Maja - lopi yoke cardigan

Maja is a cropped yoke cardigan with a modern flair. Like in many traditional lopi sweaters, the main yoke pattern is echoed in the cuffs and at the bottom of the sweater but with unusually long motifs. The body and sleeves are knitted in the round. At the armholes, they are combined on one needle and the motif knitted. The neckline ends with a few short rows to lift the back. The cardigan is steeked, stitches are picked up along the edges and the button bands knitted. It is designed by Hélène Magnússon, an Icelandic/French designer and author who runs popular hiking and knitting tours in Iceland. (www.icelandicknitter.com). Maja is exclusively designed for Järbo and part of a knit-along in 2021.

YARN Ístex Léttlopi (100 % Icelandic new wool. Approx. 50 g = 100 m/114 yds)
YARN ALTERNATIVE Raggi (70 % superwash wool, 30 % polyamide. Approx. 100 g = 150 m/164 yds)
Alpe (100% wool. Approx. 50 g = 150 m/109 yds)
GAUGE Approx. 18 stitches and 24 rnds in stockinette on needles 4,5 mm = 10 x 10 cm
SIZES-WOMEN'S XS(S)M(L)XL(2XL)3XL(4XL)
CARDIGAN'S CHEST Approx. 85(94)98,5(107)120,5(134)143(156) cm
CARDIGAN'S TOTAL LENGTH TO UNDERARM Approx. 25(26)27(28)29(30)31(32) cm
CARDIGAN'S SLEEVE LENGTH, INNER ARM Approx. 44(45)47(49)51(52)52(52) cm
YARN AMOUNT (yardage used)
Color A: Approx. 100(125)140(182)217(271)296(324) g (color 19418, stone blue heather)
Color B: Approx. 93(116)130(169)202(252)275(300) g (color 19427, rust heather)
Color C: Approx. 93(116)130(169)202(252)(275)300 g (color 11418, straw)
Color D: Approx. 19(24)27(35)42(52)57(62) g (color 11404, glacier blue heather)
CIRCULAR NEEDLE 4 mm/US 6 and 4.5 mm/US 7, 80 cm long. (Magic loop is used for smaller diameters but you can also use double pointed needles.)
OTHER MATERIAL 9 or 10 buttons, ribbon twice the length of front opening.
NOTIONS Darning needle, markers, 4 stitch holders
DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY**

SLEEVES
Make two the same.

With col B, CO 32(36)36(40)40(44)44(44) sts on smaller needle. Join into the rnd, pm EOR. Work rib *k2, p2* around for 5 cm / 2".

In next rnd, change to larger needle and inc 8(8)8(8)8(8)12(12) sts evenly
= 40(44)44(48)48(52)56(56) sts.

Work sleeve patt in stranded knitting following chart (8-st rep) then cont with col A.
NOTE, pattern does not divide evenly on first row in all sizes.

AT SAME TIME, work inc, maintaining motif, as follows:
*K 13(13)10(8)5(5)4(4) rnds
Inc rnd: k1, M1, k to 1 st before EOR, M1, k1*
Rep from * to * a total of 6(6)8(10)14(16)17(19) times
= 52(56)60(68)76(84)90(94) sts.
Cont even until sleeve is 44(45)47(49)51(52)52(52) cm long or desired length.

Next rnd: k to 4(5)5(6)7(7)8(8) sts before EOR, place next 8(10)10(12)14(14)16(16) sts on a st holder or a piece of yarn (underarm sts). Break yarn leaving a 30 cm tail (for grafting later). Set remaining 44(46)50(56)62(70)74(78) sts on hold.

BODY
With col B, CO 146(162)174(190)214(234)250(274) sts on smaller needle. Work rib as follows:
Row 1 (RS): *k2, p2*, rep from * to * until 2 sts are left, k2
Row2 (WS): *p2, k2*, rep from * to * until 2 sts are left, p2
Rep rows 1 and 2 until rib is approx. 5 cm long.

In next row, change to larger needle and inc as follows: *k20(23)57(63)71(33)35(39), M1*, rep from * to * a total of 7(7)3(3)3(7)7(7) times, k remaining sts.
= 153(169)177(193)217(241)257(281) sts.
At the end of the row, with a back loop cast on, CO 2 extra sts for the steek and join in the rnd. These 2 steek sts are always purled and are not included in the st count. They mark the EOR.

