

A Cardigan for Arwen

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by Kate Gilbert

Interweave Knits Winter 2006 or http://kategilbert.com/p_arwen.html

Prairiespinner's modifications

Body of sweater:



I knit this sweater in one piece, back and forth on a circular needle, from the bottom up. I lengthened it a few inches; you can see the knitted-in hem and waist shaping (or maybe we should call it hip shaping). I added some width to both fronts so the cable borders can overlap. When I neared the armhole region, I added in a few stitches on the fronts at the 'side seam' area to create just a bit of bust shaping, too.

At 'armhole length', I set the body aside and started on the sleeves.

Sleeves:



I knit the cable border in a strip (adding one extra stitch along one side) and after 8 repeats, grafted the ends together. This made a cuff the right size for my wrist. I picked up stitches along the extra-stitch edge and started working up the sleeve, using dpns. The picture above shows the inside of the sleeve, with the line of picked-up stitches at the cuff.

I knew the measurement I wanted for the upper arm, so I figured the number of stitches I needed to add and increased evenly along the 'sleeve seam' line (photo below) from wrist to elbow, then worked straight to the underarm length. I repeated for the other sleeve; they are identical. However, I was careful to pick up stitches on the correct edge of the cabled cuff!



Raglan shaping:

I slipped about 2 ½ or 3” worth of stitches from each sleeve (centered on the ‘seamline’) and from each side of the body (likewise centered on the ‘side seamline’) onto waste yarn for future grafting at the underarm. I then knit around the right front, across the right sleeve, back, left sleeve and left front, keeping the cable border in pattern. After knitting about 1 ½ inches back and forth, I started standard raglan decreases; paired decreases at each of the four body-and-sleeve-joining points, decreasing every right side row until almost out of sleeve stitches. I chose to work the decreases one stitch away from the marker, leaving a two-stitch column up the center of each raglan line.



Hood:

Before starting the hood, I reinforced the neckline with K1, sl1 across, purl back, and repeat (total 4 rows). This is the same stitch that is sometimes used to reinforce sock heels.

I then increased like mad on the next row – I think it was k1, k1b across. I wanted a nice, full hood that I could tuck my long hair into! I did a few short rows across the back to make it ‘bag’ a little more, then knit straight for about 9”.



I did the hood shaping with paired decreases, following a chart I had drawn. Basically, this was just a curve sketched out on graph paper, with the paired decreases in the center back. The tricky part was making sure the curve ended on the correct row of the cable pattern, so I could graft the top of the hood, including the cables, invisibly (or nearly so, anyway...).



I love this sweater!! I wear it whenever possible, either open or fastened with a penannular brooch.