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## ALEXANDRA

by Hanna Maciejewska

Alexandra is a child's cardigan with pleated hem and cuffs. Giant buttons in contrasting colors and a knitted belt makes it interesting and fashionable. It is a top-down raglan, worked in one piece without seams. Cardigan is designed with 3" of positive ease so it can be comfortably worn on top of other wardrobes.

*Alexandra by Hanna Maciejewska*

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**Materials:**

Bergere de France Ideal (40% Worsted Wool, 30% Acrylic, 30% Polyamide) 50g/136 yards (124 meters) – 5 (6, 6, 7, 8) skeins

Drops Delight (75% Wool, 25% Nylon) 50g/ 191 yards (175 meters) – 1 skein

US 2 ½ - 3 mm 32"/80cm circular needles or set of 5 dpns

US 1 ½ - 2.5mm dpn

3mm crochet hook

8 stitch markers

Removable markers

3 (1"/2.5cm) buttons

Stitch holder or scrap yarn

Sewing needle and matching thread

**Sizes:** 4-5 yrs (5-6 yrs, 7-8 yrs, 9-10 yrs, 11-12 yrs),

Chest measurements: 26"/65cm (27"/67.5cm, 28.5"/71.25cm, 30"/74cm, 32"/79cm)

Please do not rely exclusively on a child's age, but rather measure his chest to determine the proper size. Cardigan is meant to be worn with 3" of positive ease.

**Gauge:** 22 sts and 30 rows per 4" (10cm) in stockinette stitch –save the time by checking the gauge ☺

*Please note that I knit loosely so you may need different sized needles to obtain the gauge.*

**Abbreviations:**

**Bo** = bind off

**Co** = cast on

**dec** = decrease/ing

**dpn/s** = double pointed needle/s

**inc** = increase/ing

**k** = knit

**k2tog** = knit 2 stitches together

**kfb** = knit 1 stitch in the front, then in the back

**LLI** = left-leaning lifted increase

**p** = purl

**pm** = place marker

**prm** = place removable marker

**RLI** = right-leaning lifted increase

**rm** = remove marker

**rnd** = round

**RS** = right side

**sm** = slip marker

**ssk** = slip, slip, knit slipped stitches tog

**St st** = stockinette stitch

**St/s** = stitch/stitches

**WS** = wrong side

**Garter st** – Knit every row

**Stockinette st** – Knit one row, purl one row

**Right-leaning lifted increase** – knit to the point where you need to increase,



See the Twist Collective tutorial:  
<http://www.twistcollective.com/collection/index.php/component/content/article/92-how-to/1047-lifted-increase-lli-rli>

then insert the right needle into the closest right leg of the st on the left needle.



Place the loop on the left needle and knit it as normal = one st increased.





**Left-leaning lifted increase** – knit to the point where you need to increase, then mark the second st below the stitch just worked on the right needle.



Insert the right needle into the closest left leg of that st and place the loop on the left needle.



Knit the sts as normal = one st increased.



**Pleats** – are created by working a given number of rows and then joining the live sts with a specific number of sts from the specific row below.

Pleats in Alexandra Cardigan are worked on the sections of row identified by removable markers. After you knit eight rows, join the pleats on the next row as follows:

using a spare US 1 ½ - 2.5 mm dpn with WS facing pick up 4 sts between removable markers;



hold the main needle and the spare needle in your left hand;



knit together one st from each needle (it is similar to three-needle bind off, but you do not bind off any sts).



## 1. Yoke:

Using US 2 ½ - 3 mm 32"/80cm circular needles co 52 (56, 56, 56) sts.

**Set up row (WS):** p2 (right front), pm, k2, pm, p9 (10, 10, 10, 10) (right sleeve), pm, k2, pm, p22 (24, 24, 24, 24) (back), pm, k2, pm, p9 (10, 10, 10, 10) (left sleeve), pm, k2, pm, p2 (left front);

**Row 1(RS):** \*k to 1st before the m, LLI, sm, k2, sm, RLI – repeat from \* 3 more times, k to the end = 8 sts increased;

**Row 2 (WS)** and all even sts, unless otherwise stated: \*p to m, 2k – repeat from \* 3 more times, p to the end;

Repeat rows 1 and 2 - two more times.

**Row 7 (RS):** k1, RLI, \* k to 1st before the m, LLI, sm, k2, sm, RLI – repeat from \* 3 more times, k to last 2 sts, LLI, 1k = 10sts increased;

**Row 8:** same as row 2.

*Note: instead of RLI and LLI you can make regular kfb to shape raglan.*

### Size 4-5 yrs:

Work rows 1 to 8 – 5 times and rows 1 and 2 once = 230 sts on the needles.

