

Professor Sweater Free Pattern



Pattern Description:

A classic, cozy baby/toddler cardigan with a shawl collar, garter-stitch hems, and optional elbow patches.

Designed for ages 1-10 years, it features stockinette body, easy-to-follow construction, and a comfortable fit, perfect for layering or gifting.

Materials Needed & Measurements:

- **Yarn:** DK / Light weight
- **Needles:** US 3 (3.25 mm) for hems/bands, US 5 (3.75 mm) for body
- **Notions:** 5 buttons, stitch markers, waste yarn, darning needle
- **Measurements (finished chest):** 24 (26, 28, 30, 32)'' for ages 1 (4, 6, 8, 10)

Stitches & Abbreviations Used: k (knit), p (purl), k2tog (knit 2 together), ssk (slip-slip-knit), CO (cast on), BO (bind off), RS (right side), WS (wrong side), M1 (make one), st(s) (stitch(es)), pm (place marker)

Instructions for Making the Professor Sweater Pattern:

Back

- **Cast On & Hem:** Using smaller needles, CO 60 (65, 70, 75, 80) sts. Work garter hem for 6 rows (approx. 1”).
- **Body:** Switch to larger needles and work in Stockinette (RS: k, WS: p) until the piece measures 7¼ (8, 8¼, 8½, 9)” from CO, ending on WS.
- **Armhole Shaping:** BO 4 (4, 5, 5) sts at the beginning of the next two rows for armhole shaping. Continue in Stockinette until armhole measures 4¾ (5, 5¼, 5½, 5¾)”.
- **Shoulders & Neck:** Place remaining shoulder sts on waste yarn or BO for seaming. This will match the front shoulder height.

Left Front

- **Cast On & Hem:** CO 34 (36, 38, 40, 42) sts with smaller needles. Work garter hem for 6 rows.
- **Body:** Switch to larger needles and work Stockinette until the front reaches the same length as the back to the armhole, ending on WS.
- **Armhole Shaping:** BO 4 (4, 5, 5) sts at the armhole edge. Continue straight until armhole depth matches back.
- **Neck Shaping:** At the neck edge, BO 6 (6, 7, 7, 8) sts once or decrease 1 st every RS row until desired neckline width. Leave shoulder sts on waste yarn.

Right Front

Work as a mirror of the left front. The neck shaping is on the opposite edge. If you plan to add a buttonband later, leave the front edge plain to accommodate buttonholes.

Sleeves (Make 2)

- **Cast On & Hem:** CO 34 (36, 38, 40, 42) sts with smaller needles. Work garter hem for 6 rows.
- **Body & Increases:** Switch to larger needles. Increase 1 st at each end every 6 (6, 6, 8, 8) rows until sleeve measures 8½ (9, 9½, 10, 10½)” from CO. Total sts after increases: approx. 44 (48, 52, 56, 60).
- **Sleeve Cap Shaping:** BO 4 (4, 5, 5) sts at the beginning of next two rows. Then decrease 1 st each side every RS row 2 (3, 3, 4, 4) times. BO remaining sts.

Collar (Shawl)

- After seaming shoulders, pick up 1 st per ¾-1” evenly around the neckline using larger needles. Expected total: 60-80 sts depending on size.
- Work garter stitch (k every row) for 1¾-2” to form a folded shawl collar.
- Optionally taper the collar by decreasing 1 st at each end every 6th row, 2-3 times. BO loosely in knit.

Buttonbands

Option 1 - Pick-up & Knit:

- Using smaller needles, pick up 3-4 sts per inch along each front edge.
- Work garter stitch for 6–8 rows.
- On the RS of the right front band, create 5 buttonholes evenly spaced starting ~1” below the neckline using k2, yo, k2tog or BO/CO technique.
- On the left front band, align button placement when sewing buttons.

Option 2 - Sew-on Band: Use a pre-knitted or ribbed band and sew neatly along front edges, adding buttonholes as desired.

Elbow Patches (Optional)

- CO 12 (12, 14, 14, 16) sts. Knit garter hem 2 rows.
- Work Stockinette for 14 (16, 18, 20, 22) rows. BO.
- Make 2-4 patches depending on thickness. Block and sew centered ~2-2½” below sleeve cap for small sizes; adjust for larger sizes.

Finishing

- Block all pieces lightly to measurements.
- Seam shoulders using mattress stitch or 3-needle BO.
- Set sleeves into armholes and seam side and sleeve seams.
- Attach collar and buttonbands as described. Sew on buttons to match buttonholes.
- Weave in ends and lightly press.

Tips:

- Adjust stitch counts by $\pm 2-4$ for a looser or tighter fit.
- Optional: add contrast colors for collar, cuffs, or elbow patches.
- For seamless top-down construction, increase sleeves and yoke accordingly.