



*This is Knit with...*

<b>Yarn</b>	4(4, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7) balls of Debbie Bliss Cathay 50% cotton, 35% viscose microfibre, 15% silk 100m per 50g ball
<b>Needles &amp; Notions</b>	4mm (or size needed to get gauge) circular needles, in a length that allows for knitting in the round at your smallest point, i.e., your waist. Stitch Markers Stitch Holder
<b>Gauge</b>	20 sts and 25 rows to 10 cm / 4in, for both knitting in the round and flat. If you need to, change needle sizes so you get the same gauge for both kinds of knitting.
<b>Measurements</b>	Finished bust dimensions 61[71, 81, 91, 102, 112] cm to fit 76[86, 96.5, 106.5, 117, 127] cm bust

**PATTERN NOTES:**

This halter is the perfect summer top. The cotton blend keeps you cool, while the halter shape shows off tanned shoulders. The candlelight lace panel on the front is adapted from the candlelight #2 pattern in Barbara Walker's 2nd Treasury of Knitting Patterns. It makes a perfect introduction to lace knitting and chart reading, and the detail gives the halter that little bit of extra interest. It's light and airy for day, but the slight shine from the silk content in the yarn makes it appropriate for evening as well. The straps can be threaded through eyelets on the back border, sewn onto the back, or fastened with some pretty clips, which would make it adjustable as well.

So as to catch the elusive Irish summer, this top is designed to be a quick knit. If the news on Wednesday says the weekend will be sunny, you can be strolling around town in it on Saturday. The top is mostly worked in the round, with no seaming and few ends to weave in.

Good yarn substitutes would be bamboo yarns (e.g., RYC Bamboo Soft), which would make a slinky, drapery top, and cotton yarns and blends. Knitting this in silk would turn it into a fancy top for a night out. Linen would also work well, and would give a more casual look.

~ *Tips for ensuring a good fit and a list of the abbreviations used are at the end of the pattern.* ~



## INSTRUCTIONS:

For the side slits, the front and back are knit separately, working back and forth, then joined in the round for the rest of the body.

**Cast on** 69[79, 89, 99, 111, 121] sts, work in seed stitch for five rows.

Work next seven rows in st. st., but keep five sts on either side of the work in seed st as a border.

Break yarn and put sts on holder. Work a second hem exactly like the first.

Making sure the right side of both halves are facing the same way, **join the two halves** to work in the rnd, putting a marker at each side "seam". 138[158, 178, 198, 222, 242] sts. Work two rnds in st. st. (no more seed st border).

**Dec. rnd:** \*knit to two sts before marker, ssk, sl m, k1, k2tog, repeat from \* This makes a 4 st dec.

Work dec rnd every 4[5, 5, 6, 6, 6] rnds four times. 122[142, 162, 182, 206, 226] sts. Continue in st. st. until work measures 15.5[16, 16.5, 17, 18, 18.5] cm.

Decide which side you want to be the front and which the back. Marker 1 starts the sts for the front of the top and is the start of rnd.

**Body shaping rnd:** knit to 2 sts before marker 1, ssk, sl m, k1, m1, knit to 1 st before second marker, m1, k1, sl m, k2tog. There is no change in stitch count.

Work body shaping rnd. every 5[5, 5, 5, 6, 7] rnds 7[7, 8, 8, 7, 7] times. You will have 75[85, 97, 107, 117, 127] sts for the front and 47[57, 65, 75, 89, 99] sts for the back.

Continue in st. st. until work measures 30[32, 33, 35, 36, 38] cm.

Next, knit the border for the back and start front halter shaping:

Rnd 1: k, p, k, p, k, ssk, knit to 7 sts before second marker, k2tog, (k, p) to end of round.

Rnd 2: p, k, p, k, p, knit to 5 sts before second marker, (p, k) to end of round.

Rnd 3: same as rnd 1.

Rnd 4: same as rnd 2.

Rnd 5: same as rnd 1.

Rnd 6: p, k, p, k, p, knit to 5 sts before second marker, p, k, p, k, p, bind off all stitches for the back.

If you want to have holes for the straps to go through (as in the picture), then put four evenly spaced (yo, k2tog) eyelets on the row before bind-off for the back.

You will now work the front of the halter back and forth.

### Set up rows:

RS: k, p, k, p, k, ssk, k17[22, 28, 33, 38, 43], pm, k21, pm, k17[22, 28, 33, 38, 43], k2tog, k, p, k, p, k.

WS: k, p, k, p, k, purl to last five sts, k, p, k, p, k.

From now on, on **every row**, knit the first five sts in seed st. for the border

On **every RS row**, work "Raglan" style decreases: work the seed st border, ssk, work in pattern to last seven sts, k2tog, seed st. border. On **every WS row**, purl all sts except for the seed st border.

