LETYOUCRAFT | CHRISTMAS KNITS

06 Gingerbread Fair Isle Dress

Fair-Isle-inspired motifs in DUPLICATE STITCH (not stranded knitting)



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

Gingerbread Fair-Isle-Inspired Dress | Intermediate | 2 / 4 / 6 years | flat A-line dress

DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ONLY. No prototype or physical test knitting was performed. Dimensions, yarn use and fit are calculated targets; confirm blocked swatch and safety before use.

Recommended yarn

DK cinnamon brown main yarn, cream, red and green for DUPLICATE-STITCH decoration. Main yarn estimate 440 / 540 / 650 m; accent yarn estimate 65 / 80 / 95 m. This is NOT stranded Fair Isle knitting.

Gauge and swatch

Target gauge: 22 stitches and 30 rows / 10 cm in blocked stockinette on 4 mm needles; neckline ribbing target: 22 stitches / 10 cm in relaxed blocked 1x1 rib on 3.5 mm needles. Make a 15 cm swatch of EACH fabric, wash/block as yarn permits, dry fully and measure the centered 10 cm. Change needle size and swatch again if necessary.

Needles and equipment

4 mm flat needles for body and sleeves; 3.5 mm rib needles; 3.5 mm DPNs or 80 cm or longer circular needle suitable for magic-loop knitting for the eight-round neckband; holders, markers and tapestry needle.

Size chart — calculated targets (dimensions: cm / in)

Age	Body chest	Upper chest*	Hem span*	Dress length
2 years	52.0/20.5	63.6/25.0	90.9/35.8	52.0/20.5
4 years	56.0/22.0	67.3/26.5	98.2/38.7	58.0/22.8
6 years	60.0/23.6	70.9/27.9	105.5/41.5	64.0/25.2

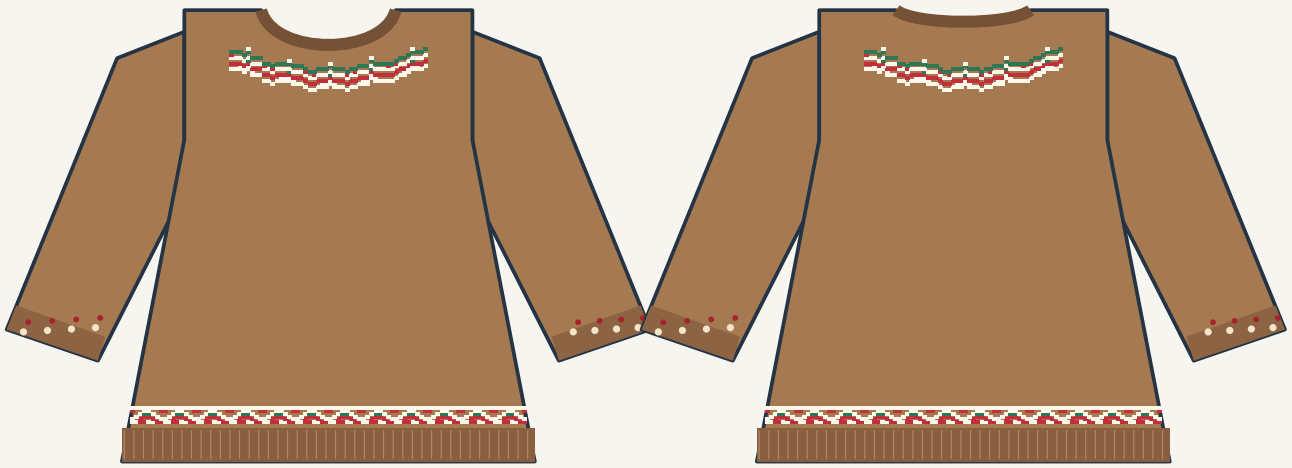
All sizing is computed from the stated stockinette gauge and is NOT a test-knit measurement. Charts are duplicate-stitch overlays on finished knitted fabric.

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.

CHART-MATCHED GARMENT / CONSTRUCTION VIEWS

Size 2 illustration; independently counted positions for ages 4 and 6 follow.



