Tesserae
Vicki Square

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Tesserae

Finished Size
About 33 (36, 39, 41½, 44½, 47½)" (84 [91.5, 99, 105.5, 113, 120.5] cm) bust circumference.
Tee shown measures 33" (84 cm).

Yarn
DK weight (#3 Light).

Shown here: Patons Grace (100% mercerized cotton; 136 yd [125 m]/50 g): #1104 black (A), 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 6) balls; #1102 white (B), 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 6) balls.

Needles
Body and sleeves: size U.S. 6 (4 mm): 24" (60 cm) circular (cir) and extra needle of same size or smaller for three-needle bind-off.

Edging: size U.S. 4 (3.5 mm): 16" and 24" (40 cm and 60 cm) cir.

Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions
Waste-yarn stitch holders; open-ring markers (m); size E/4 (3.5 mm) crochet hook; tapestry needle.

Gauge
22.5 sts and 42 rows = 4" (10 cm) in slip-st patt on larger needle.

Tesserae are the small pieces of stone or glass used in ancient mosaics. Stone was used primarily for floors, while glass of every hue was popular for wall and vault mosaics in Early Christian and Byzantine churches. The pebbly texture in this slip-stitch tee is reminiscent of those opulent mosaics. Either short sleeved or sleeveless, this top provides unexpected color play—dramatic in black and white, but other color pairs can add brilliant wardrobe accents. Try soft yellow and orange, kiwi and turquoise, cinnamon and eggplant; the combinations are endless!

Stitch Guide

Slip-Stitch Pattern *(multiple of 4 sts + 1)*

Row 1: (WS) With A, purl.

Row 2: (RS) With B, k1, *sl 1 purlwise with yarn in back (pwise wyb), sl 1 purlwise with yarn in front (pwise wyf), sl 1 pwise wyb, k1; rep from *.

Row 3: With B, p1, *sl 3 pwise wyb, yo, p1; rep from *.

Row 4: With A, knit and *at the same time* drop all yarnovers to front of work.

Row 5: With A, purl.

Row 6: With B, k1, *sl 1 pwise wyb, insert needle from front under the loose strand and knit next st tog with this strand, sl 1 pwise wyb, k1; rep from *.

Row 7: With B, p1, *sl 1 pwise wyf, p1, sl 1 pwise wyf, k1; rep from * to last 4 sts, [sl 1 pwise wyf, p1] 2 times.

Row 8: With A, knit.

Row 9: With A, purl.

Row 10: With B, k1, *sl 1 pwise wyf, k1; rep from *.

Rows 11–20: Rep Rows 1–10, reversing colors.

Rep Rows 1–20 for patt.

Back

With A and smaller needle, CO 93 (101, 109, 117, 125, 133) sts. Do not join for knitting in rnds.

Knit 5 rows.

Change to larger needle and work Rows 1–20 of slip-st patt (see Stitch Guide) 6 (6, 7, 7, 8, 8) times, then work Rows 1–7 (17, 7, 17, 7, 7) once more—piece measures about 12½ (13½, 14½, 15½, 16½, 16½)" (31.5 [34.5, 37, 39.5, 42, 42] cm) from CO.

Shape Armholes

BO 4 sts at beg of next 2 (2, 2, 4, 4, 6) rows—85 (93, 101, 101, 109, 109) sts rem.

Keeping in patt, dec 1 st each end of needle every RS row 2 (4, 6, 6, 6, 6) times—81 (85, 89, 89, 97, 97) sts rem.

Cont even in patt until armholes measure about 7 (7, 8, 8, 8, 8)" (18 [18, 20.5, 20.5, 20.5, 20.5] cm), ending with Row 17 (7, 7, 17, 7, 7) of patt.

Place sts onto waste-yarn holder.

