50 Shades of Linen

By Shelley Brander

Yarn:	Tools:	Gauge:
810 yards of sportweight linen or linen blend	**#7 32-40" circular needles, or size needed to obtain gauge**	**4 sts and 6 rows to 1 inch in stockinette**

Directions, Front:
Cast on 140 sts.
Work 6 rows in garter stitch (knit 6 rows).

***14-row repeat:
Next row (RS): beginning with a knit row, work 11 rows stockinette.
Next row (WS): knit all sts.
Next row: K1 *k2tog, YO* repeat from * to last st, K1
Next row (WS): knit all sts.

Repeat the last 14 rows (from ***) 5 more times, ending with a WS row. Work should measure 12″ from beginning. If not, continue 14-row pattern until you reach 12″.

(cntd. on back)

loops
A yarn store

Begin v-neck:
Next row (RS): Knit 70 sts, PM, work 70 remaining sts.
Next row (WS): purl all sts.
Next row (RS): work to 2 sts before marker, k2tog, sm, attach 2nd ball of yarn and SSK, work to end of row.
Repeat last 2 rows 20X (40 sts decreased). Continue working straight for 8 more rows, ending with a WS row. Work should measure 20".

Begin back of sweater:
Next row, knit across first section, cast on 40 sts using backward loop method, knit across second section (140 sts).

Work in stockinette for 8″.

Now, switch to 14-row repeat (working from *** above and creating eyelet ridges) until piece measures 39″.
Knit 6 rows (garter) and bind off loosely.

Finishing:
Steam block the entire piece, taking care not to press too hard on the eyelet ridges to maintain texture.
Fold sweater in half at the top of the V-neck so it has a front and a back. Using stitch markers, mark for side seams at 4″ from hem and at 12″ from hem. Now, sew an 8″ seam between the two markers, leaving your piece unseamed at the bottom 4″ (your "vents") and at the armholes.

Using F hook and starting at the middle of the back neck, work one row of single crochet down the V neck and back up to the middle of the back neck. I skipped every 4th stitch in order to close the V slightly.

Yarns used in photos: Large photo Debbie Bliss Juliet (7 balls). Small photo Prism Euroflax (3 skeins).