



Petite Purls
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» photos: Mallory Guinee » model: Eleanor

Ladybug



By Alison Stewart-Guinee

Ladybug, ladybug fly away home...Every fall families of ladybugs come to call on our garden. I love the fashionable jackets that these little visitors wear.

Mother Nature has a really great sense of style. Those cunning black polka dots, along with my abiding love for red yarn and knitted bobbles made the creation of this pattern inevitable.

Easy to knit, and made in the softest alpaca yarn ever, this sweater works up in a snap and is perfect for year round wear. Your little one can sport this fanciful sweater in the fall for harvest activities and keep playing in it all the way through winter and spring.

SIZE

6 months -18 months [2T, 4T, 6, 8]

Shown in 2T

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Chest: 22[24, 26, 28, 30] inches

Length from beginning of bodice (lower edge) to shoulder: 8.5[9, 9.5, 10.5, 11] inches

Length from lower back hem to shoulder: 18[19.5, 21, 23, 24] inches

MATERIALS

Alpaca With a Twist Baby Twist [100% Baby Alpaca; 549 yards/502 meters per 8.75 ounce/250 gram skein]

#3007 Red (Color A); 1 [1, 1, 2, 2] skeins

#0500 Black (Color B); 1 [1, 1, 2, 2] skeins

or

http://petitepurls.com/Fall09/fall2009_ladybug.html

Alpaca With a Twist Baby Twist [100% Baby Alpaca; 110 yards/100 meters per 1.75 ounce/50 gram skein]

#3007 Red (Color A); 3 [4, 5, 6, 7] skeins
#0500 Black (Color B); 4 [5, 6, 7, 8] skeins

Recommended needle sizes

US #3/3.25mm double-point needles
US #3/3.25mm 16 inch circular needle
US #5/3.75mm double-point needles
US #5/3.75mm 16 inch circular needle
US #5/3.75mm 24 inch circular needle

NOTIONS

Stitch holders
Tapestry needle
3 .75 inch buttons
Sewing needle and thread to match buttons and yarn

GAUGE

22 sts and 28 rows = 4 inches in St st on larger needles
22 sts and 40 rows = 4 inches in Garter st on larger needles

PATTERN NOTES

This seamless sweater coat is worked in one piece from the hem up. Stitches are cast on for the lower edge of the garter stit peplum. Simple make one increases worked along the front edges of the peplum create the hemline shaping (you could also use a kfb increase). Once the skirt is complete, it is gathered with a row of decreases and the work progresses to the bodice. The bodice is worked in one piece up to the armholes, where the work is divided for the fronts and the back. After the fronts and back are complete, the shoulder seams are completed with a three-needle bind off. Stitches are picked up along the armhole edge and the sleeves are worked in the round from the armhole down to the cuff. A ruffled collar, button band, and buttonhole band complete the bodice. The ladybug spots are formed from knitted bobbles. The bobbles are worked in two different sizes and are sewn to the peplum.

INSTRUCTIONS

PEPLUM

With larger size 24 inch circular needle and Color A, cast on 121[130, 141, 150, 161] sts.

Row 1 (WS): Knit across.

Row 2 (Increase row): K1, M1, k to last st, M1, k1: 123[132, 143, 152, 163] sts.

Repeat these two rows 29 (32, 34, 37, 39) times: 181[196, 211, 226, 241] sts.

Work even in Garter st until the peplum measures 9.5[10.5, 11.5, 12.5, 13] inches from the cast on edge, ending with a WS row. Cut Color A.

Decrease Row: With RS facing, join Color B, * k1, k2tog; repeat from * across to last st, k1: 121[131, 141, 151, 161] sts.

BODICE

Row 1 (WS): Purl across.

Row 2: Knit across.

Work in St st until the Bodice measures 3[3, 3.5, 4, 4.5] inches from the decrease row, ending with a WS row.

Divide for Fronts and Back

At this point the work will be divided for the fronts and back. You will work the right front first, leaving the sts for the sweat back and left front on a spare needle. Once the right front is complete, yarn will be joined at the right armhole for the sweat back. After the back is complete, yarn is joined at the left armhole for the left front. The stitches not in use will be held in reserve on a stitch holder or spare needle.

Right Front

With RS of work facing and using the larger size 16 inch circular needle, k30[32, 35, 37, 40] sts, turn. Leave the remaining 91[99, 106, 114, 121] sts on the 24 inch needle to be worked later.

Work even in St st on these 30[32, 35, 37, 40] sts for 3.5[4, 4, 4, 4] inches, ending with a WS row.

Right Front Neckline Shaping

With RS facing, bind off 4 (4, 5, 6, 8) sts, knit across: 26[28, 30, 31, 32] sts.

Row 1 (WS – Decrease row): Purl across to the last 3 sts, p2tog tbl, p1: 25[27, 29, 30, 31] sts.

Row 2 (Decrease row): K1, ssk, knit across: 24[26, 28, 29, 30] sts.

