

# LATTES & LLAMAS PRESENTS

# *Natural 20 Sweater*

THE 2024 GEEK-A-LONG



*The Geek-A-Long (GAL) supports Child's Play Charity, which provides games and consoles to children in hospitals and domestic violence shelters. We encourage GAL participants to donate to CP Charity via our [sanctioned widget](#) in lieu of paying for this pattern. No donation is too small!*



## Yarn

Sport or DK weight yarn in 2 sharply contrasting colors. Sample is knit in Lattes & Llamas [Geek-A-Long Yarn](#) (100 grams/ 328 yards/ 296 meters) in Ouroboros (pale green) for CC and Evergreen Moonbeam (dark green) for MC.

CC: 990(1125, 1250, 1350) **1475(1575, 1700, 1800)**

1925(2025, 2150, 2250) yards

MC: 1100(1250, 1375, 1500) **1625(1750, 1875, 2000)**

2125(2250, 2375, 2500) yards

Note that yardage is estimated, includes the yardage required for knitting the swatch, and may vary depending on yarn used, gauge variations, or modifications.

When choosing your yarn, make sure MC contrasts strongly with CC. We recommend taking a photograph of the yarns together and then filtering it to black and white to see if they contrast strongly enough.

## Needles

US 5.0 / 3.75 mm and US 6 / 4.00 mm 40” circular needles **or size needed to obtain gauge**. Note that the majority of the sweater will be worked in the round and if working the smallest/largest sizes you may wish to choose a different length of circular needle to best accommodate your sweater size. The sleeves will also be worked in the round and can be worked on your body needles using a magic loop technique, or you can substitute DPNs or 10” circular needles at your preference.

## Notions

Stitch Markers; Tapestry Needle; Tape Measure; Waste yarn for holding sts (we recommend using waste yarn in a different color than your sweater for holding sts).

**Optional:** Fabric for lining the inside of the sweater’s pockets if desired.

**Optional:** Buttons (size and quantity are up to you, but ½”- ¾” buttons and 8-10 total buttons are recommended if you choose to use buttons. The sample was worked without the use of buttons, but instructions will be included for working button holes if desired. The gauge swatch calls for 4-5 buttons, however these are also optional.

## Steek Specific Notions

Waste yarn; fusible interfacing tape (we recommend “Heat-n-Bond Soft Stretch”); 3 yards ½” double fold bias tape in a color that compliments or matches your sweater colors.

## Gauge

24 sts and 30 rows = 4” / 10 cm in stranded colorwork, knit in the round with larger sized needles and blocked. See gauge swatch directions on page 4.

## Sizing

Size 1(2, 3, 4) **5(6, 7, 8)** 9(10, 11, 12) has a 33(36.5, 40, 43) **46.5(50, 53, 56.5)** 60(63, 66.5, 70) inch bust circumference, blocked. Note that this represents the measurements of the actual sweater, and you should choose a size that incorporates your desired amount of ease. Length of the body of the sweater and sleeves are customizable.

## Abbreviation Key

BO	bind off
BOR	beginning of the rnd
CC	contrast color
CO	cast on
K	knit
Kfb	Increase: Knit into front loop and back loop of the same st. 1 st increased
K2Tog	knit 2 sts together
M	marker
MC	main color
P	purl
P2Tog	purl 2 sts together
PM	place marker
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
sl	slip
st(s)	stitch(es)
SSK	Slip Slip Knit: Sl 1 st knitwise, sl second st knitwise, move these 2 sts back to LHN purlwise, K2Tog through the back loop. 1 st decreased
SM	slip marker
WS	wrong side



# History of the Geek-A-Long

First imagined in the Winter of 2013, the Geek-A-Long (GAL) was born from unrestrained idealism and way too much coffee. The idea was ridiculous: Release a new pattern every week all year, based on pop-culture nerdiness. At the end of the year, we would join 48 double-sided squares together to make a massive blanket. Our Fandom Opus would be sent to the Child's Play Charity Dinner Auction in Seattle, and the proceeds of the sale would go towards providing video games and other entertainment to children in hospitals and domestic violence shelters.

