

Tadpole's Purple Sweater



Pattern Info

Yarn: One skein Dream in Color Smooshy (I used just about the entire 450 yard skein)

A Note About Yardage: I really did use all but a yard or two of the 450 yard skein when I knit this sweater. So make sure you have at least that much to work with. You can either buy a second skein and plan to make something else with what you have left over. Or you can use stash leftovers and make the cuffs striped or a different color if you're worried about having enough. Working the button bands in a contrasting color would look great, too.

Needles: size 1 circular needle (or size needed to get gauge) long enough for magic loop on sleeves. It's easier with two circular needles (and only one of those needles needs to be long enough for magic loop).

NOTE: DPNs can also be used for the sleeves and you can knit the body on straight needles but joining everything together for the yoke is much easier with a circular needle. You'll want that flexible cord.

Gauge: The stitch pattern used here is *very* stretchy so your pattern gauge will be tough to measure. Instead, do a quick stockinette swatch to get a gauge of 8spi and 12rpi. You'll be in the right ballpark if you get 10.5spi in the pattern when it is not stretched.

Gauge doesn't matter too much here except for one thing: I used all but a yard or two of my skein of Smooshy. So you'll want to be sure you get gauge if you only have 450 yards of yarn. If you get stitch gauge but not row gauge, you should be fine.

If you really want to cheat on the gauge front, knit a pair of socks (with the same yarn and needles, of course) from my favorite pattern: Gentleman's Shooting Stockings with Fluted Pattern by Nancy Bush (published in the fabulous book *Knitting Vintage Socks*). That's where I found this stitch pattern. If you got gauge with the socks, you'll get gauge here.

Notions: waste yarn for holders, 3 stitch markers, 9 buttons to fit buttonholes, tapestry needle for weaving in ends

Techniques used: knit, purl, ssk and k2tog decreases, knitting in the round (magic loop or DPNs), maintaining a selvedge stitch, short rows, picking up and knitting stitches along an edge, yo buttonhole, kitchener stitch to graft underarms, reading a simple chart.

Sweater Construction (in a nutshell): This is a bottom-up seamless raglan cardigan with an asymmetrical opening. The body is worked in one piece back and forth to the underarm. You then work two sleeves in the round. Once the sleeves are done, you'll join them with the body stitches (setting aside underarm stitches on holders for grafting later). Raglan decreases shape the yoke. A couple of short rows raise the back of the neck. Pick up and knit the button bands, graft the underarms, weave in the ends, sew on the buttons, and you're done!

Difficulty Level: This isn't a beginner project. But if you've knit a few things and feel like you're past the "beginner" stage, go for it! None of the techniques used here are particularly hard but there are a lot of them and they can be a bit finicky if you're doing it for the first time. And there are lots of tiny stitches on tiny needles. So you'll need a bit of patience but the end result is worth the effort!

Should you contact the designer if you're having trouble working the pattern? No. I'm very sorry but I cannot respond to individual requests for pattern help. There are lots of great pattern resources out there where you can ask for help. These include the forums on ravelry, a local knitting group, and the shop where you purchased your yarn.

Final measurements (after washing/blocking):

Chest: 19" circumference (un-stretched)

Sleeves: 6.5" from cuff to underarm

Body length: 9.75" from bottom hem to top of back neck



Pattern Instructions

Body: Cast on 176 stitches with your circular needle (the shorter one if you're using 2 different lengths). I like the long-tail cast on but go with whatever method you like best. Now work 3x3 rib for 20 rows with a stockinette stitch selvedge on edge.

In other words, Right Side (RS) rows read: k1, *[k3, p3], repeat from * until last stitch, k1.
Wrong Side (WS) rows read: p1, *[p3, k3], repeat from * until last stitch, p1.

Now work 12 repeats of the fluted pattern (12 sets of triangles), maintaining your selvedge stitches. The body should measure about 6.5" in length at this point.

What is this fluted pattern? I've charted it below. Blank squares are knit on RS, purl on WS. Bars are purl on RS, knit on WS. See how it makes triangles of knit and purl?

Fluted Pattern

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| — | | | | | | 5 |
| — | — | | | | | 4 |
| — | — | — | | | | 3 |
| — | — | — | — | | | 2 |
| — | — | — | — | — | | 1 |

But also note how the pattern has an odd number of rows. This means that you'll have to work the chart twice before you come to row 1 starting on a RS row again when you're working it back and forth on the body.

Once you've completed those 12 repeats, leave everything just like it is on your circular needle. If you're only using one circular needle, put all of your stitches on a piece of waste yarn.

Sleeves: Don't break your yarn. Instead start at the other end of the ball and cast on 54 stitches for the first sleeve. Yes, it's a bit of a pain to work from both ends of the ball but it's less of a pain than weaving in the extra ends if you were to break the yarn.

