Back by popular demand – the Farmlife sweater

This fabulous knit from the archives should help keep you warm through winter

We have had so many emails from readers who have lost, inadvertently destroyed, or worn out the original sweater pattern from the 1970s – and still more from people who missed it when we printed it both the first and second time round – that we are printing the pattern once again.

Our own 1980s archive copy was unreadable in parts. So huge thanks to reader Katie Summerfield who came to the rescue with a slightly less battered magazine.

No doubt the super-knitters among you will be able to knock up a woolly gift or two in time for Christmas. But we'd love to see your masterpieces whenever they're ready; upload your photos at **fwi.co.uk/farmlife-framed** and we will share them.

Sized to fit chests from 61cm (24in) to 112cm (44in), this sweater will fit most members of the farming family. The original pattern specifies Emu scotch superwash wool double knitting (25g balls), which is now not widely available. So for DK yarn in 50g or 100g you will need to recalculate. Oddments of black, burnt orange, cowslip, moss brown. Aero knitting needles size 8 (4mm) and 10 (3.25mm).

Abbreviations: k, knit; p, purl; st(s), stitch(es); stst, stocking stitch; rep, repeat; beg, beginning; inc, increase(ing); dec, decrease(ing); tog, together; sl, slip; psso, pass slipped stitch over; mc, main colour; br, brown; b, black; or, orange; y, yellow.
Tension: standard DK 22 stitches to 28 rows over 10cm

BACK

Using size 10 needles and mc, cast on 74 (78, 86, 90, 94, 102, 106, 110, 118, 122, 130) sts. Work in k 2, p 2 rib for 2in, ending with a wrong side row. Change to size 8 needles and stst (1 row k, 1 row p)*. Continue in stst until work measures 10 (10½, 11, 11½, 13½, 14, 14½, 14½, 15, 15, 15) inches from the beg, ending with a p row. Mark each end of last row with a coloured thread.

Shape raglan armholes

Dec 1 st at each end of the next and every following 4th row until 64 (70, 80, 84, 86, 98, 102, 100, 114, 118, 126) sts remain, then 1 st at each end of every alternate row until 40 (40, 42, 42, 46, 48, 48, 54, 54, 56, 56) sts remain, ending with a p row. Mark each end of last row with a coloured thread.

SIZING GUIDE AND WOOL REQUIREMENTS

To fit chest or bust	in / cm	24 / 61	26 / 66	28 / 71	30 / 76	32 / 81	34 / 86	36 / 91	38 / 97	40 / 102	42 / 107	44 / 112
Actual measurements	in / cm	26 / 66	28 / 71	30 / 76	32 / 81	34 / 86	36 / 91	38 / 97	40 / 102	42 / 107	44 / 112	46 / 117
Length to centre back neck	in / cm	16¼ / 41	17 / 43	18 / 46	19 / 48	21½ / 55	22¼ / 56	23¼ / 59	23¾ / 60	24¾ / 63	25 / 64	26 / 66
Sleeve seam	in / cm	12 / 30	12½ / 32	14 / 36	15 / 38	16 / 41	16½ / 42	17 / 43	17½ / 44	17½ / 44	18 / 46	18 / 46
Amount of wool required	balls	11	12	14	15	17	18	20	21	23	24	26

Shape shoulder sections

Cast off 8 (8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 12, 12, 12, 12) sts at the beg of the next 2 rows. Leave the remaining 24 (24, 26, 26, 26, 28, 28, 30, 30, 32, 32) sts on a spare needle.

