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If youre looking for a beginner friendly, easy knit sweater cardigan pattern, youve come to the right place! This sweater is knit flat and it uses the easiest knit stitches only. Its also become one of the most popular patterns on the blog. Scroll down to see the entire free pattern below, or you may choose to purchase the pattern from Etsy [HERE](#) or the kit from Lion Brand [HERE](#). Enjoy! Okay! Helloooo long, comfy cardigan made for anybody, anywhere. After sharing the Coziest Cable Cardigan knitting pattern, I wanted to make a lighter weight version that many of you requested. Todays cardigan is a bit lighter, has amazing drape, and can be used in just about any climate. Its also SO easy and makes for a great first sweater project. Basically Id wear it everyday if I could. Update! If you like this, check out My Big Comfy Ribbed Cardi Knitting Pattern as well! There are many ways to knit sweaters and cardigans, but I find the construction of this one to be the easiest for beginners as its knit flat. You essentially will be making one large rectangle for the back, two large rectangles for the front panels, and two lightly shaped sleeves. You only need know how to knit a basic decrease (knit two together), and feel comfortable with knit and purl stitches. After you knit all your three rectangles and sleeves, you will seam and sew all the pieces together to assemble the sweater. For this pattern, you will pick up stitches to make the inner edging. There are a lot of tutorials on YouTube that will show you how to pick up stitches in knitting. By the way, just because its made of rectangles doesnt mean its less of a sweater! If you look at many of the trendy, in style sweaters at stores, the construction is exactly the same. You dont need all kinds of shaping to make a perfect cardigan. Some of you have asked for tutorials on seaming, so I wanted to link to a couple of them here. When you seam stockinette, you want to use a mattress stitch seam (here from Purl Soho). Definitely use the mattress stitch seam to sew up the sides and the sleeves of this cardigan. Whip stitch seams (here) can also work with sewing together knit pieces but when youre seaming stockinette, the mattress stitch is the way to go. This cardigan uses a worsted weight #4 yarn. While you can use any worsted weight yarn that you like, if you like softness and drape, I cant say enough about Lion Brand Jeans. Paired with the large needles, it really created an incredibly drapy, almost slinky fabric that is so nice on the skin. The Jeans yarn is also very affordable, and washable, which is a plus for a garment thats going to be worn a lot! I used the color Vintage, which to me has a grey blue look to it but I like many of the other colors as well. (I used a couple of the other color options for my Boxy T Shirt and Azul V Mesh Poncho) Pattern Description: Introducing the comfiest cardigan that youll want to wear everyday! Featuring amazing drape, a super soft fabric and cozy pockets, this roomy sweater is both cute and practical. With just minimal shaping, its an awesome project for newer knitters! The weight of this cardigan makes it perfect for any climate, whether youre staying home or heading out. Skill Level: Beginner + Materials: US Size 11 8.0 mm 29 circular knitting needles 4 (5,6,7,8) skeins Lion Brand Yarn Jeans in Vintage 100 g/skein (Convenient kit available here) Pattern uses approximately 390 (456, 542, 648, 750) grams total Measuring Tape Tapestry Needle Scissors Dimensions (approximate): Small, Medium, Large, XL, XXL Please follow the key throughout the pattern according to the size you are crocheting: S (M, L, XL, XXL) Bust Circumference (approximate finished measurements): S 36 M 40 L 44 XL 48 XXL 52 Length: S 29 M 31.5 L 34 XL 36.5 XXL 39 Abbreviations & Skills: k knit p purl st stitch k2tog knit two together (decrease) 2 x 2 rib pattern You should know how to work a 2 x 2 rib pattern. 