FRONT

BACK

FRONT NECK 12 rows = 4.0 cm

BACK NECK 4 rows = 1.3 cm

Yoke mapped from the actual size-graded 19-row charts.

Hem: 100 / 108 / 116 sts; upper: 70 / 74 / 78 sts.

Sleeve cuffs and hem have their own counted decorative tiles.

All dimensions and visual proportions are calculated design targets.

Refer to separate charts and garment-row anchors for every size.

Abbreviations and techniques

Term	Definition
CO / BO	Cast on / bind off.
RS / WS	Right side / wrong side.
k / p	Knit / purl; flat stockinette = knit RS / purl WS.
st / sts / rnd	Stitch / stitches / round.
k2tog	Knit two together (1 stitch decreased).
ssk	Slip-slip-knit left-leaning decrease (1 decreased).
M1R	Lift between-stitch bar from back, knit through front (1 increased).
M1L	Lift between-stitch bar from front, knit through back (1 increased).
Three-needle BO	Knit matching pairs of held shoulder stitches together then bind off.
Mattress seam	Join selvedge bars on RS, adjusting tension gradually.
Duplicate stitch	Embroider over existing knit V stitches; no change to live stitch count.

Technique and sizing notes

Gauge and all finished garment measurements are calculated design targets, not verified by a physically knitted sample. Work the specified stitch and row counts exactly and check that construction suits your yarn and intended wearer.

Complete row-by-row construction

Read each size independently. Work the shaping intervals exactly; color overlays never alter fabric stitch counts.

Checkpoint 2 years 4 years 6 years

Dress back/front panels (make two initially identical): CO 100 (108,116) sts on 3.5 mm needles. Rows 1-12 k1/p1 rib, checking hem elasticity. Change to 4 mm needles. Work stockinette, with skirt decreases on Rows 19,25,31,37,43,49,55,61,67,73,79,85,91,97,103, plus Rows 109 and 115 for size 4, plus Rows 109,115,121,127 for size 6. At each listed decrease row: k1, ssk, knit to final 3 sts, k2tog, k1 - exactly 2 sts decreased per row. Stop after 15 (17,19) decreases for 70 (74,78) sts. Work stockinette even through dress Row 114 (128,144); mark the armholes at side edges at this row.

Back neckline: work stockinette until Row 152 (170,188). Row 153 (171,189), RS: K23 (24,25), BO26 (28,30), 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. On each shoulder separately BO 3 at next neck-edge row, leaving 19 (20,21). Complete through Row 156 (174,192) and hold each shoulder group live.

Front neckline: work stockinette to Row 144 (162,180). Row 145 (163,181), RS: K24 (25,26), BO24 (26,28), knit remaining 22 (23,24). 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. On each shoulder separately BO 4 total at neck edge, worked as BO 2 at the next TWO neck-edge rows (the next neck-edge pass may occur on RS for one side and WS for the other). That leaves 19 (20,21) shoulder sts. Finish stockinette through Row 156 (174,192) and hold live shoulder groups.

Sleeves, make two: With 3.5 mm needles cast on 34 (36, 38) stitches. Work 12 rows of 1x1 ribbing. Change to 4 mm needles. Row 13 (RS): K1, M1R, knit to final stitch, M1L, K1 = 36 (38, 40) stitches. Work Rows 14-20 WITHOUT shaping so that the entire sleeve-cuff motif lies on a fixed stitch count. Beginning on Row 21, increase one stitch at EACH edge using the same mirrored method every fourth row: Rows 21,25,29,...,69 (size 2); through Row 73 (size 4); through Row 77 (size 6). Including Row 13 there are precisely 14 (15, 16) increase rows; final counts are 62 (66, 70). Work evenly through Sleeve Row 78 (90, 102) and bind off loosely. Keep the counted sleeve-cuff decoration at Rows 15-20 unchanged.

Calculated neckband pickup map (2 / 4 / 6 years)
Neckband: after joining the matching 19 (20, 21)-st shoulders, use 3.5 mm DPNs or an 80 cm+ circular needle worked by magic-loop. With RS facing, begin at one shoulder seam and pick up as follows without counting corner loops twice: FRONT center BO 24 (26, 28), front shaping BO steps 2 + 2 on EACH side = 8 more, plus SEVEN upright pickups per front side = 14; BACK center BO 26 (28, 30), back shaping BO 3 on EACH side = 6 more, plus TWO pickups on EACH short back neck upright = 4. CHECKPOINT: **82 (86, 90) neckband stitches**, all even.

