

Loa - a lovely tunic



Design: Signe Strømgaard

Loa is designed especially for us curvier women. The model is not just upsized to include the sizes that start with an X. The design is created specifically with our proportions in mind and with thought to what flatter our bodies the best.

Loa is a light as air tunic in a lace and cable pattern. It is worked on larger needles to create a very light garment with a lovely drape. It has slight waist shaping to create a good and flattering fit. It has lots of positive ease at the hips and feminine three quarter length sleeves.

Loa is designed to work well both as an oversize garment and with a closer fit. It all depends on the size you choose to knit.

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Materials

300 (300) 300 (400) 400 g of Gotlandsk Pelsuld by Filcolana in color 174
5,5 mm circular needle, 80 or 100 cm long
5 mm, circular needle, 80 or 100 cm long
(4,5 mm circular needle, 80 or 100 cm long - for size M, L and XL ONLY)
5,5 mm circular needle, 40 cm long
4,5 mm double-pointed needles
2 stitch holders
1 marker of one color to mark the beginning of the round
1 marker of a different color to mark the other "side seam"
8 (4) 4 (4) 8 markers of a third color for marking the chart (chart markers, CM)
Wool needle

Sizes

M (L) XL (2XL) 3XL



Measurements

The measurements given are when the work has been knit, washed and blocked.
Loa is designed to have about 5 cm of positive ease at the bust and waist and approx. 10-12 cm of positive ease at the hips.

Sweater, bust: 100 (112) 128 (134) 146 cm
Waist circumference: 82 (92) 113 (118) 128 cm
Hip circumference: 117 (128) 140 (146) 157 cm
Total length: 66 (66,5) 67 (68) 68,5 cm
Sleeve length: 30 (32) 32 (33) 33 cm

Gauge

14 sts and 25 rows in pattern on 5,5 mm needles = 10 x 10 cm.

Abbreviations

BOR: Beginning Of the Round
M1: Make 1 by lifting the chain between sts onto the left needle and knitting it through the back loop
CM: Chart Marker.

Casting on new stitches mid round

The simplest way of casting on new stitches in the middle of the work is by looping the working yarn around one finger, making a half turn with the finger (parallel to the knitting needle), placing the resulting loop on the right needle and tightening the yarn. Repeat this until you have the required number of stitches, then continue the round. The new stitches will be a bit difficult but not impossible to get a hold of on the next round.

Short rows

When turning in the middle of a row to create a short row, it is important to do something to avoid the hole at the turning point you would otherwise end up with in your knitting. The most common method is to wrap the working yarn around the next stitch on the needle before turning the work:

Hold the yarn behind the needle, slip the next stitch from left to right hand needle, bring the yarn to the front of the work and slip the stitch back on the left needle. This creates a loop around the next stitch, which will eliminate the hole between the last knit and the first unknit stitch. Now turn the work and continue according to your pattern. When you next get to the stitch where you made the turn, you lift the loop around the stitch onto the needle and knit it together with the stitch itself.

Directions for knitting

The construction of this model is somewhat unusual, is it completely seamless - and fun to knit. The body is worked from the top down. First the top part of the back is worked, then the stitches for first the left and then the right side of the front are picked up along the cast-on edge of the back. When all of these parts have been knit to where the armholes end, they are joined and the rest of the body is worked on the round. After the body is finished, stitches are picked up around the armholes, the sleeve bell is worked using short rows and the sleeve is knit down to below the elbow. Lastly the tunic is washed and blocked, after which a very simple crochet edge is worked all around the neckline, cuffs and bottom hem.



Back

Cast on 50 (50) 62 (64) 66 sts on a 5,5 mm needle.
 Row 1 (WS): Purl 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts, place marker, purl 48 (48) 60 (60) 60 sts, place marker, purl 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts.
 Row 2 (RS): Knit 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts, slip marker, work next row of chart 4 (4) 5 (5) 5 times, slip marker, knit 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts.
 Row 3 (WS): Purl 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts, slip marker, work next row of chart 4 (4) 5 (5) 5 times, slip marker, purl 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts.

Repeat row 2 and 3, until you have worked all rows of the chart 3 (3) 4 (4) 4 times.
 Work row 1 - 5 (1 - 7) 1 (1) 1 - 7 of the chart once more.

