

a Girly Knits pattern by Lauren Riker

# "Dressed up in love"

Dress yourself up in love with this super cute and stylish bow back tunic! Featuring an optional large sweet heart stitch pattern on the front and a flirty and flattering keyhole back finished with a large girly bow, what is not to love? This pattern uses the super soft Hikoo Simplicity, and features lots of options to customize your tunic to suit your unique preferences. The design has a hint of negative ease and waist shaping to flatter your figure, and features a wide deep scoop neck to show off your décolletage while also giving you the option of fashionably wearing it off the shoulder. Enjoy!

♥ Lauren



**Difficulty:**  
Easy

**Size:**  
Women's Garments: XS (S, M, L, XL). I'm between a size S and M and am wearing a size S.

**Size Chart:** (see fit guide here: <http://bit.ly/z6x38y>)

Size	4/XS	6/S	8/M	10/L	12/XL
Bust	32	34	36	38	40
Waist	24	26	28	30	32
Hips	34	36	38	40	42

**Finished Measurements:**  
Bust: 29.75 (31.5, 33.5, 35.25, 37.25)"  
Hips: 31.5 (33.5, 35.25, 37.25, 39)"

**Gauge:**  
17 sts and 23 rows = 4" in St st  
To save time, take time to check gauge!

**Materials:**

- ♥ Hikoo Simplicity (worsted weight; 55% merino wool, 28% acrylic, 17% nylon; 117yd/107m per 50g skein): 5 (5, 6, 6, 7) hanks Nile Blue #027

- ♥ US 7 (4.5mm) circular needles (16" and 24")
- ♥ US 7 (4.5mm) straight needles
- ♥ US 9 (5.5mm) straight needles

- ♥ Stitch holders
- ♥ Stitch markers
- ♥ Tapestry needle

Every girl looks beautiful dressed up in love!



## Abbreviations:

- ♥ **beg:** begin(ning)(s)
- ♥ **BO:** bind off
- ♥ **CO:** cast on
- ♥ **dec:** decrease(ing)
- ♥ **inc:** increase(ing)
- ♥ **k:** knit
- ♥ **k2tog:** knit 2 sts together
- ♥ **kwise:** knitwise
- ♥ **LH:** left hand
- ♥ **M1:** make 1 by picking up bar between sts through front and k tbl (or p tbl if on WS of St st)
- ♥ **meas:** measure(s)
- ♥ **p:** purl
- ♥ **p2tog:** purl 2 sts together
- ♥ **pm:** place marker
- ♥ **PU:** pick up
- ♥ **rem(s):** remain(s)(ing)
- ♥ **rep(s):** repeat(s)
- ♥ **rnd(s):** round(s)
- ♥ **RH:** right hand
- ♥ **RS:** right side
- ♥ **ssk:** (slip 1 kwise) twice, insert LH needle into slipped sts and k2tog tbl
- ♥ **ssp:** (slip 1 kwise) twice, slip sts back onto LH needle and p2tog tbl
- ♥ **st(s):** stitch(es)
- ♥ **St st:** stockinette stitch
- ♥ **tbl:** through back loop
- ♥ **WS:** wrong side

**Directions:** It's time to make a girly tunic woohoo!

## Pattern Notes:

Notes are given along the way for customizing this tunic! Things to consider are how long you want your tunic (how much of your bum you want to cover!), how deep you want your neckline to be (how much cleavage you want to show!) and how big you want your keyhole to be (how much back you want show!). It's all about the art of concealing and revealing to flatter your girly figure! To make these decisions, it is best to take some measurements of a similar garment and compare them against the schematic, which will also help you determine which size size will work best for you.

