket and join yarn at neck edge. (If you left the extra yarn when you cast on, you obviously don't have to join your yarn!) Crochet a loop to go around button. Remember, if you sew on your button first, it's easier to judge the size of the loop.

I hope you enjoyed knitting this pattern. It's easy to customize so please experiment and use your own designs!



