
Knit the Freeport Cardigan with Tian Connaughton

Chapter 1 - Knit the Freeport Cardigan

Overview

- My name is Tian Connaughton. I'm a designer, technical editor and author and I love helping people just like you to knit and crochet sweaters to fit your body. In this class, I'll show you how to knit the Freeport cardigan. This sweater is worked in one piece from the bottom up. You'll do one seam across the shoulders. That's it and I'll show you how to work things like short rolls for your sleeve caps, cabling, cabling without a needle, twisted ribs and so much more. When I first designed this sweater almost 10 years ago, I never saw anyone that looked like me with my body type wearing a sweater like this and I am so proud to be able to offer this size-inclusive pattern so that you can make a sweater that feels amazing, looks amazing, that you can be proud to make and wear. (light music)

Materials

- For the Freeport Cardigan, you'll need the following materials. You'll need a worsted weight yarn. Check the pattern for the amount of yarn you'll need for your size. I like using Swish from Knit Picks because it's a really good wearing yarn and the price is phenomenal for the amount of yarn you'll need for this project. Also, you'll need two size needles. You'll need a US 6 for the body and a 5 for the ribbon. You'll also need scissors, measuring tape, stitch holders, buttons. I'm using half-inch buttons. Check your pattern for the amount of buttons you'll actually need for your size. Also, you'll need stitch markers, cable needles, tapestry needle. You'll also need blocking materials such as T pins, blocking mat, and a spray bottle. Don't forget to print out a copy of the pattern to refer to.

Swatching

- While you're super excited to get started on your cardigan, it is vital that you start with a swatch. Swatching will help to ensure that you get the correct gauge and that your finished cardigan will actually fit you. There are multiple stitch patterns that are worked in the cardigan, so I've taken a chance to show you each of the different stitches so you can get an idea of what your swatch might look like. One of the first stitches you'll use is the one-by-one ribbing, which we have here, and it's a twisted rib, which is a little different than a regular one-by-one rib. The pattern also uses stockinette stitch and a few different cable stitches. This is the cable stitch that's predominant on the back of the cardigan, and these are the stitches that are on the front of the cardigan. To ensure that your swatch will give you the best result, make a swatch that's at least a six-by-six inch square, so once you've completed your swatch, let it rest overnight because your swatch has been under a lot of tension through the stitching process. Let it sit for a day, overnight. Then once you've had your swatch rest, take it to your blocking mat. Without stretching it too much, just lay it, pin it, pin as much as you need for it to lay flat, and then use a spray bottle to mist and let it dry completely. Once your swatch is dried, take the gauge information and compare it to the pattern to make sure that you are on the right track, that it matches the pattern. That way you'll be sure that your pattern will fit. The pattern calls for a gauge of 20 stitches in 24 rows over four inches in stockinette. Also, you'll need a gauge of 22 stitches in 28 rows over four inches in the cable pattern. So make sure you've let your swatch rest and blocked, then take your finished gauge.

Casting on and ribbing

- We're starting at the ribbing at the bottom hem of the cardigan. I'm casting on for the smallest size in the pattern, which is 166 stitches. And while I'm casting on, I'm gonna show you a couple of tips for casting on such a large number of stitches. With the smallest size needle, cast on the number of stitches for your size. I'm casting on 166. And because that's a lot of stitches to keep track of, I place a stitch marker approximately every 20 stitches, every 50 stitches, just so I have a clear idea of when I'm getting close to the number of stitches I need without having to recount over and over again. And work another 20 stitches. Place another stitch marker. I'm using the slingshot cast on method. You can use whatever cast on works best for you. I just prefer this one. So again, place your stitch markers at intervals. You can do every 20 stitches, or every 50 stitches, whatever will help you to achieve your cast on without having to recount all your stitches every single time. Now that you have all your stitches cast on, don't join your stitches to work in the round. We're gonna be working in rows, back and forth. To make sure you don't start knitting with your tail, just put a little knot in there just so you'll remember which end is the tail. 'Cause I've done that plenty of times. And now we're working on the first row of the twisted rib stitch. And to work that stitch, you'll knit through the first stitch as normal. And then purl the second stitch. But where the magic starts for the twisted rib, on your next stitch, instead of knitting through the front of the stitch, instead you'll knit through the back loop. Turn over and pull through. And then purl normal. And again, knit through the back loop. And continue in that manner to the end of the row. So this is the right side of the row where we knit through the back loop and purl through the front. If you've never done this before, it might feel a bit fiddly, but after 100 stitches you'll be a pro. As you get to a stitch marker that you used for your count, you can just slip it right off and remove it. We don't need it for this part of the pattern. Those were just there to help you with your count. So remove your stitch markers and keep going. And there you have your first row, which is a right side row. It doesn't look like much right now, but keep going. Flip your work around. We'll begin with the first stitch on the wrong side row. So we'll knit that first stitch And we'll purl into the back loop. Your normal purl will be the purl into the front. Instead you're gonna kind of flip your work and purl into the back. And over. Okay, then you'll knit your next stitch. And again purl through the back loop. Through and over, pull through. We'll do it one more time. So the purl through the back loop, insert your needle, yarn over, and pull up. And knit your next stitch. If you're having a hard time, I like to just turn my work, just see what I'm doing. Turn over, and then keep going. And if this feels awkward, after over a hundred stitches, it'll become routine. Just keep going. Finish row two. Then continue to repeat rows one and two until you have three inches of the ribbing completed, making sure to end on a wrong side row. And we'll work on the last few stitches and we'll be at three inches. And then on the wrong side row. And there you have your three inches of twisted rib. This is the wrong side. You can see more definition on the right side. Can you see that difference? To work the setup row, you'll need to refer to the chart and the pattern charts, A, B, and C. Follow along for the number of stitches for your size. Begin the setup row, and we'll be transitioning from the small needle to the large needle size. And I'm using stitch markers to help me with the placement of each chart to make it easier for me to follow the pattern over all these stitches. So I'll knit the first stitch. Purl the second stitch. And the next set of pattern calls to work chart A of the pattern. And I like to place a stitch marker around those cable stitches just to easily keep track of where I am in the pattern. So it says to work chart A over five stitches. So the next five stitches, we'll work chart A row one, and we're working from right to left for the right side of the pattern, and left to right on the wrong side of your work. Purl three. And knit two stitches. And those are your five stitches for

