

Ruth's Babytop



The origin of this pattern is unknown. I believe it is from a time when mothers-to-be didn't just knit for fun but because they needed clothes.

This pattern has been passed on in my family and like these things tend to do, it is evolving and changing over time. There are undoubtedly other versions of this pattern out there but I have never seen it written down before.

I have knit many tops like this for my own children who are now between 20-30 years old. I have mainly used thin wool yarn but also cotton for summerwear.

The latest one I have knit was for my grandchild and I used wool cause - like a wise midwife once said - "winterbabies need wool".

The top in the picture is knit in a thin cotton yarn, but the pattern is easy to adapt to other types of yarn.

Pattern:

Gauge: 25sts and 38 rows to 4 inches/10 cms. Needles size 3mm to 4mm.
Sizes 0 - 3 - 6 - 9 months.

Front

Cast on 54 - 58 - 62 - 66 stitches. Knit 8 rows garter.

Now continue in k2 p2 ribbing - except knit the 4 stitches on both edges garter all the way up.

When piece measures 11 - 13 - 15 - 17 cms you split and knit the two front shoulderparts separate.

Left front

Knit the 4 edge-garter sts, then 21 - 23 - 25 - 27 sts k2p2 ribbing, knit 4. Turn.

Knit the 4 center sts garter (same as the edge) to form a vertical center-garter-column.

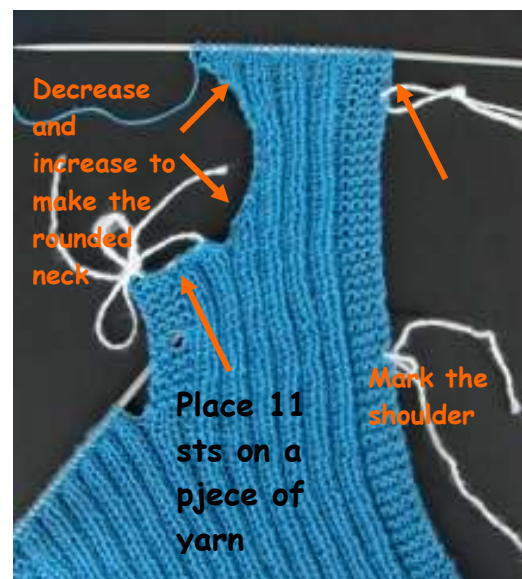
Continue like this.

After approximately 10 rows you add a buttonhole in the center-garter-column. If you only want a very small button you can knit a hole by doing *yo,k2tog*. If you want to add a slightly larger button you will need to bind off two stitches and cast them back on in the next row.

Continue knitting until the center-garter-column measures 5 cms (from where you split your work)

Now place the center 11 stitches on a holder or a piece of scrap yarn. Continue knitting while you bind off (or decrease) one stitch towards the middle on every other row. Do this 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 times to make the rounded neck.

Continue working in k2p2 ribbing until your work measures 20 - 23 - 26 - 29 cms.

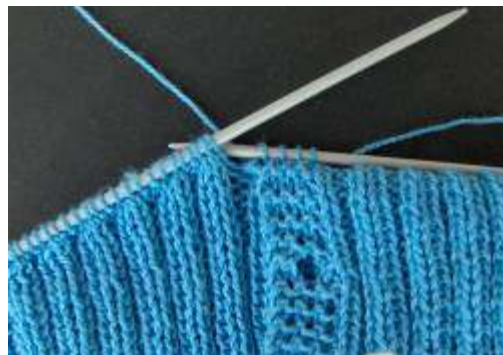


Increase 1 stitch at the end of the row towards the middle. Do this 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 times to make the back of the rounded neck.

Put stitches on a holder or a piece of scrap yarn and work the right side.

Right front

Fold down the left frontpiece and pick up 4 new stitches on the backside of the center-garter-piece. You do this to make a similar center-garter-column that is placed underneath the left center-garter-column. Knit the right front exactly like you did the left - only mirror image and without the buttonhole.



Back

When the two fronts are done it is time to join for the back. Cast on 18 stitches towards the middle of the work to join the left and right side. Continue working all of your stitches in the same k2p2 ribbing that you used for the front. Work until the length of the back matches the front and cast off. Knit the last 8 rows garter to match the front.

Garter neck

Knit garter over the 2x11 stitches on the holder and pick up approximately 55 stitches along the edge around the neck.

Row 1 and 2: Knit

Row 3: *Knit 10, k2tog* 5 times.

Row 4: Knit

Row 5: Knit and add a buttonhole on the front above the buttonhole you did on the center-garter-column.

Round 6: Knit

Round 7: Knit 4, *k2tog, k9* Continue around from *

Round 8: Knit and bind off.

Finishing touches

Sew sides together and leave open room for the arms - approximately 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 cms. Add buttons and you are done.

