

# Nishika: A Kiss

## Baby/Toddler Sweater

By Sheeri Cabral



Pictured: 2 year old size with kfb inc - Kermit, Coral Sea, Umbrella, Bloody Mary colorways, stripes are 10 rows.

Nishika means "kiss" in Hebrew. This top-down raglan sweater is a pleasure to knit for your own little one or someone else's. Sized for newborn through 4 years old, this versatile pattern uses sock-weight yarn which is widely available in lots of amazing colorways.

Got mini-skeins or a highly variegated yarn? Make a striped sweater!

Want to practice some intarsia? Make the baseball sweater!

The raglan increases can be done in kfb (knit front and back) for a plain look or a yarnover for a lacy look. Instructions are given for short sleeves and 3/4 length sleeves. The sweater knits up quickly, and the only finishing work is weaving in the ends.

It is important to get **stitch gauge** for this pattern to fit properly; this pattern accounts for differences in row gauges. Test knitters got row gauge from 30 - 40 sts per 4 in/10cm, so the pattern accounts for these differences.

I have made this pattern at least a dozen times, and I have loved every single sweater I made. A few even came back to me after I had my own child!

### Details

**Size** newborn (3-6 months, 6-12 months, 12-18 months, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years)

**Needles:** Size 5 - 3.75 mm - 24" circular to fit main body. For the sleeves, size 5 - 3.75 mm in DPNs or short circular needles or long circular needles for magic loop method.

**Gauge:** 24 sts/40 rows = 4"/10cm stockinette

**Yarn:** Lady Dye Yarns Superwash fingering (437 yards/100g), 1(1,1,2,2,2,3) skeins or suitable sock/fingering/sport weight yarn to get gauge.

**Notions:** 5 stitch markers, cable needle (for placket join), waste yarn or stitch holders for sleeve stitches. The baseball version uses 6 bobbins for yarn management.

### Abbreviations

K - knit

P - purl

sl m - slip marker

st/sts - stitch/stitches

Kfb - knit front and back

Inc - (knit 1, yarn over) for a lacy look, **OR** (knit front and back) for a plainer look.

**Notes:** This top-down raglan sweater starts off being knit back and forth, and changes to knitting in the round when the placket is joined. The baseball version is after the plain/striped version, and involves intarsia in the round.



Pictured: 3 yo size, kfb increases and stripes using a highly variegated yarn (Phebe) for 4 rows, then a solid (Chadwick) for 2 rows

## Plain or striped baby sweater

Cast on 32(38,42,48,58,62,70) stitches. If you are doing stripes, it is best to pick a color for the top and only start counting rows **AFTER** the first 5 rows (garter neckline) are complete. Otherwise, due to shaping, the first section of color looks thinner than the rest.

### Garter Neckline

Garter neckline row 1: K 3(4,4,5,6,7,7) sts, place marker, K 6(7,8,9,11,11,14) sts, place marker, K 14(16,18,20,24,26,28), place marker, K 6(7,8,9,11,11,14) sts, place marker, K 3(4,4,5,6,7,7) sts. Turn.

Garter neckline row 2-5: K to end. Cast on 3(3,4,4,5,5,6) sts at end of each row. Turn.

Your needles should have the following stitch counts:

9(10,12,13,16,17,19) marker 6(7,8,9,11,11,14) marker 14(16,18,20,24,26,28) marker 6(7,8,9,11,11,14) marker 9(10,12,13,16,17,19).

### Placket

Placket row 1 (RS): \*K to 1 st before marker, inc, sl m, inc, repeat from \*, K to end.

Placket row 2 (WS): K 4(4,6,6,8,8,10), P to last 4(4,6,6,8,8,10) sts, K to end.

Repeat placket rows 7(9,11,15,16,17,18) times **more** for a total of 16(20,24,32,34,36,38) **rows** from the garter neckline. End on a WS row.