chart A. And placing another stitch marker to indicate those five stitches. And the pattern says to purl one. Knit one through the back loop. And again, I'm working the smallest size, so I'm doing that purl one knit one through the back loop only once, then I'm purling one, then I'm working chart C row one. And again I'm using stitch markers to help me designate which charts I'm working on. So I'll place a stitch marker here. And following along the pattern. So we'll purl five. I will bring our cable needle in to help with our cables. If you know how to cable without a cable needle, that's perfect. But I'll show you how to cable with the cable needle. So we're working the stitch here. Which has worked over four stitches. Put two stitches to the front, knit the next two. And then knit those two stitches from the cable needle. There you have your first cable cross. It doesn't look like much right now, but it will. Continue on. Purl four. Gets fiddly as you're trying to transition between needles. But keep going. Again, we're doing the same cable cross again. So slip two stitches onto your cable hook. Knit two stitches from your knitting needle. And then knit those two stitches from your cable needle. And another thing you can do is just slip those stitches back onto your needle and work them. That's another option. Okay, and now we're at purl four. And work another cable cross. So I'm gonna show you how to do the cable cross without the cable needle. So we want those three stitches on the front. We're gonna place all four stitches for this cable onto your right-hand needle. Slip your left-hand needle into those first two stitches, and slip those two off, and just catch 'em back. And because this is a wool yarn, it won't slip as much. If you were using something like a silk, then I wouldn't recommend doing this method because your stitches will slip and run all the way down. But for a grabby yarn like a wool, this is a great method. And then we're at the end of this row for your chart with purl five. And place another stitch marker. And that's the end of chart C. And that's worked over 30 stitches. Continue with your pattern. Purl one. Knit one through the back loop. Read your pattern to make sure you have the correct amount of times to work those stitches for your size. And we'll purl three. And here you place a stitch marker for the side of your sweater. So this is the front. We're now working on the back. And then this stitch marker is to indicate that we're at a side seam. Purl six. And if you notice I use a different stitch marker for the side just so I know where a side seam is versus a marker to indicate a stitch pattern. So now I'm starting to work chart B over the next 10 stitches. And depending on your size, you might need to work this more than one time. Purl three. We'll do the cable cross again, which is similar to the one we just worked in chart C row one. So you'll place two stitches on your cable hook, hold it to the front, knit two stitches, place those stitches back on your working needle. Or you can just knit them directly from the cable needle. And then knit those two stitches. And purl three. And those are the 10 stitches for chart B. Purl two. Knit one through the back loop. Purl two. Knit one through the back loop. Purl one. And now we're gonna work chart C row one again. So, purl five. Using your cable hook slip two to the front. Knit two off your needle. Place those stitches back onto your working needle and knit those two stitches. Okay. Purl four. We're working the cable again. Slip two to your cable needle, or your cable hook. Knit two stitches. And if you're ever wondering what direction or if you should hold your stitches on your cable needle to the front or the back, refer to the legend and it'll tell you exactly what you need to do for each stitch. Purl four. And we will work that cable again. And I'm gonna do it without a cable needle. Because there's so many cable crosses, if you could practice working without a cable needle, that will make this so much faster. Right, and that's the end of chart C. And we'll purl one, knit one through the back loop. Purl two. Knit one through the back loop. Purl two. Work chart B again, row one. And place your stitch marker to help you to spot those cables. We'll purl three. Work the cable cross. We'll slip in four, and then taking 'em off. If you're not comfortable working without a cable needle, please use a cable needle. And then purl the last three.

