

Since the original “Avalanche” yarn is no longer available, here is an updated version of the Steppe Sweater that will allow you to knit the sweater with any bulky yarn. The Steppe “Ahead” uses a percentage system based on your actual gauge and knitted item measurements. This is a great introduction to the freedom of percentage sweaters... Enjoy!

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

- The sweater body is knitted from the bottom up.
- The main body is knitted in the round.
- At the armhole, the body splits into the front and back which are knitted separately back and forth.
- Once the front and back are completed the shoulders are joined using the triple needle bind-off technique.
- The collar is knitted from stitches that have been reserved on the front and back neck.
- Sleeves are picked up around the armholes, and knitted in the round down to the cuff. Vest Option – instead of sleeves work a few inches of garter or ribbing around the armholes.
- Almost no finishing other than working in the ends!



MATERIALS AND SIZING

- Yarn: A bulky to extra bulky yarn, or dk or worsted yarn doubled.
- Gauge: 4-5 stitches per inch, but you will determine your own gauge.
- Needles: 1 circular, one set dpns, in correct size to get warm dense fabric, and to make your hands happy; use the yarn label as a guide.
- Size: Will depend on the yarn you use and the number of stitches you cast on - use your yarn label as a guide.

Example

The example numbers shown below are based on a Steppe sweater knitted with 10 balls (870 yards) of Cascade Yarn’s Bollicine Revolution. The end sweater came out to fit a 10 year old.

Label Gauge: 8 stitches and 11 rows for 4x4 inches on suggested US 13 needles. Your gauge and needle size may be different!

MORE RESOURCES

Garment Sizing:

Guidelines for child body sizes can be found at the Craft Yarn Council of America web page here: <http://www.craftyarncouncil.com/sizing.html>

Percentage System: Many books have been written describing percentage system – here are a few:

- Priscilla Gibson-Roberts: Knitting in the Old Way: Designs and Techniques from Ethnic Sweaters
Elizabeth Zimmerman: The Opinionated Knitter and other of her books

THANK YOU’S

Thank you to Susan Fautsch for reviewing and editing this pattern!

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KNITTING DIRECTIONS

Body

1. Cast on the number of stitches you will need to get the circumference of the sweater you want to make, ensuring the number of stitches is divisible by 4. Join and knit a bottom border in k1/p1 ribbing or other stitch to your preference for 1-2 inches.
2. After you have 4-5 inches of total knitting, measure the circumference of your sweater; divide by half to get the width.
3. Continue knitting in the round in stockinette stitch until the height of your work measures 70-80% of your width measurement - this is the length to underarm – adjust to your liking.
4. Divide the stitches evenly into front and back: Half for the front, half for the back. Place the back stitches on a stitch holder or waste yarn while you knit the back.

Note: At this point you can either work the back first, or the front first. If working the back first, continue with steps 12 and 13 and then jump back to Step 5 with a new strand of yarn.

Work Body Front

5. You will begin creating a placket that is garter stitch in the middle (see photo). Divide the front stitches into thirds as equally as possible, but make sure that the middle third has an even number of stitches.
 - a. On the right side of the work: knit all stitches;
 - b. On the wrong side of the work: purl the first 1/3, knit the middle 1/3 and purl the last 1/3
6. Continue in this way until you have reached about 10% of the measured width (you can do a little more, to your liking), and you have completed a wrong side row.

Work Left Body Front

7. With the right side of work facing you, place a marker in your work to divide the front evenly into two. Place the Right Body Front stitches on a stitch holder or waste yarn. Remove marker.
8. Knit the left half of the front as set up with knit and purl stitches. Turn and continue to work the placket on the left half of the front as set up with knit and purl stitches to continue making the garter stitch along the middle.
9. When the left Body Front measures 50% of your body width (including the Body Front section from steps 5 and 6 above) and you have completed a wrong side row (front of work facing), do not cast off, keep stitches live on needle. Cut yarn with a sufficiently long tail to use for triple needle bind off (4 to 5 times length of the stockinette stitches).

