

PATTERN

Classic Knitted Cardigan * for American Girl Dolls



This sweater is perfect for those of you who don't like knitting lots of pieces and the finishing work that goes with it. This sweater remains all in one piece throughout construction. The only seams you will have to sew up are the sleeve seams and a tiny underarm seam.



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I wrote this pattern for visual learners like me. There have been so many patterns that I would have liked to try, but didn't think I could get through a written pattern. That is why I wrote this pattern. I hope this pattern helps those like me who never thought they could do this.

This pattern will not teach you how to knit. I recommend you learn the basics first, get comfortable with the stitches, then try out this pattern. You Tube is a great resource for learning how to knit or learning new stitches and techniques. My favorite You Tube channel is Very Pink Knits. Whenever I need to learn a new technique this is where I go. Staci explains things very well.

I hope that with this pattern you will have a clear picture in your head about the sweater construction and the how's and why's of each instruction. This pattern will show you how the sweater is constructed and I will spell out everything as clearly as I possibly can. For those of you more advanced knitters this pattern may be overkill as far as the explaining goes. Sorry about that. I am no expert at pattern writing or knitting, but I have knit a lot of doll sweaters and this is what works for me.

Sweater construction overview:

I know this is wordy, but knowing this stuff about a pattern helps me to feel confident that I can understand the pattern. You certainly don't have to read this paragraph if you are familiar with sweater knitting from the neckline down or feel you can go right to the instructions. You will add ring markers on the last row of the neckline ribbing to separate the sections. The sections are (in order) front, sleeve, back, sleeve, and the other front. Increases will be made before and after the ring markers on knit rows and will form the diagonal lines you see between the sections. These increases will enlarge to make room for the shoulder area. This top portion is the yoke and will be knit in this way until you get to the measurement of where the underarm is. After the yoke is the length it needs to be, the next 2 rows will be highly photographed and explained in detail to keep you from getting confused because this is where you start to separate the sleeves from the body. In a nutshell, this is what will happen. After you reach the underarm dimension, the next row will be knit up to the end of the first sleeve section, you'll turn and keep knitting only this sleeve until it is the right length and it is bound off. So this sleeve is completed. It will be attached to the sweater and just remain hanging there in its place. You'll attach a new length of yarn (the yarn from the ball will be cut when the first sleeve is finished) to the beginning of the back section and continue on your way until you come to the end of the second sleeve section. At this point the second sleeve will be knit like the first sleeve. After both sleeves are knit, you will attach a new piece of yarn and finish the row by knitting the last front section. All sections have now been completed through the first of two difficult rows. The next row involves purling the fronts and back together to form the body. A few stitches are cast on at the underarm to form space under the doll's arm. Again, look at the pictures. Once you get through this row the confusing construction is finished. I will also show you finishing techniques so you can have a professional looking sweater.

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Supplies:

50 gram ball of sport weight wool (Knit Picks Wool of the Andes is what I used.)

Knitting needles in size 2 & 3 or sizes to obtain gauge.

The smaller size needles can be as short as 7" long.

You will want a longer set of needles for the larger size. (I used a set of 14" needles, but a 9" set would work too.)

Stitch counter

Ruler

4 Ring markers (I use 6mm metal jewelry split rings.)

Blocking board or towel

Pins for blocking that won't rust when wet

5 buttons (5/16" to 3/8") or 7mm 8mm beads

Techniques Used:

Long Tail Cast On: used to start the sweater

Backwards Loop Cast On: used for adding the stitches under the arm

Knit 2 Together (K2tog): used for increasing

Stockinette Stitch: knit the right side rows, purl the wrong side rows

Yarn Over (yo): used for making the buttonholes

Bind Off: getting the stitches off of the needles

1x1 Rib: knit, purl, knit, purl...

KtBL: knit through back loop

Gauge:

With Larger Needles: 13 1/2 stitches = 2", 18 rows = 2"

Try and get both gauges, but the stitch gauge is more important than the row gauge. If your row gauge is really off, you can add rows or delete rows.

Finished Measurements (after blocking):

Sleeves: 6 1/4" long, 5 1/4" wide at cuff

Body: 5 1/4" long, 14 3/8" at bottom

Button Band: Maintain throughout sweater, first 4 and last 4 stitches are always knit (garter stitch). No need to garter stitch the edges of the sleeves.

Buttonholes: Always added at the end of a knit row in the garter stitch button band area like this: K2tog, yo, K, K. Keep yo very snug so buttonhole doesn't get stretched out.

Buttonhole Placement: Rows 4, 14, 24, 34, 44. Instructions won't remind you where they go so you will need to keep them in mind. Buttonhole rows can be changed, but keep in mind that if they are done on odd rows they go at the beginning of the row like this in the buttonhole band area: K, K, yo, K2tog

I like placing them on even rows because they end up being slightly smaller and look tidier.

This sweater starts (row 1) with a wrong side row. So my even rows are knit and my odd rows are purled. I click my counter after the row is completed. When you see my counter in the photos it does not reflect the row I am currently on, but the row just completed.

With smaller needles and using the long tail cast on: cast on 65 stitches.

Row 1: K4 (which is the buttonhole band), start 1x1 rib starting with a purl, then K, P, K, P...end with a P before last 4 stitches which is the buttonhole band on the opposite side, K those 4 last stitches.

Row 2-4: Continue with rib (k the knit and p the purl stitches) and garter stitch the buttonhole bands. (I will not mention the buttonhole bands again, but keep on with it.)



Row 5: This is the last row of ribbing and this is the row where the markers will be placed. The 5 sections will be divided like this: 10 stitches, 12 stitches, 21, 12, 10. The 2 fronts are each 10 stitches (including b-hole band), sleeves are 12 stitches, and back is 21 stitches=65 stitches.