FRONT

Follow instructions for back from* to *. Work 8 rows. Commence motif.
1st row: k 8 (10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 36) mc, 55 br, 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc.
2nd row: p 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc, 55 br, 8 (10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 36) mc.
3rd row: k 17 (19, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 35, 39, 41, 45) mc, 10 b, 25 mc, 5 b, 17 (19, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 35, 39, 41, 45) mc.
4th row: p 16 (18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 34, 38, 40, 44) mc, 7 b, 23 mc, 12 b, 16 (18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 34, 38, 40, 44) mc.
5th row: k 15 (17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 43) mc, 14 b, 21 mc, 9 b, 15 (17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 43) mc.
6th row: p 15 (17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 43) mc, 9 b, 21 mc, 4 b, 1 or, 4 mc, 1 or, 4 b, 15 (17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 43) mc.
7th row: k 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc, 5 b, 2 or, 2 mc, 2 or, 5 b, 19 mc, 4 b, 3 or, 4 b, 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc.
8th row: p 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc, 3 b, 5 or, 3 b, 19 mc, 4 b, 1 mc, 6 or, 1 mc, 4 b, 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc.
9th row: k 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc, 5 b, 2 mc, 4 or, 2 mc, 5 b, 3 mc, 4 y, 11 mc, 3 b, 2 or, 1 b, 2 or, 3 b, 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc.
10th row: p 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc, 3 b, 5 or, 3 b, 11 mc, 1 y, 2 mc, 1 y, 3 mc, 4 b, 2 mc, 6 or, 2 mc, 4 b, 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc.
11th row: k 9 (11, 15,17,19,23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 37) mc, 1 y, 2 mc, 5 b, 1 mc, 8 or, 1 mc, 5 b, 2 mc, 4 Y, 11 mc, 4 b, 3 or, 4 b, 2 y, 12 (14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40) mc.
12th row: p 12 (14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40) mc, 3 y, 9 b, 12 mc, 1 y, 2 mc, 1 y, 1 mc, 5b, 12 or, 5b, 3y, 8 (10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 36) mc.
13th row: k 9 (11, 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 37) mc, 1 y, 1 mc, 5 b, 4 or, 1 b, 2 or, 1 b, 4 or, 5 b, 5 y, 13 mc, 7 b, 5 y, 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc.
14th row: p 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc, 5 y, 7 b, 11 y, 1 b, 6 y, 5 b, 1 y, 10 or, 1 y, 5 b, 3 y, 8 (10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 36) mc.
15th row: k 9 (11, 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 37) mc, 1 y, 1 mc, 5 b, 2 y, 1 or, 1 b, 1 or, 2 b, 1 or, 1 b, 1 or, 2 y, 5 b, 6 y, 1 b, 12 y, 5 b, 6 y, 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc.
16th row: p 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc, 23 y, 1 b, 6 y, 5 b, 2 y, 3 or, 2 b, 3 or, 2 y, 5 b, 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc.
17th row: k 8 (10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 36) mc, 3 y, 5 b, 2 y, I or, 1 b, 1 or, 2 b, 1 or, 1 b, 1 or, 2 y, 5 b, 6 y, 1 b, 23 y, 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc.

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18th row: p 14, (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc, 20 y, 1 b, 6 y, 5 b, 1 y, 10 or, 1 y, 5 b, 3 y, 8 (10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 36) mc.

19th row: k 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc, 5 b, 4 or, 1 b, 2 or, 1 b, 4 or, 5 b, 6 y, 1 b, 2 y, 6 b, 1 y, 7 b, 5 y, 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc.

20th row: p 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc, 21 y, 1 b, 6 y, 6 b, 1 y, 8 or, 1 y, 6 b, 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc.

21st row: k 12 (14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40) mc, 5 b, 2 y, 6 or, 2 y, 5 b, 7 y, 1 b, 2 y, 6 b, 1 y, 7 b, 5 y, 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc.

22nd row: p 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc, 21 y, 1 b, 3 y, 3 mc, 2 y, 5 b, 2 y, 4 or, 2 y, 5 b, 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc.

23rd row: k 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc, 5 b, 1 y, 6 or, 1 y, 5 b, 1 y, 4 mc, 3 y, 1 b, 2 y, 6 b, 1 y, 7 b, 5 y, 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc.

24th row: p 12 (14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40) mc, 22 y, 1 b, 3 y, 4 mc, 2 y, 5 b, 2 or, 2 y, 2 or, 5 b, 2 y, 12 (14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40) mc.

