

Seamless, raglan preemie cardigan

Seamless construction

The pattern we are using for the workshop today is designed to be a very quick and simple knit and although it may not be suitable to gift to anyone in your immediate circle of family and friends, I would encourage you to complete the garment and donate it to a local special care baby unit or similar.

Once you have mastered the techniques involved you will be able to tackle a larger project with confidence.

Using a seamless construction and knitting a garment in one piece gives you a great deal of flexibility to make adjustments as you go along.

It is possible to try your growing garment on at regular intervals and add (or remove) additional length if needed and to work more or less increases/decreases to achieve a fit that is custom made for you.

Whilst we won't be looking at custom shaping specifically today it is worth keeping this in mind as you work so that you can see where this would be useful later.

Getting started

Most garments have some sort of neck band and, if knitting a cardigan, button band.

When using a seamless construction for a cardigan it is possible to knit the bands at the same time as the main body of the garment but when doing so you must remember that you are knitting from top to bottom and not sideways so a traditional ribbed button band will not work.

For this reason, I prefer to work moss stitch bands as they give a lovely neat finish and look identical around the neck and down the button bands.

It is also possible to use garter stitch for the bands if you prefer.



What you'll need

Yarn	50g Sirdar Snuggly / Sirdar Snuggly Crofter Baby Fair Isle effect DK
Needles	3.5mm needles 3.5mm DPNS or circular needle
Notions	4 small buttons Darning needle

Abbreviations

K	Knit
St / Sts	Stitch / stitches
m1L	Make 1 left Pick up the bar between the last stitch you knit and the one you're about to knit, bringing the needle from front to back. Then knit into the back loop of this stitch.
m1R	Make 1 right Pick up the bar between the last stitch you knit and the one you're about to knit, bringing the needle from the back to the front. Then knit into the front loop of this stitch.
yo	Yarn over
K2tog	Knit the next two stitches together
SSK	Slip, slip, knit Slip the next two stitches one by one then insert the left needle into the front loops of these stitches and knit them together
PM	Place marker
Mkr	Marker
SM	Slip marker
(BH)	Buttonhole row

Buttonhole rows (BH)

As written the pattern works the button hole at the start of the row.

If you would prefer the buttonhole on the other side please work buttonhole rows as follows:

P1, k1, p1, k1, [follow instructions as written to last 4 sts] k1, yo, K2tog, p1

Neck band		Sts
Cast on 39 stitches		
Row 1	P1, *k1, p1, repeat from * to end	39
Rows 2 to 4	Repeat row 1 three more times	39
Set up rows		Sts
Set up 1	P1, k1, p1, k1, PM, k3, m1L, PM, k1, m1R, k3, m1L, PM, k1, m1R, k15, m1L, PM, k1, m1R, k3, m1L, PM, k1, m1R, k3, PM, k1, p1, k1, p1	47
Set up 2	P1, k1, p1, k1, SM, p to last 4 sts slipping markers as your reach them, k1, p1, k1, p1	47
Yoke		Sts
Row 1	P1, k1, p1, k1, SM, k1, m1R, [k to next mkr, m1L, SM, k1, m1R] repeat from [to] three more times , k to 1 stitch before mkr, m1L, k1, SM, k1, p1, k1, p1	57
Row 2	P1, k1, p1, k1, SM, p to last 4 sts slipping markers as your reach them, k1, p1, k1, p1	57
Row 3	As row 1	67
Row 4	As row 2	67
Row 5	As row 1	77
Row 6	As row 2	77
Row 7	As row 1	87
Row 8	As row 2	87
Row 9	As row 1	97
Row 10	As row 2	97
Row 11 (BH)	P1, K2tog, yo, k1, SM, [k to next mkr, m1L, SM, k1, m1R] repeat from [to] three more times , k to mkr, SM, k1, p1, k1, p1	105
Row 12	P1, k1, p1, k1, SM, p to last 4 sts slipping markers as your reach them, k1, p1, k1, p1	105
Row 13	P1, K1, p1, k1, SM, [k to next mkr, m1L, SM, k1, m1R] repeat from [to] three more times , k to mkr, SM, k1, p1, k1, p1	113
Row 14	As row 12	113
Row 15	As row 13	121
Row 16	As row 12	121
Row 17	As row 13	129
Row 18	As row 12	129
Row 19 (BH)	P1, K2tog, yo, k1, SM, [k to next mkr, m1L, SM, k1, m1R] repeat from [to] three more times , k to mkr, SM, k1, p1, k1, p1	137
Row 20	As row 12	137
Row 21	As row 13	145
Row 22	As row 12	145
Row 23	As row 13	153
Row 24	As row 12	153



