

Selma Cape

an A-lined cape to warm you up and comfort your heart in chilly days

YARN: Rowan Classic Alpaca Soft, 50% alpaca, 50% cotton, 55 m (60 yds) / 50 g ball, 19 balls

OPTIONS: Rowan Cocoon (about 9-10 balls), OnLine Linie 208 Nature Wool (about 9 balls)

NEEDLES: 6 mm / 100 cm (US 10 / 40 in) (probably 7 mm for Cocoon and Nature Wool) circular, for narrow buttonband opt. for 6 mm dpns or shorter circulars for comfort

OTHER: 4 large buttons, thinner yarn for fastening the buttons (natural fiber), 2 markers

GAUGE: 12-13 sts and 16-17 rows stocking stitch for 10 cm (4 in)

CONSTRUCTION AND SIZING:

This cape is very untraditionally constructed: it is actually one large rectangular piece. The corners are folded down and the long sides of the rectangle meet at the front. Sleeve openings are just slits made vertically towards knitting direction, the body is made in three

separate sections during the sleeve openings and joined together again after them. When folding the garment to position described above, the sleeve slits form a small cap to the shoulders, the bottom of the slit stretches and opens below the arm and helps the garment to drape better. Attached sleeves are lightly shaped to fit better to this opening when it is in its stretched state. Bottom ribbing stitches are picked up from the edge, the button band is knitted separate and sewn on. Because there is no shaping for neck opening, the neck band will climb up from back of your neck and the garment will have some folds around the neck. This effect can be reduced by folding the neck band down when wearing the garment.

Because of the construction you don't have to be too careful to get the exact gauge. There is actually three measurements to watch after: garment length before sleeve openings (A), length of the sleeve openings (B) and length of the whole garment (C). The last one can be even adjusted to taste, but as you can see from the drawings, it does not change the front length of the garment. Garment length before sleeve openings adjusts the cape width from front. When taking measurements while knitting, stretch the garment lightly - the heavily cabled knit gives quite a lot when steamed or blocked. See the charts about the structure on next page.

Two size options are provided: XS-M (bust sizes 80-92 cm, 31-36 in) (measurements and sts amounts in brackets in instructions) and M-XL (92-110 cm, 31-43 in), NOTE: the former is not test knitted. Pattern is probably very easy to adjust even larger sizes by adding couple of extra cables for the body. Very petite knitters might opt knitting the body smaller, leaving a pair of the narrowest cables away (the front piece will be shorter, too). The suggested sizes have the same amount of cables, though. When blocking the garment the size can be adjusted, you can also adjust the size by increasing or decreasing the ribbing width slightly. If your bust is on large side, opt for couple of extra cm to get some length to front.

Although lovely and soft the yarn used is probably not the best option for this pattern. The great drape and lighter overall feel of the two yarns mentioned as options would certainly be an improvement and the mouldability of 100% wool would be a big plus for this type of garment.



