



# Striped dog sweater & Balaclava

KNITTING PATTERN



Sari Nordlund

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# Alvar Striped dog sweater

The Alvar dog sweater is knitted seamlessly in one piece starting at the neck and working towards the tail. Lastly stitches are picked from the leg openings and worked in ribbing in the round.

You can choose from two versions: you can either work the main part in a single (easy and minimalistic version) or use two or more colors to make stripes (slightly more advanced version). Both versions are suitable for adventurous beginners.

Because every dog is slightly different in size and shape, the pattern gives you instructions on how to modify the fit of the sweater to suit your dog in the best possible way. The pattern also comes with an optional short-row shaping for the front neck of the sweater, which improves the fit for dogs with long necks, but you can also choose to leave it out.

# Sizes

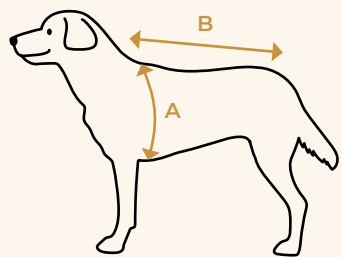
1 (2, 3, 4, 5)

## Chest circumference: (A)

Measure around the widest part of the chest, approximately one inch behind the front legs.

## Length of the back: (B)

Measure from the withers to the base of the tail when the dog is standing. *Note: The length of the back is easily adjusted if your dog has a shorter or a longer back.*



	A	B
1	34-40 cm 13.5-15.75 in	30 cm 11.75 in
2	42-48 cm 16.5-19 in	38 cm 15 in
3	50-56 cm 19.75-22 in	44 cm 17.25 in
4	58-64 cm 22.75-25.25 in	50 cm 19.75 in
5	66-72 cm 26-28.5 in	56 cm 22 in



**Pluto**  
Jackrussel terrier,  
size 3



**Eetu**  
Pinscher,  
size 4



**Mauri**  
English springer  
spaniel, size 5

# Yarn

## Unicolor version

2 (3, 3, 4, 5) balls of Sandnes Garn Double Sunday (100% merino wool, 108 m / 118 yards per 50g) or 140 (220, 280, 360, 480) m / 160 (240, 310, 400, 530) yards of similar DK weight yarn.

## Thin stripes

Main color: 2 (3, 3, 4, 4) balls of Sandnes Garn Double Sunday (100% merino wool, 108 m / 118 yards per 50g) or 120 (200, 250, 310, 430) m / 140 (220, 280, 350, 480) yards of similar DK weight yarn.

Contrasting color: 1 ball of Sandnes Garn Double Sunday (100% merino wool, 108 m / 118 yards per 50g) or 20 (20, 30, 50, 50) m / 30 (30, 40, 60, 60) yards of similar DK weight yarn.

## Thick stripes

Main color: 1 (2, 2, 3, 4) balls of Sandnes Garn Double Sunday (100% merino wool, 108 m / 118 yards per 50g) or 90 (160, 210, 240, 340) m / 100 (180, 230, 270, 380) yards of similar DK weight yarn.

Contrasting color: 1 (1, 1, 2, 2) ball(s) of Sandnes Garn Double Sunday (100% merino wool, 108 m / 118 yards per 50g) or 50 (60, 90, 120, 140) m / 60 (70, 100, 140, 160) yards of similar DK weight yarn.

# Needles

## For the ribbing

- 3 mm / US2.5 DPNs or circular needles with a cable of 40 cm / 16 inches for the neck band
- 3 mm / US2.5 DPNs or a circular needle suitable for small circumference knitting for the leg openings
- 3 mm / US2.5 circular needles with a cable of 60 cm / 24 inches for the ribbing at the bottom hem

## **For the main part**

3.5 mm / US4 circular needles with a cable of 40 cm / 16 inches (sizes 1-2) or 60 cm / 24 inches (sizes 3-5)

Always use the needle size that gets you the right gauge!

## **Gauge**

18 sts and 28 rounds = 10 cm / 4 inches of Stockinette stitch, on larger needles, after blocking.

