



Little Star

by Valerie Polichar

"A little star of brilliant hope in skies of black we are..." — Girlyman

What handknits to give to the spring-born baby? There's not much woolen that most babies can wear in the spring and summer. While of course you can give them a 6-month size of a wool sweater, sometimes it's nice to have something special to give that they can wear right away. This little sweater addresses that gifting desire.

I used Rowan All Seasons Cotton (60% cotton, 40% acrylic), 50g/90m/98yds, 3 skeins in color 210.

Hints for this pattern:

- Any worsted-weight with appropriate gauge should work, but this is a spring/summer jacket, so wool may be less suitable.
- Remember to measure after you wash your gauge swatch, because knitted cotton stretches in width and shrinks in length.
- You may wish to leave long tails after each bind-off, for use in seaming

Size: newborn to 3 mo.

Gauge: 4.5 spi and 6 rpi in stockinette; 5 spi in Star Stitch.

Needles: I used 24" circulars in 4 mm (US #6), but I knit loosely. US #7 may be a better place to start.

Star Stitch



Multiple of 4+1 (back and forth)

Row A: Knit (right side)

Row B: P1, *make a star, P1* to end.

Row C: Knit

Row D: P3, make a star, *P1, make a star* to three stitches from end, P3.

How to make a star:

The star itself is worked on the wrong side of the fabric.

First, purl three stitches together, but leave them on the left-hand needle. (In this picture, it looks like I have more than one loop in the right-hand needle, but that's just because the yarn split a little. It's really one loop.)



Next, wrap your yarn around the right-hand needle, in the manner of a yarnover. You can see how I did it here. You bring the yarn back to the front, because you'll need it there.



Now, purl the same three stitches together again,



and this time, drop them from the left-hand needle.
This is how it looks when you're finished with a stitch:



Body:



CO 85 stitches with long-tail cast-on.

Work Star Stitch over 7 rows, ending with a right-side row.

Row 8: P, K, P, K across to last three stitches, P, K, P.

Row 9: K, P, K, P, K16, K2TOG, K41, SSK, K16, P, K, P, K.

Body pattern:

A) P, K, P, K, P to last 4 stitches, K, P, K, P. (wrong-side row)

B) K, P, K, P, K to last 4 stitches, P, K, P, K. (right-side row)

Work body pattern until it measures ~4" from cast-on edge — about 15 rows of stockinette portion — ending with row B (right-side row).

Divide for back and sleeves:

P21, pm;

P41, pm

BO 1 purlwise

P to 4 from end, K, P, K, P

Right front, shaping underarms:

K,P, K, P, K16 to m, turn

P to 4 from end, K, P, K, P

K, P, K, P, K to m, turn

BO 1 purlwise, P to 4 from end, K, P, K, P

K, P, K, P, K to m, turn
P to 4 from end, K, P, K, P
K, P, K, P, K to m, turn
BO 1 purlwise, P to 4 from end, K, P, K, P
18 stitches for right front on needles

Shape neckline by executing these two rows five times (10 rows total):

K, P, K, P, SSK, SSK, K to m, turn
P to 4 from end, K, P, K, P
8 stitches left on needles for right front

Work these two rows until total is ~8" from cast on (may be only once or twice):

K, P, K, P, K4, turn
P4, K, P, K, P
BO knitwise.

Back:

With right (knit) side facing, attach yarn to rightmost stitch.

BO 1 knitwise, K to marker

BO 1 purlwise, P to marker. 39 stitches in back section on needle (ignore left side for now).

Stockinette for ~11 rows even or until back measures ~6.5" from CO edge. End with RS.

Setup for Star Stitch inset: P15, K9, P15

Continue in stockinette on edges, working 7 rows of Star Stitch pattern in center 9 stitches, starting with row A and ending with the second execution of row C.

P15, K9, P15

BO 39 stitches.

Left front:

With right (knit) side facing, attach yarn to rightmost remaining stitch.

BO 1 knitwise, K to 4 from end, P, K, P, K.

P, K, P, K, P to m.

K to 4 from m, P, K, P, K.

P, K, P, K, P to m.

BO 1 knitwise, K to 4 from end, P, K, P, K.

P, K, P, K, P to m.

K to 4 from m, P, K, P, K.

P, K, P, K, P to m.

Begin front edge shaping:

BO 1 knitwise, K to 8 from end, K2tog, K2tog, P, K, P, K. 18 stitches remain.

Work next two rows four times (8 rows total):

P, K, P, K, P to end.

BO 1 knitwise, K to 8 from end, K2tog, K2tog, P, K, P, K. 8 stitches remain.

P, K, P, K, P to end.

K to 4 before end, P, K, P, K

P, K, P, K, P to end.

BO all stitches.

Sleeves (make two):



CO 29 stitches using long-tail CO.

Work Star Stitch over 7 rows, ending with a right-side row.

Row 8 (wrong side): K across

Starting with row 9, work stockinette, increasing 1 stitch at each edge (work increases two stitches in) every 4 rows until you complete 31 rows. That is:

Row 9: K2, M1, K to last two stitches, M1, K2

Row 10: P across

Row 11: K across

Row 12: P across

You'll repeat this set of 4 rows until you finish row 31 (you'll end on a RS row like row 11). You should have 41 stitches on the needles.

Row 32: P 16, K9, P16

Now you are going to work a panel of Star Stitch in the center of the row. You'll have 16 stockinette stitches on either side.

Row 33: K across (row A of Star Stitch)

Row 34: P16, work row B of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, P16

Row 35: K across (row C of Star Stitch)

Begin binding off for shoulder shaping:

Row 36: BO 1 purlwise (1 st on needles), P 14, work row D of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, P16

Row 37: BO 1 knitwise, K across (row A of Star Stitch)

Row 38: BO 1 purlwise (1 st on needles), P13, work row B of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, P15

Row 39: BO 1 knitwise, K across (row C of Star Stitch). 37 stitches on needle.

Bind off sides of saddle shoulder:

Row 40: BO 13 purlwise (last stitch of the 14 is on needle), work row D of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, P14

Row 41: BO 13 knitwise, K across (row A of Star Stitch). 11 stitches on needle.

Row 42: P1, work row B of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, P1

Row 43: Knit across (= K1, work row C of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, K1)

Row 44: P1, work row D of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, P1

Row 45: Knit across (= K1, work row A of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, K1)

Row 46: P1, work row B of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, P1

Row 47: Knit across (= K1, work row C of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, K1)

Row 48: P1, work row D of Star Stitch over 9 stitches, P1

BO knitwise

Finishing:

Sew right top front to appropriate side of saddle shoulder tab on one sleeve (make sure sleeve is going out from sweater and not towards neck!). Sew left top front to corresponding side of saddle shoulder tab on the other sleeve.

Starting at the left edge of the back and sewing across about 8 stitches, sew other side of left arm saddle shoulder tab to back. Repeat with right edge and right arm.

Sew rest of sleeves into sleeve holes. Mattress-stitch underarm sleeve.

Locate the point where the front right edge starts to decrease for neck opening. Pick up three stitches (it looks nicest to pick up loops from just *underneath* the final knit stitch, but whatever feels best to you) along this edge and work 3-stitch I-cord for about 11-12".

Locate the corresponding point on the left front edge and repeat.

Steam block. Tie I-cords in a bow and present to your little star.

© 2007 Valerie E. Polichar. Permission to reproduce for personal use and for free distribution only.