

Free Sheep Yoke Baby Cardigan Pattern



Pattern Description:

This pattern details the creation of a **Sheep Yoke Baby Cardigan**, a knitting project inspired by "Knitting in the Old Way" but with a simplified yoke design for babies.

It features a charming sheep yoke pattern, with options for either a boy's or girl's version through color variations.

The pattern provides directions for two sizes, 6-9 months or 9-12 months, by utilizing different needle sizes.

Materials Needed & Measurements:

- **Yarn:** DK weight superwash wool.
 - **Tan:** 220-250 yards (Main Color).
 - **Blue, Green, Cream:** 60-90 yards each.
 - **Black:** Less than 20 yards.
 - **Pink:** Less than 60 yards (for girl's version).
- **Yarn Weight:** DK weight.
- **Needles:** Size 5 (smaller size) and Size 6 (larger size) straight or circular needles.
- **Notions:**
 - Stitch holder or piece of scrap yarn (for holding sleeve stitches).

- Buttons (number to be decided by knitter for button band).
- **Measurements:**
 - **Size:** 6-9 months or 9-12 months (shown in size 9-12 months).
 - **Gauge:**
 - 6 stitches and 9 rows = 1 inch (with smaller needles).
 - 5.5 stitches and 8 rows = 1 inch (with larger needles).
 - **Finished Piece Length (before ribbing):** 10.5" [12.5"].

Stitches & Abbreviations Used:

- **BO:** Bind Off
- **CO:** Cast On
- **Duplicate-stitch:** A technique for adding details, used for sheep heads and legs.
- **French-knot eyes:** Used for forward-facing sheep in the center back.
- **k2, p2 rib:** Knit two, purl two ribbing.
- **k2tog:** Knit two together.
- **MC:** Main Color (tan yarn).
- **purl:** Purl stitch.
- **rib:** Ribbing.
- **st:** Stitch(es).
- **stockinette:** Stockinette stitch.
- **YO:** Yarn Over.

Instructions for Making the Sheep Yoke Baby Cardigan Pattern:

Initial Body Construction

- Using **MC** (tan yarn), **CO 70 st.**
- Work 7 rows of **k2, p2 rib**.
- Work 1 row of **purl**. This **purl** row is referred to as the "setup row" on the Sheep Yoke Chart.
- Break **MC** yarn and join blue yarn.

Working the Sheep Yoke Chart

- Begin working the Sheep Yoke Chart.
- Repeat each bracketed section four times across the rows.
- Space increases across each section, **avoiding lining them up vertically** to prevent obvious "seams".
- The black wedges on the chart indicate "no stitches"; simply skip over these areas to the next **st** in the row.
- If making the girl's version, work the pink flowers as charted. For the boy's version, work these two rows in blue.

- For the flower pattern ONLY, do not repeat each bracketed section exactly as pictured; instead, keep the eight-stitch repeat of the flowers continuous across these two rows, incorporating the required increases carefully.
- For the remainder of the chart, you can work the repeats exactly as pictured.
- If making the boy's version, use blue yarn for the checkerboard pattern. If making the girl's version, use pink yarn.
- After completing row 34 of the chart (206 **st**), proceed to divide for sleeves.

Dividing for Sleeves and Main Body

- **Divide for sleeves** as follows: **k29**, place 44 **st** on a holder or scrap yarn, **k60**, place 44 **st** on a holder or scrap yarn, **k29**.
- Work straight in **stockinette** with **MC** until the piece measures 10.5" [12.5"] (the example uses the larger size, 12.5").
- Then, work 2 rows with blue yarn (boy's version) or pink yarn (girl's version).
- Work one more row with **MC**.
- Work 7 rows of **k2, p2 rib** and **BO**.

Adding Sheep Details

- With black yarn, **duplicate-stitch** the heads and legs onto the sheep as charted in the Duplicate Stitch Chart. Ensure the sheep face toward the button band on each side.
- Use blue yarn to make **French-knot eyes** for the forward-facing sheep in the center back.

Working Sleeves

- Return the **st** from one arm to needles and join **MC**.
- Work 9 rows of **stockinette**.
- In the next row, **decrease by one stitch at each edge**.
- Repeat these ten rows two more times (you should have 38 **st**).
- Work 7 more rows.
- Join pink or blue yarn and work two rows with this color.
- Work 1 more row with **MC**.
- Work 7 rows of **k2, p2 rib** and **BO**.
- Repeat all sleeve steps for the other arm.

Working Button Bands

- With **MC**, pick up 3 **st** for every 4 rows along the right front edge.
- Work 8 rows of **k2, p2 rib** and **BO**.
- Decide on the number and placement of buttons.
- Pick up the same number of **st** along the left front edge.
- Work 3 rows of **k2, p2 rib**.
- Work a row of buttonholes as follows: Work 4 **st** in **rib**, then YO, k2tog, work in rib to the desired position for the next buttonhole, repeat from until 6 **st** remain, **k2tog, YO**, work 4 **st** in **rib**.

- Work 4 more rows of **k2, p2 rib** and **BO**.

Finishing

- Seam the arms.
- Weave in all loose ends.
- Block the garment.
- Sew buttons to the button band, matching them to the buttonholes.