LETYOUCRAFT | CHRISTMAS KNITS

03 Blue Snowflake Cardigan

Winter snowflake buttoned cardigan | flat knit



DIGITAL KNITTING PATTERN ONLY - NO PHYSICAL GARMENT SHIPPED

Calculated design targets. No physical prototype or test knitting has been completed.

Included sizes: 2, 4 and 6 years

Project overview, size and materials

Blue Snowflake Cardigan | Intermediate | Sizes 2 / 4 / 6 years | flat buttoned cardigan

Digital download only. NO physical garment or prototype was made. Sizing, fabric behavior, yarn usage and appearance are untested calculated design targets, not physically validated claims.

Recommended yarn

DK powder blue and ivory; 350 / 420 / 510 m blue + 30-50 m cream

Gauge and swatch

22 sts x 30 rows / 10 cm in blocked stockinette, 4 mm; 34 garter rows / 10 cm for button bands, 3.5 mm; 22 sts / 10 cm in relaxed blocked 1x1 rib on 3.5 mm for neckband. These are swatch TARGETS, not physical measurements.

Before starting: knit a swatch of the exact stated stitch pattern on the working needles, making a square at least 15 cm across. Wash or block as permitted by the yarn label, dry flat, and measure stitches and rows across a centered 10 cm. Change needles and re-swatch as needed. Use the actual blocked fabric gauge, not the photo, to choose final size.

Needles and equipment

4 mm and 3.5 mm needles; five secure washable buttons (12-15 mm); stitch holders or contrasting waste yarn for live shoulder stitches; a suitable third needle for the three-needle bind-off; markers and tapestry needle.

Size chart (centimeters and inches)

Age	Body chest	Panel span	Buttoned target*	Length	Band pickups
2 years	52.0 cm / 20.5 in	60.9 cm / 24.0 in	61.1 cm / 24.1 in	36.0 cm / 14.2 in	72
4 years	56.0 cm / 22.0 in	64.5 cm / 25.4 in	64.8 cm / 25.5 in	40.0 cm / 15.7 in	81
6 years	60.0 cm / 23.6 in	68.2 cm / 26.9 in	68.4 cm / 26.9 in	44.0 cm / 17.3 in	90

*Computed design target, not sample-verified. Assumptions: 34 garter rows/10 cm on 3.5 mm, 7-row band width 2.1 cm, overlap 2.1 cm and two side seams consuming a combined 1.8 cm; actual swatch, overlap and seam take-up must be checked. Buttoned hem may differ because hem rib gauge is unmeasured.

Cardigan band accounting (calculated, UNTESTED)

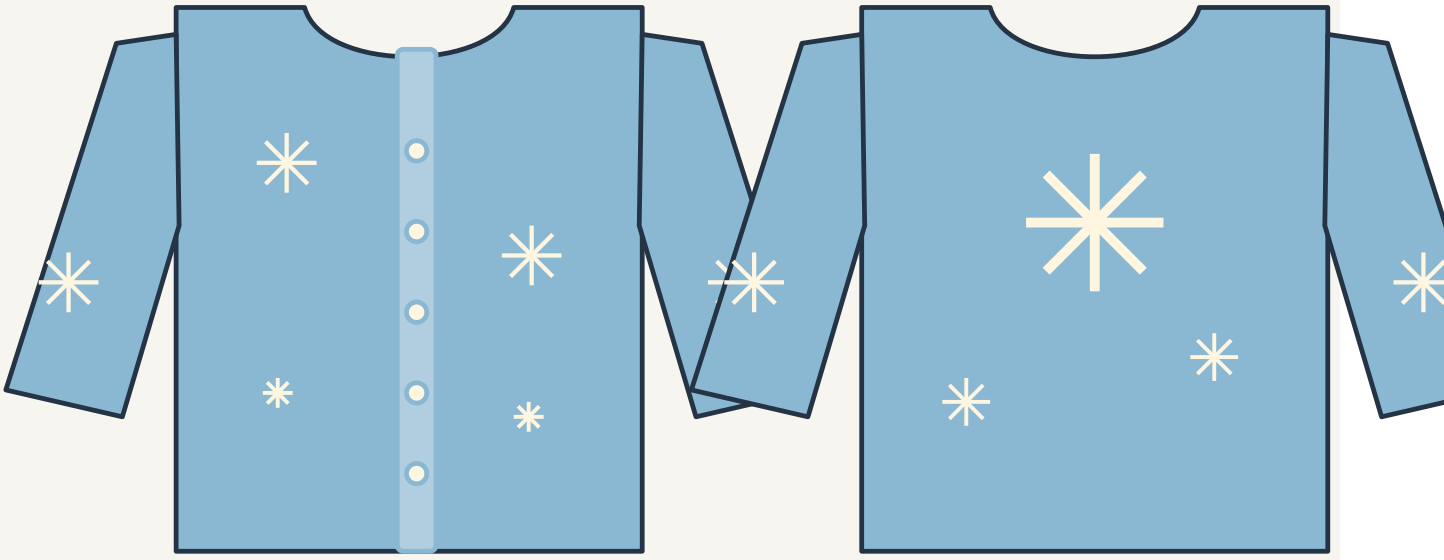
Panel widths before bands are 60.9 (64.5,68.2) cm. The SEPARATE provisional garter-band gauge target is 34 rows per 10 cm, giving a target band width of 2.1 cm for seven rows. Target buttoned chest sizing assumes 2.1 cm front overlap and 1.8 cm of total side-seam take-up. This gives calculated buttoned circumferences of 61.1 (64.8,68.4) cm, with approximately +9.1 (+8.8,+8.4) cm ease. Real blocked band gauge, overlap and seams may change the actual circumference; measure before relying on the targets.

