

“Smookie”
by Kate Davies
KAL Preparations

Welcome to our Winter 2023 KAL. What feels better after the busy Holiday Season than relaxing with a cuppa in a cozy, oversized sweater. “Smookie” is the perfect fit. “Smookie” is knit from the bottom up with straight sides and underarm shaping on the body before breaking for sleeves. The front and back yokes are knit flat, and shoulder seams finished with a 3-needle bind-off. Sleeves are picked up and knit top-down and all finishing is with twisted rib. There are only 3 sizes to choose from, and the recommended ease is 12 to 20 inches, so even selecting a size is easy – and somewhat scary!

“Smookie” has a gorgeous geometric pattern on the front and back that is created with Twisted Stitches, and WITHOUT a cable needle! Kate Davies learned about Twisted Stitches from Norah Gaughan and dedicated her book “Sark” to her. “Sark is a collection of patterns that are “all created, in one way or another, with foundational ideas of structure, underpinning and liner simplicity at their heart.”, and “Smookie” is a perfect example of this. I know you will enjoy making this cozy sweater.

Our first meeting is **February 11th**, and we will continue for 8 weeks. Here’s how to join:

-Sign up online at AllWoundUpYarnShop.com under Class Registration. Once signed up, you will receive all of the KAL communications and invitations to all zoom sessions.

-Purchase your pattern or Kate’s ebook from Ravelry or All Wound Up Yarn Shop. Here is the link:
<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/smookie>

-Choose your size and yarn. Some have asked how to reduce the size of your sweater. Please look at the second hand-out as you think of your preferred size. If you want to reduce the smallest size by 8 to 10 inches, you need to switch from a light worsted/DK to either a fingering or sport yarn.

I knit the smallest size (10 inches of ease) with Woolstok and the patterns gauge and I love how it turned out.

-Knit your swatch. Knit your swatch to your preferred gauge. There is no needle size specified in the pattern. I recommend a 6 or 7 for Woolstok, and a 3 or 4 for fingering or sport weight yarn.

Here are notes on knitting your swatch:

- Cast-on 26 stitches the appropriate needle for your weight of yarn.
- Knit 4 inches in stockinette stitch and bind off.
- Measure your swatch several times over at least 2” and count stitches per inch and rows per inch.
- Soak the swatch in cool water for about 5 minutes.
- Squeeze out the water using a towel, then gently lay it flat without stretching.
- Let it dry and measure again. How close are you to the recommended gauge? Keep in mind that one-half stitch per inch translates to about 4 inches difference in size on a completed sweater! You can adjust needle size to fine tune your gauge.
- Are you happy with the fabric? Sizing can be adjusted easily if the difference is less than ½ st/inch.

I think you will love this sweater as much as I do! Be sure to sign up so you receive KAL info, and then mark your calendar for our first meeting on Saturday, February 11th from 1:00p until 2:30p on zoom. See you there!

"Smookie" by Kate Davies Pattern sizing and gauge

Smookie is an oversized sweater that is like wearing a big hug, but since "Smookie" has a very simple construction, you can easily adjust its size with gauge and fine tune it by adjusting the the stockinette side panels. I still recommend about 10 inches of ease, as Kate's undearm shaping has changed my mind on drop shoulder sweaters. It might change your mind also!

ADJUST USING GAUGE

Sizes	FINISHED BUST MEASUREMENTS		
	1st	2nd	3rd
Smookie size in inches after blocking: (Pattern recommends blocking out 2 additional inches to reach bust measurement)	52.5	61	70
Body Stitch Count	278	326	374
Size in inches with 5.5 sts/in.	50.5	59	68
Size in inches with 6.0 sts/in.	46	54	62
Size in inches with 6.5 sts/in.	43	50	57.5

NOTE: 6.0 and 6.5 stitches per inch looks great in Fingering weight yarn. Sport weight also looks great at 6.0 sts/inch.

ADJUST USING STOCKINETTE SIDE PANELS

You can fine-tune your sweater size further by adjusting the number of stockinette stitches that form the side panels. Determine the number of inches you would like to adjust and your gauge will tell you how many stitches to remove or add. I recommend adjusting the same number of stitches on each panel, and definitely the same number on each side.

For instance, I would like to reduce my sweater by 4 inches, and my gauge is 6 sts/inch. I will reduce each panel by 6 stitches.

My only recommendation is to remember that these stitches are a buffer for the front and back panels. The more that you remove, the more your pattern will wrap around your body.

This chart shows how many stitches per panel, and the number of inches they represent across 3 gauges. I hope this helps as you think about how to adjust your size using the stockinette panels.

Sizes	1st	2nd	3rd
Total Stitches per Pattern	278	326	374
Underarm Marker: 1/2 stitch count	139	163	167
Each Stockinette Panel st count	20	32	44
Total count of 4 panels	80	128	176
Convert panels to inches w/gauge			
5.5 sts/inch	14.5	23	32
6.0 sts/inch	13	21	29
6.5 sts/inch	12	20	27

FINAL NOTE on sizing: "Smookie" length and armhole depth is specified in inches. Be sure to follow the recommended inches for your personal size. For example, I knit the smallest size, but my length of sweater and armhole depth are knit to the number of inches specified for the largest size.

I hope that this information is helpful and that you make "Smookie" exactly the size you would like it to be!