

# Double-knit Vest

## Introduction to the class

by Dick Dapson



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## INTRODUCTION

Double-knitting involves the simultaneous construction of a two-layered fabric. If the layers are interconnected only along the bottom and sides, you would be able to slip your hand from the top into the resultant bag. In most double-knitting, however, the layers are interconnected at various places throughout for decorative accents. The layers are usually knit in different colors.

This vest will be worked top-down, in one piece. The original pattern for this vest appears in Tahki Yarns Fall Getaways booklet (2013), Pattern #3. The present pattern is an extensively revised version of that, including much expanded directions, conversion from bottom-up to top-down construction, and options for using a variety of other yarns.

**Choice of yarn.** While the main and contrast color yarns are usually the same size and texture, that is not always the case. Some combinations of heavy and very light yarns are appealing. In most cases, avoid using two very large yarns because the garment will be too heavy or too warm for comfort. Color should be carefully considered. Highly contrasting colors might seem to be eye-catching, but when double-knitted, they may simply become garish. You should choose yarn and colors before the class. If the yarns are of different size, use a needle appropriate for the larger yarn (or perhaps one US size smaller). Very fine and fuzzy yarns are usually double-knit on needles larger than the recommended size for that yarn. Sample combinations will be available to help you make a good choice. Table 1 provides recommendations for yarns with estimated amounts and prices for small and 3X-large sizes. Several factors influence total yardage and price: size of yarn, amount in each ball/skein, needle size, your gauge, your sweater size and its length. If you want to combine 2 different yarns, halve each cost and add them together (as shown for Gioiello and Nuna).

The important thing is to produce a fabric that is neither too stiff (too many sts per inch) or so loose that when stretched slightly, the reverse side is visible.

**Table 1.** Yardage and cost for various yarns  
Refer to Table 2 to estimate yardage for other sizes  
(items with an asterisk after the unit cost are discounted yarns)

Cat. #	Yarn	Cost each	Balls/skeins for size small	Total cost small to 3X large
23Y8546	Coast	\$5.60*	8 x 50g balls	\$45.00 - \$90.00
29Y9677	Kismet	\$12.00	4 x 50g balls	\$48.00 - \$96.00
29Y8268	Rustic Tweed (hand dyed)	\$11.20*	4 x 100g skeins	\$48.00 - \$96.00
22Y8551	Favorite Wool	\$5.50*	10 x 50g balls	\$50.00 - \$100.00
22Y6967	Cascade 220	\$9.00	6 x 100g skeins	\$55.00 - \$110.00
23Y8415	Cool Wool (wool/cotton)	\$5.60*	10 x 50g balls	\$56.00 - \$112.00
24Y7618	Cascade Rustic wool/linen	\$10.15	6 x 100g skeins	\$61.00 - \$122.00
22Y9695	Cascade 220 Superwash	\$10.50	6 x 100g balls	\$63.00 - \$126.00
29Y9685	Rustic Tweed Superwash	\$16.00	4 x 100g skeins	\$64.00 - \$128.00
29Y9091	Mirasol Nuna	\$12.25	6 x 50g skeins	\$73.50 - \$147.00
	Gioiello and Nuna			\$90.75 - \$181.50
29Y9345	Gioiello	\$17.95	6 x 50g balls	\$108.00 - \$216.00

**Project schedule.** Note: the class fee covers all in-store instruction.

1. Before class, sign up for the class and pick out yarn. Obtain needles and stitch markers, if necessary.
2. Come to the scheduled class to learn how to double-knit, produce a gauge swatch, customize the pattern for your size and gauge, and start with a provisional double-knit cast on for the back of the vest.
3. At home, knit down the back until reaching the underarm area.
4. Return on an individual basis to the store, by appointment, to learn how to work the 2 front pieces simultaneously from the provisional cast on.
5. At home, work the front pieces until reaching the underarm area.
6. Return on an individual basis to the store, by appointment, to verify the fit, learn how to add underarm sts and join each front piece to the back.
7. At home, continue until the desired length is attained.
8. Return on an individual basis to the store, by appointment, to learn how to finish the vest.

*Note:* if you have problems, come in at once for assistance.

**Materials needed**

*Needles*

- Main needle: 2 sets of 32 or 40 inch circular needle in a size determined by the gauge swatch
- Pick-up needle: 40 inch circular US# 0-4
- Needle for edging: 40 inch circular 1 mm larger than main needle
- Bind-off needle: one SP or DP in a size 2-2.5 mm larger than the needle for edging

*Stitch markers*

*Yarn*

Choose from the yarns recommended in Table 1 (above). Use Table 2 to record your choice of yarn(s) and to estimate quantity needed

**Table 2. Yarn information**

Enter the name of the yarn(s) and the colors in the first column. Record the yardage per ball (skein) in the second column. For S (M, L, XL, 2X, 3X) sizes, divide the yards per ball or skein into 1000 (1200, 1400, 1600, 1800, 2000) yards to estimate the total number of balls or skeins needed for the vest (third column). Round up to the nearest even number, then divide by 2 to get the number of balls or skeins of each color (fourth column).

Yarn and color	Yards per ball (skein)	Balls (skeins) required	Balls (skeins) of each color