Divide for the sleeves

Row 25 Work the following removing all markers as you reach them:

P1, k1, p1, k1, k23, place 27sts for the sleeve onto a stitch holder or waste yarn, do not work these stitches, k45, place 27sts for the sleeve onto a stitch holder or waste yarn, do not work these stitches, k23, p1, k1, p1, k1

You will now have 99 live stitches on the needles and two sets of 27sts on hold

Row 26 P1, K1, p1, k1, purl to last 4 sts, k1, p1, k1, p1

Body

Row 27 (BH) P1, K2tog, yo, k1, knit to last 4 sts, k1, p1, k1, p1

Row 28 P1, K1, p1, k1, purl to last 4 sts, k1, p1, k1, p1

Row 29 P1, K1, p1, k1, knit to last 4 sts, k1, p1, k1, p1

Row 30 As row 28

Row 31 As row 29

Row 32 As row 28

Row 33 As row 29

Row 34 As row 28

At this stage you will have a slightly cropped cardigan, if you prefer to add more length repeat from row 27 to row 34 and then work rows 35 to 38 as written below

Row 35 (BH) P1, K2tog, yo, k1, p1, *k1, p1, repeat from * to end

Rows 36-38 Repeat row 35 three more times

Cast off working in pattern

Sleeves**Sts**

Round 1 Pick up and knit 1 st, knit the 27 sts from the st holder, pick up and knit 1 st, place marker for beginning on round. 29

Round 2 K2tog, K1, K2tog, K to 5 sts before mkr, SSK, K1 SSK 25

Round 3 Knit

Round 4 Knit

Round 5 Knit

Round 6 K2tog, K to 2 sts before mkr, SSK 23

Rounds 7-18 Repeat from round 3 to round 6 twice more. You will now have 19 sts 19

Round 19 P1, *k1, p1, repeat from * to end

Round 20 K1, *p1, k1, repeat from * to end

Rounds 21-22 Repeat rounds 19 and 20

Cast off working in pattern

Repeat for second sleeve

Finishing

Use a darning needle to weave in ends, closing up any holes under the arms if necessary.

Press gently

Position buttons to line up with button holes and sew on.

Stitch counts by section to help you keep track of your increases

The table below shows the stitch counts for each of the sections on every row of the yoke until the sleeve divide.

Increases are highlighted and colour coded

This table is read from left to right

Row No.	Edge	m1R	Front	m1L	"Seam"	m1R	Sleeve	m1L	"Seam"	m1R	Back	m1L	"Seam"	m1R	Sleeve	m1L	"Seam"	m1R	Front	m1L	Edge	Total Sts
Set up	4		3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3		4	47
Row 1	4	1	4	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	17	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	4	1	4	57
Row 3	4	1	6	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	19	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	6	1	4	67
Row 5	4	1	8	1	1	1	9	1	1	1	21	1	1	1	9	1	1	1	8	1	4	77
Row 7	4	1	10	1	1	1	11	1	1	1	23	1	1	1	11	1	1	1	10	1	4	87
Row 9	4	1	12	1	1	1	13	1	1	1	25	1	1	1	13	1	1	1	12	1	4	97
Row 11	4		14	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	27	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	14		4	105
Row 13	4		15	1	1	1	17	1	1	1	29	1	1	1	17	1	1	1	15		4	113
Row 15	4		16	1	1	1	19	1	1	1	31	1	1	1	19	1	1	1	16		4	121
Row 17	4		17	1	1	1	21	1	1	1	33	1	1	1	21	1	1	1	17		4	129
Row 19	4		18	1	1	1	23	1	1	1	35	1	1	1	23	1	1	1	18		4	137
Row 21	4		19	1	1	1	25	1	1	1	37	1	1	1	25	1	1	1	19		4	145
Row 23	4		20	1	1	1	27	1	1	1	39	1	1	1	27	1	1	1	20		4	153

Edge = moss stitch button band

"seam" = the knit stitch between the paired increases

m1L = Make 1 left

Pick up the bar between the last stitch you knit and the one you're about to knit, bringing the needle from front to back. Then knit into the back loop of this stitch.

m1R = Make 1 right

Pick up the bar between the last stitch you knit and the one you're about to knit, bringing the needle from the back to the front. Then knit into the front loop of this stitch

