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## **Knit a Striped Toddler Sweater** with Gudrun Johnston

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

- I'm gonna be showing you how to knit this cute toddler sweater. You can pick your favorite colors for a stripy version, or work it in a solid color with a contrast hem and cuffs. Worked in worsted weight yarn, this knits up quickly, and it's a great project if you're looking to expand your knitting repertoire as it uses an unusual seamless construction.

### **Chapter 2 - Materials**

#### Materials

- You're going to need some worsted weight yarn for this project. I'm using Berrocco Vintage, and if you're working a stripy version, you're gonna need a skein of each color, and then your contrast color for the hem and cuffs. You're not going to be using very much of the contrast color. You're going to need to refer to the written pattern, depending on which size you're making, for the correct yardage. The size range goes from six months to three to four years. You'll also need circular needles in a variety of lengths. I am using a 20 inch, a 16 inch, and a 40 inch cable, and my needle sizes are a US eight for the main body, and then a US seven to work the cuffs, the hem, and the neckline. You're going to need some stitch markers, a total of four, two pieces of contrast yarn, tapestry needle for weaving in our ends, and a row counter for keeping track of where you are in the pattern, but that's optional.

### **Chapter 3 - Front and Back**

#### Cast on and work back

- Before we start the actual knitting, let's just go over how this sweater comes together. We're gonna start by casting on stitches for the back. We'll work a couple of short rows to shape the shoulders, and then a few more rows. Then we'll be picking up stitches from our back piece to work the fronts, and we're gonna incorporate the neck shaping, and we're also gonna start to incorporate the tops of the sleeves. Once we've cast on all of the stitches for the neck, we're gonna be working in the round and changing colors for our stripes. And we'll be increasing on our sleeve stitches, but not on the body until we reach the underarm curve, and then we're gonna increase on the body and the sleeves. And this seamless construction is called a simultaneous set-in sleeve. We'll catch on stitches at the underarm, and then we'll work the remainder of the body straight without any shaping, work our hem, and then we'll go back to our held sleeve stitches, and we'll shape the sleeves down to the cuff. And we'll finish by picking up stitches around the neck and working our neckband. We're gonna begin by casting on the stitches for the back. I'm going to be knitting the third size in the pattern, so I need to cast on 44 stitches. I'm going to use a long-tail cast-on. And to determine how long the tail needs to be, I'm gonna wrap my yarn around the needle 10 times. I'm gonna take that length and double it, so I have 20 stitches' worth. 30, 40, and I'm just gonna go for another length, so 50. And that should give me plenty for my tail. So I make a slip knot at that point. And I'm gonna place that on my needle as my first stitch. And then I have my tail here and my working yarn here. And I'm gonna work long-tail cast-on. We're going to cast on with our main color yarn first. We're gonna purl one wrong side row first. On my next row, I'm gonna be placing two markers. And that is gonna show me where I need to work my short rows. So for the size that I'm

