

Women's Waistcoat
from
Essentials for the Forces (Jaeger
Hand-Knit Series No. 44), 1940s



Materials.—8 oz. of Jaeger "Spiral-Spun" (7d. per oz.), 1 pair each of No. 5 and No. 9 Jaeger knitting needles, and 4 buttons the size of a shilling.

Measurements.—Length of back from armhole edge, 16 inches; width all round under the arms, 33 inches.

Tension.—5 stitches to 1 inch in width, and 7 rows to 1 inch in depth.

Abbreviations.—K. = knit; p. = purl; sts. = stitches; rep. = repeat; sl. = slip; inc. = increase or increasing; dec. = decrease or decreasing.

Casting-on.—If you cast on with two needles work into the back of all cast on sts. to produce firm edges, but if you use the thumb method this is not necessary.

THE BACK

BEGIN at the lower edge. Cast on 73 sts. using No. 9 needles and work 2 inches in k. 1, p. 1 rib. Change to No. 5 needles and the pattern as follows: **1st row**—Sl. 1, k. to end. **2nd row**—Sl. 1, p. 2, * k. 1, p. 2. Rep. from * finishing k. 1. These 2 rows form the pattern and are rep. throughout. Continue in pattern until the work measures 8½ inches from the beginning, finishing with the work right side towards you.

The Armhole Shaping.—Cast off 3 sts. at the beginning of the next 8 rows, then dec. 1 st. at both ends of every row until 43 sts. remain. Continue without dec. until the armholes measure 7½ inches on the straight, finishing with the work right side towards you.

The Shoulder Shaping.—Cast off 6 sts. at the beginning of the next 4 rows. Cast off the remaining 19 sts. for the back neck.

THE RIGHT FRONT

Begin at the lower edge. Cast on 4 sts. using No. 5 needles and work in pattern casting on 3 sts. at the beginning of every row until there are 46 sts. on the needle. Continue without inc. until the side edge measures 8 inches, finishing with the work wrong side towards you.

The Armhole and Neck Shaping.—Cast off 3 sts. at the beginning of the next row, then on the next 2 alternate rows, then dec. 1 st. at the same edge on the next 3 rows. At the same time dec. 1 st. at the neck edge on every alternate row until 28 sts. remain. Now dec. 1 st. at the neck edge on every 3rd row until 13 sts. remain, finishing with the work wrong side towards you.

The Shoulder Shaping.—Cast off 6 sts. at the beginning of the next row. Work 1 more row. Cast off.

THE LEFT FRONT

Work this exactly like the right front, but with all shapings at opposite edges.

THE ARMHOLE BANDS

Cast on 8 sts. using No. 9 needles and work as follows: **1st row**—Sl. 1, k. to end. **2nd row**—Sl. 1, k. 1, p. 4, k. 2. Continue to rep. the last 2 rows until the work measures 20 inches from the beginning. Cast off. Work another band exactly like the first.

THE FRONT BAND

Cast on 8 sts. using No. 9 needles and work 60 inches exactly like the armhole band. Cast off.

THE MAKING UP

Press the work on the wrong side with a warm iron and damp cloth. Join the shoulders, and press the seams. Fold the front band in half lengthwise, then sew round the neck and the edges of the fronts, leaving four ½-inch spaces down the right front to form the buttonholes, and press the seam. Fold the armhole bands in half, and sew round the armhole edges, press the seams. Sew up the side seams, and press them. Sew on the buttons to correspond with the buttonholes.