## ♥ FRONT ♥

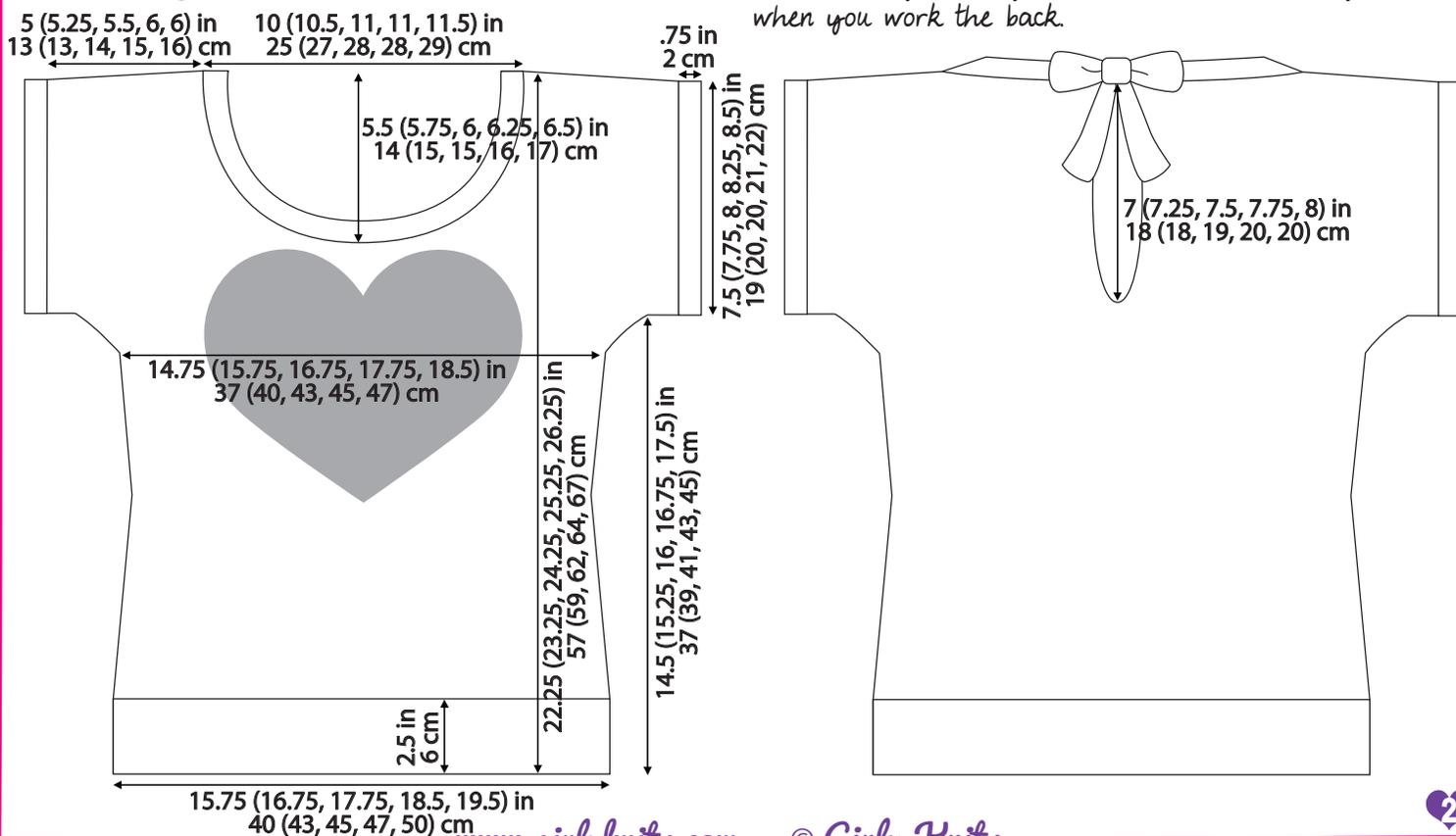
### Bottom Band

With smaller needles, CO 67 (71, 75, 79, 83) sts.

Work in k1, p1 rib until piece meas 2.5", for an even number of rows.