Front

CO and work as for back until armholes measure 4 (4, 5, 5, 5, 5)" (10 [10, 12.5, 12.5, 12.5, 12.5] cm), ending with a WS row—81 (85, 89, 89, 97, 97) sts.
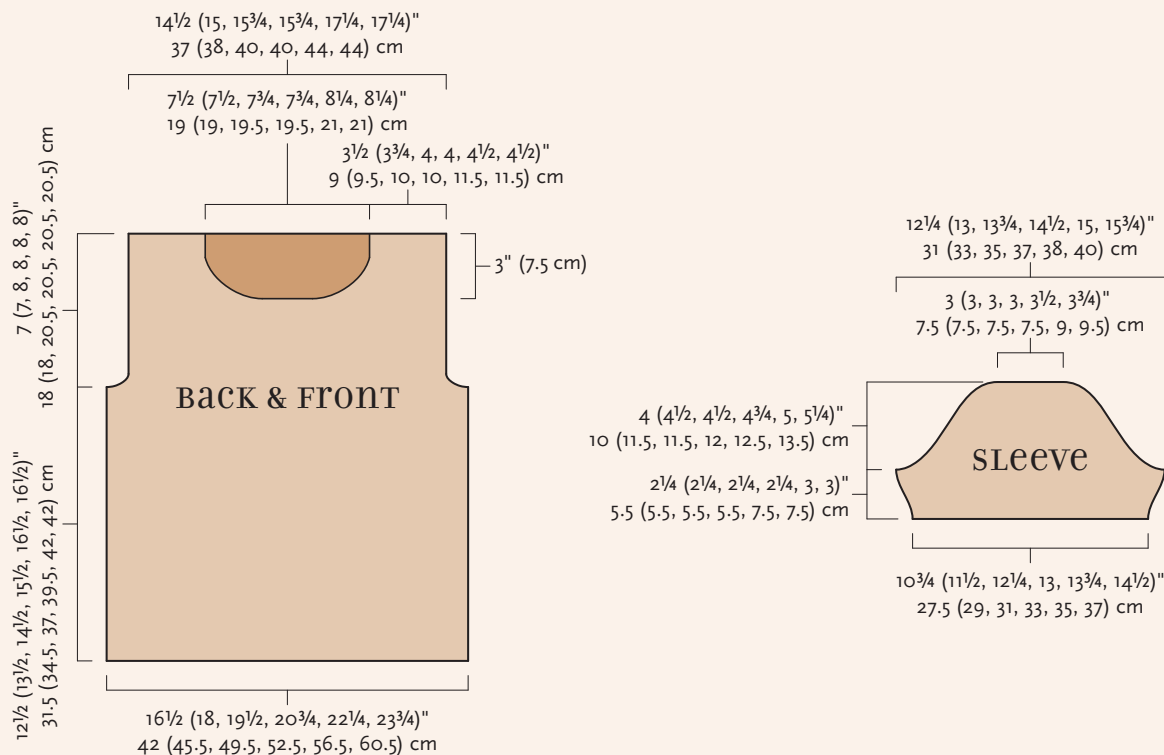
Divide for Front Neck

With open-ring markers, mark center 13 (13, 13, 13, 15, 15) sts.

With RS facing and keeping in patt, work to first m, BO center 13 (13, 13, 13, 15, 15) sts, work to end—34 (36, 38, 38, 41, 41) sts rem each side.

Keeping in patt and working each side separately, at each neck edge BO 5 sts once, then BO 2 sts once, then dec 1 st every right side row 8 times—19 (21, 23, 23, 26, 26) sts rem each side.

Work even until armholes measure same as for back, ending with Row 17 (7, 7, 17, 7, 7) of patt.

Place sts onto waste-yarn holders.

Schematic measurements

Back & Front (top edge width):
14½ (15, 15¾, 15¾, 17¼, 17¼)"
37 (38, 40, 40, 44, 44) cm

7½ (7½, 7¾, 7¾, 8¼, 8¼)"
19 (19, 19.5, 19.5, 21, 21) cm

3½ (3¾, 4, 4, 4½, 4½)"
9 (9.5, 10, 10, 11.5, 11.5) cm

3" (7.5 cm)

7 (7, 8, 8, 8, 8)"
18 (18, 20.5, 20.5, 20.5, 20.5) cm

back & front

12½ (13½, 14½, 15½, 16½, 16½)"
31.5 (34.5, 37, 39.5, 42, 42) cm

16½ (18, 19½, 20¾, 22¼, 23¾)"
42 (45.5, 49.5, 52.5, 56.5, 60.5) cm

Sleeve:
12¼ (13, 13¾, 14½, 15, 15¾)"
31 (33, 35, 37, 38, 40) cm

3 (3, 3, 3, 3½, 3¾)"
7.5 (7.5, 7.5, 7.5, 9, 9.5) cm

4 (4½, 4½, 4¾, 5, 5¼)"
10 (11.5, 11.5, 12, 12.5, 13.5) cm

2¼ (2¼, 2¼, 2¼, 3, 3)"
5.5 (5.5, 5.5, 5.5, 7.5, 7.5) cm

sleeve

10¾ (11½, 12¼, 13, 13¾, 14½)"
27.5 (29, 31, 33, 35, 37) cm

Sleeves

With A and smaller needle, CO 61 (65, 69, 73, 77, 81) sts. Do not join.

