

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!



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](#).



Natural 20 Sweater: Clue 6

Note: Pockets are optional, so if you opted not to work them, skip to the next section.

Pocket Finishing

Remove waste yarn: In clue 4 you placed lifelines and worked waste yarn sts. In this step you will pick out the waste yarn sts and place the live sts on lifelines onto needles to be worked. Take your time on this step, going slow and not having to pick up a dropped stitch will be worth it.

Step 1: If you secured your waste yarn ends with a knot, snip the knot, and using a tapestry needle or one of your knitting needles, pick out the waste yarn sts (but NOT the lifelines). When you are done you will have 2 lifelines above each pocket with 43 sts on each lifeline.

Step 2: Slip the 43 sts on the lifeline attached to the upper part of the sweater onto the smaller needles and join MC with the right side facing. Knit across the 43 sts. Turn and purl back across them.

1. (RS) K2, M1L. K to last 2 sts. M1R, K2.
2. (WS) P all sts across.
3. Repeat 1-2 once more. 47 sts.
4. K all sts on RS and P all sts on WS until the piece reaches the bottom of the pocket colorwork. BO.

Step 3 (optional): I like to line pockets with fabric, and honestly, I'm just not great at sewing. So we're going to work smarter, not harder on this one. Cut 2 pieces of fabric that are 1" taller and wider than the lining you just knit in step 2 (one for each pocket). Use a pen to mark 1/2" in on all sides and fold the fabric towards the wrong side and iron the 1/2" mark so the right side doesn't have any raw edges. This sweater calls for iron on interfacing tape for the steek, and we're going to utilize it here as well.

1. Cut lengths of your fusible interfacing tape that are the same size as the fabric square you just prepared (cutting it to be the size of the square AFTER you created the 1/2" hem all around).
2. Turn the sweater inside out and place the fabric on top of the pocket, right side facing up with the raw edges folded under it so the

raw edges and the WS of the fabric is against the WS of the sweater.

3. Pin the fabric in place leaving a 1" border between the pin and edge of fabric. Place the interfacing tape under the fabric so it is between the WS of the sweater and the WS of the fabric and the raw edge of the fabric that is folded under is against the interfacing. Use an iron to activate the interfacing and secure the fabric in place.
4. Use a needle and thread to sew the edges of the knitted lining to the inside of the sweater, sewing through the fabric and the front of the sweater on the sides and bottom of the pocket.

Step 4: Add a hem to the top of the pocket:

1. Turn the sweater right side out again and transfer the live sts on the second life line (that is attached to the top of the pocket) to the smaller needles. Join CC and knit across all sts.
2. (WS) P2, KFB. [K2, P3] to last 5 sts. K2, KFB, P2. 45 sts.
3. (RS) K4, P2. [K3, P2] to last 4 sts. K4.
4. (WS) P4, K2. [P3, K2] to last 4. P4.
5. Repeat 3-4 twice more. BO. Sew the side edges of the hem to the front of the sweater.

Repeat all steps on the 2nd pocket. Lightly block sweater to prepare it for steeking.

STEEK

Following the method shown in the swatch instructions, steek the front of the sweater using fusible interfacing and edging tape.

COLLAR

Set Up: With smaller needles and CC, pick up and knit along the edge of the steek on the front side of the sweater, taking care to pick up and knit along the same stitch column all the way up. You want your collar to lay flat on the front of the sweater so I recommend picking up and knitting 4 sts for every 5



rows you are working over (skipping every 5th row), but follow your instincts if you think that you should pick up every row, or 3 out of 4. Everyone's gauge varies slightly, and you should trust your knowledge of your work, but 4 sts for every 5 rows will be what you want if your sweater was made perfectly to gauge.

When you reach the top of the steek, at the point where you casted on center sts and began to work in the round during Clue 1, place a locking marker.

Pick up and knit 1 st for each stitch along the neck edge of the sweater until you reach the steek on the other side. Place a locking marker in that stitch, and pick up and knit along the second steek just as you did for the first.

Next: Count the sts between the bottom of the sweater and the locking marker on both sides. If the stitch count is different, decrease sts with K2tog on the side with more so that they have the same number of sts during this row: Turn and K all sts to the st with the locking marker. Remove the locking marker and place a regular marker (or transition to using the locking marker as a regular marker). K2, K2tog to the next locking marker. Replace it with a regular marker, then K all sts to end.

Short Rows:

Row 1 (RS): K to 1st M, SIM. K to 2nd M, SIM. K40 sts. PS and turn. (Note that the instructions for Pulled Sts are in Clue 1).

Row 2: (WS): K to 2nd M, slipping them as you come to them. K40 sts, PS and turn.

Rows 3-4: K to 2nd M, slipping them as you come to them. K35 sts, PS and turn.

Rows 5-6: K to 2nd M, slipping them as you come to them. K30 sts, PS and turn.

Next: Repeat short rows as established, working 5 fewer sts after the marker every 2 rows, until you have worked a PS 5 sts after the marker on both sides, ending on a WS row.

Set Up 1 (RS): K all sts to end, remembering to knit through the PS as one stitch when you come to them.

Set Up 2 (WS): Turn and K all sts to end, remembering to knit through the PS as one stitch when you come to them on the other side of the sweater.

FINISHING

Remainder of collar: K all sts on both sides until the collar/edging is desired length. BO all sts.

Optional: Use MC to add a decorative edging to the collar. For my sample, I crocheted a border with single crochets every 4 sts, and chain sts between them.

Optional: Add a square of fabric inside the sweater on top of the knit lining to provide extra reinforcement of the pockets.