Construction schematic

Front/back views or multi-angle garment views, structural shape, recognisable motifs, and stitch-count checkpoints. Follow the counted instructions for the actual fabric.

ILLUSTRATED DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION REFERENCE

Vector diagrams show intended design features; stitch and row counts take precedence.



FRONT BACK

Five buttons • two distinct front bands • ribbed neckline • graded snowflakes

BACK: 66 / 70 / 74 sts; fronts: 34 / 36 / 38

Front bands: 72 / 81 / 90 picked-up stitches

Neckline: 92 / 96 / 100 pickups, flat 7-row 1x1 rib border

Target buttoned chest 61.1 / 64.8 / 68.4 cm; length 36 / 40 / 44 cm

Abbreviations and techniques

Term	Definition
CO / BO	Cast on / bind off.
RS / WS	Right side / wrong side.
k / p	Knit / purl; stockinette flat = knit RS / purl WS.
st / sts / rnd	Stitch / stitches / round.
k2tog	Knit two together; decreases 1 st.
ssk	Slip-knit decrease left-leaning; decreases 1 st.
M1L / M1R	Mirrored lifted-bar increases, each adds 1 st.
kfb	Knit front and back of one stitch; adds 1 st.
pm / sm / BOR	Place marker / slip marker / beginning of round.
duplicate stitch	Follow existing knit-V loops using contrast yarn; no new fabric stitches.
I-cord ROW	Knit 3 without turning; slide stitches on DPN and repeat with yarn carried behind.
Three-needle BO	Hold the matching live edge sets together and bind off pairs of stitches.
Mattress seam	Alternate bars at selvedges; ease differently oriented edges in measured sections.

Construction and chart-reading rules

Unless a row/round states otherwise, flat stockinette works RS knit and WS purl. In the round, knit every round. In decoration charts, each colored square corresponds to an existing stitch worked in duplicate stitch. Check size-specific row numbers BEFORE transferring motifs.

All garment measurements and construction details are pattern-design calculations, not test-knit results. Any alternative gauge changes finished dimensions.

Complete row-by-row construction

Read sizes in order **2 (4, 6) years**. Color overlays do not alter live stitch counts.

Back: CO 66 (70, 74) stitches using 3.5 mm needles. Rows 1-12 work 1x1 rib. On 4 mm needles work stockinette Rows 13-104 (116, 128). Row 105 (117,129), RS: K23 (24,25), BO22 (24,26), knit remaining 21 (22,23). Use the conventional pass-over bind-off. The stitch remaining on the working needle after the final bind-off counts as the first live stitch of the second shoulder. Count the stitches on both sides separately before beginning further neckline shaping. Shape each back-neck side by BO 4 at its next neck-edge pass, then complete through Row 108 (120, 132). Hold 18 (19, 20) live stitches on each shoulder.

