Utopia Crafts

The Solstice Cardigan



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Pattern in UK - M, L, XL

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A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR...

Thank you !

I'm beyond excited to share *The Solstice Cardigan* with you, a design that's extra special thanks to my collaboration with **Utopia Crafts**. This pattern was created using their beautiful Re-Cotton yarns, a soft, breathable, and eco-conscious DK weight yarn made from 80% recycled cotton and 20% recycled polyester. Designed for knitters who care about both quality and the planet.

I hope you love making this cardigan as much as I loved designing it!

To keep up with more of my knitwear creations, be sure to follow me on Instagram and TikTok **@meredithcerys** for more craft and fashion content, Also the amazing **@Utopia.crafts** for all your crafty material needs ;)

If you have any questions or need help with the pattern, feel free to send me a DM — I'm always happy to help. And if you make your own version of *The Solstice Cardigan*, don't forget to **tag us!** We would absolutely love seeing your creations and sharing them with the amazing online knitting community. Let's keep spreading the knitting love 🧶💛



Meredith and the Utopia Craft family xx

What you will need:

The Solstice Cardigan has a classic, fitted shape that reaches the hip bone, it is a raglan cardigan, worked from the top down in stockinette stitch with ribbed edges. I have tried to make it as basic as possible, making it ideal for beginners and those new to knitting.

Pattern in UK - **M, L , XL**

MEASUREMENTS:
Cardigan circumference: 104,110, 116cm
Length (centre back): 51,54,55cm

The sizes are for busts of 95, 100, 112 cm
Measure your bust to pick the right size. For example, if your bust is between 90-95 cm choose size M. Don't forget to knit a swatch to check your gauge, as even a small difference can affect the final fit

You will need:
One pair of 5mm circular needles and one pair of 7mm circular needles.
A handful of Stitch Markers.
Optional: Stitch Holders

Materials:
200g,of Re-Cotton Light Pink
100g,200g(L),200g(XL) of Re-Cotton Pumpkin Orange
100g,200g(L),200g(XL) of Re-Cotton White
100g,200g(L),200g(XL) of Re-Cotton Dark Indigo
You will need -6, 6, 7 buttons, (2-4 cm)
https://utopiacrafts.co.uk/

Gauge;
17 stitches/26 rows in stocking stitch using 5mm needles = 10 x 10cm
You want it to be nice and loose so just relax and enjoy :)



How to M1R and M1L-(increasing Raglan)

[The red stitches are my stitch markers in the images]

1:Knit to the first stitch marker.



2-3-4: Insert the left needle from back to front underneath the bar between the stitches, before the stitch marker, and knit into the bar.This creates a new stitch.







5:Then, move the stitch marker to the right needle.



6: Knit the 2 stitches in between the markers.and past the other marker over to the right needle



7-8-9 : Make1Left, Insert the left needle from front to back underneath the bar between the stitches, after the stitch marker, and knit through the back loop. Creating the new stitch.







If stuck; Follow this link for a video of how to Make1right and Make1Left.

https://www.youtube.com/watchhowtoincrease

Tip:you should always have 2 stitches in between the stitch markers at all times.

Colour Way:

We'll divide the cardigan into **4 horizontal stripes** [**With an extra stripe at the end of the sleeves in PINK**] :

1. **Stripe 1** PINK **(Top/Shoulders)**: Yoke (from cast-on to end of raglan increases)
2. **Stripe 2** PUMPKIN ORANGE **(Upper Body and Sleeves)**: From separating sleeves to halfway down the body/sleeves
3. **Stripe 3** WHITE **(Lower Body and Sleeves)**: From halfway point to just before the ribbing
4. **Stripe 4** NAVY BLUE **(Ribbing sections)**: Hem and sleeve ribbing (in a contrasting stripe color)

Each stripe will be **evenly spaced**, but you can vary this (e.g. make the bottom stripe wider, or the ribbing match the top stripe) depending on your style. Don't worry I will talk you through when you need to change colours. :)



Starting the Yolk:

Knit the cardigan in stocking stitch. To make stocking stitch, knit all stitches on the right side and purl all stitches on the wrong side. When working flat, alternate between knitting one row and purling the next. When working in the round, knit every round.

Cast on: 66,70,74 stitches with 5 mm needles. IN PINK
Then Purl the next row.

