Kirken - a kids’ sweater with a round yoke

Design: Rachel Søgaard

Nikolaj kirke (Nikolaj Church) – which hasn’t functioned as a church since 1805, but has been a vibrant art gallery instead – is crowned with one of the iconic spires of Copenhagen. The design of the spire is a perfect inspiration for playing with the many different textures you can create in knitting, to represent the many cornices, windows and ornamentations. Naturally, the colour of the design had to be Verdigris green. Nikolaj Church is the inspiration for both the "Kirken" sweater and the "Nikolaj" hat.

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English translation: Signe Strømgaard

Materials
250 (250) 300 (350) 400 (400) g Peruvian Highland Wool by Filcolana in colour 257 (Mint)
4,5 mm and 5 mm circular needle, 60 cm
4,5 mm and 5 mm double-pointed needles
Stitch markers

Sizes
2 years/92 cl (4 years/104 cl) 6 years/116 cl (8 years/128 cl) 10 years/140 cl (12 years/152 cl)

Measurements
Body, chest: 51-56 (56-61) 61-66 (66-70) 70-75 (75-80) cm
Sweater, chest: 64 (68) 73 (78) 82 (87) cm
Sleeve length: 23 (26) 29 (32) 35 (38) cm
Total length: 35 (40) 45 (49) 52 (55) cm

Gauge
17 sts and 26 rows in stockinette stitch on 5 mm needles = 10 x 10 cm.
Special abbreviations
M1L (Make 1 Left): Insert the left needle from front to back under the horizontal strand between stitches, lift the strand onto the right needle, then knit it through the back loop.
M1R (Make 1 Right): Insert the left needle from back to front under the horizontal strand between stitches, lift the strand onto the right needle, then knit it.
Skp: slip 1 stitch, knit the next stitch, pass the slipped stitch over the knit stitch.
Sl1yo: slip stitch purl-wise, while bringing the yarn to the front and then up and over the needle to create a yarn over.
Brp: brioche purl – purl stitch and yarn over together.
Brk: brioche knit – knit stitch and yarn over together.
Bobble: Knit into the front, then back, then front, then back, then front of the same stitch (5 sts in 1), then pass the first 4 sts over the last stitch to the left, one at a time.

Special techniques
Short rows - GSR (German short rows): Work to where the turn needs to be, turn, then slip the first stitch purl-wise with the yarn held in front. Bring the working yarn up and over the needle and down on the other side, pulling hard enough on the yarn to make the stitch on the needle look like a double stitch (the 2 legs of the stitch are visible). Continue row as pattern describes.
When working across the stitch that looks like a double stitch, work it as 1 stitch, either knitting or purling the 2 legs together, as the pattern describes.

Directions for knitting
The sweater is worked from the bottom up. First the body and sleeves are worked in the round to the armholes, then the parts are joined for the yoke and short rows are worked along with raglan decreases. Then the yoke is worked in pattern with decreases for a round yoke. The yoke is finished with a high rib neck edge.

Body
Cast on 108 (116) 124 (132) 140 (148) sts on a 4,5 mm circular needle. Join in the round and place a marker for the beginning of the round and a second marker after 54 (58) 62 (66) 70 (74) sts. Work a total of 9 (11) 13 (15) 17 (19) rounds in rib (k1, p1).
Change to a 5 mm circular needle and continue in the round in stockinette stitch until the body measures 23 (26) 29 (31) 33 cm or desired length to armholes.
Bind off sts for the armholes as follows: Bind off 4 sts, knit to 4 sts before next marker, bind off 8 sts, knit to the last 4 sts of the round, bind off these 4 sts.
Let the body rest, while the sleeves are being worked.

Sleeves
Cast on 28 (30) 32 (34) 36 (38) sts on 4,5 mm double-pointed needles. Join in the round and place a marker for the beginning of the round. Work a total of 9 (11) 13 (15) 17 (19) rounds in rib (k1, p1).
Change to 5 mm double-pointed needles and continue in stockinette stitch, while increasing 6 (8) 10 (12) 14 (14) sts evenly across the first round. There are now a total of 34 (38) 42 (46) 50 (54) sts on the needle.
Work an increase round every 8th (8th) 10th (10th) 12th (12th) round a total of 5 (5) 5 (5) 5 (6) times as follows: k1, M1L, knit to the last stitch of the round, M1R, k1.
There are now a total of 44 (48) 52 (56) 60 (64) sts on the needle.
Work straight in stockinette stitch until the sleeve measures 23 (26) 29 (32) 35 (38) cm or desired length.
Bind off for the armhole on the next round as follows: Bind off 4 sts, knit to the last 4 sts, bind off these 4 sts.
Work a second sleeve the same way as the first.

Yoke
Join the sleeves to the body on the circular needle by placing the sleeve sts over where sts were bound off for the armholes, while placing a marker each of the 4 places where sleeves and body meets. There are now a total of 164 (180) 196 (212) 228 (244) sts on the needle.
Begin the round at the marker between the right sleeve and the back (marker 1).
Now work short rows as follows:
Knit to 4 sts before marker 3 (between left sleeve and front), turn. Purl back to 4 sts before marker 4 (between right sleeve and front), turn.
Turn 2 more times on either side, each time 4 sts before the last turn on the same side, while at the same time working raglan decreases on every RS row between marker 1 and 2 (the markers on either side of the back) as follows: Knit to 2 sts before marker, skp, slip marker, k2tog.
There are now a total of 156 (172) 188 (204) 220 (236) sts on the needle.

