

Newborn Vertebrae

*a free knitting pattern, designed by Kelly Brooker
Sourced from Ravelry.com*



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Newborn Vertebrae is a frontless cardy to keep your little one's back and arms warm.

*This free pattern is written for **4ply/fingering weight** yarn, to fit a babe with a chest circumference of **37.5cm** (newborn – 7-10lb birthweight).*

Construction

This pattern has you cast on at the neckline, and work flat utilising standard raglan increases until you reach the required chest size. From here the arm stitches are put on to waste yarn (or a stitch holder), and the body completed.

You then return to the sleeves, working them in the round to length, before picking up stitches framing the body to create a ribbed edging.

Skills required

*knitting small circumferences in the round
picking up stitches*

If you are not familiar with these techniques you may need to reference a knitting guide book, or view videos on the internet.

Abbreviations

k.....knit

kfb.....knit into the front and back of a stitch
(an increase)

p.....purl

RS.....Right Side of work

WS.....Wrong Side of work

Gauge

28sts/10cm on 3.25mm needles (in stocking stitch)

Materials

4ply/fingering weight yarn (350-450m/100g)

This pattern is suitable for yarn with good elasticity and memory – a wool or wool blend.

Suggested yarn:

Malabrigo Yarn Sock (402m/100g)

0.5 skein

Equipment

2.75mm and 3.25mm circular needles

(or needle size required to achieve gauge, plus a second needle 2 sizes smaller than this)

4 stitch markers

darning needle (for sewing in ends)

waste yarn or stitch holder (for separating sleeves)

Knitting Needle length

The **larger sized needle is used for Part A of the knit. You could use flat needles – however a circular needle will feel more comfortable. 80cm is a good length.*

The sleeves of this knit are worked in the round using the **larger sized needle. You will need to use an 80cm circular needle and work 'magic loop', or alternatively use double pointed needles.*

** The **smaller sized needle** is used for completing the body and sleeve edgings.*

Why choose a frontless cardy?

If you have ever been mama to a bub with reflux, a spilly babe, or even a messy eating 1 year old, you will understand how frustrating it is to keep washing the dirty fronts of cardigans and sweaters.

The Baby Vertebrae is also excellent for baby wearing, and getting in some skin to skin cuddles with your newborn.

The Pattern

Part A: Chest

Using **larger needle**, loosely cast on 52 stitches

Row 1 (WS): purl all stitches

Row 2 - marker placement row (RS): kfb, place marker, kfb, k11, kfb, place marker, kfb, k22, kfb, place marker, kfb, k11, kfb, place marker, kfb

Row 3 (WS): purl all stitches

Row 4 (RS): kfb, k1, slip marker, (kfb, knit until 1 stitch left before next marker, kfb, slip marker)x3, kfb, k1

Row 5 (WS): purl all stitches

Row 6 (RS): knit to first marker, slip marker, (kfb, knit until 1 stitch left before next marker, kfb, slip marker)x3, knit to end of row

Repeat **Rows 5 and 6** until you have 54 stitches across the back of the knit (between 2nd and 3rd stitch markers)

Work **Row 5 (WS)** one more time.

Part B: Sleeve separation

Sleeve separation row (RS): knit to first marker, remove marker.

Place stitches between this marker and the second marker onto waste yarn or a stitch holder (sleeve).

Remove second marker.

Knit to third marker, remove marker.

Place stitches between this marker and the fourth marker onto waste yarn or a stitch holder (sleeve).

Remove fourth marker.

Knit to end of row.

You will now have **60 stitches** live on the needles, and **43 stitches** on each piece of waste yarn.

Part C: Body

Work in stocking stitch (knit all stitches on RS rows, purl all stitches on WS rows) until body measures approximately **16.5cm from underarm**.

End having just worked a WS row.

Setup for ribbing (RS):

If using contrast colour, change now.

Using **smaller needle**, knit one row, increasing one stitch in the centre back of the body (61sts)

Part D: Body Hem

Continue using **smaller needle**

Row 1 (WS): p2, (k1, p1) repeat stitches within () until 1 stitch left, p1

Row 2 (RS): k2, (p1, k1) repeat stitches within () until 1 stitch left, k1

Repeat **Body Hem Rows 1 and 2** until ribbed hem measures approximately 2.5cm.

Cast off loosely in rib pattern

Part E: Sleeves

Return stitches from one piece of waste yarn (or stitch holder) to your **larger needle**, pick up 1 stitch under the arm (**44sts**)

Join for working in the round, placing a stitch marker to indicate this point.

Knit in stocking stitch (knit all stitches, every round) until sleeve measures approximately 9cm from underarm.

Change to **smaller needle**.

If using a contrast colour, change now and knit 1 round. Work 1x1 rib (k1, p1) for 2.5cm.

Cast off loosely in pattern.

Repeat for second sleeve

Part F: Body ribbed edging

Using **smaller needle**, pick up 3 of every 4 stitches along the 'raw' edge of knitting.

Work 1x1 rib (k1, p1) for 3-4cm.

Cast off loosely in rib pattern

Finishing

Sew in all ends.

Wash in a gentle wool wash, then lay flat and in shape, to dry

Baby Vertebrae, Kiddy Vertebrae, and Mama Vertebrae

So you've enjoyed knitting the Newborn Vertebrae, but your baby is getting too big to squeeze in any longer? Visit <http://www.ravelry.com/designers/kelly-brooker> to find more information about the comprehensive versions of Newborn Vertebrae; more sizes (from newborn up to adult), and written for more than one yarn weight!

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I give my blessing for you to knit and sell as many items using this pattern as you wish!

Need pattern support? Visit

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