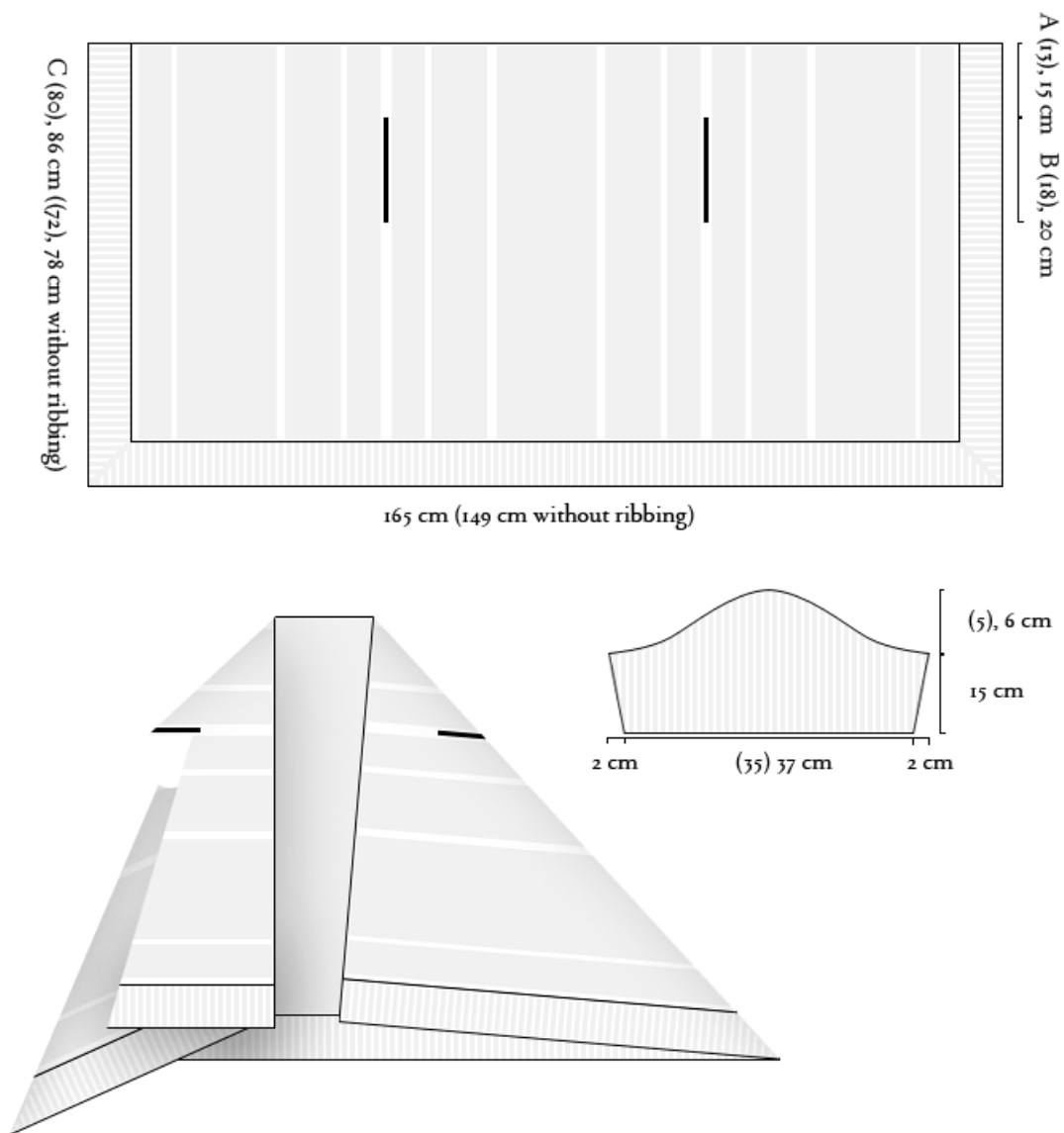
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CONSTRUCTION CHARTS AND MEASUREMENTS:



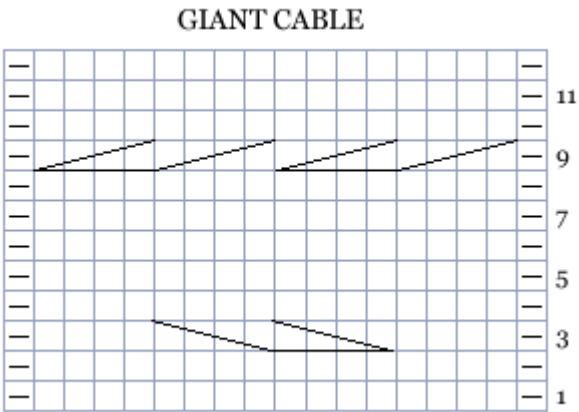
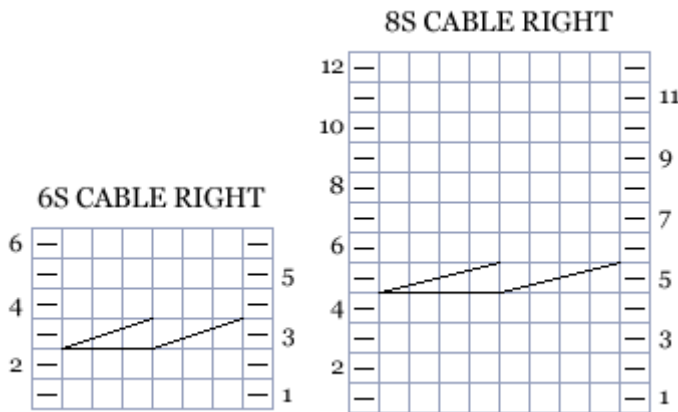
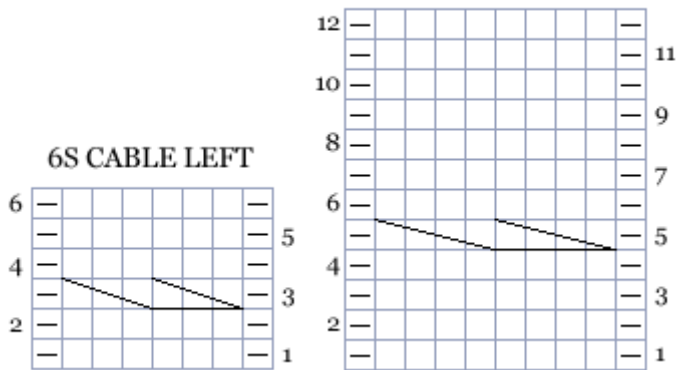
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CABLE CHARTS:




- Knit on the RS, purl on the WS
- Purl on the RS, knit on the WS

 Cross 6 sts to the right: slide 3 sts to the cable needle and hold in back of the work, knit 3, knit 3 from the cable needle.

 Cross 6 sts to the left: slide 3 sts to the cable needle and hold in front of the work, knit 3, knit 3 from the cable needle.

 Cross 8 sts to the right: slide 4 sts to the cable needle and hold in back of the work, knit 4, knit 4 from the cable needle.

 Cross 8 sts to the left: slide 4 sts to the cable needle and hold in front of the work, knit 4, knit 4 from the cable needle.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Body

Cast on 182 s

Setup row:

p1, 6S CABLE LEFT,
 GIANT CABLE,
 p1, k2, p1, 8S CABLE RIGHT,
 p1, k1, p1, 6S CABLE LEFT,
 p1, k1 (first sleeve opening comes here later, pm if you want), p1, k1, p1, 6S CABLE RIGHT,
 p1, k1, p1, 8S CABLE RIGHT,
 p1, k2, p1
 GIANT CABLE (center of back)
 p1, k2, p1,
 8S CABLE LEFT, p1, k1, p1,
 6S CABLE LEFT, p1, k1, p1 (second sleeve opening comes here later, pm if you want), k1, p1,
 6S CABLE RIGHT, p1, k1, p1,
 8S CABLE LEFT, p1, k2, p1,
 GIANT CABLE,
 6S CABLE RIGHT, p1

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After setup row knit cables as stated in charts, stitches in between as they are (knitted stitch purled in back rows, purled stitch knitted in back rows) until piece measures (13), 15 cm ((5), 6 in).

Now it's time to divide the knit to sections for armholes.

Knit first 54 stitches cable texture, put rest of the stitches on holder 1. With 54 stitches knit cable texture (18), 20 cm ((7), 8 in) (piece measures (31), 35 cm ((12), 14 in) from the beginning) ending WS row. Put these stitches on holder 2.

From holder 1 pick and knit following 74 stitches (center stitches) and knit cable texture until the section measures 18, 20 cm ((7), 8 in) (piece measures (31), 35 cm ((12), 14 in) from the beginning) ending WS row. Add these stitches to holder 2.

Knit cable texture with the remaining 54 stitches from holder 1 until this section too measures 18, 20 cm ((7), 8 in) (piece measures (31), 35 cm ((12), 14 in) from the beginning) ending WS row.

Continue knitting cable texture from the outmost right sts, RS row, knit separate sections together. When piece measures (72), 78 cm ((28.5), 31 in) leave the sts on hold.

Ribbing

From the left panel edge from the RS pick up and knit (75), 81 sts, PM. From the corner pick up and knit additional 1 st. Knit the following 182 sts from hold and decrease 17 sts (you can decrease evenly or align the decreases to cable folds) = 165 sts. PM, pick and knit 1 st from the corner and 75, 81 sts from the left side.

