

September 2007 Pattern Contest Winner:

Buster – A Deconstructed Argyle Sweater

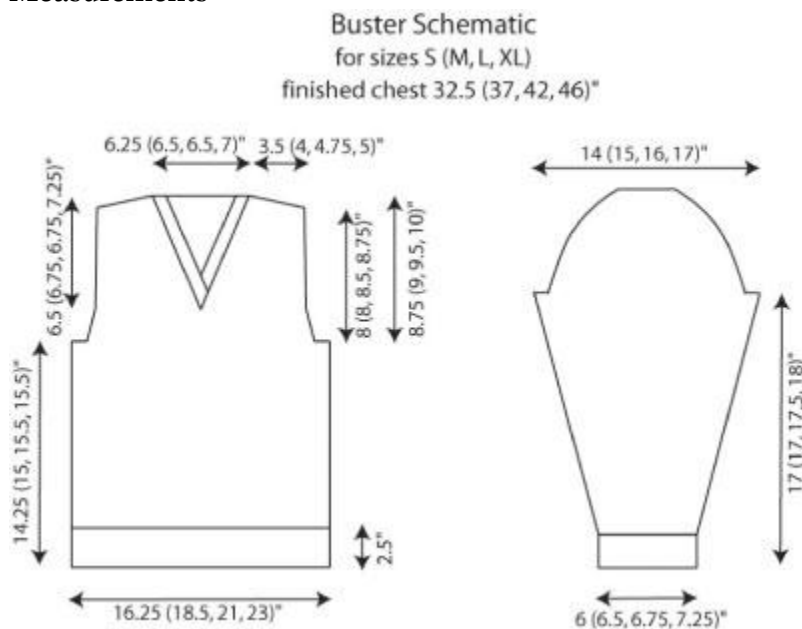
Designed by: Ruth Homrighaus

For Jimmy Beans Wool (<http://jimmybeanswool.com>)

Sizes

- S(M, L, XL): 32.5(37, 42, 46)" bust. Designed to fit with about 1" of ease.

Measurements



(Click on the schematic above to view a larger image)

Materials

- Nashua Creative Focus Worsted Nashua Creative Focus Worsted (75% wool, 25% alpaca; 220 yds. per ball): 4(5, 6, 7) balls camel, 1 ball each copper, brilliant blue, and chocolate. (Editor's note: The sample was knit with one Nashua Creative Focus color that JBW does not currently stock. I have suggested chocolate as a substitute color.)
- US size 6 (4.0 mm) straight needles or size to obtain gauge
- US size 6 (4.0 mm) circular (16 or 24") needles or size to obtain gauge
- US size 5 (3.75 mm) straight needles or size to obtain gauge
- Waste yarn
- Seaming yarn in matching color (see notes)

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- Darning needle

Gauge

- 21 sts and 25 rows = 4" in St st using smaller needles.

Pattern Notes

Intarsia tips

The argyle pattern on the front of the sweater is created using the intarsia technique. The lines of chocolate-colored stitches may be done in intarsia, as they were on the sample sweater, or may be added using duplicate stitch after the front is completed.

The basic intarsia technique involves working with relatively short lengths of yarn wrapped around bobbins or (my preference) tied into "yarn butterflies" made by wrapping the yarn around thumb and forefinger in a figure eight and securing the end around the middle of the figure eight.

At each color change on a row, whether wrong- or right-side, the working yarn should be brought over the top of the new color from right to left and then dropped, so that the new color is picked up from underneath the old from left to right. This action alone will "twist" the two colors together to prevent gaps. Keep in mind that the first stitches of any new color will be loose and unattractive until the ends are woven in when the piece is completed. Don't let this worry you - just persevere, and it will all come out right in the end.

When working with a number of colors at once, as on most of the rows of the front of this sweater, it's a good idea to untangle your yarns regularly (say, at the end of every right-side row) and to try to remain cheerful.

For the argyle portion of the front, note that the columns of camel-colored diamonds in between the copper and blue-colored diamonds must be treated as separate patches of intarsia, so that the camel yarn is never carried out of its own column. I found it manageable to work the copper and blue diamonds from whole balls of yarn, the camel-colored diamonds from relatively large yarn butterflies, the camel-colored stitches of chart A from a whole ball of yarn, and the chocolate stitches from lengths of yarn no longer than two arm's lengths. Keeping the chocolate lengths short will help to prevent tangling.

Seaming

Because Creative Focus is a fairly loosely spun single-ply yarn, it is too delicate to use for seaming. A different yarn in a matching color should be used instead.

Short-row shaping

The shoulders are shaped using short rows. To execute a short row successfully, you need to

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be able to do a wrap and turn (W&T) and, later, to pick up and incorporate wraps.

