

Channel your inner Miss Marple!

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Miss Marple Tank Top Pattern

BY LAUREN ASTON DESIGNS



You now have all the information you need to make this super simple vest layer, created in collaboration with Agatha Christie Limited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Miss Marple novel *Sleeping Murder*.

The pretty cornflower motif takes its inspiration directly from the novel itself, where Gwenda Reed has an unnerving sense of déjà vu in a house she has only just bought. Gwenda wants to decorate the nursery with cornflower and poppy wallpaper, but then discovers that this exact wallpaper once covered the walls some years before...

Can you knit together the mystery without it unravelling? Happy knitting!



@laurenastondesignsstudio
@officialagathachristie



SUPER CHUNKY YARN

Miss Marple Tank Top

BY LAUREN ASTON DESIGNS

CASTING ON

CASTING ON IS HOW YOU CREATE YOUR STITCHES, AND GET THEM ONTO THE NEEDLE, READY TO KNIT. THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT WAYS TO CAST ON BUT I LIKE THE BASIC CAST ON METHOD AS I FIND IT EASIEST...



STEP 1: Make a slip knot - twist the wool around itself, use your left hand to go inside the loop and grab the yarn (attached to the ball, not the tail)...

STEP 2: Pull the yarn through the loop and tighten it to create your slip knot.

STEP 3: Put your left hand knitting needle through the centre of knot.



STEP 4: Place your right hand needle through the loop going from bottom to top (away from you) so that the right hand needle sits behind the left.

STEP 5: Wrap your yarn (attached to the ball of wool, not your small tail) anti-clockwise around the head of your right needle.

STEP 6: Keeping the yarn on it, bring the right hand needle in front of the left. To do this, hold the yarn in place and duck the point of the right hand needle through the gap on the left hand side...



STEP 7: Keeping the yarn loose, gently pull your right hand needle towards you so that the loop you've created gets bigger.

Step 8: Then place that larger loop over the left hand needle so that the right needle is again at the back. You've now got two stitches on your left hand needle.

STEP 9: Remove your right hand needle. You may need to tighten the stitch up a little so it isn't baggy but don't pull it too tight. You should always be able to slide your needle in easily for the next stitch.

KNIT

Stitch

THE TWO BASIC STITCHES ARE KNIT AND PURL, AS SOON AS YOU KNOW THESE YOU'RE AWAY AND CAN KNIT ALMOST ANYTHING!

Once you've cast on the correct amount of stitches (determined by your pattern) you can start knitting. It's a similar method to casting on but instead of placing the stitch on the left hand needle you will keep it on the right, you'll repeat this until you've moved all the stitches over, then you'll swap the needles over and do it again. My top tip with big knitting is to always keep it loose. So just watch your tension and try not to pull the yarn tight...



STEP 1: With your working yarn at the back, insert your right hand needle into the first stitch (with the needle going bottom to top, right needle at the back) & loop your yarn around the right (back) needle anti-clockwise...

STEP 2: Keeping the looped yarn on the right hand needle, duck it under the left needle and pull it forwards so your right needle then sits at the front and the looped yarn has become a stitch.

STEP 3: Now you just transfer it onto the right hand needle, so simply slide it up the left hand needle until the loop on that needle drops off and you're just left with a stitch on the right hand needle.

PURL

Stitch



STEP 1: With your working yarn at the front, insert your right hand needle into the first stitch (with the needle going top to bottom, right needle at the front) & loop your yarn around the right (front) needle, going anti-clockwise...

STEP 2: Keeping the looped yarn on the right hand needle, duck it under the left needle and push it backwards so your right needle then sits at the back and the looped yarn has become a stitch.

STEP 3: Now transfer it onto the right hand needle by sliding it up the left hand needle until the loop drops off and you're just left with a stitch on the right hand needle.

CASTING OFF

CASTING OFF IS HOW YOU FINISH YOUR KNITTING, IT'S A WAY OF 'CLOSING' YOUR STITCHES SO THEY DON'T UNRAVEL. AGAIN THERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO DO IT BUT I LIKE TO KEEP IT SIMPLE...



STEP 1: Knit 2 stitches onto your right hand needles as normal.



STEP 2: With your left hand needle pick up the first stitch on your right hand needle (closest to your right hand)...



STEP 3: Carry the first stitch over the second and off the right hand needle so it loops underneath the remaining stitch.



STEP 4: Remove your left hand needle from the cast off stitch so there's just one stitch sitting on the right needle.