Work body patt in stranded knitting following chart. Knit first st then rep motif (8-st rep from st 2 to st 9) 19(21)22(24)27(30)32(35) times.

When motif is complete cont even in St st with col A until body is 25(26)27(28)29(30)31(32) cm or desired length.

COMBINE
Combine body and sleeves on larger needle, as follows:
K34(37)39(42)47(53)56(62) sts of right front; place next 8(10)10(12)14(14)16(16) sts on a st holder or a piece of yarn (underarm sts); with yarn from body, k44(46)50(56)62(70)74(78) sts of right sleeve; k69(75)79(85)95(107)113(125) back sts; place next 8(10)10(12)14(14)16(16) sts on a st holder or a piece of yarn (underarm sts); with yarn from body, k44(46)50(56)62(70)74(78) sts of left sleeve; k rem 34(37)39(42)47(53)56(62) sts of left front
= 225(241)257(281)313(353)373(405) sts.

K 1 rnd.

Next rnd:
Sizes XS(S)M(2XL) only: k all sts.
Sizes L(XL)3XL(4XL) only: dec 8(8)4(4) sts evenly
= 225(241)257(273)305(353)369(401) sts.

YOKE
K 1(2)3(4)6(7)8(9) rnds.
Knit first st then rep motif (16-st rep, st 2 to st 17) 14(15)16(17)19(22)23(25) times. Dec as shown on chart.
When motif is complete
= 85(91)97(103)115(133)139(151) sts.

SHORT ROWS TO LIFT THE BACK
Cont with col B.
K56(60)64(68)76(88)92(100), w&t, p28(30)32(34)38(44)46(50), w&t, *k to 4 sts before gap, w&t, p to 4 sts before gap, w&t* 2(2)3(3)4(4)5(5) times. Then cont working in the rnd, picking up the wraps.

NECKLINE
In next rnd, dec 3(1)3(1)1(11)13(21) sts evenly
= 82(90)94(102)114(122)126(130) sts.

Change to smaller needle, BO the 2 steek sts and work rib back and forth as follows:
Row 1 (RS): *k2, p2*, rep from * to * until 2 sts are left, k2
Row 2 (WS): *p2, k2*, rep from * to * until 2 sts are left, p2
Rep rows 1 and 2 until rib is approx. 4 cm long. End with a WS row.

In next row (RS) dec as follows: *k2, p2tog*, rep from * to * until 2 sts are left, k2
= 62(68)71(77)86(92)95(98) sts.

BO loosely in rib pattern.

FINISHING
Graft underarm sts, closing holes on both sides. Alternatively, you can BO on WS on 3 needles, or even BO and sew.
Darn in all ends. Handwash delicately in lukewarm water and let dry flat.

STEEKING

With a sewing machine, sew a double seam in each of the purl steek sts with a short straight st (you can also sew by hand with a short back st). Cut between seams

Front band: with 4 mm/US 6 needle, from RS, pick up and k about 2 sts out of 3 along the left edge. Make sure to have a multiple of 4 sts +2.

Work rib as follows
Row 1 (WS): *p2, k2*, rep from * to * until 2 sts are left, p2
Row 2 (RS): *k2, p2*, rep from * to * until 2 sts are left, k2
Rep rows 1 and 2 a total of 4 times (8 rows) then BO in rib pattern.

