

RUTHLESS KNITTING

Linen-Stitch Baby Tank by Ruth Homrighaus



Notes

This pattern was designed to use up leftovers, so it is constructed to minimize guessing about how far the yarn will go and to eke as much knitting out of the available yarn as possible. The pattern begins with a provisional cast-on just below the divide between top and bottom. It is then knit downward in the round in the main color and upward flat in the contrast color, finishing up with the completion of the bottom band in the round. If you know that you have plenty of yarn, you may prefer to knit it from the bottom upward in one go. It's probably easier that way, though the provisional approach keeps things interesting.

Sizes

20(23)-inch chest

Tops made in the sizes given here match CYC standard sizing for babies who are 18 and 24 months old. Keep in mind, however, that babies don't come in standard sizes. If you want to ensure that your finished product will fit, measure the baby in question and add at least 2 inches to the chest circumference for ease.

Also note that the Rowan Denim used for the smaller top shrinks vertically about 10 percent when washed and dried for the first time, so the vertical measurements given for the smaller top take that into account. Should you wish to make the smaller top in a different yarn, you will need to reduce the vertical size of the pieces accordingly.

Materials

18-mo. size: Just under 2 balls of Rowan Denim (light worsted weight, 101 yds. per ball) in Tennessee and Memphis.

24-mo. size: 2 balls of Knit Picks Shine (DK weight, 110 yds. per ball) in Orchid and Violet.

You will also need circular needles in US8 and 10.5 sizes (cords in the 16-26" range), or size to obtain gauge, and one stitch marker.

Gauge

In Rowan Denim: 19 sts per 4 inches in St st. on smaller needles

In Knit Picks Shine: 20 sts per 4 inches in St st. on smaller needles

Linen Stitch

The pattern directions explain how to construct linen stitch as needed, but it may be useful to know what the stitch should look like when worked in pattern. The chart below offers a visual representation of several repeats.

	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
8	●		∇		∇		∇		∇		∇	●
		∇		∇		∇		∇		∇		7
6	●		∇		∇		∇		∇		∇	●
		∇		∇		∇		∇		∇		5
4	●		∇		∇		∇		∇		∇	●
		∇		∇		∇		∇		∇		3
2	●		∇		∇		∇		∇		∇	●
		∇		∇		∇		∇		∇		1

Legend:

knit
 RS: knit stitch
 WS: purl stitch

slip wyif
 RS: Slip stitch as if to purl, with yarn in front
 WS: Slip stitch as if to purl, with yarn in back

purl
 RS: purl stitch
 WS: knit stitch

Created in Knit Visualizer (www.knitfoundry.com)

Keep in mind that linen stitch pulls in a great deal and therefore must be knit on larger needles than you might expect.

Pattern

Using the smaller circular needle and MC, CO 95(119) sts using the provisional method.

Body

Row 1. K, undoing the slip knot at the end of the row. 94(118) sts.

Rows 2 and 3. Work even in St st.

Row 4. K. At the end of the row, do not turn. Join and begin working in the round in St st.

Cont even until body measures 3.25(5.25)" or you have just enough yarn left to knit about 4 rows more.

A few options

—If you want to make a tunic or jumper, continue knitting until the skirt is as long as you'd like it, less one inch. You will probably want to throw in some increase rows to make it roomier below the waist.

—If you wish to ensure that the linen-stitch bottom band will not pull in, as it does in the image above of the 24-mo. size, increase number of sts by 15 percent in the final row by working 14(18) increases evenly spaced around. 108(132) sts. Place sts on holder.

Top

Using the smaller circular needle and MC, pick up the sts from your provisional CO. (94)118 sts.

BO6, k40(52), BO6, k40(52). 82(106) sts.

Working one side of top only, switch to larger needles and CC.

Row 1. SSK, *(k1, sl 1 wyif), rep from * until 3 sts remain, k1, k2tog. (39)51 sts.

Row 2. K1, *(sl 1 wyib, p1), rep from * until 1 st remains, k1.

Row 3. SSK, *(sl 1 wyif, k1), rep from * until 2 sts remain, k2tog. (37)49 sts.

Row 4. K1, *(p1, sl 1 wyib), rep from * until 1 st remains, k1.

Row 5. Rep row 1. (35)47 sts.

Row 6. Rep row 2.

24-mo. size only

Row 7. Rep row 3. 45 sts.

Row 8. Rep row 4.

All sizes

Next RS row: *(K1, sl 1 wyif), rep from * until 1 st. remains, k1.

Next WS row: K1, *(p1, sl 1 wyib), rep from * until 1 st. remains, k1.

These rows establish linen stitch patt. Cont in patt until top measures (4.5)4" or desired length to neckline.

Straps

On next WS row, work 11 sts in patt, BO(13)23 in patt, work 11 in patt. Turn.

