

## Tropical Sunset, by Jennifer Thurston



What better way to welcome the warmer weather than with a brightly coloured summery top?! In this pretty beachy top, the ties are made of plaited yarn and have beads knotted on the ends for added decoration, and the graduated stripe pattern makes the colour subtly change from top to bottom.

I made this top using Phildar Copacabana – a tape yarn which is now discontinued. The knitted fabric “grows” after the yarn is washed, and tensions here are for the WASHED tension. If you are using Copacabana, then make a swatch and wash it before you begin.

Because the yarn is discontinued, I have specified yarn requirements in metres rather than balls, to enable you to substitute other yarns more easily. There are loads of yarns on the market that make a good substitute, and I have named quite a few in the Yarn Substitutions section below.

Difficulty Level: Simple

Materials needed:

Yarn A (Phildar Copacabana in Mangue, 50g/94m): 104m (112m, 119m, 127m, 134m)

Yarn B (Phildar Copacabana in Melba, 50g/94m): 76m (81m, 87m, 92m, 97m)

12 beads with holes large enough for yarn to fit through

5.5 mm straight needles

Tapestry needle

Yarn Substitutes:

Any tape or ribbon yarn that knits to the same tension would be a perfect substitute. Here are a few:

Rowan Cotton Tape

Rowan Linen Print

Colinette Enigma

Crystal Palace Summer Net

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Gedifra Poesie  
Katia Tango  
Lana Grossa Doppio  
Anny Blatt Berlingot

Sizes:

32 inch/81cm (34 inch/86cm, 36 inch/91cm, 38 inch/96cm, 40 inch/101cm) bust

Gauge:

13 sts and 18 rows over 4 inches/10cm in st st.

Stripe Pattern:

34 rows in Yarn A  
1 row in Yarn B  
3 rows in Yarn A  
2 rows in Yarn B  
2 rows in Yarn A  
3 rows in Yarn B  
1 rows in Yarn A  
Continue in Yarn B until the end.

Pattern:

Front/Back (both alike)

Cast on 44 (47, 50, 54, 58) sts using yarn A.

Working in st st and beginning stripe pattern, work 8 rows.

Next row: k2 m1, k to last 2 sts, m1 k2

Working increases as in last row, inc 1 st at each end of every foll 8th row, until there are 52 (55, 58, 62, 66) sts

Work a further 13 rows, ending with a WS row.

Shape Armholes:

Cast off 3 (4, 4, 4, 5) sts at each end of next 2 rows, 46 (47, 50, 54, 56) sts.

Next row: k2 k2tog tbl, k to last 4 sts, k2tog k1, pick up loop between sts and place on right needle (loop does not count as a st), slip last st k-wise.

Next row: p2tog slipped st and loop, p1 p2tog, p to last 4 sts, p2tog tbl p1, pick up loop between sts and place on right needle, slip last st p-wise.

Next row: k2tog tbl slipped st and the loop, k1 k2tog tbl, k to last 4 sts, k2tog k1, pick up loop between sts and place on right needle, slip last st k-wise.

Last 2 rows set the pattern of a slipped st edging, and show how to work decreases.

Dec 1 st at each end of foll 2 (2, 2, 3, 3) rows, and then on foll 3 (3, 4, 3, 4) alt rows, 30 (31, 32, 34, 34) sts.

Continue straight for 5 (5, 3, 5, 3) more rows, ending with a WS row.

Now stop working the slipped st edging.

Next row: purl

Then, beg with a p row, work in st st for 5 more rows

Cast off

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## Finishing:

Sew side seams.

Fold upper edge of both front and back under along the purl row, and slip st in place.

Using strands of both yarn A and B, make 2 long plaits, knotting the ends and leaving long tails of yarn on both ends.

Knot beads on to the ends of the tails of yarn (see close-up photo).



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