



THE CURLY PURLLY SOAKER PATTERN

by Marnie Ann Joyce



A NOTE ABOUT THE PATTERN:

There are some informational bits here at the top before you get to casting on. Please read them. I can't tell you how many people send me funky photos saying it doesn't work for them when they simply missed some important info here at the start.

I had testers. I wrote this all out for them. I amended it and corrected it and tested it again. Please, just read it and humor me.

GAUGE & SIZING

This pattern is based on 4.5-5 stitches/inch and 7 rows/inch.

The important thing to keep in mind when choosing a yarn is its elasticity. This pattern is based on ribbing, and wool will always stretch over time. Some yarns lose their shape faster than others, and it is best to avoid these yarns for the waistband. I suggest you stay away from any 100% Merino yarn. Yarns with mohair content are also to be

avoided. If you must use such yarns I suggest threading a bit of elastic through the ribbing inside the soaker to help the waistband hold its shape.

This soaker pattern has a lot of stretch and is designed to fit snugly, keeping it nice and trim under clothing. When you choose your size, you want your child to fit in the middle to end of the size range.

This pattern is written for 5 sizes. You may create your own sizing depending on the gauge. **Keep in mind to cast on in multiples of 8.**

NB (approximately 12"-16" hip and 14" rise)
SM (approximately 14"-18" hip and 16" rise)
MED (approximately 16"-22" hip and 18" rise)
LG (approximately 17"-24" hip and 20" rise)
XL (approximately 19"-25" hip and 22" rise).

A NOTE ABOUT SHORT ROWS:

I like to incorporate some short rows into the pleated section of this soaker pattern. Placing them in only the upper part of the soaker keeps the body trim while adding a bit of room. You may use any method for short rows: wrapping, unwrapping, yarnovers, etc. This pattern will not teach you how to create them. If you like, you can simply skip them. the soaker will be a bit more snug. If you think you might need extra height, you can simply add to the rise. I like no-short row, high-rise soakers under pants, because the soaker waistband comes up over the pants waistband, and that keeps it from shifting around during playtime.

I will note the points at which I suggest adding short rows, but you can add them where ever you choose.

A NOTE ABOUT CAST ON & STITCHES USED:

You can use any cast on you like, as long as it's a nice, stretchy one.

Stitches used in this pattern are all common, and videos for each stitch (in both the English and Continental style of knitting) can be found at <http://www.knittinghelp.com> . If you don't know something, look it up before deciding to simply substitute another technique. It's worth it.

Knit (K)
Purl (P)
Knit two stitches together (K2tog)
Slip, Slip, Purl (SSP)
Kitchener graft

Repeat sections are delimited with asterisks. When you are asked to "repeat" you are to repeat the section between asterisks.

So "**k5 *p1 k7* repeat**" means "*knit 5 stitches, then purl*

1 stitch, knit 7 stitches, repeating the p1k7 section ONLY."

THE PATTERN

CO 64 [72,80,88,96] stitches on needles 4 sizes smaller than you would use to make gauge.

join and mark start of round.

Your start of round marker will be your center back. place hip markers as follows: (NOTE: continue knitting in k1p1 rib regardless of the placement of the markers.)

NB - k1p1 for 17 stitches, place marker. continue in pattern for 31 stitches, place marker, continue in pattern for 16 stitches to arrive at center back marker.

SM - k1p1 for 19 stitches, place marker. continue in pattern for 35 stitches, place marker, continue in pattern for 18 stitches to arrive at center back marker.

MED - k1p1 for 21 stitches, place marker. continue in pattern for 39 stitches, place marker, continue in pattern for 20 stitches to arrive at center back marker.

LG - k1p1 for 23 stitches, place marker. continue in pattern for 43 stitches, place marker, continue in pattern for 22 stitches to arrive at center back marker.

XL - k1p1 for 25 stitches, place marker. continue in pattern for 47 stitches, place marker, continue in pattern for 24 stitches to arrive at center back marker.

You can now remove the center back marker, leaving only the two hip markers. A simple glance towards your cast on tail will remind you where your start of round is.

Remember that this tail is in the center of the back of the soaker.

continue to k1p1 around for 14 rows (~2 inches) ignoring all markers.

If you want to switch color, do it here.

If you want to add short rows, add the first one here, after changing color, before changing needle size. Make a single short row from hip marker, back to hip marker and back again.

Switch needle sizes to 2 sizes below those needed to obtain gauge.

