Maisha

99 % homemade :-)

Thoras baby cardigan

A seamless hooded raglan sweater with braided cables and garter stitch edging

I love knitting baby cardigans when my friends are expecting new babies :-) Some years ago I found this wonderful pattern for an easy baby cardigan and have tried different things with it since then, because I just don't like knitting the same thing twice ;-)

This time my super knitter friend was expecting. She has a fabulous shawl in a wonderful green yarn. As I looked through my LYS for yarn for the cardigan, I came across the most wonderful green Lucca Fino merino and just had to buy it. I didn't find out that this was the exact same yarn as her shawl until much later :-)

Looking for inspiration I came across this amazing pattern on Ravelry. I'm just so bad at seaming, so I knew I probably would never get around to making it, but it made me think about using cables down the front on the pattern I usually use. I chose a simpler cable braid because it fit better with raglan sleeves, no. of stitches etc.

Size: 6 months – 10" from shoulder to cast-off edge.

You will need:

- 100 g Lucca Fino, or other DK weight yarn
- Circular needle US size 7 (4,5 mm) + smaller for Turkish cast-on
- Double pointed needles (dpns) US size 7, for i-cord (and sleeves, if desired)
- Cable needle (cn) – optional, you can also learn to do cables without a cable needle
- Stitch markers
- Wool needle
- 3 buttons (or 4, I always get an extra to give with the sweater)

Gauge:

21 sts = 4" in stockinette.

Abbreviations and techniques:

- k – knit; RS – right side of work
- p – purl; WS – wrong side of work
- st - stitch
- Garter stitch – knit all stitches on both sides. *Alternative front edge described on the*

last page.

- [Magic loop method](#) (for sleeves, if not using dpns, and for hood)
- [Turkish cast-on](#) – I highly recommend practising a few times!
- KFB - increase, knit front and back; knit the stitch without moving it to the other needle and then knit it again through the back loop. Video [here](#).

This simple increase may be replaced if desired. An alternate method is described below in green font, and also in the pattern itself. I use this particular increase, but feel free to use your favourite :-)

- *M1L – increase, make 1 left; from the front, lift loop between stitches with left needle, knit into back of loop . Video [here](#).*
- *M1R – increase, make 1 right; from the back, lift loop between stitches with left needle, knit into front of loop. Video [here](#).*
- SSK - decrease, slip slip knit; slip 2 sts knitwise one by one, insert left needle and knit together through back loop. Slants to left. Video [here](#).
- K2tog - decrease, knit 2 together; knit two sts together. Slants to right. Video [here](#).
- C1B – slip one st to cn, place behind work. Knit next 2 sts, then st from cn. Cable video [here](#).
- C2F – slip 2 sts to cn, place in front of work. Knit next st, then sts from cn,
- C2B – slip 2 sts to cn, place behind work. Knit next st first, then sts from cn.
- Pm – place marker
- Sm – slip marker

The cable pattern:

The braid is made up of 9 sts and 8 rows, like this:

- Row 1 (RS): C2F, p1, k2 from cn, C1B, k2 , p1 from cn, C2F, p1, k2 from cn.
- Row 2 (WS): p2, k2, p4, k1.
- Row 3: p1, C2B, k2, k2 from cn, p2, k2.
- Row 4: p2, k2, p4, k1.
- Row 5: C1B, k2, p1from cn. C2F, p1, k2 from cn. C1B, k2, p1 from cn.
- Row 6: k1, p4, k2, p2.

- Row 7: k2, p2, C2F, k2, k2 from cn, p1.

- Row 8: k1, p4, k2, p2.

Repeat these 8 rows.

Pattern:

Hood:

Using Turkish cast-on method, make 36 wraps (will make 72 sts) around the 2 circular needles and start knitting:

- Row 1 (RS): k2, p2, k9, p2, k42, p2, k9, p2, k2. 72 sts. Turn work – you will knit back and forth.

- Row 2 (WS): k4, p9, k2, p42, k2, p9, k4.

- Row 3: k2, p2, *insert braid row 1*, p2, k42, p2, *insert braid row 1*, p2, k2.

Continue in the established manner, until the hood measures app. 7". Now start decreasing:

RS: k2, p2, braid (9 sts), p2, *k4, ssk* repeat from * to * 3 times, k6, *k2tog, k4* repeat from * to * 3 times, p2, braid (9 sts), p2, k2. 66 sts.

Body:

Now begin increasing:

- WS: k4, braid (9 sts), k2, p1, pm, p9, pm, p16, pm, p9, pm, p1, k2, braid (9 sts), k4. 66 sts.

- RS: Use established pattern to 1 st before marker, KFB, sm, KFB; repeat throughout row, 8 increases. 74 sts.