making, I need to knit 10 stitches. I'm gonna place a marker. And I'm gonna knit 24 stitches, and then place my second marker. Just remember that this will be a different number of stitches depending on what size you're making. So I have my two markers in place. And on in this next wrong side row, I'm gonna start to work my short rows. So you want to have your pieces of contrast yarn ready, 'cause they're going to act as place markers when we work the short rows. For my size, I need to purl to three stitches past the second marker. So I've gone past the first marker there. So I'm at my second marker. I've purled one, two, and three. I'm going to be turning my work. And I'm gonna place one of these strips of contrast yarn over my working yarn. So it needs to hang down on either side of the working yarn. And then I'm going to start knitting back across. And my contrast yarn is just gonna get caught up in my knitting and act as a placeholder. So now I'm going to knit to three stitches past the second marker. So one, two, and three. I'll turn my work so that I'm ready to work a wrong side row and do the same thing, placing the contrast yarn over the working yarn, so that it's hanging down on either side. Now, I'm gonna purl back until I reach the point at which I turned on the first short row. We're working on the back, and we're shaping the shoulders right now. So I've reached the point at which I made my first turn. You can see that there is a gap in the work here, so I need to close this gap. And the way that I do that on the wrong side is by slipping the next stitch purlwise, and then I'm gonna pull on both ends of the contrast yarn to bring up this loop. I'm gonna place that in my left-hand needle, so I'm coming from underneath to do that. I'm gonna slip this stitch on the right-hand needle back over. And then I'm gonna purl these two stitches together. And then I can go ahead and remove my contrast yarn. I'm going to purl three more stitches. And I'm gonna turn my work again. I'm gonna place my contrast yarn over the working yarn. Just gonna let it get caught up in there, and then I'm gonna knit back to the gap on the other side. Now I need to close the gap on this side. And I do that by pulling on my contrast yarn. I'm gonna place that loop on my left-hand needle, and I'm going to knit that stitch with the next stitch on the needle together. I can remove that contrast yarn. I'll knit three more and turn my work again. This time I'm going to be purling all the way to the end of the row and closing the gap on the wrong side. Here's my gap. Slip the next stitch purlwise, pull up my loop, place that on the left-hand needle, flip this stitch back over, and purl them together. And then I'm going to purl to the end of the row. And I will move the contrast yarn. Once you get to the end of that wrong side row, we're now gonna join in our second color, and we're going to work in stock and net stitch for four rows in our new color. But I'm also gonna need to close my last gap at the end of this row. When you join in the new color, all you're simply doing is placing the yarn over the needle as you go into the first stitch. Those stitches might be a little loose, but those will get tidied up when we finish the sweater. So I'm gonna close my last gap here. Remove that contrast yarn. Now we're gonna work three more rows in stock and net stitch in our second color.

#### Pick up stitches for fronts

- We're gonna be picking stitches from the back piece in order to work the fronts. I've cut working yarn, and I've placed all of these live stitches onto a piece of script yarn. We're gonna be picking up stitches from the right side and from the left side to work both of the fronts. I've also wound off a very small amount of both colors of the yarn because we're gonna be working the fronts at the same time, but with separate balls of yarn. So we're gonna begin at this outside edge, by picking up ten stitches, and we're gonna use our small ball of main color yarn on this side. We're going to start at the very outside edge here, and I'm still working with my 20-inch cable US Eight needle. I'm going to join in my small ball of main color yarn, and start to pick up my stitches for the right front. So