Your needles should have the following stitch counts:

17(20,24,29,33,35,38) marker 22(27,32,41,45,47,52)  
marker 30(36,42,52,58,62,66) marker  
22(27,32,41,45,47,52) marker 17(20,24,29,33,35,38)

For a total of 108(130,154,192,214,226,246) stitches.



## Placket Join

Slip the last 4(4,6,6,8,8,10) sts of the work from the OTHER side of the sweater where the working yarn is, onto a cable needle as shown in the diagram (stitch 4 is the end of the row).

Knit the 1s together. This joins the sweater so you are knitting in the round; be careful not to twist your stitches. Then knit together the next set of stitches 3(3,5,5,7,7,9) times.

At this point you should have no stitches on your cable needle and 4(4,6,6,8,8,10) stitches on your working needle. You have joined both sides of the placket and are knitting in the round.

Place a row marker here, this is the end/beginning of the row. Color changes for stripes should happen at the 2nd stitch marker **after** this row marker (back shoulder).

\*K to 1 st before marker, inc, sl m, inc, repeat from \*, K to end.

K 1 row.

Your needles should have the following stitch counts: 32(38,44,54,60,64,68) each for the front and back and 24(29,34,43,47,49,54) for each sleeve.

For a total of 112(134,156,194,214,226,244) stitches.

## Chest

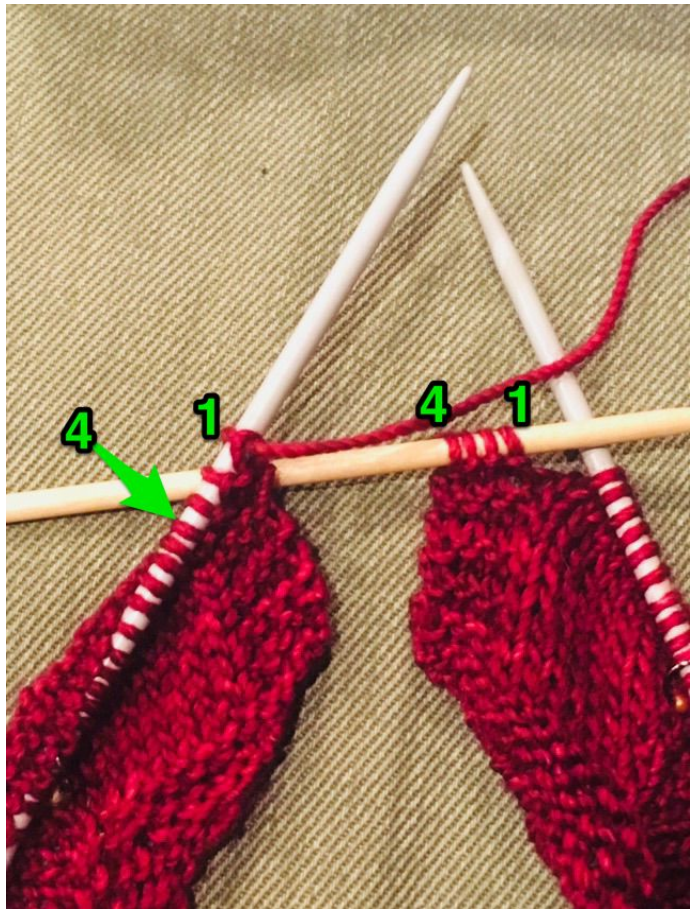
Chest row 1: \*K to 1 st before marker, inc, sl m, inc, repeat from \*, K to end.

Chest row 2: K to end.

Repeat chest rows 8(9,9,5,5,5,8) times more for a total of 184(214,236,242,262,274,316) stitches.

Your needles should have the following stitch counts:

50(58,64,66,72,76,86) each, front and back; and 42(49,54,55,59,61,72) for each sleeve.



