

Popknits: Vintage Knitting Redux

Footlights Cardigan

by Sarah Pope



The Footlights Cardigan was inspired by a wonderful navy sweater with white polka dots I inherited from my grandmother. No one in the family remembers her wearing it, and its Saks Fifth Avenue label certainly made it an anomaly in a wardrobe suited for gardening and hiking. But I rescued it from the thrift store bag when we closed up her house in Connecticut, and someone had worn it: I found carefully darned moth nibblings on one sleeve. I imagine it dates to the '60s, but I'm not sure. I am much taller than my petite grandmother was, so the nipped-in ribbed hem that was fashionable then falls higher on my torso, and the contrast between the ease across the bust and the slim waist is more pronounced. I love the resulting silhouette and have long wanted to copy it in a gauzy laceweight.

Browsing a knitting book published in 1969, I found a baby blanket in a Shetland shell lace pattern with an unusual columnar stripe and striking large eyelets that reminded me of the graphic polka dots on Granny's sweater. With a few adaptations to adjust it to the top-down raglan scheme I wanted, it was perfect for the vision that would become the Footlights Cardigan. The name was set when I realized how the pattern would look upside down, as it would have to appear if I knit from the top: like a round stage with footlights and three rows of an eager

audience. Wear it to the theatre over a strappy dress, or wear it to the park over a tank and jeans. It's versatile enough to suit a gardener or a socialite.

Gauge

28sts/38rws at 4" (10 cm) in Footlights Lace stitch on US #3 needles after washing and blocking. Measure across Rows 1 or 2 as stitch count varies over lace stitch.

Sizes and Measurements

XS (S, M, L, XL), shown in size M

Fits (bust size)

28–30" (32–34", 36–38", 40–42", 44–46")

Actual Measurements (bust size)

35" (36", 40", 45", 48")

This cardigan is designed to fit loosely across the bust and then nip in at the waist (optional). Modeled with about 4" of ease.

Materials

- Malabrigo Lace Baby Merino [100% merino wool, 470yd / 430m per 50g skein]; Sunset (yellow) or Verde Adriana (green); 2 (2, 2, 3, 4) skeins; or other wool laceweight in a solid or semi-solid colorway. Purchase an extra skein if you intend to knit longer sleeves, as in the green example.
- US 2 / 2.75mm circular needle, 24" or 29", and set of US 2 / 2.75mm double-pointed or a second circular to work sleeves in the round by your preferred technique
- US 3 / 3.25mm circular, 24" or 29", and set of US 3 / 3.25mm double-pointed or a second circular to work sleeves in the round by your preferred technique
- Stitch markers (in two colors: optional)
- Waste yarn
- Embroidery or large sewing needle (a tapestry needle is a bit large for this fine yarn and gauge)
- 6 (6, 7, 8, 9) 3/8" buttons (plus 1 spare, if you like)
- Elastic thread (optional)

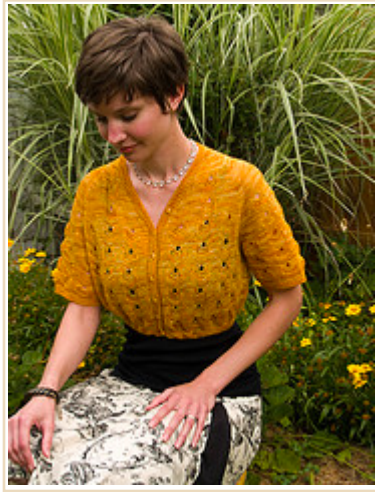
Directions

(Popknits uses knittinghelp.com's standard abbreviations)

Footlights Lace stitch (16 sts Rows 1–2 and 15–16; st count varies): (see chart below)

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Row 2: Purl.



Row 3: *K3, ssk, k3, yo 3x, k3, k2tog, k3 * rep from *.

Row 4: Purl all sts; kfb in each loop of triple yo (6 sts result).

Row 5: *K3, ssk, k10, k2tog, k3 * rep from *.

Row 6 and following WS rows: Purl.

Row 7: *K3, ssk, k1, (yo, k1) 6x, k1, k2tog, k3 * rep from *.

Row 9: *K3, ssk, k12, k2tog, k3 * rep from *.

Row 11: *K4, p12, k4 * rep from *.

Row 13: *K3, ssk, p10, k2tog, k3 * rep from *.

Row 15: *K3, ssk, p8, k2tog, k3 * rep from *.

