

Swing Vest

Supplies:

Cat Mountain Fiber Arts Fusion Yarn, one 914 Meters/1,000 yard skein, 5.0 mm /US Size 8 circular needle, 100 cm/ 36 inches or longer, 6.0 mm/US size 10 Needle, any type/length, six stitch markers, two additional removable stitch markers (or a safety pins) of two different colors.

Gauge: 4 Stitches/6 Rows = 2.5 cm/1 Inch (after blocking)

This yarn is available at www.yarngalleryonline.com.

The sample project and this pattern will fit a range of sizes, approximately Women's Size 10 to 16.



Sample knitted in colorway Turquoise Trail

Before beginning, plan the sequence of skeins that you will use. This garment is knit in 5-row “ribs” of stockinette and reverse stockinette that are intended to show off the multi-textured yarn. It is suggested that you alternate textured skeins with smooth skeins to the extent possible to maximize the multi-textured effect.

Bodice

With 5.0 mm/US size 8 circular needle, cast on 216 stitches using long tail cast on. Place stitch markers after every 36th stitch, placing the last marker after the last stitch, then join in the round, being careful not to twist. You may choose to knit the first row flat, to make it easier to avoid twisting your work when joining in the round. There are a lot of stitches so double check your work when joining to be sure it is not twisted!

Place one removable stitch marker or safety pin through the knitted fabric (not on the needle) at the 36th stitch, and one at the 144th stitch, and leave these in place while knitting and slipping the other markers as your knitting progresses. These will mark where to begin picking up stitches for the back of the garment, and where to attach the back panel when it is completed. You should use two different markers of different colors (or perhaps tie a small piece of yarn on one of them) as you will need to make note of which one is which for use later in the pattern.

Row 1: Knit, slipping all stitch markers (join in round at the end of this row if you have not already done so at the beginning of this row).

Rows 2 – 4: Knit, slipping all stitch markers.

Row 5: Knit to the last stitch before the stitch marker, knit in both the front and back loop (increasing by one stitch), knit the stitch before the marker, slip marker, knit in both the front and back loop of the next stitch (increasing by one stitch). Repeat around, increasing in each stitch before and after the stitch immediately before each marker (228 stitches).

Break yarn and begin the next rib with an alternate yarn texture/type.

Rows 6-9: Purl each stitch, slipping all stitch markers.

Row 10: Purl to the last stitch before the stitch marker, purl in both the front and back loop (increasing by one stitch), purl the stitch before the marker, slip marker, purl in both the front and back loop of the next stitch (increasing by one stitch). Repeat around, increasing in each stitch before and after the stitch immediately before each marker (240 stitches).

Break yarn and begin the next rib with an alternate yarn texture/type.

Rows 11-14: Knit, slipping all stitch markers.

Row 15: Knit to the last stitch before the stitch marker, knit in both the front and back loop (increasing by one stitch), knit the stitch before the marker, slip marker, knit in both the front and back loop of the next stitch (increasing by one stitch). Repeat around, increasing in each stitch before and after the stitch immediately before each marker (252 stitches).

Break yarn and begin the next rib with an alternate yarn texture/type.

Rows 16-85: Repeat Rows 6-15, alternating stockinette and reverse stockinette ribs of five rows each, increasing at the stitch markers on every 5th row as described above, and changing yarn texture/type with each new rib.

After completing row 85 (at which point you should have 420 stitches after increasing at the markers on the fifth row of each rib a total of 17 times), remove stitch markers, and choose the yarn you would like to use for the outer edge of your garment.

It is suggested that you use one of the three yarns that was not needed for a second rib repeat (there are ten yarns and only seventeen ribs, so three would not have been used on a second repeat) so that you will have enough to complete the cast-off. This yarn will be used for an applied I-cord Cast-off that will give a tidy, rolled edge. Using the yarn you have chosen, cast off using the Applied I-Cord Cast-off, described below.

Applied I-Cord Cast-Off.

Tip: This technique is easiest if you use a short double pointed or straight needle in the appropriate size for your right needle, though you may also use your circular needle.

Using the 6.0 mm/US Size 10 needle as the right hand needle, at the beginning of the row, beginning with the first stitch on the left needle, cast on three stitches thus:

Insert right needle into first stitch on the left needle and knit the stitch. Do not remove the stitch from the left needle, but pull it towards you, twist it once and place the just - knitted loop onto the left needle (1 stitch has now been cast on). Repeat two times more.

Begin Cast off – Knit the first two stitches. Knit the next two stitches together (this will be the third stitch that you cast on, plus the first existing stitch). Slide all three stitches from the right needle back over to the left needle.

K2, K2tog, slide all three stitches from the right needle back over to the left needle. Repeat this until you are at the end. Slide the three stitches over to the left needle, K2tog, K1, Slip the first loop over the second loop and secure the ends neatly.

Back Panel

After knitting the bodice, you will have a circle of knitting that expands outwards with a hole in the center. On the inner line of the circle, locate the removable stitch marker or safety pin with which you marked the 36th stitch.

Row 1: Beginning one stitch to the left of the marker, pick up and knit 36 stitches.

Row 2: Purl across 36 stitches

Row 3: Knit across 36 stitches

Row 4: Purl across 36 stitches

Row 5: Knit across 36 stitches

Break yarn and begin the next rib with an alternate yarn texture/type.

Row 6: Knit across 36 stitches

Row 7: Purl across 36 stitches

Row 8: Knit across 36 stitches

Row 9: Purl across 36 stitches

Row 10: Knit across 36 stitches

Break yarn and begin the next rib with an alternate yarn texture/type.

Rows 11-65: Repeat Rows 6-10, alternating stockinette and reverse stockinette ribs of five rows each, and changing yarn texture/type with each new rib. Do not cast off at Row 65.

Locate the marker with which you marked the 144th stitch. On the inner line of the circle, beginning with the stitch immediately to the left of this marker, pick up each stitch with a spare needle and use to complete a three-needle bind off to securely and neatly attach the back panel to what will become the collar of the garment.

Armholes

Determine which side of the garment is the “right” side. Up until now, it has not mattered as it is more or less identical on each side, except for the bind off seam attaching the back panel to the collar, which should now be the “wrong” side. Flip the garment so that the wrong side is facing away from you. With the right side facing you, pick up and knit 108 stitches around the armhole, joining in the round on the size 8 circular needle.

Row 1: Knit around

Row 2: *Knit 12, knit 2 together* Repeat from * to * eight times.

Row 3: Knit around

Row 4: Knit around

After completing Row 4, cast-off using the Applied I-Cord Cast-off instructions provided above. It is suggested that you use the same yarn that was used for the I-Cord Cast off on the outer edge of the main bodice. Secure ends neatly.

Repeat for the second armhole in the same manner.

Weave in the ends. Block by soaking in water with a drop of shampoo or wool wash, then spin in your washer or roll in a towel and shape on a flat surface to dry. Wear and look beautiful!