Place our stitch marker to indicate the end of that chart. Purl six. Place your second side marker. Purl three. And you don't have to use stitch markers as much as I have been, but if you need to, please do. Now we're at chart C. We have purled five stitches. Now we're doing our cable cross. Purl four. And we down to this cable cross here. Slip those four off, grab those two and just capture those, okay? Purl four. And I'm alternating between using the cable needle and not just to show you what's possible. And we're at the last five purl stitches for chart C. We'll purl one. Then knit one through the back loop. Purl one. We're at chart A. And you might have noticed I've stopped using stitch markers because I don't need them. But if you do, please use them to mark all your cables. And now we're at our last two stitches. Purl one, knit one. And that's the end of your setup row. You can see some of the cable crosses, they're not very clear yet. You can see where we have our side markers. So this is the back and these are the fronts. We'll turn our work and work the wrong side row. And the wrong side row is to knit the knits as they appear, and purl the purl stitches as they appear. If you're not sure if you should knit or purl, refer back to your chart. And don't forget that you did mark off your chart, so you should be able to tell which chart you're working on. When you come to a vee, knit those. That's how I tell when you have to knit a stitch. If you have a little bump, then just purl into it. There's a bump, so we'll purl into that one. Those are four bumps here. That's a vee, so we'll knit into that stitch. Again, and again. And it might be a little difficult to tell sometimes if it's a bump or a vee. For example here, you just have to pull your stitch and see it's a vee. This bump is on the previous row. So we'll knit into that again. Knit into that stitch. And that's a bump, so we'll purl into that. You'll just keep following the stitch pattern all the way to the end of the row. We're finishing up row two which is a wrong side row. This is a great opportunity for you to learn how to read your stitches. And there you have row two complete. Getting ready to start on row three. For row three, and all the odd number rows, you'll follow the setup rows. Start with knit one, purl one. And now we're working chart A again. But this time we're working chart A row three. So we'll purl two. And we'll do this cable cross here, which is this cable cross here. So, using your cable needle slip one, hold it to the back of your work. And this hook is really great for holding your stitch. Knit the next two stitches. Either work directly from the cable needle or place that stitch back onto your working needle. And then knit that stitch. Then continue with the pattern. Purl one. Knit one through the back loop. Purl one. And work chart C row three. So purl five. We will knit four. Purl four. Knit the next four stitches. Purl four. Knit four. And purl the last five stitches. And there you've completed chart C. Continue with the pattern. Purl three. Now we're at the side seam stitch marker. And I know that because that's a different stitch marker. Continue in the pattern. Now we're working chart B, row three. Purl two. And we'll follow that cable cross. Just slip one to the back. Knit two. Place that stitch back onto your working needle and knit that stitch. Now we're doing the second half of that cable. So we'll slip two, hold that to the front. Knit the next stitch, Slip those two stitches back to your working needle. Knit those two stitches. And purl two. So that completes row three of chart B. Continue to work in the pattern as written. And this is working chart C again, all the way across. Continue row three to the end. When you're done with row three, move on to row four, which is the same as the previous wrong side row. You'll knit the knit stitches, and purl the purl stitches as they appear. Now let's start row five. And we're continuing in the existing pattern. Knit the first stitch, purl the second stitch. Work chart A, row five to purl that first stitch. Use your cable needle, or not. Slip the first stitch, hold it to the back. Knit your next two stitches. Replace that stitch from your holder, from your cable needle, back onto your working needle. And continue. Knit that next stitch. Continue in the pattern. And we're working chart C over 30 stitches. Purl the first five stitches. Slip the first two stitches. Pull to the front. Knit two. Place those stitches back onto your

