



Skeleton Cardigan

by Becky Stern
based on a pattern by Mary Weaver

photo by Ryan Spicer

Knitting Bones

This mixed-method intarsia/stranded cardigan makes you look like you're wearing your own bones. The back panel features a ribcage and spinal column in stitches. The front and sleeves are a solid color, so the skeleton effect remains subtle enough even to wear to work.

Measurements

Circumference: 34"
Length from shoulder to hem: roughly 20 1/2"
Sleeve length: 21"
Sleeve circumference at cuff: 10"; **at beg of armhole shaping:** 11"

What You'll Need

Yarn: approx 900 yards total, in main color (750 yds) and cream or white (250 yds). I used Debbie Bliss Cotton Angora; use whatever heavy worsted weight yarn you like.

Needles: US Size 8 (5.0mm) in straight and double pointed, or adjust to gauge: 16 sts/20 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch.

Tapestry needle

Scissors

Size F/5 crochet hook

Yarn bobs

3 buttons, ones with shanks are recommended, 5/8" size

Sewing needle and thread

Pattern Notes

Twisted Rib pattern: Row 1- (right side) *knit 1 in the back of the stitch, purl 1* to end of row.
Row 2- (wrong side) *knit 1, purl 1* to end of row.

Stranded/Intarsia method: I used a mixture of stranded knitting and intarsia color changing for the back of this sweater. There's no science as to when to use each method, just use your best judgement. When there's a big patch of color, use intarsia, and when there's frequent switching, carry the other color behind the work.



Back

Cast on 68 stitches.
Knit 3 rows.
Work 13 rows in Stockinette stitch (St st), working from chart on the last page of this pattern.



Work 17 rows in twisted rib.
Work even in St st for 45 rows.
Armhole shaping:

Bind off 4 stitches at beg of each of the next 2 rows.
Knit 2 together (K2tog) at the beg of next 2 rows.
K2tog at the beg of every other row for the next 4 rows.
Work even in St st for 23 rows.
Knit one row.
Bind off all stitches.

Right Front

Keep a 3-stitch border of garter stitch at the right edge throughout.
Cast on 35 stitches.
Knit 3 rows.
Work 4 rows in St st, remembering to include the garter stitch border at one edge.
Buttonhole band: (for the actual buttonhole rows, do exactly what it says, the decreasing and eyelets will take up the garter edge band.)
K2tog, yarn over (YO), knit 1, purl to end of row.
Work 7 rows in St st.
Work 1 row in twisted rib. (since the ribbing starts on the wrong side, you don't actually twist any stitches on this row)
Work right side row of twisted rib to last 3 stitches, knit 1, YO, K2tog.
Work 8 rows in twisted rib
K2tog, YO, knit 1, purl to end of row.
Work 5 more rows of twisted rib.
Scoop neck decreases:
Decrease 1 stitch next to buttonhole band on each of the next 5 rows.
Decrease 1 stitch next to buttonhole band every other row 6 times (12 rows).
Work 3 rows in St st.
Decrease 1 stitch next to buttonhole band this row.
Work even in St st for 25 rows.
Bind off 4 stitches at the beginning of this row.
Work armhole shaping as for back, except only on edge opposite to buttonhole band.
Work even in St st for 23 rows.
Bind off remaining stitches.

Left front

Work as for right front, except without the buttonholes and with the edging on the left edge, and the armhole shaping on the right edge.

Sleeves (Make two)

Sleeves can also be knitted in the round using double pointed needles. Join work after first row. Cast on 40 st.

Work 36 rows of twisted rib.

Work 2 rows of St st.

Increase 1 stitch at beginning and end of next row.

Work even in St st for 37 rows.

Increase 1 stitch at beginning and end of next row.

Work even in St st for 37 rows.

Sleeve cap shaping:

If knitting sleeves in the round, this is the point to switch to regular straight needles (no longer in the round)

Row 1- Bind off 4 stitches, knit to end of row.

2- Bind off 4 stitches, purl to last 4 stitches, purl 2 together (p2tog), purl 2.

3- Knit to last 4 stitches, k2tog, knit 2.

4- Purl to last 4 stitches, p2tog, purl 2.

5- Knit to last 4 stitches, k2tog, turn.

6- Purl to last 4 stitches, p2tog, turn.

7- Knit to last 4 stitches, k2tog, turn.

8- Purl to last 4 stitches, p2tog, turn.

9. Knit.

10- Purl 2, p2tog, purl to end of row.

11- Knit 2, k2tog, knit to end of row.

12- Purl .

13- Knit to last 4 stitches, k2tog, knit 2.

14- Purl to last 4 stitches, p2tog, purl 2.

15- Knit.

16- Purl 2, p2tog, purl to end of row.

17- Knit 2, k2tog, knit to end of row.

18- Purl .

19- Knit to last 4 stitches, k2tog, knit 2.

20- Purl to last 4 stitches, p2tog, purl 2.

21- Bind off 2 stitches, knit to end of row.

22- Bind off 2 stitches, purl to end of row.

23- Bind off 3 stitches, knit to end of row.

24- Bind off 3 stitches, purl to end of row.

Bind off remaining stitches.



photo by Ryan Spicer

Finishing

Block individual pieces. Use mattress stitch to join pieces together. If the bottom of your sweater is rolling up (will depend on your yarn), use the crochet hook to work 1 row of single crochet around bottom hem and then one row of crab stitch. Sew buttons to button band, making sure that they are evenly spaced and in the right places corresponding to the buttonholes. Weave in all ends.



photo by Mary Weaver

This sweater pattern was designed by Mary Weaver: <http://indieknits.wordpress.com/>

Chart for sweater back. Bottom begins when st stitch in pattern begins (after three rows of garter stitch).

