

# Keep Me Warm Sweater

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(Both sweaters shown were knit by Jackie Lambert.)

The Keep Me Warm Sweater is written for finished chest measurements 24", 27", 30", 33", 35", and 40".

This is a simple sweater that is knit in the round up to the underarms and then back and forth on straight or circular needles to the shoulders, where the shoulders are finished with a 3-needle bind-off. This is a variation of the Keep Me Warm Vest pattern, but with the ability to add sleeves to the body of the garment to make it a nice warm sweater.

The sweater lends itself to stash busting with endless possibilities for stripes. It can also be used with cables or other textured stitches. The sleeves can be done in a different yarn to give the effect of a vest worn over another shirt or sweater.

**VARIATIONS:** While the sweater is knit on size US 10½ needles, the ribbing can be knit on a needle that's one or two sizes smaller if you wish to have a more snug fit at the bottom. Otherwise, you can use size 10½ needles throughout, switching from ribbing to stockinette stitch when you have reached the length of ribbing you want.

Both bulky yarn and worsted weight yarn held double work up well in this pattern. Most important, this will keep a child of any age warm!

**Yarn:** Bulky or double-stranded worsted weight wool.

**Yarn required:** size 24" (27", 30", 33", 35", 40"): 12 oz. (15, 18, 20, 24, 27). Amounts may vary with needle size and type of yarn used.

**Needles:** 24" circular needle in size US 10½ (or as needed to get gauge and a warm, dense fabric); straight needles are optional for the top of the sweater.

**Gauge:** 3.5 stitches = 1" in stockinette stitch.

## Keep Me Warm Sweater Instructions

**Note: Please circle the proper numbers for the size you have chosen to knit. Sizes are 24", 27", 30", 33", 35", 40" finished chest measurement.**

Cast **88 (100, 108, 116, 124, 140)** stitches onto a circular needle for the **body**, and join so that you have a circle, making certain not to twist your stitches.

Place a marker at this point so that you will know when you have completed a round.

Knit in your chosen ribbing for **1½ to 3** inches (you may choose to use a smaller needle for the ribbing).

Switch to the larger needle (if you have chosen a smaller size for ribbing) and continue in stockinette stitch for **10 (11½, 12½, 13, 14, 16)** inches from the CO edge.

Work the **underarm/armhole** as follows:

Round 1:     **24"** Knit **32** stitches, purl **12** stitches, knit **32** stitches, purl **12** stitches.

**27"** Knit **38** stitches, purl **12** stitches, knit **38** stitches, purl **12** stitches.

**30"** Knit **42** stitches, purl **12** stitches, knit **42** stitches, purl **12** stitches.

**33"** Knit **46** stitches, purl **12** stitches, knit **46** stitches, purl **12** stitches.

**35"** Knit **50** stitches, purl **12** stitches, knit **50** stitches, purl **12** stitches.

**40"** Knit **56** stitches, purl **14** stitches, knit **56** stitches, purl **14** stitches.

Round 2: Knit all stitches.

Round 3: Work as round 1.

Round 4: Knit number of stitches as before, knit the purl stitches and place center **6 (6, 6, 6, 6, 8)** of these stitches on a holder, knit number of stitches as before, knit the purl stitches and place center **6 (6, 6, 6, 6, 8)** of these stitches on a holder, knit 3 stitches.

You will now have a back and a front separated by the underarm stitches on holders.

Place the front stitches on a separate needle or leave them on the circular needle while you knit the back on another needle (either straight or circular, whichever you prefer).

At this point you will want to even up the garter stitches at the two edges of the sweater so that they are both being knit on each row. One side will not match and will look like it needs to be purled instead. Go ahead and knit it anyway in order to keep the border symmetrical. Just this once, at this place, you will have two rows the same on one side of the sweater body. This will not show much, being at the

underarm, and will ensure that when you reach the garter stitch border at the top of the back, you will be able to knit all the way across on every row. Make sure to check this again when you knit the top of the front of the sweater.

Work the **back** for **5½"** (**6½"**, **7"**, **7½"**, **8"**, **8½"**), making sure to keep the 3 stitches on each side in garter stitch.

Work all stitches in garter stitch for 1".

Next row: **24"** Knit **8** stitches in garter st, bind off **24** stitches, knit remaining **8** stitches in garter st.

**27"** Knit **10** stitches in garter st, bind off **24** stitches, knit remaining **10** stitches in garter st.

**30"** Knit **12** stitches in garter st, bind off **24** stitches, knit remaining **12** stitches in garter st.

**33"** Knit **14** stitches in garter st, bind off **24** stitches, knit remaining **14** stitches in garter st.

**35"** Knit **16** stitches in garter st, bind off **24** stitches, knit remaining **16** stitches in garter st.

**40"** Knit **18** stitches in garter st, bind off **28** stitches, knit remaining **18** stitches in garter st.

Place remaining shoulder stitches on holders or extra needles while you knit the front.