## **Notions**

- 4 stitch markers
- Waste yarn
- Sewing needle

# **Striped sequence**

Note: You can easily create your own stripe sequences by changing the number of rows knitted with each color. You can also add more colors if you want.

## **Thin stripes**

Always work 16 rounds in MC followed by 4 rounds of CC.

## **Thick stripes**

Always work 12 rounds in MC followed by 12 rounds of CC.

# Instructions

## NECK BAND

*Note: If you do not wish to work the Tubular Cast On, CO 60 (76, 84, 92, 96) sts with the main yarn using your main color and the Long Tail Cast On method, then continue straight to The Ribbing round.*

With the waste yarn, CO 30 (38, 42, 46, 48) sts loosely using the Long Tail Cast On method. Pm for BOR and join in the round being careful not to twist the ring of sts. Break the waste yarn and attach the main color yarn to the work.

**Tubular Round 1:** \*K1, yo; repeat from \* until the end. (60 (76, 84, 92, 96) sts on needles)

**Tubular Round 2:** \*Sl1 wyib, p1; repeat from \* until the end.

**Tubular Round 3:** \*K1, sl1 wyif; repeat from \* until the end. You can now undo the waste yarn from the cast on edge.

Then organize the stitches for 2x2 ribbing:

**Tubular Round 4:** \*K1, RT, p1; repeat from \* until the end.

**Ribbing Round:** \*K2, p2; repeat from \* until end.

Continue working the ribbing, until the neckband measures 12 (13, 13, 13, 14) cm / 4.75 (5, 5, 5, 5.5) inches from the CO edge or the desired length.

On the next round make a small opening for the leash at the top of the neck:

**Next Round:** Work in ribbing as established until there are 29 (37, 41, 45, 47) sts on the right needle, BO 2 sts, work in ribbing as established until end.

**Next Round:** Work in ribbing as established until the gap from the previous round, CO 2 sts using the Cable CO method or the Back Loop CO method, work in ribbing as established until end.

Then work ribbing on all sts until the neckband measures 13 (14, 14, 14, 15) cm / 5 (5.5, 5.5, 5.5, 6) inches from the CO edge or the desired length.

## **BODY**

Change to the larger needles.

### **Size 2 only:**

Increase Round: \*K38, m1L; repeat from \* until the end. 2 sts increased, 78 sts on needles.

### **Size 4 only:**

Increase Round: \*K23, m1L; repeat from \* until the end. 4 sts increased, 96 sts on needles.

### **Size 5 only:**

Increase Round: \*K16, m1L; repeat from \* until the end. 6 sts increased, 102 sts on needles.

### **All sizes resume:**

There are now 60 (78, 84, 96, 102) sts on the needles.

## **SHORT-ROW SHAPING OF THE FRONT NECK (OPTIONAL)**

*If you don't want to do the short-row shaping you can continue straight to the instructions for the Increasing for the front legs. The short-rows make the front neck slightly longer than the back, improving the fit of the sweater at the front neck. If your dog has a short neck, you can skip this part.*

**Short-row 1 (RS):** K5, turn the work.

**Short-row 2 (WS):** Sl1 wyif and yo at the same time, pull the working yarn so that the “legs” of the slipped st rise up on the right needle



and look like a pair of sts. From now on, this is called a “stitch pair.” Then purl to BOR, sm, p5, turn the work.

**Short-row 3 (RS):** Sl1 wyif and yo at the same time, pull the yarn as above, knit to BOR, sm, knit until the next stitch pair, work the stitch pair as k2tog, k5, turn the work.

**Short-row 4 (WS):** Sl1 wyif and yo at the same time, pull the yarn as above, purl to BOR, sm, purl until the next stitch pair, work the stitch pair as p2tog, p5, turn the work.

Repeat Short-rows 3-4 another 2 (3, 4, 5, 6) times.

**Short-row 5 (RS):** Sl1 wyif and yo at the same time, pull the yarn as above, knit to BOR.

**Next Round:** Resume working in the round. Work in Stockinette stitch and work the remaining stitch pairs as k2tog at the same time.

