

Gisela's Kittlele



Introduction

My mother Gisela invented this pattern in 1968 when I was a few months old. Since then between the two of us we must have made several dozens of them for all our friends and family who had babies. This fits around the time that the toddler starts to walk and is brilliant. The instructions may look a bit complicated, but by the time you've made five or six of them, you'll get the hang of it :-) (just kidding).

Yarn

Use a yarn that knits up on size 4 needles, you will need approximately 300g. I always use some kind of Superwash with a proportion of Polyester or Acrylic (around 20%) so that it'll survive lots of consecutive washes. I like to use coloured 6-ply sock yarn, however, if you use the kind that comes out all stripey it'll look odd because you'll have wide bands on the hood (where the rows are short) and then increasingly thin ones as you knit down the chest and the rows become much longer. Also it is very difficult to match up the sleeves. So, take a yarn where the colours change after no more than 10-15cm – it should look more like the ball on

the left where all adjacent threads are different colours, not like the one on the right which has broader bands.



Fig. 1: If you want a multicolor yarn, pick one that is not ‘stripey’

Measurements

Shoulder to hem: 30cm

Total height of cap from lower neck edge: 22cm

Arms from neck to wrist: 33cm

Arms from wrist to armpit: 23cm

Chest width: 26

Armpit to hem: 17cm

Width at hem: 24cm

Needles Size 4

Abbreviations

*ES: edge stitch, knit through the back loop

*EOR: end of row, place thread in front of stitch, lift stitch and thread onto other needle

*WS: wrong side (inside of garment)

*RS: right side (outside of garment)

Stitch

The stitch used for this jacket, except for the edges around face, neck, wrists and hem (which are in k1, p1), is called 'Half Patent' or semi patent. In WS rows, this means that you #k1, then lay the thread before the next stitch, push the needle into the stitch as if to purl it, and slip both stitch and thread to the other needle (Fig. 2, left). Repeat from #. In RS rows you use k1, p1; for the knitted stitches you knit the stitch and the thread that was slipped over in the WS row together (Fig. 2, right).

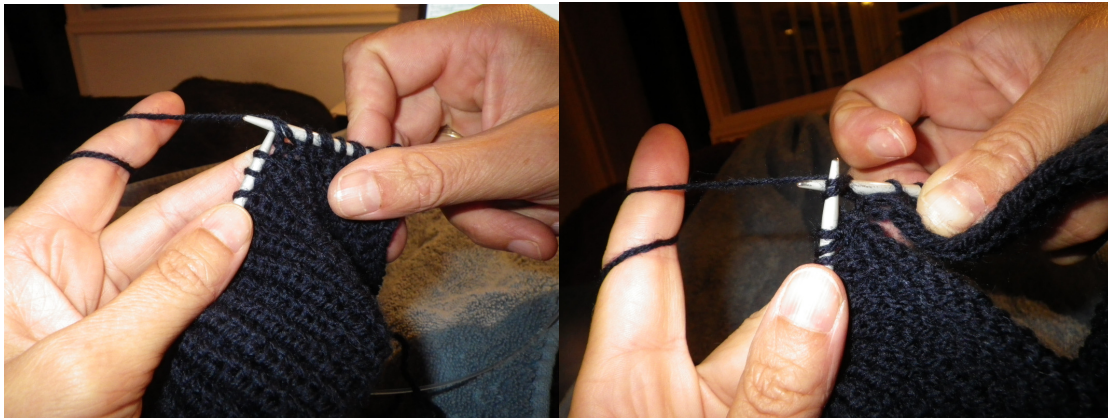


Fig. 2: Half Patent – left, how to slip the purlled stitches in WS rows, right, how to knit the slipped stitch and thread together in RS rows

Sample measurements

10cm = 26 stitches

10cm = 25 turns (50 rows)

A 'turn' consists of a RS row plus a WS row.

Now that we've got all that straight, it's time to start knitting. The jacket is split all the way down the back, where in the end the zipper will go (it zips down from the hood to the hem). We will start at the lower edge of the hood, which is knitted in two halves, which will be joined by the zipper, and knit upwards to the top of the head.

