WOOL AND THE GANG



# TROPICAL TUNIC EASY 8MM (US11) NEEDLES

# YOUR ADVENTURE STARTS NOW



Nothing will make you happier than holding your finished project.

## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

**GET YOUR TOOLS READY.**Everything you need to get making.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THE TECHNIQUES.

Everything from the stitches used to the finishing touches for your project.

GET TO KNOW YOUR YARN.

Before you start your piece, play around with your new yarn to get used to it, and to check your tension.

WOOL SCHOOL

Pick up your needles & yarn and make the magic happen! For a little extra help, check out our Wool School at:

www.woolandthegang.com/t/how-to

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When you're done - let the world know.

## LET'S GET KNITTING

#### Tool kit

9 balls of WATG's Shiny Happy Cotton

1 pair of 8mm (11US) knitting needles

1 Tropical Tunic pattern

1 sewing needle

#### **Tension**

To ensure your knitting has the same measurements as the pattern, it is a good idea to make a tension swatch before you start knitting your project. A tension swatch is a small sample of your knitting where you count the stitches and rows and check them against the tension measurement given in the pattern. If you get MORE stitches/rows than the pattern's tension, it means your knitting is tighter. If you get FEWER stitches/rows than the pattern, your knitting is looser. Sometimes, it works to knit tighter or looser to compensate.

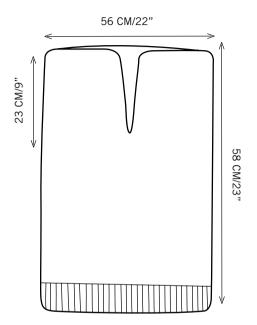
When you make your swatch, make sure it is large enough for you to measure 10 cm/4" without including the stitches/rows closest to the edges (as these often have a slightly different tension). When you're done swatching, simply unravel and reuse the yarn to start knitting your Tropical Tunic.

#### Moss stitch

10 cm/4" = 12 stitches 10 cm/4" = 18 rows

All knitting techniques can be found at the back of the pattern.

## **MEASUREMENTS**





## Help's only a stitch away

Watch the video tutorials online at www.woolandthegang.com/video-tutorials

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## **HOW TO KNIT YOUR TROPICAL TUNIC**

This garment is knitted with two strands of yarn held together.

#### **BACK PIECE**

- 1 Cast on 67 stitches using the cable cast on technique, holding 2 strands of yarn together.
- **2** Work 8 rows in 1x1 rib stitch.
- 3 Slip the first stitch knit-wise, then work in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 4 Repeat step 3 a further 97 times.
- **5** Cast off.

#### FRONT PIECE

- 1 Cast on 67 stitches using the cable cast on technique, holding 2 strands of yarn together.
- **2** Work 8 rows in 1x1 rib stitch.
- 3 Slip the first stitch knit-wise, then work in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 4 Repeat step 3 a further 58 times.
- 5 You will now start creating the neckline. Slip the first stitch knit-wise, then work 32 stitches in moss stitch.

Cast off the next stitch, then work in moss stitch to the end of the row.

You will now work the the 33 stitches for the left side of the front - leave the remaining stitches on the needle for now, you will come back to them later.

- 6 Slip the first stitch knit-wise, then work in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 7 Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, purl 2 stitches together, then work in moss stitch to the end of the row. (32 stitches.)
- 8 Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 9 Slip 1 stitch purl-wise, purl 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 10 Repeat steps 8 and 9 a further 7 times, then work step 7 once more.
- 11 Cast off 5 stitches, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row. (27 stitches.)
- 12 Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 13 Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, knit 2 stitches together, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue to the end of the row in moss stitch. (26 stitches.)

- 14 Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 15 Slip 1 stitch purl-wise, purl 2 stitches together, purl 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row. (25 stitches.)
- **16** Work 14 rows in moss stitch.
- 17 Cast off and weave in loose ends.

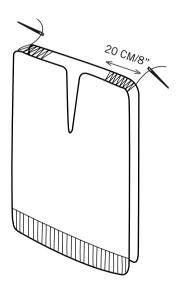
Now the left side is complete you will work the remaining 33 stitches to finish the right side.

- 18 Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 19 Work in moss stitch for 30 stitches, purl 2 stitches together, knit 1 stitch. (32 stitches.)
- 20 Slip 1 stitch purl-wise, purl 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 21 Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 22 Repeat steps 20 and 21 a further 8 times.
- 23 Cast off 5 stitches, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row. (27 stitches.)

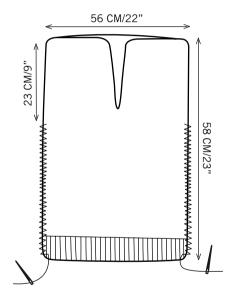
- 24 Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 25 Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, knit 2 stitches together, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue to the end of the row in moss stitch. (26 stitches.)
- **26** Slip 1 stitch knit-wise, knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row.
- 27 Slip 1 stitch purl-wise, purl 2 stitches together, purl 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch, continue in moss stitch to the end of the row. (25 stitches.)
- **28** Work 13 rows in moss stitch.
- 29 Cast off and weave in loose ends.

## ASSEMBLY AND FINISHING

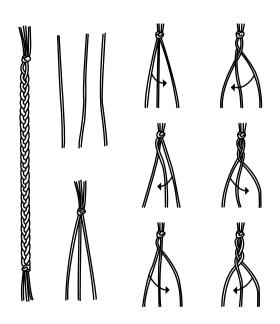
1 Lay your front and back pieces with wrong sides touching. With the sewing needle and a long strand of yarn, use the horizontal invisible seam technique to sew the shoulders together for 20 cm/8" on each side to make the neck opening.