### Body

Change to larger needles and work in St st starting with a purl (WS) row. Work until piece meas 4.25 (5, 5.75, 6.5, 7.25)" from beg ending with a WS row. If you want to lengthen the tunic, add inches here. If you do add length, take note of how much you added to add onto future reference measurements, and for when you work the back.



## Waist Shaping

**Dec Row (RS):** K1, ssk, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1—65 (69, 73, 77, 81) sts.

Rep Dec Row every 12th row two more times—61 (65, 69, 73, 77) sts.

When piece meas 8.25 (9, 9.75, 10.5, 11.25)" from beg, start heart chart on center st. Cont working until piece meas 12.5 (13.25, 14, 14.75, 15.5)" from beg, ending with a WS row.

## Bust Shaping

**Inc Row (RS):** K1, M1, k to last st, M1, k1—63 (67, 71, 75, 79) sts.

Work 3 more rows even.

## Sleeves

**Inc Row (RS):** K1, M1, k to last st, M1, k1—65 (69, 73, 77, 81) sts.

**Inc Row (WS):** P1, M1, p to last st, M1, p1—67 (71, 75, 79, 83) sts.

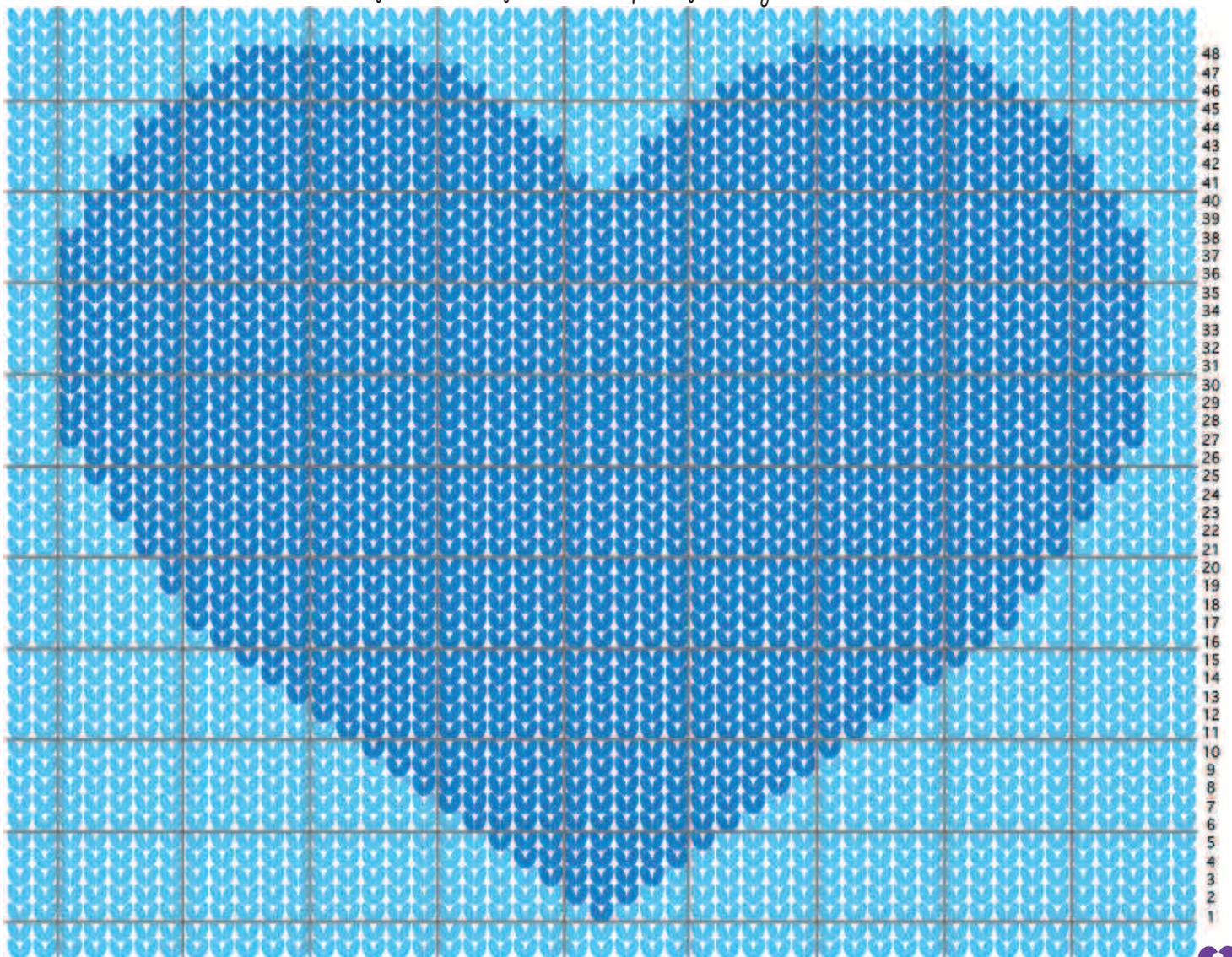
Cont to inc at each edge every row for five more rows—77 (81, 85, 89, 93) sts.

