

# Conservative (but Pretty) Dad Vest for Ann's Knitting Group

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I made this vest on the fly for my dad this Christmas. This is a "quick and dirty" version of the pattern for your personal use. Please double-check the numbers to guarantee success. At this juncture, it has not been test-knit or tech-edited. I haven't even re-read it. Please let me know if you find errors (juliatrice@yahoo.com), and I will do the same.



*Santa's Little Helper, Townes*

## Tricks for Re-sizing

I designed this vest in one size to fit my dad, who wears a size 44" in his shirts. The vest measures 45" in circumference at the chest and is 23" in length. It measures 13.5" from hem to armholes, and the armholes themselves are 9.5" tall. Below is a chart of "standard" measurements to help you in your calculations. If you have a guy (gal) who is "off the charts" look for the pattern in the numbers. You should be able to extrapolate and get a good approximation. For best results, measure

your man (woman), or, even better, a vest that fits him (her) the way that he (she) likes it. In fact, *definitely* measure and make a schematic of a vest that he (she) likes!

### “Standard” Measurements

To Fit Shirt Size	Chest	Total Length	Hem to Armscye	Hem to V-Neck	Armscye Height
38"	39"	22.5"	13.25"	13.75"	9.25"
40"	41"	22.5"	13.25"	13.75"	9.25"
42"	43"	23"	13.5"	14"	9.5"
44"	45"	23"	13.5"	14"	9.5"
46"	47"	23.5"	13.75"	14.25"	9.75"
48"	49"	23.5"	13.75"	14.25"	9.75"
50"	50"	24"	14"	14.5"	10"

### Skill Level

Advanced Beginner

### Necessary Skills

Basic Cast On

Knit & Purl

Increasing & Decreasing

Picking Up and Knitting along an Edge

Three-needle Bind-Off & Basic Bind-Off

### Yarn

5 skeins of Grignasco Tango (204)  
(50% New Wool, 25% Alpaca, 25% Viscose)  
192 yards per 50 grams

*To approximate yardage needed for other sizes, add or subtract 20% for each size up or down – this will be a generous estimate. Grignasco Tango is completely identical to Rowan Felted tweed – look, composition, feel, fiber content – everything. This is a fine substitute, but the Tango is much less expensive.*

### Needles

US 4 (3.5mm) needles

### Notions

darning needle  
3-5 stitch holders

### Gauge

23 sts and 35 rows over 4" in Stst

## **PATTERN**

### **BACK**

CO 130 sts and work 1.5" in \*k2, p2\* rib. On the next RS row, switch to Stst. Work in Stst until body measures 13.5," ending after a WS row.

#### Shape Armscyes

BO 9 sts at the beginning of next 2 rows. (112 sts remain).

On the next 16 rows (RS and WS) dec 1 st at each end of row. (80 sts remain). Piece should measure about 14" wide.

Work in Stst without shaping until body measures 22.5".

#### Shape Shoulders

On the next RS row, knit 26 sts, BO 28 center sts, knit 26 sts.

Work each shoulder separately, reversing shaping. For right shoulder:

Row 1: (WS) BO 6 sts, purl to end.

Row 2: (RS) BO 3 sts, k to end.

Repeat these two rows. 8 sts remain. Place these 8 live sts on a stitch holder.



### **FRONT**

Work as for back, except for V-neck and shoulder shaping.

You will begin working the V-neck shaping as follows AT THE SAME TIME as the armscye shaping – don't forget!!! Also note that after the V-Neck is started you will only do armscye shaping on the armscye side rather than at each end.

#### V-Neck Shaping

When body measure 14", on the next RS row, knit to the 2 center sts, place these 2 sts on a st holder, knit to end. Work each side separately, reversing shaping. On the next WS row, dec 1 st on V-neck edge. Dec 1 st at V-neck edge every third row for 20 rows total. 20 sts remain on each

side. Continue without shaping in Stst until 3 rows below the point where the back ends.

Row 1: (RS) BO 3 sts, k to end.

Row 2: (WS) BO 6 sts, purl to end.

Row 3: (RS) BO 3 sts, k to end.

8 sts remain. Place these 8 live sts on a stitch holder.

## **FINISHING**

### Shoulders

With right sides facing one, "seam" shoulders together using three-needle bind-off method, but binding off in purl rather than knit stitch (which is conventional).

### Blocking

Weave in ends on both pieces and block to measurements. Do not block ribbing.

### Side Seams

Seam sides using mattress stitch.

### V-neck

Beginning at the top of either shoulder, pick up 166 sts along the neckline, picking up the 2 live sts on the stitch holder when you reach them for a total of 168 sts. Work the neckline in \*k2, p2\* rib, planning ahead so that the two center sts are k sts with 1 p st on either side of them (i.e. \*k2, p2\* k2, p1, k2 (held sts), p1, \*k2, p2\*).

Continue in \*k2, p2\* pattern as established for 8 rounds, decreasing as follows:

Work in established pattern until 2 sts before held sts, k2tog, k2, ssk, work as established.

Bind off in pattern, still working center k2tog, k2, ssk into the bind-off.

### Armholes (2 alike)

Pick up 156 sts evenly around armholes and work in \*k2, p2\* rib for 8 rounds, then bind off!

Gift to the conservative (but pretty!) man (or woman) in your life.