Note: Shows newborn size, right-hand dominant knitting  
For left-hand dominant knitting, see Appendix

## Body

Remove beginning of row marker. K to marker, remove marker, place next 42(49,54,55,59,61,72) sleeve sts onto stitch holder or waste yarn, sl m, K to marker, remove marker, place next 42(49,54,55,59,61,72) sleeve sts onto stitch holder or waste yarn, remove marker, K to marker. This marker is the new row begin/end marker.

K 82(86,87,92,95,98,100) rows. **Note** that if your row gauge is not 40 rows/4", you will want to knit a different number of rows to achieve the same length, otherwise your garment will be short or long. Here is a formula for calculating the proper # rows to knit given your row gauge:

$K \text{ rows} / 40 * \text{your gauge} = \text{new K rows}$

Here is an example if your row gauge is 36 rows/4", in the newborn size (original is K 82 rows):  
 $82 / 40 * 36 = 73.8$ , round to 74.

So instead of the instruction K 82 rows, do K 74 rows instead.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Yes, it's a LOT of rows to knit! But do not be fooled - the sweater will look disproportionately long - it is not! Check out the picture at the end of this section - the same striped sweater modeled, yet when it's not on the model, the body looks WAY too long.

## Bottom Ribbed Border

Border row 1-6: K1, P1 to end

Bind off with a stretchy bindoff such as Lucy Neatby's modified conventional bindoff.

## Sleeves

With sleeve needles (dpns or circulars), pick up and knit 1(0,2,1,2,2,4) stitches from underarm, place marker, pick up and knit another 1(1,2,2,3,3,4) stitches from underarm. Knit 42(49,54,55,59,61,72) sts from holder, K the remaining 1(0,2,1,2,2,4) sts to the row marker.

You now have 44(50,58,58,64,66,80) stitches.

Short sleeves: skip to the **Cuff** section.

## 3/4 length sleeves - make sure to read ALL sleeve directions first

Sleeve rows 1-3: K to end.

Sleeve row 4: K2tog, k to 2 before the end of the row, ssk.

Repeat sleeve rows 6(8,10,10,12,12,17) times **more**, for a TOTAL of 28(36,44,44,52,52,72) sleeve rows. Your needles should have 30(32,36,36,38,40,44) stitches. **Note** that if your row gauge is not 40 rows/4", you will want to knit a different number of rows to achieve the same length, otherwise your garment will be short or long. Here is a formula for calculating the proper # rows to knit given your row gauge:

$((\text{Repeat times} + 1) / 40 * \text{your gauge}) - 1 = \text{new repeats}$

Here is an example if your row gauge is 36 rows/4", 6-12 month size (original is Repeat 10 times):

$$((10+1) / 40 * 36) - 1 = (11/40 * 36) - 1 = (0.275 * 36) - 1 = 9.9 - 1 = 8.9, \text{ round to } 9.$$

So instead of the instruction repeat 10 times **more**, you would repeat 9 times **more** instead. Your stitch count will also be different, but it will not be enough to make a difference.

**Alternatively**, if this is too much math, K until the sleeve measures 4"(4½",5",5½",6",6¾",7½"). The reason that doing the math the preferred method, is that measuring while you knit does not account for changes in blocking.

**Cuff** rows 1-4: K1, P1 to end

Bind off using the same stretchy bindoff as the bottom of the sweater.

Repeat for 2nd sleeve.

**Finishing:** Weave in all ends.



Pictured: Striped sweater, size 2 yo, kfb increases, finished and blocked, looking disproportionately long. Do not be fooled! This is the same sweater that is on the toddler in the first picture of this pattern. If you make the sweater so it "looks" right when not on the model, it will be TOO SHORT when put on an average sized kid (of course, if the kid you are knitting for is shorter than average, then go ahead and modify the pattern to be shorter).

## Baseball sweater version



Pictured: 6-12 month old size with kfb increases in Coral Sea (MC) and Umbrella (CC)

Note: MC is the main color of the body of the sweater, with CC being the sleeves and borders. This version involves doing intarsia in the round. It's finicky, but the result is worth it!

Cast on 32(38,42,48,58,62,70) stitches in CC.