Set up the ribbing: *k1, p1*, repeat ** until there is 1 st left, k1

(k or p, continuing the ribbing), slide the marker, k1, M1 (by knitting, if next sts is p, by purling if next sts is k), continue the ribbing to the next marker. M1 (k or p, continuing the ribbing), slide the marker, k1, M1 (by knitting, if next sts is p, by purling if next sts is k), continue the ribbing to the end.

Wrong side rows: Knit the ribbing stitch, in the corners be careful and knit the new stitches as they are. The corner stitch (stitch before marker on WS) is always purled in WS.

See the first detail shot this page to get a clear image of ribbed corner.

Continue until the ribbing measures 7,5 cm. BO.

Button band

Note: Adjust the button band width to suit your buttons - but note that too narrow buttonband does not act nice if you want to fold it down for a narrow collar. The length of the button band should be few centimeters less than the length of the large side of the rectangular piece, now including the ribbing. If you need to adjust the length an/or buttonhole places measure that side length, subtract 7-10 cm, divide the result by two = length of the half buttonband. The first buttonhole place is about length of the half buttonband + 27 cm. Distribute the other buttonholes evenly to the rest of the length. Use either horizontal (easier to make) or vertical buttonholes according to your taste, adjust the buttonhole size to your buttons. When making vertical buttonholes measure from the top of the buttonhole to the top of the next buttonhole to get them distributed right.

See the second detail shot to get the idea how the buttonband looks attached.



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The basic recipe for button band: Cast on 10 sts (with dpn:s). Knit garter stitch with chain edges: at beginning of every row, with yarn in front (as if to purl), slip 1 stitch, bring yarn to the back and knit to the end of row. Knit 106 cm (42 in), buttonhole, 12 cm (5 in), buttonhole, 12 cm (5 in), buttonhole, 12 cm (5 in), buttonhole 16 cm (6 in). The length of the button band is now 158 cm (63 in). BO.

Buttonhole (vertical, for large buttons): Divide the work in 2 pieces, work 2 to 4 rounds one piece at a time for both pieces (continuing the chain edges at the outer borders), join. This leaves 2 yarn ends to weave in - they can be also used to fine tune the buttonhole size.

Buttonhole (horizontal, for large buttons): BO 2-4 centre stitches. On the next round cast on 2-4 sts (same number you bound off) using for example backward loop method, over the BO sts.

Sleeves

Stitch pattern: RND 1 (RS) knit, RND 2 (WS) *k1, p1*, repeat ** to end, repeat rnds 1 & 2.

Cast on (44) 47 sts.

Begin stitch pattern. On the 5 th, 11 th and 17 th rows inc 1 on both sides of the knit, continuing the stitch pattern with the new sts = (50) 53 sts. Knit sts pattern until piece measures 15 cm.

BO 8 sts on the beginning of the next round. BO another 8 sts on the beginning of the next round. Knit (2) 4 rounds of sts pattern binding off one sts on the beginning of both. Knit 2 rounds of the stitch pattern binding off 4 sts in beginning of both. BO all the rest (24) 25 sts.

FINISHING:

Attach the button band to the long edge of the rectangle (edge without the rib) stretching it lightly to measure (basting it on place first if necessary) by using backstitch. When sewing keep turning the chain edge nicely to display and be careful to set the band straight, especially when sewing over cables. Sew the sleeve seams and attach the sleeves by placing the sleeve seam 11-12 cm from the front of the sleeve slit. Stretch the sleeve lightly underarm and try to keep it unstretched from the top, don't ruche it. This should be possible although the measurements in charts seem to be close, but that opening really tends to stretch - and it should. Weave in ends. Attach the buttons.

For wool yarn I recommend wet blocking to desired measurements. For cotton-alpaca mix try blocking under damp towels or light steaming (this material is VERY slow to dry). When the garment is almost dry set it nicely to well shaped heavy coat hangar (or dress form if you have one) and let it set to shape.

Wear and enjoy!



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