

A Wonderful Wallaby Tutorial
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First, please note that this tutorial is not a substitute for having the Wonderful Wallaby pattern which can be googled and purchased online. Rather, this is a tutorial to help you understand the Wonderful Wallaby Pattern, in size 2.

Purchase your pattern; if you need help, then this page should enable you to complete your Wonderful Wallaby sweater.

Like you, I bought my Wallaby pattern, eager to make such a cute hooded sweater. (In my case, it was for my beloved little Emmie.) But after reading the pattern, I wished for more comprehensive directions for this cute wallaby hoodie.

Do you need help, as I did, in making this sweet Wallaby sweater? Then read on. I hope you'll find the help you seek in order to make the size 2 wallaby sweater. This tutorial is only for size 2.

Keep your Wallaby booklet handy, as these directions are not a substitute for the pattern. They will, however, help you know what to do at each stage of the pattern.

Please note that there is NO pouch found in this tutorial. Why? For me, making the pouch was more trouble and yarn than it was worth. I never have made the pouch - the sweater looks adorable with or without one.

STARTING THE WONDERFUL WALLABY HOODIE:

With your medium weight worsted yarn, cast 94 stitches onto a 16" circular needle, size 6. Yes, 16". The 24" circular needle is a bit too big for the sweater at this point, as it stretches the stitches. So use a 16" needle. (circular, size 6)

Join your stitches into a circle, put a marker at the beginning of round, then make 2" of K1P1 ribbing. Note the color of the marker you used here because it marks the beginning of the round. It should be a distinct color from the rest of the markers you will use.

Change to a 24" circular needle, size 8, and knit one round, evenly increasing 10 stitches. (ie scattering 10 stitches as evenly as you can, all over this round.) Now you have 104 stitches on your needle.

Count 52 stitches from the marker (which is the start of the round) and put another marker.

These two markers will be at the underarms of the sweater, and will later mark the spots where you'll put the sleeves.

Now knit in the round TIL YOUR SWEATER IS 8" LONG FROM THE BOTTOM. (or the desired length)

Once your sweater's body is the desired length, KNIT ONE MORE ROUND, and then continuing on, knitting FOUR STITCHES past the beginning of the round marker, sliding off that marker as you pass it. Stop.

Thread your large needle with a scrap of yarn about 7" long, and slide off the preceding 6 stitches onto it. Tie a knot to secure those stitches.

Knit til you come to the next marker: KNIT 4 STITCHES past the marker, (taking off the marker when you come to it.) Stop.

Thread the needle again and slide the preceding six stitches onto another holding yarn. Tie a knot in that yarn to secure the 6 stitches.

Both these yarns hold the two sets of underarm stitches.

Knit across the front until you come to the other (the right) underarm.

The pattern book suggests putting a pin here, underneath the stitches of the right underarm, to help keep track of the beginning of the round. If you do not have a distinctive colored marker for the beginning of the round, the pin might help you to know the beginning of the round while you work on the yoke decreases.

Stop here, but DO NOT cut the yarn.

Now you'll put down the body of the sweater and let it rest while you get another skein and start to make your sleeves.

TWO SLEEVES

FROM ANOTHER SKEIN OF YARN, cast 30 stitches onto size 8 dpns.

Slide 8 stitches off one end onto another dpn.

Slide 8 stitches off the other end, onto another dpn.

Now you have 3 dpns which, held in a triangle, are like this: two sides have 8 stitches, and the middle needle has 14 stitches. (total 30 stitches)

Join into the round, placing a marker as you begin making a K1P1 ribbing. Make a K1P1 ribbing for 2". This is the cuff of your first sleeve.

After you have a 2" cuff, KNIT one round, evenly increasing in this way:

1. On the two side needles, evenly increase 3 more stitches on each one, for a total of 11 stitches on each side needle.
2. On the middle need evenly increase 6 stitches, for a total of 20 stitches on that needle.
3. The 'triangle' of your 3 needles will have these numbers of stitches: 11 - 20 - 11

That's a total of 42 stitches on those three needles.

Now you knit round and round til the sleeve, from the bottom, measures 8" (or however long you want the sleeve to be.) Stop at the beginning of the round when it is 8" long.

Now knit FOUR stitches past the beginning of the round.