working needle. For chart C, row five is the exact same as row one. Practice on a swatch if you're scared to try on your actual project. Now let's do chart B row five. Purl your first stitch. Work your cable cross. So we'll slip that first stitch, place it at the back of your work, knit the next two stitches. Place that stitch back on to your working needle and knit that stitch. Knit two. And we'll do the next cable cross. So slip these two to the front. Knit one. Replace those stitches back onto your needle. Knit those two stitches. Purl one. And there you have chart B. Continue in pattern. Continue to work row five as written. Then turn your work and finish row six, same as we've done with our wrong side rows. Knit your knit stitches and purl your purl stitches as they appear. Now let's start row seven. Now for chart A. The first three stitches of that chart is your cable. Slip your first stitch. It gets a little fiddly, but you can do it. Just take your time. Knit the next two stitches. Slip that stitch back onto your working needle. And knit the next two stitches. Continuing pattern to the next chart. Now we're at chart C. Row seven, we'll purl the first four stitches. Now this stitch is a little different. Throughout the process, whenever we've cabled, we've knit both the stitch that's on the needle and the stitch on the cable needle. We're gonna do something a little different. And if you look at the stitch that we're working here, these three stitches, that's this stitch here, right? So we'll slip one stitch to the cable needle, and hold it to the back. Knit the next two stitches. And what that little dot mean is that we will purl that stitch. So place your stitch back on your needle, move your yarn back to the front, and purl. Now we're working the second half of that cable, which is this one here. So you'll slip two stitches to the front. Purl that stitch. Slip your stitches back onto your needle. And you'll knit those stitches. So if you'll look at your work, you have two purl bumps here, which are those two little dots there. Continue. Purl two. You are gonna work those two cables again. Slip that stitch to the back. Knit the next two stitches. Slip the stitch from your cable needle back to your working needle. And purl. And now we're working the second half. So we'll slip these two stitches, hold them to the front. Purl that stitch. Slip your stitches back onto the working needle. And knit. And again, you have those two little purl bumps. Have one here, and one here. And those correlate with those two little purl bumps. Purl two. And we'll do that again. This is great practice. Slip one, hold it to the back. Knit two. Purl that stitch from the cable needle. Purl. Slip two, hold those to the front. Purl one. And these two stitches you'll knit. And purl those last four stitches for the chart. And there you have row seven of chart C. Continue to work in pattern. Here we have chart B. And we're working row seven. So we'll slip one stitch to the back. We'll knit that first stitch. Knit the next stitch. Slip that back onto your working needle. And knit. Knit four. And work the cable going the other direction. So slip two this time. Hold them to the front. Knit one. And knit those two. Finish up row seven, turn your work, work your wrong side row as we've been doing. Knit your knit stitches. Purl your purl stitches. Continue to work the stitch patterns as established until you reach four inches worked in the cable pattern, making sure that you're ending on a wrong side row. This is what your sweater will look like after working four inches in pattern. Your sweater might look slightly different because of the size that you are working in. I was working on a size small sweater previously. Now I'm working on a baby size. And I wanted to show you that, based on whatever size you're working on, the chart might look slightly different. For this baby size, this is chart A on the ends. These are chart B in the middle. And this is chart C, or my version of chart C based on my size that I'm making now.

Waist shaping

- Start the waist shaping. Work in pattern until you get to three stitches before your side seam. We're at three stitches before the side seam, purl two stitches together. Purl the next stitch, slip

your stitch marker. Purl one and slip, slip, purl. And that's your decrease on both sides of the stitch marker. Continue to work in pattern across to the next stitch marker for the side seam and do the same thing again. When you get to three stitches before the stitch marker, purl two together, purl one, slip your stitch marker purl one, then slip, slip, purl the stitch, and that way you'll end up with one decrease on the right side of the stitch marker and one decreased stitch on the left side of your stitch marker. Now you know how to work your decrease rows. Continue to decrease every eight rows for the amount of times needed for your size. Once you've completed the decreases for your size, you'll work 14 rows even in pattern, meaning that you're not decreasing at all. At this point, our samples are gonna look completely different. Depending on what size you're working on, you'll work different amount of rows. My baby sample works less rows than your samples will be. So make sure that you're keeping track of how many rows you've worked and where you are in the pattern. To work the increases, continue in pattern in your row until you get to one stitch before the side seam stitch marker. And when you get to one stitch before that side seam, you'll make one. I like using the backward loop, which is just to make a loop and slip it on. And then continue working in pattern across. Slip your stitch marker, work your stitch, and work another backward loop for your preferred increased stitch. So you should have one stitch increase on each side of your stitch marker. Continue to work across the row until you get to your other side seam stitch marker and do it again. Work until you have one stitch before the side seam stitch marker. Work your increase and then continue working in pattern. Slip your stitch marker, work your stitch in pattern, then work your increase, for me, again, that's a backward loop increase. Repeat your increase row every eight rows for the same number of times that you did for your decreases. When you're done with all your increases, you should have the same number of stitches that you started with. Continuing to work even in pattern without increasing or decreasing until the body of your sweater measure your desired length, making sure that you're ending on a wrong side row.

Right front

- At this point, the body of your sweater is complete. Hooray. You're ready to work on the front and the back pieces separately. So in this first row, we're gonna work across to the side seam stitch marker, the first one. And then we're gonna stop, remove that stitch marker. And we're just gonna work on those stitches for the front. So we're just continuing on working in pattern. We're not changing anything, we're just continuing on. So just knit and purl, in stitch pattern across until you get to that first side seam stitch marker. Here we are at our stitch marker, let's take that out. Make sure you're keeping track of what row you've left off on, so that when you go back to work the back and the other front, you know exactly what rows to pick up on, so you don't lose your place. Turn your work to the wrong side row. And then depending on what size you're working on, you'll bind off the amount of stitches given in the pattern. So let's bind off four stitches. So you'll knit two slip the first stitch over the right, that's bind off one. And we wanna bind off in pattern, if possible. If for some reason you're like, "Oh, I just wanna bind off in knit or purl," go for it. That's binding off two. That's bind off three, bind off four. And just keep track of your stitches so you know exactly what stitch to work on when you're working the right side row. Continue to work your wrong side row. Knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches. Depending on what size you're working on, you might need to bind off more stitches at the beginning of your wrong side row. But for the small size, you're done binding off. Continue to work in pattern without decreasing, without binding off until you get to the length given in the pattern. Here we have our front panel, almost done. Let's get ready to shape the neck opening. Depending on what size you're making, you'll bind off the number

