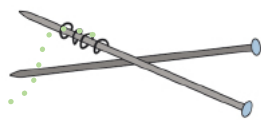


Versatile kiddies' jumper



OK ... are you paying attention? There's a lot of information coming your way in this versatile jumper-hoodie-or-not-which-different-shoulder-style-are-you-knitting?

'Versatile' is the operative word here. Depending on which size of garment you knit, you will learn how to knit a drop shoulder, modified drop shoulder, hood, simple slashed neckline, long sleeves and short sleeves.

The sizes on offer fit children aged 0–3 months, 1–2 years, 3–4 years and 4–5 years. As with all children's clothing, if you aren't sure, opt for a bigger size – the child in question will definitely grow, and we don't want him or her to grow faster than your knitting!

Size	Neck	Shoulder
0–6 months	slash neck	drop shoulder
1–2 years	hood	drop shoulder
3–4 years	hood	modified drop shoulder
4–5 years	hood	modified drop shoulder

The smallest size, 0–3 months, is the simplest to make. Essentially, it consists of two rectangles for the body. The basic skills involved are ribbing, increasing and sewing up. This would make a great first foray into knitting garments if you'd like to knit something for a new baby that's not too taxing, where you can add personality with embroidery, colour, stripes, combinations, etc.

The next size up, 1–2 years, is slightly higher on the complication rating, as it has a hood. You'll need to learn how to pick up and knit, and you'll use a three-needle bind-off for the hood – one of my favourite techniques for a tidy finish.

The bigger sizes have a hood and a modified drop shoulder for a slightly more fitted look. This is essentially a big and baggy jumper, but the indented sleeve means that the fit around the shoulder has a more compact shape.



Drop shoulder.



Modified drop shoulder.





Questions & Answers

What's she talking about? Modified, drop a whatchamacallit?

A drop shoulder is the simplest sort of shape when knitting a jumper or cardigan. It basically means that the body and the top of the sleeve are simple rectangles with no shaping to make them fit together. You'll never get a sleek, fitted look with this technique, but I love it for making comfortable kids' clothing as it gives them room to move and grow.

A modified drop shoulder is a slightly more fitted version, in that the sleeve is set into the body by means of a simple 'notch' cast off into the body where the sleeve is sewn in.



Personalise your hoodie with different sleeve options or even a bit of freestyle embroidery on the front.



The self-patterning yarn Artesano Hummingbird DK gives a unique look to this jumper. The size 1-2 years size only requires 1½ skeins of this extra-long yarn.

YOU WILL NEED

LOOK FOR DOUBLE KNIT YARN, which comes in limitless options of colours and fibres. My test knitters enjoyed the smooth comfort of Debbie Bliss Cashmerino DK, the funky, self-patterning colours of Artesano Hummingbird DK, stripes in Sirdar Click, and Debbie Bliss Amalfi for a cotton jumper for a summer baby.
0-6 months: 315m
1-2 years: 583m
3-4 years: 611m
4-5 years: 700m

4MM KNITTING NEEDLES

4MM CIRCULAR NEEDLES, any length (you won't be knitting in the round in this pattern)

DARNING NEEDLE

CROCHET HOOK: try using a 3mm or 3.5mm hook, as it will make the picking up a bit easier

Note to Knitters

The quantities given above are for garments with long sleeves. You'll need less yarn if you are knitting the short-sleeved version.

GAUGE

22sts and 30 rows in stocking stitch, using 4mm needles = 10cm square.

SIZES

0-6 months (1-2 years, 3-4 years, 4-5 years).

Please note that these garments are unisex and there will be a difference in size between, for example, a girl aged three and a boy of the same age. The best rule, when knitting for children, is that if you aren't sure, work bigger.

ABBREVIATIONS

K = Knit

P = Purl

St(s) = Stitch(es)

St st = Stocking stitch

1 x 1 rib = K1, P1 rib to end

K2tog = Knit two stitches together

M1 = Make one stitch by picking up the loop in between two stitches

Cont = Continue

Rep = Repeat

RS = Right side

WS = Wrong side

START KNITTING

BACK AND FRONT (the same to ***)

Cast on 58 (68, 74, 86)sts.