## INCREASING FOR THE FRONT LEGS

**Next Round:** K9 (9, 12, 12, 15), pm for the left leg. Then k42 (60, 60, 72, 72), pm for right leg. K to BOR marker, remove marker and k to next marker. This is your new BOR (left leg). There are 18 (18, 24, 24, 30) sts for the belly and 42 (60, 60, 72, 72) sts for the back.

**Round 1:** Work in Stockinette stitch until next m, sm, and knit until end.

**Round 2:** M1L, pm, knit until next m, pm, m1R, sm and knit until end. 2 sts increased, 62 (80, 86, 98, 104) sts on needles; 18 (18, 24, 24, 30) sts on the belly, 42 (60, 60, 72, 72) sts on the back and 1 st between markers for each leg.

*If you are working the striped version, change to the contrasting*

*color yarn and start working according to the striped sequence..*

**Round 3:** \*Knit until next m, sm; repeat from \* until end.

**Round 4:** M1L, knit until next m, sm. Then knit until next m, sm. Knit until next m and m1R, sm and knit until end. 2 sts increased, 64 (82, 88, 100, 106) sts on the needles; 18 (18, 24, 24, 30) sts for the belly, 42 (60, 60, 72, 72) sts for the back and 2 sts between markers for each leg.

Repeat Rounds 3-4 another 4 (5, 8, 10, 12) times and then work Round 3 one more time, and at the same, if you are working the striped version, remember to change colors according to the striped sequence. There are now 72 (92, 104, 120, 130) sts on the needles, 18 (18, 24, 24, 30) sts for the belly, 42 (60, 60, 72, 72) sts for the back and 6 (7, 10, 12, 14) sts between markers for each leg.

Next we will separate the back and the belly to make the openings for the legs. *This is a good place to try the sweater on your dog. If the piece feels too short you can add a few extra rounds before the next step, and if necessary make even a few more increases as instructed on Round 4 for a wider fit. If you make more increases, remember to add them into the total stitch counts as we go forward.*

## DIVIDE FOR LEGS

**Next Round:** \*Knit until next m, sm; repeat from \* until the end. Then leave the belly sts on your needles and put the rest of the stitches on hold on a piece of waste yarn. 18 (18, 24, 24, 30) sts on needles. You can remove the markers from each side of the belly.

Continue working flat (back and forth on the needles, both from the RS and the WS). I

**Row 1 (WS):** Purl the belly sts until end. Turn work.

**Row 2 (RS):** Knit the belly sts until end. Turn work.

Work as established on Rows 1-2 until the piece measures 8 (9, 10, 11, 12) cm / 3.25 (3.5, 4, 4.5, 4.75) inches from the beginning of the leg openings, ending with a WS row. This is a good place to try the sweater on your dog, and add more length to the leg openings if needed.

Break yarn and put the belly sts on hold on a piece of waste yarn.

Take the back sts and the increased leg sts on your needles.

Reattach the yarn to your work, ready to work a WS row. 54 (74, 80, 96, 100) sts on the needles.

**Row 1 (WS):** \*Purl until next m, sm; repeat from \* one more time, then purl until end.

**Row 2 (RS):** Ssk, \*Knit until next m, sm; repeat from \* one more time, then knit until 2 sts remain, k2tog. 2 sts decreased, 52 (72, 78, 94, 98) sts on needles.

Repeat Rows 1-2 another 2 times. 48 (68, 74, 90, 96) sts on needles.

Then continue in Stockinette stitch until the piece measures 8 (9, 10, 11, 12) cm / 3.25 (3.5, 4, 4.5, 4.75) inches from the beginning of the leg openings, ending with a WS row. If you are working in the stripe pattern, make sure you end with the same row of the stripe sequence as for the belly.

**Next Row (RS):** \*Knit until next m, sm; repeat from \* one more time. Knit until the end of the row, pm. Take the belly sts on your needles and work them in Stockinette stitch. Pm for BOR. 66 (86, 98, 114, 124) sts on needles, 18 (18, 24, 24, 30) sts for the belly, 42 (60, 60, 72, 72) sts for the back and 3 (4, 7, 9, 11) sts between markers for each leg.

Continue working in the round.