make sure that you go under two bars of yarn when you pick up the stitches from the cast on edge, and that will provide a strong join at the shoulder. I'm doing this for 10 stitches on the right front. So I have my 10 stitches for the right front, now I need to take 10 stitches from the left. I'm going to be starting towards the neck edge, so I need to count back on my cast on stitches here to make sure that I'm gonna end up at the outside edge here. So I'm gonna count back for 10 of the cast on stitches. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. And I'm gonna still be using the same needle. I'm gonna go into that cast on edge. This time I'm gonna to be using my main bowl of yarn. So I'm gonna join that end, and I'm gonna pick up 10 stitches from the left front. So now I have two sets of stitches, one for the right front, and one for the left front, but they're being worked with separate balls of yarn. Now I'm going to go ahead and purl one row across both sets of stitches. When you finish purling the set of stitches, you're gonna move across to the second set here, but you need to make sure that you're using the yarn from this end and not the other side. And we'll purl across these stitches too, and then we're going to knit one more row across both sets of stitches and then we're going to work our short rows as we did for the back. So I move across to my second set, but I'm gonna use the yarn that's already over there. These first few rows might seem a little bit fussy, but once we join the back and the fronts together and incorporate our sleeve stitches, it's gonna feel a lot easier. Now we're gonna begin the short row shaping for the fronts. So I'm gonna be purling across my first set of stitches. Now drop that yarn. Move over to the second set, and I'm gonna purl three stitches from this side. Then I'm gonna turn my work. I'm gonna place my contrast yarn over the working yarn, just like I did for my short rows on the back. I'm gonna knit back across these three stitches on the right front, drop the yarn there, move over to the left front. I'm going to knit three stitches from the left front, turn my work. I'll place my other piece of contrast yarn over the working yarn. I'll purl back. I'm gonna come back to these stitches and I'm gonna close the gap that I formed when I turned the work. So I slip the next stitch purl-wise, pulling my contrast yarn to bring up my loop, place that on the left-hand needle, slip that stitch back over and purl them together, just like we did on the back. Then I'm gonna purl three more stitches, turn my work, place the contrast yarn there again, for my second short row on that side. Move over to the left front. And I'm gonna close the gap on this side, pulling up my loop, placing that on the needle, and knitting those two stitches together, just like we did for the back. I'm gonna knit three more stitches. I'm gonna turn the work, remove that contrast yarn so that I can place it over the working yarn here, and now I'm gonna purl across the stitches of the left front, move over to the right front, and I'm gonna purl all the way to the end of these stitches, closing the gap on this side. I'm gonna slip that next stitch, pull on my contrast yarn, place that loop on the needle, slip that stitch back over and purl those two stitches together and remove the yarn, and I'm gonna purl to the end. Next, I need to join in my second color as I did for the back, and I'm going to be using my small wind off piece to do this. So I'm just placing that over the needle, knitting across the stitches of the right front, moving over to the left front. I need to join in the main ball of yarn, of my second color here, and I'm gonna knit to the end of this set of stitches and close the final gap on this side. Now I'm going to purl across both sets of stitches, and then we're gonna start to shape the neck portion. The main thing you have to remember when you're working these fronts at the same time, is that you're always working with separate balls of yarn on each side. So knit across the stitches of the right front until you have one stitch remaining. I'm gonna work our first neck increase, which is gonna be a make one left. So I'm gonna lift this bar of yarn, that's between the two stitches, and place that on the left-hand needle, and I want the front leg to be leaning towards the left there, and then I need to knit into the back of that stitch. Moving over to my left front, I'm using the yarn that's there, I'm

gonna knit one stitch, and then make my neck increase here. So I'm gonna lift this bar, place it on the needle. This time I want the front leg to be leaning to the right, and I'm gonna knit into the front of that stitch, and then I'm gonna knit across the rest of the stitches on the left front. I'm gonna purl one row across both sets of stitches, and then we're going to start on the stitches of the left front and begin to include our sleeves. When you finish this purl row, you can go ahead and cut the yarn from right front, if you've got a lot of excess still there. (clipping) We're gonna slip the stitches of the right front, onto the right-hand needle, and we're doing this so that we're set up to start picking up our sleeve stitches.