The next row is the RS. (right side)Start by placing 8 markers to divide the work into sections: front, sleeves, and back of the cardigan. The markers will also indicate the raglan increases.

Place markers as follows:
Knit,11,12, 13 stitches [The front],put your **1st** marker,knit 2 raglan-stitches, place the **2nd** marker, knit 8,8, 8 stitches [sleeve 1], place the **3rd** marker, knit 2 raglan-stitches, place the **4th** marker, knit 20,22, 24 stitches (The back), and place the **5th** marker,then knit 2 raglan- stitches, put the **6th** marker,knit 8,8, 8stitches [Sleeve 2], add the**7th** marker, knit the final 2 raglan-Stitches,and add the **8th** marker, then you should only need to knit 11,12 13 more stitches.

Now, begin the raglan increases. Increase every other row, which means every 2nd row and they are all right-side rows.

Row 1: *Knit to the first marker. Make1Right, move the marker to the right needle, knit the 2 raglan stitches,* move the second marker to the right needle, Make1Left.
Repeat the increases at the remaining 6 markers.

Row 2: Purl all stitches!
Each increase row adds 8 stitches to the total stitch count.

Repeat row 1 and 2 until you have worked a total of 44,46,48 rows. You now have a 242,254,266 stitches on your needles.

The stitches are divided as follows: 33, 35, 37 stitches for the left front, 2 raglan stitches, 52, 54, 56 stitches for the sleeve, 2 raglan stitches, 64, 68, 72 stitches for the back, 2 raglan stitches, 52, 54, 56 stitches for the second sleeve, 2 raglan stitches, and 33, 35, 37 stitches for the right front.

Dividing up the work:

Next, separate the body and sleeves. Use waste yarn [*or stitch holders]* to hold the sleeve stitches while you continue working on the body. Switch yarn to PUMPKIN ORANGE

You can remove the markers as you work the next row. Note: The 8 raglan stitches are included in the body stitch count at this point.

To do this: Knit up to the second marker, then place the next 52, 54, or 56 stitches onto waste yarn[Or stitch holders].

Next, cast on 4, 4, 4 new stitches [with the backwards loop method or thumb cast on method]. These will mark the left armhole. Knit the back stitches up to the 6th marker, then place the next 52, 54, 56 stitches on hold with waste yarn. Cast on 4, 4, 4 new stitches [with the same methods as the left armhole] These new stitches will mark the right armhole. Knit to the end of the row. You should now have 146, 154, or 162 stitches on your needles. Continue working the body as follows...

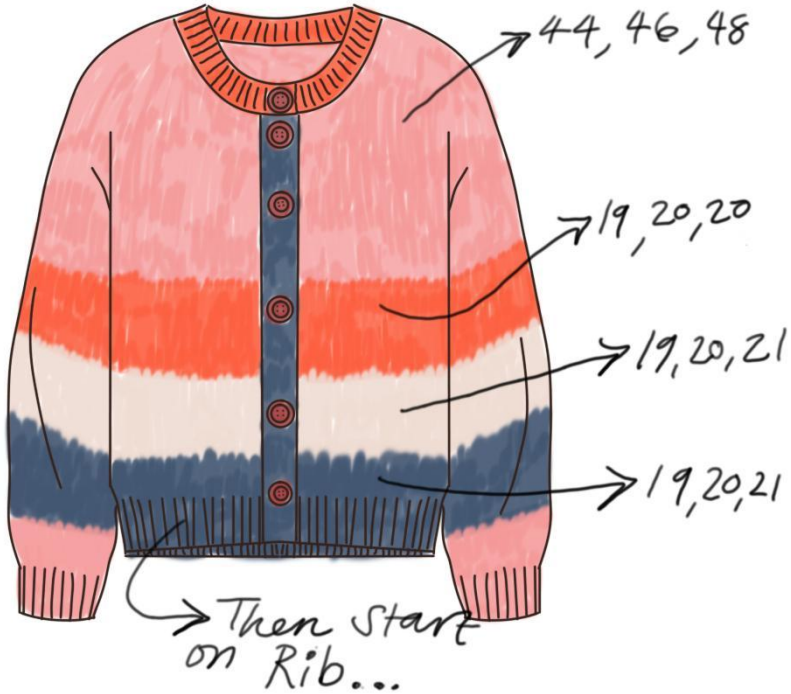


Colour Work for the rest of the body:

Knit the next **19,20,20** rows of the body in PUMPKIN ORANGE

Change at the start of the next row to WHITE and knit the next **19,20,21** rows in WHITE.