**Next Row (WS):** CO 4 sts, p to end—81 (85, 89, 93, 97) sts.

**Next Row (RS):** CO 4 sts, k to end—85 (89, 93, 97, 101) sts.

## ♥ HEART CHART ♥

*I used a reverse stockinette stitch (purl on RS, knit on WS) where the pattern falls so that the heart is subtle, though you can alternatively use a contrast color for the pattern for a bolder heart! The darker "v" shape simply indicates which stitches you will work to create the pattern. Alternatively, if you don't want to place a heart on your chest, you can completely disregard the chart!*



Work even until piece meas 16.75 (17.5, 18.25, 19, 19.75)" from beg, ending with a WS row. Do not start Neckline until you have worked at least 1 row from completed heart chart. *The neckline is a deep scoop, if you would like to make it more modest you can add 1/2-1" before starting the neckline, it won't affect the design too much!*

### Neckline

Mark Center 19 (21, 21, 23, 23) sts for neck. K to marked neck sts. Place marked sts on holder (or BO if you prefer). Join a 2nd ball of yarn and k to end—33 (34, 36, 37, 39) sts on each shoulder.

Work both shoulders at the same time as follows:

**Dec Row (WS):** P to last 2 sts, ssp; p2tog, p to end—32 (33, 35, 36, 38) sts on each shoulder.

**Dec Row (RS):** K to last 2 sts, k2tog; ssk, k to end—31 (32, 34, 35, 37) sts on each shoulder.

Rep last 2 Dec Rows until 21 (22, 23, 25, 26) shoulder sts rem.

Work even until sleeve meas 7.5 (7.75, 8, 8.25, 8.5)" from CO edge, ending with a WS row.

### Shoulder Shaping

Work shoulders separately as follows:

#### Left Shoulder:

Next Row: BO 10 (10, 11, 12, 12) sts, k to end—11 (12, 12, 13, 14) sts.

Next Row: P to last 2 sts, ssp—10 (11, 11, 12, 13) sts.

Next Row: BO.

#### Right Shoulder:

Next Row: Knit.

Next Row: BO 10 (10, 11, 12, 12) sts, p to end—11 (12, 12, 13, 14) sts.

Next Row: K to last 2 sts, k2tog—10 (11, 11, 12, 13) sts.

Next Row: BO.

Woohoo the front is done! Onto the back!

♥ BACK ♥

### Bottom Band



With smaller needles, CO 67 (71, 75, 79, 83) sts.

Work in p1, k1 rib until piece meas 2.5", for an even number of rows.

Work same as front starting at Body, excluding heart chart, through sleeves. After last CO row for sleeves, work one more row, then start keyhole. *The keyhole is designed to show off your back by starting just above your bra closure. As is, it will measure 7 (7.25, 7.5, 7.75, 8)" from top back neck. If you would like a smaller keyhole, determine desired depth of keyhole, subtract from schematic measurement, then work that many more inches before starting.*

### Keyhole

Next Row (RS): K42 (44, 46, 48, 50) sts. Join 2nd ball of yarn, BO 1, k to end—K42 (44, 46, 48, 50) sts on each shoulder.

