

# Nothing but a T-shirt

by Alison Hansel



*"With nothing but a t-shirt on, I never felt so beautiful..."*

Inspired by the Jessica Simpson song and Rowan's incredible Calmer yarn, here is a comfy, feminine t-shirt you can feel beautiful in. Rowan's soft cotton/microfiber blend is the perfect yarn for a summer tee -- it's unbelievably light and feels so wonderful directly against the skin, you won't want to wear anything else! The elasticity of the yarn gives the stitches a neat, even look and allows the tee to follow your curves. To recreate the fit of a smooth, close-fitting t-shirt, this tee is constructed with strong waist shaping and hems at all the edges. Work the neck and sleeve edges in a contrast color for a ringer tee and bring in some retro style by adding some fun text or a graphic design. Use one of the designs provided (three of the text designs are actually calmer color names!) or make your own images by printing out an image on knitter's graph paper.

*(This pattern originally appeared in Magknits online knitting magazine, Warm 2005.)*

**Difficulty Level** : Intermediate

## Materials needed

[MC]: 5 (5, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7) skeins Calmer (shown in #467 pool)

[CC]: 1 skein Calmer (shown in #480 peacock)

oddments of other colors for designs (see charts below)

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5mm/US8 circular or straight needles  
tapestry needle

### Sizes

Bust: 32 (34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44) inches / 81 (86, 91, 97, 102, 107) cm  
Length: 22.5 (23, 23.5, 24, 24.5, 25, 25.5) inches / 57 (58.5, 59.5, 61, 62, 63.5, 64.5) cm

### Gauge

19 stitches / 28 rows over 4 inches (10cm) square in stockinette stitch

### Stitch Instructions

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

WS decreases: right edge: slip next 2 stitches knitwise, place back on left needle, purl the two together through the back loop (sspb); left edge: purl 2 together (p2tog)

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

#### Back

With 5mm/US8 needles and [MC], cast on 76 (82, 86, 92, 98, 104, 108) st.  
Beginning with a purl row, work 6 rows in stockinette stitch. Knit next row (WS) to make turning row. Continue in stockinette stitch for another 6 rows. Make hem by folding work over on turning row toward the inside and knitting next row together with cast on edge. Continue in stockinette stitch, work 13 (17, 17, 17, 21, 21, 21) rows.

Begin decreases for waist shaping.

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

**Repeat decrease row on RS every 8 rows, 3 more times.** 68 (74, 78, 84, 90, 96, 100) stitches Work 24 rows even.

Begin increases for bust.

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

Work 5 rows even. Repeat increase row every 6 rows 4 more times. 78 (84, 88, 94, 100, 106, 110) stitches.

Work even until back measures 14.75 (15, 15.25, 15.5, 15.5, 15.5, 15.75) inches / 37.5 (38, 38.5, 39.5, 39.5, 39.5, 40) cm, ending with a WS row.

Begin armhole decreases.

Bind off 3 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows. Decrease 1 stitch at each end of next 3 (3, 3, 3, 5, 5, 5) rows. Then decrease on RS only 2 (3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5) times. 62 (66,

70, 74, 76, 80, 84) stitches.

Work even until armhole measures 6.25 (6.5, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.25) inches / 16 (17, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21) cm, ending with a WS row. Next row: K20 (22, 24, 26, 26, 28, 30), bind off center 22 (22, 22, 22, 24, 24, 24) stitches, K20 (22, 24, 26, 26, 28, 30).

Begin shaping left back neck. Purl 1 row. Bind off 2 stitches at neck edge on next row, then bind off 1 stitch every RS row at neck edge until 17 (19, 20, 22, 22, 24, 25) stitches remain. While continuing to shape neck on RS rows, begin shoulder shaping on WS rows as follows:

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

Row 2, 4, 6 (RS): bind off 1 stitch, knit to end.