Continue working the chart as established, but cast on new stitches at the beginning of each row at the same time:
 Cast on 1 new stitch at the beginning of the next 6 (6) 4 (6) 2 rows.
 Then cast on 2 new sts the beginning of the next 4 (4) 4 (4) 2 rows.
 Then cast on 3 new sts the beginning of the next 0 (2) 2 (2) 6 rows.

	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knit on the RS, purl on the WS ● Yarn over / K2tog \ Ssk // Slip 2 sts to a Cable Needle and hold to back of work, k2, knit the 2 sts from the Cable Needle \\ Slip 2 sts to a Cable Needle and hold to front of work, k2, knit the 2 sts from the Cable Needle
	11	
	10	
	9	
	8	
	7	
	6	
	5	
	4	
	3	
	2	
	1	

Finish on row 5 (9) 3 (1) 5 of the chart.
64 (70) 80 (84) 90 sts on the needle.
Let the back rest and work the left front.

Left front

Pick up and knit 14 (14) 14 (15) 16 sts along the cast-on edge of the back. Start at the left edge and work towards the center. Pick up from the RS - one stitch for each cast-on stitch.
Row 1 (WS): Purl 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts, place marker, p12, place marker, purl the last st.
Row 2 (RS): K1, slip marker, work next row of the chart 1 time, slip marker, knit 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts.
Row 3 (WS): Purl 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts, slip marker, work next row of the chart 1 time, slip marker, p1.

Repeat row 2 and 3, until you have worked all rows of the chart 2 (2) 2 (3) 3 times.
Size XL ONLY: Work row 1 - 5 of the chart once more.

Let the stitches rest on a stitch holder and work the right front.

Right front

Count 14 (14) 14 (15) 16 cast-on stitch in from the right edge. Begin here and pick up and knit 14 (14) 14 (15) 16 sts out toward the right edge.
Work a WS row from the shoulder side to the neck side of the work:
Row 1 (WS): P1, place marker, p12, place marker, purl the last 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts.
Row 2 (RS): Knit 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts, slip marker, work the next row of the chart 1 time, slip marker, k1.
Row 3 (WS): P1, slip marker, work next row of the chart 1 time, slip marker, purl 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts.

Repeat row 2 and 3, until you have worked all rows of the chart 2 (2) 2 (3) 3 times.

Size XL ONLY: Work row 1 - 5 of the chart once more.

Join fronts (all sizes)

Knit 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts, slip marker, work the next row of the chart 1 time, remove marker, k1. Cast on 22 (22) 34 (34) 34 new sts in extension of the sts on the needle.
Work the sts of the left front onto the needle: k1, remove marker, work the next row of the chart 1 time, slip marker, knit 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts.

Row 1 (WS): Purl 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts, slip marker, work the next row of the chart 4 (4) 5 (5) 5 times, slip marker, purl 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts.
Row 2 (RS): Knit 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts, slip marker, work the next row of the chart 4 (4) 5 (5) 5 times, slip marker, knit 1 (1) 1 (2) 3 sts.

50 (50) 62 (64) 66 sts on the needle.
Size XL ONLY: Continue as established to row 12 of the chart.

All sizes:

Work all rows of the chart once, then work row 1 - 5 (1 - 7) 1 (1) 1 - 7 of the chart once more.

Continue working the chart as established, but cast on new stitches at the beginning of each row at the same time:

Cast on 1 new stitch at the beginning of the next 6 (6) 4 (6) 2 rows.
Then cast on 2 new sts the beginning of the next 4 (4) 4 (4) 2 rows.
Then cast on 3 new sts the beginning of the next 0 (2) 2 (2) 6 rows.

Finish on row 5 (9) 3 (1) 5 of the chart.
64 (70) 80 (84) 90 sts on the needle.

Join body

Work the next row of the chart across the front. Remove the markers along the way. Cast on 3 (4) 5 (5) 6 new sts in extension of the sts of the front, place marker, cast on 3 (4) 5 (5) 6 more new sts. Work the next row of the chart (the same row as for the front) across the back. Remove the markers along the way. Cast on 3 (4) 5 (5) 6 new sts in extension of the sts of the back, place BOR marker, cast on 3 (4) 5 (5) 6 more new sts

Join the work in the round.
140 (156) 180 (188) 204 sts on the needle.

Place markers

Work the next row of the chart. This is a "resting row" in the pattern. Place markers on this row to help you keep track of where the chart begins and ends.
Knit 5 (3) 3 (5) 3 sts, place marker, knit to 5 (3) 3 (5) 3 sts before the next marker, place marker. Work to the next marker, remove this marker. Repeat from * to * once more. Knit to BOR marker.

