

Off Piste Cable Sweater Pattern



More of a formula than a pattern, these instructions should get you through knitting a cable sweater.

Yarn needed: 600+ yards of gradient fingering weight yarn (I used a pack I bought at a Fiber Fair from Blue Savannah—check on Etsy), 200 grams of a similar fingering yarn, I used Superwash Merino Fingering by Cloudborn Fibers. Both yarns are single ply. I recommend buying similar types of yarn if you know you don't have quite enough of the gradient.

Materials needed: Size 5 double pointed and circular needles in several lengths, and a tapestry needle.

Stitching notes: To make this sweater, you should be familiar with a 4-stitch cable separated by a purl stitch, cabled every 4 rows/rounds (I didn't provide a chart), top-down sweater construction, putting stitches on hold to knit arms later, knitting on double pointed needles, and a scale plus some basic math to calculate how much of each gradient to knit as you divide for body and arms.

Also, decide how to use your gradients before you get started—dark to light? Light to dark? Bright to muted? I decided to go light to dark because my plan was to purchase black for the bottom. Just kidding. I didn't really have a plan for the bottom until I was almost out of the gradient!

Gauge: This is not a gauge-based sweater. You just use percentages and continue to try on as you go to achieve a perfect fit. The cable pattern has lots of give and looks great when knit with negative ease (smaller than the body that it will fit).

Gradient yarn notes: My gradient set was in six 100-yard skeins. When I divided for the arms, I weighed the mini-skein I was using, and knit 60% of that skein, and put aside the rest for the sleeves. That means, 20% of the remaining mini-skein was knit in one sleeve, and the rest was for the other sleeve. When I ran out of one skein of gradient yarn, I knitted 60% of the next color into the body, and set aside the rest for the sleeves, and so on.

Knitting

Cast on 130 stitches for the neck and use a P1, K4 cable. Every 6 rows you will need to increase 1 stitch after every cable. You will be creating one more set of p1 K4 stitches between every cable. When all of these increases are done you'll have 260 stitches. Try on several times by putting all stitches on waste yarn and slipping it over your head.

As you approach the underarm, you may have to increase by adding some more cables close to the armpit. Try to work them in and stay true to the cable pattern.

Separate arms (20% of stitches for each arm, leaving 30% for front, and 30% for back).

Continue to knit down the body, using your gradient yarn as described above. There is no waist shaping, but you can gradually stop cabling to give the sweater more of a tunic look. Knit a 1x1 rib for about 6 rows on the bottom. You can also knit a little flap like I did (5 stitch overlap—see picture below).