### Garter Neckline

Garter neckline row 1: K 3(4,4,5,6,7,7) sts, place marker, K 6(7,8,9,11,11,14) sts, place marker,

K 14(16,18,20,24,26,28), place marker, K 6(7,8,9,11,11,14) sts, place marker, K 3(4,4,5,6,7,7) sts. Turn.

Garter neckline row 2-5: K across, casting on 3(3,4,4,5,5,6) sts at the end of each row.

Turn and break the yarn for CC.

Your needles should have the following stitch counts:

9(10,12,13,16,17,19) marker 6(7,8,9,11,11,14) marker 14(16,18,20,24,26,28) marker 6(7,8,9,11,11,14) marker 9(10,12,13,16,17,19).

You will now start knitting the 7 different sections of the sweater.

### Set up yarn management

Make the following bobbins and attach them in the first placket row:

**Neckline (make 2)** - 2(2,3,4,5,6,7) yards CC

**Chest 1 (make 1)** - 4(6,8,10,12,14,16) yds MC

**Chest 2 (make 1)** - 10(12,14,16,18,20,22) yards MC

**Sleeves (make 2)** - 17(19,20,21,23,24,25) yards CC



**Back:** Use the MC ball of yarn

Sections, clockwise from bottom: neckline (dark pink), chest (light pink), sleeve (dark), back (light, connected to ball), sleeve (dark), chest (light), neckline (dark).

## Placket

Placket row 1 (RS): **Neckline** - K 4(4,6,6,8,8,10), **chest 1 (smaller bobbin)** - K to 1 st before marker, inc, sl m,

**sleeve** - inc, K to 1 before marker, inc, sl m, **back** - inc, K to 1 before marker, inc, sl m,

**sleeve** - inc, K to 1 before marker, inc, sl m, **chest 2 (bigger bobbin)** - inc, K to 4(4,6,6,8,8,10) before end, **neckline** - K 4(4,6,6,8,8,10). Turn.

Placket row 2 (WS): **Neckline** - K 4(4,6,6,8,8,10), **chest 1** - P to marker, sl m,

**sleeve** - P to marker, sl m, **back** - P to marker, sl m, **sleeve** - P to marker, sl m,

**chest 2** - P to 4(4,6,6,8,8,10) before end, **neckline** - K 4(4,6,6,8,8,10). Turn.

Repeat placket rows 7(9,11,15,16,17,18) times **more** for a total of 16(20,24,32,34,36,38) rows from the garter neckline. End on a WS row.

Your needles should have the following stitch counts:

17(20,24,29,33,35,38) marker 22(27,32,41,45,47,52) marker 30(36,42,52,58,62,66) marker

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For a total of 108(130,154,192,214,226,246) stitches.