To wrap and turn when you are knitting, bring the yarn forward between your needles, slip the next stitch purlwise, bring the yarn to the back of the work, and return the slipped stitch to the lefthand needle. To wrap and turn when you are purling, take the yarn to the back of the work, slip the next stitch purlwise, bring the yarn back to the front, and return the slipped stitch to the lefthand needle. In both cases, the stitch that you slipped over and then returned is now wrapped: you can see a horizontal loop of yarn snuggled around its base. After wrapping, turn the work as if you had reached the end of the row and begin working back across.

To incorporate a wrap on a knit stitch, poke the needle through the wrap from the bottom on the right side at the same time that you put the needle through your stitch to knit it. Then knit the stitch and the wrap together. To incorporate a wrap on a purl stitch, poke the needle through the wrap from the top down on the wrong side of the fabric, pick the wrap up, and place it on the left needle. Then purl the wrap and the stitch together.

Reading the charts

The pattern on the front of the sweater is created by combining charts A and B for your size. Note that stitch 43(49, 55, 61) of chart A1(A2, A3, A4) is the same stitch as stitch 1 of chart B1(B2, B3, B4). Do not work this stitch twice!

When shaping begins for underarm and V-neck, maintain a 1 st margin on either side of the charted pattern. In other words, always work the first and last stitch of the row in camel. This will make seaming easier.

Abbreviations

- beg - beginning
- BO - bind off
- cont - continue
- foll - following
- inc - increase using lifted increase or bar increase method
- k - knit
- k2tog - knit two together
- L - left
- p - purl
- R - right
- rem - remain/remaining
- rep - repeat
- RS - right side
- ssk - slip, slip, knit
- St st - Stockinette stitch
- st(s) - stitch(es)

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- W&T - wrap and turn
- WS - wrong side

Charts

See the attached PDF for charts and schematics.

Directions

Back

- Using larger needles, cast on 74(82, 94, 102) sts.
- Row 1. *(K2, p2), rep from * until 2 sts rem, k2.
- Row 2. *(P2, k2), rep from * until 2 sts rem, p2.
- Rep rows 1 and 2 until piece measures 2.5" from cast on or desired length for bottom ribbing.
- On next RS row, inc 11(15, 17, 21) sts evenly across. 85(97, 111, 123) sts.
- Work even in St st until piece measures 14.25(15, 15.5, 15.5)" or desired length to underarm.
- Underarm shaping:
 - BO 5(5, 5, 6) sts at beg of next 2 rows. BO 0(4, 5, 6) sts at beg of foll 2 rows. 75(85, 91, 99) sts.
 - Next RS row is decrease row. K2, ssk, k until 4 sts rem, k2tog, k2.
 - Rep decrease row on foll 2(1, 2, 4) RS rows. 69(75, 85, 89) sts.
 - Work even until piece measures 8(8, 8.5, 8.75)" from beg of underarm shaping.
- Shoulder shaping:
 - Row 1. On next RS row, k63(68, 76, 82), W&T.
 - Row 2. P57(61, 67, 75), W&T.
 - Row 3. K51(54, 59, 68), W&T.
 - Row 4. P45(47, 51, 61), W&T.
 - Row 5. K39(41, 43, 55), W&T.
 - Row 6. P33(35, 35, 49), W&T.
- Size XL only
 - Row 7. K43, W&T.
 - Row 8. P37, W&T.
- All sizes
 - Row 1. K33(35, 35, 37), k across 18(20, 25, 26) sts for L shoulder, picking up and incorporating the wraps.
 - Row 2. P51(55, 60, 63), p across 18(20, 25, 26) sts for R shoulder, picking up and incorporating the wraps.
 - Row 3. K18(20, 25, 26), place these R shoulder sts on waste yarn, BO 33(35, 35, 37) and break yarn, place rem 18(20, 25, 26) L shoulder sts on waste yarn.