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

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

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

Join yarn at armhole edge of right side and shape right back neck and shoulders by reversing shapings. Knit 1 row. Bind off 2 stitches at neck edge on next row, then bind off 1 stitch every WS row at neck edge until 17 (19, 20, 22, 22, 24, 25) stitches remain. While continuing to shape neck on WS rows, begin shoulder shaping on RS rows as follows:

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

Row 2, 4, 6 (WS): bind off 1 stitch, knit to end.

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

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

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

### Front

Work as for back to beginning of armhole. If adding a design to your t-shirt, see instructions for where to place chart.

Work in stockinette stitch until armhole measures 4.75 (5, 5, 5.5, 6, 6.5, 6.75) inches / 12 (13, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17) cm. Next row: K26 (28, 30, 32, 32, 34, 36) stitches, BO center 10 (10, 10, 10, 12, 12, 12) sti, K26 (28, 30, 32, 32, 34, 36).

Begin shaping right front neck. Purl 1 row. Bind off 4 stitches at neck edge on next row, then bind off 3 stitches on next RS row and 2 stitches on following RS row. Continue shaping neck by binding off 1 stitch every RS row at neck edge until 14 (16, 17, 19, 19, 21, 22) stitches remain.

Shape shoulder:

Row 13: BO4 (4, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6), purl to end.

Row 14, 16, 18: Knit to end.

Row 15: BO4 (4, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6), purl to end.

Row 17: BO3 (4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5), purl to end.

Row 19: BO remaining 3 (4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5) stitches.

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

### Sleeves

With 5mm/US8 needles and [CC] (if making plain tee, use [MC] for entire sleeve), cast on 56 (56, 60, 60, 64, 64, 68) 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. Switch to [MC] and, beginning with a purl row, work in stockinette stitch for 5 rows, increasing as for body on second and fourth rows. 60(60, 64, 64, 68, 68, 72) stitches.

Begin shaping for sleeve cap.

Bind off 3 stitches at beginning of next two rows. Decrease one stitch at each end of following 3 rows, then decrease one stitch at each end of every alternate row 6 (5, 7, 6, 8, 7, 9) times. Continue decreases every fourth row 3 (4, 3, 4, 3, 4, 3) times, then every alternate row 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7) times, and finally every row 5 times. Bind off remaining 12 stitches.

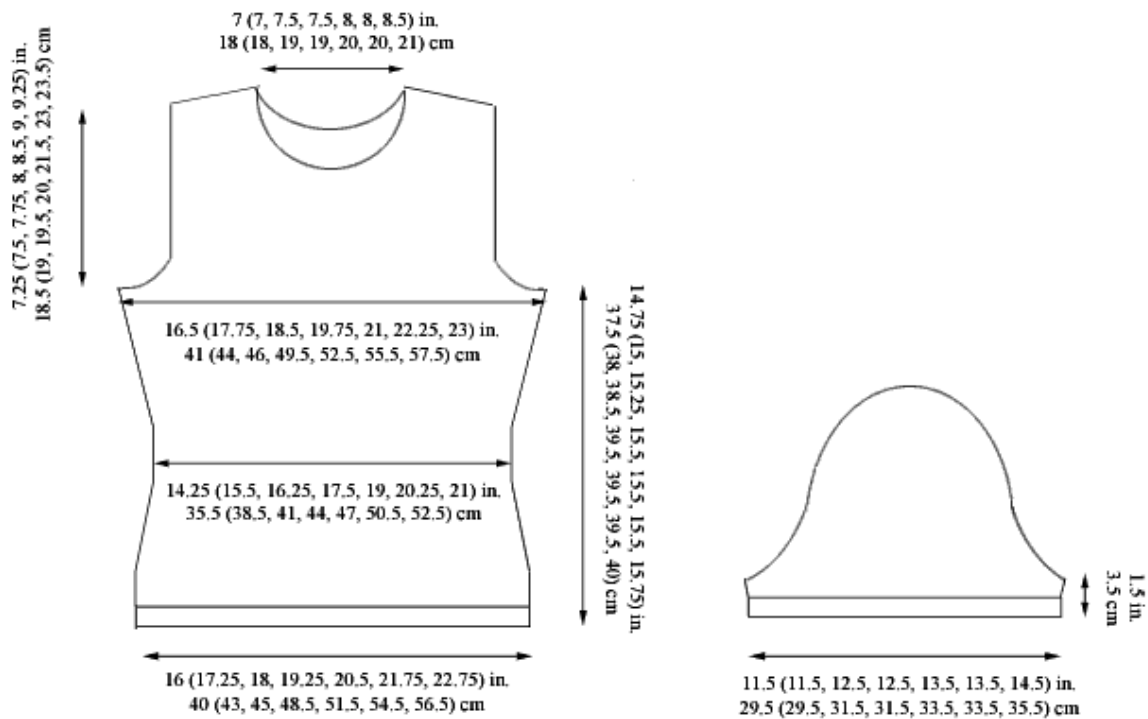
Make second sleeve.

