Maya's Circles Tank

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This was based on a drawing from my daughter, who is 8 yrs old and ***way*** over the cutesy stuff. She wanted a summer tank with lots of circles, a tie back, and a longer, more grown up shape, and a fool proof, stay-on fitted top.

This is a hard age group to find patterns for, so we decided to share. Since it's knit in the round from the bottom up, you can try it on as you go and work with the suggested lengths and decreases to fit as needed.

Yarn – Brown Sheep Cotton Fleece – 2 skeins in Provincial Rose

Needles – US 6s – one pair of 16" circs and one set of #5 DPNs

Notions – stitch markers

Sizing – Size 8 – 24" around the hips, 22" bust.

Size 10 – 26" around the hips, 24" bust.

Size 12 – 28" around the hip, 26" bust.

Gauge – 5 sts and 6 rows per inch, in flat stocking stitch

Directions:

Using your circular needle cast on 120 (130, 140) sts. PM at beginning. Work in the round. Purl 4 rows.

Next, knit 7 rows. On row 8, you will begin the circle pattern.

Big Circles

Row 1 - Knit 3, Purl 4 *(Knit 6, Purl 4) to last 3 sts. Knit 3. Slip marker

Row 2 – Knit 2, Purl 6 *(Knit 4, Purl 6) to last 2 sts. Knit 2. SM

Row 3 - Repeat Row 2

Row 4 – Knit 1, Purl 8 *(Knit 2, Purl 8) to last st. Knit 1. SM

Row 5 & 6 – Repeat row 4

Rows – 7 & 8 Repeat Row 2

Row 9 – Repeat Row 1

For the next 5 rows, knit all stitches.

Medium Circles

Row 1 - Knit 4, Purl 2 *(Knit 8, Purl 2) to last 4 sts. Knit 4. SM

Row 2 - Knit 3, Purl 4 *(Knit 6, Purl 4) to last 3 sts. Knit 3. SM

Row 3 – Repeat Row 2

Row 4 - Knit 2, Purl 6 *(Knit 4, Purl 6) to last 2 sts. Knit 2. SM

Rows 5 & 6 – Repeat Row 4

Row 7 & 8 – Repeat Row 2

Row 9 – Repeat Row 1

For the next 5 rows, knit all stitches.

Small Circles

Row 1 – Knit 4, Purl 2 *(Knit 8, Purl 2) to last 4 sts. Knit 4. SM

Row 2 – Knit 3, Purl 4 *(Knit 6, Purl 4) to last 3 sts. Knit 3. SM

Row 3 – Repeat Row 2

Row 4 – Repeat Row 1

For the next 7 rows, knit all stitches.

Waist shaping

You should be about 7" from your cast on edge.

Next row, K60 (65,70) PM. K60 (65,70) PM.

Your markers now divide the stitches in half and will mark your waist shaping.

Knit 5 rows. On row 6, decrease as follows :

Decrease Row – SM, K2tog, knit to 2 sts before next marker. SSK, SM, K2tog, knit to last 2 sts. SSK.

Repeat decrease row every 6th row 4 times.

(This is a long tank. If you prefer it to be shorter, here's where you should modify. Begin your circley chart earlier than suggested during the decreases, therefore shortening the space between the circles and the top)

But if you're going for Maya's long look:

IF YOU ARE KNITTING THE SMALL, BEGIN THE CIRCLEY PATTERN AFTER YOUR THIRD DECREASE.

(You will be about 10" from the cast on edge).

IF YOU ARE KNITTING THE MED OR LG, COMPLETE ALL 4 DECREASES AND THEN BEGIN THE PATTERN.

(You will be about 11" from our cast on edge.)

For all sizes, 16 sts will have been decreased. (104, 114, 124 sts)

Make sure the waist fits around the ribcage without too much negative ease, so the top will not gap.

Next you will continue to work the design on the front, while dividing for the halter at the same time.

