

Nothing but a Kid's T-Shirt

by Alison Hansel



A year later and the Nothing but a T-Shirt has offspring: the baby and kids tee! This tee is done in a machine-washable cotton/acrylic blend in a gauge close enough to the original pattern that you can make mom & kids matching tees. The unisex version is for a straight tee with simple shoulder shaping and would be perfect for any little one. If you knit the tee in a solid color, this would be a great beginner sweater pattern. And if you're up to the challenge, make a chart of your kid's initial or favorite character and add it to the front! The "girly" version is for little ladies who want a tee just like mommy's with a slightly slimmer fit than the unisex version and even some faux waist shaping. You might try a picot edge or a ruffle around the bottom for a real girly look and don't forget some sparkle yarn for the colorwork on the front!

(This pattern originally appeared in Magknits online knitting magazine, January 2006.)

Difficulty Level
Intermediate

Sizes

Unisex version:

Ages: 6 mo. (1 year, 2 yrs., 3/4 yrs., 5/6 yrs., 7/8 yrs.)

Chest: 19 (21.5, 24, 26.5, 29, 31)" / 48 (54.5, 61, 67, 74, 79)cm

Length: 10 (11.5, 14, 15.5, 18, 19.5)" / 25.5 (29, 35.5, 39.5, 46, 49.5)cm

Girly version:

Ages: 4 (6, 8, 10) years

Chest: 25 (27, 29, 30.5)" / 63.5 (68.5, 74, 77.5)cm

Length: 15 (16.5, 18, 19.5)" / 38 (42, 46, 49.5)cm

Materials

Unisex version:

[MC]: 2 (3, 3, 4, 4, 5) balls GGH Bali (shown in red #21) [50 g; 50% cotton, 50% acrylic; 154 yds.] *Possible yarn substitutes: Rowan Handknit DK or Cashsoft DK, Sirdar Rio or Breeze, Manos Cotton Stria, Brown Sheep Cotton Fleece*

Girly version:

[MC]: 3 (4, 4, 5) balls GGH Bali [50 g; 50% cotton, 50% acrylic; 154 yds.] *Possible yarn substitutes: Rowan Handknit DK or Cashsoft DK, Sirdar Rio or Breeze, Manos Cotton Stria, Brown Sheep Cotton Fleece*

Both versions:

[CC]: approx. 50 yds / 46m similar weight yarn (shown in Rowan Cashsoft 4-ply bright blue #427)

oddmoments of other colors for designs (shown in GGH Bali black #1 and white #3)

US6 / 4mm needles

tapestry needle

Gauge

20 stitches and 26 rows = 4" / 10cm in stockinette stitch

Stitch Instructions

SSK: slip next two stitches knitwise, return to left needle, knit together through the back loops (or use any preferred method of left-leaning decrease)

Make 1 Left (M1L): lift bar between last and next stitch and place on left needle, knit this new stitch through the back loop

Make 1 Right (M1R): lift bar between last and next stitch and place twisted on left needle. Knit this new stitch through the front loop

Make hem: knit RS row together with cast on row by inserting right needle into next stitch and one loop from cast on edge and knitting the two loops together.

Instructions: Unisex Tee**Back**

With MC, cast on 48 (54, 60, 66, 72, 78) sts. Beginning with a purl row, work 5 rows in stockinette stitch. Purl next row (RS) to make turning row. Continue in stockinette stitch for another 5 rows. Make hem by folding work over toward the inside at the turning row and knitting next row together with cast on edge. Continue in stockinette stitch until work measures 6 (7, 9, 10, 12, 13) inches ending with a WS row.

Bind off 3 (3, 4, 4, 5, 5) sts at beginning of next 2 rows; 42 (48, 52, 58, 62, 68) sts. Work even until armhole measures 4 (4.5, 5, 5.5, 6, 6.5) inches, ending with a WS row.

Shape back neck and shoulders:

Next row: K13 (15, 16, 18, 19, 21), bind off center 16 (18, 20, 22, 24, 26), K13 (15, 16, 18, 19, 21).