Work in 1 x 1 rib until piece measures 3 (4, 4, 5)cm.

BACK ONLY

Starting with a knit row, work in st st until piece measures 30 (32, 26, 29)cm from beginning, ending with a knit row.

Sizes 0-6 months and 1-2 years

Cast off.

Note to Knitters

The instructions for the first two sizes: 0-6 months and 1-2 years, are included in knitting patterns as '-' because they have been cast off already and you don't have to take any action.

Sizes 3-4 and 4-5 years

UNDERARM FOR MODIFIED DROP SHOULDER

Cast off - (-, 6, 8)sts, P to end. Count - (-, 68, 78) sts.

Cast off - (-, 6, 8)sts, K to end. Count - (-, 62, 70) sts.

Starting with a purl row, cont in st st until piece measures - (-, 39, 43)cm from beginning, ending with a knit row.

Cast off on the WS.

Note to Knitters

The armhole will measure approximately - (-, 13, 14)cm.

Note to Knitters

The measurements for the body piece might seem a bit odd, with the bigger sizes having less length than the smaller sizes, but that's because they have decreases at the underarm for the modified drop shoulder.



FRONT ONLY

Jumper for age 0-6 months only: the front and back are the same. This size has a slash neck opening and no hood.

All other sizes

Starting with a knit row, work in st st until piece measures - (26, 26, 29)cm from beginning, ending with a purl row.

Sizes 3-4, 4-5

UNDERARM FOR MODIFIED DROP SHOULDER

Cast off - (-, 6, 8)sts, K to end. Count - (-, 68, 78) sts.

Cast off - (-, 6, 8)sts, P to end. Count - (-, 62, 70) sts.

All sizes except 0-6 months

Starting with a knit row, cont in st st until piece measures - (26, 31, 36)cm from beginning, ending with a purl row.

SHAPE NECK OPENING

Separate for neck opening.

K - (26, 24, 26)sts, cast off - (16, 14, 18)sts, K to end. You will now have - (26, 24, 26)sts on either side of the neck.

(To cast off in the middle of a row: knit the initial - (26, 24, 26)sts, THEN K1, K1, cast off the first knitted stitch and count 1, K1, cast off and count 2, and so on ... keep counting until you have counted - (16, 14, 18) cast-off stitches. Remember to count accurately!)

Now work the stitches on the right front of the neck, ignoring the left front for now - leave the stitches for the left front on the needle but don't knit them.

RIGHT FRONT

P - (26, 24, 26)sts (on the right front), turn.
K2tog, K to end. Count - (25, 23, 25)sts.

P 1 row.

Rep last 2 rows until - (21, 21, 21)sts remain on the right front.

Cont in st st until piece measures - (32, 39, 43)cm from beginning, ending with a knit row.

Cast off.

LEFT FRONT

Rejoin yarn with WS of work facing you and P 1 row.

K to last 2sts, K2tog.

P 1 row.

Rep last 2 rows until - (21, 21, 21)sts remain on the left front.

Cont in st st until piece measures - (32, 39, 43)cm from beginning, ending with a knit row.

Cast off.



Making up



Using mattress stitch (and picking up the two sides of the 'V' - see p.153), sew up the shoulder seams. Start at the arm edge and sew your way in towards the neck edge.



On the slash neck jumper, sew the shoulder seams for approximately 6cm from the armhole edge towards the neck opening.

Hood

With right side facing, using the 4mm circular needles, and starting at the right-hand (as it's worn) edge of the cast-off stitches on the front of the neck opening, pick up and knit - (15, 19, 20)sts up the right front of the jumper, - (22, 24, 28)sts across the back of the neck, and - (15, 19, 20)sts down the left front (to the edge of the cast-off stitches). Please note that you will not be picking up stitches at the front cast-off edge of the neck opening.



Start picking up and knitting at the slope of the right front.



Please note that you will not be picking up stitches at the front cast-off edge of the neck opening.

Count - (52, 62, 68)sts.

Work back and forth on the circular needle (without joining into a round - you use the needles as if they were normal straight needles - just ignore the fact that the stitches are all on one needle... trust me... it'll make sense when you do it!).

