

Contiguous (Christmas) Boléro

A very simple and chic bolero, knit from the top down with NO seam!

If this little bolero is named "Christmas Boléro", it is because I made the first prototype for this occasion. But it can be worn every day and on every dressed-up occasion, and be worked with various yarns, solid, hand dyed semi-solid, shining, variegated, wool, cotton, mohair... for its simplicity.

Enjoy choosing a perfect yarn and make your own version for your little one!



Size: 4-5 years

Yarn: 390m of light DK weight yarn*

Shown in Lang Yarns **Merino 120** (100% merino, 120m/50g per skein), color 34.0223

**Choosing a different weight yarn, you can get different sizes. See Finished Measurements.*

Notions: 4 split markers, tapestry needle, 1 button

Gauge: 22 st x 31 rows in 10cm²/4" with main needle, *blocked*

Please take the time to check your gauge blocking your swatch!

Needles: 3.75 mm/US5 circular needle or size to obtain correct gauge (main needle for body and sleeves), 3.25mm/US3 circular needle (smaller needle, for garter border)

NOTES

This bolero is worked seamlessly from the top-down, using the amazing Contiguous Sleeve Method developed by Susie Myers (<http://www.ravelry.com/people/SusieM>). The only "modification" is its shoulder seam: the increase techniques used in this pattern – KRL, KLL and their purling version – create a "faux" seam effect without seam stitch. With almost all increases worked with these techniques, this pattern is so to speak dedicated to them. It remains for me to add they are very usual in Japan and give a lovely result (Techknitter considers them as "very nearly invisible increases"). Get used to them at this occasion ;)

Finished measurements

Part/Gauge	22sts x 31rows	24sts x 34rows*	20sts x 26rows*
Chest width	30.5cm/12"	28.5cm/10.5"	35cm/15"
Total length	29cm/11.5"	24cm/9.5"	32cm/12.5"
Shoulder width	25cm/10"	23cm/9"	28cm/11.4"
Armhole height	15cm/6"	13.5cm/5.5"	17cm/6.7"
Collar width	12cm/4.7"	11cm/4.5"	14cm/5.5"
Cuff width	9.5cm/3.75"	9cm/3.5"	10.5cm/4.1"
Sleeve length	36cm/14.2"	31.5cm/12.5"	40cm/15.75"
(from underarm)	24cm/9.5"	21cm/8.25"	26.5cm/10.5"

*Values with 24 sts and 20 sts gauge provided by my testknitters (excepted Sleeve length I improved according to their feedback) are for information.

Abbreviations

/(slash): slip marker

bef: before

CO: Cast on

inc: increase

k: knit

k2tog: knit 2 sts together

KLL/KRL: knit left/right loop (see below)

M: marker

M1L/M1R: make 1 left/right

p: purl

PM: place marker

PLL/PRL: purl left/right loop (see below)

RS: right side

SR: short row(s)

ssk: slip slip knit

ssp: slip slip purl

st (s): stitch(es)

St st: stockinette stitch

W&T: wrap and turn (see below)

WS: wrong side

Special Techniques

Knit Left Loop (KLL): knit a stitch, lift with LH needle the stitch 2 rows below the stitch you've just knitted and knit it (left-slanted increase)

Knit Right Loop (KRL): knit into the stitch below the first stitch on LH needle, and knit this first stitch too (right-slanted increase)

Purl Left Loop (PLL): purl a stitch, lift with LH needle the purl bump 2 rows below the stitch you've just purled and purl it (left-slanted increase)

Purl Right Loop (PRL): purl into the purl bump below the first stitch on your LH needle and purl the first stitch too (right-slanted increase)

Wrap and Turn (W&T):

On RS: Knit to the stitch to wrap. Bring working yarn to front of work and slip knitwise the st to wrap to right hand needle. Bring working yarn again to back and replace the slipped st on your left hand needle and turn.

To pick up wraps, insert your right hand needle in the wrap from the bottom and knit it with the wrapped stitch as k2tog.

On WS: Purl to the stitch to wrap. Bring working yarn to back and slip purlwise the stitch to wrap to the right hand needle. Bring working yarn again to front and replace the slipped stitch on your left hand needle. Turn

To pick up wraps, insert your right hand needle in the wrap from back and bottom to place the wrap on your left hand needle. Purl it with the wrapped stitch as purl 2 sts together.

