Phoca - a warm snuggle bag and suit for babies

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A flexible and warm snuggle bag and suit. Phoca is perfect for both the pram and the car seat, as it can easily be re-buttoned to create legs that work better for the car seats.

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Materials

200 (250) 300 g of New Zealand lammeuld by Filcolana in colour 228 (Smoke Blue) Two 4¹/₂ mm circular needles, 60 or 80 cm Markers 14 (16) 18 buttons (approx. 15 mm)

Sizes

62 cl/3 months (68 cl/6 months) 74 cl/9 months

Measurements

Body, chest:46-48 (50-52) 52-54 cm Suit, chest: 51 (56) 61 cm Sleeve length: 19 (22) 26 cm Total length to shoulders: 53 (58) 63 cm

Gauge

18 sts and 36 rows in moss stitch at needle $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm with double yarn = 10 x 10 cm

Pattern (moss stitch)

Row 1: *k1, p1*. Repeat from * to *. Row 2: *knit the knit stitches, purl the purl stitches*. Repeat from * to *. Row 3: *purl the knit stitches, knit the purl stitches*. Repeat from * to *. Row 4: *knit the knit stitches, purl the purl stitches*. Repeat from * to *.

Special abbreviations and techniques

<u>3-in-1 (double increase)</u>: Knit, then knit through the back loop, then knit again into the same stitch.





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At beginning of row: Slip 2 stitch purl-wise with the yarn held in back at the beginning of the row, k4. At end of row: K6.

(Work everywhere that has edges which will not be sewn together, ie. button edge and buttonhole edge of legs and body plus the edges of the hood).

Directions for knitting

The entire model is knitted with yarn held double. The design is knitted together along the way, so there is almost no finishing at the end:

First the legs are worked, then these are joined and the body is worked back and forth to the armholes. Then the sleeves are worked before being joined with the body for the yoke, worked with raglan decreases. Stitches are picked up and knitted along the neck edge and the hood is worked. The hood is knitted together at the top.

Legs

Left leg: Cast on 42 (46) 50 sts on a $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm circular needle and work back and forth.

Row 1: 6 edge sts, knit to the last 6 sts, 6 edge sts. Row 2 (RS): Increase evenly across the row to 60 (66) 72 sts.

Place a marker between to two centre sts for the side "seam".

Continue as follows: 6 edge sts, moss stitch to the last 6 sts, 6 edge sts.

Work a buttonhole at the beginning of the 5th row as follows: Slip 2 sts purlwise, k2tog, yarn over twice, k2tog tbl. Knit both of the yarn overs through the back loop on the following row. Work a buttonhole every 18th row.

Continue straight in pattern until a total of 4 (5) 6 buttonholes have been worked and the leg measures approx. 17 (22) 27 cm. Bind off the last 6 edge sts (at the opposite side of the buttonholes). Let the leg rest while the right leg is worked in the same way – not mirror reversed, but without binding off the 6 sts of the button edge.

Join both legs for the body from the RS as follows: Work right leg (with the buttonhole edge at the end), work left leg without the button edge (that has been bound off) and the buttonhole edge at the end. There are now a total of 114 (126) 138 sts. Leave the side "seam" markers in and work in moss stitch with buttonholes and edge sts until the work measures 43 (48) 51 cm.

Next row: *Work to 4 sts before side "seam" marker, ind off 8 sts*. Work from * to * once more, work to end of row.

Let the body rest, while the sleeves are worked.

Sleeves

Cast on 23 (25) 27 sts on a $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm circular needle and work 14 (16) 18 rows of k1, p1 ribbing. Change to moss stitch and work increases evenly across the first row to 31 (33) 35 sts.

Work in pattern, while working an increase at both ends of every 4th row a total of 8 (9) 10 times. There are now a total of 47 (51) 55 sts. Continue straight in pattern until the sleeve measures 19 (22) 26 cm from the rib edge. Bind off 4 sts at the beginning and end of the next row. (Note: Make sure to end on the same row of the pattern as on the note).

Work the second sleeve the same way as the first.

Raglan

Join the sleeves to the body over where sts were bound off at the side "seam" markers = 176 (196) 216sts. Place a marker each of the 4 places where body and sleeves meet.

Work in pattern, while working raglan decreases on the next RS row: 6 edge sts (right front), *work in pattern to 2 sts before marker, k2tog, k2tog tbl. Work from * to * a total of 4 times, work to the last 6 sts, 6 edge sts.

Work decreases as above every RS row a total of 12 (13) 14 times. There are now a total of 80 (92) 104 times.





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Continue raglan decreases, while at the same time binding off sts for the neck edge at the beginning of every row. Bind off 6 sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows, then 3 sts at the beginning of the next 2 (4) 4 rows, then 2 sts at the beginning of the next 4 (2) 4 rows, then 1 stitch at the beginning of the next 2 (4) 4 times. Let the remaining sts on the needle. Break the yarn.

Hood

Pick up and knit sts along the neck edge, beginning after the 6 bound off edge sts on the right front: Pick up and knit 1 stitch for every bound off sts, work across the resting sts on the needle, pick up and knit sts along the left front edge to the bound off buttonhole edge sts.

Place a marker around the centre stitch on each shoulder (middle of sleeve sts) and another marker around the centre back stitch.

Work straight in moss stitch with 6 edge sts at either side, working 3-in-1 increases in the 3 marked sts. (6 sts have been increased). New sts are worked in pattern.

Work increases as above every 4th row a total of 4 (4) 5 times, then only at the centre back stitch twice more every 8th row.

Work straight until the hood measures 20 (21) 22 cm. Fold the hood in half, wrong sides together and bind off the 2 sides together beginning at the front edge using a 3-needle bind-off. Bind off until there are 4 sts left.

Continue across these sts aas follows: *Slip 2 sts purlwise with the yarn held in front, k^2 *. Repeat from * to * a total of 14-16 times. Bind off.

Finishing

Weave in ends. Sew sleeve seams from the RS, leaving a little opening for the thumb in the middle of the rib seam (approx. 3 cm), so the rib edge can function as fingerless mittens. Sew the hole under each arm.

Sew the bound off sts from the button edge of the left leg to back of the buttonhole edge mid back. Sew buttons in across from the buttonholes so the lgs can be buttoned together to form a bag.

Gently rinse the work and lay it on a flat surface to dry.