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Front

- Using larger needles, cast on 74(82, 94, 102) sts.
- Row 1. *(K2, p2), rep from * until 2 sts rem, k2.
- Row 2. *(P2, k2), rep from * until 2 sts rem, p2.
- Rep rows 1 and 2 until piece measures 2.5" from cast on or desired length for bottom ribbing.
- On next RS row, inc 13(17, 17, 21) sts evenly across. 87(99, 111, 123) sts.
- Begin argyle pattern: On next RS row, k1, work chart A1(A2, A3, A4). Beg with st 43(49, 55, 61), work chart B1(B2, B3, B4), k1. Cont working charts A and B in this manner for the rest of the front. Work even in St st until piece measures 14.25(15, 15.5, 15.5)" or desired length to underarm.
- Underarm shaping: BO 5(5, 5, 6) sts at beg of next 2 rows. BO 0(4, 5, 6) sts at beg of foll 2 rows. 77(81, 91, 99) sts.
- Decrease row: On next RS row, k2, ssk, k until 4 sts rem, k2tog, k2.
- Rep decrease row on foll 3(2, 2, 4) RS rows. 69(75, 85, 89) sts.
- V-neck shaping: V-neck shaping should begin when piece measures 16.75(17.5, 18.25, 18.25)", or 2.5(2.5, 2.75, 2.75)" from beg of underarm shaping. To keep V-neck from visually interrupting the pattern, the shaping should ideally begin on row 9 or 11(11 or 13; 13 or 15; 13, 15, or 17) of chart B. You may need to adjust the placement of the beginning of the V-neck accordingly. With RS facing, K31(34, 39, 41), k2tog, k1, work center st and place on waste yarn, k1, ssk, k31(34, 39, 41).
- Right side: P33(36, 41, 43) and turn. K1, ssk, k30(33, 38, 40). Cont decreasing 1 st in from V-neck edge every RS row 14(15, 15, 16) more times, until 18(20, 25, 26) sts rem. Work even until piece measures 8(8, 8.5, 8.75)" from beg of underarm shaping.
- Right side shoulder shaping: On next RS row, k12(13, 16, 19), W&T. P12(13, 16, 19). K6(6, 8, 12), W&T. P6(6, 8, 12). Size XL only: K6, W&T. P6. All sizes: K18(20, 25, 26), picking up and incorporating wraps. P 1 row. Place sts on waste yarn.
- Left side: With WS facing, join yarn, p33(36, 41, 43), and turn. K30(35, 40, 42), k2tog, k1. Cont decreasing 1 st in from edge every RS row 14(15, 15, 16) more times, until 18(20, 25, 26) sts rem. Work even until piece measures 8(8, 8.5, 8.75)" from beg of underarm shaping.
- Left side shoulder shaping: On next WS row, P12(13, 16, 19), W&T. K12(13, 16, 19). P6(6, 8, 12), W&T. K6(6, 8, 12). Size XL only: P6, W&T. K6. All sizes: P18(20, 25, 26), picking up and incorporating wraps. K 1 row. Place sts on waste yarn.

Sleeves (make 2)

- Using smaller needles, cast on 42(46, 50, 50) sts.
- Row 1. *(K2, p2), rep from * until 2 sts rem, k2.
- Row 2. *(P2, k2), rep from * until 2 sts rem, p2.

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- Rep rows 1 and 2 until piece measures 2.5" from cast on or desired length of cuff. On next WS row, change to larger needles and p across.
- Size XL only: On foll RS row, inc. 6 sts evenly across. 56 sts.
- Increase row (all sizes). On next RS row, k2, inc 1, k until 2 sts rem, inc 1, k2. 44(48, 52, 58) sts.
- Work 5 rows in St st.
- Rep increase row on next and every foll 6th row 12(12, 14, 14) times. 68(72, 80, 86) sts.
- Work 7 rows in St st. On next RS row, rep increase row. 70(74, 82, 88) sts.
- Rep increase row on next and every foll 8th row 2(2, 1, 1) time(s). 74(78, 84, 90) sts.
- Work even in St st until sleeve measures 17(17, 17.5, 18)", or desired length to underarm, ending with a WS row.
- Sleeve cap shaping: BO 5(5, 6, 6) sts at beg of next 2 rows. BO 0(3, 5, 5) sts at beg of foll 2 rows. 64(62, 62, 68) sts.
- Decrease row: K2, ssk, k until 4 sts rem, k2tog, k2. 62(60, 60, 66) sts.
- Rep decrease row on next and every foll RS row 12(11, 9, 14) times. 38(38, 42, 38) sts rem.
- Size L only: Work 2 rows in St st. Rep decrease row on next and every other RS row 2 times. 38 sts rem.
- All sizes: BO 2 sts at the beg of next 4 rows. BO 3 sts at the beg of foll 4 rows. BO rem 18 sts.

Finishing

- Shoulders: Using larger straight needles and circular needle and holding right sides together, bind off shoulders using three-needle bind-off method.
- Seaming: Sew in sleeves. Sew underarm and side seams.
- V-neck: Using circular needle, place single center V-neck st from waste yarn onto needle. Pick up and knit a multiple of 4 stitches using the following method: Pick up and knit approximately 2 sts for every 3 rows up the R side of the neck opening. Pick up and knit 1 st for each bound-off st along the back neck. Pick up and knit approximately 2 sts for every 3 rows down the L side of the neck opening. Turn.
 - Row 1. Slip 1 purlwise, *(p2, k2) until 3 sts rem, p3.
 - Row 2. Slip 1 purlwise, *(k2, p2) until 3 sts rem, k3.
 Repeat rows 1-2 once, then repeat row 1 again. Bind off on row 2 in pattern. Tack selvages down in line with the V-neck shaping.

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Finishing and Blocking

- Weave in all ends and block to finished measurements.

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As a winner of our pattern contest, Ruth has agreed to the following: "By submitting a pattern to the Jimmy Beans pattern contest I certify that I am the sole creator of the work and that I have not violated the intellectual property rights of any other person in creating this pattern. This notice will serve as my written permission to allow my pattern, if selected as the winner, to be used exclusively by Jimmy Beans Wool in advertising and online. Note: Jimmy Beans Wool accepts no liability for submissions which prove to be un-original by the designer."