1 x 1 rib pattern You should know how to work a 1 x 1 rib pattern. (For row 1, you will work a knit stitch, followed by a purl stitch, repeating this pattern across the row. For row 2, you will knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches) Gauge: Approximately 16 stitches and 16 rows in 4 x 4 of stockinette stitch (blocked) Notes: You will knit a back panel, two front panels and two sleeves. Each front and back panel is knit from the bottom up and all pieces of the cardigan are knit flat. These are each sewed and seamed together to finish. If youre experienced and would like to knit the sleeves in the round to avoid sewing and seaming, you may do so. The collar is created by picking up stitches along the inside edges of the front panels and back neck area of back panel. This is a very forgiving pattern and you can adjust the sizing to make it your own! Feel free to knit for more or fewer rows to make it longer or shorter (keep yarn needs in mind). My Comfiest Easy Knit Cardigan Pattern Instructions Back Panel Cast on 72 (80, 88, 96, 104) stitch count remains the same throughout back panel pattern Rows 1 12 Work 2 x 2 rib pattern. Row 13 Knit each st across the row. Row 14 Purl each st across the row. Repeat rows 13 & 14, working stockinette stitch until panel is approximately 29 (31.5, 34, 36.5, 39) long. Cast off and weave in ends. Front Panel Pattern (make 2) Cast on 28 (32, 36, 40, 44) stitch count remains the same throughout front panel pattern Rows 1 12 Work at 2 x 2 rib pattern. Row 13 Knit each st across the row. Row 14 Purl each st across the row. Repeat rows 13 & 14, working stockinette stitch until panel is approximately 29 (31.5, 34, 36.5, 39) long. Cast off and weave in ends. Sleeve Pattern (make 2) Cast on 48 (52, 56, 60, 64) sts Row 1 Knit each st across the row. Row 2 Purl each st across the row. Row 3 Knit each st across the row. Row 4 P2tog, purl across to last 2 sts, p2tog. Repeat rows 1 4 until there are 28 (32, 36, 40, 44) sts left on needle. Next, knit in stockinette stitch until sleeve is 13 (13, 13.5, 13.5, 14) Ribbed Cuff Next, work a 2 x 2 rib pattern until sleeve measures approximately 18.5 (18.5, 19, 19, 19.5) long. Cast off and weave in ends. Pockets (make 2) Cast on 22 stitches Row 1 Knit each st across the row. Row 2 Purl each st across the row. Repeat rows 1 & 2, working stockinette, until piece measures 6. Next, work a 2 x 2 rib pattern for approximately 1/2. Cast off and weave in ends. Block to shape and size as desired. Assembly & Seaming Place two front panels directly on top of back panel, leaving space in the middle and outer edges aligned. Seam panels together at shoulders. Sew sleeves onto the cardigan. Fold and sew sleeves using a mattress stitch seam. Seam sides of front and back panels with mattress stitch seam. Sew pockets onto cardigan. Collar Pick up stitches evenly along entire collar area (pick up one stitch at each row) Work a 1 x 1 rib pattern until collar measures approximately 2.5 wide Cast off and weave in ends. And thats it my friends. Pretty simple right? I hope this was easy enough for you to make and that you can proudly wear it for years to come! Big Sweater Coat Knitting Pattern Painted Skies Shrug Sweater Knitting Pattern Telluride Kimono Knit Cardigan And here is a collection of all my easiest sweater patterns: 10 Easy Knit Sweater Patterns I sure hope you loved this sweater and enjoy wearing it for years to come! Id love to see if you make one just tag me on Instagram @mamainastitch #mamainastitch. Happy knitting and making my friends! XO, Jessicaf youre looking for a new knitting project, why not try a cardigan? In this blog post, well share our favorite 25 easy cardigan knitting patterns for beginners. Youll find a variety of different knit cardigan patterns to choose from, so that you can find the perfect one to suit your style. Theres nothing like a hand-knit cardigan to keep you cozy in cooler weather. Cardigans are practical, versatile, and perfect for layering. In my opinion, theyre one of the most satisfying things to knit. And contrary to popular belief, knitting a cardigan is not as difficult as it may seem. With the right pattern and some practice, even beginning knitters can create a beautiful cardigan. To help you get started, Ive compiled a list of 25 easy and free knit cardigan patterns. Whether youre looking for a simple and classic style or something more modern and trendy, theres sure to be a pattern on this list thats perfect for you. There are a variety of different methods for constructing cardigan sweaters. Generally, they can be broken down into two categories: seamless construction and pieced (seamed) construction. Seamless cardigans:Seamless cardigan sweaters are knit all in one piece on long circular needles. Seamless cardigans are often knit top-down, which means the sweater is knit from the collar down