Maid Marian Vest

When working with hand dyed yarns, sometimes the colours will lay themselves down in peculiar ways throughout garment that may not be so pleasing. To distribute the hand dyed colour for the best appearance:

Work from 2 balls using 7mm 14” River John Swing needles. With this technique you can use two different types of yarns, or two different dye lots, or two different weights of yarn to complete an easy vest.

Swing Needles are 2 double pointed needles with removable stoppers. You will need these (or a circular needle) to work the 2 balls in a stripe pattern throughout garment. With these needles you can knit from either end of the work.

Test a swatch on a blocked garter st. Blocking the test swatch is important, as this will give you the actual measurement when garment is completed. The vest will look a little small until blocked, it will block out up to 2” in length and at least 1” in diameter.

Abbreviations

k knit
p purl
sts stitches
Y1 – Slubby Blue
Y2 – Great Big Sea

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Techniques
Maid Marian vest is knitted sideways in one piece and is reversible with no right or wrong sides.

Pattern:
Cast on
Two yarn cast on: this is very similar to a long tail cast on. Knot together Y1 and Y2 (leaving about a 6” tail to work in).

*Make a loop with Y1 on left thumb (as you do in the long tail cast on) and with one needle enter as if to knit with Y2, knit this stitch onto the needle*.

Repeat * to *.

Cast off
Slipped stitch cast off:
Knit 1, *slip 1 st from left hand needle purl wise onto right needle, pass first st over slipped st, put the stitch back onto left needle and knit it*. Repeat * to *.

Ribbed Pattern Stitch
Row 1: with Y1, knit all stitches across row, go back to beginning of row just completed.
Row 2: with Y2, *K1, P1 *. Repeat * to * across row, ending on a k1 (on uneven # of st) turn work.
Repeat rows 1 and 2 throughout work.
It will take a while to get used to not turning your work at the end every row.

Vest
Starting at underarm seam, cast on 31 stitches with 2 yarn cast on.
Y1 and Y2 tails will be at same end of work, turn work.
Start Rib Stitch Pattern: repeat 3 times or 6 rows. At the end of the 6th row cast on 20sts using the 2 yarn cast on, (one side of the armhole opening).

Back
Continue in pattern on 51 sts for 13/14/15 inches Fasten off Y2.
Next row: cast off with Y1, 20 sts using slipped stitch cast off.
Continue on 31 sts in pattern: repeat 4 times (8 rows or approx 3½”) At the end of the 8th row cast on 20sts back on using the 2 yarn cast on. These are the other side of the armhole.

First Front Section
Continue on 51 stitches for 4/4.5/5 inches ending on row 2.
Start neck shaping on next as follows: Slip first 8 sts onto holder. Repeat in pattern for 6 more inches. Cast off 43 using the slipped stitch cast off.
Go back to 31 stitch cast on:
Starting at the bottom edge of vest with Y1 pick up and knit 31 sts. Go back to beginning of picked up row and with Y2 start row 2 of pattern. At the end of row 2, cast on 20 stitches for other side of armhole with 2 yarn cast on.

Turn work and continue in pattern.

Second Front Section
Repeat first front section.
Sew shoulder seams together.

Notched Collar
Using Y1 (starting 1/2 way across right side of front flap edge) with 6mm circular needles, pick up 8 sts, 8 sts on holder, 17 along back, 8 sts from other holder and pick up 8 sts from the first half of the left flap. Knit these 49 sts in pattern with both yarns for 5”. Cast off using slipped stitch cast off.

Finishing
Weave in ends There is no further finishing needed as using the 2 yarn cast on and slipped stitch cast off, allows for a similar looking finished edge each side of the armhole.

Blocking
Use a damp pressing cloth and steam press garment, or pin to dry on a flat surface. Use pewter ring w/stick to secure fronts, in a fashion to suite your own look. Leave these sts on an a 2nd holder.

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