



1940s knitting patterns

Spiral-spun waistcoat

corrected August 2022

Materials

11 oz. of Jaeger "Spiral-Spun" (7d. per oz.), 1 pair each of No. 5 and No. 8 Jaeger knitting needles, and 5 buttons the size of a shilling.

Measurements

Length from shoulder at arm- hole edge, 20.5 inches; width all round under the arms, when fastened, 40 inches.

Tension

9 stitches to 2 inches in width, and 7 rows to 1 inch in depth.

Abbreviations

K. = knit; p. = purl; sts. = stitches; rep. = repeat; sl. = slip; dec. = decrease or decreasing.

Casting-on

If you cast on with two needles work into the back of all cast on sts. to produce firm edges, but if you use the thumb method this is not necessary.

The back

Begin at the lower edge. Cast on 80 sts. Using No. 8 needles and work 2 inches in k. 1 p. 1 rib. Change to No. 5 needles and the pattern as follows:

1st row - Sl. 1, k. to end.

2nd row - Sl. 1 * p. 2, k. 2, Rep. from * finishing k. 1.

These 2 rows form the pattern and are rep. throughout. Continue in the pattern until the work measures 12 inches from the beginning, finishing the work with right side towards you.

The armhole shaping: Cast off 4sts. At the beginning of the next 6 rows, then dec. 1 st. at both ends of every row until 48sts. remain. Continue without dec. until the armholes measure 8 1/2 inches on the straight, finishing with the work right side towards you.

The shoulder shaping: Cast off 6 sts. at the beginning of the next 4 rows. Cast off the remaining 24 sts. for the back neck.

The right front

Begin at the lower edge. Cast on 48 sts. using No. 8 needles and work 2 inches in k.1, p.1 rib. Change to No. 5 needles and the pattern and continue until the work measures 4.5 inches from the beginning, finishing with the work right side towards you.

The pocket opening: Next row - Pattern 12, cast off 24, pattern 11. Leave this work for the present and make a pocket lining as follows: Cast on 24 sts. using No. 5 needles and work 3.5 inches in pattern, finishing after a k. row. Go back to the front.

Next row: Pattern 12, pattern across the sts. of the pocket lining, pattern 12. Continue on these sts. until the work measures 10 inches from the beginning, finishing with the work right side towards you.

The neck shaping: Dec. 1 st. at the beginning of the next row, then on every 4th row following, at the same time when the work measures 12 inches from the beginning, and finishing with the work wrong side towards you, work the armhole shaping.

The armhole shaping: Cast off 4 sts. at the beginning of the next row, then on the next 2 alternate rows. Now dec. 1 st. at the same edge on the next 3 alternate rows (27 sts.). Now dec. 1 st. at the neck edge on every 3rd row until 12 sts. remain, and finishing with the work wrong side towards you. The shoulder shaping: Cast off 6 sts. at the beginning of the next row, then on the next alternate row.

The left front

Work this exactly like the right front but with all shapings at opposite edges.

The front band

Begin at the lower edge of the left side. Cast on 10sts. using No. 8 needles and work 3 rows in k.1, p.1 rib. Now work a buttonhole as follows:

1st row: Rib 3, cast off 4, rib 2.

2nd row: Rib 3, cast on 4, rib 3. Continue making buttonholes 2.25 inches apart until there are 5 in all. Continue in rib until the work measures 50 inches from the beginning. Cast off.

The armhole bands

Cast on 4sts. using No. 8 needles and work 22 inches in k.1, p.1 rib. Cast off.

The pocket bands

Cast on 4sts. using No. 8 needles and work 4.5 inches in k.1, p.1 rib. Cast off.

The making up

Press the work on the wrong side with a warm iron and damp cloth. Join the shoulders, sew in the armhole bands, and press the seams. Sew up the side seams and press them. Sew the front band around the neck edge and down each front, and press the seam. Sew the pocket linings to the fronts, and press the seams. Sew the pocket bands along the top edge of the pockets, and press the seams. Sew on the buttons to correspond with the buttonholes.