

## **Premature Baby Cardigan**

Use DK wool and size 10/3.25m.m. and 8/4mm needles. Instructions in UK sizes.

### **Abbreviations.**

st. stitch; st-st. stocking stitch; s1. slip 1 stitch knitways; pssso, pass slipped stitch over; k1, knit 1; p1, purl 1; tog. together; fwd, pass the yarn forward between the needles and knit the next stitch from the front; rep, repeat.

### **Back**

With size 8 needles cast on 39 stitches;  
Switch to size 10 needles k1, p1, rib for 8 rows.  
Switch to size 8 needles and st-st for 16 rows.

Shape raglans;

Cast off 2 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows.

Next row.

K2, s1, k1, pssso, knit to last 4 stitches, k2tog, k2.

Next row.

K1, p. to last st, k1.

Rep. last 2 rows until 15 sts remain, cast off.

### **Sleeves (both alike)**

With size 8 needles cast on 29 sts,

Change to size 10 and k1, p1 rib for 8 rows.

Change to size 8 needles and work 16 rows st-st increasing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> rows; 33sts.

Shape raglans;

Cast off 2 sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows.

Next row.

K2, s1, k1, pssso, knit to last 4 sts, k2tog. K2.

Next row.

K1, purl to last st, k1.

Rep last 2 rows until 9 sts rem. Cast off

### **Left front**

With size 8 needles cast on 18 sts,

Change to size 10 needles and k1, p1 rib for 8 rows decreasing 1st in centre of last row. 17 sts.

Change to size 8 needles and work 16 rows in st-st. \*\*\*

Shape raglan and front.

Cast off 2 sts, knit to last 2 sts and k2tog.

Next row

K1, purl to last st and k1.

Next row.

K2, s1, k1, pssso, k to end.

Next row.

K1, purl to last st k1.

Rep. last 2 rows 7 times more at the same time decreasing 1 st at front edge in 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> rows. 4 sts.

K2,s1, k1, pssso. 3 sts

K1, p1, k1.

K1, s1, k1, pssso.

P 2 tog. Fasten off

### **Right front**

Work as for left front up to \*\*\*.

Next row.

K2 tog k to end of row

Next row.

Cast off 2 sts purl to last st, k1.

Next row.

K to last 4 sts, k2 tog. k2.

Next row.

K1, p to last st, k1.

Rep. last 2 rows 7 times at the same time dec. 1 st. at front edge of 5th and 13<sup>th</sup> rows. 4 sts.

K2 tog. K2.

K1, p1, k1. 3sts.

K2tog, k1.

P2 tog. Fasten off.

Join raglan seams and then join side and underarm seams.

### **Buttonhole border, worked in one piece.**

With size 10 needles cast on 7 sts. K1, p1 rib for 4 rows. Make buttonhole by rib 3, yrn fwd, k2tog. Rib to end. Work 7 rows rpt. buttonhole. Work 7 rows rpt. buttonhole.

Cont. in k1, p1 rib until the strip goes up the front, across the first sleeve, across the back, across the second sleeve and down the front.

You might find it useful to begin stitching the border to the cardigan once you've knitted enough to be on the straight edge down the second front. Then you can know when to finish. When border is the correct length cast off and fasten the last of the border to the front of the cardigan.

Place buttons to match the buttonholes on the first side of the border.

### **Thank you for making this cardigan.**

For the babies comfort the buttons must be flat buttons; no shanks, no fancy shapes, no pearl buttons and no dome shaped buttons.

You can make knit and purl stitch patterns in the rows or in columns but no bobbles or lacy patterns that the babies can catch their fingers in. I personally use flecked baby wool to get patterns, I did try marled wool but the cardigans are so small that I ended up with each part a different colour.

The cardigans are raglan sleeved for better access for the parents and the nurses and v-necked so that any wires etc. can be fed in without having to undress the babies. Sometimes I make one of the special prem. baby hats to match the cardigan.

Completely white cardigans can be an issue as it is a colour of mourning in many cultures so no totally white cardigans please. Use the white for the ribbing areas etc. or do stripes.

#### **Please only use baby wool.**

The casting on is all done with the larger needle so that the cuffs and edges have a bit of give in them, again for the convenience of the nurses in case they have to whip them off quickly in an emergency.

The cardigans should come out to fit 12" chest or thereabouts; different wool brands come out different sizes.

Have fun; they are quick and easy to make and so gratefully received by the hospitals; they do not pass them on to other babies in case of passing on infections. They all deserve a new cardigan and our prayers, I pray over my cardigans; I pray for the baby, the parents and the staff in the unit.