given in the pattern. We're gonna bind off, for the first stitches at the beginning of the row. Remember, we're working on a baby size, so we're gonna bind off only a few stitches, continuing pattern across the row. And I'm doing my cable cross without my cable needle. But you can use your cable needle as much as you feel necessary. The number of stitches you'll be working on for your pattern will vary because you are working on a different size than I am. On the wrong side row, knit the knit stitches, and purl the purl stitches, as they appear. Continue to decrease at the beginning of the right side rows for the number of times given for your size in the pattern. Once you've achieved the right number of stitches remaining for your right front, you'll work even without shaping, without decreasing, or increasing until your armhole measure your desired length. Once you have your desired length for your armhole, place your stitches on a stitch holder, you can either use a stitch holder or you can just use yarn on a needle and just thread through the live stitches. We wanna hold those stitches there while we work on the rest of the body of your sweater. And the reason we wanna leave these stitches live is because when we're done with the back and the other front, we're going to do a three needle bind off instead of sewing up the pieces. So we want these stitches to remain live so we can do those three needle bind offs, and I'll show you exactly how to do that.

Back

- Time to rejoin your yarn to work the back of your sweater. This is super simple to do, but be careful that you're working on the correct row. Remember, earlier, we talked about making sure that you note where you left off when you separated for the right front. That's where that information comes in handy. So go back to that note, and wherever you left off, that's where you're gonna start on your back. In this section, we're going to work only across the back stitches, leaving the left front unworked for now. To rejoin your yarn, it's very simple. Insert your needle into that stitch. And I like to just wrap it around, hold tension with my left hand, and just begin to knit. We're binding off the first four stitches for this size, but read the pattern to see how many stitches you need to bind off for your size. You have your bind-off done. Continue in pattern across to the second side stitch marker. At the second stitch marker, just remove that stitch marker. Leave your second front piece unworked. Turn your work, and you'll bind off the same amount of stitches that you did at the beginning of that row. So if you bind off four stitches, make sure you bind off four stitches here. If you bind off six, make sure you bind off six here. Follow the pattern for your size. Here, we have our back stitches. Depending on what size you're working on, you'll either continue to bind off more stitches at the beginning of your right-side row and your wrong-side row. Work even in pattern without shaping, without binding off, until the arm hole measures the length given in the pattern, making sure to end on a wrong side row. Here, I have my back piece completed. Don't forget to put your stitches on a holder.

Left front

- Let's get ready to start on the left front of your cardigan. Before we rejoin our yarn, let's talk about a couple of things that we wanna think about before we get started. The left front is worked similarly to the right front with a few exceptions. Your decreases will be worked on the inner corner of your sweater instead of on the outer side. And what does that mean? You'll be working your bind offs on the right side row instead of the wrong side row, like you did for the left side. Rejoin your yarn on the right side of your row and bind off the same number of stitches that you did on your right front. Work across your row and pattern as established. On the wrong side you'll continue to

knit the knits, purl the purls. Continue to work your bind offs to match your right front. When you get to the desired length given in the pattern, begin your neck shaping, and that will be worked similar to your right front. So once you've reached the neck shaping on the left front, be sure that you're working your bind offs for the neck shaping on your wrong side row, and those shapings will be worked on the outer edge of your cardigan. To join the right front to the back, we're going to do a three needle bind off. So we'll replace our stitch holders with our needle. So we'll just slip the stitches off the holder onto our needle. And this is called a three-needle bind off because we do need three needles, and we're placing these stitches onto the larger size needle, and I'll use the smaller needle for the bind off. As you're orienting your needles, just remove your stitches from your holder from the back, and the same number of stitches. If you're working on a full-size sweater, you can count how many stitches are on your front and then just put those stitches from the back onto your needle instead of all of them. Because I'm using such a small sample, I'm just gonna put all of my stitches on my needle for the back. And if your stitches are way too much for your stitch holder, you can simply just thread it onto some worsted yarn. Some smooth worsted yarn works best. Orient our pieces so that the right sides are facing. And we'll insert our needle, our spare third needle. If you have a DPN that's a similar size, you can do that too. Take our yarn, yarn over, and we're pulling through both the front and the back stitches. You do that again. So you insert your needle through the front of your front needle, in the front loop of your back needle, yarn over, and you're pulling through both. And you're gonna slip both of those off. Do it again into the front loop of your front needle and the front loop of your back needle. Slip those off and you're just gonna bind off as normal, and continue across until you have all the front stitches done. So follow your pattern for your size to make sure you have the correct number of stitches for the front and the back. Don't tug too tight. We don't want our stitches to pucker, so keep it nice and loose, but not too loose. We don't wanna have gaping holes, so just keep your tension nice and even. Get down to the last stitch in the front and the back. Just pull through and leave those stitches on the back on your needle if you have them on your needle, or leave them on your stitch holder 'cause we'll do the same for the other front. And I like to just pull up a loop and pull through. I don't break my yarn until near the end just to make sure I have enough yarn for everything I need. So there's your three-needle bind off on the wrong side. And when you flip it over, this is what it looks like on the right side. Go ahead and join the left front to the back using the three-needle bind off method using the same process we did for the right front.