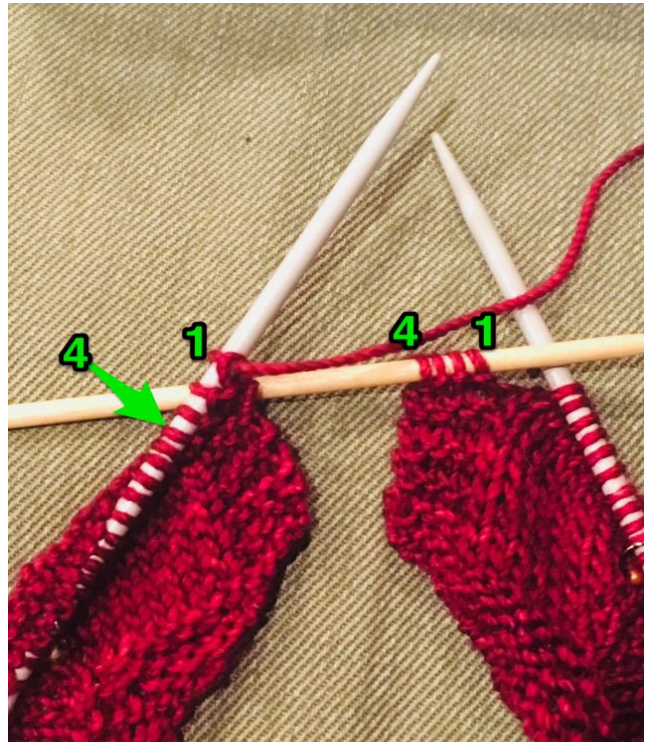
## Placket Join

Slip the last 4(4,6,6,8,8,10) sts of the work from the OTHER side of the sweater where the working yarn is, onto a cable needle as shown in the diagram (stitch 4 is the end of the row).

With MC from the **chest 2 bobbin**, knit the 1's together. This joins the sweater so you can knit in the round; be careful not to twist your stitches. Then knit together the next set of stitches 2(2,4,4,6,6,8) times, then knit the last stitches together.

At this point you should have

4(4,6,6,8,8,10) stitches on your needle, you have joined both sides of the placket.



Note: Shows newborn size, right-hand dominant knitting  
For left-hand dominant knitting, see Appendix

The yarn management is meant to get through the placket join. You now have 4 bobbins, 2 for MC for the front and back, and 2 for CC for the sleeves. As you run out of yarn on the bobbins, you can either add more or use both ends of a center-pull ball until you get to the Body section.



### **Chest setup:**

With MC from **Chest 1 bobbin** K to 1 st before marker, inc, sl m, switch to CC, inc, K to 1 st before marker, inc, sl m, switch to MC, inc, K to 1 st before marker, inc, sl m, switch to CC, inc, K to 1 st before end, inc, sl m. Turn. **This is now the end of the row.**

### **Chest:**

Chest Row 1: With CC, yo to make a joining stitch, sl m, P to marker, sl m, switch to MC, P to marker, sl m, switch to CC, P to marker, sl m, switch to MC, P to last 2 sts before marker (last st of MC and yo of CC from the beginning of the round), p2tog (you are combining the last stitch of the row with the joining stitch), sl m. Turn.

Chest Row 2: With MC, yo to make a joining stitch, sl m, inc, K to 1 st before marker inc, sl m, switch to CC, inc K to 1 st before marker inc, sl m, switch to MC, inc K to 1 st before marker inc, sl m, switch to CC, inc K to last 2 sts of CC, inc, k2tog the last st of CC and yo of MC from the beginning of the round, sl m. Turn.

Repeat chest rows 8(9,9,5,5,5,8) times. Repeat Chest Row 1 one final time, for a total of 184(214,236,242,262,274,316) stitches.

Your needles should have the following stitch counts:

50(58,64,66,72,76,86) each, front and back; and 42(49,54,55,59,61,72) for each sleeve.

### **Body**

With MC (attached to the ball of yarn), K to marker, remove marker, place next 42(49,54,55,59,61,72) sleeve sts onto stitch holder or waste yarn, sl m, K to marker, sl m, place next 42(49,54,55,59,61,72) sleeve sts onto stitch holder or waste yarn.

With MC, K 82(86,87,92,95,98,100) rows. **Note** that if your row gauge is not 40 rows/4", you will want to knit a different number of rows to achieve the same length, otherwise your garment will be short or long. Here is a formula for calculating the proper # rows to knit given your row gauge:

$K \text{ rows} / 40 * \text{your gauge} = \text{new K rows}$

Here is an example if your row gauge is 36 rows/4", in the newborn size (original is K 82 rows):  
 $82 / 40 * 36 = 73.8$ , round to 74.

So instead of the instruction K 82 rows, do K 74 rows instead.

## Bottom Ribbed Border

Switch to CC.

Border row 1-6: K1, P1 to end

Bind off with a stretchy bindoff such as Lucy Neatby's modified conventional bindoff.

