

withwool



Morticia's Surprise

by April Klich

"Oh, Tish, what more could we ask?"

- Gomez Addams

Cue the three-legged romper, the kiss, and a swelling orchestral score from the 1991 Addams Family movie. Morticia's Surprise is fun knit whether you're announcing your own bundle of joy or want the perfect accent for a Morticia Addams cosplay.

This knitting pattern is available under the [value-for-value model](#). If you like it, you can buy me a [Ko-Fi](#), sign up for the [With Wool Express newsletter](#), or show your friends.

Finished Size

18.25" (46.3 cm) long and 9" (22.8 cm) wide across chest

- Collar adds 1.5" (3.8 cm) to length

Gauge

24 sts and 31 rows = 4" (10 cm)

Materials & Notions

DK weight yarn in dark grey and light grey:

Dark Grey: 205 yds (188 m)

Light Grey: 152 yds (140 m)

Shown in Berroco Vintage DK

Dark Grey: Cracked Pepper

Light Grey: Smoke

US 6 (4 mm) 36" (92 cm) circular needles or DPN's

Optional: A second US 6 circular needle (or circular needle a size or two smaller) to help with assembly

Tapestry needle

Stitch Holders or Scrap Yarn

Locking Stitch Markers

Abbreviations

k = knit

p = purl

kfb = knit into the front and back of a stitch

LLinc = insert left needle into the left leg of the stitch below the last worked st; knit into the back leg

LRinc = insert right needle into the right leg of the first stitch left needle and pull it up onto the left needle; knit

k2tog = knit 2 stitches together

ssk = slip 1 st knit-wise, slip 2nd st purl-wise, insert the left needle into the front of both sts and knit together

p2tog = purl 2 sts together

sl1 = slip 1 sts purl-wise

w&t = wrap and turn

* * = repeat instructions inside the asterisks

p2tog bind off = *p2tog, slip stitch back to left needle*, repeat until desired number of sts have been bound off

RS = right side

WS = wrong side

st(s) = stitch(es)

DPN = double pointed needles

Contact

Have a question or need help?

Send me a message.

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www.withwool.com/tutorials

And you can find me, @AprilKlich, on

[Instagram](#) and [Ravelry](#).

I love seeing your WIP's and FO's so please tag me and use #withwoolknits

Happy knitting!

Notes

Basic Construction

This piece starts at the toes and works it's way up through the legs, body, and then the shoulders which are grafted together. Then you'll pick up stitches at the arm holes, work a short row sleeve cap, and knit the sleeves down to the cuffs.

There are three different neck option to choose from: stockinette edge, stockinette edge with a collar, or 1x1 rib.

About The Jog-less Stripes

Slipping the first stitch on the second row will create the look of a jog-less stripe. Normally, the slipped stitch would change where the round begins, but I'm keeping the start in the same place. The slipped stitch will be less visible on the edge than traveling around the front of the legs and the body.

The caveat to this is that the first stitch column of the stripe will be one stitch short. So count rows in the middle of the leg or body instead of at the start of the round.

Don't Cut The Yarn After Each Stripe

Since this project is knit in the round and the inside hidden, don't cut the yarn between each stripe. Just drop the color you're not using and let it hang until needed again. When it's time to start knitting the next stripe, pick up the hanging yarn and knit. Leave yourself a little slack to prevent puckering and pulling.



The Pattern

Feet and Legs (Make 3)

Cast on 4 sts total with Judy's Magic Cast On (2 sts each needle) and join to work in the round.

Round 1: knit all sts

Round 2: kfb 4 times (+4 sts) (8 sts total)

Round 3: knit all sts

Round 4: *k1, LLinc* across round (+8 sts) (16 sts total)

Rounds 5 - 6: knit all sts

Round 7: *k2, LLinc* across round (+8 sts) (24 sts total)

Knit until piece measures 2.5" (6.35 cm) long from the cast on.

Begin short row heel:

Knit across instep (12 sts) and work the heel turn over the next 12 sts.