### Size 5-6 yrs:

Work rows 1 to 8 – 5 times and rows 1 to 4 once = 242 sts on the needles.

### Size 7-8 yrs:

Work rows 1 to 8 - 6 times and rows 1 and 2 once = 268 sts on the needles.

### Size 9-10 yrs:

Work rows 1 to 8 – 6 times and rows 1 and 2 once = 268 sts on the needles.

### Size 11-12 yrs:

Work rows 1 to 8 – 7 times and rows 1 and 2 once = 304 sts on the needles.

## 2. Body:

Sts are divided as follows:

**Fronts:** 28 (29, 33, 33, 39) sts

**Sleeves:** 51 (54, 60, 60, 68) sts

**Back:** 64 (68, 74, 74, 82) sts

**Raglan sts:** 4x2 sts

**Next row (RS):** dividing body and sleeves sts- k28 (29, 33, 33, 39) sts, rm, k1, place next 51 (56, 62, 62, 70) sts on the holder, co 2 (2, 2, 4, 4) sts, pm, co 2 (2, 2, 4, 4) sts (underarm), k1, rm, k64 (68, 74, 74, 82) sts, k1, rm, place next 51 (56, 62, 62, 70) sts on the holder, co co 2 (2, 2, 4, 4) sts, pm, co 2 (2, 2, 4, 4) sts (underarm), k1, rm, k28 (29, 33, 33, 39) sts = 132 (138, 152, 160, 180) sts on the needles;

Set sleeves sts aside.

**Next row (WS):** \*p to 1 st before the marker, k1, sm, k1 – repeat from \*- 1 more time, p to the end;

**Next row (RS):** k all sts;

Continue in St sts with 4 fake seam sts (two on the each side) in garter st for 7 (7, 9, 11, 11) rows ending on the WS row.

Front increase row: k1, RLI, k to last 2 sts on the needles, LLI, 1k = 2 sts increased.

Repeat front increase row 3 (3, 3, 4, 4) more times every 10 (10, 12, 14, 14<sup>th</sup>) row = total 140, (146, 160, 170, 190) sts - 35 (36, 40, 43, 49) sts - each front and 72 (74, 80, 84, 92) sts – back.



Continue in St sts with 4 fake seam sts (two on each side) in garter st until the body measures 7 ¼ "/18cm (7 ¾ "/19.5cm, 8 ¼ "/21cm, 9"/23cm, 9 ¾ "/24 ¼ cm ) or desired length from the armpits ending on the WS row.

### 3. Hem

*Note: starting at this point remove markers and do not work fake seam sts anymore.*

**Row 1 (RS):** purl all sts;

**Row 2 (WS):** change to Drops Delight and k all sts;

**Row 3:** k2 (5, 12, 5, 3) sts \*prm, k4, prm, k8- repeat from \* to last 6 (9, 16, 9, 7) sts, prm, k4, prm, k2 (5, 12, 5, 3) sts;

*Note: move the removable markers to the WS of the first and last st of the pleat section.*

**Row 4:** purl all sts;

**Rows 5 to 10:** repeat rows 3 and 4 – 3 more times.

**Row 11 (RS):** working pleats – k2(5, 12, 5, 3) sts, \*join pleat with 4 sts picked up from row 3 between markers – rm, k8 – repeat from\* to last 6 (9, 16, 9, 7) sts, join pleat with 4 sts picked up from row 3 between markers – rm, k2(5, 12, 5, 3);

**Row 12:** purl all sts;

**Row 13:** purl all sts;

**Row 14:** change to BDF Ideal and knit all sts;

**Row 15:** knit all sts;



**Row 16 (WS):** purl all sts;

**Row 17:** k9 (12, 7, 12, 10) sts \*slip next 2 sts knitwise keeping the yarn in the back, k10 – repeat from \* to last 11 (14, 9, 14, 12) sts, slip next 2 sts knitwise keeping the yarn in the back, k9 (12, 7, 12, 10) sts;

**Row 18:** p9 (12, 7, 12, 10) , \*slip next 2 sts purlwise keeping the yarn in the front, p10 – repeat from \* to last 11 (14, 9, 14, 12) sts, slip next 2 sts purlwise keeping the yarn in the back, k9 (12, 7, 14, 12) sts;

**Rows 19 to 22 :** repeat row 17 and 18 – 2 more times.

**Row 23:** knit all sts;

**Row 24:** purl all sts;

**Row 25:** purl all sts;

**Row 26:** change to Drops Delight and knit all sts;

**Rows 27 to 37:** repeat rows 3 to 13.

**Row 38:** change to BDF Ideal and knit all sts.

**Row 39:** knit all sts;

**Row 40:** purl all sts;

**Row 41:** purl all sts;

**Row 42:** knit all sts;

**Rows 43 to 48:** repeat rows 39 to 42;

Bind off loosely.