Work first 11 sts for strap in patt, beg and ending all rows with k1, until strap measures 2(1.75)".

Begin short rows: With WS facing, work 7 sts in patt, W&T. RS: Work 7 in patt, W&T. WS: Work 4 in patt, W&T. RS: Work 4 in patt, W&T. WS: Work across all 11 sts in patt. Place sts on scrap yarn.

With RS facing, join yarn to other strap and work as for first, but begin short rows on a RS row. Last row will be a RS row. Place sts on scrap yarn.

Join yarn for other side of top and work the same as the first side.

Bottom band

Return all bottom sts to smaller circular needle and mark beg of round.

Join CC. In set-up row, you will work band off of smaller needle onto larger circular needle.

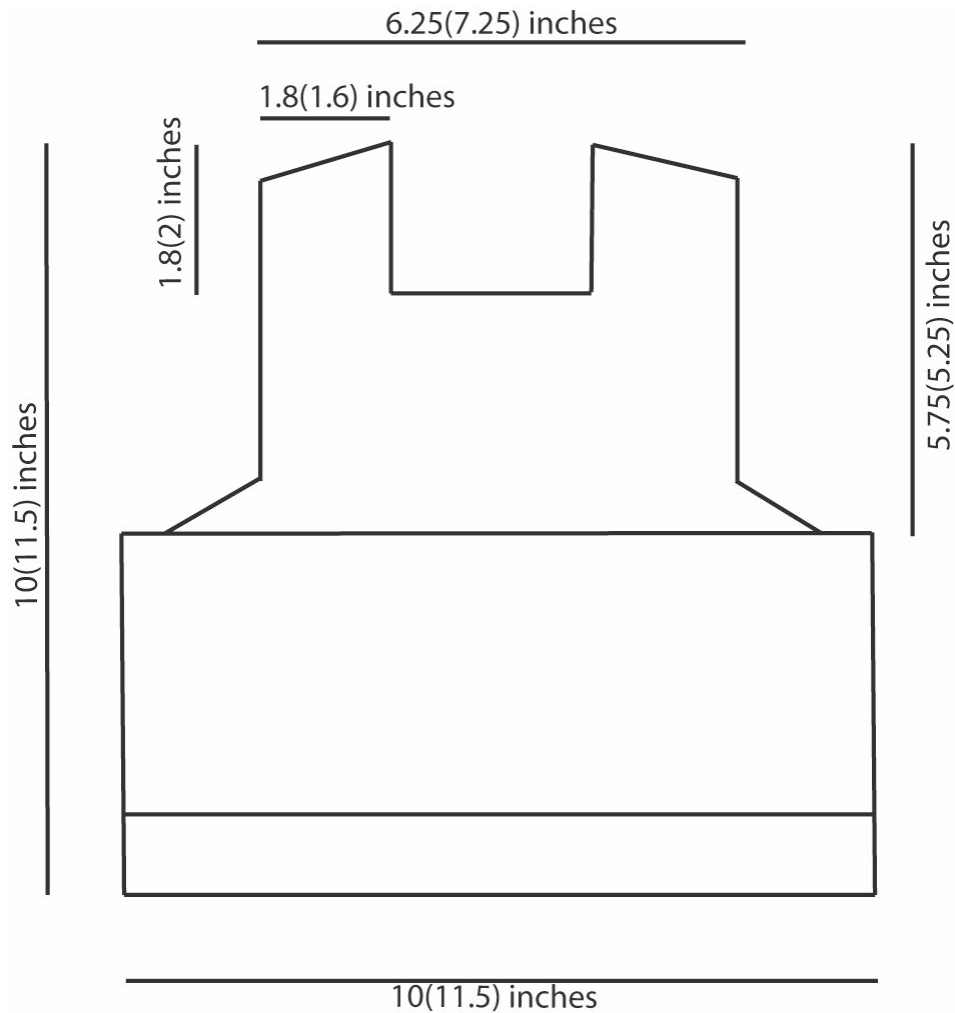
Set-up row: *(K1, sl 1 wyif), rep until 1 st remains. K last st tog with first st of round 2. 93(117) sts. (If you added sts on your final MC round, you should have 107(131) sts.)

Work even in patt (K1, sl 1 wyif around) until band measures about 1" or you are nearly out of yarn. BO in patt.

Finishing

Turn garment inside out and seam together shoulders using three-needle bind-off technique and smaller needles. Seam the four unjoined rows at underarms on each side. Weave in all ends and block to measurements.

Schematic



Terms of Use

I encourage you to use and share this pattern, but I reserve all rights over the design and ask you not to engage in commercial use of the pattern without explicit permission from me.

I'm happy to answer questions about the pattern, accept corrections, and receive photos of your finished tops! Please send them to ruth@ruthlessediting.com.