Body

Work yoke:

CO 52 (52, 68, 68, 100) sts using long-tail or provisional cast on.

Set-up Row: Work across on the WS, placing markers as follows: P3, pm, p2, pm, p2 (2, 2, 2, 18), pm, p2, pm, p34 (34, 50, 50, 50), pm, p2, pm, p2 (2, 2, 2, 18), pm, p2, pm, p3.

Begin lace patt and raglan increases. You will work the increases by kfb every RS row either side of the marker pairs, and establish the lace patt wherever you have at least one multiple of 16 sts. You may find it helpful to mark those 16-st multiples until you can see the lace patt taking shape. Each row will begin with a single knit st; you may slip this st if you prefer to pick up sts along a chain edge.

Row 1: K1, kfb, kfb, k2, kfb, (size XL work Row 1 of lace patt), kfb, k2, kfb, repeat Row 1 of lace patt to 1 st before next marker, placing markers of a different color than the raglan markers every 16 sts if desired, kfb, k2, kfb, (size XL work Row 1 of lace patt), kfb, k2, kfb, kfb, k1.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K1, kfb, k2, kfb, k2, kfb, k1, (size XL work Row 3 of lace patt), k1, kfb, k2, kfb, k1, repeat Row 3 of lace patt to 2 sts before next raglan marker, k1, kfb, k2, kfb, k1, (size XL work Row 3 of lace patt), k1, kfb, k2, kfb, k2, kfb, k1.

Row 4: Purl, working lace patt sections as given in lace patt Row 4.



Row 5: K1, kfb, k4, kfb, k2, kfb, k2, (size XL work Row 5 of lace patt), k2, kfb, k2, kfb, k2, repeat Row 5 of lace patt to 3 sts before next raglan marker, k2, kfb, k2, kfb, k2, (size XL work Row 5 of lace patt), k2, kfb, k2, kfb, k4, kfb, k1.
 Row 6: Purl.

Continue as established, each RS row working one more st in stockinette on either side of the lace section as your stitch count increases. When you have 16 sts available on the fronts, sleeves, or back, add a new column of the lace patt when next you work Row 1. When you establish the second and third columns (fourth and fifth columns for size XL) on the fronts, stop increasing at the front edge on Row 1 (7, 7, 7, 1). Continue to work the raglan increases on the sleeve–sides of the fronts. Establish 0 (0, 2, 2, 4) more lace columns on the back and 0 (0, 1, 1, 2) more columns on the fronts; work the sides in stockinette to allow for waist shaping beneath the arms.

Divide sections for sleeves:

When you have completed 4 (4, 5, 6, 7) vertical repetitions of the lace patt on the fronts, or when raglan line measures desired length for a loose and comfortably fitting sleeve (ending with Row 16; otherwise you must recalculate CO number beneath sleeve and stitch pick-up to join sleeve in the round), slip the sleeve sts onto lengths of waste yarn as you work across the next RS row as follows:

Work to first raglan marker, omit inc, slip marker, k2, drop next marker. Slip sleeve sts (to next marker) onto waste yarn. CO 6 (6, 6, 22, 22) sts by thumb-loop method, drop next marker, k2, slip marker. Work across back sts, slip marker, k2, drop next marker, slip sleeve sts to waste yarn. CO 6 (6, 6, 22, 22) sts, drop next marker, k2, slip marker, work across front to end of row.

Shape waist:

Work even for 1 (or 2 if you want your cardigan less cropped) more repetition of the lace patt. As you begin the following repetition, begin to decrease outside the two sets of markers as follows:

Work to 2 sts before first marker, k2tog, k sts between markers, ssk, work across back to 2 sts before next marker, k2tog, k sts between markers, ssk, work to end. Repeat



decrease row every 4th row as you complete two more repetitions of the lace pattern.

Next row: Decrease sts by 20%: *K4, k2tog * across row. Don't worry about being too precise, and omit this step or decrease only by 10% (*K8, k2tog *) if your bust and waist measurements are similar or if you prefer a loose fit at the waist.

Work ribbed edging:

With smaller needle, pick up a st for every row up the right front, across the back of the neck, and down the left front edge. (Note that this is not the usual ratio of 2 sts to 3 rows. Because of the blocking you need to do, the ribbed edge will look better if you work 1-to-1.) Mark the sts at the bottom corners of the fronts.

In k1, p1 rib, work the sts from the larger needle onto the smaller needle along the bottom edge until the larger needle is free. Join to work in the round on the smaller needle.