Knit 5 rows.

Change to larger needle and work WS Row 1 of slip-st patt.

Inc row: (RS; Row 2 of patt) K1, M1 (see page 6), cont in patt to last st, M1, k1—63 (67, 71, 75, 79, 83) sts.

Next row: (Row 3 of patt) P1, cont in patt, working inc'd sts in St st, p1.

Cont in patt as established, rep Inc row every 4th row 3 more times—69 (73, 77, 81, 85, 89) sts.

Work even in patt until piece measures about 2¼ (2¼, 2¼, 2¼, 3, 3)" (5.5 [5.5, 5.5, 5.5, 7.5, 7.5] cm) from CO, ending with Row 17 (17, 17, 17, 7, 7) of patt.

Shape Cap

Keeping in patt, BO 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows, then BO 2 sts at beg of foll 2 (2, 2, 4, 4, 4) rows—57 (61, 65, 65, 69, 73) sts rem.

Dec 1 st at each end of needle every RS row 18 (20, 20, 20, 21, 22) times—21 (21, 25, 25, 27, 29) sts rem.

BO 2 sts at beg of next 2 (2, 4, 4, 4, 4) rows—17 (17, 17, 17, 19, 21) sts rem.

BO all sts.

Seams

With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, use the mattress st with ½-st seam allowance (see page 6) to sew side and sleeve seams.

With a crochet hook, use slip st crochet (see page 6) to join sleeve cap to armhole, matching side and sleeve seams and matching center sleeve cap to shoulder seam, easing in fullness at cap as necessary and working from the body (not the sleeve) side of the join.

Neckband

With A, shorter cir needle, and beg at left front shoulder seam, pick up and knit 68 (68, 68, 68, 70, 70) sts evenly spaced around front neck and 41 (41, 41, 41, 43, 43) sts across back neck—109 (109, 109, 109, 113, 113) sts total.

Place marker and join for working in rnds.

[Purl 1 rnd, knit 1 rnd] 2 times.

BO all sts pwise.

Sleeveless Option

Armhole Border

With shorter cir needle, RS facing, and beg at base of armhole, pick up and knit 80 (86, 98, 106, 106, 112) sts evenly spaced around armhole.

Place marker and join for working in rnds.

[Purl 1 rnd, knit 1 rnd] 2 times.

BO all sts pwise.

Weave in loose ends. Lightly steam-block seams to minimize bulk.

Finishing

Steam-block (see page 6) pieces to measurements, working from both right and wrong sides.

Join Shoulders

Place 81 (85, 89, 89, 97, 97) held back sts onto one needle and 19 (21, 23, 23, 26, 26) held right front and 19 (21, 23, 23, 26, 26) held left front sts onto another needle. With RS tog, use the three-needle method (see page 6) to BO 19 (21, 23, 23, 26, 26) right front and 19 (21, 23, 23, 26, 26) right back sts tog for right shoulder. BO the next 43 (43, 43, 43, 45, 45) back neck sts singly, then BO rem left front sts tog with rem back sts for left shoulder.