STEP 5: Knit another stitch so you again have 2 stitches on the right hand needle.



STEP 6: Repeat the process of picking up the first stitch, bringing it over the second and off the needle.



STEP 7: When you have 1 stitch left on your right hand needle and nothing on your left, remove it from the needle...



STEP 8: Cut your yarn and thread it through the centre of your last stitch to knot it. Voila! That's all there is to it!

You're a knitting genius!

Well done, you can basically knit anything now! For further advice, knitting tips and know how (or just for fun) please visit the website - www.laurenastondesigns.com/knittingknowledge

Happy knitting friends!

Miss Marple Tank Top

BY LAUREN ASTON DESIGNS

IN COLLABORATION WITH AGATHA CHRISTIE LIMITED

LEVEL: Beginner

TIME: 8 hours (ish)

MATERIALS:

Lauren Aston Designs Super Chunky Yarn

2 (2, 2, 3) x 200g balls of main colour

100g for the main accent colour (stem, petals)

10g for the centre of the flower

NEEDLES AND TOOLS:

12 mm (US 17) knitting needles

GAUGE:

8.5 sts x 11 rows = 10 cm (4 inches)

FINISHED SIZES: (approx)

The length of the vest is determined by you, the amount of yarn stated in materials will make a vest around 50 cm long. You can make it any length you like just bear in mind you may need more yarn if adding length.

Width (at widest point) measurements below:

S (UK 6-10): 48 cm

M (UK 12-16): 53 cm

L (UK 18-22): 63 cm

XL (UK 24-28): 70 cm

Sizes shown on pattern as S (M, L, XL)

NOTES:

This vest is knit in 2 pieces, the front and the back. They're both exactly the same and knit as flat, rectangular panels before being sewn up at the sides and shoulders. Because it's knit straight with no trim the arm holes roll in, creating lovely soft shaping and an organic feel to this simple top.

We wanted it to be a great project for knitters of all abilities so we've made the colourwork as adaptable as possible. Beginner knitters can use the grids enclosed and work in duplicate stitch to add the floral design whereas advanced knitters can use stranded colourwork to knit the design onto the panels as you go.

The pattern was designed for brand new beginners so uses basic techniques but at the same time you have the freedom to make it your own by knitting it to the length you like, the possibility of adding a rib section at the bottom and also by sewing up the shoulders and sides to create a shape you like best.

Pattern

FRONT & BACK:

Cast on 41 (45, 54, 59) stitches

There's a slightly advanced option to add a ribbed section at the bottom of your vest, if you'd like to do so, work your first 6 rows as follows otherwise skip straight to 'beginner version' or 'advanced version':

You can work your rib in your background colour or one of your accent colours...

Small, Medium & Extra Large sizes:

Row 1: [knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch] repeat to end of row

Row 2: [purl 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch] repeat to end of row

Rows 3-6: Repeat rows 1 & 2

Large size:

Row 1: [knit 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch] repeat to end of row

Rows 2-6: repeat row 1

BEGINNER VERSION:

If you're a beginner knitter we recommend knitting your panels plain and then duplicate stitching the design on afterwards:

Row 1: knit to end of row

Row 2: purl to end of row

Repeat rows 1 & 2 until your panel is the length you like - the cast on end will be the bottom of your vest and where you cast off you'll join it at the shoulders so you'll lose a few cm of length around the shoulders. As a guide we recommend 40-45 cm as a cropped vest and 50-55 cm for hip length.

Make sure you don't use more than half of your total yarn on the first panel so you have enough for the second panel. You'll need around 15g for sewing up too.

Once you've knit your desired length; Cast off, ideally on a knit row

Make 2 of these panels (the same length!) One for your front and the other for your back.

Duplicate Stitch:

On the following pages we have instructions on how to Duplicate Stitch - find the floral grid that matches the size you're making and stitch the design onto your knitted panel one stitch at a time.

On the floral grid, every square represents a stitch of your knitting (that's why it's important that you use the correct size grid) You can work the pattern on both the front and back or you could place just one flower in the center - make it your own!

ADVANCED VERSION:

If you're a confident knitter and are happy with colourwork we'll do both at the same time. You're going to work your panel in stockinette and apply your floral grid at the same time. find the grid to correspond with your size and then begin snaking your way up the grid one row at a time (beginning bottom right)

Once you've finished the colourwork section, work in plain stockinette stitch until your panel is the length you would like - ensuring you use less than half your yarn so you have enough for the back panel.