Fronts: CO 34 (36, 38) stitches each; work Rows 1-12 in 1x1 rib and Rows 13-96 (108, 120) in stockinette. On the LEFT front, start neckline shaping on RS Row 97 (109, 121) by binding off 12 (13, 14) at the neckline edge. Bind off 2 stitches at the same neck edge on the next TWO neckline-starting RS rows: 99 (111, 123) and 101 (113, 125). On the RIGHT front, BO the 12 (13, 14) neck-edge stitches on WS Row 98 (110, 122), then BO 2 neck-edge stitches on WS Rows 100 (112, 124) and 102 (114, 126). Continue each front evenly to Row 108 (120, 132). Hold 18 (19, 20) shoulder stitches on each side.

Armhole markers: Mark both edges of all three body panels after Row 66 (74, 84); leave the upper 42 (46, 48) edge rows open for sleeve attachment. Join the corresponding 18 (19, 20) live front/back shoulder stitches using three-needle bind-off.

Sleeves (make two): Cast on 34 (36, 38) stitches on smaller needles, work 12 rows of 1x1 rib and change to 4 mm. Increase one stitch just inside each edge on RS Rows 13, 17, 21 and every fourth row thereafter, for 14 (15, 16) increases per edge through Row 65 (69, 73). End with 62 (66, 70) stitches. Work stockinette without shaping through Sleeve Row 78 (90, 102) and loosely BO. Repeat for second sleeve.

Button bands: On each straight front-opening edge, pick up 72 (81, 90) stitches at three pickups per four of the 96 (108, 120) original straight edge rows. Work 7 garter rows on 3.5 mm needles. On Band Row 4, work five k2tog/yo holes on ONE band at original pickup-stitch positions (counting upward from hem) 9, 23, 36, 49, 63 (2 years); 9, 25, 41, 57, 73 (4 years); or 9, 27, 45, 63, 81 (6 years). Reverse needle traversal as needed to preserve these hem-up positions. Bind off knitwise, sew five buttons to the opposite band and check closure alignment.

Counted neckline pickup map and finishing

Blocked design gauge for the neckband: 22 stitches in 10 cm in relaxed 1x1 rib on 3.5 mm needles. This is an UNTESTED SWATCH TARGET, not a measured finished-garment result. Test blocked rib with the actual yarn before relying on these stitch counts.

Neckband (flat 1x1 rib, exactly 92 / 96 / 100 pickups): After shoulder joins and completed seven-row garter button bands, lay the cardigan right side upward and begin at the TOP of one front band. Do not join in the round. Using 3.5 mm needles and powder blue, pick up the following sections consecutively. Count each corner loop only ONCE; do not pick up a second stitch from a loop already used at a horizontal bind-off step.

1. First button-band top: pick up 5 stitches across the seven-row band end. 2. First front horizontal neck steps: pick up 12 (13, 14) at the large bind-off and 2 plus 2 at the two smaller bound-off steps = 16 (17, 18). 3. First front upright neckline: pick up exactly 8 stitches along the intervening neckline-row segments: 1 between the first and second bind-off steps, 1 between the second and third steps, and 6 along the remaining upper vertical edge. Use the available selvedge bars; on the front whose final upright spans seven rows, skip one evenly spaced bar.

4. Back neckline: pick up 4 stitches at the first four-stitch back-neck step, 22 (24, 26) at the central bind-off, and 4 at the opposite four-stitch step = 30 (32, 34) horizontal stitches. Also pick up 2 stitches along EACH of the two short upright back-neck edges = 4 more. Total back pickup = 34 (36, 38). Keep the four upright pickups outside their corresponding horizontal steps; avoid double-picking the corner loops.

5. Opposite front upright: 8 pickups distributed 1 + 1 + 6 across the three edge runs; then 16 (17, 18) pickups along its horizontal bind-off steps (2 + 2 + 12/13/14 when working toward the opening). Finish with 5 stitches across the opposite seven-row button-band top. **CHECKPOINT:** 5 + [16 (17, 18)] + 8 + [34 (36, 38)] + 8 + [16 (17, 18)] + 5 = **92 (96, 100) stitches**. All are even totals.