Work both sides at same time even until sleeve meas 7.5 (7.75, 8, 8.25, 8.5)" from CO edge, ending with a WS row.

## Neckline

### Right Shoulder:

Row 1: BO 10 (10, 11, 12, 12), k12 (13, 13, 14, 15), place rem 19 (20, 21, 21, 22) sts on on holder—13 (14, 14, 15, 16) sts.

Row 2: P2tog, p to last 2 sts, ssp—11 (12, 12, 13, 14) sts

Row 3: BO to last 2 sts, k2tog, BO last st.

### Left Shoulder:

Row 1: K19 (20, 21, 21, 22), place worked sts on holder, k to end—23 (24, 25, 27, 28) sts.

Row 2: BO 10 (10, 11, 12, 12), p to last 2 sts, ssp—12 (13, 13, 14, 15) sts.

Row 3: Ssk, k to last 2 sts, k2tog—10 (11, 11, 12, 13) sts.

Row 4: BO.

### ♥ BOW ♥

Use smaller needles for all pieces.

Bow Loop: CO 13 sts. Work in 1x1 rib for 8", slipping the first st of every row. BO. Seam edges tog.

Tail: CO 13 sts. Work in 1x1 rib for 6.5", slipping the first st of every row. BO.

Center: CO 7 sts. Work in 1x1 rib for 1.5", slipping the first st of every row. BO.

With bow loop seam at center back, place against center of tail piece. Wrap center piece around 2 pieces and seam edges tog in back. Weave in ends.

### ♥ FINISHING ♥

Sew up sides. Sew up Shoulders.



## Arm Bands

With yarn and 16" circular needle, beg at center underarm, PU and knit approx 68 (70, 72, 74, 76) sts (about 3 sts for every 4 rows).

Work in k1, p1 rib for 3 rnds. BO in rib.

## Neckband

Transfer held sts from back neck to 24" circular needle. PU and knit about 3 sts for every 4 rows along left neck. Knit across held neckline sts. PU and knit about 3 sts for every 4 rows along right neck, making sure you end up with an odd number of sts—approx 121 (127, 133, 135, 139) sts for neckband. Pm to mark start of rnd.

Work in k1, p1 rib for 3 rnds, taking care to CO 1 st at keyhole when you come to it on the first rnd before connecting.

BO in rib.

Weave in ends.

Attach bow to top center of keyhole on neck band.

Hope you  
feel beautiful in your  
girly new top!



## Information:

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please e-mail [girlyknits@gmail.com](mailto:girlyknits@gmail.com). Please send me a picture of your finished project!

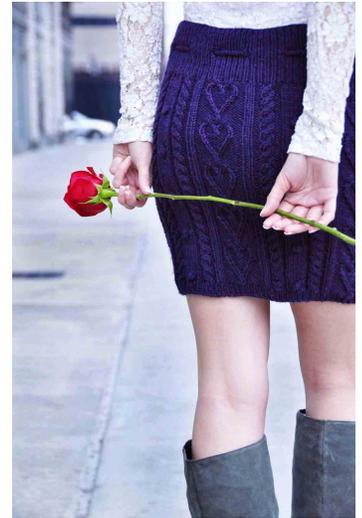
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### ♥ ABOUT LAUREN ♥

Lauren has been knitting since she was 9, and working in New York City as a fashion designer for juniors and girls since 2005. She loves kittens, everything girly, and purple! You can find more of her patterns at [girlyknits.com](http://girlyknits.com), like her facebook fanpage at [facebook.com/girlyknits](https://www.facebook.com/girlyknits), and read her blog at [knittingisawesome.com](http://knittingisawesome.com).

Color Me Cute  
a collection of Girly Knits Patterns

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