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Lacy Summer Silk Top



MATERIALS:

- 2 skeins Blue Heron Petite Silk in Clematis (or any other Blue Heron Petite Silk colors)

EQUIPMENT:

- Size #6 needles
- tapestry needle
- Size G crochet hook.

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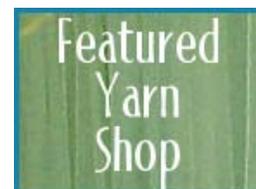
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GAUGE/SIZE: One size fits many. Finished chest: 34". Length 24".

This top is knit in one piece from the back bottom, over the shoulders, to the front bottom.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 98 stitches loosely and knit 4 rows, while placing a marker after 4 stitches on each edge. (A twisted German cast on using #9 needles works very well here. See http://knitting.about.com/od/castingon/ss/german_twisted.htm for instructions. You can also find youtube videos also, which are a much better help to figure it out.)

Begin main pattern:

Row 1: K4st, *(K2tog)3X, (yo,k1)6X, (k2tog)3X* , repeat between * * 5X, k4 st.

Rows 2 & 3: Knit

Row 4: K 4 st, Purl to marker, K4 st.

Knit the 4 pattern rows for a total of 20 pattern repeats AND AT THE SAME TIME, ON THE LAST THREE ROWS OF REPEAT 20, increase 1 stitch in the border on the last three rows, for a total of 7 border stitches on each edge.

Sleeve Increasing: Each 4 row pattern repeat below will create a 3-stitch lace pattern on each edge.

Rows 1,5,9,13,17,21: (right) K4, * (YO,k1,k2tog)* repeat between * * as necessary as the lace pattern gets wider, work in main pattern as established, (left) *(k2tog, yo,k1)* repeat between * * as necessary, k4 AND AT THE SAME TIME knit the 4 edge stitches on each side twice to give a bit more stretch along the diagonal.

Rows (2,3,4)(6,7,8)(10,11,12)(14,15,16)(18,19,20): Increase 1 st in the border on each edge.

Rows: 22,23,24: Knit

Sleeves: Repeat the 4 main pattern rows 5X. Then knit Rows 1-3 again On Row 4, k4, p45, place marker, k36, place marker, p45, k4. Knit the feather and fan pattern rows 2X between 1st and 2nd markers, and between 3rd and 4th markers, AND AT THE SAME TIME knit in garter stitch (k every row) between 2nd and 3rd markers.

Neck: On Row 1 of the next pattern repeat, knit in pattern to the 2nd marker, k8, cast off loosely 20 st, k8, knit in pattern to the end of the row. Place one shoulder on hold while knitting the other.

Right and Left Shoulders: Beginning with Row 2, continue knitting in pattern. There will be an 8 st garter stitch border along the neck edges. Make 12 more repeats of the 4 main pattern rows.

Neck Join: On Row 1, knit in pattern, cast on 20 st, add the 2nd side knitting in pattern. Knit rows 2,3,4 in pattern, knitting the stitches between the center markers in garter stitch. Repeat the four rows twice more.

Sleeve Decreasing: Place the border marker 22 st inside each sleeve edge. This will eliminate 1 main pattern repeat from each sleeve side. Each 4 row pattern repeat below will decrease a 3-stitch lace repeat.

Rows 1,5,9,13,17,21: (right) k4, * (yo,k1,k2tog) *, repeat between * * as necessary, work main pattern as established, (left) * (k2tog, yo, k1) *, repeat between * * as necessary, k4 AND AT THE SAME TIME, knit the edge stitches twice on these rows to give a bit more stretch. Begin with 6 3-stitch repeats, k4. Drop 1 repeat with each successive pattern repeat until there is 1 repeat, k4.

Front Body: Knit the 4 pattern rows 20X. Knit Row 1, knit 5 rows and cast off loosely. (A good cast off is this one: slip 1, k1, insert left needle into the stitches on right needle, and K2together through back loops, *(k1, insert left into right stiches and ktbl) repeat from *)

Assembly: Sc with the G hook along the side and sleeve on each side. Place the sides together with the inside facing out. Lace the seams together through the back loops of the sc stitches alternating sides and leaving a 5" opening at the side bottom. Sc around the neck edge making 3sc into 1 at the corners.

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