

# Boys & Girls Back To School Vest - Free Knitting Pattern

by Ratcha from [www.to-knit-knitting-stitches.com](http://www.to-knit-knitting-stitches.com)



**Description:** A simple unisex vest for girls and boys in stockinette stitch with a 6-stitch-plait cable panel on each side of the body's front. Armhole, neck edge and lower body edges are knitted in 1 by 1 ribbing. The body of the vest is knitted in rows then joined together at side and shoulder seams. I picked navy blue for school uniform but you can pick any color your or your kid like.

**Skill level:** Intermediate

**Sizes:** Make to fit girls and boys with chest size of 27 inches. The finished vest will be slightly bigger than the chest measurement.

**Gauge:** 4sts/6rows/inch on US size # 8 needle over stockinette st.

**Estimated Yardage:** 355 yards.

## Materials:

1. Medium worsted weigh yarn of your choice. See estimated yardage above for reference. (I used 1, 170g ball by TLC)
2. 16-inches circular knitting needle US size 6 (4mm)
3. A pair of US size 8 (5mm) knitting needle (straight or circular)

4. Cable needle size 8 (5mm)
5. 4 Stitch markers
6. Row counter
7. Tapestry needle

## 6 sts-Plait Cable Panel:

Row 1(right side): \*C4F, k2.

Row 2 : Purl.

Row 3: \*\*K 2, C4B.

Row 4: Purl

\*C4F = Place 2 sts on cable needle (CN) at front of work, k the next 2 sts, k 2 from CN.

\*\*C4B = Place 2 sts on cable needle at back of work, k the next 2 sts, k 2 from CN

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## Direction for a vest with size 27 inches

### Back

With smaller needle, CO 53 sts. Establish 1x1 rib pattern on row 1 as follow;

Row 1: \*K1,p1; repeat from \* to the last st, K1.

Row 2: P the purled stitches and K the knitted stitches.

Repeat these 2 rows for ribbing. Work ribbing for 13 rows.

Increase 7 sts evenly on row 14. Total of 60 sts.

Change to larger needle and work in stockinette stitch (k on right side and p on the wrong side) until piece measure 10.5".

### Underarm Shaping

Bind off 4 sts at beginning of the next 2 rows.

Continue working until piece measure 17.5".

Bind off 14 shoulder sts. Bind off 24 back neck sts. Bind off 14 shoulder sts.

### Front

Work body ribbing and increasing row from row 1-14 as for back. Then begin body pattern as follows;

### Begin body and pattern

This is the time to take out your row counter.

**Row 1 (right side):** With larger needle, K 6, p2, place marker (PM), work 6-sts cable pattern starting with row 1, pm, p2, k 28, p2, pm, work 6-sts plait cable pattern starting with row 1, pm, p2, k 6.

**Row 2 and every wrong side rows:** Knit the knitted sts and purl the purled sts. Slip markers along as you knit.

Continue repeating on these 2 rows while maintaining the 6-sts plait cable pattern.

When piece measures 10.5 inches begin armhole shaping as for back and at the same time do neck shaping as follows;

Work to center, attach another ball of yarn and complete row. (If you only have 1 big ball of yarn, use the other end of the yarn to work with)

Turn. Work both sides at once.

Decrease 1 st at each neck edge every 2nd row 6 times, then every 4th row 6 times.

Continue in pattern until piece measure 17.5 inches. Bind off loosely.

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With right side together, sew side seams and shoulders seams together using tapestry needle. Weave in all loose ends.

## Armhole Edging

With circular needle size 6 (4mm) pick up 64 sts around armhole edge. Work k1, p1 rib pattern for approx. 1 inch. Bind off loosely. Do the same with the other armhole edge.

## Neck Finishing

With smaller circular needle and with right side facing, pick up 24 sts from back neck, pick up 32 sts from left neck edge, place center marker, Make 1 (M1) st in the center, pick up 32 sts from right neck edge, place end of round marker (89 st.)

**Rnd 1:** Work in k1, p1 ribbing to within 2 sts of center marker, ssk, pm, k1, k2tog, work in k1, p1 ribbing to end of round.

Repeat rnd 1 for approx. 1 inch. Bind off loosely in ribbing.

## Knitting abbreviations and terms

**CN** = Cable Needle

**DPN** = Double point needle

**C4F** = Place 2 sts on cable needle (CN) and leave them at front of work, k the next 2 sts then k 2 from CN.

**C4B** = Place 2 sts on cable needle and leave them at the back of work, k the next 2 sts then k 2 from CN

**rnd** = round

**PM** = Place marker

**ssk** = slip slip knit (slip the next 2 sts knitwise, and knit into back of these two sts together. (1 st decrease)

**M1** = Make one (use left needle to pick up horizontal strain of yarn between sts and knit into back of it (1 st increase)

**k2tog** = knit 2 sts together

## Tips from a Knitter who knitted this vest;

“On the purl-side I liked to end with a knit stitch. I like to do a slip stitch in the start of each row, it makes it nicer.”

\* \* The end \* \*