

Lost City Knits

Encouraging Intrepid & Eclectic Knitters

Barrey Hiking Vest

Public hiking paths abound in Shetland. The paths, maintained by Access Shetland, traverse both public and private lands, allowing people to enjoy the best Shetland scenery.

One doesn't go hiking in Shetland without a sweater or vest.

The Barrey Hiking Vest began as a way for me to use some Shetland yarn from our friend Donna Smith, who lives on the isle of Burra in Shetland. Donna's yarn line, Langsoond, comes from sheep Donna raises with her father.

The colors I had from Donna were natural, and I wanted those colors to pop, so I used a Norwegian Lice Pattern for the body, and a simple two-color diamond for a motif. Because of the Norwegian influences, I adopted the Old Norse name for the Isle of Burra - Barrey.

It looks great in the natural shades, but there are so many color possibilities with this vest that we asked the LCK test knitters to choose their own from the Lettlopi line we carry.

This garment is worked in the round from the hem up, with steeks for the armholes and front. Stitches for the front band are picked up after steeking the center front. Shaping can be added by increasing or decreasing the number of stitches flanking the side seam.



Materials

Yarn: Lettlopi Aran weight yarn 109 yd / 50 grams
Shade (quantity) – Lettlopi Motif Shade (1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5)
Background Shade (4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 8)
OR

Langsoond DK weight yarn 238 yds / 100 grams
Shade (quantity) – Motif Shade (1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2);
Background Shade (3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6)

Needle Size: US 7 / 4.5 mm (32 inch / 80 cm) circular needle (or size to obtain gauge in pattern) for main body, US 6 / 4 mm (16 inch / 40 cm and 24 inch / 60 cm) circular needles for garter stitch borders.

Gauge: 20 stitches and 24 rounds = 4 inches / 10 cm (in Lice Pattern after blocking)

Finished Sizes Approximately: A 36", B 38", C 40", D 42", E 44" F 46", G 48", H 50", I 52", J 54", and K 56" at bust (*this pattern is intended to be worn with 2-4 inches of positive ease*)

Notions: smooth waste yarn, darning needle, scissors, and stitch markers, 2-3 yards of trim to cover steek stitches if desired.

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

It's always best to read through a pattern completely before beginning any project, underlining important notes and circling the details about your size throughout. Swatching in the round using two colors is recommended to achieve gauge. Be sure to swatch using the same needle you'll be using when knitting. Different needle composition (wood, graphite, metal) can impact your gauge.

Lice Pattern

Round 1 – k1 Background Shade, *k1 Motif Shade, k3 Background Shade,* repeat between ** to last 2 stitches, k1 Motif Shade, k1 Background Shade.

Rounds 2-3 – knit all stitches in Background Shade.

Round 4 – *k3 Background Shade, k1 Motif Shade,* repeat between ** to last 3 stitches, k3 Background Shade.

Rounds 5-6 – knit all stitches in Background Shade.

CAST ON AND GARTER STITCH

Using Background Shade and smaller circular needle, cast on **153 (162, 171, 180, 189, 198, 207, 216, 225, 234, 243)** stitches using the Long Tail method. Do not join. Work 6 rows garter stitch. Cast on 7 stitches using the backward loop method for a center front steek, place markers delineating these 7 steek stitches, which will be worked on subsequent rounds alternating in color (*background shade, motif shade, background shade, motif shade, background shade, motif shade, background shade*). Without twisting, join to work in the round. Changing to larger needle, work 1 round, increasing 18 (21, 20, 23, 22, 25, 24, 27, 26, 29 28) stitches evenly (EXCLUDING across the center front steek) using the knit into the front and back of the stitch method (this method will create purl bumps that will help combat rolling). Marker before the center front steek is the Beginning of Round (BOR) marker. 178 (190, 198, 210, 218, 230, 238, 250, 258, 270, 278) stitches total, including steek stitches.

LICE PATTERN

Continue as follows:

Round 1 – Work 7 steek stitches, sm, work Round 1 of Lice Pattern over 39 (43, 47, 51, 51, 55, 55, 59, 63, 63, 67) right front stitches, pm, work 1 side seam stitch in Background Shade, pm, work Round 1 of Lice Pattern over 91 (95, 95, 99, 107, 111, 119, 123, 123, 135, 135) back stitches, pm, work 1 side seam stitch in Background Shade, pm, work Round 1 of Lice Pattern over remaining 39 (43, 47, 51, 51, 55, 55, 59, 63, 63, 67) left front stitches.

Continue as established, working Rounds 2-5 of Lice Pattern.