INSTRUCTIONS

shoulders and back neck

With Long-tail CO method, CO 38 sts.

Setup Row(WS) : p2, PM, p34, PM, p2 (34 for back, 2 for each front)

In this section, you will shape shoulders increasing every row, and back neck with short rows at the same time.

Back neck short rows

SR 1(RS) : k1, KRL / KLL, k1, W&T.

SR 2(WS) : p2, PRL / PLL, p2.

SR 3(RS) : k3, KRL / KLL, k6 picking up wrap, W&T

SR 4(WS) : p7, PRL / PLL, p4

Row 5(RS) : k5, KRL / KLL, k to last 1 st picking up wrap, KRL / KLL, k1

SR 1'(WS) : p2, PRL / PLL, p1, W&T

SR 2'(RS) : k2, KRL / KLL, k3

SR 3'(WS) : p4, PRL / PLL, p6 picking up wrap, W&T

SR 4'(RS) : k7, KRL / KLL, k5

Row 6(WS) : p6, PRL / PLL, p to last 1 st picking up wrap, PRL / PLL, p to end

You have 8 front sts and 46 back sts.



Row 7(RS) : (k to 1 st bef M, KRL/ KLL) twice, k to end

Row 8(WS) : (p to 1 st bef M, PRL/ PLL) twice, p to end

Repeat these 2 rows once more.

Row 11(RS=1st front inc) : k1, KRL, k to 1 st bef M, KRL / KLL, k to 1 st bef M, KRL / KLL, k to last 2 sts, KLL, k1

Row 12-14 : as Row 7 & 8

You have 17 front sts and 62 back sts.

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fronts and sleeves increases

Before starting this section, remove and replace your shoulder markers so that *there are 14 sts for each front, 6 sts for each sleeve, and 56 for back.*

You'll increase simultaneously for fronts and sleeves. For Fronts, you increase each time 1 st and 3 x every 4 rows (including 1st inc done in the previous section), 4 x every 3 rows, 2 x every 2 rows, 4 x every 3 rows, and 4 rows later, and for sleeves, 1 st at both end each time and 9 x every row (sleeve cap), 4 x every 2 rows, 4 x every 4 rows and 3 x every 2 rows, and at last, you'll increase for underarm shaping too ;).



So working in st st, increase for each part described as follows on the row with st counts (that you'll obtain with increase) on the table. For back, no increase until Row 45 where you begin underarm shaping (see below the table).

Fronts

On Right Side: (Left) k1, KRL, k to M / ... / (Right) k to last 2 sts, KLL, k1

On Wrong Side: (Right) p1, PRL, p to M / ... / (Left) p to last 2 sts, PLL, p1

Sleeves (SL on the table)

On Right Side: KLL, k to 1 st bef M, KRL

On Wrong Side (only on 8 first rows): PLL, p to 1 st bef M, PRL

Row/Sleeve	Fronts	Sleeves	Row	Fronts	Sleeves	Back
15/SL1 RS	15	8	35/SL21 RS	22	34	
16/SL2 WS		10	36/SL22 WS			
17/SL3 RS		12	37/SL23 RS			
18/SL4 WS		14	38/SL24 WS	23		
19/SL5 RS	16	16	39/SL25 RS		36	
20/SL6 WS		18	40/SL26 WS			
21/SL7 RS		20	41/SL27 RS	24		
22/SL8 WS	17	22	42/SL28 WS			
23/SL9 RS		24	43/SL29 RS		38	
24/SL10 WS			44/SL30 WS	25		
25/SL11 RS	18	26	45/SL31 RS	--/UA 26		UA 58
26/SL12 WS			46/SL32 WS			
27/SL13 RS		28	47/SL33 RS	27	40	
28/SL14 WS	19		48/SL34 WS			
29/SL15 RS		30	49/SL35 RS	---/UA 28	42	UA 60
30/SL16 WS			50/SL36 WS			
31/SL17 RS	20	32	51/SL37 RS	29	44	
32/SL18 WS			52/SL38 WS	---/UA 30		UA 62
33/SL19 RS	21		53/SL39 RS	---/UA 31	46	UA 64
34/SL20 WS			54/SL40 WS	CO 33	(CO 50)	CO 68

underarm shaping (UA on the table)