## 4. Sleeves:

Both sleeves are identical.

Slip held sleeve sts onto the US 2 ½ - 3 mm 32"/80cm circular needles (use magic loop method) or spread evenly over set of dpns. Reattach the yarn in the middle of the armpit.

With RS facing you pick up and knit 2 (2, 2, 4, 4) sts from cast on sts at the underarm section, knit all sts, pick up and knit 2 (2, 2, 4, 4) sts from cast on sts at the arm section, pm. Join to knit in rounds = 55 (60, 66, 70, 78) sts on the needles.

**Rnd 1:** p1, k1, p1, knit to last 3 sts before the marker, p1, k1, p1, sm;

**Rnd 2:** k1, p1, knit to last 2 sts before the marker, p1, k1, sm;

**Rnd 3:** p1, knit to 1 st before the marker, p1, sm;

**Rnd 4:** knit all sts, sm;

**Rnd 5:** p1, knit to 1 st before the marker, p1, sm;

**Rnd 6 – decrease rnd:** k1, ssk, knit to last 3 before the marker, k2tog, k1, sm;

Beginning with knit row continue working in St st with 2 fake seam sts in garter st.

At the same time repeat decrease row 3 (5, 8, 10, 8) more times every 8<sup>th</sup> (6, 6, 4, 10) rows = 8 (12, 18, 22, 18) sts decreased = 47, (48, 48, 48, 60) sts on the needles.



Keep working in St st with a fake seam until the sleeve measures 6½"/17cm (7¼"/18½cm, 8"/20cm, 8¾"/22cm, 10"/25cm) or desired length from the underarm.

## 5. Cuffs:



*Note: starting at this point do not work fake seam sts anymore.*

**Rnd1:** purl all sts, sm;

**Rnd 2:** change to Drops Delight and purl all sts, sm;

**Rnd 3:** k4, \*prm, k4, prm, k8- repeat from \* to last 7 (8, 8, 8, 8) sts, prm, k4, prm, k3 (4, 4, 4, 4) sts, sm;

*Note: move the removable markers to the WS of the first and last st of the pleat section.*

**Rnds 4 to 10:** knit all sts;

**Rnd 11:** working pleats – k4, \*join pleat with 4 sts picked up from row 3 between markers – remove markers, k8 – repeat from\* to last 7 (8, 8, 8, 8) sts, join pleat with 4 sts picked up from row 3 between markers – remove markers, k3 (4, 4, 4, 4) sts, sm;

**Rnd 12:** knit all sts, sm;

**Rnd 13:** purl all sts, sm;

**Rnd 14:** change to BDF Ideal and purl all sts, sm;

**Rnds 15 and 16:** knit all sts, sm;

**Rnds 17 to 22:** slip next st knitwise keeping the yarn in the back, \*k10, slip next 2 sts knitwise keeping the yarn in the back – repeat from \* to last 10 (11, 11, 11, 11) sts, k9 (10, 10, 10, 10) slip next st knitwise keeping the yarn in the back, sm;

**Rnds 23 and 24:** knit all sts, sm;

**Rnd 25:** purl all sts;

**Rnd 26:** change to Drops Delight and purl all sts, sm;

**Rnds 27 to 37:** repeat rnds 3 to 13;

**Rnd 38:** change to BDF Ideal and purl all sts, sm;

**Rnds 39 and 40:** knit all sts, sm;

**Rnds 41 and 42:** purl all sts, sm;

**Rnds 43 to 48:** repeat rnds 39 to 42;  
Bind off loosely.

## 6. Button band:

Begin at hem edge of right front and reattach BDF Ideal.  
With RS facing, using size US 2 ½ - 3mm circular needles pick up approximately 86 (89, 92, 97) sts for right front (approximately 4 sts for 7 rows), 14 (15, 15, 15, 15) sts across top of right sleeve (one st for every st), 22 (24, 24, 24, 24) sts across back (one st for every st), 14 (15, 15, 15, 15) sts across top of left sleeve (one st for every st), and approximately 86 (89, 92, 97, 105) sts for left front (approximately 4 sts for 7 rows).

