Kitten sweater with a button back

Twelve weeks · US terms



Finished size

About 9¼ in (23.5 cm) round the chest when buttoned, 6½ in (16.5 cm) round the neck and 6¾ in (17 cm) long, for a kitten 7½ in (19 cm) to less than 9 in (23 cm) round the chest, about twelve weeks old

Skill

Intermediate

It is worked in rows with a few increases and two leg openings; the bands are picked up along the edges and a heart is sewn on.

Yarn

Light (3), 3 colors

Hook

4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge

18 stitches and 13 rows to 4 in (10 cm)

In half double crochet (UK half treble).

What you need

Yarn A: blush, the sweater **about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**

Yarn B: cream, the bands **about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**

Yarn C: rose, the heart **about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 45 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Fiber: wool or cotton

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: pins, cream sewing thread and a sewing needle, a yarn needle, scissors and four flat buttons ½ in (12 mm) wide.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Sizes

Size	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Eight weeks	7½ in (19 cm) round the chest when buttoned, 5¾ in (14.5 cm) round the neck, 6 in (15 cm) long	about 90 yd (82 m)
Twelve weeks (this file)	**9¼ in (23.5 cm) round the chest when buttoned, 6½ in (16.5 cm) round the neck, 6¾ in (17 cm) long**	**about 110 yd (101 m)**

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Five months	10½ in (26.5 cm) round the chest when buttoned, 8 in (20.5 cm) round the neck, 8½ in (21.5 cm) long	about 160 yd (146 m)

Gauge

18 stitches and 13 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in half double crochet.

18 stitches and 20 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet. The bands and the heart are single crochet (UK double crochet) with the same hook.

The pattern also stops you to measure after row 12.

> **The swatch.** A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. Lay it flat and count the stitches and rows over 4 in (10 cm) in its middle. There should be 18 stitches and 13 rows. If you count more stitches than that, change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, change to a smaller hook. The swatch can be pulled out and its yarn used again.
>
Swatch foundation	Ch 29.	
Swatch row 1 (RS)	Hdc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across	(27 hdc)
Swatch rows 2 to 20	Ch 2, turn; hdc in each st across	(27 hdc)

Notes

- The chain of 1 at the start of a row of single crochet and the chain of 2 at the start of a row of half double crochet do not count as a stitch.
- Measure the kitten round the widest part of the chest, just behind the front legs, with the tape snug but not tight, and along the back from the base of the neck to the base of the tail. Go by the chest and not by the age: kittens of one age differ. Choose the size whose range holds the measure of the chest. A measure on the border of two sizes takes the larger one.
- The two leg bands and the heart are worked in rounds, each joined with a slip stitch in its first stitch. The chain of 1 at the start of a round does not count as a stitch; work the first stitch of the round into the stitch the round before was joined in.
- At the hem draw the cream yarn through as the last yarn over of the last blush row, and cut the blush yarn, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- sc2tog: draw up a loop in each of the next 2 stitches, yarn over and pull through all 3 loops on the hook. sc3tog: draw up a loop in each of the next 3 stitches, yarn over and pull through all 4 loops on the hook.
- Let the kitten wear it only while someone is with it. Take it off before the kitten is left alone, goes outdoors or climbs. It has buttons: look at them each time, and sew a loose one on again.
- The back of the kitten should be at least 7¾ in (19.5 cm) long from the base of the neck to the base of the tail, so that the hem stays clear of it.

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Instructions

Twelve weeks. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **st** stitch, **sp** space, **rnd** round.

sc2tog 2 sc made into one, **sc3tog** 3 sc made into one, **sk** skip, **RS** right side, the one that shows.

2 hdc in next st: both in one stitch. **hdc in next 5 sts**: one in each. **ch-6 sp**: the gap under six chains; the hook goes in the gap.

[ ] 4 times: work what is inside 4 times in all.

(26 hdc): the stitches you have when the row is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Main piece

Yarns in order of use: A, blush; B, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 28.	

Yoke

☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Hdc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across	(26 hdc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; hdc in next st, **[**hdc in next 5 sts, 2 hdc in next st**] 4 times**, hdc in next st	(30 hdc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; hdc in each st across	(30 hdc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; hdc in next st, **[**hdc in next 6 sts, 2 hdc in next st**] 4 times**, hdc in next st	(34 hdc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 2, turn; hdc in each st across	(34 hdc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 2, turn; hdc in next st, **[**hdc in next 7 sts, 2 hdc in next st**] 4 times**, hdc in next st	(38 hdc)

Leg openings

☐ **Row 7**	Ch 2, turn; hdc in next 9 sts, ch 6, sk next 6 sts, hdc in next 8 sts, ch 6, sk next 6 sts, hdc in next 9 sts	(26 hdc, 2 ch-6 sps)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 2, turn; hdc in next 9 sts, 6 hdc in next ch-6 sp, hdc in next 8 sts, 6 hdc in next ch-6 sp, hdc in next 9 sts	(38 hdc)

Length

☐ **Rows 9 to 12**	Ch 2, turn; hdc in each st across	(38 hdc)

The heavy box is where you stop and measure.

9 | 10 | 11 | **12**

> **Stop and measure now, after row 12.** The main piece should measure about 8½ in (21.5 cm) from one back edge to the other and 3¾ in (9.5 cm) from the foundation to the last row, laid flat with the leg openings closed.