Sleeves

- Now we're ready to start our sleeve. We're done with the charts, so you can put that away. We'll pick up stitches around the arm hole opening using the smallest needles. Beginning at the underarm of your sleeve, we'll pick up stitches. And we wanna use the smallest needle so that we don't have a lot of gaps in our pickup stitches. Follow the instructions in the pattern for your size for the number of stitches you will need to pick up. I like to start my first pickup stitch right at the tail where I did my bind off for the arm hole opening. So with my new yarn, wrap the yarn around and pull through. So pick up stitches evenly around the arm hole opening for your size. And what I like to do is to figure out half the number of stitches I need for the total arm hole. And then place a stitch marker at the three-needle bind off seam so I know that I need to get to that halfway point at the seam. Don't rush on this part because we want to have a nice pickup edge. So if you're picking up and after like a couple of stitches, it doesn't look good, just undo it and try again. The ratio I like to go for is three stitches into every four rows. So you can look to see if you can find like four rows along the edge

and pick up three of those and skip the fourth. So you'll pick up three and skip one. But that might not work for you, just rip it out and try again. Just take your time. I'm working on a baby size sample so I don't need a lot of stitches. Maintain an even tension. Don't pull too tight, don't make it too loose. I'm at the seam at the shoulder and I'll just check to see if I have the number of stitches I need for my sample size. And if I do, I'll place a stitch marker, and just make sure I have the same number of stitches along the other edge. I'm using a longer needle, but you can use DPNs if that works better for you, double pointed needles. And there you have it. All the stitches picked up that we need for our sample to start our sleeve. Now we'll switch to our larger needle and work three rounds even. We're working on the first round. And typically we would place a stitch marker at the beginning of the round. But because we're switching needles, if I place a stitch marker it will just fall off, so I'll wait until we're doing round two to indicate the beginning of my round. So knit evenly around with your larger needle. And this might feel a little fiddly, but just take your time. It's just one stitch at a time. Again, you can use DPNs or you can use 16-inch needles or longer needles using the magic loop method. Just find a method that works best for you and just do it. Okay, there's our small needle done. And all these extra tails, I'll just stick on the inside. I don't like breaking my tails until I'm done, just in case I need it for something else. So that's round one complete. Here's round two. For round two and three, you'll just knit around and around. Not increasing, not decreasing, just evenly around. Start the short row shaping with row one, which is a right side row. You'll work across to this number of stitch given in the pattern for your size, then do a wrap and turn. Knit across the number of stitches indicated for your size in the pattern. This is a baby size that I'm working on, so my count will differ from yours and I'm using the magic loop method instead of DPNs. But you can definitely use whatever method you find more comfortable for working small circumferences. When you've reached the number of stitches given in the pattern, begin your wrap and turn. To work your wrap and turn, slip the next stitch, pull your yarn forward, slip that stitch back onto your left hand needle and slip your yarn back. Turn your work and continue to purl. And on the wrong side row, you'll purl to the number of stitches given in the pattern for your size. To do a wrap and turn on the purl side, slip your stitch yarn forward, slip the stitch back onto your left hand needle and pull your yarn back. Turn your work and continue. Continue to knit on the right side row until you get to that wrap that we completed on that first right side row. Now we're at our wrap stitch and it's very obvious because now we have this wrapping around our stitch. So when we get to that wrap, we'll use our right hand needle, pick it up, insert our needle between the wrap and the stitch, and work our knit two together. And that wrap disappears. Right. And we'll do it again, we'll do another wrap. And what we're doing here with the wrap and turn is we're creating stitches along the top of your sleeve to build your sleep cap. And that gives it a nice shaping. So we'll go again all the way on the wrong side of your work until we find that wrap that we did previously. Here we are at the wrap that we worked on the wrong side row previously. You can tell there's a gap, a noticeable gap in between your stitches. So when you get to that point, find the wrap, insert your right hand needle under the wrap and also into the stitch and purl the two together. And do a wrap and turn for your next stitch. Repeat row three and four until you have one stitch remaining on each side of the arm hole. You've been working your short rows and you should have one stitch remaining. So I wanna show you what to do when you're at the end of your short row shaping. On the right side row, you'll knit across until you get to that last wrap and turn that you did. Here's our wrap, here's our last stitch. We're gonna take our wrap and do what we've done before and do a knit two together. Knit that one stitch. Instead of turning, we're gonna keep working in the round. So keep knitting. And now we're at the wrap that we worked on the wrong side row. I'm gonna