**Round 1:** \*Knit until next m, sm; repeat from \* until end.

**Round 2:** Ssk, \*knit until next m, sm; repeat from \* one more time. Knit until 2 sts remain before next m and k2tog, sm and knit until end. 2 sts decreased, 64 (84, 96, 112, 122) sts on the needles; 18 (18, 24, 24, 30) sts for the belly, 42 (60, 60, 72, 72) sts for the back and 2 (3, 6, 8, 10) sts between markers for each leg.

Repeat Rounds 1-2 another 2 (3, 6, 8, 10) times. The last decreases are made together with the first and last stitch of the back. You can remove the extra stitch markers at the same time and leave just one stitch marker at each side of the belly. 60 (78, 84, 96, 102) sts on needles; 18 (18, 24, 24, 30) sts for the belly and 42 (60, 60, 72, 72) sts for the back. *Note: If you made extra increases before the leg openings, you can do the equivalent number of decreases at this point. However, remember to check the fit on your dog before making changes.*

Continue working in Stockinette stitch without further decreases until the piece measures 7 (8, 9, 10, 11) cm / 2.75 (3.25, 3.5, 4, 4.25) inches from the end of the leg openings, or approximately 2.5 cm / 1 inch less than the desired length under the belly. *I recommend trying the sweater on your dog again at this point, and adding length if needed. Dogs with long backs (such as dachshunds and corgis) might need even an additional 9 cm / 3.5 inches in length. The sweaters for female dogs can also be made longer than the ones for male dogs.*

At the end of the next round, put the belly 18 (18, 24, 24, 30) sts on hold on a piece of waste yarn. Then work one more row on the RS with the remaining 42 (60, 60, 72, 72) back sts.

## SHAPING THE BACK

**Row 1 (WS):** Purl until the end. If you are working in Stockinette stitch, remember to purl the sts on the WS (inside of the work).

**Row 2 (RS):** K1, ssk, knit until 3 sts remain, k2tog and k1. 2 sts decreased, 40 (58, 58, 70, 70) sts on needles.

**Row 3 (WS):** P2, purl until 2 sts remain, p2.

Continue as established on Rows 2-3 another 8 (13, 14, 19, 18) times, or until the piece measures 7 (10, 11, 14, 15) cm / 2.75 (4, 4.25, 5.5, 6) inches or 2.5 cm / 1 inch less than the desired length of the back. 22 (32, 30, 32, 34) sts on needles.

## RIBBING

Change to smaller needles. If you are working the striped version, break the CC yarn and continue with MC only.

**Set-Up Row (RS):** K to end of the back. Pick up and knit 1 st for every row along the side until the belly. Take the 18 (18, 24, 24, 30) belly sts back on your needles and knit them. Pick up and knit 1 st for every row along the second side of the back. (Make sure the stitch count for the round is divisible by 4.) Pm for BOR and continue working in the round.

**Ribbing Round:** \*K1, p2, k1; repeat from \* until end.

Continue in ribbing until the edge measures 2.5 cm / 1 inch or the desired length. Note: You can end the last round when you are approximately under the belly.

Bind off all sts in pattern. If you want to use the Sewn Tubular Bind Off, start by rearranging the stitches into 1x1 rib:

**Set-Up For Tubular Bind Off:** \*K1, p1, RT; repeat from \* until end.

Then bind off all sts using the Sewn Tubular Bind Off.

## **RIBBING FOR THE LEGS**

Use the smaller needles and MC yarn.

Pick up and knit 14 (18, 20, 22, 24) sts along the first side of the leg opening, then 2 sts from the gap between the sides, another 14 (18, 20, 22, 24) sts along the second side of the leg opening and 2 sts from the gap. Pm for BOR and continue working in the round. 36 (40, 44, 48, 52) sts on needles.

**Ribbing Round:** \*K1, p2, k1; repeat from \* until end.

Continue in ribbing until the edge measures 3 (3, 4, 4, 5) cm / 1.25 (1.25, 1.5, 1.5, 2) inches or the desired length.

Then bind off all sts loosely in pattern. You can use the Sewn Tubular Bind Off, or other stretchy bind off method of your choice. If you want to use the Sewn Tubular Bind Off, start by rearranging the stitches as instructed for the Body ribbing.