- k11, w&t
- p10, w&t
- k9, w&t
- p8, w&t
- k7, w&t
- p6, w&t
- k5, w&t
- p4, w&t (4 sts are now wrapped on each side of the heel)
- knit to 1st wrapped st, k1 while hiding wraps, w&t
- purl to 1st wrapped st, p1 while hiding wraps, w&t (3 wrapped sts remaining)
- knit to 1st wrapped st, k1 while hiding wraps, w&t
- purl to 1st wrapped st, p1, while hiding wraps, w&t (2 wrapped sts remaining)

Short row heel continued:

- knit to 1st wrapped st, k1 while hiding wraps, w&t
- purl to 1st wrapped st, p1, while hiding wraps, w&t (1 wrapped st remaining)
- knit to wrapped st, k1 while hiding wraps, w+t the first instep st
- purl to wrapped st, p1 while hiding wraps, w+t the last instep st
- knit across heel
- knit across all sts in round, picking up and hiding the wraps
- knit 2 rounds (24 sts total)

Begin legs:

Stripe Pattern:

Round 1: Switch color, knit all sts

Round 2: sl1, knit all sts

Round 3 - 8: knit all sts

Work 6 stripes total in the above stripe pattern (foot not included in this count).

7th Stripe:

Rounds 1 - 4: Work according to the stripe pattern with light grey yarn.

Round 5: *k1, LRinc, knit 10, LLinc, k1* twice (28 sts)

Round 6: knit all sts

Round 7: *k1, LRinc, k12, LLinc, k1 * twice (32 sts)

Round 8: knit all sts

For the first and second legs, cut yarn and move sts to waste yarn or stitch holder. Do not cut the yarn on the third leg because it will be used to start the body.

Body

Move the first two legs to DPNs or a second circular needle so that you can knit them onto the circular needle holding the third leg.

If using a circular needle to hold the 2 legs, both fronts will be next to each other on the front half of the needle and both backs will be next to each other on the back half of the needle as with magic loop. Shown in the photo on the right.

Setup Round: With dark grey yarn, k16, backwards cast on 3 sts, k16, backwards cast on 3 sts, k32 (16 sts from the front and 16 sts from the back), backwards cast on 3 sts, k16, backwards cast on 3 sts, k16. (12 sts added) (108 sts total)

Begin the stripe pattern on Round 2 and work as established in the legs.

Then work 5 more stripes for a total of 6.

Arm Holes and Neck Shaping

If you want to include the needles and ball of yarn at the collar as it is in the movie or want to have the option later, work the back and front sections. If you don't want the collar, skip the back instructions and work the front section twice.

Setup: Work the first 2 rounds in pattern with dark grey. The rest of the body will be worked flat. Cut the light grey yarn, leaving a tail to weave in later.

The back half is worked first so you'll be starting on a purl row.



Back (Worked Over 54 sts):

Row 1: p2tog, purl to last 2 sts, p2tog through back loops (-2 sts) (52 sts)

Row 2: knit all

Row 3: p2tog, purl to last 2 sts, p2tog through back loops (-2 sts) (50 sts)

Work in stockinette, purling wrong side rows and knitting right side rows, until there are 8 rows of dark grey including the setup rounds. (7th Stripe)

8th Stripe: Switch to light grey and knit 8 rows in stockinette.

9th Stripe: Switch to dark grey, and work 8 rows in stockinette. Cut yarn leaving a 12" (30 cm) tail.

Move the back stitches to a holder or scrap yarn. If using the Magic Loop technique, leave all stitches on the needle and leave them alone while working the front.

Front (Worked Over 54 sts):

Row 1: With dark grey yarn, ssk, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog (-2 sts)

Row 2: purl all

Row 3: ssk, knit to last 2 sts, k2tog (-2 sts) (50 sts left on front half)

Work in stockinette, purling wrong side rows and knitting right side rows, until there are 8 rows of dark grey including the setup rounds. (7th Stripe)

8th Stripe: Work 8 rows of light grey.

9th Stripe: Below are two options for completing the neck and shoulders. If you want to make the piece as shown in the photos, choose Option 1.

If you don't want the collar, you have more flexibility. You can work Option 1 twice, which creates a more defined neck opening, but you might want to sew it closed to prevent curling. Or you can work Option 2 twice which creates a band of ribbing across the neck opening. This option won't need to be sewn closed.

Setup: Switch to dark grey, work 3 rows in stockinette.