Join yarn for the **front** and knit until the front is 2 or 3 inches shorter than the back, again making sure to keep the 3 stitches on each side in garter stitch.

Knit for 1" in garter stitch. (NOTE: The front is shorter than the back at this point.)

Next row: **24"** Knit **8** stitches in garter st, bind off **24** stitches, knit remaining **8** stitches in garter st.

**27"** Knit **10** stitches in garter st, bind off **24** stitches, knit remaining **10** stitches in garter st.

**30"** Knit **12** stitches in garter st, bind off **24** stitches, knit remaining **12** stitches in garter st.

**33"** Knit **14** stitches in garter st, bind off **24** stitches, knit remaining **14** stitches in garter st.

**35"** Knit **16** stitches in garter st, bind off **24** stitches, knit remaining **16** stitches in garter st.

**40"** Knit **18** stitches in garter st, bind off **28** stitches, knit remaining **18** stitches in garter st.

Knit the stitches in garter stitch for the shoulder **strap** until the first shoulder strap matches the length of the back. Place these stitches on a holder, cut the yarn, leaving enough to do a 3-needle bind-off.

Join yarn at the beginning of the second shoulder strap and knit as for the first shoulder strap.

Do a 3-needle bind-off to join the shoulders.

Work the **sleeves** as follows:

Attach the yarn to the right of the stitch holder and knit the **6 (6, 6, 6, 6, 8)** stitches from the holder, placing a stitch marker after the first **3 (3, 3, 3, 3, 4)** stitches to mark the center of the underarm. Pick up one stitch from each garter ridge along the sides, trying to keep the same number of stitches on front and back.

Purl one row.

Knit one row.

Purl one row.

Knit around the sleeve all the way to the cuff without decreases to the appropriate length for the size sweater you are knitting, approximately **12" (13½", 15", 16½", 17½", 20")**.

Decrease evenly above the cuff for a fuller sleeve, so that you have approximately **28 (28, 32, 32, 32, 32)** stitches on your needle for the cuff, depending on yarn and knitter's preference. (You may choose to work the decreases over two rows to keep the sleeve from bunching up too much.)

Knit 2 to 3 inches of ribbing, matching the ribbing used for the hem of the sweater body, for the cuff.

Bind off loosely in rib pattern.

Weave in the ends and you are finished!

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**KEY**

**CO** = cast on    **K** = knit    **P** = purl    **stst** = stockinette stitch    **st** = stitch    **sts** = stitches    **BO** = bind off

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## Tips for Using Cables in Keep Me Warm Sweaters

If you want to liven up the Keep Me Warm Sweater by adding a cable, here are some suggestions for doing so:

1. On the first row above the ribbing, place a marker as you come to the halfway point to mark the side “seam.” Stop. You have just knit the first row of the back half of the sweater.
2. Decide on the cable you wish to knit and add 4 stitches to the number of stitches that the cable uses. The 4 extra stitches are for 2 purl stitches on either side of the cable to set the cable off from the stockinette. Choose a cable that has twists on even numbered rows. Determine the number of stitches you will be using for your cable, including the 4 stitches used to frame the cable.
3. Refer to the section of the pattern for working the underarm/armhole and circle the number of knit stitches: i.e., for the size 27" sweater, this number is 38. Now subtract the number of stitches you are using for your cable, including the 4 purl stitches used to frame the cable. For the size 27" sweater, this number would be 38 minus 12, if you are doing a cable that is 8 stitches wide. Now divide the result in half, which in this example results in 13 stitches.  $38 - 12 = 26$  divided by  $2 = 13$ . In this example you will have 13 stitches on either side of the cable as well as 3 garter stitch stitches on each side when you work the top front of the sweater.
4. Knit the stitches (13 in this example), work the cable with 2 purl stitches on each side, knit around to the end of the round. This will properly position your cable on the sweater so that when you get to the instructions for the underarm and division of the sweater into front and back, the cable will be where it should be. It will be helpful to place a marker before and after the cable, so that you will recognize it when you are knitting around and around. Work until you are at the length given for the size you are making: “continue in stockinette stitch for **10 (11½, 12½, 13, 14, 16)** inches from the CO edge.”
5. When you come to the place where you are dividing the front and back, remember to make sure that after the division, your twists will remain on the knit side of your sweater (thus choosing twists on even numbered rows.) You can do the twists from the purl side, but believe me, it isn't easy or fun!
6. Cables with lots of twists require more blocking, especially with bulky yarn, so you might want to keep that in mind, especially on the smaller sizes.