



Mossy Cottage Patterns

Avalanche Vest

Materials

- Bulky wool yarn, approximately 220 yards (I used three 60-yard skeins plus about half of a fourth one)
- For the bottom ribbing, neckband and button band: Size 11 circular needles, 24". The piece is knit flat but circular needles make the knitting easier. Also, while you don't necessarily need that long of a circular needle for the bottom ribbing, you will need it for the neckband and button band which are knit in one long, continuous piece.
- For the body: Size 13, 20" or 24" circular needles or whatever needle size will give you the correct gauge. Again, although the piece is knit flat, the circular needles make the knitting easier.
- For the ribbing around the armhole: Size 11 dpns or size 11, 12" circular needles. (I used the circular needles. The stitches were stretched a little tightly around the needle, but it worked.)
- For the three-needle bind off: One extra needle, size 11 or 13, whatever you have
- Medium to large crochet hook for picking up stitches
- Embroidery needle for weaving in ends
- Four $\frac{3}{4}$ " buttons (although the model only shows three)

Gauge: 2.5 stitches per inch and 3.25 stitches per row in stockinette stitch on size 13 needles.

Size: 3-4 years old

Finished measurements

Chest circumference, buttoned: 28"
Length: 15.75"

Abbreviations

K = Knit

P = Purl

K2tog (found in footnote) = knit two stitches together

Yo (found in footnote) = wrap yarn around the needle, creating a new, loose stitch



Body

- 1 Using the size 11 needles, cast on 60 stitches.
- 2 Knit in k1, p1 ribbing for three rows.
- 3 Knit one more row of ribbing (wrong side) but increase by 8 stitches, evenly spaced across (for example, in stitches 6, 13, 20, 27, 34, 41, 48, and 55). You will now have 68 stitches on your needles.
- 4 Switch to the size 13 needles and knit in stockinette (knit on the right side, purl on the wrong side) until vest measures 9.75" from the bottom, ending after having knit a wrong-side row. For me, this was approximately 28 rows.
- 5 Put the first 16 stitches (the right front side) on a holder; leave the next 36 stitches (the back)

on your current needles; and put the remaining 16 stitches (the left front side) on a holder.

- 6 Cut the yarn, leaving a tail long enough to weave in.

Back

- 1 With the right side of the vest facing you, and using the middle 36 stitches, begin the armhole shaping. To do so, on the next four rows, loosely cast off two stitches at the beginning of each row. You will now have 28 stitches on your needles.
- 2 To finish shaping the armholes, on the next two rows, loosely cast off one stitch at the beginning of each row. You will now have 26 stitches on your needles.
- 3 Continue knitting in stockinette until the back measures 15" from the bottom, ending after having knit a wrong-side row.
- 4 On the next row, knit 7 stitches. Bind off the next 12 stitches for the neck. Knit the remaining 7 stitches.
- 5 On the left side of the vest, continue knitting the 7 stitches in stockinette until that side of the back measures 16", ending after having knit a wrong-side row. Put the remaining stitches on a holder and cut the yarn.
- 6 Switch to the right side of the vest and, with the wrong side facing you, resume knitting in stockinette until that side of the back measures 16", ending after having knit a wrong-side row. Put the remaining stitches on a holder and cut the yarn, leaving a tail long enough to weave in.

Right front

You will now start knitting the right front side of the vest. You will be simultaneously casting off for the armhole and for the v-neck.

- 1 Transfer the 16 stitches on the right front side of the vest from the holder to the size 13 needles. Continue as follows:
Row 1: With the wrong side facing you, cast off 2. Purl across. (14 stitches)
Row 2: Cast off 1. Knit across. (13 stitches)
Row 3: Cast off 2. Purl across. (11 stitches)
Row 4: Knit.
Row 5: Cast off 1. Purl across. (10 stitches)

Row 6: Cast off 1. Knit across. (9 stitches)

Row 7: Purl.

Row 8: Knit.

Row 9: Purl.

