

Small Child's Guernsey – for aged 2 to 5 years



Materials: 5ply Guernsey yarn 400g, set of UK size 13 (2.5 mm) dpns, (optional circular needle for body).

Note. This pattern is based on a genuine Cornish Guernsey (also known as a knit-frock) traditionally over-sized for a 2 year-old and should last for several years (roll back the sleeve cuffs and revel in the extra length). The front and back are identical, thus allowing even wear on both body and sleeves, preventing uneven wear-out. The firm highly twisted wool and thin needles create a soft, dense and

very hardwearing garment which cannot be replicated at this tension by a machine. This guernsey may well become a family heirloom!

Several of the patterns are taken from Mary Wright's book 'Cornish Guernseys & Knit-frocks' published by The Heritage Press, Clifton-upon-Teme, Worcestershire, UK; first published in 1979.

Tension (gauge): 34 sts to 4 inch (10 cm) in width.

Abbreviations:

p	purl
k	knit
sl	slip knitwise
sts	stitches
pssso	pass slipped stitch over
g.st	garter stitch
dpns	double-pointed needles
k2tog	knit 2 sts together
ss	stocking stitch
inc	increase
dec	decrease

Patterns:

Key to symbols



Slip next 3 sts onto a cable needle and leave at front of work, k3, k3 off cable needle

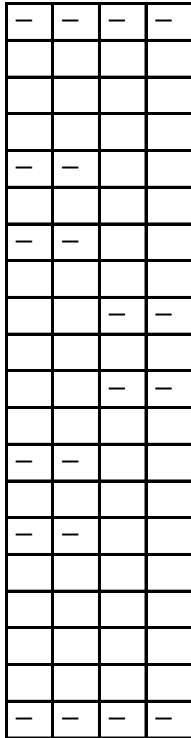


P right side row or round, or k wrong side row



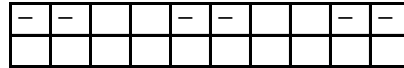
K right side row or round, or p wrong side row

Pattern A



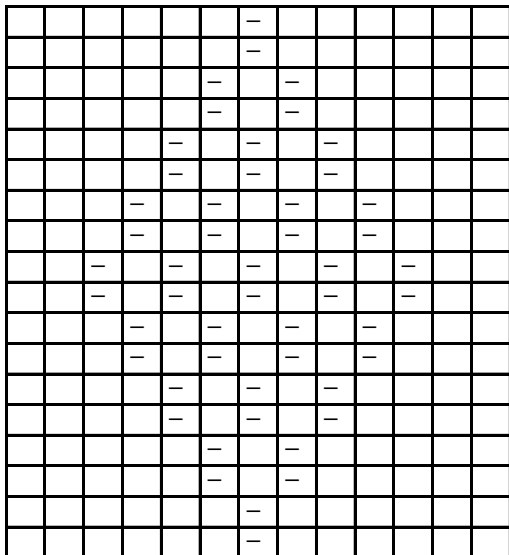
Cawsand'
Double
Moss
border

Pattern B



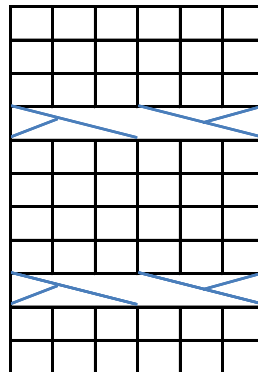
Dividing bars

Pattern C



Diamond

Pattern D



3 and 3 cable

Continue thus with Pattern A, while at the same time make the double increase at each seam every 4th round, thus creating a gusset for each underarm. When Pattern A is complete work a k round, placing the seam sts and gusset sts at each side on stitch holders.

Continue on the first 115 sts to work the front bodice.

Set-up row: K2, work Pattern B on next 10 sts, work Pattern C 'Diamond' on next 13 sts, work Pattern B on next 10 sts, work Pattern D 'cable' on next 6 sts, work Pattern B on next 10 sts, work Pattern E 'Polperro Musician' on next 13 sts, work Pattern B on next 10 sts, work Pattern D 'cable' on next 6 sts, work Pattern B on next 10 sts, work Pattern C 'Diamond' on next 13sts, work Pattern B on next 10 sts, work final k2. (115 sts).

2 sts	10	13	10	6	10	13	10	6	10	13	10	2
Garter Stitch	Patt B	Patt C	Patt B	Patt D	Patt B	Patt E	Patt B	Patt D	Patt B	Patt C	Patt B	Garter Stitch

Continue in patterns as set until bodice measures 6 ½ ins (16.5 cm). Leave sts on a spare needle.

Rejoin yarn to remaining 115 sts and complete back bodice to match front.

You are now going to cast off the shoulders with the seam showing on the right side of the work. Turn work so that end of working yarn is on the right-hand side. With wrong-sides facing, use a 3-needle cast-off and proceed to cast off (bind-off) 18 sts from back and front shoulder (one st remains on right-hand needle).

Work shoulder gusset: k1, turn; sl 1, p2, turn; sl 1, k3, turn; sl 1, p4, turn. Continue to absorb sts alternately from front and back until the row (sl 1, k11) has been worked and right side is facing. Do not turn. Work across front neck in pattern to end of row. Work second shoulder join and gusset as before. Do not break off yarn.

Arrange remaining sts on to dpns and work 11 rounds in k2, p2 (increasing evenly on first round if needed to ensure that number of sts is divisible by 4.) Cast off *very* loosely – before fastening off threads check that the neck will pass over the child's head. It may help to use a needle a couple of sizes larger.

Sleeves:

Slip 1 set of underarm gusset sts with their accompanying seam sts on to a dpn, and with remaining dpns and right-side facing pick up and knit 90 sts evenly around the sleeve opening (approximately 7 or 8 picked-up sts for every 6 g.st ridges).

Round 1 and 3: P1 (a seam stitch), k gusset sts, p1 (second seam st), k90.

Round 2 and 4: K.

Round 5: P1, k2tog, k to last 2 sts of gusset, sl1, k1, pss0, p1, k90.

Continue thus in ss, working the seam sts in garter stitch and reducing one st at each edge of the gusset on every 4th round and finally closing the gusset by k3tog on a 4th round. At this point work one repeat of border Pattern A while continuing to work the sleeve seam in garter st, and also decreasing every 4th round both sides of the seam st until 52 sts remain. Continue without shaping in ss until sleeve measures 11 ins (28cm).

Work 22 rounds in k2, p2 rib. Cast off very loosely, in double wool if liked.

This Guernsey may well last into a second generation if knitted in real Guernsey wool. To prolong its life as the original wearer grows, you can unravel the sleeve back to a suitable point, losing 2 or 4 reductions, and re-knit the sleeve and rib to a longer and wider length.



Close up of pattern, showing underarm gusset and sleeve top.