show you a tip to make sure you don't have a weird gap in your fabric. We're gonna lift that wrap and place it onto our left hand needle. We're gonna swap places with the wrap stitch that we placed on our needle and our stitch. Then we're gonna slip the stitch off knitwise, we're going to slip that wrap stitch purlwise, insert your needle in and knit them together. That will tighten up when you block. And then just keep knitting around until the sleeve measures two inches at the underarm. So once you've done your sleeve cap, mine is obviously smaller because I'm working on a baby size. But if you look at the sleeve, you can see a shape in here, which is giving your sleeve this little additional fabric at the top. And that's what the short row did when you were going around. You were working more stitches back and forth at the top of your sleeve to give you a nice curve. So when you're measuring those two inches, you wanna make sure you're measuring at the underarm and not at the sleeve cap. The sleeve decreases are worked only at the underarm of your sleeves. To start your knit row, knit the first stitch, knit two together, knit around the sleeve until you have three stitches remaining. With three stitches remaining, we want to do a decrease here with a slip slip knit. And then knit that last stitch. And now you have worked a decrease on either side of the stitch. We have our knit two together there, and we have our SSK there. The reason we wanna do these decreases in this particular order is so that we have the direction of the stitch on the right going towards the left and the stitch on the left going towards the right. Work the number of decrease rounds for your your size, then continue to work even in pattern without decreasing until your sleeve measure your desired length. This is where we're at with our sleeve after working our decreases. I've placed stitch markers to indicate some of my decreases, and now I've switched to the smaller needles to start working the ribbing. Knit the first stitch. The ribbing that we're working for the sleeve is a bit different than the ribbing that we worked at the hem because now we're working in the round instead of working flat. Purl, knit into the back loop and purl. And this is all we're doing every round. So it's knit through the back loop and purl. Unlike when we were working flat, we were purling into the back loop on the wrong side, there is no wrong side when you're working in the round. Continue to work this twisted rib in the round until your cuff measures two inches. This is what your ribbing would look like when completed. Now let's start the bind off. And I like to bind off pretty loosely so that the cuffs are comfortable around my wrist. You can bind off knitwise or you can bind off in pattern, you decide. Just be consistent for both sleeves. I'm binding off knitwise. And that just means that I'm knitting every stitch in my bind off. You can see how loosely I'm leaving my stitches. If you complete your bind off and you realize it's too tight, rip back and try to bind off with a larger needle. Sleeve complete, it's not too tight. Complete your second sleeve and then we'll start the collar.

Collar

- Start the collar using your smaller needles. Then once all your stitches have been picked up, transfer those stitches onto your larger needles. Begin picking up stitches with a right side facing. Start at the neck edge and pick up stitches. The number of stitches for your size is given in the pattern. If you need to adjust those stitches, feel free to do so. Make sure you have an even number of stitches on your needles when completed. Pick up stitches along those bind off stitches at the neck until you get to the back stitches that are still on your stitch holder. A tip is to use stitch markers to help you evenly space your stitches. So, you can place stitch markers every two inches, every three inches to make sure that you're picking up an even number of stitches across. So, once you get to your backstitches that are on your holder, knit them from the holder. If you don't have a holder like this and you're using scrap yarn, place those stitches on a needle and knit from them.

There's all the backstitches. Now continue to pick up stitches along the edge. Picking up the same number of stitches on this side as you did before. There you have your stitches picked up around the collar. Turn your work. And start working in ribbing with the larger needle. Now the right side of your collar will be the inside of your piece because when you're wearing your sweater, the collar will flip and we wanna have that pretty rib showing on the back. So this is your right side row. So knit your first stitch, and we're doing the same thing we did at the hem. So knit through the back loop. Purl. Knit through the back loop, purl. Continue to do that all the way across. When you turn to work the wrong side row, you'll knit and then purl into the back loop. Continue to work in twisted rib flat until the collar measures 12 inches. Then bind off. This is the finished collar. This is the pretty side of your ribbon. When you fold it to the back, you'll have that pretty side showing.

