

Love Vest



The Love Vest, perfect for Valentine's Day or any day your puppy needs a sweater or just wants to look **lovely**, is knit in worsted weight yarn. The sweater is made up of two pieces: a back panel and a tummy panel. When the panels are sewn together, openings are left for the front legs.

Materials

- Main Color (MC) 1 skein Plymouth Yarn Galway in color #102 (chamois)
- Contrasting Color (CC) 1 skein Plymouth Yarn Galway in color #44 (red)
- Size 7 (4.5 mm) needles
- Yarn needle for finishing

Sizing

Tabby, modeling the sweater above, has a 17.5 inch chest. The instructions include notes on how to customize the pattern to get a perfect fit for your pooch and also has the stitch counts for Tabby's size.

Glossary:

Ssk: (slip, slip, knit) slip next two stitches, one at a time, knitwise, to the right needle, insert the left needle into the front legs of those sts and knit them together.

K2tog: (knit 2 stitches together)

To Begin:

First make a gauge swatch. My swatch results are: 21 stitches and 26 in a 4 inch square over stocking stitch.

You will need 2 measurements from your doggy. First Measure your dog from the top of one front leg over their back to the top of the other front leg. Then measure her/him from the base of their neck to their tail to decide how long you want the vest to be.

Back Panel:

For the cast on you will use the 'over back' measurement.

In Tabby's case the 'over back' measurement was 10.5 inches. Take your dog's over back measurement, divide by 4 inches and multiply by the number of row stitches in your gauge swatch rounding to an odd number. For Tabby this number was 55.

With MC cast on *your* result.

Work ribbing as follows: (p1, k1) to last st, p1. Knit stitches as they present themselves on the following rows until ribbing measures 1.5 inches ending on a WS row.

Next row (RS) (k1, p1) 2 times, knit to the last 4 stitches and (p1, k1) 2 times. Continue knitting stitches as they present themselves on subsequent rows.

Heart Motif Placement:

Tabby's back length measurement is 14 inches. I decided to make the back of her vest 11.5 inches long. The heart is 38 rows tall or about 5.5 inches based on my gauge so 11.5 inches minus 5.5 inches is 6 inches, divided by 2 is 3 inches. So I started the heart on a right

side row after knitting 3 inches from the original cast on row.

To center the heart take the number of cast on stitches divided by 2 and round up: for Tabby, 55 cast on stitches divided by 2 is 27.5 so the middle stitch on the row is 28. Start the heart on your vest the same way.

25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
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Complete the heart motif chart and continue knitting until the vest measures 1.5 inches less than the finished length you want it to be and begin ribbing. For Tabby's vest I knitted until the back panel measured 10 inches (11.5 inches of finished length, minus 1.5 inches for the ribbing).

Rib for 1.5 inches and bind off.

Tummy Panel

To come up with the cast on number for the tummy panel, multiply the back panel's number of cast on Stitches by 55% and round to an odd number. In Tabby's case 55 stitches times 55% is 30.25, rounded to 31.

Cast on your result. Rib like you did for the back panel for 1.5 inches ending on a WS row.

Then you will begin knitting in stocking stitch as you did for the back panel with the side ribbing, except on this and every fourth right side row you will decrease as follows: (k1,p1) 2 times, ssk, knit to the last 6 sts, k2tog, (p1,k1) 2 times. Continue with decreases until 50 % of the tummy panel's cast on stitches remain, rounded to an odd number. In Tabby's case this was 31 divided by 2 or 15.5 which I rounded to 15.

Continue in pattern until the tummy panel is 1.5 inches short of your desired length (70% of the back panel's length works well for both boy and girl dogs. For Tabby this was 6.5 inches. Begin ribbing. Rib for 1.5 inches, bind off.



Finishing

Sew the sides of the neck ribbing on the tummy panel to the sides of the neck ribbing on the back panel. Break yarn. Leave generous openings for each of the front legs. Attach the sides of the rest of the tummy panel to the sides of the back panel. Weave in ends.