☐ **Rows 13 to 18**	Ch 2, turn; hdc in each st across	(38 hdc)

13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18

Hem

☐ **Row 19**	With B, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(38 sc)

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☐ **Rows 20 to 21** 20 21	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(38 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Neck band

Yarn B, cream.

Hold the main piece with the right side (the side that faced you in row 1) toward you and the foundation edge up. Join B with a slip stitch in the first chain at the right, and work the first single crochet (UK double crochet) into that same chain. Where row 1 says each st, the chains of the foundation are meant.

☐ **Foundation**	The foundation edge, RS facing; join B at its right end; 26 places: one in each chain.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in each st across	(26 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 3** 2 3	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(26 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Button band

Yarn B, cream.

Lay the sweater flat, the right side up and the neck away from you. The button band is worked along the edge at your left, from the neck to the hem. Join B with a slip stitch in the first of the places, at the neck end, and work the first single crochet into that same place. Where row 1 says each st, the places told below are meant.

☐ **Foundation**	The left back edge, RS facing; join B at its neck end; 33 places: 1 in the end of each of the 3 rows of one cream band, then 3 in every 2 rows along the 18 blush rows (2 in the end of the first, 1 in the end of the next, and so on by turns), then 1 in the end of each of the 3 rows of the other cream band.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in each st across	(33 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 4** 2 3 4	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(33 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Buttonhole band

Yarn B, cream.

It is worked along the edge at your right, from the hem to the neck, in the same way.

☐ **Foundation**	The right back edge, RS facing; join B at its hem end; 33 places: 1 in the end of each of the 3 rows of one cream band, then 3 in every 2 rows along the 18 blush rows (2 in the end of the first, 1 in the end of the next, and so on by turns), then 1 in the end of each of the 3 rows of the other cream band.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in each st across	(33 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 2 sts, **[**ch 2, sk next 2 sts, sc in next 7 sts**] 3 times**, ch 2, sk next 2 sts, sc in next 2 sts	(25 sc, 4 ch-2 sps)

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☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 2 sts, **[**2 sc in next ch-2 sp, sc in next 7 sts**] 3 times**, 2 sc in next ch-2 sp, sc in next 2 sts	(33 sc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(33 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Leg band: make 2

Yarn B, cream.

Row 7 of the main piece skipped 6 stitches there and made a chain of 6 over them, and row 8 worked 6 hdc into that space. Hold the sweater with the right side toward you and the neck down. Join B with a slip stitch in the skipped stitch at the right end of the opening, and work 1 single crochet in that stitch and in each of the other 5 skipped stitches. Turn the sweater so that the neck is up, and work the 6 places along the chain: put the hook through the fabric in the gap beside each of the 6 hdc of row 8, under the chain, and out through the opening, and work 1 single crochet over the chain. If a small hole is left at a corner, close it with the tail.

☐ **Foundation**	The edge of one leg opening, RS facing; join B in the skipped stitch at the right; 12 places: the 6 skipped stitches, then 6 along the ch-6 space.	
☐ **Rnds 1 to 3 (RS)** 1 2 3	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(12 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Heart

Yarn C, rose.

Round 1 is worked along both sides of the foundation chain. Lay the chain as a V: its middle chain is the bottom of the V and its two ends are the middles of the two lobes. Round 1 begins at one end and goes down the outside of that arm; its first 3 sc in one chain are in the middle chain, at the point of the heart. It goes up the outside of the other arm, round its end, and back along the inside of the V to the end where it began.

In rounds 2 and 3 the 3 sc in one stitch make the point: they go into the middle one of the 3 sc of the round before. The decreases lie between the two lobes, each sc3tog over the middle chain.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 10.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 3 chs, 3 sc in next ch, sc in next 3 chs, 3 sc in last ch, working along the other side of the foundation ch, sc in next 7 chs, 2 sc in last ch, sl st in first sc to join	(22 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 3 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc3tog, sc2tog, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in first sc to join	(26 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 3 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc3tog, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(32 sc)

> **Stop and measure now, after round 3.** The heart should be about 2½ in (6.5 cm) wide and 2 in (5 cm) from the top of a lobe to the point.

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 26 in (66 cm) for sewing.	

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Assembly

1. Weave in all the tails on the wrong side, all but the long tail of the heart. The starting tail of the heart goes in on its wrong side.

2. The heart. Lay the sweater flat, the right side up and the neck away from you: the button band is at your left. The heart goes on that half, its right side up, with its two lobes to your left, toward the button band, and its point to your right, so that it stands upright on the side of the kitten. The middle of the heart, from the notch between the lobes to the point, lies along the middle of row 13 of the main piece. The notch is on the 4th stitch of that row counted from the button band, and the point is on about the 12th. Pin it. With its long tail sew it down: bring the needle up through the heart one stitch in from its edge and down through the sweater beside the edge, one stitch for each stitch of round 3. Fasten off on the wrong side. Take the pins out.

3. The buttons. With sewing thread sew the four buttons to the right side of the button band, on its row 3, which lies under the buttonholes: counted from the neck end, each between stitches 3 and 4, 12 and 13, 21 and 22, and 30 and 31 of that row. Go through each button eight times, and fasten off on the wrong side. Button the sweater: the buttonhole band lies on top.

Finishing

- To put it on, lay the open sweater under the kitten, or lift the kitten over it, put one front leg through each opening, and close the buttons from the neck to the tail.

In all: 2 pieces; 1,236 stitches (750 in the main piece, 78 in the neck band, 132 in the button band, 124 in the buttonhole band, 36 in each leg band, 80 in the heart).

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.

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