

Valley Yarns 301 Oriel Lace Cardigan

The Oriel Lace Cardigan is available as a [printed or downloadable pattern](#).

Materials:

- 6 - 10 skeins (depending on size you will make) of [Valley Yarns Greenfield](#) 100% worsted weight cotton @ 88 yards per skein. If you plan to make any changes in the pattern, ie. longer sleeves, you may need another skein or two.
- Size 7 and 5 circular needles of various lengths (or size needed to obtain gauge of 4.5sts per inch and 6 1/2 rows per inch with larger needles).
- Markers

The usual knitting tools such as the ones found in your [knitting tool kit](#)

This cardigan is made to skim the body. If you'd like it to be a bit more roomy, try the next size. I would normally have made the 39" but I opted for the 42" to give myself more ease, and it fits perfectly. Also, before you begin, think about any changes you might like to make. You could, for example:

- Shorten or lengthen the stockinette area at the top of the sweater depending on your shape and the length of your torso. I shortened mine by a couple of inches. To shorten, just stop at desired length and to lengthen, just keep knitting.
- Extend the lacework at the bottom of the sweater. To do this, just start the lace repeat again and stop at the desired length.
- Start the lace closer to the waistline than the bustline - just lengthen the torso and add a little shaping if you wish.
- Lengthen the sleeves - just do a few decreases on each side of what would normally be the underarm seam until you get a sleeve shape that works for you - or knit straight down for a fuller sleeve.
- Try the formula we just used in Fearless Finishing and add a shawl collar.

This cardigan has so many options, you could make several different sweaters out of the same basic pattern. I haven't made a top-down sweater for awhile and I had forgotten how much fun they are and it is kind of nice at the end not to have any seaming to do!

If you have made a top-down sweater before, this one will be a snap! The pattern is clearly written and I found no mistakes. The only technique you might find confusing is yarning over before a purl stitch. This requires you to yarn over as usual and then to bring the yarn to the front of the work to purl.

If you haven't made a top-down sweater before, there are a few things you need to know before you knit.

- Be sure to make a gauge swatch, as usual!
- Place markers as indicated on the **needle**, not on the fabric. Keeping the markers in the correct location at all times is key as you will be increasing before and after the markers - slip markers as you come to them.
- Be sure to **purl** all WS rows.

- COUNT your stitches frequently!!!
- Place sleeve stitches on scrap yarn (not metal holders). Sleeves will be worked later.
- Try on your sweater as you knit so that you can make any adjustments needed before you go too far.
- When you cast on the 6 stitches for the underarm, you can use the backward loop cast-on, or you can turn the work and use a knitted or cable cast-in.
- Instead of using buttons, I decided to use a shawl pin as my closure. This is an another option. See part I for more options before you knit.

I love this sweater! I had forgotten how much fun it is to knit a top-down - when you're done, you're done...no seams to sew!! Enjoy!