## Finishing

Neck:

Sew left shoulder seam. With 5mm/US8 needle and [CC] (if making plain tee, use [MC] for neck), begin at right shoulder and pick up 80 (80, 84, 84, 88, 88, 92) stitches around neck. 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. Make hem by folding collar towards inside at turning row and sewing in place with whipstitch. Sew right side of hem closed and right shoulder seam.

Set in sleeves and close side seams. Weave in ends. Slip on and feel beautiful!



## Charts

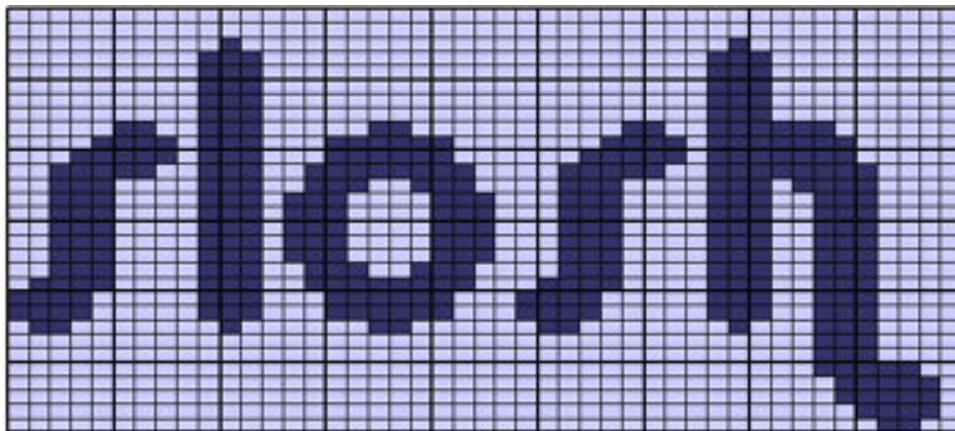
### Calmer color tees:



[MC]: Calmer #463 calmer

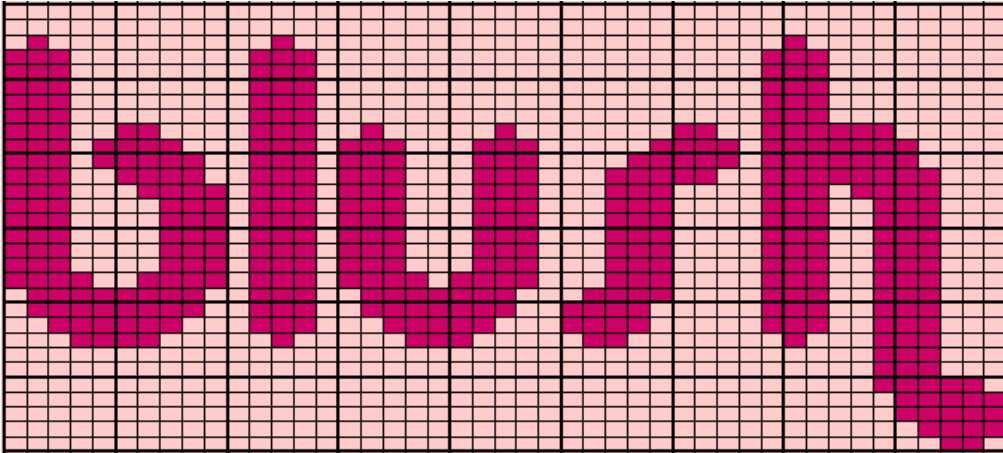
[CC]: Calmer #479 slosh

Begin chart at beginning of armhole shaping, centering chart over remaining stitches.



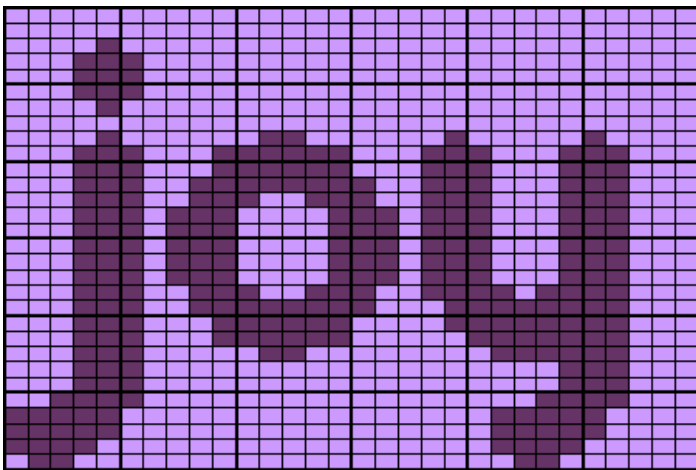
[MC]: Calmer #470 flamingo  
 [CC]: Calmer #477 blush

Begin chart at beginning of armhole shaping, centering chart over remaining stitches.



[MC]: Calmer #472 chiffon  
 [CC]: Calmer #478 joy

Begin chart at beginning of armhole shaping, centering chart over remaining stitches.



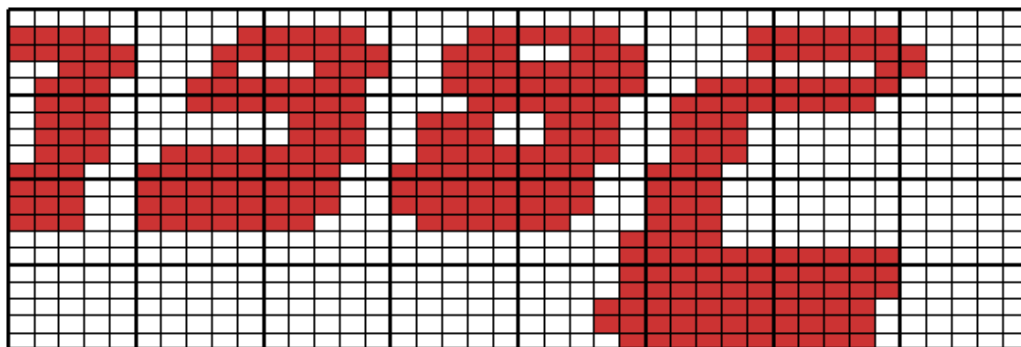
### Retro tees:



[MC]: Calmer #461 calm

[A]: Calmer color #469 amour

Begin chart after completing armhole decreases, centering chart over remaining stitches.





[MC]: Calmer #472 chiffon  
 [CC]: Calmer #478 joy  
 [A]: Calmer #464 laurel  
 [B]: Calmer #470 drift  
 [C]: Calmer #477 blush  
 [D]: Calmer #470 flamingo  
 [E]: Calmer #467 pool  
 [F]: Calmer #473 night sky

36 stitches wide, 14 rows high

Sequence: 2 rows joy, 2 rows laurel, 2 rows drift, 2 rows blush, 2 rows flamingo, 2 rows pool, 2 rows night sky.

