



Koigu Kimono

Materials: 17 sk Koigu KPPPM

Gauge: OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE.

Two #7 US 32" circular needles

Suitable crochet hook

Dimensions: shoulder to hem 35"; cuff to cuff 53", underarm to underarm 26" (fit is LOOSE and comfy!), all measured flat. When worn, the length will increase to @40" shoulder to hem. (I'm 5'1" and the robe falls just below my knees).

Abbreviations: k: knit

BODY

Make 2 rectangles (6 sk per rectangle). If using more than one colorway, grade and arrange the colors so that one skein flows smoothly into the next. Note that the rectangles begin with the shoulder edge and work in.

Using a LOOSE cable cast-on, CO 350 stitches. Work in garter stitch, joining new skeins as necessary (if you felt the ends together, you won't have any ends to weave in later!). Finish with the 6th skein, but DO NOT bind off; place stitches on scrap yarn holder and make second rectangle. Again, don't bind off! Move 160 stitches from first rectangle onto second needle, then join the two panels from back bottom to back neck (160 stitches) using 3-needle BO with wrong sides together so that seam is visible on right side.

PLACKETS AND NECK

Place remaining live stitches (190 from each panel—380 stitches total) on one circular needle. Join new skein at bottom left and work back and forth in garter stitch until shawl collar is desired depth (I used two full skeins). BO loosely. You may want to use a little scrap yarn to reinforce the point where the back neck and back seam meet.

SLEEVES (2)

This is a great way to use up odds and ends of yarn, rather than using complete skeins!

CO 3 stitches. Working in garter stitch, increase one stitch at cuff edge EVERY ROW until sleeve is desired length (mine is 78 stitches). Work 9" even, then decrease one stitch at cuff edge EVERY ROW until 3 stitches remain. BO.

SEAMING (all are 3-needle BO)

Determine center stitches of sleeve edge and shoulder edge. Pick up stitches along sleeve edge. With second needle, pick up the SAME NUMBER of stitches along shoulder edge, being careful in both cases to pick up the same number on either side of the center stitches. With wrong sides together so that seam will be visible on right side, join sleeve to shoulder with 3-needle BO.

To seam sides, pick up stitches from hem to underarm on edge of back panel, then with a second needle pick up the same number of stitches along edge of front panel. With wrong sides together so that seam is visible on right side, join the sides with 3-needle BO. Work sleeve seams in the same manner.

I don't mind the fabric growing a bit in length (see Dimensions, above) but I don't want it to stretch too much from cuff to cuff. To stabilize this, use crochet hook to apply a relatively firm chain stitch, beginning at the top edge of one cuff, up the sleeve, across the shoulder (if you want, you can fold the shawl collar over and chain stitch the back neck down), then across the second shoulder and down the second sleeve to the cuff. OR sew a nice, brightly colored 3/4" or 1" ribbon across the shoulders from sleeve edge to neck edge.

Instead of a tie belt, I close the front with a shawl pin.