Then change to the NAVY BLUE for the last **19,20,21** rows - before decreasing and knitting and starting the ribbing rows seen next page for further instructions..



Tips for Clean Colour Changes

When changing colours in flat knitting (like the body)-Just drop the old yarn and start knitting with the new one at the beginning of a right side (RS) row.Leave a tail and weave it in neatly later.

When changing colours in the round (like sleeves)-Change colour at the start of a round, ideally where your marker is under the arm.Tighten the first few stitches to avoid ladders.Weave in ends neatly as you go or secure them by knitting them in for a few stitches.

Continue with the body:

Continue in stocking stitch until work measures 45(or knitted roughly 38 rows for the medium size) ,48, 49cm this is measured from the cast on edge at the CB.

Before starting the ribbing[still in NAVY], decrease the stitch count to 125, 133, 139 by evenly decreasing on the next row: Knit 2, 6, 4 stitches, k2tog, knit 5; repeat this until you have 4, 8, or 5 stitches remaining. Then, k2tog and knit 2, 6, or 3. The next row is a wrong-side row. Switch to 5 mm needles and purl one row.

Now, begin the bottom ribbing. Work: K1, p1 until the last 2 stitches, then knit 2. This creates a 1x1 ribbing. Continue working in rib (knit over knit, purl over purl) until the ribbing measures 5cm. Or you have knitted 6 rows.

Next, cast off the stitches. You can cast off the ribbing with the tubular bind-off or just loosely casting off that will create a stretchy, neat edge.

Knit the Sleeves:

The sleeves are worked in stocking stitch in the round (knit all stitches every round) using either circular or double-pointed needles. If using circular needles, you can use the magic loop technique.

Transfer the 52, 54, or 56 stitches that were placed on hold, put them back onto your 5mm needles for first sleeve.[In PUMPKIN ORANGE]

Starting under the armhole, pick up and knit 4, 4, 4 stitches from the cast-on edge of the body. The center of the newly picked-up stitches will mark the beginning of the round. Place a stitch marker here.
You should now have 56, 58, 60 stitches on your needles. Work in stocking stitch in the round...
Working in the colour way as follows:

PUMPKIN ORANGE for: 19,20,20 Rounds
WHITE for:19,20,21 Rounds
NAVY for :19,20,21 Rounds
LIGHT PINK for: 19,20,22 Rounds before starting the cuff trim.

Or until the sleeve measures 39, 40, 41 cm (measured from the picked-up stitches under the armhole).
Switch to 4 mm needles. Begin the decrease for the ribbing by knitting 2 stitches together across the entire row. ***Note: For sizes M and L, start and end the round by knitting 1 stitch. This ensures you get the correct number of stitches for the ribbing.***You should now have 28, 30, 30 stitches on your needles. Work 5cm of 1x1 ribbing [Or 7 rows] then bind off using the same method as for the body.***Repeat these steps for the second sleeve.***

The Front Edges...

FRONT EDGES

Now work the front edges.Along the right edge of the cardigan (right when wearing it) work buttonholes. Along the left edge, sew on buttons. Have a look here for instructions on how to pick up stitches along an edge: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NYuN-Vt92Q

Left Front Edge: [KNIT IN NAVY BLUE YARN]

To begin, pick up and knit 82, 85, or 87 stitches along the left front edge of the cardigan, starting from the right side, using 5 mm needles. When picking up stitches, aim to pick up 4 stitches for every 5 stitches in the edge. **To do this:** pick up and knit 4 stitches, skip 1 stitch, pick up and knit 4 stitches, skip 1 stitch, and so on. Once you've picked up the stitches, work in 1x1 ribbing. The first row will be a wrong-side row.

Row 1 (wrong side): Slip 1 stitch purlwise with the yarn in front. Purl 1, knit 1 to the last 2 stitches, then purl 2.

Row 2 (right side): Knit 1, knit 1, purl 1 to the last 2 stitches, then knit 2.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until the front edge measures 3 cm or completed 7 rows in total.