Colourwork can feel a bit scary but is honestly so much fun. Stranded colourwork is a knitting technique that means you can use two or more colours. You do this by carrying the colour you're not using across the back of the work. You've probably seen this before in clothing where there are small 'floats' of yarn across the back. Essentially you're swapping which colours you use (according to your pattern/grid) and carrying the other one with you across the row. be sure not to pull it too tight as this will much up your tension. We recommend gently spreading your stitches across your needles as you go so that you see their natural position and make sure you're keeping it consistent.

SEWING IT UP:

Once you've finished knitting, place your cast off ends together with the right sides facing up (so you can see the side with the 'V' shaped stitches.) Starting at one end, sew one shoulder together using mattress stitch (there's a how to video for mattress stitch on our website, alternatively just sew them up as neatly as possible.) Then move onto the other shoulder - we recommend leaving an opening around 26 cm (26 stitches) but feel free to go bigger or smaller to suit you.

The neckline will work with your cast off edge and roll over slightly creating a really soft finish.

Next you need to sew the sides together to form the armholes:

By the time you've finished your shoulders you should have one long rectangle with a hole (for the neckline) in the middle. Fold it over at the shoulders and match up the bottom edges.

You're going to sew up one side at a time starting at the bottom and working up towards the shoulders. Again you can sew up as much or little as you like, we personally enjoy quite an open armhole - especially if wearing it as a vest over tops, but you might want to sew up more if wearing it on its own. We've left around 38 rows down from the shoulders for a lovely open armhole. We'd recommend mattress stitch again however if you're more comfortable with another stitch just sew it as neatly as possible and repeat on the other side, making sure you sew up the same amount so you're not wonky.

Finally, weave in all your loose ends (just like our favourite amateur sleuth!)

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THIS PATTERN IS FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY

How to: Duplicate Stitch

BY LAUREN ASTON DESIGNS

Duplicate stitch is a way of sewing a design on top of your knitting, using the yarn to trace the knitted stitches so it looks as though you've knit it in. It leaves a slightly raised design (as you end up with two strands of yarn for every stitch) but is really effective and looks great. You normally have a grid to follow which will indicate which stitches to stitch.



Thread around 50cm of yarn onto a tapestry needle



Insert your needle through the back of the work at the base of the stitch you want to work on



Pull through the yarn and insert your needle around the back of the stitch above



Pull your yarn through and reinsert your needle into the base of the stitch (where you started) this is one complete duplicate stitch



Bring your needle out at the base of the next stitch you want to work on & pull your yarn through



Repeat the process by pushing your needle around the back of the stitch above



If you want to work on a stitch to the side or below your last stitch, simply bring your needle out at the base of that stitch



Then the rest of the process is the same, inserting your needle around the stitch above.

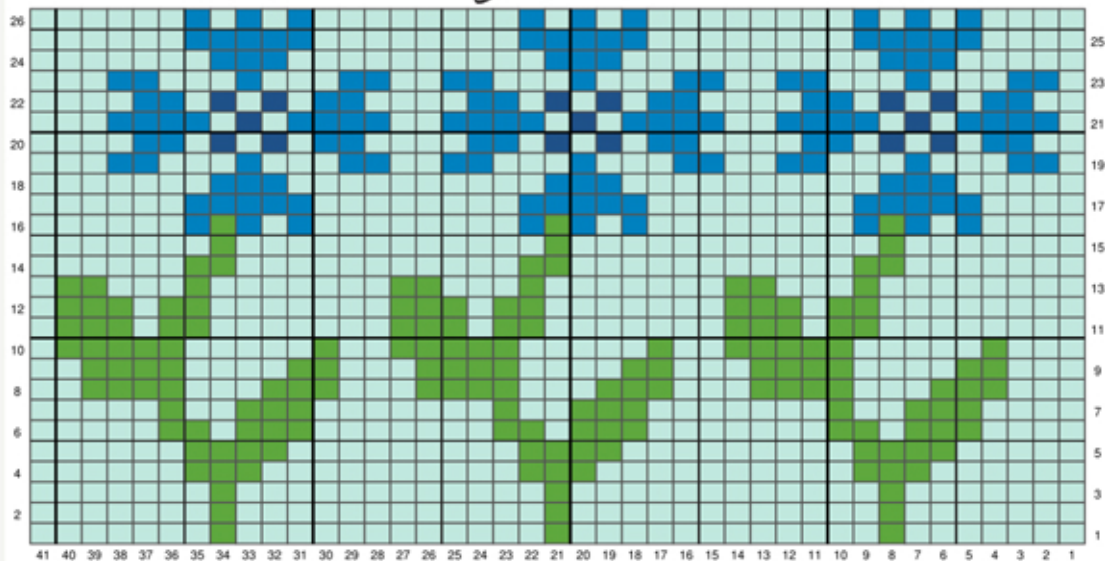


Repeat the process to create your stitches wherever you want them. That's all there is to it!