### Create sleeve caps

- Let's take a look at our knitting. Here we have both of our fronts worked. And this is our back piece here. These are our back neck stitches. We are gonna be knitting across the left front, and then we're gonna pick up stitches down this side for our sleeve. We'll then knit across all of these held stitches of the back. We'll pick up stitches down this side and then we're gonna knit across the stitches of the right front. We're still gonna be shaping our front neck on both sides for a few more rows. We need to bring in the main color yarn again because we're gonna be switching colors every four rows. So you can just bring up the main yarn from down here. And you're gonna knit that first stitch and we're gonna make another neck increase, which is a make one right. We're gonna knit all the way across the stitches of the left front. And you're gonna place a marker and now we're going to start to pick up stitches down this vertical edge here, and those stitches are gonna become our sleeve stitches. It's gonna feel quite tight just to get around this first corner, so you need to move the knitting right up towards the top of the needle. And you're gonna go in right below the stitch that's on the needle here, gonna go into that gap there, wrap the yarn around to pull up one stitch, go into the next gap, and we're gonna be picking up stitches at a ratio of three out of four rows down this vertical edge. So I picked up three, I'm gonna miss the next gap and pick up another three. And I want to end up with 12 stitches. And this might be a different number, depending on what size you're making, so refer to the written pattern. Next you're gonna need to place all of the live stitches of the back onto the left hand section of the needle. Once all the stitches are on there, just one more here, you're just gonna go ahead and pull out the piece of scrap yarn. You're also gonna place a second marker before you knit across the back stitches, so that our sleeve stitches are separated out from everything else. Now you're just gonna knit straight across all of these back stitches. And then we're going to pick up stitches on the other side for the second sleeve. Go ahead and place another marker and then pick up stitches down this vertical edge as you did on the other side. You might have to pull some of the extra ends of yarn out of the way as you pick up these stitches, especially at the shoulder join there. And once you have your 12 stitches, you're gonna place the second marker on there, and you'll knit across the remaining stitches of the right front. And you'll also work neck increase at the end of the right front. So with one stitch left, I'm gonna do a make one left to increase one stitch. So now we have our sleeve stitches marked out, and the backs and the fronts are all being worked on the same row. So we're gonna purl one wrong side row, then we're gonna start to increase on our sleeve stitches. On this next right side row, we're gonna start to increase inside of the markers on both sets of sleeve stitches, and we're also still shaping the front neck, so I'm gonna make my increase again at that neck edge and make one right. I'm gonna knit all the way to the first marker for the sleeves. Slip the marker and I'm gonna increase right here with a make one left. I'm gonna knit over to the other marker. I'm gonna make a make one right on this side. Slip the marker and knit across the back, and then I'm gonna repeat that on the

second sleeve. So a make one left. Knit across to the other marker. And you're going to work a make one right. Knit until you have one stitch left of the right front, and work another neck increase. We're gonna purl one more wrong side row and then we'll be ready to cast on stitches for the front neck and begin to work our piece in the round.

#### Join front and back

- To set up for this joining round, we're going to break the main yarn, and then we're going to slip stitches until we're at the center of the back. We're just slipping stitches over onto the right hand needle without knitting them. And you want to do that until you reach the center back. So that's going to be a different number of stitches depending on which size you've made. I had 44 stitches for my back, so I want to slip 22. Twenty-two. So now, this is going to become the beginning of the round, so I'm going to place a marker here. I'm going to use a different colored marker than my sleeve markers. And we need to join in new yarn, and we're ready to bring in the second color. Because we're changing colors every four rows. So I'm going to join that in. And start knitting from this point. So knit across 22 stitches of the back, and that's for the size that I'm making, until I reach my first sleeve marker. I'll set that marker. I'm going to make my increase again on the inside of the marker there, so I make one left. I'll knit across to the other marker and make another increase. Make one right. I'll knit until there's one stitch left on the right front. I'm going to make a make one left. Increase here. Knit that last stitch. Now I'm going to cast on stitches to bridge the gap between the two fronts. I'm just going to use a simple cast-on, or the backwards loop cast-on. And for my size, I need to cast on 16 stitches. Fifteen and sixteen. And then I'm going to move over to my left front. Then I'm going to knit that first stitch. You might need to pull the tail of yarn there just so that that stitch isn't too loose. When you go into it, so you knit one, make another neck increase. So for this side, it's a make one right. And then I'm going to knit across to my next sleeve. You can see I've joined the two fronts here. Now we're all finished with the neck shaping, but we're still going to be increasing on the sleeve stitches. So I work, I make one left here. And I make one right here. And then you're going to keep knitting until you get back to your beginning of the round marker. Next, you're going to knit one plain round without any increases. And then on the following round, you'll work your increases just on the sleeve stitches as we've been doing. And you're going to be repeating that for a certain number of rounds, so you'll need to refer to the written pattern to check how many rounds you need to work. I'm going to share a little tip with you which will help minimize the jog that occurs when we're changing colors. So what you do is you knit one round in your new color, and then on the second round, you're going to pick up a stitch from the row below, which was the old color, place that onto the needle, and knit those two stitches together. And then you can just continue as normal. And that's just going to help to keep the stripes a bit more even across the beginning of the round marker. So you can carry the other color up the back of the work when it's not in use, and I'm going to show you on the sweater what that looks like. You're going to repeat the sleeve increase round followed by a plain knit round for the appropriate number of rounds for your size. And then, also remember to switch colors every four rounds.