25th row: k 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc, 2 y, 1 mc, 5 b, 1 or, 4 y, 1 or, 5 b, 1 y, 5 mc, 3 y, 18 b, 5 y 12 (14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40) mc.

26th row: p 12 (14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40) mc, 22 y, 1 b, 4 y, 4 mc, 2 y, 14 b, 4 mc, 1 y, 10 (12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 28, 32, 34, 38) mc.

27th row: k 9 (11, 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 37) mc, 1 y, 5 mc, 14 b, 1 y, 4 mc 5 y, 1 b, 22 y, 12 (14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40) mc.

28th row: p 15 (17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 43) mc, 19 y, 1 b, 5 y, 4 mc, 2 y, 12 b, 1 y, 1 mc 2 y, 12 (14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40) mc.

29th row: k 12 (14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40) mc, 5 y, 10 b, 2 y, 4 mc, 1 b, 5 y, 1 b, 15 y, 19 (21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 47) mc.

30th row: p 23 (25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 41, '45, 47, 51) mc, 17 y, 2 b, 4 mc, 15 y, 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc.

31st row: k 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc, 1 or, 29 y, 1 or, 2 y, 1 mc, 1 b, 1 mc, 2 y, 25 (27, 31, 33, 35, 39, 41, 43, 47, 49, 53) mc.

32nd row: p 28 (30, 34, 36, 38, 42, 44, 46, 50, 52, 56) mc, 1 b, 3 mc, 1 or, 29 y, I or, 11 (13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 39) mc.

33rd row: k 13 (15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 35, 37, 41) mc, 3 y, 4 mc, 3 b, 3 mc, 2 y, 2 mc, 2 b, 1 mc, 1 b, 5 mc, 2 y, 4 mc, 1 b, 28 ·(30, 34, 36, 38, 42, 44, 46, SO, 52, 56) mc.

34th row: p 27 (29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 55) mc, 3 b, 4·mc, 2 y, 3 mc, 1 b, 1 mc, 1 b, 4 mc, 2 y, 4 mc, 2 b, 4 mc,·2 y, 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc.

35th row: k 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc, 2 y, 4 mc, 2 b, 4 mc, 2 y, 5 mc, 3 b, 2 mc, 2 y, 4 mc, 3 b, 27 (29, 33; 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 55) mc.

36th row: p 27 (29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 55) mc, 3 b, 4 mc, 2 y, 10 mc, 2 y, 4 mc, 2 b, 4 mc, 2 y, 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc.

37th row: k 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc, 2 y, [10 mc, 2 y) twice, 4 mc, 3 b, 27 (29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 55) mc.

38th row: p 27·(29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 55) mc, 3 b, 5 mc, 2 y, 9 mc, 2 y, 10 mc, 2 y, 14 (16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 36, 38, 42) mc.

39th row: k 15 (17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 43) mc, 2 y, [9 mc, 2 y] twice, 5 mc, 3 b, 27 (29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 55) mc.

40th row: p 27 (29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 55) mc, 3 b, 5 mc, 2 y {9 mc, 2 y] twice, 15 (17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 43) mc.

41st row: k 15 (17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 43) mc, 2 y, 9 mc, 2 y, 8 mc, 2 y, 6 mc, 3 b, 27 (29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 55) mc.

42nd row: p 27 (29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 55) mc, 3 b, 6 mc, 2 y, [8 mc, 2 y] twice, 16 (18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 34, 38, 40, 44) mc.

43rd row: k 16 (18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 34, 38, 40, 44) mc, 2 y, [8 mc, 2 y] twice, 6 mc, 3 b, 27 (29, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45, 49, 51, 55) mc.

44th row: As 42nd row.

45th row: k 16 (18, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 34, 38, 40, 44) mc, 21 y, 8 mc, 1 b, 28 (30, 34, 36, 38, 42, 44, 46, 50, 52, 56) mc.

46th row: p 28 (30, 34, 36, 38, 42, 44, 46, 50, 52; 56) mc, 1 b, 8 mc, 21 y, 16 (18,.22, 24, 26, 30, 32, 34, 38, 40, 44) mc.