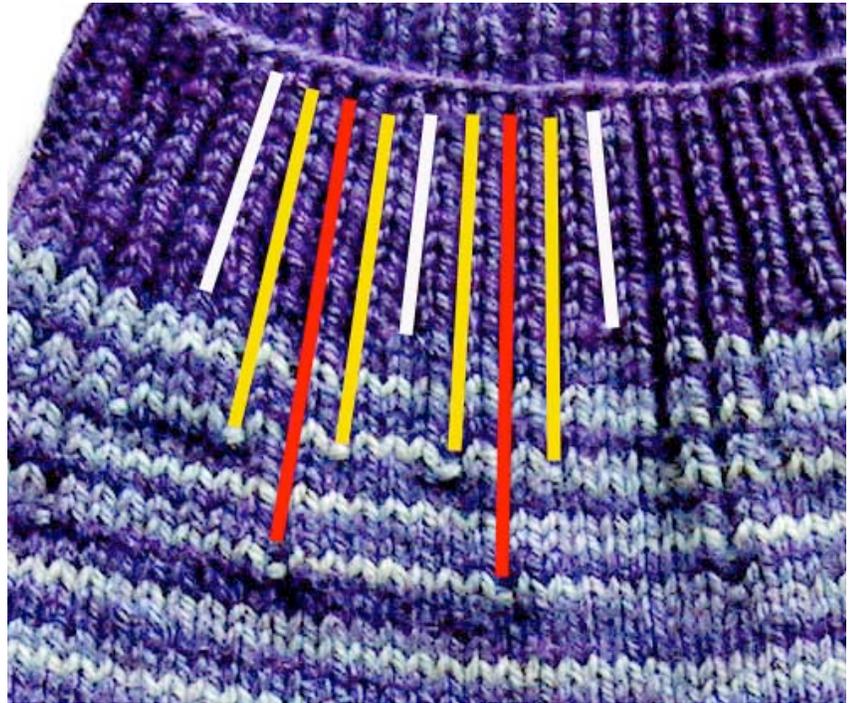
k3 p1 k1 p1 k1 p1 for 7 rows (~1 inch).

If you are adding short rows, add the second one here. Make a single short row from hip marker, back to hip marker and back again.

k5 *p1 k7* repeat until 3 stitches remain before center marker. p1 k2.

Repeat around for 7 rows (~1 inch).

If you are adding short rows, add the third one here. Make a single short row from hip marker, back to hip marker and back again.



Change to needles used to obtain gauge. Continue knitting in the round until entire soaker measures 5" [5.5", 6", 6.5", 6.5"] from CO edge. (If using short rows, make sure these measurements are made in the FRONT of the soaker, not the rear - the side with the short rows).

Knit from start of round to first marker (right hip). BO 5 stitches. Knit to 5 stitches before hip marker (left hip), BO 5 stitches.

Knit across, k2tog last 2 stitches. Turn and purl (or knit backwards) until 2 stitches remain. SSP remaining 2 stitches. Repeat these two rows until 18 [18, 20, 20, 20] stitches remain (4.25-4.5 inches). Leave stitches live on needle, snip the yarn, and return to stitches between the BO sections (front of soaker).

join new yarn and knit across until 2 stitches remain. k2tog. turn work and purl (or knit backwards) to final two stitches, SSP until 18 [18, 20, 20, 20] stitches remain.

Measure leg opening, and continue in stockinette without decreasing until leg opening measures 9 [10, 11, 12, 13] inches.

Graft seam.

pick up stitches around leg opening for cuffs. I prefer a 1 inch 1x1 ribbed cuff using smaller needles (for example the same needles i used for the 1x1 section of the waistband)

for an ultra-trim and secure fit, but a rolled cuff works as well. Really, you can do whatever you like for the cuffs.

Block your soaker and have a fashion show.

GET IN TOUCH

You can send me photos of your finished work. I'd love to see it. I would say that I'd like to put a gallery of your work on my site, but I've said that before, and... well we all know where paving a road with good intentions gets you. So let's just say send me your photos and we'll see what happens.

marnie@curlypurly.com
<http://curlypurly.com>

TERMS & CONDITIONS

This pattern is being provided to for your personal use. The conditions are simple.

If you make any modifications to this pattern (or have any suggestions), please submit those changes to me and I will make them available to everyone here as an option or enhancement to the pattern.

If you prefer to keep your modifications to this pattern private or if you would like to sell items made using this pattern for profit or you will need to license the pattern. Please contact me for licensing information including information regarding special licenses for charity donations.

WHAT ABOUT THE CHOCOLATE?

Yes, it's true that I used to suggest sending me chocolate if you enjoyed my patterns. However, since I've heard about child slavery in the cocoa industry, I'm boycotting chocolate products from companies that cannot guarantee that child slavery is not a part of their farming process. Many companies *can* offer this guarantee, and I wholeheartedly support them in their chocolate production by eating as much of their chocolate as I possibly can. And I urge you to do the same.

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