Buttonholes band: from RS pick up and k sts along the right edge in the same manner than for left edge: make sure to pick up the same number of sts. Mark out the placing of 9 or 10 buttonholes evenly on the band with pins. Work rib patt making sure to match left band. On row 4 (WS), make horizontal 2 sts button holes: work 2 sts, *sl 2 sts onto right needle, psso first st, sl 1 more st onto right needle, psso, return st back on left needle, CO 2 sts with a back loop cast on, work to next marked st*, rep from * to * until all button holes are wored, resume ribbing to EOR. Work rib for 4 more rows then BO in rib pattern.
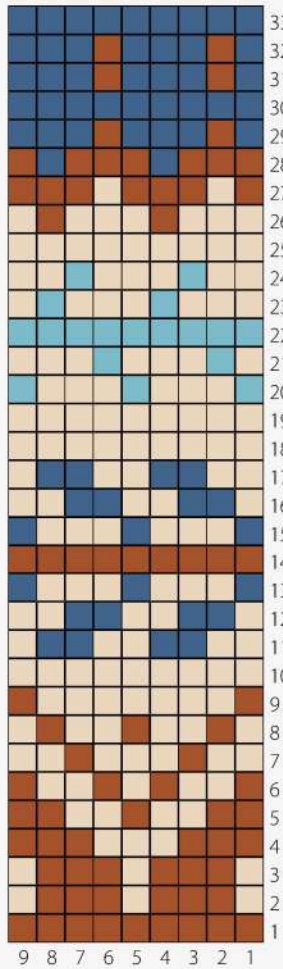
Steam block the ribbed bands.
Trim the steek (with time it will felt to the fabric and become invisible) or hide with a ribbon.
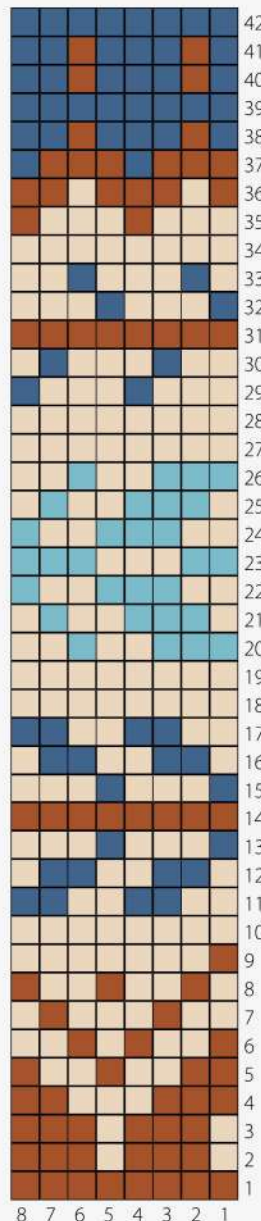Sew buttons on left edge opposite buttonholes.

col A
col B
col C
col D

k2tog
ssk

SLEEVE

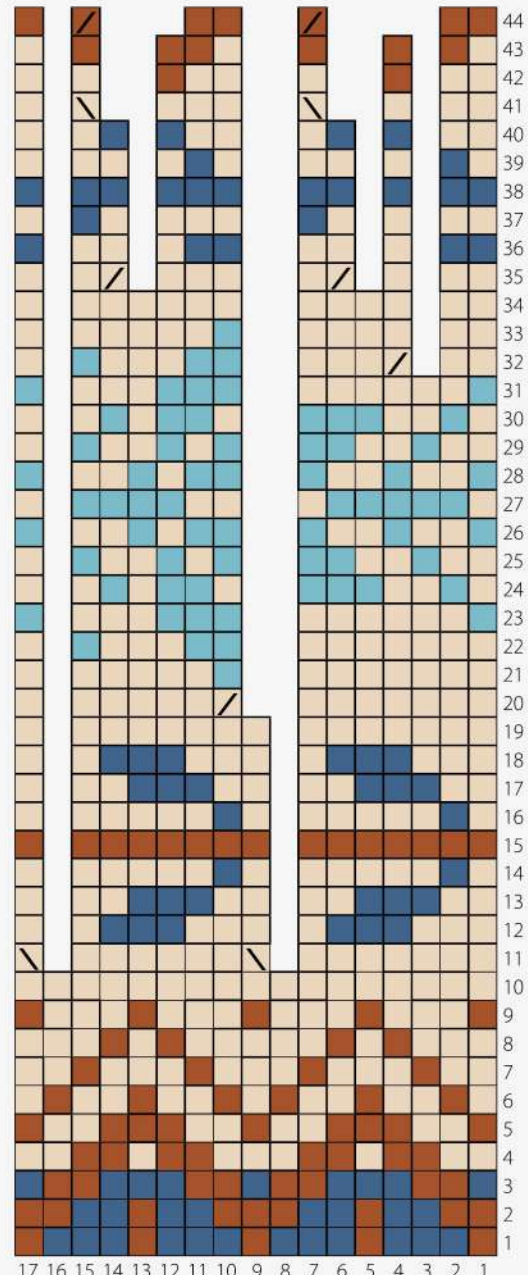**BODY**

YOKE

BODY row numbers (right side): 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