Option 1:

- p14, *k1, p1* over the next 22 sts, k1, p13
- k13, bind off next 23 sts, k14
- Continue to work the 14 st section until the stripe is 8 rows tall. Cut yarn.
- Rejoin yarn on the 13 st section and work until the stripe is complete.

Graft the 14 right shoulder sts together with the matching back shoulder sts. The center 23 sts from the back will stay unworked and on a stitch holder or spare needle. Graft the 13 left shoulder sts with the matching back shoulder sts. Weave in ends.

Collar:

Slip the 23 collar sts back onto the needles.

Rejoin the dark grey yarn on the RS and work in stockinette for 1.5" (3.8 cm).

Bind off using the p2tog bind off and weave in ends.

**Option 2:**

- p14, *k1, p1* over the next 22 sts, k1, p13
- k13, *p1, k1* over the next 22 sts, p1, k14
- Repeat the two rows above until the stripe is 7 rows tall.
- Purl to ribbing, bind off the 23 ribbing sts, purl to end of row. Cut yarn, leaving a 12" (30 cm) tail.

Graft the front shoulder sts together with their matching back sts. Weave in ends.

Sleeves (Make 2)

Sleeve Cap

Starting at the bottom of the sleeve hole, use the dark grey to pick up and knit 3 sts for every 4 rows - about 41 sts total. Divide the stitches evenly over the needles for the front and back of the sleeve (20 + 21).

Place a locking stitch marker after the 14th st and place a 2nd stitch marker 12 sts after that.

Setup:

- Join to work in the round, knit to the 2nd marker, w&t
- purl to 1st marker, w&t
- **Note:** You can remove the markers entirely after working the setup or use them to mark the latest wrap by placing them on the needle after wrapping the stitch.
- Continue the sleeve cap

Row 1: knit to 1 st before the 2nd marker, w&t

Row 2: purl to 1st before 1st marker, w&t

Work Rows 1 and 2 a total of 6 times.

Row 3: Knit to end of round, working wraps together their wrapped sts

Round 4: Knit all, working wraps together with their wrapped sts and removing any stitch markers.

Begin Stripes And Decreases

Arm Stripe Pattern:

Round 1: Switch colors, knit all

Round 2: sl1, knit all

Round 3: k1, k2tog, knit to 3 sts before end of round, ssk, k1 (-2 sts)

Rounds 4 - 8: knit all

Work the Arm Stripe Pattern 7 times in total.

The sleeves will have 8 stripes, including the sleeve cap, before starting the ribbing. 27 sts on the needles.

Ribbing:

Round 1: Switch to dark grey, k1, k2tog, knit all sts (26 sts)

Note: If you have an extra stitch or two leftover from the sleeve cap, this is a good round to decrease them away. Make sure you have an even number of sts when you're done.

Round 2: sl1, p1, *k1, p1* to end of round

Rounds 3 - 8: *k1, p1* to end of round

Bind off using the p2tog bind off.

Weave in ends.

Finishing and Final Details

Sewing Up

Besides weaving in ends, the only sewing to do is closing up the gaps between the legs. Mattress stitch is a good option or work duplicate stitch across the edges for a more seamless look.

Washing and Blocking

Nothing fancy here. Soak the piece in cool water with a no-rinse soap for 20 - 30 minutes. Roll it up in a towel and squish out the extra water. Lay flat to dry.

If you worked Option 1 and included the collar, you'll need to pin down both bind off edges so they dry flat. I used 3 pins at each edge to keep them from curling, shown in the photo below.



Finishing Touches for the Neck and Collar

The collar will continue to roll to the back of the piece after blocking which is a cute detail by itself.

The Option 1 neck will also roll to a degree. If you would like it to lay flat, sew it to the back of the piece with the dark grey yarn.

Adding the Needles and Yarn

Note: I have not had the opportunity to add the needles and yarn to the finished piece, but this is how I would do it.

In the film, the piece is shown with the collar on two straight needles with a ball of yarn shoved on to one of the needle tips. The needles are white (probably plastic, definitely vintage) with metal caps on the end.

Get a pair of straight needles a size or two smaller than you used to knit the piece. Then you can attach them by picking up the stitches on the row below the bind off.

Next, wind up a few yards of the dark grey into a ball and push it onto the needle. Now you're ready to go.



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