Miss Marple's Floral Grids

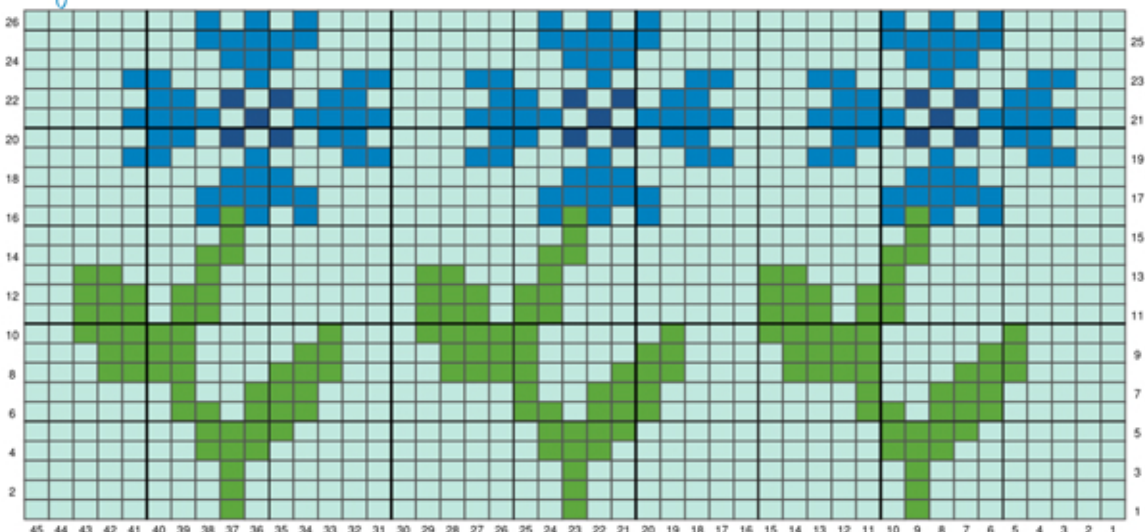
Choose the grid for the corresponding size and work from the bottom right corner for colour working or wherever you fancy if you're duplicate stitching. Every square represents a stitch...

Small:



Top tip: whip out your magnifying glass for a close look (or zoom in)

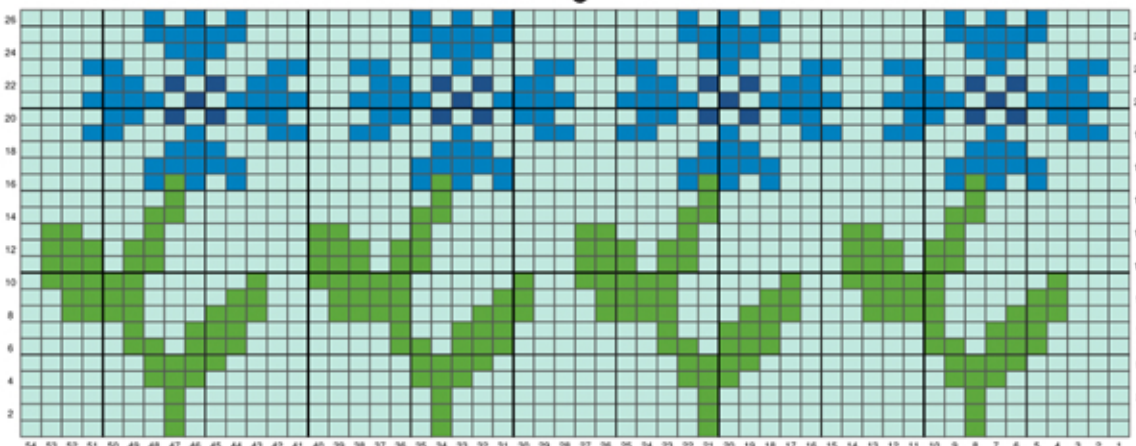
Medium:



Miss Marple's Floral Grids

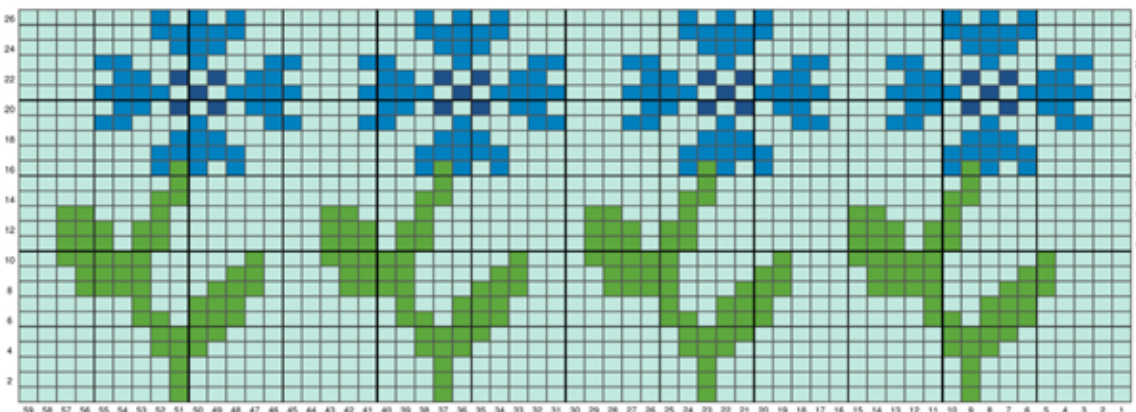
Choose the grid for the corresponding size and work from the bottom right corner for colour working or wherever you fancy if you're duplicate stitching. Every square represents a stitch...

Large:



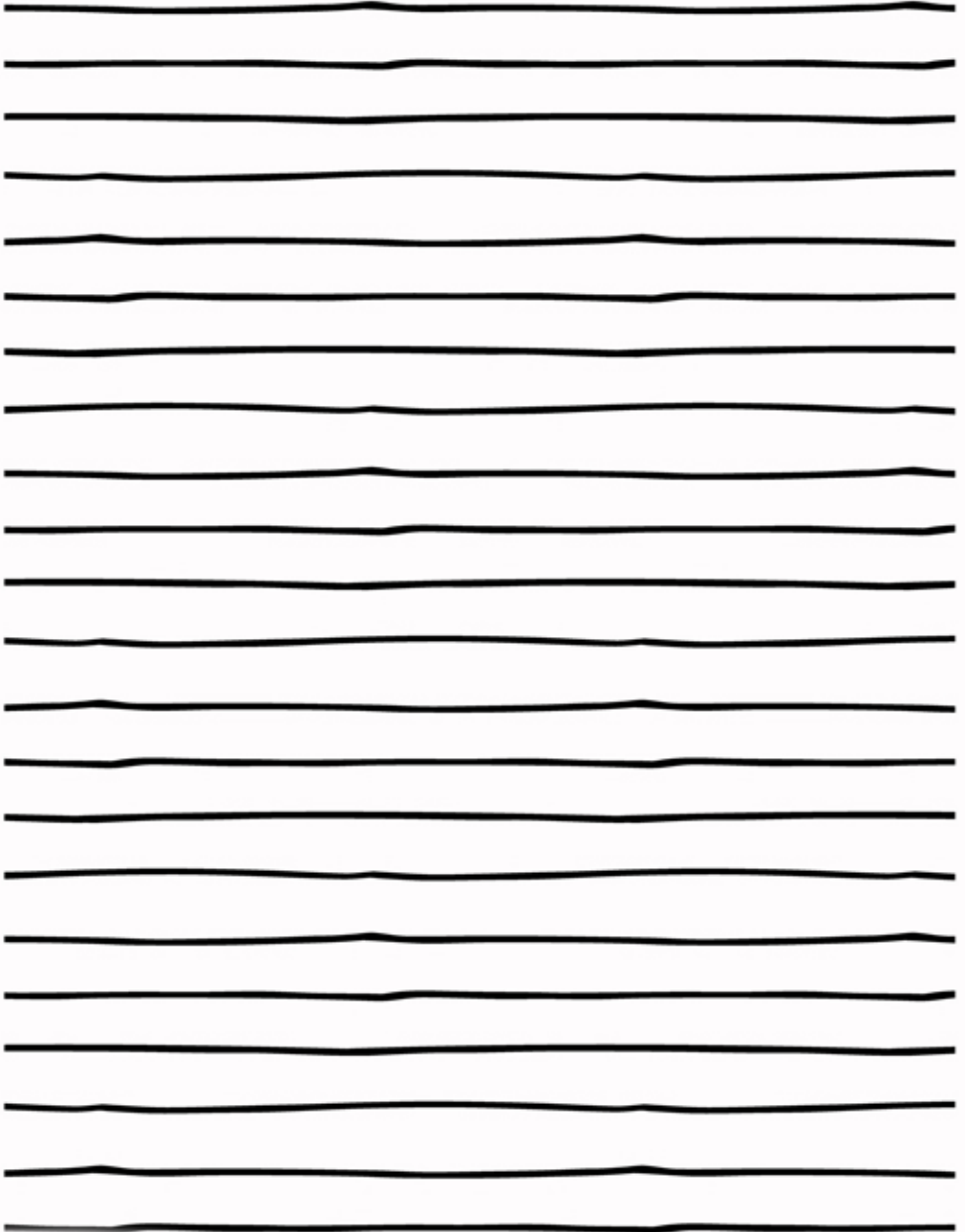
Top tip: whip out your magnifying glass for a close look (or zoom in)