Row 10: Cast off 1. Knit across. (8 stitches)

- 2 Repeat rows 7-10. (7 stitches)
- 3 Continue knitting in stockinette until the piece measures 16" from the bottom.
- 4 Put the stitches on a holder and cut the yarn.

Left front

You will now start knitting the left front side of the vest. As before, you will be simultaneously casting off for the armhole and for the v-neck.

- 1 Transfer the 16 stitches on the left front side of the vest from the holder to the size 13 needles. Continue as follows:
Row 1: With the right side facing you, cast off 2. Knit across. (14 stitches)
Row 2: Cast off 1. Purl across. (13 stitches)
Row 3: Cast off 2. Knit across. (11 stitches)
Row 4: Purl.
Row 5: Cast off 1. Knit across. (10 stitches)
Row 6: Cast off 1. Purl across. (9 stitches)
Row 7: Knit.
Row 8: Purl.
Row 9: Knit.
Row 10: Cast off 1. Purl across. (8 stitches)
- 2 Repeat rows 7-10. (7 stitches)
- 3 Continue knitting in stockinette until the piece measures 16" from the bottom.
- 4 Put the stitches on a holder and cut the yarn, leaving a tail long enough to weave in.

Joining the pieces

- 1 Steam block the vest so the edges lie at least somewhat flat.
- 2 Using the three-needle bind-off method (see "Three-Needle Bind Off Instructions"), join the

shoulder seams. (Mattress-stitching them together makes a very bulky seam so a three-needle bind-off is recommended.)

Armhole ribbing

- 1 Using the size 11 dpns (or size 11 circular needles), with the right side facing you, pick up and knit approximately two out of every three stitches around one armhole (pick up 2, skip 1, repeat). Pick up an even number of stitches so the ribbing comes out correctly (in other words, so you don't end up with two "knits" side-by-side at the end. I've ended up with 36 to 38 stitches.
- 2 Knit two rows of k1, p1 ribbing.
- 3 Bind off loosely in ribbing. Because the yarn is so bulky it is easy to bind off too tightly so you may even want to loosen the stitches while they are on your right-hand needle to make sure you bind off loosely enough.
- 4 Repeat for the other armhole.

Button band and neckband

- 1 Using the size 11 dpns (or size 11 circular needles), with the right side facing you and starting at the bottom of the right side of the vest, then going around the neck, and down the left side of the vest, pick up and knit two out of every three stitches (pick up 2, skip 1, repeat). At the "points" where the sides of the vest meet the v-neck, pick up all the stitches for ease.
- 2 Knit two rows of k1, p1 ribbing.¹
- 3 Bind off loosely in ribbing. Because the yarn is so bulky, it is easy to bind off too tightly so you may even want to loosen the stitches while they are on your right-hand needle to make sure you bind off loosely enough.
- 4 Using the embroidery needle, weave in all the loose ends. Use the loose ends under the armholes to close up the gap between the beginning and the end of the armhole ribbing.
- 5 Attach buttons.

¹ You can add button holes to the buttonband while knitting the first row of ribbing. (To create a buttonhole, k2tog, yo.) However, because the yarn is so bulky, you can also push the buttons right through the fabric without using buttonholes.

Wash and block the vest for best effect. Give it plenty of time to dry!

Three-Needle Bind Off Instructions

- 1 Turn the vest inside out so the right sides are inside, facing each other.
- 2 Transfer the 7 stitches of one shoulder of the back onto one of the size 13 needles. Do the same with the matching shoulder stitches on the front. Hold the needles parallel to each other, ready to knit.
- 3 Insert a third needle, preferably another size 13, into both the front stitch and the back stitch as if to knit.
- 4 Knit the two stitches.
- 5 Knit the next stitch the same way.
- 6 Make sure the first stitch is loose, loosening it a bit if you have to. Lift the first stitch over the second stitch and drop it.
- 7 Knit another stitch. Lift the first stitch over the second stitch and drop it.
- 8 Repeat step 7 until all the stitches have been bound off.
- 9 Repeat with the other shoulder.
- 10 Turn the vest right-side out.