



1940s knitting patterns

Pants and vest in mesh stitch

Materials

5 oz. of Sirdar Super Shetland 2-ply wool (3 oz. for pants and 2 oz. for vest), 1 pair of needles size 5 and 1 set of four with points at both ends size 9, 1 medium-fine crochet hook, 1 yard of ribbon and 0.75 yard elastic or 2 spools of elastic sewing thread.

Measurements

Bust : 34 ins. Hips : 37 ins.

Tension

5 sts. and 8 rows to 1 in., measured over st. 2 on size 5 needles.

Stitches

(1) Hems and welts are in k. 1, p. 1 rib. (2) Main part of both garments is in the following honey-comb st:

1st row: (right side of work).-K. 1, * insert needle into next st. in row below and k. into this st., draw st. from left-hand needle, k. next st. in top row * and rep. from * to * to end of row, ending k. 2 instead of k. 1.

2nd row: K.

3rd row: K. 2 then rep. from * to * of 1st row throughout.

4th row: K. These 4 rows are repeated throughout. When shaping is taking place, care must be taken to keep patt. in order by remembering that sts. which are knit into the row below in one odd-numbered row are knit into the top row in next odd-numbered row, and vice-versa.

Pants

Beg. with left leg. With 2 size 9 needles cast on 76 very loosely and k. back into back of sts. Work 1 in. in st. 1. Change to size 5 needles and st. 2. Inc. 1 st. at each end of 4th row and every 6th row afterwards until there are 92 sts.

Work 3 rows, or until leg measures desired length, ending with a 1st patt. row. Break wool and leave on a spare needle for time being. Make right leg in same way. Break wool, turn and slip 46 sts. of next (k.) row on to a thread for time being, join wool and k. remaining 46, pick up left leg, k. 46 from end where wool is lying, joining in broken end of wool, then slip other 46 sts. of left leg on to another thread. † Continue front on 92 sts. now on needle. In next row, work pattern for 45 sts., k. 1, slip a coloured loop on to right-hand needle, k. 1, work 45 in pattern to end. The col. loop marks centre-front and must be slipped from one needle to the next in every following row and the st. each side of it must be k. in every row. Work 1 row on wrong side of work. In next row, work until there are 2 sts. left before loop, k. 2 tog., sl. loop, k. 2 tog., work to end. Work 7 rows. Rep. last 8 rows until there are 76 left. Work 3 more rows. Break wool and slip sts. on to a thread.

Make back: join wool on wrong side of remaining 46 sts. of left leg and k. across these sts. then k. across 46 of right leg. Now follow instructions for front from † but dec. 2 sts. in middle of every 4th row after 1st dec. row (instead of every 8th row), until there are 62 left. Work 3 more rows. In next row, change to st. 1 throughout, discarding loop, and rib 46 on to one size 9 needle, 16 on to a second. Take up front and rib 30 from front on to the needle holding 16, then rib remaining 46 on to a 3rd needle. Work on in the round with 4 needles in st. 1, joining in elastic thread if desired. Work 3 ins. Cast off loosely.

Make gusset: with size 5 needles cast on 6 and k. back into back of sts. Work in st. 2. Inc. 1 st. at each end of every row until there are 46 sts. Dec. 1 st. at each end of every row until there are 6 left. Cast off.

To make up: sew gusset between legs then join lower ends of leg seams. Sew side seams. Make casing for elastic at top if desired and thread in elastic.

Vest

Front: with size 5 needles, cast on 90 very loosely. Work 2 rows in at. 1. Change to st. 2. Work until front is 5.5 ins. from beg., or desired length to waistline less 1.5 ins., ending on right side of work. In next row, * k. 3, k. 2 tog., k. 2, k. 2 tog. and rep. from * to end. (70 sts. left.) Change to size 9 needles and st. 1. Work 3 ins. Change to size 5 needles and st. 2. Work 6 rows. Inc. 1 st. at each end of next row and every 6th row afterwards until there are 78 sts. Work 3 more rows.

Shape top: in next row, work until there are 3 left, slip these on to a thread, turn. In following row, work until there are 3 left, slip these on another thread, turn. Work on in this way, slipping 3 sts. to thread at end of every row until all sts. are on 2 threads, 39 each side, with wool at centre-front. Finish each side separately. * Slip 39 sts. of left half on to a size 5 needle, join wool on wrong side and in 1st row, k. 3, * pick up and k. 1, k. 6, rep. from * to end (45 sts. on needle). † Work 2 rows, ending at side edge. Dec. 1 st. at beg. of next row. Work 2 rows, ending at centre-front edge. Dec. 1 st. at each end of next row †. Rep. from † to † 4 times more (30 left). Work 2 rows. Cast off. Go back to right half and rep. instructions for left half from ** to end, but work 1 row instead of 2 before making 1st dec. at side edge, and 3 rows instead of 2 before casting off.

Back: with size 5 needles, cast on 80 and follow instructions for front to end of the 5.5 ins. worked in st. 2. In next row, * p. 2, k. 2 tog. and rep. from * to end (60 sts. left). Change to size 9 needles and work 3 ins. in st. 1. Change to size 5 needles and st. 2. Work 6 rows. Inc. 1 st. at

each end of next row and every 6th row afterwards until there are 78 sts. Work without further shaping until back measures same as front to top. Cast off.

To make up: sew side seams. Work 1 row of double crochet round top of vest, holding in top to fit smoothly, then work a 2nd row as follows : work 1 d.c. into each of 1st 3 d.c. of row below, * work 4 chain then work another d.c. into last d.c. just worked, work 1 d.c. into each of next 3 d.c. and rep. from * to end. Sew on shoulder straps.