Ribbing: With the right side facing at pickup, work the next seven rows FLAT in 1x1 rib (k1, p1 across every row); use an elastic bind-off in established rib and weave in the ends. Do not sew the two front ends together. If your blocked rib gauge differs from 22 stitches per 10 cm or the neckband ripples/pulls, the finished collar and dimensions will differ from these calculated targets: re-swatch and evaluate the pickup spacing before use. No sample has been knitted to verify this fit.

Counted colorwork and exact placement

Counted DUPLICATE-STITCH charts: each square represents one EXISTING knitted stitch. Row 1 is the lowest chart row; Column 1 is the leftmost stitch viewed from the garment RS. An EMPTY LIGHT-BLUE square means leave the powder-blue background stitch unchanged. Work the white motifs over blocked knit fabric; do not carry yarn floats or alter live garment counts.

Three contrasting snowflake designs

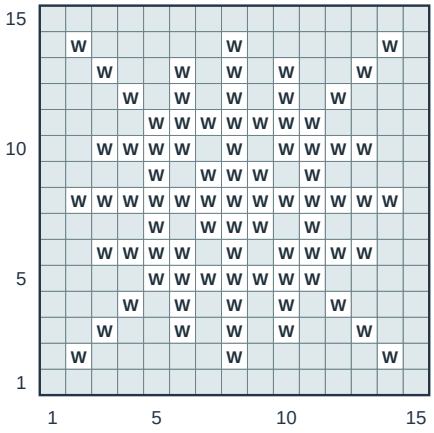
Use three different white motifs: principal 15 x 15 crystal, smaller 9 x 9 diamond crystal and 7 x 7 flurry. Every W cell is an ivory duplicate stitch on the existing fabric. An EMPTY LIGHT-BLUE square indicates an unchanged powder-blue background stitch. Do not work floats. Keep the motifs at least two stitches from seams and six stitches clear of each front opening.

MAIN branching snowflake | 15 x 15

15 actual stitch columns x 15 actual rows; RS viewed from front; chart row 1 at BOTTOM

Columns 1 -> 15 read LEFT to RIGHT on visible garment face; stitch overlays worked after knitting.

W = ivory; empty light-blue square = powder blue

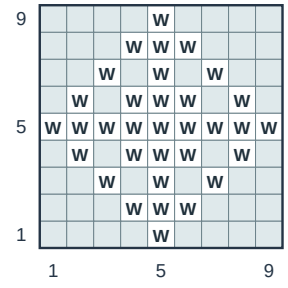


SMALL faceted snowflake | 9 x 9

9 actual stitch columns x 9 actual rows; RS viewed from front; chart row 1 at BOTTOM

Columns 1 -> 9 read LEFT to RIGHT on visible garment face; stitch overlays worked after knitting.

W ivory | . unchanged powder blue

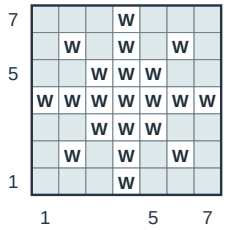


TINY flurry | 7 x 7

7 actual stitch columns x 7 actual rows; RS viewed from front; chart row 1 at BOTTOM

Columns 1 -> 7 read LEFT to RIGHT on visible garment face; stitch overlays worked after knitting.

W ivory | empty light-blue = powder blue



FRONTS (work each panel as a MIRROR; coordinates begin at the SIDE seam and increase toward the opening, not the band). Size 2: MAIN chart on each front starts Column 9 / Row 54; SMALL starts Column 6 / Row 30. Size 4: MAIN Column 10 / Row 60; SMALL Column 7 / Row 34. Size 6: MAIN Column 11 / Row 66; SMALL Column 8 / Row 38. The main 15-st motif ends at panel Columns 23 / 24 / 25 and leaves 11-13 base-panel stitches before the front opening; the separate band is NEVER stitched. Place TINY 7x7 near outer shoulder-facing side on each front with start Column 3 / Row 77 (85,93), ending before front-neck shaping at Rows 97 (109,121). The tiny flurry ends before the shoulder shaping and is never stitched into the side seam.

BACK (66 / 70 / 74 sts, respectively): MAIN snowflake start Column 26 (28,30), Row 64 (72,80). Two SMALL snowflakes start at back Columns 9 and 49 (10 and 53, 11 and 57), Rows 30 and 41 (34 and 45, 38 and 49), respectively. These do not overlap with the central MAIN motif. Add TINY flurries on the back at Columns 20 and 42 (22 and 44,24 and 46) with bottom garment Row 92 (100,108), finishing at Rows 98 (106,114), entirely before the back neck BO at Rows 105 (117,129). No chart stitch crosses a bind-off edge.