Button band and buttonhole band

- We're nearing the end. Now, it's time to work our buttonband and our buttonhole band, starting with our smaller needles. At this point, you should be an expert at picking up stitches. Start at the bottom hem with your cardigan facing the right side. Follow the pattern for your size to determine the number of stitches to pick up. Work from the hem all the way up to the top of the collar, and you'll be doing this for both sides of the cardigan. As you're picking up stitches, think about which side of your cardigan you want your buttonholes to be on. The side with the buttonhole, you'll work the ribbing pattern until the piece measure 1.5 inches. Then, you'll work the buttonholes. The side that has the buttons, you'll work those stitches for two inches in the same Twisted Rib pattern. And just a pro tip, I like to tuck my sleeves into my sweater so they're just not all over the place because even though this is a baby sweater, they would get out of control and be everywhere. So just tuck them inside your sweater to keep them nice and safe and out of the way. Turn your work, switch needles, and work in Twisted Rib. The inside of your Twisted Rib here is your wrong side, so knit and purl one through the back loop. This side is my buttonhole band side, so I'll be working to 1 1/2 inches in the Twisted Rib stitch pattern. And then, I'll show you how to do the buttonholes. We've worked 1.5 inches of the Twisted Rib for the buttonhole band. I'm gonna show you my tip for placing your buttonholes. Grab your measuring tape and start in at the bottom. Measure approximately half an inch and place a stitch marker, and this will be your bottom buttonhole. For the top, you have two options. You can either place an actual buttonhole at the very top near your collar or you can decide that you want your first buttonhole to be at your neck. So you decide. For our sample, I'm starting at the very top. and you might decide to place your marker here for the buttonhole, but then decide not to actually do a buttonhole. That's fine. But just to have it as a guide. Then, figure out the distance between both markers and then place your stitch markers evenly. How far apart do you want your buttonholes? How many buttons do you want? You can try on your sweater at this point, look in the mirror and see how it feels where it might fall naturally for you. We have approximately nine inches between our sample here. Maybe I want a button every three inches. that will give us four buttonholes. Try it on, see if that works. Maybe you decide you want a buttonhole every one inch. This is your time to play around and see what works for you. So we have one here at three inches, six inches, and nine. Now, let's work our buttonhole row. Continue to work in the Twisted Rib pattern as established until you get to where you've marked on your sweater. And when you come to the spot that you marked, we'll bind off two stitches, and that will be your buttonhole so you knit your next stitch. Yarn over to bind off, knit the next one, and yarn over to bind off the next one. There's your first buttonhole. Continue in pattern. That's a purl stitch. Knit through the back loop until you reach the next stitch marker. And then just do it again. Bind off

two stitches at every stitch marker. Here's our second buttonhole marker. Work that stitch as it appears. We'll purl. Then knit the next stitch. Work a bind off. Work the next stitch as it appears. Bind off. There, you have two stitches bound off at our buttonhole placement. Continue in pattern. Turn your work to the wrong side and continue to work in the rib pattern as established. Now, when you get to the hole that was created when you did your two bind off, now you'll cast on those two stitches. To cast on, you can use whatever method works best for you. I'm doing a backward loop cast on, which is just to make a loop and place your needle on, and keep going. Here's your next buttonhole. Work a backward loop or your preferred cast on method and do two of those to replace the two stitches that were bound off. Finish this row casting on for those bound off stitches. Then continue to work your buttonhole band until it measures two inches. When you're done with that, bind off. Pick up for your buttonband side, work exactly as we did for the buttonhole Band, except you won't be working the buttonholes. Work in the Twisted Ribbing until you have two inches completed bind off. You did it, your sweater is almost ready. Great job on getting all the knitting done. I'm gonna show you how to sew on your buttons, and you'll be all set to go. Use a tapestry needle or a sewing needle that fits the eye of your button. I've already placed a few of my buttons based on my buttonholes. Very simply, just line up your button with the buttonhole. Insert your needle from the back. Just pull one strand through. You decide if you want to do Xs or hash marks. Let's do an X for this one. To make it a little extra secure, insert your needle through the back but not through the button. Wrap it around once or twice, go back through, and just make a little knot. You can weave in these ends. Snip your ends. There's your button. Without tugging too much, place your button and sew on. Start on from the back. For this button, I'm doing hash marks instead of the X, but for your project, you can do whatever you want. For your collar, you can either decide to put more buttons along this edge, so when you flip it over, you have buttons going this way. Or you can just leave it as is. Weave in your ends and block your sweater. My favorite way to block a sweater of this size is to put it in my bathtub. Fill it up with some warm water, some wool wash. Let it sit there for a couple of hours. Take it out, roll it in a towel, and lay it out on a spare bed to dry. A sweater this size will take a little bit of time to dry, so give it enough space, smooth it out without tugging, without stretching. Just let it dry on its own. Here's the best part: when you get to put it on. The sweater is complete, and I am so excited to show you my favorite parts. I love the cape and the cables in the back. I love the sleeves. I love everything about it. You tell me, what's your favorite part of the sweater?