*Note: it does not matter if you pick up a slightly different number of sts for a button band.*

**Row 1 (WS):** knit all sts;

**Row 2 (RS):** purl all sts;

**Row 3:** purl all sts;

**Row 4:** knit all sts;

**Rows 5 to 12:** repeat rows 1 to 4 two more times;

**Row 13:** knit all sts;

**Row 14:** purl all sts;

Bind off loosely.

## 7. Button loops:

Determine the placements of the three button loop and mark them with safety pins.  
To crochet the button loops follow the excellent guidelines prepared by Theresa Belville in Swing Thing. They are far better than any instructions I would come up with. The only modification I made is to chain 12 instead 10 as buttons I used are a lot bigger.

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/swing-thing>

## 8. Belt:

Using US 2 ½ /3mm needles co 170 (180, 190, 200, 220) sts and work ribbing as follows:

**Row 1 (WS):** knit all sts;

**Row 2 (RS):** purl all sts;

**Row 3:** purl all sts;

**Row 4:** knit all sts;

**Rows 5 to 14:** repeat rows 1 to 4 three more times;

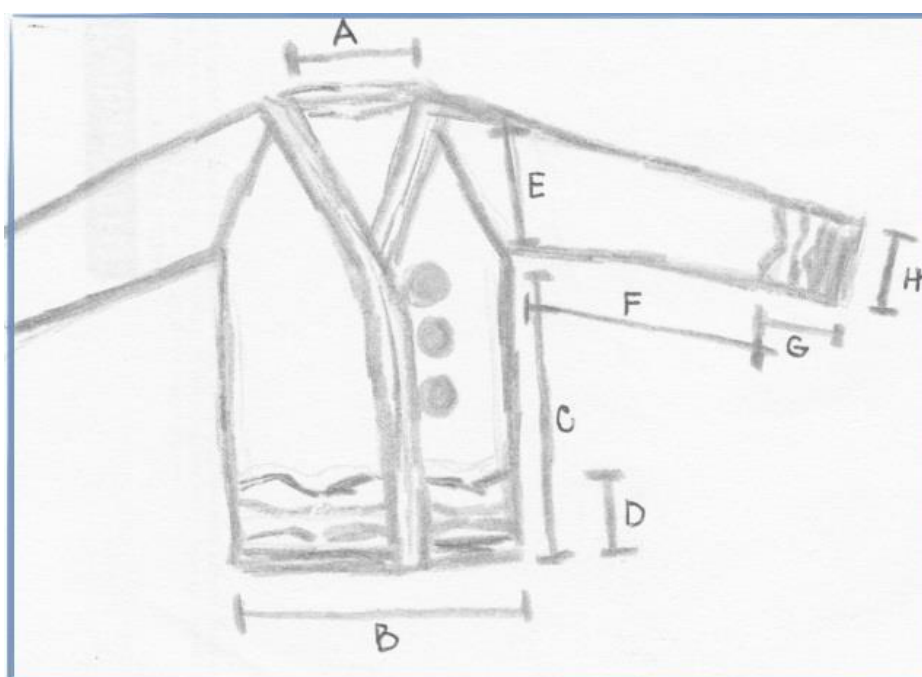
**Row 15:** knit all sts;

**Row 16:** purl all sts;  
Bind off loosely.

## 9. Finishing:

Weave in ends and sew the buttons.  
Block the cardigan.  
Enjoy ☺

Finished Measurements:



	A	B	C	D and G	E	F	H
<b>4-5 yrs</b>	6½" 16½cm	13" 33cm	11¼" 28cm	4" 10cm	4" 10cm	6½" 17cm	4" 10cm
<b>5-6 yrs</b>	6½" 16½cm	13½" 34½cm	11¾" 29½cm	4" 10cm	4¼" 11cm	7¼" 18.5cm	4" 10cm
<b>7-8 yrs</b>	6½" 16½cm	14" 36cm	12¼" 31cm	4" 10cm	5" 13cm	8" 20cm	4" 10cm
<b>9-10 yrs</b>	6½" 16½cm	15" 38cm	13" 33cm	4" 10cm	5¾" 14½cm	8¾" 22cm	4" 10cm
<b>11-12 yrs</b>	6½" 16½cm	16¾" 42cm	13¾" 34¼cm	4" 10cm	7" 17¾cm	10" 25cm	5" 13cm