With a large needle threaded with a short piece of (approx.) 6"-7" yarn or floss from your stash (any color but the color you're using to make this sweater) put the PRECEDING SIX STITCHES onto the yarn by sliding them off with the point of the needle and onto the piece of yarn.) As you slide the 6 preceding stitches onto the yarn, take off the marker you'd placed there while you knit the body of the sweater and put it aside.

Tie a knot in the short yarn that now holds the 6 stitches. This yarn will hold your underarm stitches til you use them later.

Leaving a long 2' tail, (THIS IS IMPORTANT for LATER) cut the sleeve from the skein. BE SURE to leave that long tail, for use later to sew the underarm to the body - but that is later, not now.

**IF you only have one set of size 8 dpns, slide your sleeve stitches from the dpns onto a 16" circular needle size 8, to hold them. Just slide them onto the circular needle, to free up your size 8 dpns to use again to make the other sleeve. Cut the yarn now, being sure to leave a 2' tail, which you will use later to sew the sleeve to the body.

**IF you have two sets of size 8 dpns, however, you do not need to slide the sleeve stitches onto a circular needle. Just cut the yarn, leaving a 2' TAIL, and leave the sleeve stitches on the dpns (except for the stitches being held on the little piece of holding yarn, of course.)

One sleeve is finished.

NOW MAKE A SECOND SLEEVE in exactly the same way as you made the first sleeve, beginning by casting on 30 stitches. Don't forget that when you cut the yarn at the end you want to leave a LONG TAIL OF ABOUT 2', to use later to sew the underarm of the sleeve to the body.

BEGINNING THE YOKE OF SWEATER

From the marker at the beginning of the round (the right side as worn) knit all the way across back, and when you come to the the underarm stitches on the holding yarn, **PUT A MARKER** on the right needle to mark the join you'll be making with the next stitch.

Now hold the underarm stitches (still on their holding yarn) against the underarm stitches (still on their holding yarn) of the body. Just match them up a bit, **RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER**.

Now you will make a join by putting the point of the needle (with a marker on it) **INTO THE FIRST STITCH OF THE SLEEVE**, the stitch that is immediately next to the 6 underarm stitches held on the separate piece of holding yarn.

WITH THE MARKER ON THE TIP of your right needle, firmly knit into that first stitch, then keep knitting all the rest of the stitches around the sleeve until you come to the other side of the sleeve, to the 6 stitches on the holding yarn. Don't knit into those 6 stitches when you come to them. Ignore them as you get another marker.

PLACE ANOTHER MARKER on the tip of your right needle, then firmly knit into the first stitch of the front of the sweater, and knit across the front til you come to the other set of six held-on-yarn stitches.

Do the same now as you did with the other sleeve: Press the two underarm sets of 6 held stitches together. **PLACE A MARKER** on the tip of your right needle, then knit into the first stitch of the sleeve, the one immediately beside the 6 underarm stitches on the holding yarn. Then knit all the sleeves stitches, knitting all the way around the sleeve.

When on the other side of that sleeve you come to the other side of the 6 underarm stitches, do not knit into them. Instead, **PLACE ANOTHER MARKER** on the tip of the right needle, then firmly knit into the first stitch of the body; knit across the body til you are **THREE STITCHES BEFORE THE MARKER** - which denotes the start of a new round. **STOP THREE STITCHES BEFORE THE NEXT MARKER**.

Please note this marker is the beginning of the round. It would be good if it were the only marker of that color. **OR** at least keep noticing the pin that you pinned beneath it. At any rate, you must keep aware of the beginning of the round each time you come to it. It's important that it's easily recognizable to you when you make the coming decreases.

Make sure you have 4 markers and that you have made **FOUR DECREASES**.

Knit for **TWO MORE ROUNDS**, sliding all four markers as you come to them.

As the pattern says, it will feel **TIGHT**, but that's ok. It'll loosen up gradually in a few more rounds.

YOKE DECREASES

Stop again when you arrive at **THREE STITCHES BEFORE THE FIRST MARKER** (which is the marker that denotes the beginning of the round. If you have used a pin, the pin is underneath that spot. Both the pin and the beginning of the round marker will be on the right side, when wearing the sweater.)