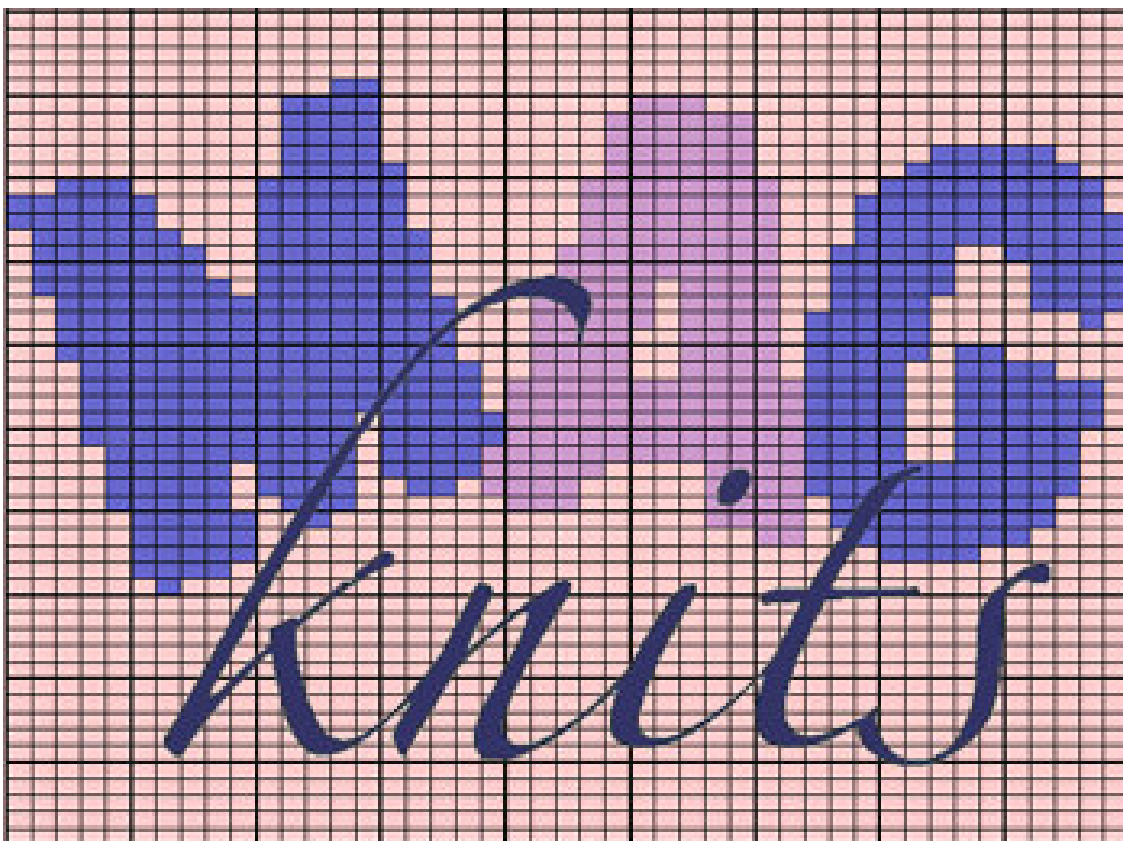
Begin after completing all armhole decreases, centering 36-stitch wide stripes over remaining stitches.

### **Magknits tee:**

[MC]: Calmer #470 flamingo  
 [CC]: Calmer #477 blush  
 [A]: Calmer #473 night sky  
 [B]: Calmer #462 chiffon  
 [C]: Calmer #478 joy

Begin "MAG" portion of chart 1 inch / 2.5cm before beginning armhole, centering chart over remaining stitches. When finished with front, go back and embroider the "knits" portion of image with color #478 joy and crocheted chain stitch.





*Alison knits, blogs, and raises two boys in Boston. She's in search of the perfect summer knit.*