



W260

Cascade Rustic Falling Leaves Cardigan



Designed by Betty Balcomb

RUSTIC FALLING LEAVES CARDIGAN

Writing a short blurb about the best features of this sweater is not easy, there are so many best features. First, the sweater is knit from the top down in one piece with no sewing up. Second, raglan sleeves provide a comfortable and flattering fit. Third, the lovely falling leaf pattern looks so complicated but is quite easy once established. But mostly, the sweater is all about the terrific Rustic Yarn. The texture and drape of this wool and linen mix and the wonderful unpredictable gradation of color are perfect for the garment.

Size: The directions are for size small with medium and large in parentheses. If there is only one number, it applies to all sizes. The pictured garment is size medium. Bust measurements are about 38(40, 42) inches.

Materials: 6(6, 7) skeins of Cascade Rustic (pictured jacket is in color #16), size 8 needles, 16" and 32" or 36" circular and double points **OR THE SIZE NEEDLES NECESSARY TO OBTAIN GAUGE.** Markers, size I or J crochet hook, 5 1-inch or 1-1/2 inch buttons.

Gauge: 16 sts for 4" in stockinette.

Glossary:

PM – Place marker.

SM – Slip marker.

YO – Yarn over.

TBL – Through the back loop.

RT – Right Twist, K into 2nd st on needle, K 1st st, slip the 2 st off needle together.

SSK – Slip 2 sts knitwise, insert left needle into front of sts and K them together.

K2tog – Knit 2 together

SK2P – Slip 1 knitwise, K2tog, pass slipped st over (double dec)

Directions

Cast on 95 sts and K 8 rows for garter stitch border.

Row 9 (right side): establish raglans, K5, PM, K10, PM, K2, PM, K16, PM, K2, PM, K25, PM, K2, PM, K16, PM, K2, PM, K10, PM, K5.

Row 10: K5, SM, *P to next marker, YO, SM, P2, SM, YO repeat from * 3X, P to last marker, SM, K5 (8 sts increased in 4 sets of 2 on every wrong side row)

Row 11: K to 1st YO, *K TBL of YO, SM, RT, SM K TBL of YO, K to next YO and repeat from * working RTs at each of 4 raglans. End by knitting to end of row.

The fronts, sleeves, twisted raglans, back and garter stitch borders are now established and just keep growing downwards to the underarm.

Repeat rows 10 and 11 until there are 279(295, 311) sts on needles.

Work 1 wrong side row without the YOs.

Divide for body and sleeves as follows:

Knit across row to and including first RT, place sleeve sts on a holder, (**NOTE: DO NOT** use a straight holder, use a piece of yarn or a circular needle to hold these stitches so you can connect up the fronts and backs with no gaps), cast on 8 sts, placing a marker in the middle of the 8 sts, K across back from RT to RT, place second sleeve sts on holder, cast on 8 sts placing a marker in the middle of the 8 sts, K across to end of row. You should have all the twisted raglans as part of the lower body, none of them get saved with the sleeve sts.

Continue the lower body in stockinette st maintaining the 5-stitch garter borders at each edge for 1" ending with a wrong side row. Next row, K to 2 sts before marker, K2tog, SM, SSK, work across row repeating the side shaping at next marker (second underarm). Work another 1" and repeat side shaping decreases. Work another 1" (1-1/2", 2") ending with a wrong side row. On next row, increase sts evenly spaced between garter st borders so that there are 219 (241, 263) stitches between the garter stitch borders or 229(251, 273) in total. Make the increases by knitting into the front and back of the st or doing M1s. The increases come roughly after every 2 sts, but you will need to fudge a little to get the right number. Work one wrong side row to begin pattern on right side.

Begin falling leaves pattern on the sts between the borders. Directions **DO NOT** include the border sts. Remember to begin and end every row with K5

HELPFUL NOTES: Do Not count sts on every row, just be sure the number is right on rows 1 and 20. Once you get the pattern going, you will realize that the 2 groups of 6 sts between the leaves are always the same (P2, RT, P2 on right side and K2, P2, K2 on wrong side), you only have to keep track of the leaf part of the pattern. The directions include every stitch but to allow you to ignore the easy part if you'd like, the leaf part is in italics. I recommend highlighting it.

