



Sue's
Sunray
Sweater

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Blacker Designs

Sue's Sunray Sweater

Level of difficulty: easy, suitable for most knitters

This one-size, loose, easy fitting long pullover is knitted in four pieces (front, back and two sleeves) up to the arm level and then in the round up to the neck. The neck can be extended into a polo or doubled over as a turtle neck if preferred. This means there are only the side and sleeve seams to sew up.

You can alter the size upwards or downwards by knitting the same pattern in a thicker or finer yarn and also vary the sunray design and neckline - see Variations at end of pattern.

The contrast is used at the edge of the yoke before the ribbed decrease pattern starts and for finishing the neck with two rows. It can also be used for the first 2 rows in the welts and cuffs if desired. Or what you will!

MATERIALS:

Size One size: approximately 1000 grams of Blacker Designs Light Aran yarn in main colour and 25 grams in contrast colour if used.

The garment as made up and photographed measures as follows:

Side seams 48cm, 19"

Sleeve seams 48cm, 19"

Width under arm 57cm, 22.5" (total around is 114cm, 45")

Back/front to neck including high neck 82cm, 32.5"

Neck rib 12cm, 5"

1 pair 4mm, 1 pair 4.5mm needles and 1 long circular 4.5mm needle (or 4 long straight ones - but the weight is easier to manage on a circular needle), stitch markers or coloured thread, stitch holders.

Use 4.00 mm needles for welts and cuffs and 4.5 mm needles for body of pullover.

TENSION:

Approx. 19sts x 24 rows = 10cm (4") square

Adjust needle size to give required tension.

STITCHES:

st, sts = stitch, stitches K = knit P = purl

RS = right side WS = wrong side

Stocking stitch: alternate rows knit and purl (knit on RS, purl on WS)

Garter stitch: all rows knit

K2tog = knit the next 2 sts together

P2tog = purl the next 2 sts together

BACK AND FRONT (both the same)

Cast on 110 stitches with 4 mm needles.

Make welt of knit one, purl one rib for 11 rows, 3cm (1.5"), or deeper if preferred.

If using contrast colour, cast on in contrast colour and K1, P1 for 2 rows then change to main colour.

Change to 4.5 mm needles and stocking stitch and continue until work measures 40cm (16"), or longer if preferred.

Take off stitches onto holder.

SLEEVES (both the same!)

Cast on 50 stitches with 4 mm needles.

Make cuff of knit one, purl one rib for 11 rows, 3cm (1.5") or deeper if preferred.

If using contrast colour, cast on in contrast colour and K1, P1 for 2 rows then change to main colour.

Change to 4.5 mm needles and stocking stitch, increasing at each end of every 4th row until 100 stitches (23 times). Work measures approximately 45cm (18").

For shorter sleeves, increase at end of every 3rd row (or 3rd and 4th alternately).

Take off stitches onto holder.



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YOKE

Pick up in order the back, first sleeve, front and second sleeve onto a large circular 4.5 mm needle or four straight ones. This gives 420 stitches.

Mark the starting point with a coloured thread and continue in stocking stitch for 20 rows.

Change to contrast colour and continue in garter stitch for 6-8 rows, depending on preference.

Yoke decrease: change back to main colour and 2 knit and 8 purl rib and decrease by purling the last two purl stitches together before the 2 knit stitches every 8th row.

This means that after the first eight rows the rib becomes 2 knit and 7 purl, then 2 knit and 6 purl and so on until you reach 2 and 2.

STITCH NUMBERS:

Start with K2, P8, repeating 42 times for 7 rows and 420 sts

In 8th row, mark first decrease with a coloured thread, then K2, P6, P2tog and repeat 42 times, leaving 378 sts

Next 7 rows K2, P7 42 times

In 8th row, mark first decrease with a coloured thread, then K2, P5, P2tog and repeat 42 times, leaving 336 sts

Next 7 rows K2, P6 42 times

In 8th row, mark first decrease with a coloured thread, then K2, P4, P2tog and repeat 42 times, leaving 294 sts

Next 7 rows K2, P5 42 times

In 8th row, mark first decrease with a coloured thread, then K2, P3, P2tog and repeat 42 times, leaving 252 sts

Next 7 rows K2, P4 42 times

In 8th row, mark first decrease with a coloured thread, then K2, P2, P2tog and repeat 42 times, leaving 210 sts

Next 7 rows K2, P3 42 times

In 8th row, mark first decrease with a coloured thread, then K2, P1, P2tog and repeat 42 times, leaving 168 sts

Next 7 rows K2, P2 42 times

In 8th row, K2, P2tog and repeat 42 times, leaving 126 sts

Continue in K2, P1 rib for 12cm (5") or more or less as desired

If using contrast, change to contrast colour for last 2 rows.

Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

Thread in all ends. Wash garment. Dry flat and press gently to shape.

Take care when pressing not to stretch the welt and cuffs or flatten the yoke too much.

Sew up side and sleeve seams.

VARIATIONS

Contrast colour: instructions for contrast colour are given above. The design works best with a light contrast on a dark main colour and if knitted in white or cream is possibly better without the contrast.

Changing sizes: as long as you end up with a multiple of 10 stitches when putting all onto the circular needle for the yoke, you can alter the size by reducing the number of stitches cast on for sleeves and back. For example: to reduce by 10 cm (4"), you need to cast on 12 less stitches, so cast on 106 for front and back and 48 for sleeves, which will give 94 stitches after the increases and a total of 400. If you do this, you should also reduce the sleeve increases to every 3rd and 4th row alternately or every 3rd row, otherwise the sleeves will be too long and you should reduce the length of the front and back as well.

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Another option is simply to knit the design in a finer yarn or a thicker yarn with the appropriate needles. If using Aran, use 4.5 mm and 5 mm needles, if DK then use 3.5 mm and 4 mm needles. This will increase or reduce the result and you can get an idea by knitting a tension swatch. Normally Aran will produce 18 stitches and 24 rows for a 10cm (4") square on a 5 mm needle and DK will produce 22 stitches and 30 rows for a 10cm (4") square on 4 mm needles. So if you use Aran wool, you will increase the size by about 10cm (4") all round and if you use DK wool you will reduce the size by about 15cm (6") all round. This will depend on your own knitting style. Remember to adjust the lengths to suit if you do this.

Enhancing the pattern:

- *to make the sunray design stand out more, do the knit stitches into the back of each stitch and the purl as usual (this can be done in the welt and cuffs too and will have the same effect)*

- *you can also do the welt and cuffs in K2, P1 to match the final neck rib if you wish*
- *a further variation, making the sunrays larger, is to do K3, P7 in the yoke. This means that you will end up with K3, P1 and 168 stitches, so for the final decrease row: K1, K1tog (through the back of the stitch will look better), P1 to end up with K2, P1 for the neck*
- *for a different effect, in the yoke, twist the K2 stitches, either all of them or in every alternate ray (make sure, if you have altered the size, that you have an even number of groups of 10 stitches if you do this!)*

Changing the neckline: it is possible, particularly if using a finer yarn, to stop the yoke at a lower level, to give an off-the-shoulder result. For example, stop decreasing at 252 or 210 stitches and knit either 10cm (4") or 15 cm (6") of rib, casting off loosely, then folding over and sewing to give a firmer finish.

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