



DK179

Cascade Pacific
Meet me in the Middle Sweater



Designed by Betty Balcomb

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I started this project intending to make a basic top-down pullover for little girls. But when I swatched the pattern stitch for the skirt, I realized that it could only be worked from the bottom up. Then the light bulb went on and I realized I could work the top half of the sweater the usual top-down way, set it aside, work the skirt section bottom up and then merge the 2. There is a ridge on the wrong side but from the right side it is virtually invisible. A great little no-sewing-necessary sweater for little girls with a lovely design flowing in the proper direction. The star pattern has appeared in many stitchionaries through the years, but the technique in this pattern is easier than the usual versions.

Materials: 3(4,4) skeins of Cascade Pacific yarn in 3 shades of the same colors, 1 light, 1 (2,2) medium and 1 dark. Pictured sweater is colors 19, 26 and 38. Size 6 and 7 needles, 16 inch circular and DPNs for both and 2 sets of 24 inch circular for 7s only. A couple extra 16 or 24 inch circular needles in size 7 or smaller to serve as sleeve holders. **OR SIZE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN GAUGE.** Markers, 8 in one color and 1 in a contrasting color.

Gauges: 9 sts to 2 inches in stockinette stitch. 11 sts to 2 inches in pattern.

Size: The directions are for size 2(4, 6). Where only one number is given it applies to all sizes. Chest measurements are about 25(27, 30) inches.

Glossary:

MS -- (Make Star): K3tog but do NOT remove from needle, YO and K3tog again, slide all 3 sts off needle. Stitch count remains constant.

PM: Place marker.

RM: Remove marker.

TBL: Through the back loop to twist the st.

Directions:

Top: W/smaller circular needles and dark yarn, CO 72(72, 78) sts. PM (the odd-colored one to mark beginning of rows) and join in the round being careful not to twist sts. **Note:** join falls in the middle of the back. On first row decrease 8 sts evenly spaced around row to provide extra stretch in the edge so it will go over the head comfortably. Then work 7 more rows of garter st. Since this is worked in the round that means knit a row, purl a row.

Cut dark, change to larger needles and attach medium yarn. Set-up row: K10(10, 11), PM, K2, PM, K8(8,9), PM, K2, PM, K20(20, 22), PM, K2, PM, K8(8, 9), PM, K2, PM, K10(10,11).

Row 1: *K to next marker, YO, SM, K2, SM, YO, rep from * 3 more times, K to end of row.

Row 2: *K to next marker, K the YO TBL, SM, K2, SM, K the YO TBL, rep from * 3 more times, K to end of row.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until there are 54(58, 64) sts in front section. Change to 24 inch needle when there are enough sts to go around. The length of the sweater from the cast-on edge should be 5-1/2 to 6 (6-6-1/2, 6-6-1/2) inches. If it is less than that, work a couple of rows without increases.

Establish body and sleeves: K to first marker, RM and K1, place 2nd raglan st and the sleeve sts plus 1 of next raglan sts on spare needle. **DO NOT** use a straight holder, the sleeve sts need to wrap around to allow joining of back and front. Continue knitting 1 raglan st and front sts. and 1 more raglan st. Place 2nd sleeve with a raglan st from each side on another spare needle and knit final raglan st and other half of back sts onto working needle. There will be 112(120, 132) sts on working needle for body of sweater.

Continue on body until top measures (7(8, 9) inches from cast-on edge. Cut medium yarn and join dark, K 1 row, P1 row (1 garter ridge), set aside and make bottom.

Bottom. W/smaller needles and dark yarn, CO 112(120, 132) sts. Work 4 garter ridges. Do **NOT** cut dark, but change to larger 24 inch needles and attach light. Set-up row, with light yarn K across inc'g 20(20, 24) sts evenly spaced around row. Begin Pattern on row 2, set-up row serves as row 1 for this repeat.

Pattern: Multiple of 4 sts and 4 rows.

Rows 1 and 2 are worked with light yarn and rows 3 and 4 are worked with dark.

Row 1: K

Row 2: remove marker, K1, replace marker, *K1, MS, rep from * to end of row. Note: on first row 2, there is no need to shift the marker,

Row 3: K

Row 4: remove marker, slip 1 st. from right to left needle, replace marker, *MS, K1, rep from * to end of row.

Repeat pattern until bottom of sweater measures between 5-1/2 and 6(6-1/2 and 7, 7-1/2 and 8) inches ending on a row 3. Cut light yarn. Next row. P dec'g 20(20, 24) sts evenly spaced around row. 4(4, 6) more rows of garter st. 3(3, 4) garter ridges.

Merge top and bottom with a 3-needle bind off. Turn bottom inside out. Slip bottom over top so that the needles are together parallel to each other with the right sides of the 2 sections facing each other. Orient pieces so they are lined up with the starting sts in the middle of the backs together. Knit the 2 sections together with a 3-needle bind off.

Sleeves: Pick up the sts from one of the sleeve holders. Starting at underarm, and using size 7 DPNS, attach medium yarn (leave about a 10 inch tail) and knit every row until sleeve measures 7(9, 12) inches from join. Work 1 more row with medium dec'g sts down to 36(36, 40) with decs evenly spaced around row. Cut medium yarn, attach dark and change to size smaller DPNs. Work 5 (5, 6) garter ridges. **Note:** the sleeve lengths provided are suggestions, tailor the sleeves to the length of your child's arms. You may even be able to get 2 years out of this sweater by adding to the cuffs over time since little girls at this age often get taller without getting much bigger around.

Finishing. Weave in ends. Sew up small holes at underarms as you weave in the end that is right there.