



1940s knitting patterns

“When you’re ‘off-duty’” jumper

Materials

Four ounces of Copley's 2-ply "Excelsior" Shetland Wool; a pair each of No. 13 and No. 11 knitting needles; crochet hook No. 13; a small quantity of cotton-wool for the shoulder pads.

Tension and measurements

Worked at a tension of one repeat of the pattern to 1.25 inches in width, with No. 11 needles, the measurements on the diagram are attained after light pressing.

Abbreviations

K., knit plain; p., purl; st., stitch; tog., together; inc., increase (by working into the front - and back of the same st.); dec., decrease: (by working 2 sts. tog.); m., make (by bringing the wool to the front of the needle and over it before knitting the next st.); p.s.s.o., pass slipped st. over; sl., slip; single rib is k.1 and p.1 alternately; s.s., stocking- st. (k. on the right side and p. back); d.c., double crochet; ch., chain.

To work the back

Begin at the lower edge by casting on 116 sts. with No. 13 needles. Work 50 rows in single rib, working into the back of the sts. on the first row to give a neat edge. Inc row: Rib 9, * inc., rib 3; repeat from * ending the last repeat with rib 10 instead of rib 3. (141 sts.) Change to No. 11 needles and begin the pattern as follows.

1st row (RIGHT SIDE): K. 5, m.1 sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., * k.8, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o.; repeat from * until 4 sts. remain, k. 4.

2nd row and following 4 alternate rows: All purl.

3rd row: K.3, k.2 tog., m.1, k.1, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., * k. 5, k. 2 tog., m.1, k.1, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o.; repeat from * until 3 sts. remain, k. 3.

5th row: K.2, k.2 tog., m.1, k.3, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., * k. 3, k. 2 tog., m.1, k.3, m.1, sl.1, k. 1, p.s.s.o.; repeat from * until 2 sts. remain, k.2.

7th row: K.1, k.2 tog., m.1, k.5, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., * k.1, k.2 tog, m.1, k.5, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o.; repeat from * until 1 st. remains, k.1. –

9th row: K. 2 tog., * m. 1, k.7, m.1, k.3 tog. repeat from * until 10 sts. remain, m. 1, k. 7, m. 1, k. 2 tog.

11th row: K.10, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., * k.8, m.1, sl.1 k. 1, p.s.s.o.; repeat from * until 9 sts. remain, k.9.

12th row: All purl. These 12 rows form the pattern, so repeat them 7 times more to the armholes.

To shape the armholes: 1st row (1st pattern row): Cast off 8 (1 st. on needle), k. 6, * m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., k.8; repeat from * ending the last repeat with k.4 instead of k.8.

2nd row: Cast off 8, purl to the end.

3rd row: K.2 tog., k.3, * k. 2 tog., m.1, k.1, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., k.5; repeat from * ending the last repeat with k.3, k.2 tog., instead of k.5.

4th row and following 4 alternate rows: P. 2 tog., purl until 2 sts. remain, p.2 tog.

5th row: K.2 tog. twice, * m.1, k.3, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., k. 3, k. 2 tog.; repeat from * until 7 sts. remain, m.1, k.3, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., k. 2 tog.

7th row: K.2 tog., k. 4, * m.1, sl.1, k.1 p.s.s.o., k.1, k.2 tog., m.1, k.5; repeat from * ending the last repeat with m.1, k.4, k. 2 tog., instead of m.1, k. 5.

9th row: K. 2 tog., k 3, * m.1, k.3 tog., m.1. 1, k.7; repeat from * ending the last repeat with m.1, k.3, k.2 tog., instead of m.1. k.7.

11th row: K. 2 tog., k.2, * m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., k.8; repeat from * ending the last repeat with k.1, k.2 tog., instead of k. 8.

13th row: K.2 tog., k.5, * m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., k.8; repeat from * ending the last repeat, with k. 4, k. 2 tog., instead of k. 8.

14th row: P.2 tog., purl until 2 sts. remain, p. 2 tog. (101 sts.) Now work 56 rows straight in pattern as before the armhole shaping, beginning with the 3rd pattern row.

To slope the shoulders: cast off 9 sts, at the beginning of the next 6 rows.

The neck band: Change to No. 13 needles and work 8 rows in single rib on the remaining 47 sts., then cast off loosely in rib.

The front

Work this exactly the same as the back, until 46 rows have been worked straight after the armhole shaping, then continue as follows:

The left front shoulder: 1st row (1st pattern row); K.5, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., * k.8, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o.; repeat from * twice more, then k.4, turn; leaving the remaining 60 sts. unworked until needed.

