

## **READY, SET, KNIT**

**Air Date:** October 10, 2009

### **Chesapeake 3-Button Jacket by Classic Elite, part 1**

#### Getting Ready

1. Classic Elite pattern booklet: **Weekend**
2. **Chesapeake** yarn – 50% organic cotton, 50% merino wool @ 103 yards per ball, 9, 10, 11, 13, or 14 balls depending on size. Usually, I poke around the store to find yarns that you can substitute for the suggested yarn. Although there may be some out there, I am not recommending a substitute for Chesapeake...it's the perfect yarn for this pattern; wonderful combination of fibers, great drape, great stitch definition, great subtle colors...a yarn that really wants to be knitted.
3. Needles that will get you a gauge of 21 sts and 30 rows over 4" in Dot Pattern. Pattern suggests size 7; I am using size 6. If using circular needles, 24" or 32" depending on size being made would be appropriate.
4. One 24" circular needle 2 sizes smaller than the body needle
5. Size G crochet hook
6. Cotton waste yarn to use as stitch holders
7. 3 purchased buttons or 3 one-half inch plastic rings if you want to make your own buttons
8. Tapestry needle
9. Locking ring markers

## **READY, SET, KNIT**

**Air Date:** October 17, 2009

### **Chesapeake 3-Button Jacket by Classic Elite, part 2**

#### Knit your gauge swatch!

Photocopy your pattern and circle all the directions that pertain to your size, especially the numbers.

## The Dot Pattern

This 4-row pattern is really easy to memorize and you can tell right away if you've made an error. Also, since you have to stay in pattern when you are decreasing, it is easy to figure out how to make the pattern come out right.

## Casting On

Since no particular cast-on was specified, I decided to use the Tubular cast-on...just because I love it. Normally, I would have used the all-purpose long-tail cast-on. The tubular cast-on is a great one to have in your knitting repertoire. If you have Nancie Wiseman's *The Knitter's Book of Finishing Techniques* (and you should!!!), you'll find a very clear explanation on pages 20 and 21. If you'd like to try it but are having trouble, please be sure to email me with your questions.

## Knitting the Back

One stitch on each side of the back is included in the cast-on number for seam stitches – in other words, you will keep one stitch on each side in St st throughout and work the pattern between these 2 seam sts. Since rows 1 and 3 are knit rows, you only have to remember to purl one seam st, work the pattern, and end with one seam st on rows 2 and 4.

Work as indicated in the pattern and complete the first dec row. On the next row, a RS row, you will have your first experience with “keeping in patt”. Since you have dec one st on each side on the previous row and on this row the first and last sts are seam sts and must be purled, your patt is now off by 2 stitches. This is row 2 of the Dot Pattern. In order to keep the pattern correct across the back, you must adjust the first 4 and last 4 sts to make this happen. I worked a purl (seam st), then a k, p, p sequence and picked up the Dot Pattern k1, p1 sequence on the 5<sup>th</sup> stitch. At the end of the row, I worked a k, k, p sequence and finished with a purl for the seam stitch. You will have to make this type of adjustment on the odd dec rows – 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc.

When you do the first bind off for the armholes, bind off the indicated number on the RS in knit and on the WS in purl. Don't forget to continue keeping a seam stitch on both armholes.

When you have worked the appropriate number of inches for the armhole shaping, end after completing a WS row. Write down the number of this row!!!! The fronts and the back must end on the same row. Slip the back sts onto a cotton waste yarn st holder.

## Knitting the Left Front and the Right Front

Remember to keep a seam stitch on the seam edge and to slip the first stitch on the front edge on wrong side rows (with yarn in front on the Left Front and with yarn in back on the Right Front).

Shape armholes directions: When pattern states “(WS) Work one row even.” that means to work in the dot pattern for row 2 or 4.

Continue to work a seam stitch and a slipped edge stitch until armhole measures the correct number of inches for your size. Be sure to end on the same row as the back. Slip your stitches to waste yarn.

Work two buttonholes as directed on the right front. The third buttonhole will be added when you are knitting the neckband.

READY, SET, KNIT

Air Date: October 24, 2009

### Chesapeake 3-Button Jacket, part 3

#### Sleeves

These are very straightforward. Just be sure to keep in pattern as on the back and fronts after you do the decreases and also keep a seam stitch on each seam edge of the sleeve.

#### Finishing

The finishing on this jacket is really interesting - you won't be bored. Block the pieces before you start sewing the jacket together. My pieces didn't need much blocking, I just pinned them to the schematic measurements on my blocking board and lightly steamed them with my steamer.

3-Needle bind-off the indicated number of stitches for the shoulders, holding right sides together. Use the mattress stitch and sew in the sleeves and then sew the sleeve and side seams.

Now comes the really fun part - I hope you ended the fronts and back on the same row! Slip the right front sts, the back sts and the left front sts onto your circular needle. You should be ready to work a RS row. Don't forget to slip the edge stitch. Work the right front sts and pick up 2 sts between the right front and the back. Continue across the back in pattern, then pick up 2 sts between the back and the left front. Continue in pattern across the right front. Work until band measures 2 3/4" from the pick-up row - **don't forget to work the third buttonhole on the right front!**

### This Knitter's Comments

When you pick up the 2 sts on each shoulder, there may be some small gaps. Just use a handy tail left over from the shoulder seaming and tidy them up with a tapestry needle.

I have a fairly thin neck, so the wide neck band on this jacket didn't really work for me. I decided not to make the third buttonhole and to knit a few more rows to allow the neck band to roll in the back and form a collar in the front. If I were to make it again, I would probably bind off all the live stitches and then pick up fewer stitches in a smaller needle around the neck in 1 x 1 ribbing and do a tubular bind-off. I would also do 3-4 rows in ribbing on the bottom and sleeves in the body size needle and I would definitely do the tubular cast-on again.