ROUND ONE of Yoke decreases

THREE STITCHES before the beginning of the round marker, (AND EACH ROUND WILL BEGIN **THREE STITCHES BEFORE THE BEGINNING-OF-THE-ROUND MARKER**) do this:

K 2 Together
K1,

NOW SLIP the marker.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MARKER DO THIS:

K1

slip 1 as if to Knit

slip 1 as if to Purl

put the tip of the left needle into both the stitches (together) you've slipped onto the right needle and then K them together.

Knit to within 3 stitches of the next marker and **DO THE SAME DECREASES AS YOU JUST DID** (see above) on either side of that first marker.

DO THE SAME DECREASES as you did for the first marker, **FOR THE REST OF THE MARKERS** of this round. (Four markers in total) Remember that you decrease on both sides of each of the four markers.

Now you have decreased before and after each marker in this round.

On the **NEXT ROUND**, just knit all the way around. Make no decreases on any of the Knit Rounds.

Do **THREE** more **DECREASE** and **THREE** more **KNIT** rounds. Check them off here as you do them, and note that there are **VERY** special instructions for the **LAST KNIT** round:

DECREASE ROUND.

Knit.

DECREASE ROUND.

Knit.

DECREASE ROUND.

Knit. **IMPORTANT: DURING THIS LAST KNIT ROUND**, as you start to cross the back, **FIND THE CENTER** of the front (as you wear the sweater, with the beginning of the round (pin) on the right side as worn.) Put 2 placket markers, one 5 stitches to the left, and one 5 stitches to the right of the center of the back. **USE DIFFERENT, DISTINCT COLOR MARKERS** for the placket markers on either side of the 10 stitches. If you don't have any more unused colors among your markers, then make 2 loops from 2 short lengths of yarn (2" or so) and when tied, their loops allow them to be used as your placket markers.

You will need to recognize the placket markers each time you come to them, because during the knit rounds you will **NOT KNIT** across those ten stitches between the markers. Those ten stitches need to be well marked. (Only during the Decrease Rounds will you knit those 10 placket stitches.)

To find the center point of the front, knit 14 stitches from the preceding shoulder marker (the last join marker), put a marker after stitch #14. Knit 10 stitches, then put another placket marker. These 10 placket stitches between the two new markers will be the center of the front of your sweater.

Before going ahead, make sure you have properly found the center of the front of your sweater and have placed 10 stitches between new markers (5 stitches on either side of the center point of the front.)

Note that the beginning round marker is on the right as you'd wear the sweater; that helps you to know which side will be the front of the sweater.

Now you have 132 stitches on your needle after doing these initial four rounds each of decreases and knitting.

STARTING THE PLACKET

Now make the following 9 rounds, **BUT PURL THE 10 PLACKET STITCHES** (between the front markers) **EACH TIME YOU COME TO THEM DURING EVERY KNIT ROUND**. (only during the knit rounds) Very Important! You do not purl the placket during a decrease round.

You may check off the rounds here as you do them:

1. Decrease
2. Knit - purl the placket when you come to those 10 placket stitches between the markers on the front
3. Decrease
4. Knit - purl the placket
5. Decrease
6. Knit - purl the placket
7. Decrease
8. Knit - purl the placket
9. Decrease Round, but **STOP AT THE MIDDLE POINT OF THE Placket**. (the ten front stitches between markers which you have purred during each knit row above.)

As you pass the placket marker to arrive at the mid point of the placket, take off the marker. Do not go past the middle point of the placket.

You have 92 stitches on your needle at this point.

NECK OPENING

Now you will work ROWS, instead of ROUNDS.

Even though you will still be using your circular needle, you will stitch back and forth on your needle and will not be going around the sweater as you have been doing. Even tho your work is on a circular needle, now think of the sweater as a flat piece from here on out: you will be knitting back and forth, making decrease rounds from the placket, and then purling back to the placket. Every round starts with 5 knit stitches.

At this point you have stopped in the center of the last decrease round, at the center point of the purled front placket.

Next, turn the work, pull the yarn to the back, and knit the five placket stitches. Since you are on the wrong side of the sweater, you will be PURLING the rest of this round:

Purl toward the sleeve, then purl around the sleeve, then purl across the back of the sweater, then purl around the other sleeve, until you come again to the five placket stitches on the other side of the front of the sweater. Knit these last five placket stitches. You've come to the end of the purl row.

Now turn the sweater, pull the yarn to the back, and knit the next round, making the same kind of decreases as you've been doing before and after the markers of the four sleeve join places. After making the decreases, knit to the end of the row.