Extra Large:



Knitting Notes:

(A handy printable page for you to make any notes you need while working through the pattern)

A series of 20 horizontal wavy lines, resembling a series of connected 'S' shapes, providing a template for writing notes. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

Useful Links

Knitting Knowledge

Watch our useful videos, get back to basics with our guide for beginners or learn about blocking.

[Take me to knitting Knowledge](#)

Tools

From needles to pompom makers, everything you need to knit up a storm.

[Take me to tools](#)



Materials

Shop our bestselling original merino yarn, or try something new with our big cotton or mini mohair.

[Take me to materials](#)

The Blog

Join us over on the blog where we talk product launches, small business stuff and general waffle.

[Read the blog](#)



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Agatha Christie



About *Sleeping Murder*

2026 marks 50 years since the publication of *Sleeping Murder*. Agatha Christie's last Miss Marple book was released posthumously, having been written and locked away in a safe during World War II.

A strange house

A ghost from the past

As soon as she moves into Hillside, Gwenda knows there's something strange about this house.

A sealed room. A hidden door. The apparition of a young woman being strangled.

But strangest of all — this all seems quite familiar.

As her friend Jane Marple investigates, the answer seems to lie in a crime committed nearly twenty years ago.

The killer may have gotten away with murder. But Miss Marple is never far behind.

Never underestimate Miss Marple

"The common-sense explanation. I've found, you know, that that is so often right." *Sleeping Murder*, Agatha Christie

About Agatha Christie

Born in Torquay, England in 1890, Agatha Christie is the best-selling novelist of all time. With over one billion books sold in English and another billion in over 100 languages, she is outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. She wrote 80 crime novels and collections of short stories, over 25 plays (including *The Mousetrap*, the world's longest running play), and six novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. Her first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, introduced the world to the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, followed a decade later by the shrewd and often-underestimated Miss Marple. Agatha Christie was made a Dame (DBE) in 1971, and died peacefully in 1976 at the age of 85.

About Agatha Christie Ltd

Agatha Christie Limited (ACL) has been managing the literary and media rights to Agatha Christie's works around the world since 1955. Collaborating with the very best talents in film, television, publishing, stage and on digital platforms, ACL ensures that Christie's work continues to reach new audiences in innovative ways and to the highest standard. The company is managed by Christie's great-grandson James Prichard.

In 2026 Agatha Christie Limited is driving global celebrations to mark the centenary of *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* and 50 years of Miss Marple novel *Sleeping Murder*.

A major exhibition, *Agatha Christie: A World of Mystery*, will open in October at the British Library in London.

Website www.agathachristie.com

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Thank you!



Thank you for downloading this pattern from LAD and Agatha Christie Limited, we really hope you love knitting up your Miss Marple inspired Tank Top.

A little about LAD, we are a small but mighty team of 10 working out of a studio in Exeter. We absolutely love chunky, colourful knits that you can knit up in a short amount of time and be super proud to wear. We are very community driven so if you fancy getting involved then head over to our Facebook Group to chat to other like minded knitters! Or follow us on Instagram. So happy you're here!



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