Row 45 (SL31/RS): k to 1 st bef M, KLL / k to M / KRL, k to 1 st bef M, KLL / k to M / KRL, k to end

Row 47 & 51 (SL33/RS): k1, KRL, k to M / KLL, k to 1 st bef M, KRL / k to M / KLL, k to 1 st bef M, KRL / k to last 2sts, KLL, k1

Row 49 (SL35/RS): k to 1 st bef M, KLL / KLL, k to 1 st bef M, KRL / KRL, k to 1 st bef M, KLL / KLL, k to 1 st bef M, KRL / KRL, k to end

Row 52 (SL38/WS): p to 1 st bef M, PLL / p to M / PRL, p to 1 st bef M, PLL / p to M / PRL, p to end

Row 53 (SL39/RS): k to 2 sts bef M, M1L, k2 / KLL, k to 1 st bef M, KRL / k2, M1R, k to 2 sts bef M, M1L, k2 / KLL, k to 1 st bef M, KRL / k2, M1R, k to end

You have 31 front sts, 46 sleeve sts and 64 back sts.

separate body and sleeves

Row 54 (WS): (p to M, remove sleeve M, place sleeve sts on scrap yarn, remove another sleeve M, CO 2 sts with backward loop, PM, CO 2 other sts) twice, p to end
You have 33 sts for each front, 68 sts for back.

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lower body

Row 55 & 56: work even in st st.

Row 57 (RS/last front inc): k1, KRL, k to M / k to M / k to last 2 sts, KLL, k1 [34 front sts]

Rows 58–64: work even in st st

Begin decreasing as follows:

Row 65: k1, k2tog, k to end

Row 66: p1, ssp, p to end

Row 67 & 68: work even in st st

Repeat these 4 rows once more, then repeat only Row 65 & 66 (Row 74 and 31 front sts).

BO following number of sts at the beginning of row.

Row 75 & 76: 2 sts

Row 77 & 78: 3 sts

26 front sts remain. Do NOT break yarn!

border

Switch to smaller needle.

BO the first st of the next row, then removing markers, k to last 2 sts, k2tog.

Then, pick up and knit along the front opening as follows:

Pick up and knit all sts of the curved bottom edge, 5 sts on 7 rows from the upper right front opening, all CO edge sts, 5 sts on 7 rows from the upper left front opening, and all sts of the left curved bottom edge until you reach the bottom edge. Place a marker and join to work in the round.

Beginning with p rnd, work in garter st for 5 rnds*. Make a buttonhole with yo & k2tog on the 4th rnd, on the rounded part of the right front edge.

* For 6 years size, we recommend working only 3 rnds in garter st (buttonhole on 2nd rnd).

BO knitwise all stitches, loosely on the rounded edge.

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sleeves

Note: With all sts knitted, sleeves fabric can be tighter than body worked back and forth. So try to keep a looser tension if you are loose-purling knitter. Observe your fabric after a few rounds. If it's uneven, you can switch to a larger needle.

With main needle, pick up 46 left/right sleeve stitches held on scrap yarn.

Attach the yarn and pick up 2 sts from underarm edge, knit sleeve sts, pick up and knit 2 sts from underarm edge, pm, and join to work in the round. You have 50 sts.

Tips: To avoid underarm holes, I knitted the first sleeve st picking just beside the 2nd picked up and knitted st (between sts), the result looks like k2tog, and knitted the last sleeve st picking beside the 2 sts to pick up and knit (as ssk). In this way, you can avoid grafting!

Begin to work in st st in rnd (k all sts). On 13^h rnd, decrease as follows: k to 3 sts before end, ssk, k1, slip marker, k1, k2tog.

Work this decreasing every 13* rnd 3 more times (42 sts remain). Then continue even in st st for 13 rnds.

**As I ask to knit sleeve sts more loosely than body, the row gauge of sleeves was different from body row gauge in all my testknitters. That's why the number of rnds is smaller than one that would be necessary with body gauge. If you find you'll end up with too short sleeves, begin to decrease with longer interval!*

Switch to smaller needle. Beginning with p rnd, work in garter st for 5 rnds (or the same number of rnds as body border if you modified it).

BO knitwise all sts.

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finishing

Weave in ends. Sew a button on the left front opening.

Block lightly your bolero.

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