Work left shoulder as follows:

Row 1, 3 (WS): Bind off first 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 6) stitches, purl to end.

Row 2, 4 (RS): Bind off 1 stitch, knit to end.

Row 5 : Bind off remaining 3 (5, 4, 6, 5, 7) stitches.

Join yarn at armhole edge of right side and shape right back neck and shoulders by reversing shapings as follows:

Row 1, 3 (RS): Bind off first 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 6) stitches, knit to end.

Row 2, 4 (WS): Bind off 1 stitch, purl to end.

Row 5: Bind off remaining 3 (5, 4, 6, 5, 7) stitches.

Front

Work front as for back through armhole shaping. If adding a design to your t-shirt, estimate how many rows/inches your design will take and center it on the shirt. For a large design like the "Things", the majority of the chart should be completed BEFORE the armholes begin. When chart is completed, continue in stockinette stitch until armhole measures 2 (2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5) inches.

Shape front neck and shoulders:

Next row: K15 (17, 18, 20, 21, 23), bind off center 12 (14, 16, 18, 20, 22) stitches, K15 (17, 18, 20, 21, 23). Purl one row.

Shape right front neck by decreasing at neck edge every RS row 4 times as follows:

Decrease Row (RS): Bind off 1 stitch, knit to end.

11 (13, 14, 16, 17, 19) stitches remain.

Work straight until front armhole is as long as back armhole, ending with a RS row.

Bind off first 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 6) stitches at beginning of next two WS rows. On the following WS row, bind off remaining 3 (5, 4, 6, 5, 7) stitches.

Join yarn at armhole edge of left side and complete left front neck and shoulder shaping by reversing instructions above:

Knit one row. Decrease at neck edge every WS row 4 times as follows:

Decrease Row (WS): Bind off 1 stitch, purl to end.

11 (13, 14, 16, 17, 19) stitches remain.

Work straight until front armhole is as long as back armhole, ending with a WS row.

Bind off first 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 6) stitches at beginning of next two RS rows. On the following RS row, bind off remaining 3 (5, 4, 6, 5, 7) stitches.

Sleeves (make 2)

With MC for solid sleeve or CC for ringer style, cast on 34 (39, 42, 47, 50, 55)

stitches. Beginning with a purl row, work 5 rows in stockinette stitch. Purl next row (RS) to make turning row. Continue in stockinette stitch for another 5 rows. Make hem by folding work over on turning row toward the inside and knitting next row together with cast on edge. Using MC and beginning with a purl row, work in stockinette stitch for 3 rows.

Increase Row: K2, M1L, knit to last 2 stitches, M1R, K2. Work increase row on every following 4th row 2 (2, 3, 3, 4, 4) more times, for a total of 3 (3, 4, 4, 5, 5) increases and 40 (45, 50, 55, 60, 65) stitches. Continue to work even in stockinette stitch until sleeve measures 3.5 (4, 4.5, 5.5, 6.5) inches. Bind off all stitches.

Finishing

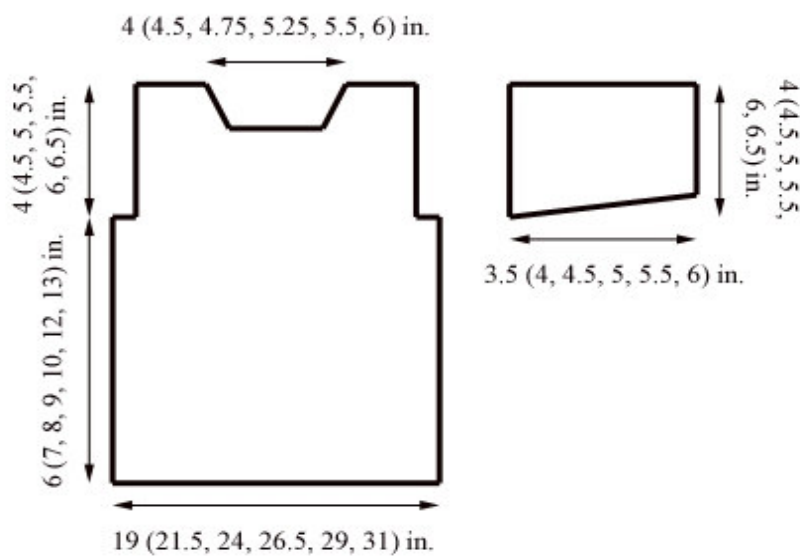
Neck:

Sew left shoulder seam. With CC (if making solid color tee, use MC for neck) and right side facing, begin at right shoulder and pick up 20 (22, 24, 26, 28, 30) stitches across the back, 9 stitches down left side of front neck, 12 (14, 16, 18, 20, 22) stitches at center of front neck, and 9 stitches up right side of front neck. 50 (54, 58, 62, 66, 70) stitches. Take care to pick up stitches very neatly so that the neckline will look as seamless as possible.

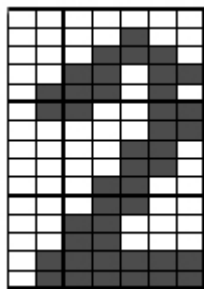
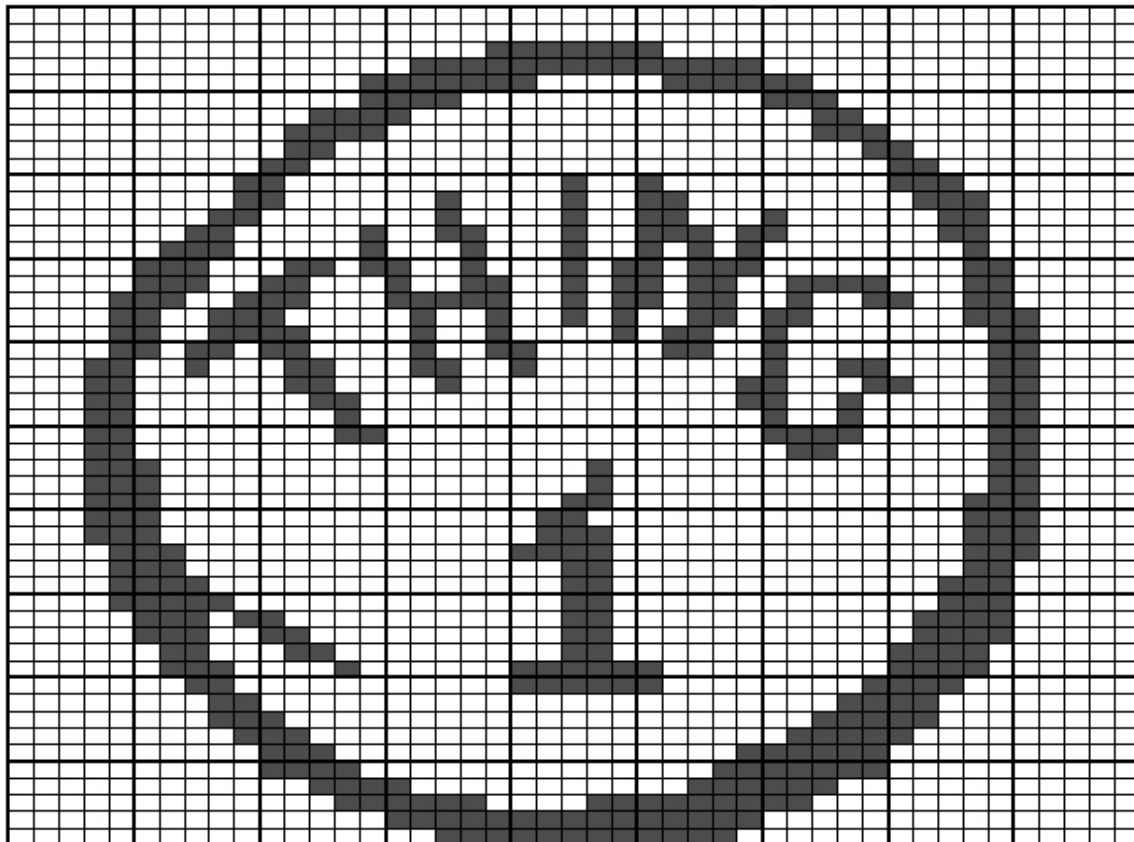
Beginning with a purl row, work back and forth in stockinette stitch for a total of 5 rows. Purl next row (RS) to make turning row. Work 5 more rows in stockinette stitch and bind off loosely. This is very important -- if your bind off is too tight, you may have difficulty getting the tee over the child's head. Make hem by folding collar towards inside at turning row, pinning it down neatly and evenly to the inside, and sewing in place with whipstitch. Again, don't sew the neckline down too tightly or you'll make the neck too tight!

