

L E L A H

by Christine Buhagiar



Lelah was my very first attempt at designing, named after my gorgeous and amazing friend [Lelah](#) Olender. Visit her blog [My Little Noopy](#) and praise her wonderfulness.

This is a DIY pattern in which you, the knitter, learn how to easily create a garment fitted specifically to YOUR body! The Instructions are more of a guideline as you should do the (I promise- EASY) math, fill in the blanks provided, and knit so it fits.

The Lelah top is knit from bottom-up, but can be easily reversed for top-down. Pattern calls for a variation of horse shoe lace, but you could easily substitute another with some minor math. Bust consists of a negative ease complimenting any size rack and eliminating the need for short rowing, but feel free to add some darts if that's your thing! Elastic casing on top ensures prevention of unintentional embarrassing flashing of lady lumps.

Those of you searching for the SKIRT version: Use the same formula, replace the bust with a high hip measurement (But don't go too tight if you fear muffin tops) and a low hip measurement instead of under the bust. Record the distance between these 2 points for Stockinette RPI.

I hope you have fun knitting Lelah! xoxoxox Christine

Materials Checklist:

- ✓ 450 + yards of preferred worsted weight yarn (this is a rough estimate, yardage will differ in various yarns)
- ✓ Size 9 circulars (24" length)
- ✓ Size 10 1/2 circulars (24" length)
- ✓ Stitch Markers
- ✓ Matching thread (optional if you are going to "knit" your casing into the garment)
- ✓ Needle
- ✓ Elastic Band (I used 3/4")
- ✓ Paper, pencil and Calculator
- ✓ Good tape measure, plastic coated or cloth.

Notes:

-Important!! READ NOTES AND THIS PAGE CAREFULLY BEFORE STARTING.

-You will need to do 2 swatches, 1 in Stockinette, 1 in lace. Don't skimp on swatching!

-Remember to account for the elastic; you will need to knit a little extra stockinette to fold over this.

-For the best fit, do the math rather than the 2 sizes provided. You can do it, I promise, and it will be worth it!

Gauge: 17 st x 24 rows = 4"

Stockinette Row count. **This step is optional as you can just use the tape measure rather than counting rows.**

- For the lace/ bottom section take under bust to hem measurement (D), MULTIPLY by your lace repeat per inch. (Ex. called for 12" of lace, one full 6 row repeat of lace equals 1 inch. $12 \times 6 = 72$ rows total and 12 repeats of lace) Fudge the numbers to retain a full repeat. You do not want to interrupt the lace mid-way through!
- Finally, SUBTRACT high bust st count from lace st count. The number that you are left with is how many dec's you will need to perform. You may want to use this handy calculator [HERE](#) to figure out how to decrease evenly across the round.

The Measurements:

Take the following measurements and record on piece of paper.

- Measure circumference of high bust (right under the pits) tightly (knits are stretchy!). Now round to nearest even number. Label this (A).
- Measure circumference around where you want your hem line to fall LOOSELY. (Label this (B)).
- Measure from high bust down to hem line. (C)
- Measure from point before bust starts to hem. (D)

The Math:

1. Get out the calculator. Take your Stockinette swatch and measure SPI (Stitches per Inch) and RPI (Rows per Inch). Measure Lace swatch, record one repeat length in inches. (Example 1 repeat = 1 inch)

2. Take rounded Bust measurement (A) and MULTIPLY by SPI. (Ex. 36" bust x 4 spi = 144 stitches)

3. Take Hem circumference (B) and MULTIPLY by SPI. (Ex. 38" x 4 spi = 152 stitches) To get number of CO stitches, take number obtained from hem x spi and add or subtract necessary st to get a number divisible by 11, rounding off closest to the original. (Ex. We had 38" for the hem which = 152 stitches. Divide 152 by 11- it doesn't fit. Nor does 153, But 154 stitches will fit exactly 14 multiples of lace)

4. Now that we know we are going to have X amount of st's for the body (We had 154 used in the example), 154 is even, so leave it. If you ended up with an odd number, you can simply add one st by yo, k1 instead of yo, k2tog in the eyelet round, try to place this by BOR so it's inconspicuous.

5. OPTIONAL- Take high bust to hem measurement (C) and multiply by RPI. (Ex. 16" x 6 rpi = 96 rows) Now SUBTRACT under bust to hem measurement (D) from high bust to hem measurement (C) (Ex. Let's say we C is 16" and D is 12". C minus D = 4") The number you get is your stockinette part, take the length of your elastic, double it (in order to fold over). Take RPI and MULTIPLY to get

Pattern Instructions

Use the blanks to fill in your numbers

1. Cast on ____ stitches on size 10½ circulars, mark BOR, and join without twisting.
2. Begin the horse shoe lace pattern, work rows 1 - 6 for ____ inches or ____ rows. (____ repeats total)
3. After finishing repeats, switch to size 9 circulars, knit one round.
4. Next round: Evenly dec ____ stitches evenly across. (*Knit ____ st's, k2tog*)
5. Next round: Knit even (use this round to count stitches)
6. Next round: *yo, k2tog* (remember if you ended up with an odd number begin round by yo, k1)
7. Knit ____ rows or until stockinette section is ____ inches long. *At this point, if you are unsure of fit, simply move st's onto a long piece of scrap yarn and try it on!
8. BO LOOSELY, lightly BLOCK using your preferred method.
9. Take elastic, and as if you were measuring yourself, wrap it around high bust, pull on it a little. You want it snug but not so tight it cuts off your circulation or makes unsightly bulges. Mark and cut.
10. Turn piece inside-out and fold over elastic (baste in place if you aren't good with sewing). Start sewing, careful not to sew into the elastic. As you near completion, you might need to gather in the back so you can continue to fold over, to do this just hold the 2 elastic ends and pull garment material to the back. When you have about an inch of sweater left, sew the 2 elastic ends together and finish sewing over the last bit. TA DAH! That was easy! Behold your perfect tube top.

Horse Shoe Lace Pattern:

1. *P1, k1, yo, k2, sl1-k2tog-ssso, k2, yo, k1, p1*.
2. *P1, k9, p1*.
3. *P1, k2, yo, k1, sl1-k2tog-ssso, k1, yo, k2, p1*.
4. Rep Row 2.
5. *P1, k3, yo, sl1-k2tog-ssso, yo, k3, p1*.
6. Rep Row 2.

List of abbreviations used within this pattern:

BOR	Beginning of Row
CO	Cast On
Dec	Decrease
K	Knit
K2tog	Knit 2 stitches together
Sl 1-k2tog-ssso	Slip one st, knit 2 st's together, pass slipped st over.
P	Purl
YO	Yarn Over
Ex.	Example
RPI	Rows per Inch
SPI	Stitches per Inch
St	Stitch
BO	Bind Off

Horse Shoe Lace Pattern											
•										•	6
•				○	λ	○				•	5
•										•	4
•			○		λ		○			•	3
•										•	2
•		○			λ			○		•	1
Chart is read from right to left											

*Photos on cover page courtesy of these stellar women;

Right: **Anna** ([Knitrawr](#) on Ravelry) Find her blog <http://www.YellowBirdKnits.blogspot.com>

Left: **Carrie** ([CarrieM](#) on Rav) Find her blog (and patterns!) at <http://www.EveryWordsaPurl.blogspot.com>

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