

TeaShell Michele's
EASY-PEASY
PONCHO-CAPE
Knitting Pattern



THE STORY

In a big bag were balls of yarn that had migrated with me numerous times - miniature wool poodles that kept yapping KNIT, KNIT, KNIT. Soon, I'll be moving to another location, so plenty of weeks ago I barked back, OKAY, OKAY, OKAY.

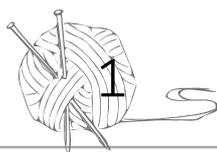
I don't want to take them with me as wool poodles. That won't do. They must be less of a burden to carry.

I placed them, fat and round, on the bed and said " You know I only knit rectangles, right? I'm going to knit you together, tail to tail. You'll never be apart. As a collective you'll be called Poncho.



I uploaded a pic of Poncho with me inside it. Darling Natalie commented that Poncho is gorgeous and that she, Natalie, is fond of knitting too, and would I please share the pattern with her?

I replied that the pattern is easy-peasy because I never use a pattern! I promised to do a count of stitches and rows (I've measured, as it's safer than counting rows), draw diagrams of how I put it all together, and plonk the instructions at the end of my next post.



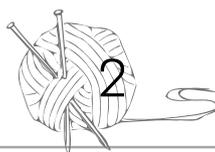
This pattern will read unlike any other you've followed, and suits those who relish producing loveliness with minimal skill and fuss.

Having spun you a true yarn, let me tell you how I had a ball...

YOU WILL NEED

- 8-ply (also known as DK or double-knitting) yarn in any color/colors you fancy. How many balls will you need? Answering that question is a wee bit difficult. I didn't count before I started, and some balls were depleted, having been used for other brainless projects. I guesstimate about 6 - 8 50g balls???. When you've knitted it, please let me know in the comments section how many balls you used.
- 5.5mm knitting needles. I know that's big, but it gives the poncho-cape a pleasing fluidity, stretchyness, and soft drape.
- A wool needle for the little bit of sewing you'll do.
- Your finishing touch of choice - big buttons, or beads, or ribbons etc.

Wishing you consistent tension (the good, knitterly kind) and soothing stitches (no emergency visit to the doctor's rooms required).



I slip the first stitch of every row instead of knitting it because it creates a neat edge, and comes in handy when we knit the hood.

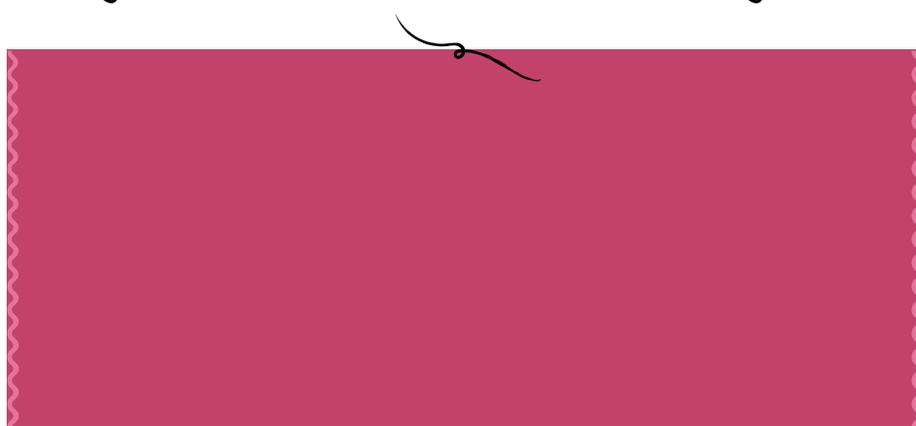
EASY-PEASY PONCHO-CAPE

Cast on 90 stitches.

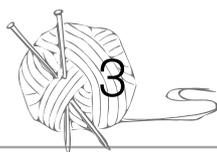
Working in garter stitch (knit every row), knit until your rectangle measures approximately 168cm (centimetres). You can keep going if you want a longer version, or stop short if you want a vintage, old-fashioned, shawl-like garment (my next project).

Cast off.

Lay your rectangle down. Find the center of one long side,



and mark it somehow. I used a short piece of colorful thread. We're going to knit the cheeky pixie HOOD now.



If you slipped the first stitch of every row, this part is a piece of cake. If you didn't, it is still undemanding.

Your edge, magnified, looks sort of like the diagram below?

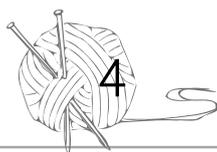
Using ONE knitting needle, pick up 62 of these 'loops' - 31 on either side of your marked center.



The balance of the knitted fabric will hang down, keeping your belly and thighs warm and cozy while you knit the rectangle for the hood.

To begin knitting, use your preferred method for joining yarn.

I knitted the hood in STOCKING stitch (knit one row, purl the next row, repeat) but ribbed the first stitches of each row, making a border.