Rows 3 and 4: Repeat Rows 1 and 2: 22[24, 26, 27, 28] sts.

Row 5: Purl across.

Row 6 (Decrease row): K1, ssk, knit across: 21[23, 25, 26, 27] sts.

Rows 7 and 8: Repeat Rows 5 and 6: 20[22, 24, 25, 26] sts.

Work even in St st until the Right Front measures 8.5[9, 9.5, 10.5, 11] inches from the decrease row at the lower edge of the Bodice. The armhole should measure 5.5[6, 6, 6.5, 6.5] inches.

Slip the remaining 20[22, 24, 25, 26] sts on a holder to be held in reserve for the right shoulder seam. Cut Color B.

Back

Row 1: With RS facing and using the larger size 16 inch circular needle, join Color B at the base of the right armhole and k61[67, 71, 77, 81] sts for the back of the sweater, turn. Leave the remaining 30[32, 35, 37, 40] sts for the left front on the 24 inch needle to be worked later.

Row 2: Purl across.

Work even in St st until the Back measures 8.5[9, 9.5, 10.5, 11] inches from the decrease row at the lower edge of the Bodice ending with a WS row. Leave the stitches for the sweater back on the 16 inch needle to be worked later. Cut Color B leaving 36" tail for shoulder 3-needle bind off.

Left Front

With RS facing and beginning at the base of the left armhole edge, join Color B and work in St st across the remaining 30[32, 35, 37, 40] sts for 3.5[4, 4, 4, 4] inches, ending with a RS row.

Left Front Neckline Shaping

Row 1: With WS facing, bind off 4[4, 5, 6, 8] sts purlwise, purl across: 26[28, 30, 31, 32] sts.

Row 2 (RS – Decrease row): Knit across to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1: 25[27, 29, 30, 31] sts.

Row 3 (Decrease Row): P1, p2tog, purl across: 24[26, 28, 29, 30] sts.

Rows 4 and 5: Repeat Rows 2 and 3: 22[24, 26, 27, 28] sts.

Rows 5: Knit across.

Row 6 (Decrease row): Knit across to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1: 21[23, 25, 26, 27] sts.

Rows 7 and 8: Repeat Rows 5 and 6: 20[22, 24, 25, 26] sts.

Work even in St st until the Left Front measures 8.5[9, 9.5, 10.5, 11] inches from the decrease row at the lower edge of the Bodice, ending with a WS row. The armhole should measure 5.5[6, 6, 6.5, 6.5] inches.

Cut Color B, leaving a 36 inch tail for 3-needle bind off.

Shoulder Seams

The right and left shoulder seams are joined with a three-needle bind off.

Before beginning the three-needle bind off, transfer the 20[22, 24, 25, 26] stitches for left and right front shoulders onto two separate larger size dpns. Leave the sts for the back on the 16 inch needle. Turn the sweater inside out so that the right side of the work are together. Place the double-point needle holding the front shoulder stitches and the 16 inch needle holding the stitches for the sweater back in your left hand so that the needles are parallel to one another. Beginning at the armhole edge and using a larger size dpn as the working needle, knit into the first stitch on both the double-point and the 16 inch circular needle at the same time. Repeat with the second stitch on each needle. Pass the first stitch over the second as you would normally when binding off. Continue in this manner, working across all shoulder sts. Cut Color B and fasten off the last stitch. Turn the work so that the opposite side of the sweater is facing you (RS of work are still together) and repeat with the second shoulder, working from the armhole to the neck edge. Leave the remaining back neck sts on the 16 inch needle.

SLEEVES

With RS of work facing, using smaller size dpns and beginning at the base of one of the armholes, join Color B and pick up 60[64, 68, 68, 68] sts evenly around the armhole edge, pm.

Round 1: Knit around.

Switch to larger size dpns.

Rounds 2 and 3: Knit around.

Round 4 (Decrease round): K1, ssk, k around to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1: 58[62, 66, 66, 66] sts.

Continue to decrease every fourth round 12[13, 14, 13, 12] more times: 34[36, 38, 40, 42] sts.
Work even in St st until the sleeve measures 7.5[8.5, 10, 11, 12] inches.

Sleeve Edging

Switch to smaller dpns.

Round 1: Knit around.

Round 2: Purl around.

Rounds 3-6: Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 twice.

Bind off all sts knitwise. Cut Color B.

Repeat for second sleeve.

FINISHING

Button Band

With RS facing, using smaller size 16 inch circular needle, and beginning at the left front neck edge, join Color B and pick up 34[40, 42, 44, 48] sts evenly along the left front center opening of the bodice (stop at the beginning of the peplum).

Rows 1-12: Knit across.

Row 13 (WS): Bind off all sts knitwise.

Buttonhole Band

With RS facing, using the smaller size 16 inch circular needle, and beginning at the lower edge of the Bodice right front, join Color B and pick up 34[40, 42, 44, 48] sts evenly along the right front center opening of the Bodice.