to the hem. Seamed cardigans:Seamed cardigans are knit in pieces and then seamed together at the end. For example, youll knit separate pieces for the back panel, two front panels, and two sleeves. Then, youll assemble these pieces with a mattress stitch or other seaming technique. Most seamed cardigans are knit bottom-up or from the hem up to the collar. Yes, you can knit a cardigan as a knitting beginner! Just be sure to choose a pattern that is rated as easy or beginner friendly. Here are some more guidelines to help you search for simple cardigan patterns: Look for designs made from simple, rectangular pieces that will be seamed together. Look for patterns made with basic stitch patterns, like stockinette or garter stitch. Slouchy sweaters might be more forgiving than fitted styles, especially if you are concerned about your gauge being correct. Choose patterns made with bulky yarn if you want your project to work up more quickly. And if youd rather knit a pullover style sweater instead, check out this collection of our favorite free knit pullover patterns. Within this list, youll find sweaters knit with various yarn types and weights, from fingering weight all the way up to super bulky. For your convenience, Ive listed a recommended yarn for each pattern right here within the post. Dont forget to check your gauge before getting started! Still not sure what yarn to use? Here are a few of my favorite, cozy cardigan yarn choices. Lion Brand Coboo (DK) Lion Brand Jeans (worsted) Hue + Me (bulky) Wool-Ease Thick & Quick (super bulky) Here are some common knitting techniques that youll need for cardigan knitting. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the stitches and techniques used in your pattern before getting started on your cardigan. If there are any techniques that youre unfamiliar with, practice them first youll be glad you did! Basic Knitting Stitches:Click here for complete tutorials on How to Cast On, How to Knit, How to Purl, and How to Bind Off. Increases and Decreases:Increases and decreases are essential for shaping your cardigan. Knitting in the round:Some cardigan patterns will instruct you to knit your sleeves in the round. To knit in the round, youll need some circular needles or DPNs. Seaming:If your cardigan is knit in pieces, youll need to sew them together at the end. Most patterns will suggest using the mattress stitch to do this step. Here are a few more tips and tricks for knit cardigan patterns. Before choosing a pattern, think realistically about your knitting skill level. If youre just starting out, look for a pattern that includes simple rectangles, basic stitches, and a forgiving fit. For more advanced knitters, you may want to choose something more challenging to keep your interest. Most patterns include a suggested skill level for your convenience. Even if you purchase the exact same yarn as the pattern designer, remember that every knitter has a unique gauge. Its crucial to knit a gauge swatch before getting started on your sweater in order to ensure the best fit. Dont let your pattern surprise you with tricky or new techniques when youre already halfway through! To avoid frustration, read through your pattern thoroughly to get the full picture and familiarize yourself with all of the techniques and stitches youll need to know. Dont be afraid to practice any new skills before getting started. One of the best parts of knitting your own sweater is that you can make sure that it fits you perfectly! Hold the cardigan up to your body, or try it on a few times throughout the knitting process. This way, you can easily adjust if certain pieces are too large or small or if you want it longer or shorter. To achieve the best shape, block your sweater when youre finished knitting. Blocking includes wetting and drying your knit cardigan to set its shape. For a collection of free and easy knit pullover sweaters, check out these 25 easy sweater knitting patterns. When youre ready for more, check out these other free knitting patterns. Pin this post: Save this tutorial to your Pinterest boards so that you can come back to it later. Leave a comment: We love to hear your feedback. Tell me in the comments below! Share on Instagram or Facebook: When you make this project, share it on social media and tag me @sarahmaker . We love to see what you make! We hope this article was useful for you! If you have any additional questions, feel free