- *Alternate WS: k4, braid (9 sts), k2, p1, pm, p1, pm, p8, pm, p1, pm, p14, pm, p1,*

- *RS: *Use established pattern to marker, M1R, sm, M1L*, repeat from * to * throughout row. 8 increases. 74 sts.*

- WS: Follow established pattern by knitting all knit sts and purling all purl sts. All new sts are purled on WS.

Continue until you have a total of 170 sts and the following number of sts between markers:

29, 35, 42, 35, 29. End with a WS row. Next row:

- (RS): Use established pattern to marker, remove marker, k1. Using wool needle and a 10" length of yarn, thread all sts (for sleeve) onto yarn length to 2nd marker. Remove 2nd marker. Now you should either continue knitting to 3rd marker *OR cast on 8 extra stitches to make the body and sleeves a little wider (I don't do this because I feel it's wide enough already) and then knit to 3rd marker.* Remove marker, k1. Using another length of yarn and wool needle, slip all sts to 4th marker onto yarn. Knit on *OR cast on 8 sts, before knitting on* in pattern.

Now you're only knitting the body sts:

- WS: Knit the k sts, purl the p sts, except for garter stitch edging.
- RS: Continue in established pattern.

Continue until piece measures 9½" from shoulder.

Now do 4-6 rows of garter stitch and cast off from RS. Weave in ends.

Sleeves:

Pick up sleeve sts from yarn lengths. *If you cast on extra sts for the body, make sure you pick up the same number of sts from the cast-on edge. Use a crochet needle for this, if it makes it easier for you.* Place marker in the centre of underarm to mark the beginning of round.

Knit 6 rounds and start decreasing:

- Rnd. 7: k to last 2 sts before marker, ssk, sm, k2tog (at beginning of round 8). Repeat every 7 rounds.

Continue until sleeve measures 6½", or desired length, from shoulder. Now knit 4-6 rounds

of garter stitch and cast off loosely. Weave in ends.

Closure and buttons:

The sweater is closed with 3 i-cord loops and toggles. Sew the toggles on the sweater in the middle of the braid on the right hand side and weave ends. I think they actually should be vertical, instead of horizontal, as I did ;-)

Make an i-cord by casting on 3 sts using dpns and knitting all stitches **without** turning the work – just push the work from left side of needle to right after every row. See a video [here](). Continue until the i-cord is 2½" long, break yarn and thread through all sts.

Fold the i-cord up and sew it to the left hand side of front, where knit and purl sts meet. Make 2 more and repeat sewing. Weave all ends. Wash and block or iron lightly to prevent the edge from rolling.

Alternative closure: buttonholes in the braid

A Ravelry user suggested buttonholes as a possible alternative to the i-cord loops (thanks, Karen :-)) When I first made the pattern, I discounted buttonholes as a possible closure, but after a bit of experimentation I came up with a solution, which I think is quite pretty. It's virtually invisible, and although not dead centre of the braid, close enough to look nice when buttoned :-) When unbuttoned it's hardly noticeable.

They are made in row 7 and 8 of braid pattern:

- Row 7 (RS): K1, ssk, yo, C3B, k2, *k2tog, k1* from cn, p1

- Row 8 (WS): K1, p4, k twice in yo, p2

Repeat for as many buttonholes as you like. I think 3 is just fine for a baby sweater. You'll just have to work out where to put them :-) The sample on the photo above has 2 closely

spaced holes, but you won't want them nearly that close. Perhaps on every 3 or 4 repeats of the braid pattern?

Stitch explanations:

- Yo – yarn over; wrap yarn around right needle before knitting on

- C3B – Cross 3 behind work; slip 3 sts onto cn and place behind work. K next 2 sts, then the sts from cn.

- K twice in yo – knit front and back of yarn over loop; this creates 2 p sts on RS.

Alternative edging

Another suggestion was to use a **self i-cord edging** instead if the garter sts for the front, which tend to fold a bit. This is accomplished using 3 knit sts on the edges, slipping these 3 on RS rows, and then purling them on the WS, pulling the yarn tight.

Another one, a favourite of mine, also makes a nice round edge:

- RS: k1, slip 1 st purlwise with yarn in front of work, k1

- WS: slip 1 st purlwise with yarn in front of work, k1, slip 1 st purlwise with yarn in front of work

I think either of these would look great on this sweater :-) But remember to cast on 2 extra sts if you decide to make one of these instead of the garter stitch edging! Also remember to block. Wash the sweater and lay it flat to dry, perhaps pinning down the edges, or steam lightly.

I hope you'll enjoy this pattern as mush as I enjoyed making it, but please contact me if you have any problems :-)

2011, Sisse Holmstrup, *Maisha*