

Waiting for Spring

a leafy sweater pattern
by susan dempster



This sweater is constructed in the round from the bottom up with set-in sleeves knit separately in the round. A leaf motif is offset on the front of the sweater only. The sizes are designed to be slightly longer overall than most traditional sweaters, but not as long as tunic length. Worked mostly in stockinette stitch, this is a straight-forward knit that would be easy to customize with your own design motif, or to fit your individual measurements. Sweater pictured is worn with about an inch of negative ease.

Sizes:

XS, S, M, L

Finished Sizes:

30, 34, 38, 42

Yarn:

5 (6,6,6) skeins Lion Brand Wool-Ease Heathers & Solids.

Approximately 858 (987,1068,1175) yards.

Needles:

Set of both US Size 7 and size 8 double-pointed needles (5 needles in each set)

US Size 8 circular needles

Gauge:

4 sts and 6 rows = 1" in stockinette stitch on US size 8 needles.

Optional Notions:

4 stitch markers (preferably 2 of one color and 2 of a different color or kind)

US Size 8 straight needles (to use for working sleeve caps and shoulder/neck shaping)

Row counter (these make keeping track of your place in the pattern much easier!)

Body:

CO 108 (124,136,152) sts on size US 7 circular needle, pm to mark beginning of round (this will later become a side seam marker) and join to knit in the round, being careful not to twist stitches.

Row 1-15: *k2, p2, repeat from * to end. (2.5" from CO edge)

Row 16 (body increase round):

XS and S sizes: * k9, m1 . Repeat from * 12 times, k to end of round = 120, 136 sts.

M size: k4 *k8, m1. Repeat from * 16 times, k4 = 152 sts

L size: k4 *k9, m1. Repeat from * 16 times, k4 = 168 sts

Row 17 (Set-up Row): Change to larger (size 8) circular needles. k38 (46,54,60) pm, work row 1 of leaf chart over the next 13 stitches, pm, k 9 (9,9,11) slip marker, knit remaining 60 (68,76,84) sts.

Working in the round, continue the leaf chart as established for 16 (12,12,12) rows.

Row 33 (29,29,29) Waist Decrease Row: k1, k2tog, (and continuing to work leaf pattern as indicated in chart) work to 3 sts before side marker, ssk, k1, slip marker, k1, k2tog, k to 3 sts before last marker, ssk, k1. = 116 (132,148,164) sts.

Row 49 (41,41,41): Repeat Waist decrease row (above) = 112 (128,144,160) sts.

Size S, M, L only: Row 53: Repeat waist decrease row = x (124,140,156) sts.

Row 65 Bust Increase Row: kf&b, maintaining leaf pattern as you go, work to 2 sts before marker, k1f&b, k1, slip marker, kf&b, knit to 2 sts before marker, kf&b, K1. = 116 (128,144,160) sts.

Row 81 (77,77,77): Repeat Bust Increase row = 120 (132,148,164) sts.

Size XS only: work even until piece measures about 17 inches from cast on edge. Make sure you stop after completing an even # row of the leaf chart.

Size S, M, L only: Row 91: Repeat Bust Increase row = x (136,152,168) sts. Work even until piece measures about 18" from cast on edge. Make sure you stop after completing an even # row of the leaf chart.



Divide for front and back:

Row 1: (RS) Work across front on an odd # row of leaf pattern to side marker, and remove the side marker. This will be the new beginning of the row for working the back side. BO 3 (4,5,6) sts and knit the remaining sts until you get to the next side marker. Remove this marker and place the 60 (68,76,84) front sts on a holder or scrap piece of yarn. You will be knitting the back and front flat for the rest of the body of the sweater.

Row 2: (Working the back with the WS facing) BO 3 (4,5,6) sts purl-wise and p to end = 54 (60,66,72) sts.

Shape Armhole:

Row 3: (RS) ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog = 52 (58, 64, 70) sts.

Row 4: (WS) purl across.

Repeat row 3 and 4 an additional 1 (3,3,5) more times, until = 50 (52,58,60) sts left on needles.

Continue to work the remaining back sts until the piece measures 22 (23.5, 24, 24.5) inches from cast on edge, ending after completing WS row.

Shoulder Shaping:

BO 4 (4,5,6) sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows = 42 (44,48,48) sts.

BO 4 (5,6,6) sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows = 34 (34,36,36) sts.

BO 5 (5,6,6) sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows = 24 sts.

BO remaining 24 back neck stitches.

Front:

Odd # leaf chart rows should be worked on the RS from this point on, and even # leaf chart rows will be worked on the WS of the sweater.

Slip sts from holder onto circular needle and attach yarn with WS facing. Work 1 row across WS, on even # row of leaf pattern.

Keeping track of leaf motif, work the same as for the back, and at the same time, when the piece measures 19 (20.5, 21, 21.5) inches from cast on edge, begin neck shaping.

Size XS and S only: You will come to a point in which the shoulder decreases and/or neck decreases will cross over your chart markers into the leaf pattern stitches. To avoid a deformed leaf at your shoulder: complete 6 leaves for the extra-small size, and 7 leaves for the small size, then stop following the chart. At that point, you will knit all the leaf chart sts on the WS and purl all the leaf chart sts on the RS for the remainder of the sweater.

Neck Shaping:

RS row: Tie a piece of scrap yarn in the center of the sts on your needle so that there is an even # of sts on each side. Work to 6 sts before the marker, BO these 6 sts before the marker, remove marker, BO 6 sts after the marker. k to end of row.