EXAMPLE

1. Cast on 104 stitches
2. Circumference: 28.5 in.
Width: 14.25 inches
3. 80% of 14.25 inches = 11.4 inches
(round up to 11.5)
4. Front: 52 stitches
Back: 52 Stitches
5. Right 1/3: 17 stitches
Middle 1/3: 18 stitches
(even number of stitches!)
Left 1/3: 17 stitches
6. 10% of width: 1.5 inches
7. Left half of front:
 $17+9 = 26$ stitches
9. Work until 50% of body width, measuring from where you started the middle of garter stitch:
about 7.25 inches

Work Right Body Front

10. With the right side of work facing you, and with a new strand of yarn started at the center front, work the remaining front stitches for the right half of the front maintaining the garter stitch middle of the placket
11. When the right body front measures the same height as the left, do not cast off, keep stitches live on needle. Do not cut yarn.

Work Back

12. With a new strand of yarn, work the remaining back stitches in stockinette until the back measures the same heights as the fronts.
13. When back is completed, cut yarn with a sufficiently long tail to use for triple needle bind off (4 to 5 times length of shoulder stitches – see No.9).

Join Shoulders

14. Turn sweater inside out. Mark the neck opening stitches on the back – this is the same number as the middle 1/3 of the front.
Match up the necessary amount of stitches from each shoulder side of the back with the stockinette stitches from each front.
15. Bind off each shoulder, using triple needle technique starting at the armhole opening. You will have to slip stitches from one needle to the other a few times to position your needles correctly for each bind off. Do not cast off the final stitch left at the end of a shoulder - leave that last stitch live to incorporate it into your collar.

Knit Collar

16. Turn sweater “outside” out.
17. After binding off you have left:
 - a. The live stitches on the back neck;
 - b. The live stitches on the neck of each front placket;
 - c. 2 live stitches that you kept from binding shoulders off in previous step.
 - d. Place all of these stitches on a working needle.
18. Using the yarn you had not cut on the right front placket, with the front of the sweater facing you:
 - a. knit across the live stitches on the right collar front, and the first “shoulder” extra stitch created above;
 - b. knit across the back neck stitches, and the second “shoulder” extra stitch created above;
 - c. Knit across the left collar front stitches.

Note. You may have to add 1 or 2 additional stitches each side of neck where front and back collar connect to fill in the gaps created from binding off the shoulders. Make these stitches by knitting into existing body front/back neck stitches.

10. Right half of front:
17+9 = 26 stitches
11. Work until 50% of measured width of body:
about 7.25 inches
12. Back: 52 stitches
Work 7.25 inches
14. Neck Opening: 18 stitches.
Shoulder stitches: 17 from front and 17 from back on each side of neck opening.
18. Collar stitches: 18 from front + 18 from back + the 2 shoulder stitches = 38 Stitches

Knit Collar (continued)

19. Continue in garter stitch across all collar stitches until the desired collar height – about 20 percent of the sweater width. Cast off the collar stitches. Casting off knitwise with the inside of the collar facing you makes for a pretty finish.

Knit Sleeves

20. Measure your sleeve opening width.
21. Using your knitted body as a guide, measure the same distance over a row and count how many stitches make up that sleeve width measurement: this is half the number of stitches you will pick up around the sleeve opening.
22. Beginning at bottom of armhole, pick up the necessary number of stitches around the arm opening. Mark the first stitch for your rows under the arm.
23. Knit in the round, for about 1 to 1 and 1/2 inches, including the picked up row).
24. Next row decrease 2 stitches at the underarm by: k1, k2tog, knit until 3 stitches left, (slip 1, k1, pssso), k1.
25. Continue knitting and decreasing 2 stitches under the arm every 4th row until you have about 50% of the original sleeve cast on stitches left.
26. Knit straight until your sleeve measures the width of your sweater, less the length of the cuff you want to make.
27. Knit sleeve cuff in k1, p1 ribbing or garter stitch for desired length; Cast off cuff.
28. Repeat Steps 20-27 for next sleeve.

19. Collar height about 4 inches.

20. Sleeve opening width about 7 inches.

21. 25-26 stitches in 7 inches of a row of body stockinette.

22. Pickup a total of 50-52 stitches around the armhole.

25. Decrease until 24 stitches left for entire cuff.

26. If I want a 1 inch cuff, I'll knit until I have 14-1=13 inches sleeve length.

27. Final sleeve length = 14 inches

Finishing:

29. Work in ends.



Enjoy the fuzzy feeling that another child will be warm!

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