#### Increase for sleeves

- Now we're ready to start shaping the underarm curve. So we're going to be increasing stitches on the body, as well as the sleeves for a few rounds. We're going to knit across to one stitch before the first marker. And we'll make the first body increase at that point. I'm gonna make a 'make one right' here. I'll knit one, I'll slip the marker, I'm gonna make the same kind of increase that I've been making

already on my sleeves, so I'll make one left. I'm gonna knit across to the end of my sleeve stitches, and make my other sleeve increase. I'm gonna make a 'make one right' here for my sleeve increase. I'll slip that marker, I'm gonna knit one stitch, and then I'm gonna make another increase on the front body here, and that's gonna be a make one left. And basically, I'm gonna repeat that with the other side. And then I will have increased a total of four stitches on the body portion, and two stitches on each of the sleeve. So I stop one stitch before the marker, work a make one right, knit one, slip marker, make my first sleeve increase, a make one left. Knit to the end of the sleeve stitches, that's my make one right, knit one, and then this is my final body increase, a make one left. You're just gonna knit to the end of the round. You'll knit one plain round after this, and then you're gonna repeat this increase round for the appropriate number of times according to the size that you're making. Then we'll be ready to separate the body from the sleeve stitches.

## **Chapter 4 - Finish Body**

Knit body and hem

- The hard part's done, and now we're ready to separate the body from the sleeves. We finished our underarm shaping. And now we're gonna knit across on this next round to the first sleeve marker. And we're gonna place those sleeve stitches onto scrap yarn to be worked later. You can go ahead and get rid of the marker. And then just take a piece of scrap yarn, put that on your tapestry needle, and just slide all of those sleeve stitches onto the scrap yarn. So you're gonna do that until you reach that second marker. And that will be all of the sleeve stitches. Go ahead and remove that second marker. Now we're just gonna cast on a few stitches for the underarm. I'm gonna use that same simple cast on, backwards loop cast on that we used at the neck. So for my size, I just need to cast on four stitches. And then I'm going to ignore all my held sleeve stitches and go straight to knitting my stitches of the front. I'll knit across all of these, and then I'll repeat that process with the second sleeve. Then remove the marker. Get the second piece of scrap yarn. You'll cast on another four stitches at this underarm. And then knit across the remainder of the back stitches until you reach the beginning of the round marker. And now we've separated out the body from the sleeves. You're going to continue working in your four round stripes all the way for the rest of the body, and then you'll switch to second contrast color, ^in our case, that's the orange yarn, to work the hem. ^And you're just gonna work four rounds in garter stitch, ^and then bind off your stitches.

## **Chapter 5 - Sleeves**

Working the sleeves

- I finished the body and I've worked one sleeve. Both sleeves are worked the same way. So I'm gonna show you how to work the left sleeve. I've also placed my live sleeve stitches back onto the needles. And I'm using my longest cable here because I'm gonna be working magic loop. We're going to begin at the center of our cast on underarm stitches. So I had four stitches here that I cast on. So I want to start right in the center there. And I'm gonna pick up these two stitches. I'm gonna join in the appropriate color of yarn. That's one stitch picked up. In a second. And now I can go ahead and knit across my held stitches here. To work magic loop, I've divided my total stitches in half. So I have one half on this side and the other half are sitting over there, waiting to be knit. When I get to the end of this half, I'm gonna pull the needle through, and I want to leave some cable at this end. I'll slide all of the stitches on this side onto my needle, and pull a little bit through on this side. So that I have some cable on both ends. And that's what forms the magic loop. Then I'm gonna knit down this side. And then I need to pick up my last two underarm stitches here. And I'm back to the