### At the same time, knit lace panel.

The 21 centre sts between the markers make up the panel over which you will work the candlelight lace pattern. Follow the chart or the line-by-line instructions above for these 21 sts (all WS rows are purled).

After the 36 lace pattern rows, work plain rows (i.e., with seed st borders, "raglan" dec. and plain st. st. centre) until you reach the length you want the halter to be.

### For hem and casing:

On the next WS row, knit all sts. Work 4 rows in st. st. Transfer all sts to holder.

The strap is a 3-stitch i-cord, and is threaded through the hem/casing of the halter. Knit an i-cord long enough to go through the casing, over your shoulders and down to the back of your halter. Try it on to make sure!

### Finishing:

Fold the hem along the turning row, and whip stitch the live hem sts to the purl bumps on the wrong side of the halter. Weave in ends.

Wash and block to measurements.

Thread i-cord through the casing and attach the ends to the back of the halter. Keep in mind the cord may stretch with time, so expect to have to adjust it after a few wearings.

## TIPS FOR ENSURING A GOOD FIT:

The halter shape has lots of give. If you're in between sizes, knit the smaller one.

If your bust is larger than a C cup or so, omit the decreases in the body shaping.

### E.g. Instead of:

**Body shaping rnd:** knit to 2 sts before marker 1, ssk, sl m, k1, m1, knit to 1 st before second marker, m1, k1, sl m, k2tog. There is no change in stitch count.

### Use:

**Body shaping rnd:** knit to marker 1, sl m, m1, knit to second marker, m1, sl m, knit rest of rnd. This makes a 2 st increase.

This will give you a bit more give in the chest area of the garment.

If you want the halter neckline higher, or need many more rows than the lace pattern's 36 to cover you from armpit to neckline, you may want to start the lace panel higher up on the halter front, so that it is more centred on your chest. After you bind off the back sts, knit a few "plain" halter rows before you start the lace pattern.

If you are not blessed in either the height or chest department, you may want to work a steeper halter decrease. Otherwise, when you've knit up to the neckline height you prefer, you may still have lots of stitches on the needles, and therefore a wide halter.

To do steeper decreases, replace every other "ssk" with "sssk" and every other "k2tog" with "k3tog" on the halter shaping rows:

### E.g. Instead of:

**On every RS row, work "Raglan"-style decreases: work the seed st. border, ssk, work in pattern to last seven sts, k2tog, seed st. border.**

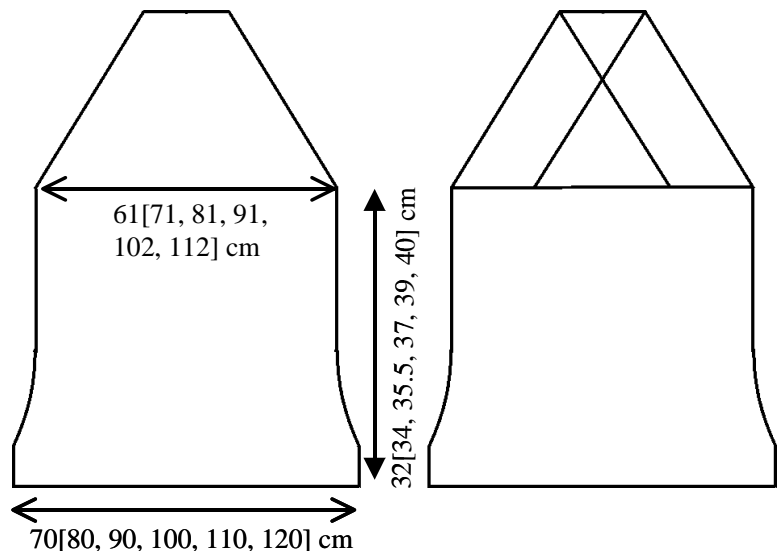
### Use:

**RS 1: work the seed st. border, ssk, work in pattern to last eight sts, k3tog, seed st. border**

**RS 2: work seed st. border, sssk, work in pattern to last seven sts, k2tog, seed st. border**

**Repeat these two right side rows for all of the halter front.**

This gives you 3 decreased sts per two rows (or 1.5 decreased sts per row), instead of the original 1 decreased st per row.



## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

dec. = decrease  
inc. = increase  
k = knit  
k2tog = knit two together  
p = purl  
pm = place marker  
rnd / rnds = round / rounds  
RS = right side

sl m = slip marker (move marker from right needle to left needle)  
ssk = slip, slip, knit (slip 1 stitch knit-wise, slip 2<sup>nd</sup> stitch knit-wise, knit both stitches through the back loop)  
st. st. = stockinette stitch  
st / sts = stitch / stitches  
WS = wrong side

*Any problems with the pattern?* Don't hesitate to email me at [nwpalladium \[at\] hotmail \[dot\] com](mailto:nwpalladium@hotmail.com)

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