47th row: k 17'(19, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 35, 39, 41, 45) mc, 20 y, 8 mc, 1 b, 28 (30, 34, 36, 38, 42, 44, 46, 50, 52, 56) mc.

48th row: p 28 (30, 34, 36, 38, 42, 44, 46, 50, 52, 56) mc, 1 b, 45 (47, 51, 53, 55, 59, 61, 63, 67, 69, 73) mc.

49th row: k 45 (47, 51, 53, 55, 59, 61, 63, 67, 69, 73) mc, 1 b, 28 (30, 34, 36, 38, 42, 44, 46, 50, 52, 56) mc.

Commencing with a p row, continue in stst and mc only until work measures 10 (10½, 11, 11½, 13½, 14, 14½, 14½, 15, 15, 15) inches from the beg, ending with a p row. Mark each end of last row with a coloured thread.
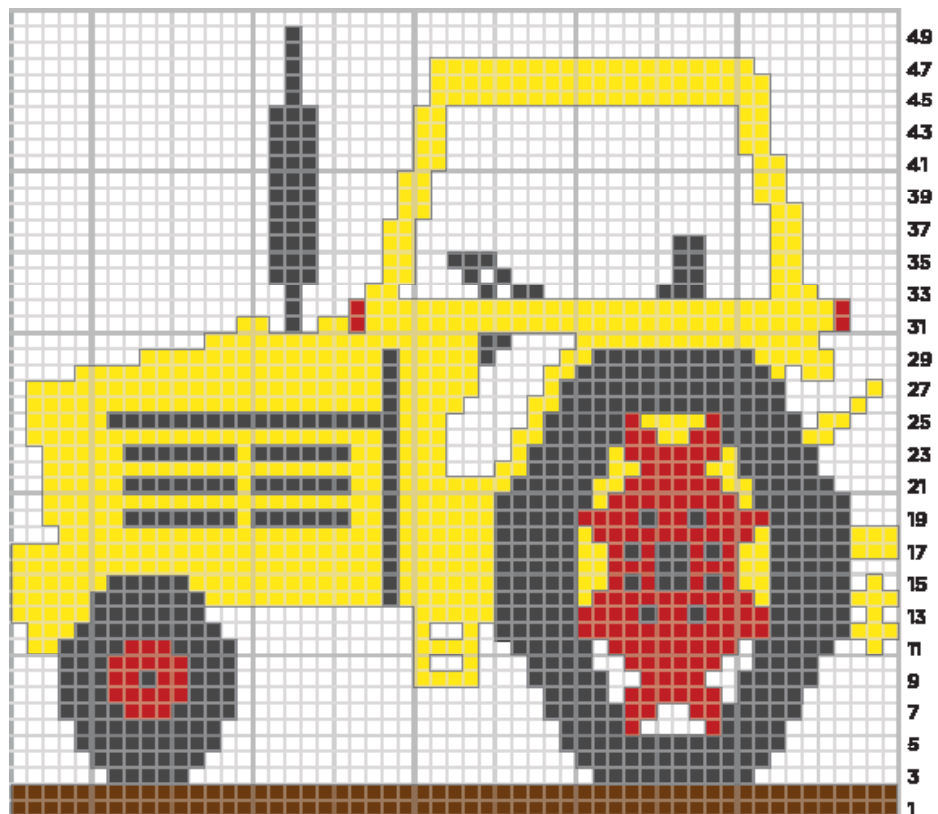
Shape raglan armholes

Dec 1 st at each end of the next and every following 4th row until 64 (70, 80, 84, 86, 98, 102, 100, 114, 118, 126) sts remain, then 1 st at each end of every alternate row until 54 (54, 56, 56, 60, 64, 64, 70, 70, 74, 74) sts remain, ending with a p row.

Shape neck

Next row: Work 2 tog, k 19 (19, 19, 19, 21, 23, 23, 25, 25, 27, 27) sts and turn, leaving remaining sts on a spare needle, p to end.
Next row: Work 2 tog, k to last 3 sts, k 2 tog, k1.
Next row: P to end.
Rep these 2 rows until 8 (8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 12, 12, 12, 12) sts remain, ending at armhole edge. Mark end of last row with a coloured thread.