Establish pattern

Knit to the first CM, slip marker, work the next row of the chart 5 (6) 7 (7) 8 times, slip CM, knit to the next CM (slip side seam markers). Repeat from * to * en once more.
Continue as established to end of chart repeat. Then work row 1 - 12 of the chart 3 times more.
Change to a 5 mm circular needle.

Size M, L og XL ONLY:
Work 4 rounds in pattern. Change to a 4,5 mm circular needle. Work 8 rounds in pattern. Change to a 5 mm circular needle.
Work 6 rounds.

Size 2XL og 3XL ONLY:
Work 14 rounds in pattern.

All sizes:
Change back to the 5,5 mm circular needle. work 8 rounds as established.

Increases

Increase round: *k1, M1, knit to the first CM, slip marker, work the chart as established to the next CM, slip marker, knit to 1 st before side seam marker, M1, k1.* Repeat from * to * once more.

Repeat the increase round every 6th round a total of 3 (3) 2 (2) 2 times.

Note: When there are 12 sts between the BOR marker and the the CM - and between the side seam marker and the CMs, these sts can be incorporated in the pattern. The CMs are then moved 12 sts backward and 12 sts forward to mark the new beginning and end of the pattern.

152 (168) 188 (196) 212 sts on the needle.

Continue as established until row 1 - 12 of the chart have been worked a total of 9 times since joining the body.

Bind off all sts.

Sleeves

Using a 40 cm circular needle and beginning in the middle of the bottom of the armhole, pick up and knit 56 (62) 68 (70) 72 sts evenly distributed all the way around the armhole. Place a BOR marker and join in the round.

Sleeve bell

1st short row: Knit 34 (38) 40 (41) 42 sts, place marker, turn (see note on short rows).

2nd short row: P12, place marker, turn.

3rd short row: Work the 2nd row of the chart 1 time, slip marker, pick up wrap and knit wrap + stitch together, turn.

4th short row: Purl to marker, Work the 3rd row of the chart 1 time, slip marker, pick up wrap and purl wrap + stitch together, turn.

5th short row: Knit to marker, work the next row of the chart 1 time, slip marker, knit to the last RS short row turning point, pick up wrap and knit wrap + stitch together, turn.

6th short row: Purl to marker, work the next row of the chart 1 time, slip marker, purl to the last WS short row turning point, pick up wrap and purl wrap + stitch together, turn.

Repeat the 5th and 6th short row a total of 11 times (so all rows of the chart is worked 2 times, and ending on row 1 of the chart).

Next row: Work row 2 of the chart 1 time, slip marker, knit to the last RS short row turning point, pick up wrap and knit wrap + stitch together, knit to BOR marker.

The rest of the sleeve is worked in the round.

Regular sleeve

Round 1: Knit 10 (1) 4 (5) 6 sts, place CM, work the next row of the chart 3 (5) 5 (5) 5 times, place CM, knit 10 (1) 4 (5) 6 sts.

Continue as established above until all rows of the chart have been worked once.

Decrease round: k1, k2tog, knit to CM, slip marker, work the next row of the chart as established 3 (3) 5 (5) 5 times, slip marker, knit until there are 3 sts left of the round, k2tog, k1.

Repeat the decrease round every 12th (8th) 8th (10th) 12th round a total of 4 (6) 7 (6) 5 times. 48 (50) 54 (58) 62 sts on the needle.

Note: When the decreases reach the CMs, the CMs are then moved 12 sts backward and 12 sts forward to mark the new beginning and end of the pattern.

Round 1: Knit to CM, work the next row of the chart 3 (3) 5 (5) 5 times, slip marker, knit to end of round.

Continue straight in pattern, until all rows of the chart have been worked a total of 6 times since the end of the sleeve bell.

Then work row 1 - 2 (1 - 4) 1 - 4 (1 - 6) 1 - 6 of the chart one last time.

Next round: *k2, k2tog*. Repeat from * to * the end of round.

Knit 2 rounds.

Bind off all sts.

Work the second sleeve the same way as the first.

Finishing

Weave in all ends.

Gently hand wash the tunic, roll it up in a towel and squeeze as much water out as you can. Place the damp tunic on a flat surface, stretch it into shape to open up the lace pattern and so it matches the given measurements for the finished garment. Leave it to dry completely.

Crochet 2 rounds of single crochet (US term) / double crochet (UK term) all around the neckline, the cuffs and the bottom hem.