2nd row and following 3 alternate rows: P.2 tog., purl to the end of the row.

3rd row: K.3, k.2 tog, m.1, k.1, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., * k. 5, k.2 tog., m.1, k.1, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o.; repeat from * until 2 sts. remain, k.2.

5th row: K.2, k.2 tog., m.1, k.3, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., * k.3, k.2. tog., m.1, k.3, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o.; repeat from * to the end of the row.

7th row: K.1, k. 2 tog., m.1, k. 5, m.1 sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., * k.1, k.2 tog., m.1, k.5, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o.; repeat from * until 8 sts. remain, k.1, k.2 tog., m.1, k.3, k.2 tog.

9th row: K. 2 tog., * m.1, k.7, m.1, k.3 tog; repeat from * until 4 sts. remain, m.1, k.2, k.2 tog.

10th row: P. 3 tog., purl to the end of the row. (33 sts.)

To slope the shoulder: cast off 9 sts. at the beginning of the next row and following 2 alternate rows, then cast off the remaining sts.

The right front shoulder: Return to the 60 sts. left unworked, and with right side of work facing work as follows:

1st row: Cast off 19 sts. (1 st. on needle), k.4, m.1 sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., * k.8, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o.; repeat from * until 4 sts. remain, k. 4. (41 sts.)

2nd row and following 3 alternate rows: Purl until 2 sts. remain, p.2 tog.

3rd row: K.2, * k.2 tog., m.1, k.1, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., k. 5; repeat from * ending the last repeat with k.3 instead of k.5.

5th row: * K. 2 tog., m.1, k.3, m.1, sl.1, k. 1, p.s.s.o, k.3; repeat from *, ending the last repeat with k. 2 instead of k. 3.

7th row: K.2 tog., k.3, * m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., k.1, k.2 tog., m.1, k.5; repeat from * until 3 sts. remain, m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., k.1.

9th row: K. 2 tog., k. 2, * m.1, k.3 tog., m.1, k.7; repeat from * until 2 sts. remain, m.1, k.2 tog.

10th row: Purl until 3 sts. remain, p. 3 tog. (33 sts.)

11th row: K.2, * m.1, sl.1, k.1, p.s.s.o., k.8; repeat from * ending the last repeat with k. 9, instead of k. 8. Now slope the shoulder as for the opposite one.

The front neck band: Holding the work with the right side facing and using No. 13 needles, pick up and rib 55 sts. evenly all round the front neck edge, beginning and ending with p. 1. Work 7 rows in single rib, then cast off loosely in rib.

The sleeves

Begin at the top by casting on 21 sts. with No. 11 needles. Work entirely in single rib, increasing 1 st. at both ends of every row until there are 45 sts., after which inc.1 st. at the beginning only of every row, until there are 103 sts. for the full width of the sleeve. Work 2 rows straight, then dec.1 st. at both ends of the next row and every following 4th row, until the 8th dec. row has been worked. (87 sts.) Work 3 rows straight. Change to No. 13 needles and work 18 rows more in single rib, then cast off in rib with No. 11 needles. Work a second sleeve in the same way.

The shoulder pads

With No.11 needles cast on 20 sts. Work 24 rows in s.s., then cast off. Work another shoulder pad in the same way.

The crochet buttons

Begin by working 2ch., 8d.c into the 2nd ch. from hook. Work another round of d.c over d.c., taking up the back loop of the stitch. Cut the wool, leaving a few inches hanging. Stuff this little cap with cotton wool or oddments of knitting wool. Thread the remaining end into a crewel needle, run around the last row of stitches, draw up and secure, leaving the wool by which to sew the button to the jumper. Work 2 buttons more in the same way.

To make up the jumper

Press all parts, except the ribbing, with a hot iron over a damp cloth on the wrong side. Join the Left Shoulder seam for about 2.5 inches, beginning at the armhole end and taking 1.st. from each side at a time, and then join the Right Shoulder seam and continue along the neck-band. Set the sleeves into the armholes, making 4.25 inch pleats at the top and stroke these seams flat with the top of a thimble. Fold the shoulder pads in half and sew the two sides, then stuff with cotton wool edges sew the cast-on and cast-off together, after which sew to the top of each sleeve seam. Sew the 3 buttons to Left Back Shoulder opening and work 3 buttonhole loops on the Left Front Shoulder to correspond.

Diagram