Work k1, p1 rib for 5 rnds, and on even rnds, inc 1 st (thumb-loop method is best, as it won't distort the central st) each side of the marked sts to form mitered corners. Take these new sts into the k1, p1 patt.

On the next round, work buttonholes along the right front edge. Place the first just beyond the mitered corner by replacing the m1 with a yo and knitting tog the 2 following sts. Continue in patt for 14 sts to the level of the next set of garter ridges, then replace p1, k1 with yo, k2tog. Work the final buttonhole at the level of the first set of ridges in the V-neck portion.

Continue in rib, working miter increases every other rnd, a further 4 rnds. BO very loosely in patt or use a tubular bind off (I learned from Montse Stanley's excellent Knitter's Handbook; good photo tutorials are available on many blogs via a quick web search. The technique takes much longer, but the professional and stretchy edge is well worth it. You're going to block this cardigan aggressively on the vertical, so make sure your bind off in patt is very loose along the front edges if you choose the faster option.)

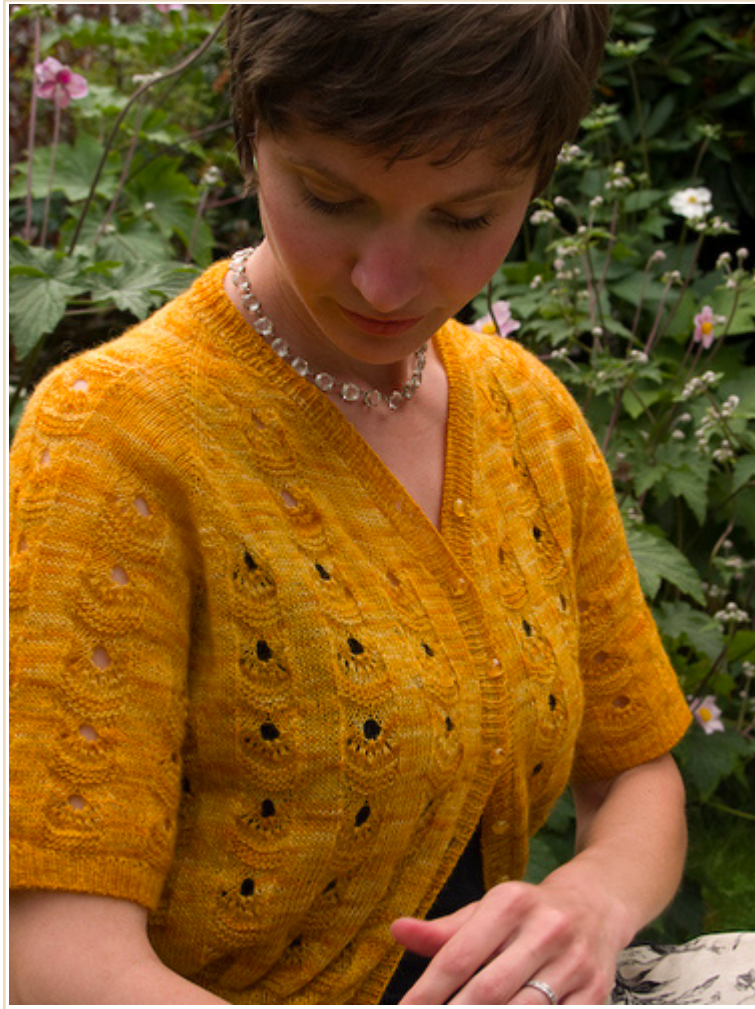


Sleeves

With larger needles, pick up the resting sleeve sts plus an additional 14 (14, 14, 30, 30) sts at the underarm (note that this is 4 more sts than you allotted during the sleeve dividing row: picking up a couple of extra on either side prevents unsightly holes at the join) and distribute to work in the round according to your preferred method.

Begin with Row 1 of the lace patt and note that you will now knit a plain round between patterned rounds, except that in Rnd 4 you will also knit into the fronts and backs of the triple yo's as you did on the purl side when you were working flat. Take the 14 (14, 14, 30, 30) new sts into the lace patt, using markers if necessary until the 2 (2, 2, 3, 3) new lace columns are established. Complete 2 vertical repetitions of the lace patt, or until sleeve is desired length.