Shape shoulder section

Cast off these 8 (8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 12, 12, 12, 12) sts on to a spare needle. Join in yarn to remaining sts, k to last 2 sts, work 2 tog.
Next row: P.
Next row: K 1, s1 1, k 1, psso, k to last 2 sts, work 2 tog.
Complete to match first side of neck.

< SLEEVES

Using size 10 needles and mc, cast on 42 (42, 46, 46, 50, 50, 54, 54, 58, 58, 62) sts. Work in k 2, p 2, rib for 2 inches, ending with a wrong side row. Change to size 8 needles and stst, inc 1 st at each end of the 7th and every following 8th (7th, 9th, 8th, 10th, 8th, 10th, 9th, 9th, 9th, 9th) row until there are 56 (58, 62, 64, 66, 70, 72, 74, 78, 80, 84) sts on the needle. Continue without further shaping until work measures 12 (12½, 14, 15, 16, 16 ½ 17, 17½, 17½, 18, 18) inches from beg, ending with a p row. Mark each end of last row with a coloured thread.

Shape raglan top

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th sizes only
Next row: K 2, p 2 tog, k to last 4 sts, p2 tog, k2.
Next row: P 2 tog, p to last 2 sts, p 2 tog.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th sizes only
Rep these 2 rows 2 (2, 2, 1, 1) times more.
11th size only
Next row: K 2, p 2 tog, k to last 4 sts, p2 tog, k2.
Next row: P.
Next row: K 2, p 1, k to last 3 sts, p 1, k 2.
Next row: P.
Rep these 4 rows once more.

All sizes
Next row: K 2, p2 tog, k to last 4 sts, p2 tog, k2.

Next row: P.
Rep these 2 rows until 8 (8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 10, 12, 12, 12) sts remain, ending with a p row. Mark each end of last row with a coloured thread. Work a further 8 (8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 12, 12, 12, 12) rows in stst. Leave these sts on a spare needle.

NECKBAND

With right side of work facing and using size 8 needles, k across the 8 (8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 10, 12, 12, 12) sts on top of left sleeve, pick up and k 9 (9, 12, 12, 14, 16, 16, 17, 17, 17, 17) sts down left side of neck, work across the 12 (12, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14, 16, 16, 16, 16) sts at centre, pick up and k 10 (10, 12, 12, 14, 17, 17, 19, 17, 16, 16) sts up right side of neck, k across the 8 (8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 10, 12, 12, 12) sts on top of right sleeve, then work across the 24 (24, 26, 26, 26, 28, 28, 30, 30, 32, 32) sts on back neck, inc into last st on 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, 10th and 11th sizes only. 72 (72, 80, 80, 88, 96, 102, 104, 106, 106) sts.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sizes only
Next row: * P 2, k 2, rep from * to end.

Next row: * P 2, k 2, rep from * to end.
6th, 7th and 9th sizes only
Next row: * K 2, p 2, rep from * to end.
Next row: * K 2, p 2, rep from * to end.
8th size only
Next row: K 2, * p 2, k 2, rep from * to end.
Next row: P 2, * k 2, p 2, rep from * to end.
10th and 11th sizes only
Next row: P 2, *k 2, p 2, rep from * to end.
Next row: K 2, * p 2, k 2, rep from * to end.

All sizes
Continue in rib, work 5 rows. Change to size 10 needles and work 4 rows. Change to size 8 needles and work 8 rows. Cast off loosely in rib.

To make up

Pin out to correct measurements and press with a warm iron (at wool setting) over a damp cloth. Hand wash unless there are specific machine washing instructions given on the ball band.

Using a flat stitch, join shoulder sections, placing the cast off sts on shoulder sections to the rows on raglan sleeve top, thus matching the coloured threads on raglan armhole and sleeve top. Join raglan seams with a flat stitch.

Join the side sleeve seams with a back stitch. Fold neckband in half on to wrong side and slip stitch down. ■