

## Zsazsa



When my daughter first learned to say her own name, it came out Zsazsa (dahling!), and while the nickname sadly didn't stick, I think it's an appropriate stage name. Now that she's a bit older, she's become a belly-dancing diva. After her first lesson, she declared that she liked it, wanted a pink hip scarf, and wanted to show her belly. Rather than going to a dance supply store, I thought, I can make one! So, here it is, a quick knit, belly-baring shirt for the little dancer in your life. The provisional cast on allows for last minute length adjustments, always important if the knitting occurs during a growth spurt. The picot edge gives it a little pizzazz. Everything else is clean-lined, so as not to distract from the noisy pink hip scarf.

As a side benefit, it's also a cute tank over a long sleeve turtleneck, for additional wear.



**SIZE**

Child 2[4, 6, 8] (shown in size 4 years)

**FINISHED MEASUREMENTS**

Chest: 21[23, 25, 27] inches

Length: 8[9, 10, 11]inches (not including picot bind-off, easily adjusted for different height children)

**MATERIALS**

Berroco Zen [40% cotton, 60% nylon; 110 yd/102 m per 50g skein]; color: Wasabi (color no longer available, Kimchi is close), overdyed with Jacquard Sapphire Blue; 1 [2,2,2] skeins

24 inch US #9/5.5 mm circular needle

Stitch markers: 2 unique markers for beginning and side of round (m1, m2)

**GAUGE**

16 sts/24 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch

**PATTERN NOTES**

A provisional cast on is used to facilitate altering the length and adding the decorative hem. Pattern is worked in the round to arm holes.

**PATTERN**

Using your favorite provisional cast-on, cast on 84[92, 100, 108] stitches and join in a round, being careful not to twist stitches. Use a unique marker (m1) to mark beginning of round, and another after 42[46, 50, 54] stitches to mark side. Knit in StSt (knit every round) for 3.5[4, 4.5, 5] inches.

Divide for front/back.

Back:

Bind off 2 st at beginning of next round, work to side marker, remove marker, and turn work. Continue in StSt (K right side, p wrong side), bind off 2 st and purl to end of row.

Decrease row: K1, K2tog, k to last three st, ssk, K1.

Purl 1 row.

Repeat decrease row once more 34 [38, 42, 46 st remain].

Work in StSt until back measures 4[4.5, 5, 5.5] inches from arm-hole bind off.

Knit 11 st, bind off center 12 [16, 20, 24] st, knit last 11. Yarn is at end of left side of back.

Purl 1 row (11 st)

K1, ssk, K to end (10 st). Move live stitches to a holder or scrap yarn.

Rejoin yarn on purl side of right back. Purl 1 row.

K to last 3 st, K2tog, K1. Slip live stitches to holder or scrap yarn.

Front:

Work arm shaping same as for back. When work measures 1 [1.5, 2, 2.5] inches from arm-hole bind off, separate for scoop neck:

K14, bind off center 6 [10, 14, 18] st, K14. Yarn is at end of left front.

Purl 1 row (14 st).

Decrease row: K1, ssk, knit to end of row.

Purl 1 row.

Repeat decrease row 3x more on right side. 10 stitches remain.

Continue in StSt until front measures same as back and slip live stitches to a holder.

Work right front same as left front, using a K2tog K1 at the neck edge.

Turn work inside out, and use a three needle bind off to join should seams. (Alternate: hold work right side out and use Kitchener stitch, or bind off all shoulders and sew together.)

Have child try on top (if possible), and decide if top should be lengthened.

Carefully place provisional cast-on stitches onto needles again, and work top down to desired length (for my tall child, I added one inch).

Cast off using a picot cast off: Using the cable cast-on, cast on 3 st, bind off 7 st, shift remaining stitch on right needle back to left needle, repeat.

## **FINISHING**

Weave in ends.