

february lady sweater

Version 2.1 | APRIL 9, 2009



A swingy lace cardigan,

made to fit a grown-ass woman,

lovingly based on Elizabeth Zimmermann's classic "Baby Sweater on Two Needles," from *Knitter's Almanac*.

FINISHED BUST SIZE: 35 (37.5, 41, 41, 44, 49.5, 52.5) inches (bust is the same for both 41" sizes, but shoulders are slightly wider, and sleeves are 1.75" larger, on the second)

YARN: *approximately* 750 (850, 950, 1050, 1150, 1250, 1350) yards of worsted weight yarn. This lace pattern is especially lovely in semi-solid yarns—I used Sundara Worsted Merino in "Green Over Ochre."

NEEDLES:

- US 8 (5mm) 32" circular needle, or size needed to get gauge
- US 8 (5mm) double-pointed needles, or size needed to get gauge
- US 10 (6mm) needle (for bind-offs), or a needle 1mm larger than that used for sweater

NOTIONS:

- 6 stitch markers
- three 7/8" buttons

GAUGE: 18 stitches / 4" in garter stitch

STITCH PATTERNS:

- **paired m1 (make one) increases:**

first increase of each pair: using the left needle, pick up horizontal strand between last stitch and next stitch, from the front. Knit through the back loop.

second increase: using the left needle, pick up the strand from the back and knit.

- **gull lace pattern**, adapted from Elizabeth Zimmermann's *Knitter's Almanac* (worked over 7 stitches and 4 rows):
 - row 1: k1, k2tog, yo, k1, yo, ssk, k1. Repeat across.
 - rows 2 & 4: purl
 - row 3: k2tog, yo, k3, yo, ssk. Repeat across.

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THE KNITTING

First of all, go get yourself a copy of Elizabeth Zimmermann's *Knitter's Almanac*. Immediately. It is the greatest \$7 knitting book of All Time.

[COLLAR]

Cast on 83 (83, 83, 87, 91, 95, 99) stitches. Work 3 rows in garter stitch.

[YOKE]

Row 4 (setup row): k 14 (14, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18), [PM, k1, PM], k 11, [PM, k1, PM], k 28 (28, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36), [PM, k1, PM], k 11, [PM, k1, PM], k 15 (15, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19).

Row 5 (first increase row): *k to marker, m1, slip marker, k1, slip marker, m1 (two stitches added)* Repeat from * 3 times, k to end. (NOTE: These are the M1 increases that EZ uses. Many people prefer the look of kfb increases in garter stitch. Do what pleases you.)

Row 6 (WS): k 3, work buttonhole, k to end. (I think this sweater calls for fairly hefty buttons—used 7/8" wooden ones. Of course, this means you have to work a more complicated buttonhole than just a simple yarn-over. There's a great tutorial for a reversible one-row buttonhole at www.knittingonthenet.com/learn/bh5.htm.)

Repeat rows 5 and 6 a total of 16 (18, 19, 21, 24, 27, 30) times, working a buttonhole on an even row every 2.5 inches. [211 (227, 235, 255, 283, 311, 339) stitches] Remove markers.

Eyelet increases (RS): k7 (10, 8, 8, 8, 10, 14), pm. Work 41 (38, 47, 41, 41, 38, 39) YOs spaced evenly among the 197 (207, 219, 239, 267, 291, 311) center stitches, pm, k7 (10, 8, 8, 8, 10, 14). [252 (265, 282, 296, 324, 349, 378) total stitches] (Some knitters have made the pattern less swgy by decreasing the number of increases here. Others have left the increases off the sleeve stitches, to make narrower sleeves. Knit it to fit you! See "notes on sizing" below.)

Work at least 3 more rows in garter stitch, ending with a wrong-side row. Continue to work garter stitch until, when you try on the sweater, the sleeve stitches *almost* meet under your arms.

Throughout the rest of the body, the first and last 7 (10, 8, 8, 8, 10, 14) stitches of each row will be knit in garter stitch for the button bands. Knit 1 repeat (4 rows) of the gull lace pattern, maintaining that garter stitch edge.

[BODY]

Separating the sleeves (you will come back to them after you finish the body):

K 7 (10, 8, 8, 8, 10, 14), slip marker. Maintaining gull lace pattern, k 28 (28, 35, 35, 42, 42, 42) for the right front, slip 56 (56, 56, 63, 63, 70, 77) sleeve stitches onto scrap yarn, cast on 7 stitches on right-hand needle, k 70 (77, 84, 84, 98, 105, 112) stitches for the back, slip 56 (56, 56, 63, 63, 70, 77) sleeve stitches onto scrap yarn, cast on 7 stitches on right-hand needle, k 28 (28, 35, 35, 42, 42, 42) for the left front, slip marker, k 7 (10, 8, 8, 8, 10, 14). [154 (167, 184, 184, 212, 223, 238) body stitches]

Continue in the gull lace pattern, with the garter edging at the beginning and end of each row. Because the stitch pattern is 7 stitches long, the 7 stitches you cast on at each underarm will take up one pattern repeat.

Continue until the body is 1.5 (1.5, 1.5, 1.5, 1.75, 2) inches shorter than desired length.

Work 1.5 (1.5, 1.5, 1.5, 1.75, 2) inches of garter stitch for the bottom band. Bind off, using the larger needle.



[SLEEVES]

Using DPNs or a 12" circular needle, pick up the live sleeve stitches from scrap yarn. Pick up and knit one stitch to the right of the 7 stitches cast on under the arm, then pick up and knit the 7 cast-on stitches, then one stitch to the left of those 7, for a total of 9 underarm stitches.

Round 1: Place marker, and join for knitting in the round, beginning on row 1 of the lace pattern. Knit to the last 9 (underarm) stitches, ssk, k5, k2tog.

Because you are working in the round, rows 2 and 4 of the lace pattern will be knit, instead of purled. Continue to knit sleeves in lace pattern all the way around, until they are 1.5 (1.5, 1.5, 1.5, 1.75, 2) inches shorter than desired length. Work 1.5 (1.5, 1.5, 1.5, 1.75, 2) inches of garter stitch for cuff. Bind off, using the larger needle.

[FINISHING]

Block. Sew on buttons. Strut your stuff.

**** notes on sizing:** You can make this cardigan smaller or larger by casting on fewer or more stitches, and/or doing fewer or more raglan increases—just be sure that your final stitch counts for the sleeves and body are a multiple of 7. If you find that the sleeve openings are too large, you can leave out the additional 7 stitches cast on when you separate the sleeves.

My raglan math owes a great debt to Barbara Walker's *Knitting from the Top*, and to Laura Chau's fabulous (and free!) tutorial at www.cosmicpluto.com/blog/?page_id=397.

All mistakes are, of course, my own—bring them to my attention at flintknits@gmail.com.

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