## Sleeves

With sleeve needles (dpns or circulars) and CC, pick up and knit 1(0,2,1,2,2,4) sts from underarm, place marker, pick up and knit another 1(1,2,2,3,3,4) sts from underarm. Knit 42(49,54,55,59,61,72) sts from holder, K the remaining 1(0,2,1,2,2,4) sts to the row marker.

You now have 44(50,58,58,64,66,80) stitches.

## Short sleeves

Skip to the **Cuff** section

### 3/4 length sleeves - make sure to read ALL sleeve directions first

Sleeve rows 1-3: K to end.

Sleeve row 4: K

2tog, k to 2 before the end of the row, ssk.

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Here is an example if your row gauge is 36 rows/4", newborn size (original is Repeat 10 times):

$((10+1) / 40 * 36) - 1 = 9.9$ , round to 9.

So instead of the instruction repeat 10 times **more**, you would repeat 9 times **more** instead. Your stitch count will also be different, but it will not be enough to make a difference.



Image: Baseball sweater, size 6-12 months, yo increases, finished and blocked, looking disproportionately long. Do not be fooled! This is the same sweater that is on the baby in the first picture in the baseball section. If you make the sweater so it "looks" right when not on the model, it will be TOO SHORT when put on an average sized kid (of course, if you know the kid you are knitting for is shorter than average, then go ahead and modify the pattern to be shorter).

**Alternatively**, if this is too much math, K until the sleeve measures 4"(4½",5",5½",6",6¾",7½"). The reason that doing the math the preferred method, is that measuring while you knit does not account for changes in blocking.

### **Cuff**

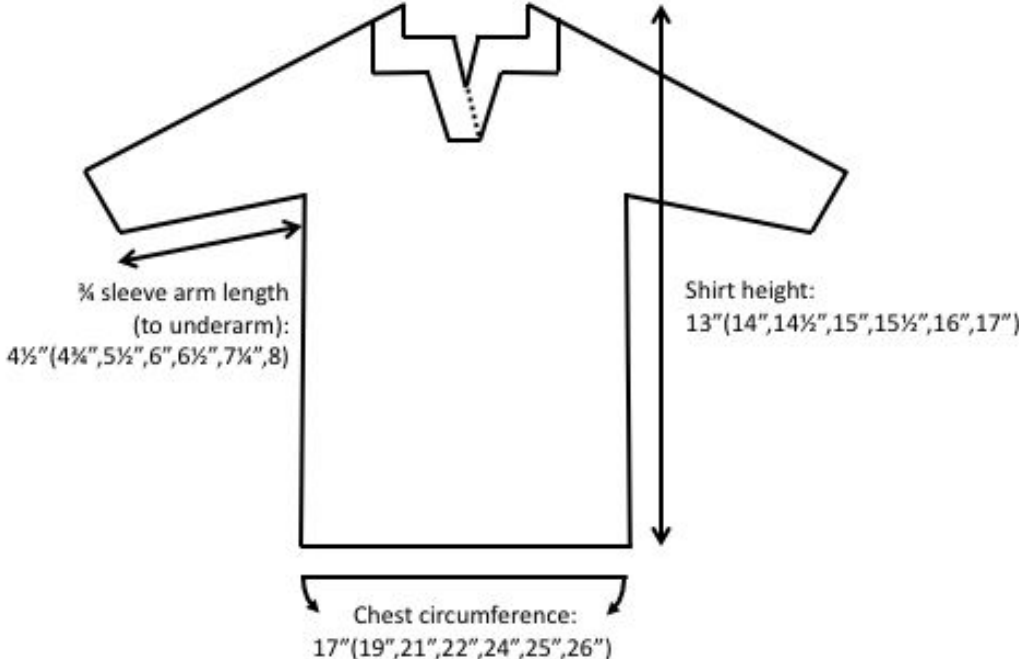
Rows 1-4: K1, P1 to end

Bind off using a stretchy bindoff as for the bottom of the sweater.

Repeat for 2nd sleeve.

**Finishing:** Weave in all ends.

# Schematic



## Appendix: left-hand placket join diagram (newborn size)

