



Francis Revisited

by Beth Silverstein

Francis Revisited is a simple and affordable luxury. Made in lovely worsted weight alpaca it knits up quickly and is soft enough to wear with nothing underneath. The fitted, simple look is instantly glamorous with just a touch of seed stitch detailing and a dramatic cowl neck.

The pattern is worked in the round with virtually no seaming. Top-down construction allows you to try on Francis as you progress to make sure you are getting the fit you want. After making the basic raglan pullover, stitches are picked up from around the neck to make the large cowl neck. The back of the cowl is tacked in place along the back to give it a finished look.

SIZE

XS [S, M, L, 1X, 2X, 3X] (Size shown: XS)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Chest: 33 [34.5, 37, 39.5, 42, 44, 47] inches

MATERIALS

I used ~750 yds of non-commercially produced plied worsted weight alpaca for size XS, but any worsted alpaca yarn would work well.

Recommended yarns: Frog Tree Worsted Weight Alpaca, Catalina Yarns Baby Alpaca Worsted, Misti Alpaca Baby Alpaca Royal, Misti Alpaca Worsted... If you are sure to check your gauge, any of these should work well even though they very slightly in weight.

Yardage: 760 (850, 900, 1000, 1050, 1100, 1100)

1 set US 10/6mm double-point needles

36" US 10/6mm circular needle

36" US 7/5mm circular needle

Notions required: stitch markers (one distinguishable), waste yarn or stitch holders, yarn needle

GAUGE

13 sts/20 rows = 4" in stockinet stitch knit in the round with larger needles.

PATTERN NOTES

Seed Stitch:

Worked over an odd number of stitches:

Row One: [K1, P1] repeat

Row Two: [P1, K1]

Right Slant Increase (M1R):

With left needle tip, lift strand between needles from back to front, Knit lifted loop through the front.

Left Slant Increase (M1L):

With left needle tip, lift strand between needles from front to back. Knit lifted loop through the back.

PATTERN

Body

With larger needles CO 80 sts. Join for working in the round.

Set-Up Row: k30, pm, k10, pm, k30pm, k10, pm (this marker indicates the beginning of the next round and should be identifiable)

Next Row: Knit

Row One: [knit to first stitch before marker, KFB, slm, KFB] 3 times, knit to last stitch, KFB

Row Two: KFB, Knit to end of round.

Repeat rows one and two 10 (12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22) times.

Size XS only: Knit two more rounds

Next round: Knit front stitches, place next 34 (36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56) sleeve sts on scrap yarn or stitch holder, keep one stitch marker in place, knit across the back stitches, place next 34 (36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56) sleeve stitches on scrap yarn or stitch holder, keep stitch marker marking the beginning of the round in place.

Continue work even in St St until body measures 5" from underarm.

Decrease Round: Knit to one 3 sts before marker, K2together, K1, slm, K1, ssk, knit to 3 sts before the end of the round, K2together, K1, slm, K1, ssk.

Knit 5 rounds in St st.

Repeat Decrease Round.

Knit 10 rounds in St st.

Increase Round: Knit to 1 st before marker. M1R, K1, slm, K1, M1L, knit to 1 st before marker, M1R, K1, slm, M1L.

Knit 5 rounds in St st.

Repeat Increase Round.

Knit 5 rounds in St st.

Repeat Increase Round.

Continue in St st until body measures 19 (19.5, 20, 20, 20.75, 30, 30, 30.5)" or 1.75" shorter than desired length.

Knit to last stitch before marker at the beginning of the round M1R.

Work 9 rounds in Seed Stitch.

Bind off all stitches loosely in pattern.

Sleeves

Work for each sleeve:

Transfer 34 (36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56) sleeve sts from waste yarn to 3 DPNs (it may be easier to transfer to the circular needle and then knit onto the DPNs). Join for working in the round. PM to indicate the beginning of the round.

Work in St st for 6 (6.5, 7, 7, 7.5, 8, 8) inches.

Increase Round: KFB, knit to last stitch before marker, KFB.

Next Round: Knit

Repeat the last two rounds 5 more times. 46 (48, 52, 56, 60, 64, 68) stitches.

Next round: Knit to last stitch, KFB. 47 (49, 53, 57, 61, 65, 69) stitches.

Knit 2 rounds.

Work 9 rounds of seed stitch.

Bind off all stitches loosely in pattern.

Cowl

With wrong side facing you and smaller circular needle, pick up and knit 30 sts around CO edge starting at right front shoulder (right side of St st will be on the inside of the garment, the opposite of the body), PM, pick up and knit 50 sts, PM to indicate beginning of the round.

Work in St st for 4”

Switch to larger needle.

Continue in St st for 5 more rounds

Increase Round: Knit 1, M1R, knit to one stitch before next marker, M1L, Knit 1, slm, knit to end of round.

Continue in St st for 5 more rounds

Repeat Increase Round.

Work in St st until cowl is 8” from picked up edge.

K1, M1R, Knit to the end of the round.

Knit 9 rounds in Seed Stitch.

Bind off all stitches in loosely in pattern.

FINISHING

Use mattress stitch to seam the gaps at the underarms. Bring the bottom back end of cowl down to meet the row of picked up stitches, using mattress stitch attach the cowl from one back raglan increase to the other back raglan increase (as shown in photo below). Weave in ends. Block lightly if you desire.



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