

# SHANGHAI SURPLICE

ANNIE MODESITT

**Annie Modesitt** was inspired by the shape of a fifteenth-century quilted vest from China. True to Folk Style form, this knitted vest marries duplicate stitch and European French-knot embroidery techniques with Asian shaping. The faux surplice silhouette is created with short-row shaping; a crochet button creates more illusion at the base of the Mandarin collar. An unusual I-cord technique creates the strong diagonal and horizontal lines of this detailed garment.

## STITCH GUIDE

**Horizontal I-Cord:** \*Using the cable method (see Glossary, page 152), CO 1 st but do not transfer the new st to the left needle, knit the next 2 sts on left needle, ssk, return the last 3 sts worked to left needle, leaving the new CO st on right needle, bring yarn around the back of the I-cord in position to work a RS row again; rep from \* until all sts have been worked—stitch count should be the same as when you started; the CO st at beg of each rep replaces the st dec'd by the ssk join. *Note:* Depending on how loosely you work the CO, the new sts may appear slightly more elongated than regular St st, producing a deliberate decorative effect.

**I-Cord Bind-Off:** With RS facing and using the cable method, CO 2 sts at beg of row. \*K2, ssk; return 3 sts just worked to left needle, bring yarn around the back of the I-cord in position to work a RS row again; rep from \* until 3 sts rem, sssk (see Glossary, page 154)—1 st rem. Fasten off last st.

## BODY

With light brown and longer needle, use the provisional method (see Glossary, page 153) to CO 175 (200, 225, 250, 275, 300) sts. Do *not* join. Working back and forth in rows, knit 2 rows with light brown. *Next row:* (RS) Set up patt from Row 1 of Scrollwork chart (page 76; see Notes) as foll: Beg where indicated for your size, work last 13 (0, 13, 0, 13, 0) sts of chart once, rep entire 50-st patt 3 (4, 4, 5, 5, 6) times, then work first 12 (0, 12, 0, 12, 0) sts of chart once. Work Rows 2–16 of Scrollwork chart as established. With light brown, knit 4 rows. *Next row:* (RS) With olive, work horizontal I-cord (see Stitch Guide). Knit 1 WS row with olive, knit 2 rows with light brown, then knit 2 rows with plum, ending with a WS row—piece measures about 4¼" (11 cm) from CO. *Next row:* (RS) Set up patt from Row 1 of Flower chart (see Notes) as foll: Place first 25 sts of row on holder for left front for all sizes, join light brown

## FINISHED SIZE

30½ (35, 39, 44, 48, 52½)" (77.5 [89, 99, 112, 122, 133.5] cm) bust circumference.  
Vest shown measures 35" (89 cm).

## YARN

Sportweight (#2 Fine).

*Shown here:* Brown Sheep Cotton Fine (80% cotton, 20% wool; 222 yd [203 m]/50 g): #CW820 teddy bear (light brown, A), 6 (6, 8, 9, 10, 10) balls; #CW475 olivette (olive, B), 4 (4, 4, 4, 5, 5) balls; #CW832 silver plum (C), 3 (3, 4, 4, 4, 4) balls, #CW455 willow leaf (yellow-green, D), 2 (2, 2, 2, 3, 3) balls.

## NEEDLES

Size 7 (4.5 mm): 16" and 24" (40 and 60 cm) circular (cir). Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

## NOTIONS

Marker (m); stitch holders; tapestry needle; size F/5 (3.75 mm) crochet hook; one ⅝" (1.5 cm) button.

## GAUGE

21 stitches and 30 rows = 4" (10 cm) in stockinette-stitch with yarn doubled intarsia patterns from charts.