On the next rnd, dec sts by 10%: **K8, k2tog * around *or**, if you have knit three-quarter length sleeves, dec sts by 20%: **K4, k2tog** around. With smaller needles, work 10 rnds in k1, p1 rib. BO loosely in patt or use tubular bind off. Weave in ends, but do not clip tails short until after blocking.



Block and finish

Gently soak cardigan in lukewarm water and wool wash. Lay flat (with fronts slightly overlapping) to dry, pin along back of neck below ribbing, and stretch the garment firmly on the vertical to open the lace and lengthen. Pin the bottom edges above the ribbing, and use a few pins to tack down the fronts. Spread and pin sleeves, also stretching lengthwise. Again, pin above the ribbing and do not block the ribbing itself. When cardigan is completely dry, remove pins and sew buttons to left front to correspond with buttonholes.

If you want the waist to really nip in, as in the yellow version, baste a line of elastic thread along the top and bottom of the ribbing. If you skim it along behind the knit stitches, it won't show through to the front.

Chart

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Key

■ no stitch

\ ssk

/ k 2 tog

○ yo

• p on RS; k on WS

† k tbl

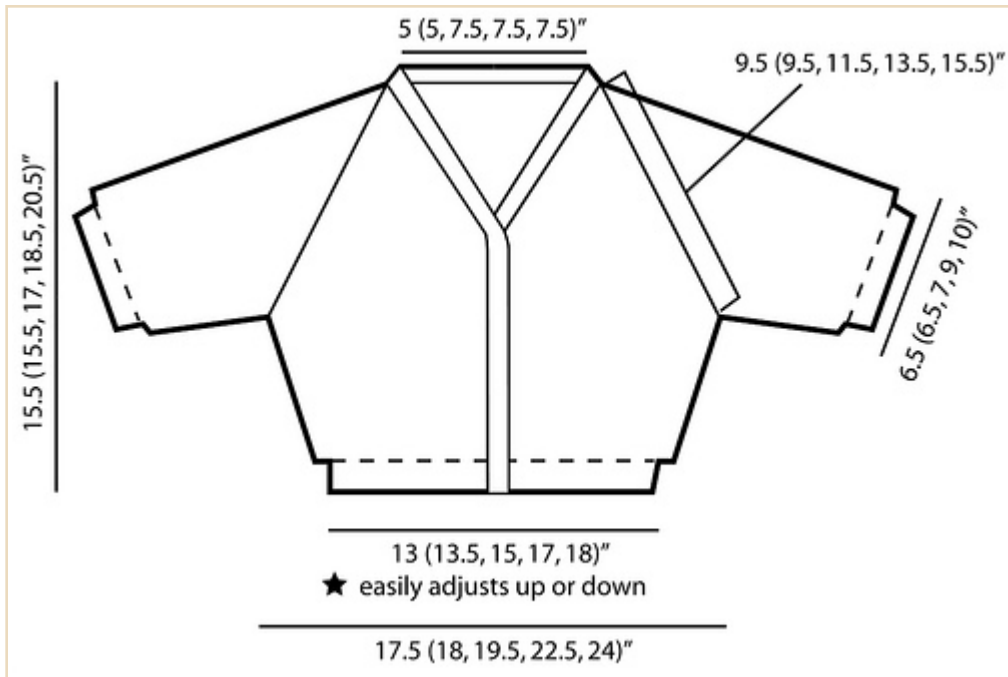
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During initial publication, charts for this pattern were in error.

In the key, ssk and k2tog were reversed. They are now correct.

Schematic



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About the Author



Sarah hails from San Juan Island, WA, but these days she wields her needles in the knitterly paradise of Portland, OR, where her stash grudgingly makes room for her husband (and photographer), Lark the dog, and Mingus the cat. Sarah learned to knit four years ago when life in New York City brought on a craving for a new creative outlet, and began to design her own projects soon afterward. You can follow her knitting odyssey at www.bluegarter.org.

Credits

Photos by Adam Greene
Model: Sarah Pope

Errata

Errata in this pattern are denoted in **red**.

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Based on a work at http://www.popknits.com/index.php/patterns/page/footlights_cardigan/.

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Ravelry: View This Pattern

Project Type: Cardigans **Project Skill-Set:** Advanced

Errata? Questions? Contact Us

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Tags: 28sts, 38rws, advanced, buttons, cardigan, cardigans, lace, malabrigo lace baby merino, sarah pope, sweater, top down, yarn-lace

This pattern contains some sections that must be modified as you knit to accommodate the lace pattern and buttonholes. Please take note of the highlighted paragraphs.



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