center of my underarm. I'm gonna be working a few plane runs of stocking net stitch before I work my first decrease row to shape the sleeve. I'm coming to the end of my last plane stocking net stitch round. And now we're ready to work our first decrease round. So we're shaping the sleeve by working a knit one and then a knit two together at the beginning of the round. I'm gonna knit across all of my sleeve stitches until I have three stitches left. And I'll work my second decrease at that point. So when you have three stitches left, you're going to work a modified slip slip knit. So slip the first stitch knit-wise, the second stitch pearl-wise, and knit them together through the back loops, and end with a knit one. You're going to continue working in stocking net stitch, and you're going to be repeating your decrease round at certain intervals depending on which size of sweater you're making. And also remember that you're going to be changing your colors still, every four rounds. You'll be carrying the non-working yarn up the inside of the work. And then when you get to the cuff, you'll switch to your second contrast color and work four rounds in garter stitch and then bind off your stitches to finish the sleeve.

## **Chapter 6 - Collar and Finishing**

### Working the collar

- We'll finish our sweater by picking up stitches to work the neck band. I'm going to be using my US7 needles and the shortest cable, which is the 16 inch for working the neck band. We start picking up stitches at the center of the back neck, it doesn't have to be the exact center, just roughly. We're gonna be picking up stitches in this cast on edge here. You'll bring in your second contrast color and start to pick up from the cast on edge. We're going to be picking up stitches at a ratio of one for one, so we want to pick up at every single cast on stitch here. Make sure you go through two bars of knitting so you should have two strands sitting on the needle and you're gonna pull your loop through. You'll do that until you reach the shoulder seam here. Now you're gonna be picking up from this edge at the front and you're gonna change to pick up three out of four rows down here. Again making sure you're going in a full stitch from the edge there and going under two bars of knitting still. I picked up three, I'm gonna skip the next hole and pick up another three. The exact number of stitches that we end up with is not important as long as you're picking up at these ratios and you will have some loose ends hanging on the wrong side of the work so just try to keep those out of the way as you're keeping up your stitches. You'll keep picking up at a rate of three out of four rows until you reach the front next stitches that we cast on. I'm almost there. You're gonna pick up each of these at a ratio of one for one. Once you've finished picking up all those front neck stitches, you're going to pick up on this side at the same rate as you did on this side. That's gonna be three out of four rows until you reach the back neck stitches again. When you reach the back neck stitches again you will pick these up at a rate of one for one. Now, you're gonna place a marker for the beginning of the round and you're going to work in garter stitch in the round for three rounds. I'm starting with a pearl round, then I'll work a knit round followed by another pearled stitch round and we're gonna bind off the stitches of our neck band. I'm coming up to the end of my second pearl round. I'm gonna be starting to bind off my stitches. I can get rid of the beginning of round marker now. I'm gonna be using a stretchy bind off around the neck here because we really want to make sure that the neck band doesn't end up too tight. To work this, you're gonna knit two stitches together through the back loop and you're gonna slide that stitch that's now on your right hand needle back over to the left hand needle. You're just gonna repeat that, knitting two stitches together through the back loop. Slit that stitch in the right hand needle back over to the left and knit two together through the back loop. Slip the stitch on the right hand needle back to the left

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hand needle knit two together through the back loop, slip the stitch to the left hand needle and knit two together through the back loop, slip the stitch and knit two together through the back loop and you're just gonna do that all the way around the neck band. I've finished my stretchy bind off and all that's left to do is weave in the ends and lock the sweater. For blocking, you can soak the sweater in some luke warm water for about 20 minutes and then you're gonna roll it up in a towel to remove the excess water and then you can just lay it out flat and leave it to dry. This sweet little sweater is a great project for anybody who enjoys working a seamless construction. You can make it for a range of ages so pick your child's favorite colors and knit them a sweater they'll treasure forever.