MAKE 5 more decrease rows and five more purl rows. Be sure to always knit the first and last five stitches of every row. (ie every purl row starts and ends with five knit stitches, which forms the placket)

You may check off the rows here as you do each one:

Decrease

Purl

Decrease

Purl

Decrease

Purl

Decrease

Purl

Decrease

Purl – Take off the markers during this row. You don't need any more markers.

Now you should have 52 stitches on your needle.

Stop after having done the last five knitted stitches of the placket on a PURL row.

NECK RIBBING

Your sweater is complete at this point except for the stockinette hood. You will now start the base of the hood. (This tutorial only shows how to do the stockinette hood.)

Knit 5 stitches.

Make K1P1 ribbing to within the last 5 stitches of the row.

Knit the last 5 stitches

Now go back and forth with K1P1 til your ribbing is 1" long.

INCREASE ROW of hood:

On the next row, increase evenly 12 stitches. To do this I make 6 increases on the right half of the row and 6 increases on the left half of the row. (Envisioning it as two halves is easier: it's easier to place 6 stitches at a time in each half than it would be to put 12 stitches in the whole row.)

Now you have 64 stitches on your hood.

GARTER STITCH HOOD

I only make the garter stitch hood because the garter stitch hood, so soft and stretchy, is what drew me to Wallaby pattern in the first place. It looks snugly and soft to wear.

Every row is a knit row = garter stitch.

To make the garter stitch hood: Knit every row back and forth until the hood is 7" from the top of the neck ribbing, or until the hood is as long as you want it to be.

When your hood measures 7", fold your hood in half so you can get a feeling as to whether it's as large as you want it to be. Keep going if you want it bigger.

When your hood is as big as you need it to be, finish it by folding the hood in half - **RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER** - putting the edge stitches that are now on top of the hood onto size 8 dpns, and then

joining together the two sides of the hood via the garter kitchener stitch. (Hold the hood with right sides together.)

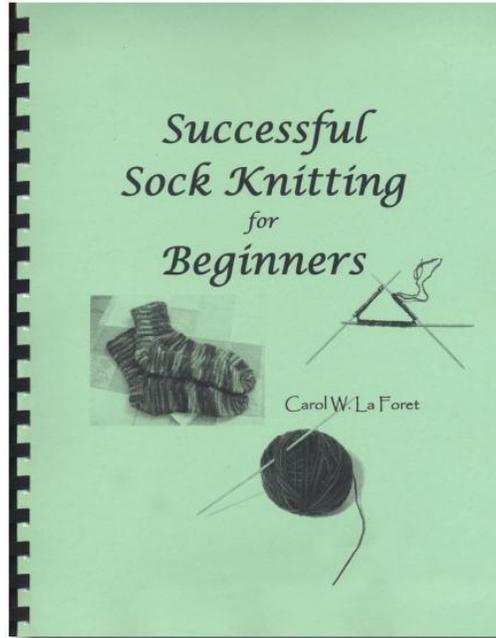
There are good short videos online that show easily show you how to do the garter stitch kitchener stitch, if you do not know how. (Just Google 'garter kitchener stitch'.)

FINISHING:

1. Sew the underarm seams via kitchener stitch. (Put the 6 sleeve underarm stitches and the 6 body underarm stitches on 2 separate dpns.) Be sure to sew closed the 'holes' that are on both sides of the 6 stitches.
2. Weave in the ends wherever they appear, on the underside of the sweater.
3. Block the sweater: lay a towel on a table. Put the sweater on top of the towel, smoothing the sweater so that it lays perfectly flat, taking special pains to make sure your hood is flat and folded properly.
4. Gently lay a fairly wet/damp towel (not dripping wet) on top of the sweater. Gently pat the towel across the sweater. Take a look under the towel to be sure the sweater is perfectly flat. Cover it again.
5. In about 2 days, when the towel is dry, remove the towel. Take the sweater off the bottom towel. Let sweater remain on the table, turning the sweater now and then, until you are certain it is completely dry. Your wallaby should look beautiful now, with all the stitches perfectly smooth and flat. It will have a nicely finished quality to it.

I hope this tutorial was helpful to you.

Carol LaForet
also has a sock knitting book:
"Successful Sock Knitting for Beginners"



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