to join myFacebook Group. We created this group for you to share pictures, ask questions, and help each other out. Knitting a sweater or cardigan is a milestone for every knitter. It can feel intimidating and confusing when youre trying to follow some of those instructions especially when you see the words at the same time in a pattern. Even just finding a pattern can feel like a huge process. Thats why Ive created a collection of cardigan knitting patterns for beginners designs that are simple for knitters who are tackling their first garment project. Most are worked from the top-down but there are some worked bottom-up for a little bit of variety. And, while many are seamless knits, there are a few seamed garments in here as well. One of these easy cardigan knitting patterns is a great place to start building your garment knitting skills. Harvest from Tin Can Knits Effortless Cardigan from Lion Brand Yarns Iced by Carol Feller for Knitty Cropped Raglan Cardigan from Lion Brand Yarns Nimbus from the Berroco Design team The Downtown Cardigan by Stephanie Lau The Sunset Cardigan by Neringa Ruke Fullerton Cardigan by Kephren Pritchett for KnitScene New Concetta Cardigan by Elizabeth Smith Hipster Stripe Cardigan by Triona Murphy for Knit Picks Simplicity Cardigan by Nicole Wang Jane Cardigan by Andrea Yetman for Biscotte Yarns If youre ready to start knitting your first cardigan, check out the twelve patterns below. Ive also included some links to recommended yarn if you want to get started as soon as possible and youre not sure how to find the right yarn. Links below include affiliate links. If you click through and make a purchase I may receive a small commission at no extra cost to you. See the disclosure policy for more information. ~ Tin Can Knits Harvest by Tin Can Knits is part of the beginner knitter series so its a perfect first cardigan. Its worked seamlessly from the top down with raglan shoulder shaping. Its a free pattern thats sized for multiple sizes from baby to adult and they have lots of helpful information on their website. Get the pattern: Harvest Recommended yarn: Cascade 220 ~ Lion Brand Yarns The Effortless Cardigan from Lion Brand Yarns is worked top down with a raglan shoulder shaping. After dividing for the sleeves, youll work the body and then finish the sleeves before picking up stitches to work the rib band around the front of the sweater. Its also worked flat and features patch pockets. Get the pattern: Effortless Cardigan Recommended yarn: Knit Picks Mighty Stitch ~ Carol Feller for Knitty Iced by Carol Feller is an oversized, casual cardigan that uses the top-down raglan shoulder shaping. It also includes a v-neck and buttons but no buttonholes. Instead, youll crochet chain a few loops that are attached to the edge of the sweater instead. After working the body of the sweater, youll pick up stitches to work the Garter stitch shawl collar that uses some very simple short rows to create the shawl collar shape. Get the pattern: Iced Recommended yarn: DMC Natura XL ~ Lion Brand Yarns The Cropped Raglan Sweater from Lion Brand Yarns is a cute cropped shape with short sleeves. Cast on the ribbing and start working flat to shape the fronts, back, and sleeves. After separating the sleeves, finish the body, the the sleeves before picking up stitches and working the rib band down the front. Very cute cropped sweater knit it in a cotton blend for a great summer or spring cardigan. Get the pattern: Cropped Raglan Sweater Recommended yarn: Knit Picks Comfy Worsted Discover the Confidence You Need to Fix Your Knitting Mistakes By the end of this six-part self-paced course, youll be able to read your knitting, recognize a variety of knitting mistakes, and understand how to fix them. ~ Berroco Nimbus, from the Berroco design team, uses a bottom-up, seamed cardigan construction. Each of the pieces (the back, right and left fronts, and sleeves) are worked separately but they are all very simple with hold Garter stitch edges and basic Stockinette stitch. This one is for the adventurous beginner because the pattern has a reverse all shaping instruction for the right front. But this is a great and simple way to practice that because it can show up in many knitting patterns. Get the pattern: Nimbus Recommended yarn: Knit Picks Tuft Puff ~ Stephanie Lau The Downtown Cardigan by Stephanie Lau is a chunky, oversized cardigan worked in Garter stitch. Its a drop