BODY column numbers (bottom): 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
repeat

SLEEVE row numbers: 42 41 40 39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

SLEEVE column numbers: 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
repeat

YOKE row numbers: 44 43 42 41 40 39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

YOKE column numbers: 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
repeat

E
C
A
F
B
D
G
H

A ≈ 85 (94) 98,5 (107) 120,5 (134) 143 (156) cm
B ≈ 47 (48,5) 51 (52) 55 (56,5) 58,5 (60) cm
C ≈ 19,5 (20) 20,5 (21) 21,5 (22) 22,5 (23) cm
D ≈ 25 (26) 27 (28) 29 (30) 31 (32) cm
E ≈ 34,5 (38) 39,5 (43) 48 (51) 53 (54,5) cm
F ≈ 29 (31) 33 (38) 42 (47) 50 (52) cm
G ≈ 44 (45) 47 (49) 51 (52) 52 (52) cm
H ≈ 18 (20) 20 (22,5) 22,5 (24,5) 24,5 (24,5) cm

Tips & Shortcuts

To avoid questions: Before you begin knitting, read through the pattern.

Stitch count: Always knit or crochet a gauge swatch as recommended in the pattern. If your stitch count doesn't match the gauge given in the pattern, try again with larger or smaller needles or hook. If your gauge doesn't match that in the pattern, your item will not be the correct size or shape.

Highlight the size you will knit or crochet throughout the pattern to make it easier to follow the instructions.

Charts: It will be easier to follow a chart if you mark your row with a ruler and magnetic board or sticky note.

Ease: The amount of ease included in our garments varies depending on the type and shape of the garment. To determine the right size, we recommend that you first measure your body. Then you can calculate the garment size depending on how much ease you want the garment to have. The schematics for each piece show all the garment measurements.

Two-color stranded knitting: When knitting more than 3-4 stitches of the same color, twist the color strands around each other on the wrong side to avoid long strands or "floats" on the back. If the yarns need to be twisted on several rows/rounds, make sure you do not stack the twists in the same place to prevent the yarns from showing through on the right side.

Yarn alternative: Please be aware that the gauge (tension), yarn quantity and the shape of the work varies if you use another yarn (even in the same yarn group).

Tips för hand dyed yarn: Make sure you have enough yarn to complete your project. The colors may vary from time to time. To get a smooth color mix, you can alternate between two skeins: knit two rows from one and two rows from another skein.

Abbreviations

KNITTING

alt = alternately, **approx.** = approximately, **beg** = begin, **bl** = back loop, **BO** = bind off, **cc** = contrasting color, **cn** = cable needle, **CO** = cast on, **col** = color, **cont** = continue, **dec** = decrease, **dpn(s)** = double-pointed needles, **EOR** = end of row/round, **fl** = front loop, **g st** = garter stitch, **inc** = increase, **k1f&b** = knit in front and back loop of same stitch, **k** = knit (stitch), **k2tog** = knit two stitches together (right-slanting decrease), **kw** = knitwise, **LH** = left hand needle, **m** = marker, **mm** = millimeters, **mc** = main color, **p** = purl (stitch), **patt** = pattern, **pm** = place marker, **pw** = purlwise, **rep** = repeat, **rnd(s)** = round/rounds, **RH** = right hand needle, **RM** = remove marker, **RS** = right side, **sl** = slip, **sl m** = slip marker, **ssk** = slip, slip, knit, **st(s)** = stitches, **St st** = stockinette/stocking stitch, **tog** = together, **WS** = wrong side, **wyib** = with yarn in back, **wyif** = with yarn in front, **yo** = yarn over

CROCHETING

approx. = approximately, **beg** = begin, **bl** = back loop, **ch** = chain stitch, **col** = color, **cont** = continue, **dc** = double crochet, **dec** = decrease, **dtr** = double treble crochet, **fl** = front loop, **hdc** = half double crochet, **htr** = half treble crochet, **inc** = increase, **m** = marker, **mc** = main color, **rep** = repeat, **rnd/rnds** = round/rounds, **RS** = right side, **sc** = single crochet, **sl st** = slip stitch, **sts** = stitches, **tog** = together, **tr** = treble crochet, **tr tr** = triple treble crochet, **WS** = wrong side, **yo** = yarn over