Bind off using the same method as for the body and sleeves.

Right Front Edge: [KNIT IN NAVY BLUE YARN]

For this edge, you'll make 5, 5, or 6 buttonholes. [Note:The final buttonhole will be added when working the neck trim later.]

Pick up and knit 82, 85, 87 stitches along the right front edge, starting from the right side, using 5 mm needles. Again, pick up 4 stitches for every 5 stitches along the edge. It's important to pick up the correct number of stitches, as this ensures the buttonholes are placed correctly.To make the buttonholes, work a yarn over (YO) followed by knitting 2 stitches together (k2tog), one knit and one purl stitch. The first row is a wrong-side row.

Row 1 (wrong side):Purl 1, purl 1, knit 1 to the end of the row.

Row 2 (right side):Slip the first stitch purlwise with the yarn in front. *Knit 1, purl 1* to the last 2 stitches, then knit 2. **Repeat row 1. You should have worked a total of 3 rows so far.**

The Buttonholes.

Tip if you are unsure how to YO (yarn over) method then follow this link below:https://youtu.be/BLsB1IJmTaM

On the 4th row (right side), it's time to make the buttonholes.

For sizes M and L:
1. Slip the first stitch purlwise with the yarn in front.
2. Work 3 stitches in 1x1 ribbing (knit 1, purl 1).
3. Make a buttonhole: yarn over, then knit 2 together.
4. Work 14 stitches in 1x1 ribbing (knit 1, purl 1).
5. Make another buttonhole: yarn over, then knit 2 together.
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 two more times (working 14 stitches in rib, then making a buttonhole).
7. Work in 1x1 ribbing to the last 2 stitches, then knit 2.

This will create the buttonholes along the edge.

For size XL:
1. Slip the first stitch purlwise with the yarn in front.
2. Work the next 3 stitches in 1x1 ribbing (knit 1, purl 1).
3. Make a buttonhole by doing a yarn over (wrap the yarn over the needle) and then knit 2 stitches together (k2tog).
4. Work 12 stitches in 1x1 ribbing (knit 1, purl 1).
5. Make another buttonhole by doing a yarn over, then knit 2 stitches together.
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5, four more times (for a total of 5 buttonholes).
7. After the last buttonhole, work in 1x1 ribbing until you have 2 stitches left, then knit 2.

Now, work 3 additional rows of 1x1 ribbing, alternating between Row 1 and Row 2. You will have completed a total of 7 rows. When you're done, bind off the stitches using the same method as the left front edge.

Neck Trim and Casting Off:

[KNIT THE NECK TRIM IN PUMPKIN ORANGE]
Start by picking up stitches along the cast-on edge and the top of the two front edges. Begin at the top of the right front edge and pick up and knit 79, 81, or 85 stitches using 5 mm needles. Pick up one stitch for each stitch along the edge. [The first row will be a wrong-side row.]

Row 1 (wrong side):Slip 1 stitch purlwise with the yarn in front. *Purl 1, knit 1* across the entire row.
Row 2 (right side):Slip 1 stitch purlwise with the yarn in front. *Knit 1, purl 1* across, ending with knitting 2 stitches.

Repeat Row 1. You should have worked 3 rows now.
On the next row, make a buttonhole:
- Slip 1 stitch purlwise with the yarn in front.
- Work 3 stitches in 1x1 rib (knit 1, purl 1).
- Yarn over (wrap the yarn around the needle), then knit 2 stitches together (k2tog).
- Work the rest of the row in 1x1 ribbing, ending with knit 2 stitches.

Work 3 more rows in 1x1 ribbing, alternating between Row 1 and Row 2.

Finally, bind off the stitches using the same method you used for the front edges.



Blocking!

Finishing Off:

Now time for the most enjoyable part of the whole project ;) and that's weaving in all loose ends.

Once you're finished weaving in, align the buttonholes with the left front side. Mark where the buttonholes line up, then sew the buttons in place.

Optional: To let the stitches relax and fall more naturally into place hand wash and wet block the cardigan before use.

Or similarly with a steam iron lightly steam the cardigan on a very low setting to help relax the stitches, avoid over steaming as this might flatten the texture of the knit.

For tips on how to block effectively follow this link:
https://youtu.be/hEc3LTX1e0Y



Thank You!