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Cascade Lana Bambu
Faux Circle Jacket



Designed by Betty Balcomb

FAUX CIRCLE JACKET

This pattern produces the lovely shawl collar of a circle jacket but is much easier to make. Don't let the length of the directions make you nervous. This is a simple pattern with very little finishing. First make a shawl. Then turn the shawl into a shrug by adding cuffs and sewing up the sleeves. Finally, pick up stitches around the opening and knit a ribbed collar that magically fans out into a circle. The unusual color variations of Lana Bambu create great swaths and streaks of color both in the diagonal fabric of the body of the jacket and in the knit-in-the-round shawl collar.

Size: The directions are for size small with medium and large (S,M,L) in parentheses. **Note however,** size is a little unusual with this sweater. In addition to small medium and large which depend on bust size, there is also a point in the directions where you will have the choice of short, average and tall (S,A,T) (for the length of the shawl/shrug wrist to wrist). So there are actually 9 size possibilities. The medium fits most women. Only make the small if you are really small or the large if you are quite large.

Dimensions: Dimensions are a little complicated to explain but not to produce because this is where there is a mix of small, medium, large with short, average, tall. Width of starting rectangle/shawl – 16(18, 20) inches (S,M,L). Length of rectangle/shawl – 44(46, 48) inches (S,A,T) (or about 8-10" less than the wearer's wingspan measured wrist to wrist with arms stretched out straight from shoulders, use my estimates for short, average, tall or customize to fit exactly). Cuffs – 1" of garter stitch plus 3-4" rib. Collar –10(11, 12) inches (S,M,L).

Materials: 6(6, 7) skeins of Cascade Lana Bambu (pictured jacket is in color 04), size 8 and 9 needles, 32" or 36" circular size 9 and a single 11 needle used only for binding off **OR THE SIZE NEEDLES NECESSARY TO OBTAIN GAUGE.**

Gauge: The ball band for Lana Bambu states a gauge of 18 sts for 4" on size 9 needles. I got 16 on size 8s and 14 on size 9s. The garment as shown has gauge of 14 sts for 4" in stockinette. Get as close to this gauge as you can.

Directions:

First make the rectangle for the body of the shrug using the bigger needles but not the size 11 which is only used for binding off. **Note** the shawl is worked on the bias.

Part 1 – bottom triangle.

Cast on 2 sts.

Row 1: Knit into front and back (KFB) (increase 1 stitch) of 1st st, K1.

Rows 2-6: KFB 1st stitch. Knit to end of row (8 stitches on needle after 6th row).

Row 7: K1, *YO, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row, ending YO, K1.

Repeat Rows 2-7 until there are 81(93, 105) stitches.

Part 2 – body of rectangle – same number of stitches on every row.

Rows 1, 3 and 5: Knit

Rows 2 and 4: KFB 1st stitch, Knit until 2 stitches remain, K2tog.

Row 6: K1, *YO, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row.

Repeat Rows 1-6 until rectangle measures 44(46, 48) inches or about 10" less than the wearer's wingspan along **longer** edge. It is a little hard to get an entirely accurate measurement here. Don't worry if it is a little bit off; correct by making the cuffs a little longer or shorter.

Helpful Hint: Place a marker to indicate the wrong side of the scarf (even rows) to help keep track of when to make increases, decreases and YOs which are done on the wrong side.

Part 3 – top triangle.

Rows 1, 3 and 5: Knit

Rows 2 and 4: K2tog, Knit until 2 stitches remain, K2tog.

Row 6: K3tog, *YO, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row.

Repeat Rows 1-6 until 3 stitches remain. Slip 1, K2tog, pass slipped stitch over. Do not cut yarn but leave final loop on needle for first stitch of first cuff.

Part 4 – make cuffs.

With smaller needles and right side facing, pick up 46(46, 50) (counting the one already on the needle) stitches evenly spaced across bottom edge. Work in garter st. for 6 rows. Next row decrease 10 stitches evenly spaced across row. Knit one more row and then work in K2, P2 ribbing for 3-4" to reach desired wingspan. Make cuff to match at other end.

Part 5 – make shawl collar.

Sew up arm seams leaving a gap between the sleeves of 19(20, 22) inches. With circular needle and right side facing, pick up 72(74,78) stitches evenly spaced along top edge of opening and then, without any gap, pick up the same number along the bottom edge. The number must be a multiple of four. Place marker and join in the round. Row 1: *K1,YO repeat from * around, doubling number of stitches. Row 2: *K1, K into back of YO, repeat from * around. Row 3: work in K2, P2 rib. Repeat row 3 until the collar is 10(11,12) inches from picked-up stitches. Feel free to improvise on the depth of the shawl collar. Bind off **very, very** loosely or the collar will not fan out into a circle. Use size 11 needle or even 13 if you used bigger than a size 9 for the body.

Finishing. Weave in ends. Slip arms into sleeves, arrange shawl collar so it overlaps at bust or below and close with a shawl pin. The hardest part of this sweater is figuring out how to put it on. People look at it and say “but there is no hole for your head!” The opening is the hole for the head and the sweater fits great.