shoulder cardigan thats worked flat the back, both fronts, and the sleeves are worked separately (just large Garter stitch rectangles with a K2P2 rib at the bottom. After seaming all the pieces together, you have a few options for finishing the front. Get the pattern: The Downtown Cardigan Recommended yarn: Lion Brand Color Made Easy ~ Neringa Ruke The Sunset Cardigan by Neringa Ruke is another oversized Garter stitch cardigan. It features balloon sleeves and tunic-length (making it great to wear over leggings on a chilly day. The body is worked flat in one piece before the sides are seamed. Then the front band can be added and the sleeves are added after the body is complete as well. Get the pattern: The Sunset Cardigan Recommended yarn: Rowan Big Wool ~ Interweave The Fullerton Cardigan, designed by Kephren Pritchett for KnitScene, is worked flat from the bottom up. When you reach the underarms, the fronts and back are worked separately. After they are finished, a 3-needle bind off is used to join the back and sides at the shoulders. The sleeves are picked up from the armholes and worked in the round from shoulder to cuff. To finish, the button band is worked and buttons are added. Get the pattern: Fullerton Recommended yarn: Brown Sheep Lambs Pride Worsted ~ Elizabeth Smith The New Concetta Cardigan by Elizabeth Smith is a top-down raglan sleeve cardigan. Its worked in one piece before the sleeves are divided from the body. The body is then worked to the hem and the sleeve stitches are worked in the round from the shoulder to the cuff (and featuring a slight bell-shape). To finish the cardigan, stitches are picked up and a K2P2 rib is worked, with one buttonhole to feature one large, special button closure at the neck. Get the pattern: New Concetta Cardigan Recommended yarn: Brown Sheep Lambs Pride Worsted ~ Knit Picks The Hipster Stripe Cardigan by Triona Murphy for Knit Picks uses their Swish Worsted. It features bold, skinny stripes and a deep neckline with elbow-length sleeves so its perfect for a great spring or summer top. Its worked from the top down and the only finishing is picking up the front bands (no seaming involved). Get the pattern: Hipster Stripe Cardigan Recommended yarn: Swish Worsted ~ Nicole Wang The Simplicity Cardigan by Nicole Wang is a long, knee-length, cardigan worked in Garter stitch. Its worked top-down, knit flat back-and-forth in rows, and completely seamless with raglan shoulder shaping. This is definitely an easy knit for even the newest knitters. The most difficult part will be placing markers and keeping track of increases for the sleeves, fronts, and back. Get the pattern: Simplicity Cardigan Recommended yarn: Lion Brand Vannas Choice ~ Biscotte Yarns The Jane Cardigan, designed by Andrea Yetman for Biscotte Yarns, is worked top-down and uses a yoke construction method for the Garter stitch yoke. When the yoke is completed, sleeves and body are divided and the body is worked to the hem where a faux cable rib is worked. Sleeve stitches are then picked up and worked to the cuff before adding a button band to the front of the cardigan. Get the pattern: Jane Cardigan Recommended yarn: Malabrigo Chunky Here are a few common questions related to knitting cardigans. It is not difficult to knit a cardigan. Once you know the basic mechanics of knitting casting on, knitting, purling, and binding off, you can learn to knit a cardigan. Start with one that uses simple shaping and large yarn and needles for a quick project. Cardigans can be knit with straight needles especially if you are knitting all the pieces separately and seaming them together like the Downtown Cardigan by Stephanie Lau listed above. When youre ready to start knitting your first cardigan, grab one of the easy cardigan knitting patterns for beginners linked above, get your yarn and needles, and cast on for your first cardigan! For more helpful resources and articles, check out the links below.

How to knit a men's cardigan for beginners. How to knit a ladies cardigan for beginners. How to knit a chunky cardigan for beginners. How to knit a cardigan for beginners straight needles. Learn how to knit a cardigan. How to knit a long cardigan for beginners. How to knit a cardigan step by step. How to knit a cardigan for beginners step by step. How to knit a yoke cardigan for beginners. How to knit a baby cardigan for beginners. How to knit a newborn cardigan for beginners.