

Baby Bear Circular Norwegian-style Drop-Shoulder Sweater

by Meg Swansen exclusively for Meg Swansen's Knitting Camp



For knitters wishing to gain experience with circular Norwegian style stitch-and-cut garments, and a neck *steek*.

Size: about 10" across chest (20" circumference); 4.5" deep armhole. Length is entirely up to you: short for a stuffed bear, longer for a kid.

Gauge: 5 sts and 7.5 rows to 1".

Materials: 5-6oz medium weight wool, 16" circular needle, a set of d.p. needles of the same size (around #5-7), or a pair of 24" circs. A sewing machine or crochet hook.

Cast on 84 sts. Rib in k1back, p1 for 1.5". Increase to 94; Meg will demonstrate Cheryl Brunette's 'more-or-less-right-formula' from the book *Sweater 101*.

Knit around (adding color patterns if you wish) to within 2-3" shy of wanted length to shoulder (you may add a set of *Short Rows* across the back, and work *EZ's phoney Seams* if wanted).

Center-front Kangaroo Pouch (steek): Put center-front 10 sts on a thread. Cast on 5 'steek' sts. Continue around, decreasing each side of the steek 3 times by k2tog on the R, ssk on the L. Continue straight to shoulder height. Run a thread through all sts. **Sleeve choices ...**

From-the-cuff sleeve (in the Norwegian tradition): With d.p. needles, **cast on** 24 sts. Rib for 2". Increase by k2, m1 around; 36sts. Work a few inches, then mark the center 3 underarm sts. **Increase** 1 stitch each side of marked sts every 5th rnd, until you have 44 sts. Work straight to wanted length to underarm (remembering that this is a dropped-shoulder style). Cast off loosely (in purl if you like).

against the side of the body, and baste down the exact side 'seams' to the depth of finished sleeve. Crochet, Needle-Felt, or Machine stitch, on each side of the "seam" stitch, and each side of the center neck-steek stitch. Cut on center stitch. Unite shoulders by means of 3-needle cast off (or whatever method you prefer). Sew in sleeve (Meg will demonstrate).

From-the-armhole sleeve: If you'd rather knit the sleeve from the top down after the armholes have been stitched and cut, and the shoulders united, knit up approximately 2 sts for every 3 rnds around the armhole. How did I arrive at that? A 4.5" deep armhole is 34 rows on my sample (I'm getting 7.5 rows per inch). 34 (front) + 34 (back) = 68 rows around armhole; I'm getting 5 sts to 1". So 5 x 9" (twice 4.5) = 45. That is how many sts I need for sleeve top. To grab 45 sts out of 68 rows, Elizabeth's original 2/3 knit-up ratio works well.

Knit around for a few inches. Mark the 3 center underarm sts, and decrease 1 stitch each side of the marked sts every 5th rnd until you have 36 sts. Work straight to within 2" of wanted sleeve length. Decrease all in one round by k1, k2tog; 24 sts. Rib for 2" and cast off. (*Instead of d.p. needles for these small seamless sleeves, try two circular needles*)

Neck: If the neck-opening looks a bit skimpy, you may want to add only the narrowest of borders: I-Cord - or, for no border, a hem. If the opening looks wide, you may fill it in by adding a ribbed edging. Begin at the shoulder and knit up the sts across the neck-back, knit up the neck-side sts (2/3, or maybe a more subtle 3/4, or even 4/5), then across the front sts and the other side sts. Work the border of your choice. Darn in ends and block.

Secure Steek and cut: Measure the top of the finished sleeve

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