Round 6 – Work steek stitches, sm, work in Background Shade to end of round, decreasing 0 (2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0) stitches evenly – 178 (188, 198, 208, 218, 228, 238, 248, 258, 268, 278) stitches total, including steek stitches.

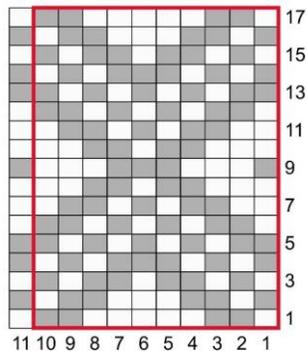
CHART

It may be helpful to set markers before starting the chart. Excluding the marked steek stitches, place a marker every ten stitches (1 stitch will remain before BOR).

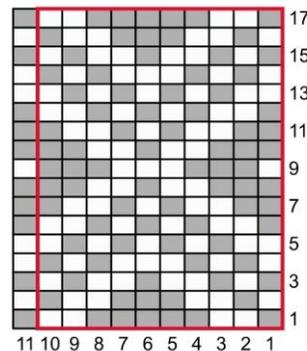
Generally, when doing two-color knitting I carry the Motif Shade in my left hand and bring it up from below, and the Background Shade in my right hand. On Round 9 of the chart, I reversed how I carried the yarn so the Background Shade was in my left hand and was brought up from below, to ensure that the single stitch in the middle of the diamond had plenty of pop.

Next round – Work steek stitches, sm, work Round 1 of chart to end of round.

Continuing as established, work Rounds 2-17 of chart. I've included two charts, one with a light MC, the other with a dark MC, just to make your knitting a bit easier.



□ Motif Shade — Pattern Repeat
■ Background Shade



■ Motif Shade — Pattern Repeat
□ Background Shade



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LICE PATTERN

Work 2 rounds in the Background Shade only, increasing 0 (2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0) stitches evenly on the last round – 178 (190, 198, 210, 218, 230, 238, 250, 258, 270, 278) stitches total, including steek stitches.

Continue as follows:

Round 1 – Work 7 steek stitches, pm, work Round 1 of Lice Pattern over 39 (43, 47, 51, 51, 55, 55, 59, 63, 63, 67) right front stitches, pm, work 1 side seam stitch in Background Shade, pm, work Round 1 of Lice Pattern over 91 (95, 95, 99, 107, 111, 119, 123, 123, 135, 135) back stitches, pm, work 1 side seam stitch in Background Shade, pm, work Round 1 of Lice Pattern over 39 (43, 47, 51, 51, 55, 55, 59, 63, 63, 67) left front stitches.

Maintaining steek stitches as established, continue working Rounds 1-6 of Lice Pattern as before until body measures desired height to underarm. Don't forget to adjust how much space is needed to allow for the garter stitch edging!

BEGIN ARMHOLE SHAPING

Next round: Work 7 front steek stitches, then work in pattern across right front to within 7 (7, 7, 8, 8, 8, 9, 9, 9, 10, 10) stitches of the first side seam marker. Put the next 15 (15, 15, 17, 17, 17, 19, 19, 19, 21, 21) stitches (includes side seam stitch) on waste yarn, pm, cast on 7 stitches for the armhole steek using alternating colors (*Background Shade, Motif Shade, Background Shade, Motif Shade, Background Shade, Motif Shade, Background Shade*), pm. This creates what Elizabeth Zimmermann called a "kangaroo pouch," which is a nice visual term. Work in pattern to within 7 (7, 7, 8, 8, 8, 9, 9, 9, 10, 10) stitches of the next side seam marker. Put the next 15 (15, 15, 17, 17, 17, 19, 19, 19, 21, 21) stitches (includes side seam stitch) on waste yarn, pm, cast on 7 stitches for the armhole steek using alternating colors as previously done, pm creating a second kangaroo pouch. Work in pattern to end of round – 162 (174, 182, 190, 198, 210, 214, 226, 234, 242, 250) total stitches: 32 (36, 40, 43, 43, 47, 46, 50, 54, 53, 57) stitches per front side, 77 (81, 81, 83, 91, 95, 101, 105, 105, 115, 115) back stitches, two 7-stitch steeks for underarms, and one 7-stitch steek for the front.

** This is a good time to check that your pattern stitches are lining up nicely and will present a mirror image from the outer-most edge of the shoulder inward when the shoulders are seamed.