P 1 row.

Increase row: K - (16, 21, 22)sts, [M1, K2] - (10, 10, 12) times, K to end. Count - (62, 72, 80)sts.

Starting with a purl row, cont in st st until the hood measures - (23, 24, 25)cm from the neck, ending with a knit row.



Finish using the three-needle bind-off (see p.145).

Hood border
With right side facing, starting at the right neck front of the hood and using the 4mm circular needles, pick up and knit – (65, 67, 69)sts up the right front edge of the hood, and – (66, 68, 70)sts down the left front edge of the hood.

Count – (131, 135, 139)sts.
Row 1 (WS): P1, K1, repeat to end (start and end this row with a P1).
Row 2 (RS): K1, P1, repeat to end (start and end this row with a K1).



Repeat the last 2 rows a further – (2, 2, 3) times each; that is – (6, 6, 8) rows of rib in total, ending with a RS row.
Cast off in pattern on the wrong side of the work (remember to knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches as you cast off).



Sew the edges of the hood border to the open cast-off edge of the front of the neck opening. To be sure to get a neat finish, sew further away from the edge of the work rather than too near the cast-off edge on the front of the neck.

Sleeves



You'll notice you have to 'turn a corner' to pick up and knit for the short sleeves on the modified drop. Don't let this faze you!

SHORT SLEEVES (FOR A VEST TOP)
Sizes 0-6 months and 1-2 years have a drop shoulder rather than the modified drop shoulder of the other sizes, so are slightly different:
With RS facing, starting on the front of your jumper, pick up and knit 58 (66, -, -)sts for the short sleeve. Half of these will be on one side of the shoulder seam and half on the other.
Sizes 3-4, 4-5, years (for the modified drop shoulder):
With RS facing, and starting on the front, pick up and knit – (-, 6, 8)sts along the armhole cast-off, – (-, 35, 40)sts up the sleeve opening to the shoulder seam, – (-, 35, 40)sts down the sleeve opening on the other side of the shoulder seam and – (-, 6, 8)sts along the armhole cast-off on the back of the jumper.
Count 58 (66, 82, 96)sts in total.
Work in 1 x 1 rib for 2 (3, 3, 4)cm, ending with a RS row.
Cast off on WS in pattern.



Sew the underarm and side seams using mattress stitch.

Sew the sleeve into the armhole



Fold the sleeve in half and find the centre of the top of the sleeve.

Using a long piece of yarn (about 80cm) on a darning needle, pick up the two sides of the 'V' of the knitting on the centre of the sleeve. Then, on the stitch nearest the shoulder seam on the body of the jumper, pick up the centre bar of the 'V'.

Sewing from the centre of the shoulder seam on the body and the centre top of the sleeve, working your way towards

the underarm, sew the body and sleeve together using mattress stitch. Pick up the centre bar on the body and the two lines of the 'V' on the sleeve.

Continue until you reach the cast-off stitches at the underarm – this is if you are knitting the size with the modified drop sleeve. If you're not knitting the modified drop pattern, continue sewing up until you reach the underarm.



For the modified drop sleeve only, continue sewing around the 'corner' of the underarm – you will swap to picking up the 'V's on the body and the centre bar on the sleeve.



This gives a neat finish at the underarm.



Then sew up the sleeve and body seams. Start from the underarm and sew the seam towards the cuff end of the sleeve. Then start sewing from the underarm and sew the seam towards the waist of the jumper. This ensures that the underarm seam has a tidy and accurate finish.

Weave in all the ends.



LONG SLEEVES (KNIT TWO THE SAME)

Cast on 30 (34, 40, 46)sts.
Work in 1 x 1 rib until piece measures 3 (4, 4, 5)cm.
K1, M1, K to last st, M1, K1. Count 32 (36, 42, 48)sts.
P 1 row.
K 1 row.
P 1 row.
K1, M1, K to last st, M1, K1. Count 34 (38, 44, 50)sts.
Rep last 4 rows until you have 58 (66, 70, 80)sts.
Cont in st st until sleeve measures 23 (24, 28, 30)cm from the beginning, ending with a knit row.
Cast off on the WS of the work.