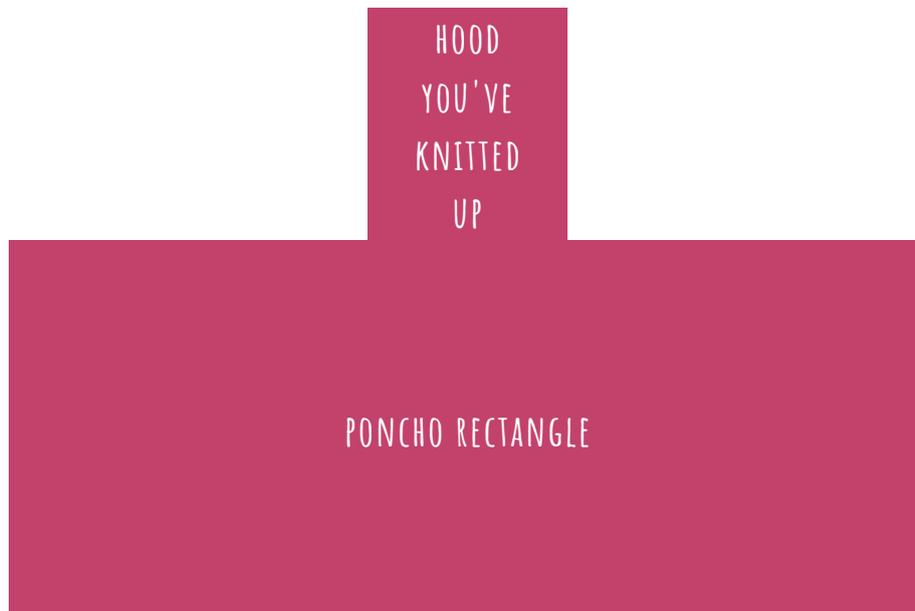


Do what pleases you until the rectangle measures approximately 40cm (forty centimetres).

I dispensed with the ribbing and stocking stitch for the last four rows of my hood and knitted them in garter stitch. This created a ridge that runs down the top of my hood. You can do similar, if you wish to, or just continue with what you're doing until it's time to...

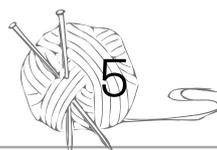
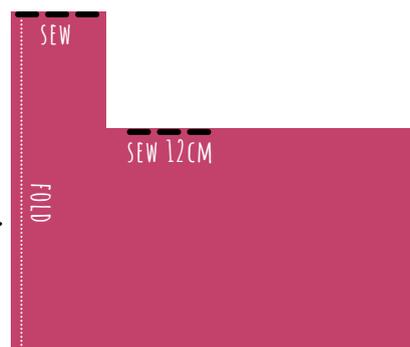
Cast off.

Your garment looks like this now...



PUTTING IT TOGETHER

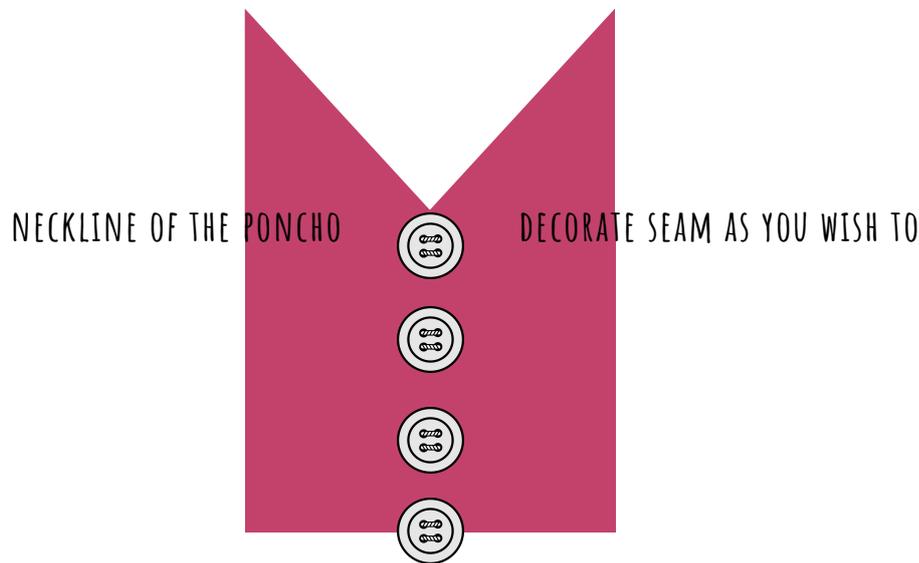
Fold your Easy-Peasy Poncho over at the center, hood included, right sides facing. Sew the poncho edges together for a length of 12cm, beginning approximately 6cm below where you began knitting the hood. Sew the hood together as shown.



Turn the garment right side out. Voila.
Easy, isn't it?

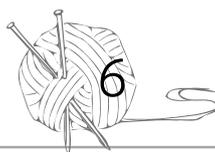
THE FINISHING TOUCH

Finish off your brand spanking new poncho-cape by attaching buttons, or beads, or ribbons, or nothing at all, to the front of the 12cm seam.



And you're good to go. When I wear mine, everyone I see sees my poncho and wants one for themselves. Now you have one too, and they can have one because there's a goofy pattern we can send them. On the last page are pics demonstrating how to wear it. When you put it on, you must remember to pull it down at the back. Be poncho proud!

Made with love & joy xxx TeaShell Michele



PONCHO PUNCH

