Exuvia - a classic striped top

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Exuvia is a classic striped top with a cool graphic look, worked in the loveliest soft wool. The design is both casual and elegant and can be varied endlessly by combining the many lovely colours of Arwetta Classic.

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English translation: Signe Strømgaard

Materials
MC: 150 (150) 150 (200) 200 (250) g Arwetta Classic by Filcolana in colour 102 (Black)
CC: 150 (150) 150 (200) 200 (200) g Arwetta Classic by Filcolana in colour 101 (Natural White)

3 mm circular needle, 40 cm
3 mm and 3,5 mm circular needle, 80 cm
Optional: 3 mm double-pointed needle for the neck edge
Stitch markers

Sizes
XS (S) M (L) XL (XXL)

Measurements
Body, chest: 75-80 (80-88) 88-96 (96-104) 104-110 (110-120) cm
Sweater, chest: 100 (106) 116 (124) 132 (140) cm
Total length: 52 (54) 56 (60) 64 (68) cm
Length to armhole: 28 (28) 30 (32) 34 (36) cm

Gauge
25 sts and 32 rows in stockinette stitch on a 3,5 mm needle = 10 x 10 cm
Special abbreviations
M1: Make 1. Increase one stitch by lifting the chain between sts onto the left needle and knitting it through the back loop.

Special techniques
Binding off in rib: Work to sts as the present (knit the knit sts and purl the purl sts), *pass the first stitch on the needle over the second, then work the next stitch as it presents *, repeat from * to * until all the sts have been bound off.

Directions for knitting
The top is worked from the bottom up. First the body is worked in the round to the armholes, then the sts are divided for front and back and each section is finished separately. The shoulder sts are knitted together from the RS. Der afsluttes med ribkant i hals og ærmegab.

Read before beginning
Exuvia is a casual fit design with the sleeves falling off the shoulders. For the best result, take care to work the design in the correct gauge. The design is worked straight, so it is simple to lengthen it by adding extra rounds before the armholes.

Stripe pattern
Work 4 rounds/rows alternately in MC and CC.

Body
Cast on 252 (264) 288 (308) 328 (348) sts on a 3 mm needle with MV. Knit 1 row, then join in the round and place a marker for the beginning of the round. Now work k2, p2 ribbing, while at the same time starting the stripe pattern (start with 4 rounds in MC). Continue in rib until a total of 8 stripes have been worked. Now place a marker after 126 (132) 144 (154) 164 (174) sts to mark the division between fron and back. Change to a 3,5 mm needle and continue the stripe pattern in stockinette stitch until the work measures approx. 28 (28) 30 (32) 34 (36) cm. End with 4 rounds in the same colour. Divide the work for front and back as follows: *Bind off 2 sts, knit to marker*, repeat from * to * once more. Slip the 124 (130) 142 (152) 162 (172) sts for the back onto a stitch holder.

Front
Work the 124 (130) 142 (152) 162 (172) sts for the front back and forth in the stripe pattern and stockinette stitch, while at the same time working increases every 24 rows as follows (RS): K2, M1, knit to the last 2 sts, M1, k2. Work these increases for as long as possible, depending on the length of the armhole and the number of rows. Continue until the armhole measures approx. 18 (20) 20 (22) 24 (26) cm.

Now bind off the middle 16 (16) 16 (16) 18 (18) sts for the neckline and finish each side of the front separately in stripe pattern. Bind off 4 sts towards the neck at the beginning of every other row a total of 1 (1) 1 (1) 1 (3) times and then bind off 3 sts a total of 2 (2) 2 (2) 2 (0) times. Work straight in stripes until the armhole measures approx. 24 (26) 26 (28) 30 (32) cm. Slip the sts to a stitch holder. Note: End with 2 rows in the same colour on both front and back, so the shoulder seam sits in the middle of a 4 row stripe. Finish the second side the same way as the first, only mirror reversed.

Back
Work the back the same way as the front in the stripe pattern and stockinette stitch and with increases every 24 rows. Take care to have the same number of increases on the back as on the front. Continue until the armhole measures approx. 22 (24) 24 (26) 28 (30) cm. Now bind off the middle 30 (30) 30 (32) 32 (34) for the neck and finish each side separately in stripe pattern. Bind off 3 (3) 3 (3) 3 (4) sts towards the neck once. Work straight in stripes until the armhole measures approx. 24 (26) 26 (28) 30 (32) cm, ending with 2 rows in the same colour as on the front. Slip the sts for the corresponding front shoulder back on a needle, place the 2 sets of sts WS together and cast them off together using the 3-needle bind-off. Finish the second side the same way as the first, only mirror reversed and bind it off in the same way.

Sleeve edge
Pick up and knit sts from the RS along the armhole with a 3 mm needle and MC. Pick up 1 stitch for every row all the way around the armhole. The total number of sts must be divisible by 4.
Join in the round and place a marker for the beginning of the round.
Knit 1 round, then work in k2, p2 rib on the next 3 rounds.
Follow the stripe pattern and work a total of 16 rounds, ending with 4 rounds of rib in MC. Bind off in rib with MC.
Work the second sleeve edge the same way as the first.

Neck edge
Pick up and knit sts from the RS along the neck edge using a 3 mm needle and MC. Pick up and knit the sts from the second stitch from the edge for a neater looking edge. The total number of sts must be divisible by 4.
Join in the round and place a marker for the beginning of the round mid back.
Turn the work and knit 1 row from the WS. Turn again and work in the round in k2, p2 rib. Work the stripe pattern for 8 rounds. Finish with 6 rounds in MC. Bind off in rib with MC.

Finishing
Weave in all ends. Wash the top according to the instructions on the yarn. Lay it on a flat surface to dry.