

READY, SET, KNIT

Air Date: May 2, 2009

Shay Cap Sleeve KAL: Part 2 – The Back

Be sure to read through the abbreviations and the directions for the Twisted Ribbing before you start the back.

It is possible to work this sweater in the round up to the armholes. I will address that on the next show. If you'd like to start your sweater before then, just shoot me an email and I'll tell you how.

With your 24" size 6 needles (or whatever your smaller needle is), cast on the indicated number of stitches. I used the long-tail cast-on. If you want to do the ribbing on your larger needle to make the sweater a bit looser around the hips, that's OK, too.

Work in twisted rib as explained on the pattern for 4 rows. Be sure to place a marker on the RS of your work.

Change to your 24" size 8 needles (or whatever your larger needle is) and work a purl row – this is the WS of your work. If you want to omit the waist shaping, knit in stockinette until the piece measures 15, 15 ½ or 14" (or longer if you wish), ending having completed a WS row.

If you want to include the waist shaping, decrease one stitch at the beginning and the end of every 16th/ 18th row twice. Do your decreases two stitches in and use an SSK on the right-hand side and a K2tog on the left-hand side. If the dec rows do not fall where you need them for your figure, adjust them accordingly.

If you'd like to try a new way to do the SSK, proceed as follows: on the row before the decrease, purl the 2 stitches that will be used for the SSK, but instead of bringing the yarn over the right needle as usual, bring the yarn under the right needle to purl and twist the stitches. When you come to those 2 sts on the knit side, knit them tog through the back loop.

Work in stockinette to the desired length to underarm and begin the armhole shaping. Bind off 4 sts at the beginning of the next row, turn your work and bind off 4 sts at the beginning of the next row. Count your sts to be sure you have the right number for your size. Now work an SSK 2 sts in on the next RS row and finish the row by a K2tog and a K2. Do this 3 times more. Count your sts to verify that you have the right number.

Work even in St st until armhole measures the indicated number of inches. Be sure to end having completed a WS row.

Bind off the indicated number of sts at the beginning of the next 4 rows and then 6 sts at beg of the next 2 rows. If you don't want the stair-step effect, use the sloped bind-off technique. BO the remaining 20, 24 or 28 sts by knitting 2 sts, then pulling the first st over the second st. Repeat to the end and fasten off.

Next Week: The Front