Front upright spacing: one front has an intervening neck-edge row before the first 2-stitch step: pick up 1 there, 1 between the two 2-stitch steps, and 5 along the remaining seven edge rows (1 + 1 + 5). On the mirror front, pick up 1 between the two steps and 6 along the last eight edge rows (1 + 6). On the BACK side whose 3-stitch step is worked on Row 155 (173, 191), pick 1 at Row 154 (172, 190) and 1 at Row 156 (174, 192). On the other back side (3-stitch step Row 154/172/190), pick 1 each from Rows 155 and 156 (173 and 174 / 191 and 192). Join in the round without twisting and work exactly eight rounds in 1x1 rib in the brown main yarn. Bind off very elastically in established rib.

At the target stockinette gauge, the horizontal loops total 64 (68, 72), or about 29.1 (30.9, 32.7) cm; approximately 22 upright-equivalent edge rows add 7.3 cm. Thus the modeled bare edge length is about 36.4 (38.2, 40.1) cm. At the **blocked relaxed rib gauge target** of 22 sts/10 cm, the neckband circumference is about **37.3 (39.1, 40.9) cm** before stretch. These are UNTESTED calculated size targets; make a rib swatch and ensure that the finished opening plus elastic bind-off can pass over the intended wearer's head without strain. Do not rely on calculated dimensions as physical fit testing.

Decoration: after blocking the knitted sections, apply the size-specific counted duplicate-stitch maps on pages 6-8 for the curved gingerbread front/back yokes, hem icing and sleeve-cuff bands. All decoration overlays preserve the already-counted shaping stitches. Secure every contrast yarn end.

Counted colorwork and exact placement

Charts use DUPLICATE STITCH on existing fabric: each square is ONE knitted stitch. Row 1 is the bottom chart row and Column 1 is the leftmost stitch viewed from the garment RS. An empty light-blue chart square means leave the original brown background stitch unchanged. Work from bottom to top after blocking, without long yarn floats. Decoration does not add stitches or rows.

Curved layered gingerbread yoke, hem and cuff

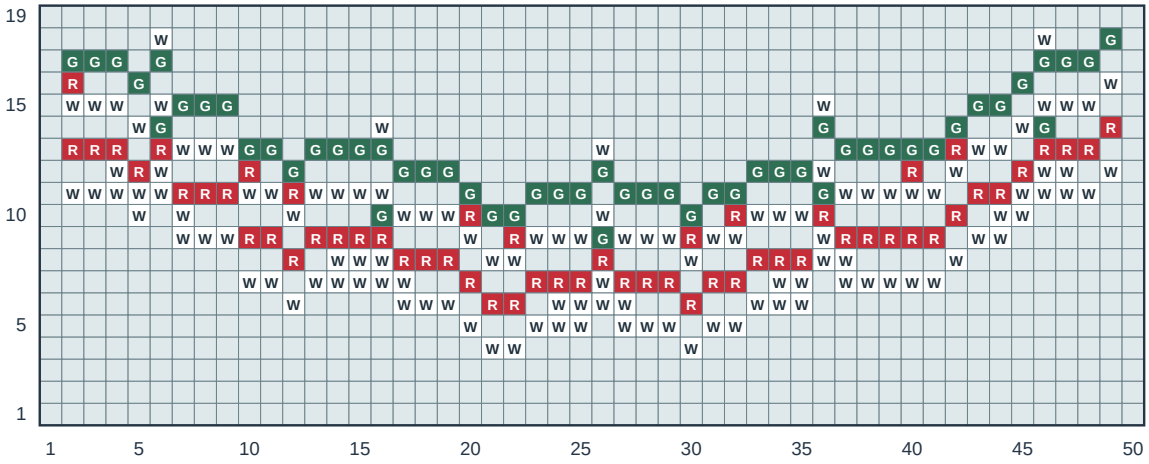
The curved yoke is a 19-ROW multicolor surface motif with IVORY wavy/scalloped lower edges, RED decorative dots and GREEN small decorative accents. Each size has an independent full-width chart, so every colored square maps to one actual stitch at that size and is kept clear of front-neck BO. The chart is a design approximation of the reference embroidery, not a traditional circular-yoke change to the flat dress construction.