Sew right side of neck and right shoulder seam. Place sleeves in armhole and seam into place, sewing first quarter to half inch of sleeve to the bound off stitches at beginning of armhole. Sew side seams, weave in ends, and put it on your cutie pie!

Unisex Version:



Charts



Instructions: Girly Tee

Back

With MC for solid sleeve or CC for ringer style, cast on 62 (68, 72, 76) sts. Work 5 rows in stockinette stitch. Purl next row (RS) to make turning row. Continue in stockinette stitch for another 5 rows. Make hem by folding work over on turning row toward the inside and knitting next row together with cast on edge. With MC, continue in stockinette stitch, work 9 (11, 11, 13) rows.

Begin decreases for waist shaping:

Decrease row: K2, K2tog, knit to last 4 stitches, SSK, K2.

Repeat decrease row every 6 rows, 2 more times for a total of 3 decreases and 56 (62, 66, 70) stitches.

Work 9 (11, 13, 13) rows even.

Begin increases:

Increase row: K2, M1L, knit to last 2 stitches, M1R, K2.

Repeat increase row every 6 rows, 2 more times for a total of 3 increases and 62 (68, 72, 76) stitches. Continue in stockinette stitch until work measures 10 (11, 12, 13) inches ending with a WS row.

Bind off 3 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows; 56 (62, 66, 70) stitches remain.

Next row (RS): K2, K2tog, knit to last 3 stitches, SSK, K2.

Work RS decrease row 1 (2, 2, 3) more times for a total of 2 (3, 3, 4) decreases and 52 (56, 60, 62) stitches. Work even until armhole measures 5 (5.5, 6, 6.5) inches, ending with a WS row.

Shape back neck and shoulders:

Next row: K16 (17, 18, 18) bind off center 20 (22, 24, 26), K16 (17, 18, 18).

Work left shoulder as follows:

Row 1, 3 (WS): Bind off first 5 stitches, purl to end.

Row 2, 4 (RS): Bind off 1 stitch, knit to end.

Row 5 : Bind off remaining 4 (5, 6, 6) stitches.

Join yarn at armhole edge of right side and shape right back neck and shoulders by reversing shapings as follows:

Row 1, 3 (RS): Bind off first 5 stitches, knit to end.

Row 2, 4 (WS): Bind off 1 stitch, purl to end.

Row 5: Bind off remaining 4 (5, 6, 6) stitches.

Front

Work front as for back through armhole shaping. If adding a design to your t-shirt, estimate how many rows/inches your design will take and center it on the shirt. For a large design like the "Things", the majority of the chart should be completed BEFORE the armholes begin. When chart is completed, continue in stockinette stitch until armhole measures 3 (3.5, 4, 4.5) inches.

Shape front neck and shoulders:

Next row: K18 (19, 20, 20), bind off center 16 (18, 20, 22) stitches, K18 (19, 20, 20). Purl one row.

Shape right front neck by decreasing at neck edge every RS row 4 times as follows:

Decrease Row (RS): Bind off 1 stitch, knit to end.

