



Bimini

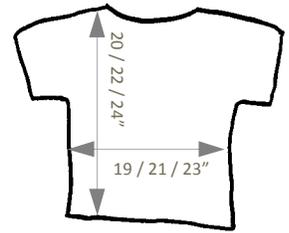
A MOREHOUSE ORIGINAL



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- Sizes:** small, medium and large (to fit sizes 32/34, 36/38, 40/42);
check widths in inches at right before deciding which size to knit, this is an oversized, loosely fitting top
- Yarn:** 3 skeins of Morehouse Merino 2-Ply
- Needles:** 2 circular needles #10½, 24" long
- Gauge:** before unraveling stitches 4 stitches = 1", and 6 rows = 1 inch;
after unraveling stitches 2 stitches = about 1 inch, and 2 rows = about 1 inch

This loosely knit tunic is knit in one piece, beginning at the bottom. Before binding off at the shoulders, every other stitch is dropped off the needle and unraveled all the way to the cast-on edge. Don't knit loosely as you are knitting this tunic or your stitches will end up too big after dropping and unraveling stitches.

Cast on using double yarn (cast on loosely and use elastic cast-on method, such as long-tail cast-on and double yarn for tail only) 72/80/88 stitches. Continue with yarn single. Join and work first round as follows: *knit 1 stitch, yarn over; repeat from * to end of round (knit yarn-overs as regular stitches on following round—and don't worry about the holes on row below—these yarn-over stitches will later be dropped and unraveled). You now have 144/160/196 stitches total. Knit 22/24/26 rounds or to desired length to armhole. If body looks alarmingly short to begin sleeves, it will stretch out once you unravel stitches (see illustrations below). Keep in mind: each row will end up ½" in length.

Divide for armhole: count 72/80/88 stitches for front and place marker (piece of different color yarn will work), and the remaining 72/80/88 stitches will be for back.

Start sleeves: use second circular needle and knit to marker (72/80/88 stitches); increase 1 stitch by picking up yarn between stitch you just knit and the next stitch and knit into back of loop to create a twisted stitch. Now turn and cast on 9/10/10 stitches for sleeve using open-knit cast-on (see illustration at left). Work row (on wrong side) as follows: *purl 1 stitch, yarn over; repeat from * for the first 9/10/10 stitches, purl to end of row (to beginning of round). Turn and cast on 9/10/10 stitches using open-knit cast-on for second sleeve. Work row (right side) as follows: *knit 1 stitch, yarn over; repeat from * for the first 9/10/10 stitches, then knit to end of row. You now have a total of 109/121/129 stitches for front together with sleeves at either end. *Purl row on wrong side, knit row on right side; repeat from * total of 18/20/22 rows, ending with right side row. Leave 2 yards of yarn. Repeat for back, but don't break off yarn.



Open-Knit Cast-On:

Turn knitting so stitches you just knit are in left hand, knit first stitch but do not drop stitch off needle in left hand, slip new stitch from needle in right hand back onto needle in left hand—slip stitch as illustrated above. Now knit this stitch again, but do not drop it off needle in left hand, slip it back again from needle in right hand onto needle in left hand, etc.

Before binding off shoulders together, drop every other stitch off needles on front and back as follows: transfer stitches (don't knit them—just transfer them) and drop every other stitch off the needle (all uneven-numbered stitches, first, third, fifth, etc, remain on needle and all even-numbered stitches are dropped off). Repeat for other side. Now bind off shoulders together using three-needle bind-off: very loosely bind off 18 (20/21) stitches from sleeve end toward neckline at both ends. (How? Put front and back pieces parallel to each—wrong side facing out—and bind off together; knit the first stitch on needle closest to you together with first stitch on needle in back, then knit second stitch on needle closest to you together with second stitch on needle in back, then bind off regularly by lifting first stitch over second one.) Very loosely bind off, using yarn double, remaining stitches around neckline.

Now pull dropped stitches all the way down to cast-on edge. Sew sleeves together under arm. Darn in all ends.

Finishing: soak tunic in warm water for several minutes. Squeeze out as much water as possible and lay flat to dry, tucking it into proper shape.

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