Rows 1-5: Knit across.

Row 6 (RS): K3, *k2tog, yo twice, ssk, k8[11, 12, 13, 15]; repeat from * once more, k2tog, yo twice, ssk, k3.

Row 7: K3, *k1, knit into the first yo from Row 6 and purl into the second yo, k9[12, 13, 14, 16]; repeat from * once more, k1, knit into the first yo from Row 6, purl into the second yo, k4.

Rows 8-12: Knit across.

Row 13 (WS): Bind off all sts knitwise.

Collar

With the RS facing, using smaller size 16 inch circular needle and Color B, and beginning at the right front neck edge, pick up 17[17, 18, 22, 26] sts evenly along the right front neckline to the right shoulder seam, knit across 21[23, 23, 27, 29] back neck sts, pick up 17[17, 18, 22, 26] sts along the left front neck edge: 55[57, 59, 71, 81] sts.

Row 1: Knit across.

Rows 2 and 3: Knit across to last 17[17, 18, 22, 26] sts, turn.

Rows 4 and 5: Knit across to last 11[11, 12, 15, 17] sts, turn.

Rows 6 and 7: Knit to last 5[5, 6, 7, 8] sts, turn.

Rows 8-11: Knit across all sts.

Row 12: *K1, yo; repeat from * across to last st, k1: 109[115, 117, 141, 161] sts.

Rows 13-25: Knit across.

Bind off all sts knitwise.

Ladybug Spots

Small Bobbles

Make 12[14, 16, 18, 18].

With larger size dpns and Color B, cast on 1 st.

Row 1: Knit into the front, back, front, and back again of the cast on st: 4 sts.

Row 2: Purl across.

Row 3: Knit across.

Row 4: P2tog twice: 2 sts.

Row 5: K2tog: 1 st.

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail for sewing the bobble to the peplum. Fasten off remaining stitch. To bring the bobble together, tie the two tails of the bobble together in a square knot.

Large Bobbles

Make 10[12, 14, 16, 16].

With larger size dpns and Color B, cast on 1 st.

Row 1: Knit into the front, back, front, back and front again of the cast on st: 5 sts.

Rows 2 and 4: Purl across.

Rows 3 and 5: Knit across.

Row 6: Purl across, pass the second, third, fourth and fifth st over the first st: 1 st.

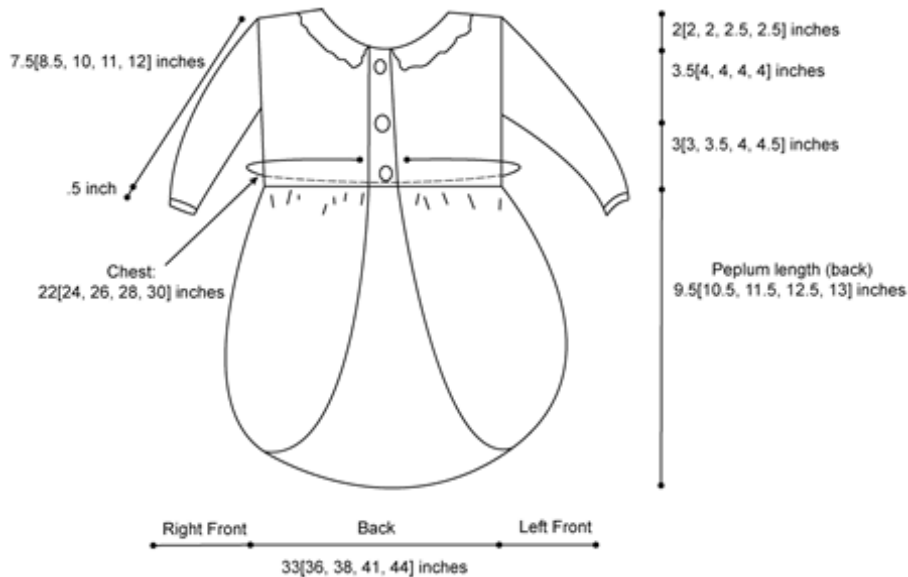
Cut yarn, leaving a long tail for sewing the bobble to the peplum. Fasten off remaining st. To bring the bobble together, tie the two tails of the bobble together in a square knot.

Place the bobbles on the peplum, arranging them as desired, and pin in place. To sew the bobbles in place, thread one of the tails trailing from the bobble onto a tapestry needle and use it to sew the bobble in place.

Weave in all ends.

Block sweater (optional).

Sew buttons to button band opposite buttonholes.



Alison is a knitter, weaver, and the author of *Fairy Tale Knits: 32 Designs to Knit Happily Ever After*. She is currently working on a line of patterns for children, which she plans to sell through her [website](#). Alison lives in the middle of the midwest with her very patient husband, three busy kids, multiple furry friends and an embarrassing amount of yarn. You can follow her adventures with sticks and string on her [blog](#).

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