

“Stronachlachar”

by Kate Davies

KAL Preparations

Welcome to our Spring 2021 Knit Along! We will be knitting “Stronachlachar” by Kate Davies. Here is a link to help you pronounce “Stronachlachar”. Check the UK pronunciation... I have been practicing!
<https://www.pronouncekiwi.com/Stronachlachar>

It is a lovely shell that can be worn alone or as a vest over another shirt. It sports three twisted stich cable motifs on the front and back. It is knit in DK weight yarn which makes it the perfect spring to summer transition garment. “Stronachlachar” is knit from the bottom up, and then divided at the underarms to knit the front and back yokes separately. The shoulders are attached using a 3-needle bind-off, then stitches are picked up to knit the neck and armhole ribbing. The length of this shell is easily adjusted, and if desired, sleeves can be added.

Our first meeting is May 1, but you can make advanced preparations. Here’s how:

-**Sign up online at AllWoundUpYarnShop.com under Class Registration.** Once signed up, you will receive all of the KAL communications and invitations to all zoom sessions.

-**Buy your pattern.** There is a link to the pattern on our website, or you can use the link here:

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/stronachlachar>

-**Choose your yarn.** I recommend a solid color. A kettle dyed yarn will also work, but a yarn with color variations will distract from the classic cable work. Our featured yarn is “Rylie” by Hikoo. It is a blend of silk, linen and alpaca and has a lovely shine and drape. There are other options in DK weight, such as Kelbourne Scout for a warm and wooly shell, or Summer Silk for a very lightweight shell.

-The pattern calls for 22 sts over 4 inches (5.5 sts/inch), so there are a lot of yarns to choose from.

Fit is critical when making clothing, so we will talk a lot about gauge in our first class. If you are comfortable with gauge, feel free to knit your swatch and block it. You may need to adjust your needle size to get proper gauge. Kate does not call for a specific size needle but refers to it as a “gauge needle” and for the ribbing, a “below gauge needle”. If you like the fabric produced by a particular yarn/needle combination, you can adjust the sweater size to work with your preferred gauge. Stronachlachar’s simple construction makes this possible without too much math! More on this in our first session.

For now, here are notes on knitting your swatch:

- Cast-on about 24 stitches using a US 6 needle, or your best estimation of needle size that will produce 5.5 stitches per inch in stockinette.
- Knit 4 inches and bind off.
- Measure your swatch stitches per inch and rows per inch.
- Soak the swatch in cool water for about 5 minutes.
- Squeeze out the water using a towel, then gently lay it flat without stretching.
- Let it dry and measure again. You can bring it to the shop if you need help measuring.
- How close are you to the recommended gauge? Keep in mind that one-half stitch per inch translates to about 4 inches difference in size on a completed sweater! You can adjust needle size to fine tune your gauge.
- Make sure that you are happy with the fabric in your gauge as you will have a whole shell with this lovely fabric!!

I think you will love this shell as much as I do! Remember to sign up and then mark your calendar for our first meeting on Saturday, May 1st from 1:00p until 2:30p on zoom. See you there!