All my best friends are having babies. Since none of them knit, I wanted to send them something sweet and hand knit from me to welcome their new little ones.

I created this pattern after spending hours surfing the net, the LYS and my own collection of patterns and couldn't find anything that was simple enough to make quickly, but also a very nice gift for friends. So many of the knitting patterns are made specifically for girls or boys – and in both cases, we did not know the sex of the baby ahead of time. I wanted a sweater and hat that was more modern looking than some of the patterns available, but still nice and cozy for baby. I have several friends just starting their families and by the looks of things I will be knitting plenty more of these. I hope you will too!

Fits average sized newborn baby to 3 months.

Gauge: 20 stitches and 28 rows = 4" with US 4 (3.5 mm) Needles

Yarn: Light worsted weight or DK yarn that knits to gauge – 320 m

This model was made using 2 ½ skeins of Bravo Color by Schachenmayr Sweater: 310 m

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Equipment:

US 5 (4 mm) Double pointed needles US 5 (4 mm) Straight or Circular Needle Stitch Holders (2) Tapestry needle for sewing garment together

Sweater Pattern:

Back

· Using US 5 needles - cast on 60 sts.

· Work in K2, P2 ribbing for 1 ½"

· Continue in stockinette stitch for a total of 7"

Shape Armholes

· Bind off 5 sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows (50 sts remain)

· Continue in pattern until armhole measures 4 ½"

Shoulder Shaping

· Bind off 8 sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows. (34 sts remain)

· Place stitches on stitch holder

Front

· Work as for back until armhole measures 3"

Neck Shaping

· (RS) K 17 sts, K2tog, K1, Turn

· (WS) Purl across work · Repeat neck edge decreases one stitch from the neck edge until 15 sts remain.

· (RS) Bind off 8 sts, K to end of row

· (WS) Bind off remaining 7 sts

· Place middle 10 sts on stitch holder and complete the neck shaping noted above for the left side of the sweater. Use SSK as decrease instead of K2tog to make a nice collar.

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Sleeves (Make 2)

· Cast on 40 sts

· Work in K2, P2 ribbing for 1 ½"

· Continue in stockinette stitch while making the following increases – Increase 1 st at each end of every 6th row until 48 stitches are on your needle. (Complete the increases one or 2 stitches into the row to give yourself a clean edge to seam.)

· Continue until the arm measures 6 ½". · Bind off all stitches.

Piecing Together the Sweater

· Sew together the shoulder seams

· With US 5 DPN's pick up 80 sts along the neck edge (this will include the 34 sts from the back and 10 sts from the front that are on stitch holders)

· Work sweater in K2, P2 ribbing for 1 ½"

· Cast off neck loosely knitwise.

· Sew side and sleeve seams.

Pockets (optional) – Make 2

· Cast on 18 sts · Knit in stockinette stitch for 2"

· Work in K2, P2 ribbing for 1 ½ inches. (note: you will end row with K2)

· Bind off knitwise.

· Pin the pockets to the sweater in the desired areas. Feel free to put one on the front and one on the sleeve for something a little different

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Fits average sized newborn baby to 3 months.

Gauge: 20 stitches and 28 rows = 4" with US 4 (3.5 mm) Needles

Yarn: Light worsted weight or DK yarn that knits to gauge – 100 m

Hat Pattern:

· Cast on 76 sts with US 5 DPNs

· Work in K2, P2 ribbing for 1½"

· Continue in stockinette stitch until the piece measures 4"

Begin Decreases

· * K2, K2tog * - repeat from * to * to end of row (57 sts remaining)

· Knit 3 rows even

· * K1, K2tog * - repeat from * to * to end of row (38 sts remaining)

· Knit 3 rows even

· K2tog across row (19 sts remaining)

· Knit 3 rows even

Finish top of hat

· You will now have 19 sts on your DPNs.

· K2tog, K2 – now slide the 3 stitches to the other end of your DPN and knit again. Continue in this manner and you will create an I-Cord. (You can Google I-Cord if these instructions are not clear). Make the I-Cord 4" long. Cut the yarn 5" long and pull thru the 3 stitches tying them off. · Now you will move to the next 3 sts on your needles and repeat this process. Continue this action with all the stitches left on the needles – making the final I-Cord 6" long.

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· This will produce 6 I-Cords in the end. Sew in all loose pieces of yarn.

· Now gather all the I-Cords together and with the longest of the six, tie them up making a little sprouting of I-Cord out the top of the hat.

· Weave in ends from cast on and you are finished!

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