Next round (armhole decrease round): Remaining in pattern, work front steek, work right front to within 2 stitches of the armhole steek, k2tog, sm, work armhole steek stitches, sm, ssk, work in pattern to 2 stitches before next armhole steek, k2tog, sm, work armhole steek stitches, sm, ssk, work in pattern to end of round – 4 stitches decreased.

Repeat armhole decrease round once more – 154 (166, 174, 182, 190, 202, 206, 218, 226, 234, 242) total stitches.

BEGIN CENTER FRONT V-NECK SHAPING

** I realize that decreases can get a bit confusing at armholes and the center front. There is a lot going on. On this vest I used decreases that lean into the center front steek and away from the armhole steeks. The choice of which way your decreases lean is yours, but consistency is the key.

** Read the entire next paragraph before continuing. The remaining armhole shaping and the front v-neck shaping occur at the same time.

Repeat armhole decrease round every round 2 (2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6) more times, then every other round 5 times total and AT THE SAME TIME, begin the front v-neck decreases. Decrease the front v-neck every other round 9 (12, 15, 15, 16, 16, 16, 16, 16, 17) times

Work even in pattern until armhole depth reaches desired height. If your shoulders and neck are wider or narrower, adjust the v-neck to fit. Remember that you will be adding a garter stitch band that will widen the front sides.

SHOULDER SHAPING OPTION

A few rounds before the v-neck has reached desired height is a good time to decide whether you would like to include a bit of shoulder shaping. Shoulder shaping worked in pattern, as detailed by Janine Bajus of Feral Knitting fame, looks a bit difficult at first glance but is really quite easy to wrap your head around while doing it. I recommend her pdf which can be found [HERE](https://www.feralknitter.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Shaped-Shoulders-revised-edition.pdf):

<https://www.feralknitter.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Shaped-Shoulders-revised-edition.pdf>

If you choose not to include shoulder shaping, work your vest to the desired length and bind off all steek stitches on the final round.

Being careful to make sure you have the same number of stitches on each front side, and that your pattern still lines up, put shoulder stitches from the front and back on waste yarn.



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STEEKS AND SHOULDERS

Secure each side of the front steek and armhole steeks with a series of crochet chain stitches, then cut the bars between the legs of the center steek stitch.

After cutting steeks, join the shoulders using the Kitchener Stitch or Three-Needle Bind Off, whichever you prefer.

ARMHOLE BAND

Using Background Shade and smaller circular needle, and starting at the middle of the underarm, recover and knit approximately half of the live stitches. Pick up and knit along the armhole edges (holding the working yarn under the vest and picking up and knitting between the steek edge stitch and the first pattern stitch – if there is a slight gap between the live stitches and the steeked stitches, consider picking up and knitting 1 extra stitch in the corner, twisting it as you work it), then knit the remaining live underarm stitches. Work 4 rows garter stitch back and forth, decreasing 4 stitches evenly on the second and fourth rounds to avoid flaring. Bind off all stitches.

Repeat for the second armhole band.

FRONT OPENING BAND

Using the Background Shade and smaller circular needle, and starting at the bottom of the right front stitches perpendicular to the first round of the hem, pick up and knit along the right front edge (holding the working yarn under the vest and picking up and knitting between the steek edge stitch and the first pattern stitch) until you reach the center back stitches. Recover and knit the live stitches, decreasing twice before reaching the shoulder seam to make the band snug against the neck. Continue picking up and knitting along the left front edge to the bottom of the hem ribbing. Turn work and knit 5, *knit 4, k2tog* along the full length of the front band until approximately 5 stitches remain, knit to end. Turn work and knit the full length again. Turn work and decrease twice per side while knitting the full length of the front band. Turn work and knit the full length again. Turn work and bind off all stitches.

FINISHING

Wash your new vest using a nice gentle wool wash. Dry flat, patting lightly into shape if needed, or use a wooly board for drying. After the garment is dry, weave in ends, then anchor the raw edges of the cut steeks to WS (wrong side) of garment with a herringbone stitch. A wool tapestry floss works well for executing the herringbone stitch and doesn't add a lot of bulk. You can also use a bit of trim to cover the steek stitches.

Now plan a trip to somewhere special to wear your new vest! And post a photo on Ravelry, Facebook, or Instagram, and tag Lost City Knits! We love to see our designs in the wild!

The Barrey Vest was test knit in four times. It's hard to choose a favorite color combo. But here are the combinations we chose.

Lettlopi
MC - 0054
CC - 1414



Lettlopi
MC - 1704
CC - 1404



Lettlopi
MC - 9418
CC - 0054



Langsoond
MC - Hairgrie
CC - Keksie



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