Work the second leg similarly.

## **FINISHING**

Weave in all remaining yarn ends. Wet block to measurements.



# Alvar Balaclava

The Alvar balaclava is knitted in one piece starting in the round with the folded edge around the face. Options are given for working the balaclava with a string to tighten the opening or leaving it out. The main part of the balaclava is knitted flat, and the back of the hood is worked with decreases and an optional short row shaping. Lastly stitches are picked from the bottom of the balaclava and the neck is worked in ribbing. The string is knitted as an i-cord.





# Size

One size

Fits head circumference of about 54-60 cm / 21.25 - 23.5 inches

# Yarn

2 skeins of Sandnes Garn Double Sunday (100% merino wool, 108 m / 118 yards per 50g) or 210 m / 230 yards of similar DK weight yarn

1 skein of Sandnes Garn Tynn Silk Mohair (57 % mohair, 15 % wool, 28% silk; 212 m / 232 yards per 25 g) or 210 m / 230 yards of similar lace weight yarn.

# Needles

4 mm / US 6 circular needles with a cable of 40 cm / 16 inches

5 mm / US 8 circular needles with a cable of 40 cm / 16 inches

Always use the needle size that gets you the right gauge!

## Gauge

15 sts and 20 rows = 10 cm / 4 inches of Stockinette stitch on the larger needles, knitted flat and slightly blocked.

## Notions

- 1 stitch marker
- Sewing needle
- Waste yarn

# Instructions

With the the smaller needles and holding both yarns together, CO 104 sts using the Long Tail Cast On method. Pm for beginning of the round and join in the round.

**Round 1:** K all.

Work another 4 rounds in Stockinette stitch (5 rounds in total).

**Folding Round:** P all.

Change to the larger needles.

**Round 2:** K all.

Work one more round in Stockinette stitch as established on Round 2, then make holes for the string (Note: if you don't want to add a string, work the next round in Stockinette stitch instead):

**Round 3:** K3, k2tog, yo, k until 5 sts remain, yo, ssk, k to end.

Work another 2 rounds in in Stockinette stitch as established on Round 2

Fold the piece in half along the purled folding line so that the right sides are on the outside. Make sure the stitches on needles line up and match with the stitches on the CO edge. Then \*pick up 1 stitch from the CO edge with your left needles and knit it together with the first live stitch on the needle.\* Repeat \*-\* until all stitches have been worked. Alternatively you can also fold the edge double and sew it in place on the inside of the hood.

**Round 4:** K all.

**Round 5:** K3, ssk, k until 5 sts remain k2tog. Turn work and put the remaining 3 sts of the round as well as the first 3 sts of the round

on hold on a piece of waste yarn. 96 sts on needles. You can also remove the marker between the 6 sts on hold.

Continue working flat:

**Row 1 (WS):** P all.

**Row 2 (RS):** K all.

Work in Stockinette stitch as established on Rows 1-2 until the piece measures 20 cm / 8 inches from the purled Folding round, ending with a WS row.

## SHAPING THE BACK NECK

Start shaping the back neck with decreases and German short-rows as follows:

*Note: The short-row shaping is optional and you can easily leave it out by working the decreases as established and knitting each row until the end before turning. However the short-rows shape the neck making it fit and look better around the back neck.*

Start shaping the back neck with decreases and German short-rows as follows:

Note: The short-row shaping is optional and you can easily leave it out by working the decreases as established and knitting each row until the end before turning. However the short-rows shape the neck making it fit and look better around the back neck.

**Set up row 1 (RS):** K41, k2tog, k5, pm, k5, ssk, k to end.

**Set up row 2 (WS):** P to end slipping the marker as you encounter it.

**Short-row 1 (RS):** Knit until 7 sts remain before next marker, k2tog, k to marker, sm, k5, ssk, k until 16 sts remain before end. Turn work. 2

sts decreased, 94 sts on needles.

**Short-row 2 (WS):** Sl1 wyif and yo at the same time, pull the working yarn so that the “legs” of the slipped st rise up on the right needle and look like a pair of sts. From now on, this is called a “stitch pair.” Then purl to marker, sm, p until 16 sts remain before the end of the row, turn the work.