Pattern

Back of hood – first half:

Cast on 35, turn

R1 (WS): ES, #k1, slip 1 (= place thread in front of needle, lift stitch + thread to the other needle)#, repeat #-# 16 more times, k1, EOR

R2 (RS): ES, #p1, k1#, repeat #-# 16 more times, p1, EOR
repeat for a total of 61 rows, end on WS row

Back of hood – second half: like first half

R62: ES, #p1, k1# repeat #-# 16 more times, knit together last stitch of piece and first stitch of other piece, #p1, k1# repeat #-# 16 more times, EOR

R63: ES, #k1, slip 1#, repeat #-# 32 more times, k1, EOR
repeat for 8 more rows, end on WS, turn



right side

wrong side

Top of hood:

make 46 stitches, turn

slip first stitch, make 22 stitches, turn

slip first stitch, make 23 stitches, turn

repeat, increasing one stitch in every row. On WS rows if the last stitch before the turn is purled, purl normally instead of slipping. Repeat until the turn occurs after 31 stitches, not counting the first slipped one (this is a WS row, and there should be 19 stitches left over behind the turn on each side).

turn to RS, slip first stitch, make 29 stitches, lift the purled stitch in front of the next stitch, purl these two together, turn, slip first stitch, make 29 stitches, k2 tog, turn#

#-#: repeat 12 more times, ending on WS row

turn to RS, slip first stitch, make 26, purl 2 tog, knit 1, lift the purled stitch in front of the next stitch, purl these two together,

turn to WS, slip first stitch, make 25, slip stitch over the next one and knit them tog, k1, k2 tog #

repeat 5 more times, decreasing two in each row (make stitches as they present themselves in the previous row), turn, make 19.



Edging around face:

Pick up 25 stitches down the edge of the piece.



Turn, ES, #k1 through the back loop, p1#, repeat 11 more times

#k1, p1# repeat 8 more times, k1

turn around, pick up 25 more stitches down the other edge of the piece,



ES, #p1, k1 through the back loop#, repeat 11 more times, finish row as stitches present themselves

make 7 more rows in k1, p1 stitch. Bind off loosely.



front (the edge frames the face), connect the two corners by casting on new stitches to form the chin (see below)

bottom of hood, start making new stitches here and up in the direction of the dotted line (see below)

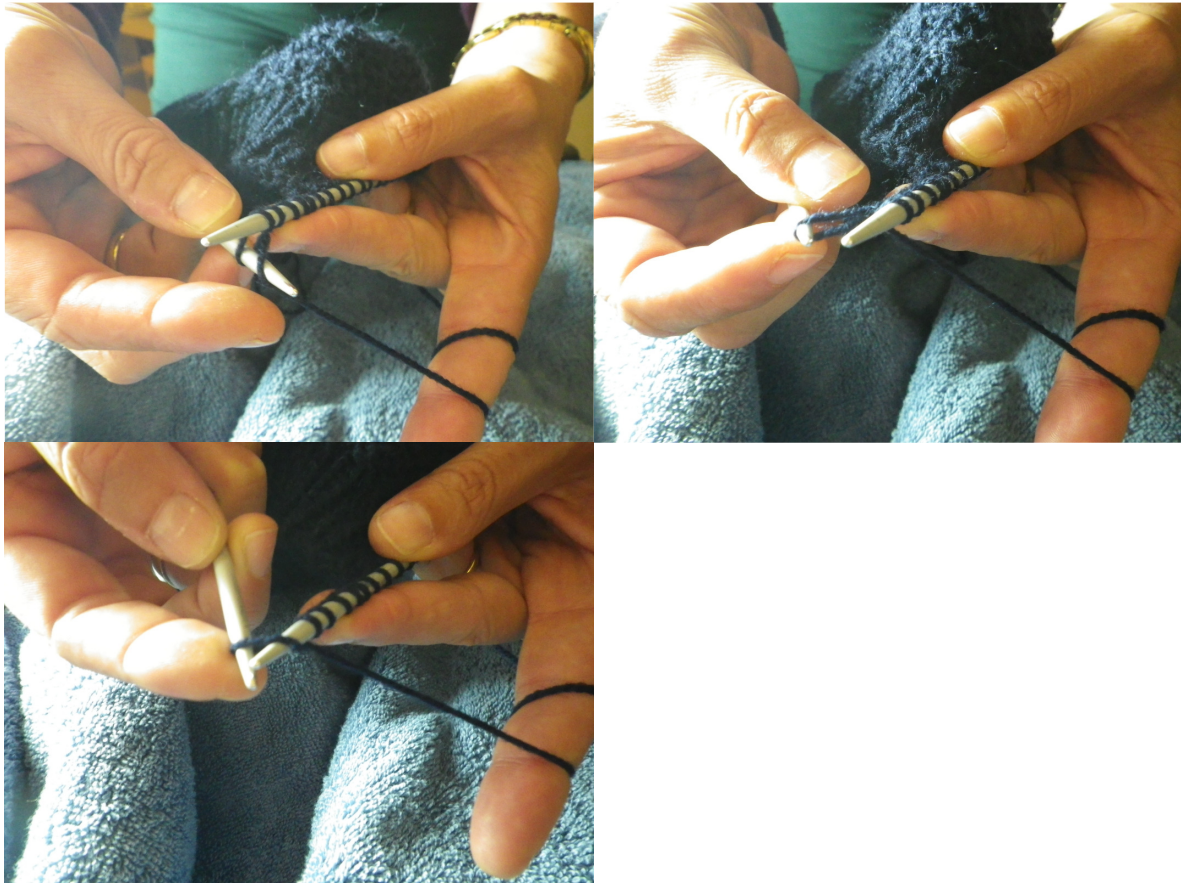
back (this is the opening where the zipper will go)

