

Patriotic Premie Sweater

materials:

sizes - med premie(lg premie/newborn in parenthesis)

3.0mm/3.75mm (US 3/5) straight needles and dpns
(dpns optional for sleeves)

sock weight yarn -

MC (*white*): 1 ounce

C1 (*red*): 1/2 ounce,

C2 (*dark blue*): approx 25 yards

five 1/2" buttons

gauge: 2" = 13 st/18 r in slipped stitch design



yarn used in photo: Bernat Baby Softee (white), Dreambaby DK (red/blue)

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abbreviations:

k: knit

k2tog: knit 2 stitches together

p: purl

psso: pass slipped stitch over

sl1: slip one stitch purlwise

instructions:

With MC and larger needles, cast on 68 (72,76)

ribbing:

row 1/2: k3, *p2, k2. repeat from * across

row 3/4: p3, *k2, p2. repeat from * across

row 5: MC k3, *C1 p2, MC k2. repeat from * across

row 6: MC p3, *C1 k2, MC p2. repeat from * across

repeat rows 1/2

repeat row 3

body - use larger needles:

☛ purl across, increasing 4(3/5) stitches evenly (72/75/81 stitches - a multiple of 3)

note: when working the next 9 rows, it will be necessary to break the yarn on some rows and reattach to the working side of the sweater. The technique box on page 2 to explains how to reduce the number of breaks by knitting flat (back and forth) with a circular needle.

for either method -- be sure to slip all slipped stitches purlwise and always carry the working yarn on the wrong side of the fabric.

1 with C1 k1, *sl1, k2. repeat from * across, end sl1, k1

2 with C1 p1, *sl1, p2. repeat from * across, end sl1, k1.

3 with MC, knit across.

4 with C1 p3, *sl1, p2. repeat from * across

5 with C1 k2, *sl1, p2. repeat from * across, end k3.

6 with MC, purl across.

7 with C1 k3, *sl1, k2. repeat from * across. end sl1, k2

8 with C1 p2, *sl1, p2. repeat from * across. end p3.

9 with MC, k across.

med premie: repeat rows 1 - 9 ...18 red/white rows completed.

lg premie: repeat rows 1 - 9 & 1 - 3 ...21 red/white rows completed

newborn: repeat rows 1 - 9 & 1 - 6 ... 24 red/white rows completed

clip both MC and C1.

split for armholes -- remainder of body will be worked using blue (C2):

☛ left front: with wrong side facing p 18 (19/20) st and transfer to a stitch holder

☛ center back: p 36 (38/40)

☛ right front: transfer remaining 18 (19/20) st to a stitch holder without working the stitches. turn.

knitting center back:

☛ k1, ssk twice, knit to last 5 st, k2tog twice, k1

☛ p across

☛ repeat prev 2 rows until 12 (14/16) stitches remain, ending with a purl row

☛ place stitches on stitch holder.

knitting right front (beginning at armhole edge):

☛ p across

☛ knit to last 5 st, k2tog twice, k1

☛ repeat prev 2 rows until 6 (7/8) stitches remain, ending with a purl row

☛ place stitches on stitch holder

knitting left front (beginning at armhole edge):

- ☞ k1, ssk twice, knit across
- ☞ p across
- ☞ repeat prev 2 rows until 6 (7/8) stitches remain, ending with a purl row
- ☞ place stitches on stitch holder

sleeves -- worked with white (MC):

(sleeves can be worked almost seamlessly by using dpns and knitting the purls and purling the knits on the even rows)

With MC and smaller needles, cast on 24 (26/28)

if using dpns, join to form a circle

row 1/2: k2, *p2, k2. repeat from * across

row 3/4: MC p2, *C1 k2, MC p2. repeat from * across

row 5/6: k2, *p2, k2. repeat from * across

row 7 with MC and larger needles, work in stockinette (knit one row, purl one row) for 6 rows (end w/purl row)

row 8 k1, m1, knit across to last stitch, m1, k1

row 9 purl across

row 10-13 stockinette for 4 rows, ending w purl row

repeat rows 8 - 13 one (2, 3) times. 13 (16, 19) rows stockinette.

sleeve shaping:

(if using dpns, begin working back and forth here)

- ☞ k1, ssk twice, knit to last 5 st, k2tog twice, k1
 - ☞ purl across
 - ☞ repeat 2 rows 5 times (4 (6/8) stitches remain - slip to holder)
- repeat for other sleeve

finishing:

- ☞ sew the underarm seam if not using dpns
- ☞ join each sleeve to sweater along decrease lines.

front edge and button holes:

starting at neck edge for right front pick up 31 (35, 39) stitches along front edge (when picking up stitches, skip about every 4th row edge to accommodate the difference in stitch width and row height)

row 1/2: k1, p1 across

row 3: buttonhole row (begins at ribbed edge):

knit 2(2, 3) stitches.

- ☞ *slip next stitch with yarn in front. move yarn to back.
- ☞ cast off the next 3 stitches without knitting (slip the next stitch to the working needle, then slip the 2nd stitch on the working needle over the first - repeat for each cast off stitch).
- ☞ slip the last cast-off stitch back onto the left (non-working) needle and turn work.
- ☞ using a cable cast on, cast on 4 stitches.
- ☞ turn work. slip one stitch knitwise. pass the last cast-on stitch over the slipped stitch.
- ☞ one buttonhole completed.

- ☞ knit 3(4/4) stitches.
*repeat from * 3 times (4 buttonholes total for all sizes). last buttonhole will be 2(2/3) stitches from neck edge. one buttonhole will also be worked in neck ribbing.*

row 4/5: k1, p1 across

for left side: beginning at ribbed edge, pick up stitches as for the right front edge. k1, p1 across for 5 rows. bind off.

neckband:

pick up all neck stitches (on holders) with smaller needles

row 1: k1, *p2, k2. repeat from * across

row 2: p1, *k2, p2. repeat from * to 6 stitches from the end. create a buttonhole as for right front edge. k1, p1.

row 3: k1, *p2, k2. repeat from * across

row 4: p1, *k2, p2. repeat from * across

- ☞ bind off.
- ☞ tie off and weave in all yarn ends (sorry there are so many!)

working the slipped stitch pattern using circular needles:

This method makes the slipped stitch pattern (red/white) much easier and significantly reduces the number of ends to weave at the end because you can begin the next color change wherever the color was dropped.

Two points to keep in mind --

- ☞ always purl the working stitches on the wrong side of the fabric
- ☞ you won't always start on the same side of the work where you left off

That being said, here's the tips for working the design (flat) on circs:

- ☞ Work row 1 through 3 as written. So far, so easy.
- ☞ For the next row, slip the stitches to the "other" side of the circ so you can begin working with the red where you left it last. Additionally, you'll now need to knit the row, so you start with row 5 (the knit row of the grouping) and then work row 4
- ☞ For row 6, you similarly slip the stitches to the "other" side of the circ (to access the white yarn) and purl across (because it's a wrong-side row)

The key to this method is to be comfortable with reversing the order of the red (C1) rows, or the stitch used (k/p) with the white rows, based on which side of the work faces you and when you begin the next color.