LITTLE GARTER CARDI

by Ragga Eiriksdóttir
About the Little Garter Cardi
This little cardigan was designed under great influence from the late and great Elizabeth Zimmerman, loved by knitters worldwide and known by many as the Yoda of knitting (!). EZ liked to make practical no nonsense garments most often incorporating little tricks that would in some way advance the knitter to a new level of skills or knowledge.
The cardi was first published along with my instructional knitting DVD called “Prjónum saman” (Icelandic), published by Knitting Iceland in 2009.

In this project Lopi light is used with unusually large needles. The unique quality of Lopi allows the knitter to choose from a wide range of needles since the Lopi will “bloom” and fill out the space it is given.

Sizes and materials
Sizes: 3-6 mo (9-12 mo) 2-3 y
Yarn: Lopi light, 50g/1.75 oz, ca. 100m/109yd: 80 (100) 120g / 2.8 (3.5) 4.2 oz
Needles: 80 cm/32″ circular needles 7mm/US11
Gauge: 14 stitches x 26 rows = 10x10cm/4x4”

Some scrap yarn in a different color, a needle for weaving in ends and grafting, cute buttons.

About the methods and techniques
The cardigan is knit from the top in garter stitch. The cast on at the neckline is provisional, that means you’ll have live (open) stitches until you finish the neckline with an i-cord cast off right at the end. An i-cord edge is worked at both edges all the way from the neckline to the hem. The i-cord continues into the i-cord cast off worked both at the hem and the neckline. This creates a seamless i-cord edge all around the opening of the cardigan. I-cord cast off is also used for the sleeves for a cute match.

As you work your way down the shoulder piece, increases are worked to shape the yoke.
Stitches for the sleeves are kept on pieces of scrap yarn while the body is finished.
Buttonholes are made by making a YO followed by K2tog.

Abbreviations
St/sts = stitch, stitches
Co = cast on
K = knit
P = purl
YO = yarn over

Tip: only print out the next page to save ink and the environment!
CO 40-46-52 stitches using provisional cast on (scrap yarn method). The cardigan is knit in garter stitch.

**Knit the yoke, start making the i-cord edge and buttonholes**
K across the first row until [3 sts are left on your left needle, yarn forward, slip the last 3 sts purlwise on to the right needle]. K the second row ending with[]. Continue, repeating the instructions in[]. K one more row the same way. The slipped stitches will make a nice i-cord edge, just knit on and you’ll see.
Make the first buttonhole soon after you cast on on either side: K the 3 i-cord stitches, YO, K2tog. Decide how far apart you would like the buttonholes from now on and don’t forget to make them as you knit on.

**Yoke increases**
Remember to always slip the last 3 stitches to continue making the i-cord edge.
The 4th row is the first increase-row: make 8 increases evenly distributed over the row. You can choose the type of increase you like the best. For garter stitch I usually increase by knitting into the front and the back of a stitch. Continue working 8 increases in the even numbered rows, a total of 9 (9) 10 times. Work 6 increases evenly over the following 1(1)2 even numbered row(s). You should have a total of 118 (124) 144 stitches by now.

**Set aside stitches for the sleeves**
K 18 (19) 22 sts, put the next 23 (24) 28 sts on a piece of scrap yarn. K 35 (37) 43 sts, put the next 23 (24) 28 sts on a piece of scrap yarn, K the remaining 19 (20) 23 sts. Remember to continue making the i-cord edge on both sides.

**Knit the body**
Now you should have 72 (76) 88 stitches for the body on your needles. Work 3 (3) 4 increases evenly distributed across the next row. Work 10 rows – repeat increases. When you have knitted a total of 28 (32) 40 ridges, counted from the neck, it’s time to cast off using Elizabeth Zimmermanns i-cord cast-off: At the beginning of a row, *K the first 2 sts, K sts 3 and 4 together through the back loops. Now you should have 3 sts on your right needle, return them to your left needle and repeat from *. When 6 sts are left, 3 on each needle, graft them together using the Kitchener stitch for a seamless i-cord edge.

**Knit the sleeves**
The sleeves are worked in the round, using the magic loop method or double pointed needles if you prefer. To attain garter stitch in the round, you need to purl every other round. In the first round pick up 3 sts across the gap under the arm. That way you don’t need to close the gap after finishing. Knit a total of 14 (16) 19 ridges (28 (32) 38 rounds) before casting off and along the way work 2 (4) 4 increases into the sleeve evenly distributed. Now the i-cord cast off in the round is a little bit different. Before you start, cast on 3 extra sts using cable cast on, these stitches will form the edge of the i-cord. Work the i-cord cast off as described above. Knit the other sleeve the same way.

**The neckline**
Put the neckline stitches on your needles and cast them off using the i-cord cast-off method as described above for the lower edge of the body.

**Finishing**
Find cute buttons to suit the cardigan and weave in all ends. That’s all!

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