Neck

From bottom right corner as shown in this picture, pick up 22 stitches up the right edge for the neck



turn around, cast on 15 new stitches (to form the connection of the hood under the chin)



turn around again (RS facing you), pick up another 22 stitches along the other edge of the hood (down what is the left edge in the picture above, ending in the bottom left corner) with a total of 59 stitches.



22 stitches picked up from lower edge of hood
15 newly cast on stitches
22 stitches picked up from lower edge of hood

turn to WS, ES, p1, k1 through back loop, repeat to EOR (59 stitches)

knit 8 more rows in k1, p1 stitch, end on WS row

Chest

From here on, we begin increasing eight stitches per row to make the raglan shape. In the next row, set four stitch markers: ES, knit 7 stitches in k1p1 pattern, set a marker on the 9th stitch (knit). p1,k1 for 13 more stitches, set the second marker on the 14th stitch (knit). p1,k1 for 13 more stitches, set the third marker on the 14th stitch (knit). p1,k1 for 13 more stitches, set the fourth marker on the 14th stitch (knit). Finish the row.

From the return row (WS), go back to Half Patent stitch. In each RS row, increase 1 stitch before and 1 stitch after each of the four stitch markers (= increase 8 stitches in every row). Repeat 26 times, until you have a total of 267 stitches.



Right sleeve:

Turn to RS, make 100, ending on the purled stitch before the second diagonal raglan stitch. Turn. ES, k2tg, make 60. p2tg, slip the next stitch (the first diagonal raglan stitch). Turn, ES, make 62, EOR. Continue making short rows, turning on the same end stitches. In every third WS row (every sixth row in total), decrease one at the beginning and one at the end of the row. Continue for a total of 92 rows, until you have 34 stitches left.

Knit the cuffs in k1p1 for 8 rows. Cast off loosely.



Left sleeve:

Continue knitting on RS from the point where you first turned (starting from the second diagonal raglan stitch). Make 132, ending on the purled stitch before the fourth diagonal raglan stitch. Make sleeve like the right sleeve described above.



Body

Continue knitting on RS from the point where you first turned (starting from the fourth diagonal raglan stitch). Make 35, EOR.

Turn, knit across the entire row, joining up the stitches on each side of the two sleeves. Make 90 rows (45 turns) to form the body.

Knit 8 rows in edge stitch (k1, p1 on both sides). Cast off loosely.

Finishing:

Close the seams under the arms, work away any loose ends.

Sew a 50cm zipper into the back of the garment. I always add a satin band on the inside, to make sure the zipper will not get caught on any fine baby hairs.

