

Abalone

by Beata Jezek

Finished size: women's small (or to fit)

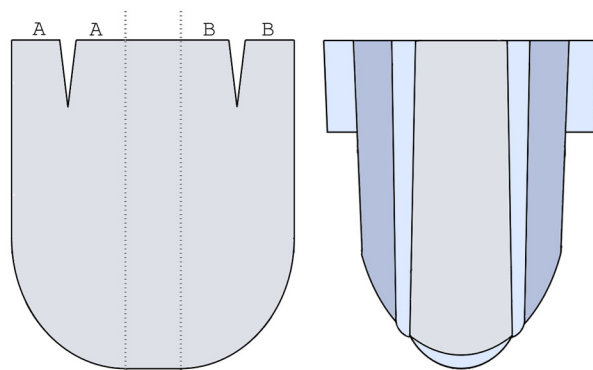
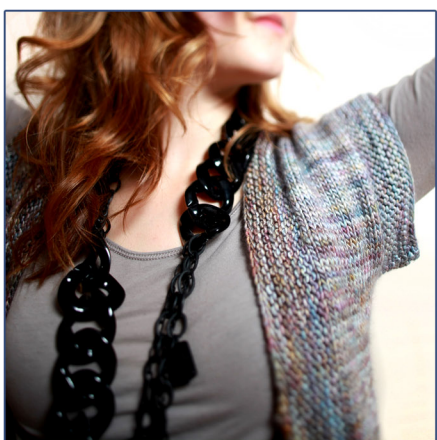
Yarn: Hedgehog fibres, Silk singles in Opalite, (50% silk/50% merino, 150m [164yd]/100g), 3.5 skeins for women's small

Needles: 5mm: 24'' circular and 5mm: 32'' circular for the edging, adjust needle size to obtain correct gauge

Notions: stitch holder or a piece of waste yarn, stitch marker

Gauge: 17.5 sts and 25 rows = 4'' in stockinette

Adjustments for different sizes: measure yourself from nipple to nipple across the back to determine the width of the garment and according to your swatch you can figure out total amount (100%) of stitches needed for custom fit (Abalone is not supposed to be closed at front, but edging will add another 4''). Stitch percentages are in brackets, stitch counts listed are for women's small.



Body:

With 5mm: 24'' cir. needle cast on 54 (55%) stitches.

Work in stockinette:

Rnd 1: sll, M1 (backwards loop), purl until one stitch left, M1, p1

Rnd 2: sll, M1, knit until one stitch left, M1, k1

Repeat these two rows until you have 98 (100%) stitches on the needle

Work even in stockinette until you reach underarm (approx 40cm, more for large sizes or depending on desired length).

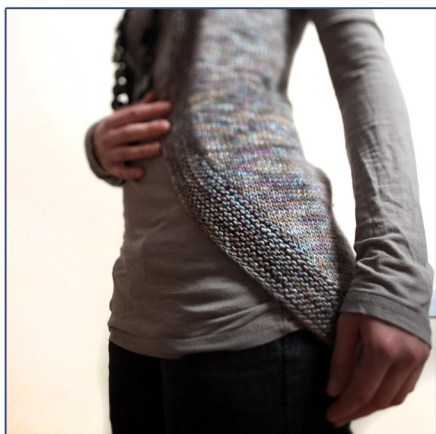
Divide your stitches and place on stitch holders or a piece of waste yarn: 20sts (21%), 58sts (58%), 20 (21%) sts. Now work each section separately, no shaping up to shoulders (approx. 20cm or depending on desired length).

Do not cast off, Match A to A and B to B and weave (Kitchener stitch) to form seamless shoulders.

You are left with 17 stitches (18%) in the middle which are neck back and place them on stitch holder - these will be used for edging.

Edging:

Starting at the underarm 'seam' pick up stitches around the sleeve opening in 2 stitches per 3 rows ratio. I like to back up one stitch from the very edge when picking up stitches, which gives nicer finish. Knit 8 ridges of garter stitch, finish off with applied I-cord*. Repeat for other side. With 5mm: 32'' cir. needle, starting at neck back with few live stitches, pick up stitches around the whole edge - down the front, across the back, up the other side, finishing with the few live stitches at neck back. Knit up 8 ridges of garter stitch decreasing at least 15% of the stitches at neck back in the first round. Also put in few increases (2 or three stitches) at the lower corners, so the edging flares out there a bit. After 8 ridges finish off with applied I-cord cast off*. Weave in all the ends.



*There are many tutorials on applied i-cord cast off on YouTube