Baby Boy Knit Romper

Baby Boy Knit Romper
(c)April 2004, Beth Koskie
(to be used for personal or charitable purposes only; NOT for sale or to make items for sale; if you make one, please consider donating it to a charity group in your area for a burial/blessing garment)

Note: this romper can be used as a blessing/burial garment, or made to fit a live baby; sizes can be changed by changing needle size used. It's adapted from one of many versions of the 5 Hour Baby Sweater.

Abbreviations:

- BO = bind off
- Inc = increase (usually by knitting in front and back of stitch)
- K = knit
- K2tog = knit 2 stitches together
- P = purl
- PM = place marker
- Rep = repeat from
- Sts = stitches
- YO = yarn over

Materials:

- 6-7 oz of WW yarn
- Size 8 (straights and circulars work best)
- 6" length of snaps on a cloth tape strip (from fabric store, bought from a bolt or prepackaged)
- 4 Stitch markers
- Yarn needle
- Sewing needle and thread
- 6 buttons

Body:

Starting at neck, with size 8 needles, cast on 35 sts.
(note: I usually cast on with straight needles, then switch to circulars on row 1)
Rows 1-3: Knit across.
Row 4: K4, P27, K4.
Row 5 (buttonhole row): K1, K2tog, YO, K1, *inc, K1 rep from * across, end inc, K4 (49 sts).
Row 6: K4, P41, K4.
Row 7: K4, *K2tog, rep * across to last 5 sts, K5 (29 sts).
Row 8: K5, *K1 in strand between sts, K1, rep from * across to last 5 sts, K5 (49 sts).

Row 9: K4, *inc, K2, rep from * across, end inc, K5 (63 sts).
Row 10: K4, P55, K4.
Row 11: K4, *K2tog, rep * across to last 5 sts, K5 (36 sts).
Row 12: Repeat row 8 (63 sts).
Row 13: K5, *inc, K3, rep from * across, end, inc, K5 (77 sts).
Row 14: K4, P69, K4.
Row 15: Repeat row 11 (43 sts).
Row 16: Repeat row 8 (77 sts).
Row 17 (buttonhole row): K1, K2 tog, YO, K2, *inc, K4, rep from * across, end inc, K6 (91 sts).
Row 18: K4, P83, K4.
Row 19: Repeat row 11 (50 sts).
Row 20: Repeat row 8 (91 sts).
Row 21: K6, *inc, K5, rep from * across, end inc, K6 (105 sts).
Row 22: K4, P97, K4.
Row 23: Repeat row 11 (57 sts).
Row 24: Repeat row 8 (105 sts).
Row 25: K6 … inc, K4, inc, K4, inc, K1 (front 1, 21 sts) … PM … inc, K5, inc, K4, inc, K5, inc, K1 (sleeve 1, 23 sts) … PM … inc, K5, inc, K5, inc, K4, inc, 5, inc, K5, inc, K1 (back, 37 sts) … PM … inc, K5, inc, K4, inc, K5, inc, K1 (sleeve 2, 23 sts) … PM … inc, K4, inc, K4, inc, K7 (front 2, 21 sts). (125 sts total)
Row 26: K4, P117 (slipping markers as you go), K4.
Row 27: Knit to 1 stitch before marker, inc; slip marker; *increase, knit to 1 stitch before marker, inc; slip marker; repeat from * two more times; inc, knit to end (133 sts).
Row 28: Repeat row 26.
Row 29 (buttonhole row): K1, K2tog, YO, K1, then repeat row 27 (141 sts).
Row 30: Repeat row 26.

Create armholes/mid-section:

Row 31: K22, inc, remove marker; BO 27 sts, remove marker; inc, K37, inc, remove marker; BO 27 sts, remove marker; inc, K22 (91 sts).
Row 32: K4, P83, K4.
Row 33: Knit across.
Row 34: K4, P83, K4.
Rows 35-40: Repeat rows 33 and 34.
Row 41 (buttonhole row): K1, K2tog, YO, K1, Knit across.
Rows 42 – 47: Repeat rows 34 and 33 (end with a knit row).
Row 48-52: Knit across.
Row 53 (buttonhole row): K1, K2tog, YO, Knit across.
Rows 54-64: Knit across.
Row 65 (buttonhole row): K1, K2tog, YO, Knit across.
Row 66: Knit across.

Bottom – Front 1:

Switch to straight needles.
Row 1: K22, K2 tog, turn (leave rest of romper on circulars and just work with straight needs for Front 1).
Row 2: K2tog, K21.
Row 3: K20, K2tog.
Row 4: K2tog, K19.
Row 5: K18, K2tog.
Row 6: K2tog, K17.
Row 7: K16, K2tog.
Row 8: K2tog, K15.
Row 9: K14, K2tog.
Row 10: K2tog, K13.
Row 11: K12, K2tog.
Row 12: K2tog, K11.
Row 13 - 18: Knit across. Bind off.

Back:

Attach yarn to next stitch on main body and begin to work back section with straight needles.
Row 1: K2tog, K39,, K2tog, turn.
Row 2: K2tog, K37, K2tog.
Row 3: K2tog, K35, K2tog.
Row 4: K2tog, K33, K2tog.
Row 5: K2tog, K31, K2tog.
Row 6: K2tog, K29, K2tog.
Row 7: K2tog, K27, K2tog.
Row 8: K2tog, K25, K2tog.
Row 9: K2tog, K23, K2tog.
Row 10: K2tog, K21, K2tog.
Row 11: K2tog, K19, K2tog.
Row 12: K2tog, K17, K2tog.
Rows 13-18: Knit across. Bind off.

Front 2:

Attach yarn to next stitch on main body and begin to work second front section with straight needles.
Row 1: K2tog, K22.
Row 2: K21, K2tog.
Row 3: K20, K2tog.
Row 4: K2tog, K19.
Row 5: K18, K2tog.
Row 6: K2tog, K17.
Row 7: K16, K2tog.
Row 8: K2tog, K15.
Row 9: K14, K2tog.

Row 10: K2tog, K13.
Row 11: K12, K2tog.
Row 12: K2tog, K11.
Rows 13-18: Knit across. Bind off.

Finishing:

Weave in all yarn ends first.

Sew buttons in place on Front 2, opposite placement of buttonholes.

Lay snap tape flat.
Cut midway between snaps so you have fold-over ability, cutting a 4 snap strip.
Unsnap the strip.
Cut off one lower snap (the part that you snap "into").
Cut top snap strip (the snap part that goes into the lower strip) in half, so you have 2 snaps in each strip.

Now, hand sew lower 3-snaps strip onto top of back crotch edge, so you can actually see the snaps from the outside when looking at the back of the romper. Make sure to tuck under ends and stitching firmly in place; in fact, it helps to even stitch "seam" lines up between each snap for added strength.

Next, hand sew upper 2-snap strip to the "under/inside" side of Front 2, again tucking under ends and stitching firmly in place.

Then stitch 1 "single" lower snap to top of front two section, right at the front corner edge of crotch, stitching firmly all around with ends tucked under.

Last, stitch second 2-snap strip to under/inside front 1, at the crotch, firmly with ends tucked.

To close crotch, snap Front 2 to back first, then snap Front 1 to back and Front 2.

To make for "live" baby changes:

The only difference is that you can overlap the two fronts to accommodate the buttons and buttonholes, sew the fronts together at the bottom and up approximately 1". Then cut 1 strip of 3 snaps, and firmly stitch lower side to back of crotch and upper side to fronts.