**Short-row 3 (RS):** Sl1 wyif and yo at the same time, pull the yarn as above, knit until 7 sts remain before next marker, k2tog, k to marker, sm, k5, ssk, knit until the next stitch pair, work the stitch pair as k2tog, k2, turn the work. 2 sts decreased.

**Short-row 4 (WS):** Sl1 wyif and yo at the same time, pull the yarn as above, purl to marker, sm, purl until the next stitch pair, work the stitch pair as p2tog, p2, turn the work.

Repeat Short-rows 3-4 another 5 times. (4 sts remain unworked at each end of the row). 70 sts on needles

**Short-row 5 (RS):** Sl1 wyif and yo at the same time, pull the yarn as above, knit until 7 sts remain before next marker, k2tog, k to marker, sm, k5, ssk, k until the next stitch pair, work the stitch pair as k2tog, k to end. 2 sts decreased, 68 sts on needles.

**Short-row 6 (WS):** Purl to marker, sm, purl until the next stitch pair, work the stitch pair as p2tog, p to end.

**Next Row (RS):** K to marker.

Break both yarns leaving a 40 cm / 16 inch yarn end. Then divide the stitches on two needles, 34 sts on each needle. Graft the sides of the work together using the Kitchener stitch.

## BOTTOM RIBBING

Using the smaller needles and starting at the back neck, pick up and knit one stitch for every row along the side of the balaclava until the front neck. Take the 6 sts held for the neck on your needles and knit them. Then pick up and knit one stitch for every row along the side of the balaclava until the end of the back neck. Make sure the stitch count is divisible by 4. (You can pick up extra sts on the following round if needed.) Approximately 80-98 sts on needles. Note: The more sts you pick, the looser the neck will be.

**Ribbing Round:** \*K1, p2, k1; repeat from \* until end.

Continue in ribbing until the edge measures 10 cm / 4 inches or the desired length.

Bind off all sts in pattern. If you want to use the Sewn Tubular Bind Off, start by rearranging the stitches into 1x1 rib:

**Set-Up For Tubular Bind Off:** \*K1, p1, RT; repeat from \* until end.

Then bind off all sts using the Sewn Tubular Bind Off.

## STRING

CO 4 sts using smaller needles and the Long Tail CO method.

Start working the string as an i-cord: K4, \*then slip the sts back to the left needle with yarn in back and knit them again; repeat from \* until the i-cord measures 106 cm / 41.75 inches (slightly stretched). Break yarns and pull them through the 4 live sts. Pull the yarns to tighten, then secure the ends by weaving them in.

Pull the i-cord through the eyelets made into the folded edge (easiest if you put a safety pin on the end of the string and use the safety pin to push the i-cord through the holes in the fold).

## FINISHING

Weave in all remaining yarn ends. Wet block gently to measurements.

# Abbreviations

<b>BOR</b>	Beginning of the round
<b>BO</b>	Bind off
<b>CC</b>	Contrasting color
<b>CO</b>	Cast on
<b>DPN(s)</b>	Double pointed needle(s)
<b>k</b>	Knit
<b>k2tog</b>	Knit 2 sts together
<b>m</b>	Marker
<b>MC</b>	Main color
<b>m1L</b>	Make 1 knit st (left leaning)
<b>m1R</b>	Make 1 knit st (right leaning)
<b>p</b>	Purl
<b>p2tog</b>	Purl 2 sts together
<b>pm</b>	Place marker
<b>RS</b>	Right side
<b>RT</b>	Right twist. Knit first the second stitch on the left needle, leave the stitch on the left needle, the purl the first stitch on the left needle, and drop both stitches off the left needle

<b>sl</b>	Slip 1 st
<b>sm</b>	Slip marker
<b>ssk</b>	Slip, slip, knit the slipped sts together through the back loop
<b>St st</b>	Stockinette stitch
<b>st(s)</b>	Stitch(es)
<b>WS</b>	Wrong side
<b>wyib</b>	With yarn in back
<b>wyif</b>	With yarn in front
<b>yo</b>	Yarn over
<b>*</b>	Repeat from here

ALVAR



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