Join for working in the round (be careful not to twist the stitches!) and work 3x3 rib for 20 rows. Once that's done, work 13 repeats (13 triangles) of the fluted pattern.

Next round: knit 6 stitches and break the yarn leaving a tail long enough to graft 12 underarm stitches together and comfortably weave in the end. 18 inches or so should be safe.

Put the last 12 stitches worked (the 6 you just knit and one repeat of the fluted pattern before them) on a waste yarn holder and put the other 42 stitches on a separate waste yarn holder.

Now make a second sleeve just like the first.

Joining everything together for the yoke:

This is where you will be joining the two sleeves to the body and knitting the entire sweater as a single piece.

Pick up the body piece from where you left it while making the sleeves and work the selvedge stitch and then the next 12 repeats of the fluted pattern (this is the front of the sweater - a total of 73 stitches). Place the next 12 stitches (2 repeats of the fluted pattern) on a waste yarn holder. *Place marker* and work 42 sleeve stitches (7 repeats), ignoring the 12 stitches on their separate holder. *Place another marker*. Now work 13 repeats of the fluted pattern (78 sts). Stop and place the next 12 stitches (2 repeats) on a waste yarn holder. *Place yet another marker* and work 42 stitches from your second sleeve, ignoring the 12 stitches on their separate holder. Finish off the row by working the selvedge stitch from the edge of the body.

Notice how I said “work” and not “knit.” That’s because you’re on row one of the fluted pattern and you should maintain that pattern throughout the yoke.

Let’s do a quick check to make sure everything lined up properly. At this point your needle should have (looking from right to left on the the RS) *1 selvedge stitch, 12 pattern repeats, stitch marker, 7 pattern repeats, stitch marker, 13 pattern repeats, stitch marker, 7 pattern repeats, selvedge stitch*. That should be 236 stitches and 3 stitch markers.

Continue working the fluted pattern and selvedge stitches for 4 more rows. At this point you’ll be ready to start row 1 again on the wrong side of the piece.

Raglan shaping: On the next row and every other WS row until you get to the neck ribbing - p1, k1, p1, work in pattern to 1 stitch before the next marker, *[p1, slip marker, k1, p1, work in pattern to 1 stitch before the next marker]; repeat from * to last 2 stitches, end p2.

On the following row and every other RS row until you get to the neck ribbing - k1, ssk, *[work in pattern to 3 stitches before the next marker, k2tog, p1, slip marker, ssk], repeat from * to last 4 stitches, ssk, p1, k1.

Continue raglan shaping until you have 116 stitches on the needle, ending with a RS row.

Neck: work in 3x3 rib for 2 rows, maintaining the stockinette selvedge stitches. Since you’re starting on a WS row, you’ll p1 (selvedge stitch), [p3, k3] until the last stitch, p1.

Now you’re going to work 2 short rows to raise the back of the neck.

On the next row (WS), work 70 stitches in pattern, then wrap and turn the next stitch. Now work 63 stitches in pattern, then wrap and turn the next stitch. Now continue working in 3x3 rib for a

total of 6 ribbed rows. (6 ribbed rows at the ends and 8 in the center where you worked the short rows.) Don't worry about picking up the wraps - they'll hide with the purl bumps in the ribbing.

Bind off in pattern. Make sure your bind-off is relaxed (the same tension as your knitting) but don't worry about making it particularly loose. The neck opening is plenty wide.

Button band:

Starting at the top left shoulder (the wearer's left shoulder) with the RS facing, pick up and knit 83 stitches for the button band, using a ratio of 2 stitches for every 3 rows. Work 3x3 rib for 8 rows, with a stockinette selvedge at the edges. In other words, since you're starting on a WS row, you'll p1 (selvedge stitch), [p3, k3] until the last 4 stitches, p4. Bind off all stitches in pattern.

Buttonhole band:

Starting at the bottom front edge (where you cast on for the body) with the RS facing, pick up and knit 83 stitches for the button band, using a ratio of 2 stitches for every 3 rows. Work 3x3 rib for 3 rows, with a stockinette selvedge at the edges. Work 3x3 rib for 3 rows, with a stockinette selvedge at the edges like you did on the button band.

Now you're going to make yo buttonholes in every third ribbing section (k3 or p3 is a single section). There are 9 buttonholes and the odd numbered ones will be in purl sections and the even numbered ones will fall in knit sections.

It works like this: (RS) k4, [p1, yo, p2tog, k3, p3, k1, yo, k2tog, p3, k3] until last 7 stitches, p1, yo, p2tog, k4.

Now work 4 more rows in 3x3 rib, continuing the stockinette selvedge at the edges. Bind off all stitches in pattern.

Finishing: Graft together the underarm stitches using your long tails leftover from knitting the sleeves. Weave in ends. Sew on buttons. Give the whole thing a little bath with some gentle wool wash. Set out to dry, gently patting the sweater into shape. Put it on a baby and you're done!