

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Studio
by **WHITE**

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Lacy Vest

This lacy machine-knit treat is perfect thrown over jeans or dressed up for those special holiday festivities. It's suitable for a new machine knitter and can be knit on either the Studio by White LK150 or the SK860 electronic knitting machine with the electronic controller. Instructions are for both machines.

Materials

6 balls of Ole by Stahlsche Wolle (51% Pima cotton, 49% Merino wool, shrink resistant)

Color: Off white

Small amounts of scrap yarn

One Size

Finished measurements:

Length-28" (71 cm)

Width-40" (102 cm)

Each snowflake measures approximately 4" (10 cm) across from point after blocking. Tension number 4 both machines.

Each snowflake is knit individually and the open ends are grafted. They are then blocked and stitched together to form the vest. This vest requires a total of 88 snowflakes. Each ball of yarn makes approximately 15-16 snowflakes.

Knitting Time

LK150 hobby knitter—8 minutes per



snowflake. SK860 electronic knitting machine—3 minutes per snowflake.

Snowflake Instructions

For both machines, the LK150 and the SK860, start and end each snowflake with scrap yarn. This will give you "open" stitches at both edges of each snowflake which you will later invisibly graft together. Once the seam is grafted, you can then remove the scrap yarn and it will be virtually impossible to tell where you began and ended.

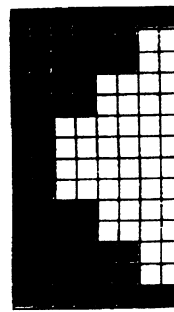
Studio by White LK150

The points of the snowflake are formed by short rowing or partial knitting. Fewer rows are knit in the center of the snowflake while more rows are knit on the outside edge of the snowflake.

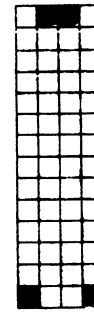
With scrap yarn cast onto needles #1 - #8 to the left of "0". Knit several rows with scrap yarn ending with the carriage to the right. Switch to main yarn. Set both of your side levers (the levers furthest away from you) to the (Triangle) and your russell levers (the levers closet to you) to 1. *Knit 1 row. Pull needles #1 and #2 all the way out to "D" position. Knit 2 rows. (You will notice that the needles pulled out to "D" will not knit.) Pull needles #3 and #4 to "D" position. Knit 2 rows. Pull needles #5 and #6 to "D". Knit 4 rows. Pull needles #6 and #5 to "C" position. Knit 2 rows. (The needles pulled to "C" will knit.) Pull needles #4 and #3 to "C" position. Knit 2 rows. Pull needles #2 and #1 to "C" position. Knit 1 row*. Your carriage should be to the right. You have completed one point of the snowflake. Repeat from *-* five more times. Once 6 points have been knit, break off the main yarn leaving an end approximately 12" long. Switch to scrap yarn and knit 8-10 rows. Without taking the knitting off the knitting machine, knit the remaining snowflakes in the same manner as the first.

Studio by White SK860 and EC1 Electronic Knitting Machine

With the SK860 the "short rowing" can be done automatically, making short work of short rowing. Draw out the stitch pattern on a



SK860
Stitch Pattern



Direction
Column

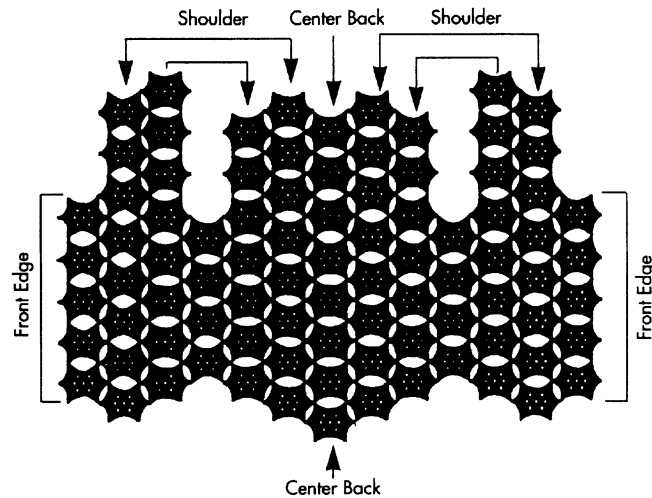
blank mylar. Make sure you mark the direction columns. Set the point cams to #1 and #8 to the left of 0. Set the N1 cam to right of of needle #1. Cast on with scrap yarn. Knit 8-10 rows with scrap yarn, ending with the carriage to the right. Turn on the EC1. Press the inspection switch to on. Insert the mylar and line the pattern up to the first row. Set the width indicators to correspond to the stitch width (8 stitches). Free pass the carriage to memorize the cam positions. *Switch to main yarn. Press the inspection switch to off to advance the pattern to row 1. Set the side levers to the (triangle) and the knitting cam to S.J (slip stitch). With the main yarn, knit 6 pattern repeats. You will notice that the first row will knit all the needles, rows 2 & 3 knit only the left 6 stitches, rows 4 & 5 knit only the left 4 stitches etc. You are in effect short rowing without having to manually select the needles.

Once you have knit 6 pattern repeats, press the inspection light to on. This will stop the card. Break off the main yarn leaving an end approximately 12" long for grafting. Switch to scrap yarn and without changing the knitting cam knit 8-10 rows of scrap yarn*. Continue knitting the remaining snowflakes repeating from *-* for each snowflake.

Grafting the Snowflakes

Invisibly graft the first row to the last row of each snowflake. To graft:

1. Thread one end of the yarn onto a darning needle. With the purl side of the snowflake facing you, fold the waste yarn towards the knit side. This allows you to align



the first and last rows of main yarn knitting. Insert the needle into the end stitch of the side closest to you.

2. Insert the needle through the end stitch of the second side of knit and then back through the first stitch.

3. Insert the needle into the second stitch on the first side of knitting and then through the first stitch on the second side of knitting.

4. Repeat steps 2-3 until all the stitches are grafted.

Remove the scrap yarn and sew in any loose ends.

Blocking & Stitching

To create nice lacy snowflakes, steaming and blocking is essential. With a marking pen on a blocking board, draw a circle with a 4" diameter. Mark six points evenly spaced on the circle. Place the snowflake purl side up in the center of the circle. Pin each of the six

points to the evenly spaced marks. You will most likely have to stretch the snowflake slightly. Holding the iron above the knitting, steam the snowflake. Allow the snowflake to cool and dry before unpinning.

The vest can either be sewn by hand or with a sewing machine. Lay out the snowflakes according to the diagram below and sew each of the points together. If you are using a sewing machine, place two snowflakes knit side to knit side and using a small zigzag, stitch the very ends of the points. Give the vest a final steaming and enjoy.

***This pattern originally appeared in the November 1994 issue of *Crafts Plus*.

***STAHL is distributed by Tahki in the U.S. Their address is Tahki Import Ltd., 11 Graphic Place, Moonachie, NJ 07074.