

LOPI WAISTCOAT

The real beauty of knitting to felt is that any little hiccups in the knitting will disappear when felted (I love that!) Also don't worry if your stitch numbers are off a little, believe me it all sorts its self out when washed. Once the knitting has been felted and whilst it is still wet it is very pliable and that's when to shape it. If it dries before you get a chance to shape it, just pop it into a basin of warm water, let it sit for a minute, squeeze it out and shape it!

Materials

6mm needles

The M/L waistcoat weighs exactly 200g, meaning you should be able to knit it from 2 discs of Lopi roving if you are using only 1 colour BUT every ones knitting tension is different so...to be on the safe side I am going to say use 3 discs of one colour Lopi roving if you want your waistcoat solid and if you want to add the contrasting colour then 2 of the main colour and 1 of the contrast colour. The L/XL will be the same.

Always take the yarn from the centre of the disc.

Tension

15 stitches and 22 rows per 10cm/4" before felting.

Size

M/L (L/XL)

Once felted I pulled the M/L waistcoat out until it measured 48cm across, it could probably be pulled out to be a wee bit wider than that!

WAISTCOAT BACK

With 1 strand of the main colour and 6mm needles, cast on 100 (120) stitches.

Knit in stocking stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row) for 42 cm ending with a wrong side row.

Armhole

Cast off 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows.

Continue knitting in stocking stitch until the armhole measures 37 cm, ending on a wrong side row.

Shoulders

Cast off 14 (17) stitches, knit 13 (16) stitches and put the remainder of stitches onto a stitch holder (these will be the stitches for the neck and opposite shoulder).

Purl 1 row.

Cast off remaining stitches.

Leave 34 (40) stitches in centre (for the neck) on the holder and put 27 (34) remaining stitches onto a 6mm needle.

Begin on wrong side and at the armhole edge.

Join yarn and cast off 14 (17) stitches, purl to end.

Knit 1 row.

Cast off remaining stitches.

Neck

Put centre 34 (40) stitches onto a 6mm needle, join yarn and cast off.

RIGHT FRONT

With 1 strand of the main colour and 6mm needles, cast on 50 (60) stitches.

Knit in stocking stitch for 42 cm ending with a right side row.

Armhole and neck edge

Cast off 6 stitches, purl to end of row.

Next row

k2tog, knit to end of row.

Work 3 rows.

Repeat these 4 rows until 27 (34) stitches remain.

Continue straight until armhole measures 37cm, ending with a right side row.

Shoulder

Cast off 14 (17) stitches, purl to end of row.

Knit 1 row.

Cast off remaining stitches.

LEFT FRONT

With 1 strand of the main colour and 6mm needles, cast on 50 (60) stitches.

Knit in stocking stitch for 42 cm ending with a wrong side row.

Armhole and neck edge

Cast off 6 stitches, knit to end of row.

Next row

p2tog, purl to end of row.

Work 3 rows.

Repeat these 4 rows until 27 (34) stitches remain.

Continue straight until armhole measures 37cm, ending with a wrong side row.

Shoulder

Cast off 14 (17) stitches, knit to end of row.

purl 1 row.

Cast off remaining stitches.

CONTRASTING FRILL

Back

Pick up 100 (120) stitches along the bottom edge of the back from the wrong side using a 6mm needle.

On the right side knit into every stitch twice.

Purl 1 row.

Cast off

Left and Right Sides

Pick up 50 (60) stitches along the bottom edge of the front from the wrong side using a 6mm needle.

On the right side knit into every stitch twice.

Purl 1 row.

Cast off.

ASSEMBLE THE WAISTCOAT

Using a large needle and a strand of Lopi roving stitch, carefully, along the shoulders and up the side seams of the waistcoat. If the roving breaks just go back a few stitches and re-stitch. Sew in all the ends.

OPTIONAL POCKETS

With 1 strand of main colour and 6mm needles cast on 30 stitches.

Work in stocking stitch for 14cm.

Change to colour B and continue working in stocking stitch until pocket measures 18cm.

BUTTON LOOP

With Colour B and 6mm needles, cast on 3 stitches.

Work in stocking stitch until button loop measures 10cm.

Cast off.

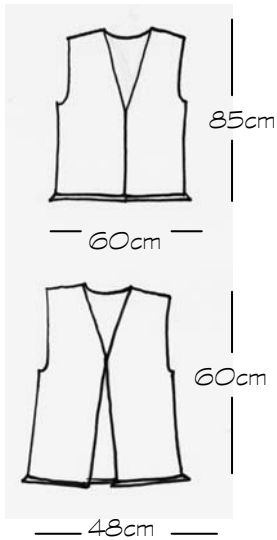
FELTING THE WAISTCOAT

Put the waistcoat, pockets and button loop into your washing machine and add about a half measure of washing powder. Set your machine to a 30° wash (on my machine this lasts for 30mins!). Begin with a gentle wash if you are unsure.

DRYING THE WAISTCOAT

Once you are happy with the texture and size of the waistcoat, let it dry naturally.

Measurements for the M/L size before felting



Every washing machine is different so my measurement is just a guide.

Measurements after 30° / 30min wash washing.
You can custom fit this waistcoat to fit you by putting it on whilst it is still wet.

Then pull it into shape to fit you.

You can be very rough with it so really tug it.
I made mine flare out a little more at the bottom so that the front edges do not meet.

Measurements for the L/XL size before felting are 72cm wide but the length is the same 85cm.

FINISHING THE WAISTCOAT

Once it is dry stitch on the button and button loop with a co-ordinating yarn or thread
Stitch on the pockets using a co-ordinating yarn.

This waistcoat pattern is very simple and could therefore be adapted to suit your own style,

Make it longer and perhaps leave slits at the sides.

Make it shorter, more of a cropped shrug.

Make it striped or patterned.

Edge the whole waistcoat with a contrast colour.

Make the frill much longer.

Add a fancy edge such a picot.

Needle felt onto the fabric BEFORE it is put into the washing machine.

Make a felted button for the closure.

twist fibre craft studio
88 High Street, Newburgh KY14 6AQ
01337 842843
www.twistfibrecraft.co.uk
enquiries@twistfibrecraft.co.uk