When Megan-Anne cast on that first square, she had no idea what the GAL would turn into. Seven years, seven blankets, and nearly 300 squares later, the Geek-A-Long has grown far beyond us. The community has grown each year and based on our square download statistics there are GAL knitters in every corner of the world. Your generosity is astounding. The GAL community has raised over \$10,000 for Child's play with individual donations and proceeds raised from the sale of the auctioned blankets.

We wanted to do something to make 2020 memorable. Admittedly, that decision was made in 2019, and 2020 doesn't need help standing out. Still, we wanted to shake things up. When Megan-Anne finished knitting that first blanket in 2014, we never imagined we'd still be making them in 2020. We are blown away by how much love and support the project has gotten and couldn't have predicted it. We want you to see [Eight Bit](#), [On Board](#), and now this sweater for what they are: a love letter from us to the entire GAL community.



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All rights reserved. You may not sell, redistribute, or publish this pattern. This pattern is for personal use only. However, if you wish to sell your socks or an item made using this pattern for the benefit of Child's Play Charity, please follow the guidelines set forth by CP Charity to ensure that 100% of the proceeds go to CP Charity. If you use this color chart in one of your designs and wish to share it with others, it must be free and Lattes & Llamas must be given appropriate credit along with a link to our website and the [Child's Play Charity Widget](#).



# Gauge Swatch

This is a functional gauge swatch, which means that not only will you be able to accurately assess your gauge while being certain that the colorways contrast strongly enough, but you will walk away with a cute little sweater/cozy for your favorite water-bottle or French Press or Cold Brew coffee maker. Importantly, this gauge swatch is designed to help you practice steeking before you get to the sweater. If you've never steeked before, or are just looking for a chance to practice the technique, this is a great low-stakes way to do so. Check out the Lattes & Llamas 6/9/24 blog post for a complete steeking tutorial.

## HEM

With **smaller** needles and CC, Cast on 60 sts using your favorite long tail cast on.

**Rows 1-6:** K all sts.

**Set Up:** With CC, cast on 5 sts. Join MC and K across the 5 sts just worked, then to the end of the row. 65 sts. Join to work in the round, and place a marker to indicate BoR.

## COLORWORK

**Rnd 1:** Change to larger needles. K1 with MC, K1 with CC, K1 with MC, K1 with CC, K1 with MC. Place marker. Repeat the NATURAL 20 chart 3 times to end.

**Rnds 2-40:** K across the first 5 sts of every round by alternating MC and CC as established in rnd 1. Repeat the chart 3 times to end until all rows of the chart are complete.

**Rnds 41-45:** Work as established in prior rounds, working rows 1-5 of the chart.

## FINISHING

**Set Up:** Break MC and remove the BoR marker. With CC, bind off across the next 5 sts, then remove the marker. Change to smaller needles and K all sts to end. Turn.

**Next 5 rows:** K all sts across turning at the end of each row (note that you are no longer working in the

round). After completing the last of the 5 rows, bind off using your favorite stretchy bind off.

Block the piece gently, and once the piece is fully dry, steek along the center stitch of the 5 steek sts. (tutorial available [HERE](#)).

## BUTTON BAND

**Set Up:** With CC, smaller needles and the right side facing you, pick up and knit 5 sts along the edge of the hem, then 47 sts along the steeked edge, then 5 sts along the top hem. 57 sts.

**Row 1 (Wrong Side):** [K1, K2tog, K1, P2] to last 3 sts. K3. 48 sts.

**Row 2 (Right Side):** K all sts across.

**Row 3 (Wrong Side):** [K3, slip 2 with yarn in front] to last 3 sts. K3.

**Repeat rows 2-3 three times more, or to desired length.**

**Button Holes:** You can opt to skip the button holes and work both sides of the piece in the simple ribbing created by rows 2-3 if desired. This allows you to use the piece flat or to add some ties to each side instead of buttons. If skipping the button holes, do not work rows 4-5.

**Row 4 (Right Side):** [K8, BO2] repeat to last 8 sts. K8.

**Row 5 (Wrong Side):** [K3, Sl2 with yarn in front, K3, CO2] to last 8, K3, Sl2with yarn in front, K3.

**Repeat rows 2-3 twice, then BO. Repeat on other side, omitting the button holes.**



# NATURAL 20