14 (15, 16, 16) stitches remain.

Work straight until front armhole is as long as back armhole, ending with a RS row.

Bind off first 5 stitches at beginning of next two WS rows. On the following WS row, bind off remaining 4 (5, 6, 6) stitches.

Join yarn at armhole edge of left side and complete left front neck and shoulder shaping by reversing instructions above:

Knit one row. Decrease at neck edge every WS row 4 times as follows:

Decrease Row (WS): Bind off 1 stitch, purl to end.

14 (15, 16, 16) stitches remain.

Work straight until front armhole is as long as back armhole, ending with a WS row. Bind off first 5 stitches at beginning of next two RS rows. On the following RS row, bind off remaining 4 (5, 6, 6) stitches.

Sleeves (make 2)

With MC for solid sleeve or [CC] for ringer style, cast on 42 (46, 50, 54) stitches. Beginning with a purl row, work 5 rows in stockinette stitch. Purl next row (RS) to make turning row. Continue in stockinette stitch for another 5 rows. Make hem by folding work over on turning row toward the inside and knitting next row together with cast on edge. Using MC and beginning with a purl row, work in stockinette stitch for 3 rows.

Increase Row: K2, M1L, knit to last 2 stitches, M1R, K2. Work increase row on every following 4th row 3 (3, 4, 4) more times, for a total of 4 (4, 5, 5) increases and 50 (54, 60, 64) stitches. Work even in stockinette stitch until sleeve measures 3.5 (4, 5, 5) inches.

Bind off 3 stitches at beginning of next two rows.

Next row: K2, K2tog, knit to last 3 stitches, SSK, K2. Purl next row. Repeat decrease row on RS 1 (2, 2, 3) more times for a total of 2 (3, 3, 4) decreases and 46 (48, 54, 56) stitches. Bind off remaining stitches.

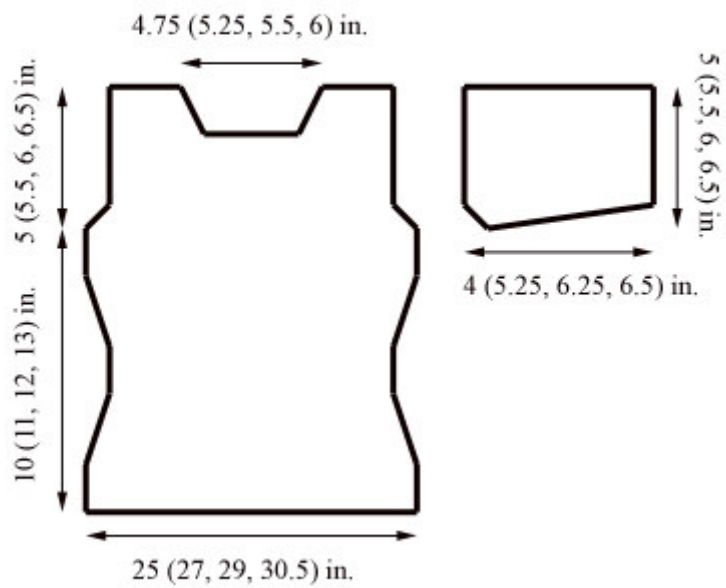
Finishing

Neck:

Sew left shoulder seam. With needle and CC (if making solid color tee, use MC for neck), with right side facing, begin at right shoulder and pick up 24 (26, 28, 30) stitches across the back, 9 stitches down left side of front neck, 16 (18, 20, 22) stitches at center of front neck, and 9 stitches up right side of front neck. 58 (62, 66, 70) stitches. Take care to pick up stitches very neatly so that the neckline will look as seamless as possible. Follow instructions for finishing the neck given for the Unisex version.

Set in sleeves and seam into place. Sew side seams, weave in ends, and put it on your girly girl!

Girly Version:



Alison lives in Boston and knits and blogs whenever her twin boys are busy playing with Legos.