Falling Leaves Pattern: (worked on multiple of 22 sts plus 21 at start)

Row 1: *P2, RT, P2, *K2, SSK, YO, K1, YO, K2tog*, K2, P2, RT, P2**, *K1*, repeat from * to border ending the final repeat at the **.

Row 2 and every wrong side row: work the sts as they appear, purling the YOs.

Row 3: *P2, RT, P2, *SSK, K5, K2tog*, P2, RT, P2**, *K into front, back, front of next st (double inc)*, repeat from * to border ending the final repeat at the **

Row 5: *P2, RT, P2, *SSK, K3, K2tog*, P2, RT, P2**, *K1, YO, K1, YO, K1*, repeat from * to border ending the final repeat at the **.

Row 7: *P2, RT, P2, *SSK, K1, K2tog*, P2, RT, P2**, *K2, YO, K1, YO, K2*, repeat from * to border ending the final repeat at the **.

Row 9: *P2, RT, P2, *SK2P*, P2, RT, P2**, *K3, YO, K1, YO, K3*, repeat from * to border ending the final repeat at the **.

Row 11: *P2, RT, P2, *K1*, P2, RT, P2**, *K2*, SSK, YO, *K1*, YO, *K2tog*, *K2*, repeat from * to border ending the final repeat at the **.

Row 13: *P2, RT, P2, K into front, back, front of next st, P2, RT, P2**, SSK, K5, *K2tog*, repeat from * to border ending the final repeat at the **.

Row 15: *P2, RT, P2, *Kl*, YO, *K1*, YO, *K1*, P2, RT, P2**, SSK, *K3*, *K2tog*, repeat from * to border ending the final repeat at the **.

Row 17: *P2, RT, P2, *K2*, YO, *K1*, YO, *K2*, P2, RT, P2**, SSK, *K1*, *K2tog*, repeat from * to border ending the final repeat at the **.

Row 19: *P2, RT, P2, *K3*, YO, *Kl*, YO, *K3*, P2, RT, P2**, *SK2P*, repeat from * to border ending the final repeat at the **.

Row 20: see row 2.

Repeat the 20 rows of the leaf pattern 2 more times. K 8 rows for a garter stitch border. Bind off nice and loosely. The fabric will look tight but blocks out nicely.

Sleeves: Starting at middle of cast on stitches at underarm, with right side facing, using 16" needles pick up and knit 4 sts, knit sleeve sts from holder and pick up remaining 4 sts from cast on underarm. PM and join in the round. Work in the round dec'g 1 st either side of marker every 6th row until there are 44 sts. Work even until sleeve is about 1-1/2" shorter than desired length, changing to double point needles as needed. Try the sweater on to test for sleeve length, that's just one of the great things about knitting a top-down sweater. If you have more than 44 sts at this point, dec the number necessary to get to 44 evenly spaced on the last row before border. Work garter st border for 1-1/2". Working in the round garter st is K 1 row, P 1 row. Work 2nd sleeve to match.

Buttons and Afterthought Buttonholes: Sew 3 buttons on the right border with the first about 1/2" down from top edge, 2nd about 1/2" up from the beginning of the falling leaves skirt and the 3rd halfway in between. Sew 2 buttons on the left border so that they lie in the middle of the gaps between the 3 buttons on the right border. Make 5 afterthought buttonholes: Using 2 strands of yarn held together and leaving about an 8" tail, crochet a chain of 12 sts, tie off leaving another 8" tail. Form the crochet chains into horseshoe-shaped loops and attach to the garter borders opposite the buttons using the tails for sewing in place.

Finishing: There is no sewing together!! Use the tails from starting the sleeves to close up the small holes at the underarm and weave in those and the rest of the ends. Block the falling leaves skirt only. It will grow nicely and provide a subtle A-line shape to the lower part of the sweater.