After the last turn (on the right sleeve), work 1 round with raglan decreases at all 4 markers worked as established – and remembering to knit the 2 legs of turning sts together as you come across then. There are now a total of 148 (164) 188 (196) 212 (228) sts on the needle.

Remove all other markers than the beginning of round marker. Now work pattern with decreases as follows:

Round 1: Purl to end of round.
Round 2: Knit while dec (dec ) - (inc) inc (inc) a total of 8 (4) – (4) 8 (12) sts across the round. There are now a total of 140 (160) 180 (200) 220 (240) sts on the needle.
Rounds 3-7: Work in brioche stitch as follows:
Round A: *Sl1yo, p1*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Round B: *Brk1, sl1yo*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Round C: *Sl1yo, brp1*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Repeat Round B and C once more.
Round 8: *Brk1, k1*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Round 9: *Knit 5 (6) 7 (8) 9 (10) sts, k2tog*, repeat from * to * to end of round. There are now a total of 120 (140) 160 (180) 200 (220) sts on the needle.
Round 10: Purl to end of round.
Rounds 11-12: Knit to end of round.
Round 13: *k1, 1 bobble*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Round 14: Knit to end of round.
Rounds 15-16: Purl to end of round.
Round 17: Knit to end of round.
Round 18: *Knit 4 (5) 6 (7) 8 (9) sts, k2tog*, repeat from * to * to end of round. There are now a total of 100 (120) 140 (160) 180 (200) sts on the needle.
Rounds 19-21: *K1, p3*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Round 22: Knit to end of round.
Round 23: Purl to end of round.
Round 24: Knit to end of round.
Round 25: *K2tog, yarn over*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Round 26: Knit to end of round.
Round 27: *Knit 3 (4) 5 (6) 7 (8) sts, k2tog*, repeat from * to * to end of round. There are now a total of 80 (100) 120 (140) 160 (180) sts on the needle.
Round 28: Purl to end of round.
Round 29: Knit to end of round.
Rounds 30-33: Work in broken rib as follows:
Round A: *K1, p1*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Round B: Knit to end of round.
Repeat Round A and B once more.
Round 34: *Purl 2 (3) 4 (5) 6 (7) sts, p2tog*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
There are now a total of 60 (80) 100 (120) 140 (160) sts on the needle.
Round 35: Knit to end of round.
Round 36: *k1, 1 bobble*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Rounds 37-38: Knit to end of round.

Size 2 years
Change to a 4,5 mm circular needle and work 9 rounds of rib (k1, p1), while decreasing 4 sts evenly across the first round. There are now 56 sts on the needle. Bind off loosely.

Only size (4) 6 (8) 10 (12) years
Round 39: *Purl 2 (3) 4 (5) 6 (7) sts, p2tog*, repeat from * to * to end of round. There are now a total of (60) 80 (100) 120 (140) sts on the needle.
Round 40: Purl to end of round.
Round 41: Knit to end of round.

Size 4 years
Change to a 4,5 mm circular needle and work 11 rounds of rib (k1, p1), while decreasing 2 sts evenly across the first round. There are now 58 sts on the needle. Bind off loosely.

Only size 6 (8) 10 (12) years
Rounds 42-44: Work brioche stitch.
Round 45: *Brk1, k1*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Round 46: *Knit 2 (3) 4 (5) sts, k2tog*, repeat from * to * to end of round. There are now a total of 60 (80) 100 (120) sts on the needle.
Round 47: Purl to end of round.

Size 6 years
Change to a 4,5 mm circular needle and work 13 rounds of rib (k1, p1). Bind off loosely.

Only size (8) 10 (12) years
Round 48: Knit to end of round.
Rounds 49-51: *K1, p3*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Round 52: Knit to end of round.
Round 53: *Knit 2 (3) 4 (5) sts, k2tog*, repeat from * to * to end of round. There are now a total of (60) 80 (100) sts on the needle.

Size 8 years
Change to a 4,5 mm circular needle and work 15 rounds of rib (k1, p1). Bind off loosely.
**Only size 10 (12) years**
Round 54: *K2tog, yarn over*, repeat from * to * to end of round.
Round 55: Knit to end of round.
Round 56: Purl to end of round.
Round 57: *Purl 2 (3) sts, p2tog*, repeat from * to * 8 (8) more times, purl 4 (5) sts, repeat from * to * 9 (9) times, purl 4 (5) sts.
There are now a total of 62 (82) sts on the needle.

**Size 10 years**
Change to a 4,5 mm circular needle and work 17 rounds of rib (k1, p1).
Bind off loosely.

**Only size (12) years**
Rounds 58-59: Knit to end of round.
Round 60: Purl to end of round.
Round 61: *(p2), p2tog*, repeat from * to * (8) more times, (p5), repeat from * to * (9) times, (p5).
There are now a total of 64 sts on the needle.
Change to a 4,5 mm circular needle and work 19 rounds of rib (k1, p1).
Bind off loosely.

**Finishing**
Sew the little hole under each sleeve. Weave in all ends. Gently rinse the finished sweater, press out as much water as possible and lay it on a flat surface to dry. Gently pull the bobble to make them pop out.

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