



C205

Cascade 128 Superwash
Cropped Kimono



Designed by Betty Balcomb

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I got so much positive feed-back on my Horizontal Vertical Kimono that I decided to design another kimono. I stuck with calling it a kimono, but the result tempts me to call it a bolero. It is sort of a hybrid of a kimono and a bolero. Whatever you call it, it is even quicker and easier to make than the original. By the time you are done, you may have a major Cascade 128 habit. Despite my tendency to knit thin (check out the Heritage page for many patterns designed by Betty Balcomb), I want to make many more items with 128. It's a lovely yarn that makes a terrific fabric.

Materials: 9(10) skeins Cascade 128 Superwash, pictured kimono is color #1910. Size 11 US 24-29" circular needles, 2 size 11 DPNs, OR SIZE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN GAUGE. Holders -- an extra set or 2 of 11 circular needles will work best.

Gauge: 3 stitches/inch in pattern stitch.

Sizes: The kimono is designed to be short and boxy and not body-hugging, so I have only provided 2 sizes. The first is more or less small/medium and the second large/extra large. If only one number is provided, it applies to both sizes.

Special Abbreviation: CL3 – K3, insert tip of left needle into the 1st of the 3 sts just knit, i.e. the 3rd st from the end of the right needle, pass this st over the other 2 sts as if to bind off.

Note: this is a single dec to balance the adjoining YO.

Cluster Stitch Lace Pattern (Multiple of 3 sts):

Row 1 (Right side) – K2, *YO, **CL3**, repeat from * to last st, K1

Row 2 – Purl

Row 3 – K1, ***CL3**, YO repeat from * to last 2 sts, K2

Row 4 – Purl

Helpful Hints: To be sure you are maintaining pattern, be careful that the YO from the previous right side row is in the middle of the 3 knit stitches of the **CL3**. Also, be careful at the beginning and end of right side rows to get the first or last YO right; these are the 2 spots where you are most likely to make a mistake.

Directions:

Beginning at bottom of back, cast on 75(87) sts using a provisional cast on. I use the knitting into the bumps of a crochet chain method, but any provisional cast on is fine. Purl one row. Work the 4 rows of the pattern until piece measures 6" from cast on edge.

Add sleeves: Cable CO 36 sts at beginning of row for first sleeve. K the 36 sts and continue in pattern to end of row. Cable CO 36 more sts at other side for 2nd sleeve. P those 36 and the rest of the row. Continue in pattern on 147 (159) until piece measures 16 from cast on edge. End on wrong side row.

Divide for neck and fronts: Next row: Work 67(71 sts in pattern, BO 12(14), finish row in pattern. **NOTE:** My arithmetic came out a little strange here, but I ended up with the same number of sts on each side. You may have to play with this a little to make sure it comes out even. The number of bound off sts can vary by 1 or 2 but be sure to have the same number on each side. Next row: P 1st half, connect new ball of yarn and P 2nd half. (I highly recommend working the 2 fronts at the same time, but if you are a one-at-a-time knitter, just be sure to make the 2 sides mirror images.) Next row: work in pattern until 3 sts remain on 1st half, K2tog, K1, on 2nd half, K1, SSK, finish row in pattern.

Make fronts: Work 3 rows in pattern. Work increase row by inserting a M1 on each side of neck 1 st in from edge. Repeat inc. row every 4th row 5(6) more times, working sts into pattern as the number inc'd allows. Work even in pattern until sleeves are about 20" deep. Bind off 36 sts at beg of next 2 rows. Work even in pattern for 6 more inches (same length as back). DO NOT BIND OFF. Cut yarns and place sts on holders. You will come back for these sts and the picked up provisional cast on for the final border.

Sleeve borders: With right side facing, pick up and K 2 sts for every 3 rows along sleeve edge. The number doesn't matter but get as close to the 2 for 3 as you can. You will now work a 5-st I-cord bind off for a border on the sleeve. **Note:** I do the I-cord bind off a little differently from most directions. I think my way is easier but feel free to do it the traditional way if you have done it before and are comfortable doing it that way. First turn and cable cast on 5 sts. Using one of the DPNS, K the five sts just cast and then slip purlwise a 6th. Hold the working needle and the DPN with the 6 sts both in your left hand sort of parallel to each other with the sts on the DPN ahead of the sts on the working needle. *Slide the sts on the DPN to the right side of that needle. Now, take the 2nd DPN pull the working yarn behind the sts to the first st and knit 4, K2tog, slip 1 purlwise from working needle. (With each repeat of the K4, K2tog, slip 1, you have "bound off" one st.) Rep from * until 5 sts remain. Bind them off the normal way. Sew side and sleeve seams, connecting ends of I-cords into a closed tube.

Note: I have worked the I-cord bind off so that the traditional wrong side is on the right side. I prefer the way it looks done that way. If you prefer to have it the other way, purl one row before starting the I-cord.

Rest of borders: The rest of the kimono gets a single continuous I-cord border that goes around the bottom edge, up one side around the neck and down the other side back around the rest of the bottom edge. First pick up the sts from the provisional cast on and put them on a holder. Now arrange the sts so that you are starting at right side seam. With right side facing, knit across the bottom edge of right front, then work up the right front picking up and knitting 2 sts for every 3 rows, knit across sts of neck, 1 for each bound off st, and down the other front, finally knit across the left bottom edge and the back bottom edge (sts picked up from provisional cast on). You should have come full circle. Do not worry about the exact number of sts but be sure to pick up the same number on each side edge. Now turn and do an I-cord bind off just like on the sleeves. The only thing left to do is sew the ends of the I-cord together and weave in the ends. Since the I-cord is a tube, I weave in the ends by burying them inside the I-cord, a very easy and completely invisible way to weave in ends.

To button or not to button: My preference is to wear this sweater without any closure. My second choice would be to overlap the bottom corners and stick in a shawl pin. But if you want to sew on some buttons, the holes in the pattern will make fine buttonholes, the I-cord bind off just places them a little far in from the edge.