Thread the needle with a long strand of yarn and use the vertical invisible seam technique to sew the front and back together working one side at a time. Leave a 23 cm/9" armhole at either side.



3 To make your braided belt, cut 21 strands of yarn, each 3.5 metres/138" long. Tie the strands together in a knot 10 cm/4" from the ends. Separate the strands into three bunches with 7 strands in each.





## **KNITTING TECHNIQUES**

#### Work! Work! Work!

There are two main ways to 'work' stitches: they can be knitted or purled. When the pattern asks you to 'work' a number of stitches/rows/cm, it will always specify which stitch pattern to work in.

#### Cable cast on

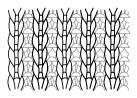
Create a slipknot on the left hand needle. Knit on one stitch, creating two stitches on the left hand needle. Now insert the right needle between the two stitches, wrap and bring through. Transfer the newly created stitch onto the left hand needle. Repeat until you have cast on the number of stitches indicated in the pattern.

#### 1 x 1 Rib stitch

When working over an uneven number of stitches, repeat the following two rows:

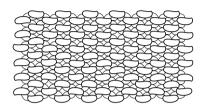
Row 1: Knit the first stitch, purl the next. Continue alternating between knit and purl stitches until you have just one stitch left, knit this stitch.

Row 2: Purl the first stitch, knit the next. Continue alternating between purl and knit stitches until you have just one stitch left, purl this stitch.



#### Moss stitch

A simple stitch pattern where you alternate between knit and purl stitches on every row. For an uneven number of stitches: knit one stitch, then purl one stitch, repeat these two stitches until you only have one stitch left, knit this stitch. Repeat this row.



#### Slipped edge stitch

To create neat edges, slip the first stitch of each row. For right-side rows: holding the yarn behind the work (away from you), insert the right needle into the first stitch knit-wise, and slip the stitch onto the right needle without knitting or purling it. Do the same for wrong-side rows, but instead hold the yarn in front of the work (towards you) and insert the needle purlwise.

#### **Decreasing**

Instead of knitting only one stitch at a time, knit two stitches together. Insert the front of your right needle through the first two stitches on the left needle, then knit them together as a single stitch. For decreasing on purl rows, insert the needle through the two stitches from right to left and purl together as a single stitch. You can also do a double decrease by knitting or purling three stitches together in the same way.

## Adding a new ball of yarn

When your ball of yarn runs out, or when you need to change the colour, tie a loose knot on to the tail with the new ball of yarn and slide it up to the needle. Tighten the knot. Continue knitting with the new yarn.

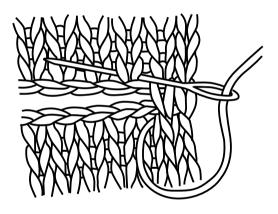
## **Casting off**

To complete your project, you need to cast off your last row of stitches in order to make an edge that won't unravel. For your final row, knit the first two stitches. Using the tip of the left needle, lift the first stitch up and over the second stitch and then slip it off the right needle. Now you have only one stitch on your right needle. Knit the next stitch from the left needle, then lift the previous stitch over it and off the needle as before. Do this with each stitch until there are no stitches on the left needle and just one stitch on the right needle. Cut the yarn, leaving a 15 cm/6" end. Pull on the last loop until the end pops through - you've now secured the last stitch.

## FINISHING TECHNIQUES

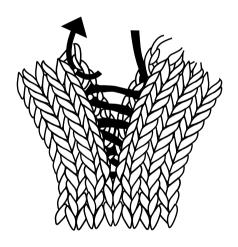
#### Horizontal invisible seam technique

This technique is used for sewing together horizontal edges (like cast on and cast off edges). Align the two edges so that they are lined up stitch by stitch. Insert the sewing needle under a V stitch and then under the corresponding V stitch on the other side. Continue in this way until the seam is complete.



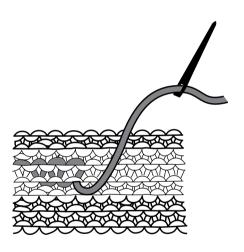
#### Vertical invisible seam

This technique is used to join two side edges. Line up the edges side by side with the right side of the fabric facing up. Insert your sewing needle under the first horizontal bar between the first two stitches on the edge you want to join. Pull the yarn through and insert the needle through the opposite horizontal bar on the other piece. Sew back and forth through the horizontal bars along the edge. To tighten the stitches, pull the yarn gently - and they will disappear.



## Weaving in the ends

Weave the ends of your yarn into your knitting to finish it off and stop it from unravelling. Thread the tail onto the sewing needle. Weave the yarn along the edge of your knitting as shown in the illustration. Where you have started a new ball, weave one tail in one direction and the other tail in the opposite direction. Weave in approximately 10 cm/4", then cut the tail.



## **MAKING MEMOIRS**

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## YOUR PROJECT DESERVES SOME SEXY YARN



CRAZY SEXY WOOL 100% Peruvian Wool



SUGAR BABY ALPACA 100% Baby Alpaca



WOOL ME TENDER 100% Peruvian Wool



**IFRSEY BE GOOD** 98% Cotton 2% Flastane



MIXTAPF YARN 80% Cotton 20% Polvester



RILLIF IFAN 100% Upcycled Denim



SHINY HAPPY COTTON 100% Peruvian Pima Cotton



**WOOLY BULLY ALPACA** 80% Superfine Alpaca 20% Merino Wool



SHEEPACA YARN 50% Baby Alpaca 50% Mering Wool



TAKE CARE MOHAIR 78% Kid Mohair 13% Wool / 9% Polyamide 7% Merino / 23% Nylon



**FEELING GOOD** 70% Baby Alpaca

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