

NOTE

- Work Rows 1–10 of the charts using the Fair Isle or stranded color-work method, carrying the unused color loosely across the back of the work. For the remaining chart rows, use the stockinette intarsia method with separate strands of yarn for each section, crossing the yarns at each color change to prevent leaving holes.

BACK

With MC and using the long-tail method (see Glossary), CO 69 (77, 85) sts. Knit 2 rows, ending with a WS row. Change to medium tan. Knit 2 rows, then work 2 rows in St st, ending with a WS row—piece measures about 1" (2.5 cm) from CO. Establish patt from Row 1 of Back chart (page 28), beg and end where indicated for your size. Work Rows 2–52 in patt from charts (see Note), dec 1 st each end of needle on Rows 3, 11, 17, 23, 27, 31, 35, and 39 as shown—53 (61, 69) sts rem; piece measures about 11¼" (28.5 cm) from CO. Beg on Row 53, inc 1 st each end of needle on Rows 53, 57, 61, 65, and 69 as shown—63 (71, 79) sts rem. Work even until Row 76 (78, 82) has been completed—piece measures about 15¾ (16¾, 17)" (40 [41.5, 43] cm) from CO.

shape armholes

Beg on Row 77 (79, 83) of chart, BO 2 (3, 4) sts at beg of next 2 rows, then BO 2 sts at beg of foll 2 rows—55 (61, 67) sts rem. Dec 1 st each end of needle every other row 2 (3, 4) times, then every 4th row 1 (2, 2) time(s)—49 (51, 55) sts rem. Work even until Row 116 (120, 126) has been completed.

shape neck and shoulders

On Row 117 (121, 127), work 17 (18, 19) sts in patt, join new yarn and BO center 15 (15, 17) sts, work in patt to end—17 (18, 19) sts at each side. Working each side separately, at each neck edge BO 2 sts once, then BO 1 st once. *At the same time*, beg on Row 119 (123, 129) when armholes measure about 8½ (9, 9½)" (21.5 [23, 24] cm), at each armhole edge BO 5 sts 2 times, then BO 4 (5, 6) sts once—no sts rem.

{ make it your own }

You have to go to a special place in your knitting psyche for this type of challenging project. But I do have some tips to help you along.

- Don't balk at making butterflies or bobbins for the various color blocks. Before beginning this project, make about eight "reelings" of each color by wrapping yarn around four fingers about a dozen times, then wrapping each bundle around the middle and cutting and pulling the yarn end through to tighten it. Store the reelings in Ziploc bags. That way, you're sure to have some of every color with you—without lugging entire balls of yarn.
- You will have a lot (dozens or hundreds) of ends to weave in. Take a Zen approach and accept that you'll have to devote at least four hours to weaving in ends. In the greater scheme of things, it's really not all that long.
- This yarn felts nicely, so consider using the left-over for a sturdy striped tote.

RIGHT FRONT

With MC and using the long-tail method, CO 35 (39, 43) sts. Knit 2 rows, ending with a WS row. Change to medium tan. Knit 2 rows, then work 2 rows in St st, ending with a WS row—piece measures about 1" (2.5 cm) from CO. Work Rows 1–52 of Right Front chart (page 29) ending where indicated for your size, and dec 1 st at end of Rows 3, 11, 17, 23, 27, 31, 35, and 39 as shown—27 (31, 35) sts rem; piece measures about 11¼" (28.5 cm) from CO. Beg on Row 53, inc 1 st at end of Rows 53, 57, 61, 65, and 69 as shown—32 (36, 40) sts.