Row 6: Change to larger needles. This is a right side knit row. Whenever you get to a ring marker, K2tog in the stitch before and K2tog in the stitch after the ring.

This will give you 8 more stitches after completing this row. =73 stitches

Row 7: Wrong side purl row.

Row 8-25: Continue repeating rows 6 and 7. Here are the total stitch counts after the following rows: r8=81, r10=89, r12=97, r14=105, r16=113, r18=121, r20=129, r22=137, r24=145.

Row 26: No increasing on sleeve sections. Each sleeve should be 32 stitches. Increase on other 3 sections (4 increases this row) =149 stitches. p. 5

Row 27: Purl. This is the last row before the separating of the sections starts to take place. After completing row 27, the length should measure about 3". This is the length to the underarm of the sweater.



This is what your knitting should look like after row 27 is completed.

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Row 28: Knit the first section and the first sleeve. Remove the marker between the sleeve and back section, turn. Row 28 is complete for now. You will go back and work on row 28 again when this first sleeve is complete.

Until this sleeve is complete, the following instructions only pertain to the sleeve.



Row 29: Purl the sleeve only. (Don't purl the front section.) Remove marker, turn. Pic shows after purling row 29, but before removing the second marker.



Row 30-48: Work back and forth in stockinette stitch. All other sections remain on the needles. The front section that was knit through row 28 on one needle and the back, other sleeve, and other front that were knit through row 27 are on the other needle.

Row 49-53: Change to smaller needles for 1x1 ribbing, bind off the sleeve on row 53. Cut yarn leaving about 18" for sewing up the sleeve seam later.

After finishing the first sleeve this is what your sweater will look like.



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Row 28: Set counter back to row 27. Reattach yarn (leave 10" tail) at the point between the back section and the sleeve just completed. Knit the back section and the next sleeve section.



Row 29: Remove the last marker, turn, purl the sleeve only. (Don't purl the back section.) Remove marker, turn.



Row 30-48: These rows are for the knitting of the second sleeve only. Work back and forth in stockinette stitch. All other sections remain on the needles. The first front section and the back that was knit through row 28 are on one needle. The remaining front section that was knit through row 27 is on the other needle.

Row 49-53: Change to smaller needles for 1x1 ribbing. Bind off the sleeve on row 53. Cut yarn leaving about 18" for sewing up the sleeve seam later.



Row 28: Set counter back to row 27. Reattach yarn (leave 10" tail) at the point between the sleeve just completed and the last front section. Knit this last section. Now all sections are completed through row 28. Your sweater should look like the pic below after row 28.



Row 29: This is the row where the two fronts and the back will become one piece. When you get to the point where the sections are still separated, take the loose tail of yarn and cast on 3 stitches onto the right needle using the backwards loop method. You will then move them one by one (purlwise, don't twist the stitches) onto the left needle. Take care not to stretch out the stitches too much. I find it helps to work close to the needle tips. After moving them onto the left needle, carefully purl them. You can snug up the last stitch by pulling on the loose tail. Repeat for second section.



The 3 cast on stitches are on the left needle and are awaiting being purred.



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Row 30: Knit and when you get to the cast on underarm stitches, knit into the back of those for a neater look. Picture at right show the point when you get to the underarm cast on stitches. The first one isn't as stretchy as the normal stitches are. So no need to count where they are, you will feel that the stitch is different.



Row 31-42: Stockinette stitch to complete the body.

Row 43-47: (switch to smaller needles) 1x1 rib: Start with a purl stitch right after the button band. Bind off on row 47.





Now it is time to block your sweater. This sets the shape and makes it nice and flat. It is a necessary step. Dampen the sweater with a spray bottle filled with water. I use a June Taylor Cushioned Quilter's Square 'n Blocker for blocking my knitted pieces. I like it because I can get my sweater squared up and even. The blocker isn't a necessity. Use a padded towel that is thick enough for straight pins and measure the sleeves to make sure they are even etc. Make sure your pins won't rust. Pin the dampened sweater to the board and let completely dry. I leave my piece to dry overnight. You'll be surprised at how different your sweater feels after this step.



To finish your sweater turn the sleeves inside out and with right sides together start at the sleeve's cuff. I bring the yarn through the top chain (2 threads) of the opposite end. See above left. You want the yarn to go over the edge and then do this stitch again. This keeps the edge of the cuff from separating while it is being worn.

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I stitch up my sleeve seam with a backstitch. Only stitch through the edge of the sleeve which will be a couple of strands of yarn. You will have to unroll the edge slightly as you go. It will again look like the top of a chain. You might want to put in a couple of pins to keep both sides even too. Once the cuff edge is secured, back stitch like this: bring the needle down the sleeve about a 1/2" and pull through. Go backwards about a 1/4", go forward 1/2", etc.



Continue stitching the sleeve seam until you get to the diagonal raglan area. For my last stitch here, I'll put in a short one for strength. Don't go too far into the raglan area or the side of the sweater will pucker.



Turn sleeve right side out and push needle through hole to the right side. The bottom of the "hole" needs to be sewn up to meet the sleeve. You will only need a few vertical stitches and keep them on the loose side.

If there is a tiny hole that you would like to fill up weave the yarn horizontally (like darning). Weave in other ends. p. 12



The last step is to sew on the buttons underneath the buttonholes. I like to wind the thread around the base of the bead or button 4 or 5 times so that the button is slightly raised to allow for the thickness of the knitted placket.



Happiness is a closetful of new sweaters.
Enjoy knitting!

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