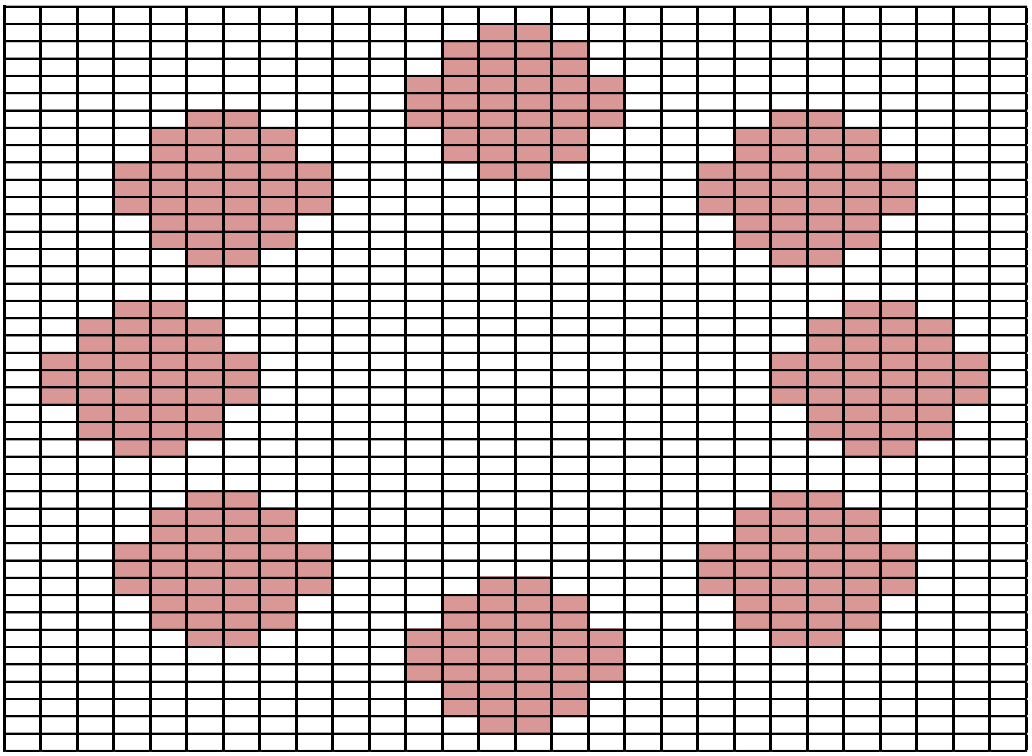
Circley Circle Design

You will begin the circle design in the front when you are 10” (11,11) from the cast on edge as specified on the previous page.

Your markers divide the front and back stitches. Choose which side you want to be the front and mark (with 2 additional stitch markers) the center 28 stitches on that side, so you can work the chart.

White squares – knit on RS, purl on WS

Pink squares – purl on RS, knit on WS



Decrease and divide front and back

Continue until you are 2.5” below the armpits, working the chart across the front.

Your markers should still be placed so they divide the front from the back evenly. Next, you will add decreases along the back so it doesn’t hang when worn.

Next row – Continue to knit front in pattern. Across the back:

Size 8 – K2, K2tog, K10, K2tog, K9, K2tog, K9, K2tog, K10, K2tog, K2

Size 10 – K2, K2tog, K10, K2tog, K11, K2tog, K12. K2tog, K10, K2tog, K2

Size 12 – K2, K2tog, K10, K2tog, K14, K2tog, K14, K2tog, K10, K2tog, K2

You have decreased 5 sts – fairly evenly placed across the back.

Knit one round.

Bind off Back

Knit front in pattern. Slip marker. Knit 4 sts. BO center back stitches until you get to the last 4 before the marker. Knit those 4 sts. (60, 66, 70 sts left) (Take the side markers off now, but save one for later.)

Halter Shaping

Next, knit the remaining piece of the chart while decreasing the sides of the halter.

Row 1 – K2, SSK, knit in pattern to last 4 sts. K2tog, K2

Row 2 - knit and purl in pattern

Repeat these two rows until you have 32, (34, 36 sts) You will have decreased 14 (16, 17) times and will be about 2" under the collarbone. **That said, this part of the tank is easy to modify for the size and shape of your child. Don't worry if your sizing mod creates a different stitch count, as long as it works on your girl and you have an even number within 10 sts of those suggested.** (otherwise it would be too wide or too pointy)

Place marker at center.

Next RS row, knit to 2 sts before marker. SSK, slip marker, K2tog, knit to end.

Purl one row.

Knit one row.

Purl one row.

Knit to 2 sts before marker, SSK, SM, K2tog, knit to end.

Knit 2 rows in garter stitch.

Ties

Bind off to last 2 sts.

With last 2 sts, switch to DPNs (#5s) and work i-cord for 8 inches. Bind off and tie in knot.

PU 2 stitches on other side of bib and work i-cord for 8 inches. Bind off and tie in knot.

Weave in ends and block lightly - tad da!

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