

Lone Star Cardigan

size small (3 mo - 22" finished chest):

approx yardage : 200 yd MC (blue), 100 yd C1 (red),
100 yd C2 (white) fingering-weight yarn
3.25mm/3.5 mm needles (US 3 and 4)
circular or dpns needed for sleeves
gauge: 27 s/32 r = 4" in stockinette

size medium (6 mo - 26" finished chest):

any adjustments needed will be reflected in parenthesis
approx yardage : 300 yd MC (blue), 150 yd C1 (red),
150 yd C2 (white) fingering-weight yarn
3.5 mm/3.75 mm needles (US 4 and 5)
gauge: 25 s/30 r = 4" in stockinette

all sizes:

four 1/2" buttons

6" square white felt for star.

abbreviations:

k: knit

k2tog: knit 2 stitches together as one

m1: increase one st by knitting into the bar between the current st and the next st

p: purl

sl x: slip x stitches, purlwise unless otherwise specified

ssk: slip 2 stitches, separately, knitwise, then knit together through the front loops

st(s): stitch(es)

To create a premie sm and med sizes of this cardigan, try using baby yarn instead of sock yarn.

This pattern is worked in one piece from the bottom ribbing to the sleeves. It is an intarsia pattern, with color changes occurring at the center back. Be sure to twist colors at each change to avoid holes!

cast on and ribbing:

Beginning at right front edge, cast on 134 sts with smaller needles. The first 67 should be with MC, the second 67 with C1.

1. (wrong side) k2, p2 across, switching colors as established. end k2.
2. p2, k2 across, switching colors as established. end p2.
repeat steps 1/2 until ribbing is 1 1/4" (1 1/2") - approx 12 (12) rows.
end ready for a right side row.
3. k8, (m1, k9) 14 times. (148 st)

body:

Change to larger needles and work in stockinette (knit right side rows, purl wrong side rows) maintaining established color blocks, until piece measures 4 1/2" (5") - approx. 36 (38) rows - excluding ribbing.

divide for armholes and back:

Transfer 36 stitches from each end of cardigan to waste yarn or stitchholders. These are the right front and left front stitches. C2 will now replace C1. With right side facing, join a C2 for the back and, maintaining color blocks, work even for 5 1/4" (5 3/4") more - approx 42(44) rows. (76 st)
Approx 78 (82) rows total, excluding hem. Make note of the number of rows worked from armhole. _____

last edited 9/2005



yarn used in photo: Bernat Sox

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Place back stitches on 3 pieces of waste yarn or stitch holders as follows: 25 right shoulder, 26 sts back of neck, 25 left shoulder.

left front and v-neck shaping:

1. transfer 36 left front sts from holder to needle, with right side facing. Join yarn at armhole.
2. knit to 4 st from end of row, k2tog, k2. (35 st)
3. (wrong side) purl across.
4. knit to 4 st from end of row, k2tog, k2. (34 st)
work rows 3/4 a total of 4 times, then work row 3 once more. (32 st)
5. knit to 4 st from end of row, k2tog, k2. (31 st)
6. 3 rows: work even.
work rows 5/6 a total of 7 times. (25 st)
7. work even until armhole is the same number of rows as the left back armhole. place stitches on waste yarn or stitch holder.

right front and v-neck shaping:

1. transfer 36 right front sts from holder to needle, with right side facing. Join C2 at center front.
2. knit 2, ssk, k to end of row. (35 st)
3. (wrong side) purl across.
4. knit 2, ssk, k to end of row. (34 st)
work rows 3/4 a total of 4 times, then work row 3 once more. (32 st)
5. knit 2, ssk, k to end of row. (31 st)
6. 3 rows: work even.
work rows 5/6 a total of 7 times. (25 st)
7. work even until armhole is the same number of rows as the right back armhole. place stitches on waste yarn or stitch holder.

joining shoulders:

with wrong side of back facing, mount the 25 right shoulder stitches onto a needle. holding the needles with the front shoulder stitches and the back shoulder stitches parallel, use a 3-needle bind off to join the two and bind off the stitches.

mount both front and back left shoulder stitches on needles and repeat. back neck stitches will remain on a stitch holder until time to create the button band.

sleeves:

with larger circular or double-pointed needles and using the color that matches the armhole, pick up 4 st for every 5 rows around the armhole. join and place marker to indicate beginning of round.

knit one round even.

short row shaping:

- ★ k to 10 st before marker. wrap and turn.
- ★ p to 10 st before marker. wrap and turn.
- ★ k to 9 st before marker. wrap and turn.
- ★ p to 9 st before marker. wrap and turn.
- ★ k to 8 st before marker. wrap and turn.
- ★ p to 8 st before marker. wrap and turn.
- ★ k to 7 st before marker. wrap and turn.
- ★ p to 7 st before marker. wrap and turn.
- ★ k to 6 st before marker. wrap and turn.
- ★ p to 6 st before marker. wrap and turn.
- ★ sl1, knit to end of round.

3 rounds, knit around

1. k2, k2tog, k to last 4 st on rnd, ssk, k2.

2. 4 rounds: knit around.

work last 2 rows a total of 8 times (16 st decreased)

3. k2, k2tog, k to last 4 st on rnd, ssk, k2.

4. 2 rounds: knit around.

work last 2 rows a total of 6(8) times (12/16 st decreased). If number of sts remaining is not a multiple of 4, work row 3 once more.

ribbing: 14 rounds - with smaller needles, k2, p2 around. bind off loosely (shown with a sewn bind off)

buttonband and finishing:

Maintain established color blocks and with right side facing, begin at the right front ribbing and pick up 4 st for every 5 rows from the bottom of the ribbing to the shoulder seam. Pick up one st in the shoulder seam. Mount back neck st onto needle and knit across. Pick up 1 st in the left shoulder seam and pick up 4 st for every 5 rows from the shoulder to the ribbing. stitch count from shoulder to ribbing should be the same for both right and left fronts.

row 1/3: p2, k2 across

row 2: k2, p2 across

calculating button placement:

1. on the right front side of the sweater, place a straightpin at the first neck decrease. count number of stitches from that marker to the bottom right edge. _____ st

2. subtract 24 (for 4 buttonholes plus 4 st at ribbing edge) from the previous st count.

_____ st (# from step 1) - 24 = _____ st

3. divide the remaining number by 3 (3 spaces between the 4 buttonholes. this number is the button gap.

_____ st (new number from step 2) / 3 = _____ button gap st

buttonhole row: k2, p2. (work a one-row buttonhole over the next 4 st, work the button gap in established rib) three times. work one more buttonhole, then continue to end of row in established rib.

repeat rows 1 and 2.

bind off from purl side, then weave in all ends.

Using the template below, cut a star from the felt. pin in place on the right front side (MC). Using a single strand of MC or embroidery floss to match, attach the star to the cardigan using a blanket or buttonhole stitch.

one-row buttonhole:

1. Slip one stitch knitwise. Bring the yarn forward and drop it. Slip the next stitch knitwise and pass the first slipped stitch over the second slipped stitch and off the needle.

2. Leave the working yarn dropped and bind off 3 more stitches in this manner (4 total)

3. Slip the last stitch on the right hand needle back to the left needle. Turn.

4. Bring the working yarn back to the front. Using a purlwise cable cast on, create 5 new stitches. Pass yarn to back. Turn.

5. Slip the first stitch knitwise onto the working needle. Slip the 2nd stitch over the first and off the needle. Pass yarn to back and slip the first st on the working needle back onto the non-working needle. One buttonhole completed.