Gingerbread scalloped U-yoke | age 2 | 50 x 19

50 actual stitch columns x 19 actual rows; RS viewed from front; chart row 1 at BOTTOM

Columns 1 -> 50 read LEFT to RIGHT on visible garment face; stitch overlays worked after knitting.

W cream | R red | G green | empty light-blue = brown



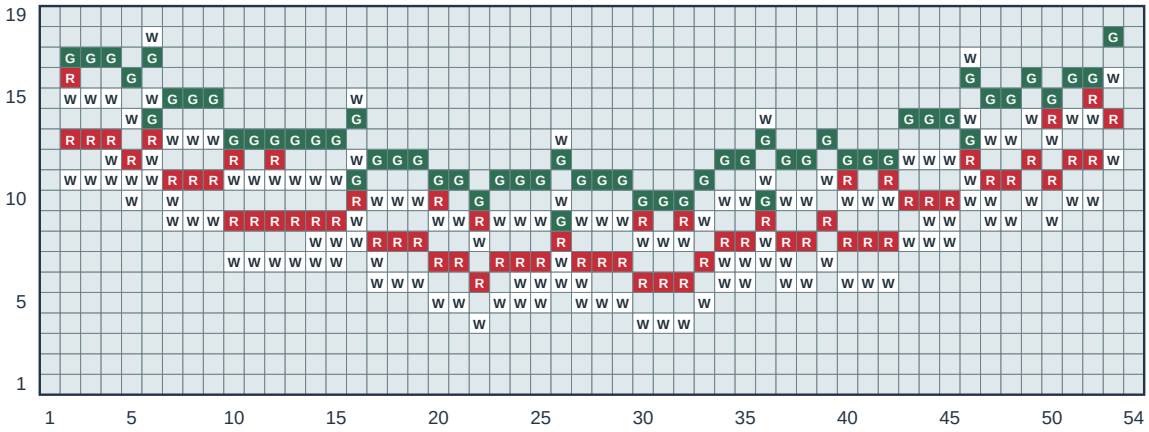
2-YEAR YOKE: both FRONT and BACK, start panel Column 11 and garment Row 125; last decorative stitch Column 60 and last row 143. Chart entirely inside the 70 / 74 / 78-st upper body and finishes before FRONT neckline Row 145. Both fronts/back use chart viewed from the RS, no reverse charting.

Gingerbread scalloped U-yoke | age 4 | 54 x 19

54 actual stitch columns x 19 actual rows; RS viewed from front; chart row 1 at BOTTOM

Columns 1 -> 54 read LEFT to RIGHT on visible garment face; stitch overlays worked after knitting.

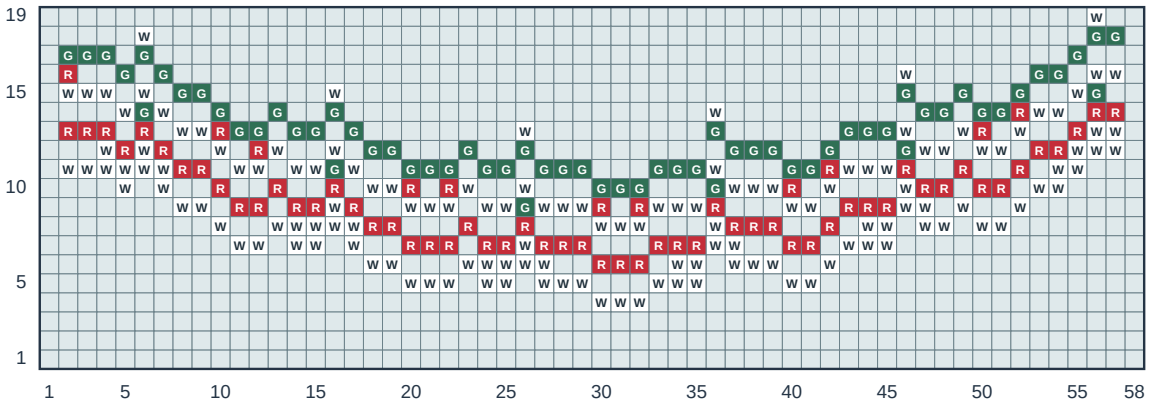
W cream | R red | G green | empty light-blue = brown