(Each side of the neck should have the same # of sts.)

WS row: Purl across first group of sts. Attach another ball of yarn to the next group of sts on the needle and purl across. From here on, you will be working both sides of the neck at the same time, using 2 separate balls of yarn.

RS row Decrease Row: Knit to 2 sts before neck opening, k2tog. After neck opening, with other ball of yarn, ssk, work to end of row.

WS row: purl all.

Repeat the last 2 rows, 5 more times until you have 13 (14, 17, 18) sts on each side of neck opening.

Work even until piece measure 22 (23.5, 24, 24.5) inches from cast on edge, stopping after completing WS row.

Shoulder Shaping:

RS: BO 4 (4,5,6) sts (from the first set of sts on the needle only), work across all remaining sts. = 9 (10,12,12) sts left in first group, 13 (14,17,18) sts in 2nd set.

WS: BO 4 (4, 5, 6) sts purl-wise (from the first set of sts on the needle only), work across all sts. = 9 (10,12,12) sts left in each set.

RS: BO 4 (5,6,6) sts (from the first set of sts on the needle only).

WS: BO 4 (5,6,6) sts (from the first set of sts on the needle only) = 5 (5,6,6) sts left in each set.

RS: BO remaining 5 (5,6,6) from each set.

Sleeves: (make 2)

Using size 7 double-point needles, CO 32 (32,36,36) sts and pm.

Join for working in the round.

Rib: *k2, p2, repeat from * to end of row. Work ribbing for 15 rows until cuff measures 2.5 inches.

XS, S, L sizes: set-up row: kf&b, k 15 (15,x,17) kf&b, k to end = 34 (34,36,38) sts.

Size M: knit one more round.

All Sizes:

Row 1: Switch to US size 8 double-point needles and knit one round.

When called for as described in directions below, work increase row as follows:

Increase row: kf&b, k to 2 sts before marker, kf&b, k1 = 2 sts increased

Size XS: Work increase row on rows 11, 21, 31, 41, 53, 65, 77, 89, 101 = 52 sts after row 101. Work even through row 106, or until piece measures 20 inches from cast on edge.

Size S: work increase row on rows 9, 17, 25, 35, 45, 55, 65, 75, 85, 95, 105 = 56 sts after row 105. Work even through row 110, or until piece measures 20.7 inches from cast on edge.

Size M: work increase row on rows 11, 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, 71, 81, 93, 105 = 56 sts after row 105. Work even through row 110, or until piece measures 20.7 inches from cast on edge.

Size L: work increase row on rows 9, 17, 27, 37, 47, 57, 67, 77, 87, 97, 107 = 60 sts after for 107. Work even through row 112, or until piece measures 21 inches from cast on edge.

Sleeve Cap Shaping:

Row 107 (111,111,112): knit to last 3 (4,5,6) sts before marker. BO 3 (4,5,6) sts.

Row 108 (112,112,113): BO 3 (4,5,6) sts, knit to end of row = 46 (48,46,48) sts.

You will now be working the rest of the sleeve flat - continue with the double-pointed needles or change to straight needles if you prefer. You will work decrease rows when indicated in the directions below that correspond to your size.

RS Decrease Row: ssk, K to last 2 sts, k2tog.

WS decrease row: p2 tog, p to last 2 sts, p2tog.

Size XS: work corresponding WS or RS decrease row on rows 111, 113-122, 124, 126, 128 = (28 sts decreased) with 18 remaining sts on needles after row 128.

Size S: work corresponding WS or RS decrease row on rows 115, 117, 119, 121-129, 131, 133, 135 = (30 sts decreased) with 18 sts left on needles after row 135.

Size M: work corresponding WS or RS decrease row on rows 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139 = (26 sts decreased) with 20 remaining sts on needles after row 139.

Size L: work corresponding WS or RS decrease row on rows 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 138, 142 = (24 sts decreased) with 24 remaining sts on needles after row 142.

All Sizes: BO 2 (2,2,3) sts at the beginning of the next 4 rows = 10 (10,12,12) sts remaining after row 132 (139,143,146). BO remaining 10 (10,12,12) sts.

Seam shoulders together and seam in sleeves. Weave in all ends on WS.

Collar: With size 7 double-point needles, pick up 80 (80,88,88) sts around the neck edge. Work in k2, p2 rib for 1 inch, or desired length. Bind off loosely in rib.

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Abbreviations:

K = Knit

P = Purl

CO = Cast on

BO = Bind off

St(s) = Stitch(es)

StSt = Stockinette stitch

K2tog = Knit 2 stitches together

P2tog = Purl 2 stitches together

SSK = Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, slip another stitch knit-wise, then knit both slipped stitches together

RS = Right side of garment

WS = Wrong side of garment

Kf&b = Knit 1 through the front of the loop, then knit the same stitch through the back of the loop.

Leaf Chart:

Leaf motif based on an Eva Petronella design.

-	-	-	-	-	○	↗	○	-	-	-	-	-	17
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
-	-	-	-	○	↗	↘	○	-	-	-	-	-	15
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
-	-	-	○	↗	-	-	↘	○	-	-	-	-	13
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
-	-	○	↗	-	-	-	↘	○	-	-	-	-	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
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-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Chart Key:

□	Knit on Right Side, Purl on Wrong Side
■	Purl on RS, Knit on WS
○	Yarn Over
↗	k2tog
↘	ssk
○	Make 1 increase: Insert left needle from front to back under horizontal strand between stitch just worked and next stitch on left needle. Knit this strand through the back loop.