SLEEVES: after the first increase on Sleeve Row 13 and before later shaping alters edge stitch counts, make ONE SMALL 9x9 snowflake on each sleeve at Sleeve Rows 39-47, horizontally centered on the sleeve fabric between the two physical side edges. At Sleeve Row 39 all sizes have 48 (50,52) stitches: start at Column 20 (21,22), ending at Column 28 (29,30). At Sleeve Rows 39-40 the chart begins at live-needle Columns 20 (21,22); at Sleeve Rows 41-44 begin at Columns 21 (22,23) after the Row-41 side increases; at Sleeve Rows 45-47 begin at Columns 22 (23,24) after the Row-45 side increases. These successive start columns track the SAME nine existing fabric V columns across both increases. Repeat on the second sleeve identically.

Assembly, finishing and blocking

Weave each yarn end into the WS for at least 5 cm (2 in), reverse direction, and trim only when secure. Keep finishing tension smooth and avoid scratchy knots.

For mattress stitch, align corresponding edge rows with right sides outward. Using a blunt needle, alternate under horizontal bars between first and second stitches of paired edges. Pull every 2-3 cm without gathering. Match length markers or quarter points before joining.

To join held shoulders, place matching front and back edges RS together and use three-needle bind-off: knit 1 stitch from each needle together twice, pass first combined stitch over second, and repeat until the held shoulders are fully joined.

Blocking: soak only if fiber label permits, press water out in a towel, shape to the target measurements without aggressive stretching, and dry completely flat. A swatch establishes how your yarn responds; blocking cannot reliably correct significant gauge errors.

Care: Use a care program safe for the chosen yarn and buttons; close all buttons before laying flat to dry.

Join 18 (19,20) live shoulder sts per side with three-needle BO. Work the seven-row garter button bands and the seven-row FLAT 1x1 rib neckband as directed. Measure each blocked button band and check closed

chest/hem circumference with the actual overlap and finished seams before confirming fit. Pin each sleeve midpoint to its shoulder seam, sew the sleeve top to the two 42 (46,48)-row armhole edges, then sew sleeve and lower side seams. Place 5 buttons exactly opposite the band holes. Duplicate-stitch snowflakes on flat blocked fabric if preferred before seaming, provided chart positions have been counted from hem; secure all contrast yarn ends.

Final customer checklist

[ ] Measure chest/head/foot as applicable and verify the selected size and stated ease. [ ] Count finished garment stitch totals and compare each component with its table. [ ] Check both sides and any pairs for equal lengths and symmetric shaping. [ ] Verify neck or opening is comfortable and not constricting. [ ] Match seam markers and ensure no twisting, skipped attachments or exposed loose ends. [ ] Check decoration is firmly sewn, with floats/embroidery ends secured on the WS. [ ] Block carefully to target dimensions; record any difference from the design target. [ ] Check washing and small-part warnings with the recipient.

Troubleshooting

Issue Solution

Gauge differs Use a larger needle for too many stitches per 10 cm; smaller for too few. Re-swatch in the specified fabric.

Stitch count off Count at each listed increase/decrease checkpoint; undo to the last correct row before continuing.

Uneven lengths Count rows rather than comparing unstretched measurements; block paired pieces together.

Neck or cuff too tight Recheck ribbing elasticity and BO tension. Use a stretchy bind-off or a larger BO needle.

Sleeve/armhole join bunches Match seam halves and quarter points; do not pull the mattress stitch too firmly.

Ribbing flares or droops Use a needle approximately 0.5 mm smaller and measure rib gauge before committing.

Stockinette edge curls Use specified garter/rib borders and blocking; do not omit stabilizing bands.

Color motif puckers Work duplicate stitches loosely enough to follow existing V shapes; avoid tight long floats.

Finished size incorrect Compare gauge and completed row/st counts to chart; assess blocking swatch before adjusting.

Customer notes

These are calculated design targets, not test-knitted measurements. Compare your blocked gauge, intended ease, finished garment size and decorations against wearer needs before use.