4-YEAR YOKE: both FRONT and BACK, start panel Column 11 and garment Row 143; last decorative stitch Column 64 and last row 161. Chart entirely inside the 70 / 74 / 78-st upper body and finishes before FRONT neckline Row 163. Both fronts/back use chart viewed from the RS, no reverse charting.

Gingerbread scalloped U-yoke | age 6 | 58 x 19

58 actual stitch columns x 19 actual rows; RS viewed from front; chart row 1 at BOTTOM
Columns 1 -> 58 read LEFT to RIGHT on visible garment face; stitch overlays worked after knitting.
W cream | R red | G green | empty light-blue = brown

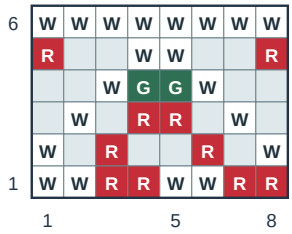


6-YEAR YOKE: both FRONT and BACK, start panel Column 11 and garment Row 161; last decorative stitch Column 68 and last row 179. Chart entirely inside the 70 / 74 / 78-st upper body and finishes before FRONT neckline Row 181. Both fronts/back use chart viewed from the RS, no reverse charting.

HEM: full 8-stitch by 6-row repeating gingerbread icing tile

Hem icing tile | 8 stitches x 6 rows

8 actual stitch columns x 6 actual rows; RS viewed from front; chart row 1 at BOTTOM
Columns 1 -> 8 read LEFT to RIGHT on visible garment face; stitch overlays worked after knitting.
W cream | R red | G green | empty light-blue = brown



Place entire tile on both FRONT and BACK at dress Rows 13-18, BEFORE first skirt decrease Row 19. Start at panel Column 3 and repeat exactly 12 / 13 / 14 times across 96 / 104 / 112 stitches, ending at panel Columns 98 / 106 / 114. Two unworked edge stitches remain on each side. Row 13 of fabric uses tile Row 1. No fractional repeats and no fabric decreases inside this band.

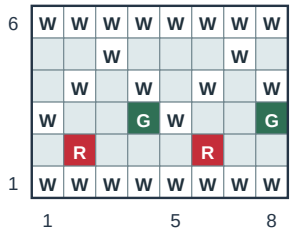
SLEEVE CUFF: distinct 8-stitch by 6-row decorative tile

Cuff decorative tile | 8 x 6 rows

8 actual stitch columns x 6 actual rows; RS viewed from front; chart row 1 at BOTTOM

Columns 1 -> 8 read LEFT to RIGHT on visible garment face; stitch overlays worked after knitting.

W cream | R red | G green | empty light-blue = brown



On BOTH sleeves at Sleeve Rows 15-20, after the Row-13 increase and before the Row-21 increase: live sleeve totals are 36 / 38 / 40 stitches. Apply four 8-stitch repeats (=32 stitch columns), centered at Column 3 / 4 / 5 with 2 / 3 / 4 bare stitches at EACH side. Start tile Row 1 at sleeve Row 15. This puts the embellishment near the cuff without crossing shaping rows.

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: Gently hand-wash if wool; otherwise follow yarn-band machine-wash instructions, dry flat with skirt flared symmetrically.

Join 19 (20, 21) live front/back shoulder stitches using three-needle bind-off. Center each 62 (66, 70)-st sleeve top on its shoulder seam; sew evenly across the two armhole edges of 42 (46, 48) rows per side. Sew sleeve underarms and dress side seams, then pick up and finish the eight-round neckband. Apply the SIZE-SPECIFIC gingerbread yoke, hem icing and sleeve-cuff decorations in DUPLICATE STITCH according to the counted charts on pages 6-8. Secure all decorative ends on the wrong side; block the skirt without forcing its A-line dimensions.

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.