Abbreviations

beg	beginning; begin; begins
bet	between
BO	bind off
CC	contrasting color
cm	centimeter(s)
cn	cable needle
CO	cast on
cont	continue(s); continuing
dec(s)	decrease(s); decreasing
dpn	double-pointed needle(s)
foll	following; follows
g	gram(s)
inc	increase(s); increasing
k	knit
k1f&b	knit into front and back of same st
k2tog	knit two stitches together
kwise	knitwise
LC	left cross
m(s)	marker(s)
MC	main color
mm	millimeter(s)
M1 (P)	make one (purl)
M1R (L)	make one right (left)
p	purl
p1f&b	purl into front and back of same st
p2tog	purl two stitches together
patt(s)	pattern(s)
pm	place marker
psso	pass slipped stitch over
p2sso	pass two slipped stitches over
pwise	purlwise
RC	right cross
rem	remain(s); remaining
rep	repeat; repeating
rev St st	reverse stockinette stitch
rib	ribbing
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
rev sc	reverse single crochet
sc	single crochet
sk	skip
sl	slip
sl st	slip stitch (sl 1 st pwise unless otherwise indicated)
ssk	slip 1 kwise, slip 1 kwise, k2 sl sts tog tbl (decrease)
ssp	slip 1 kwise, slip 1 kwise, p2 sl sts tog tbl (decrease)
st(s)	stitch(es)
St st	stockinette stitch
tbl	through back loop
tog	together
WS	wrong side
wyb	with yarn in back
wyf	with yarn in front
yo	yarn over
*	repeat starting point (i.e., repeat from *)
**	repeat all instructions between asterisks
( )	alternate measurements and/or instructions
[ ]	instructions that are to be worked as a group a specified number of times

Glossary

Mattress Stitch

Place the pieces to be seamed on a table, right sides facing up. Begin at the lower edge and work upward as follows for your stitch pattern:

Seed St

For best results, use the tail from the cast-on row to start the seam and align lower edges. Then, with right sides facing you, beginning at the lower edge and working upward, insert threaded tapestry needle under the purl bar at the selvedge edge of one side **(Figure 1)**. Alternate from side to side, pulling the yarn in the direction of the seam to prevent stretching, and to cause the purl bars of the seed stitch to merge into a continuous texture.
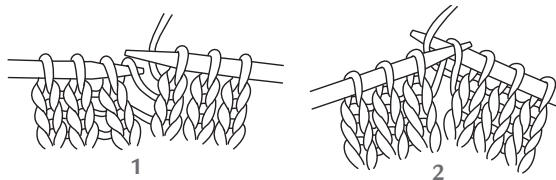

Make-One (M1) Increase

Note: Use the left slant if no direction of slant is specified.
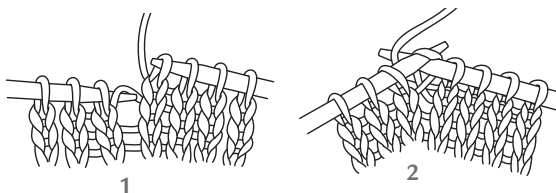
Left Slant (M1L)

With left needle tip, lift the strand between the last knitted stitch and the first stitch on the left needle from front to back **(Figure 1)**, then knit the lifted loop through the back **(Figure 2)**.


Right Slant (M1R)

With left needle tip, lift the strand between the needles from back to front **(Figure 1)**. Knit the lifted loop through the front **(Figure 2)**.

Slip, Slip, Knit (ssk)

Slip two stitches individually knitwise **(Figure 1)**. Insert left needle tip into the front of these two slipped stitches, and use the right needle to knit them together through their back loops **(Figure 2)**.

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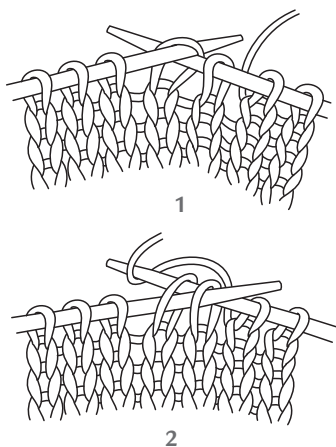
Steam Blocking

Pin the pieces to be blocked to a blocking surface. Hold an iron set on the steam setting ½" (1.5 cm) above the knitted surface and direct the steam over the entire surface (except ribbing). You can get similar results by placing wet cheesecloth on top of the knitted surface and touching it lightly with a dry iron. Lift and set down the iron gently; do not use a pushing motion.

Three-Needle Bind-Off

Place the stitches to be joined onto two separate needles and hold the needles parallel with the right sides of knitting facing together. Insert a third needle into the first stitch on each of two needles **(Figure 1)** and knit them together **(Figure 2)**, *knit the next stitch on each needle the same way, then use the left needle tip to lift the first stitch over the second and off the needle **(Figure 3)**. Repeat from * until no stitches remain on first two needles. Cut yarn and pull tail through last stitch to secure.

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