Make Your Basenji a Sweater

The Basenji. This pattern has appeared several times over the years.

BASENJI SWEATER INSTRUCTIONS

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Materials: Knitting worsted, 8 ounces, 4 ply plus a small amount for contrast stripes if desired.
Needles: 1 pair, size 7, knitting pins, 4 needles, size 7 sock needles.
Gauge: 5 stitches = 1 inch. 6 1/2 rows = 1 inch.
Size: This pattern is for a 16 inch, 21 pound bitch.
NECK BAND: Cast on 54 stitches; row 1 K2 *P2, K2 repeat from * across; row 2 P2 *K2, P2 repeat from * across; continue alternating rows 1 and 2 for 3 inches, ending with P2. Alternate colors in bands if desired.
BODY: K18, increase 1 in next stitch; continue ribbing next 18 sts; increasing 1 st. in last st., K2, turn, slip stitch, inc. 1 st. in next st. as if purling; then P2; continue ribbing next 18 sts., P2, inc. 1 st. in last st., P2, turn; sl. st. inc. 1 in next st. (K), K4, ribbing 18, K4, inc. 1 in last st., K2 turn. Continue in this manner until all stitches are used on needle. There should be 36 sts. on either side of ribbing. This has made a half circle over the chest for fullness. Continue for 2 rows. Next K row, K36, turn, P36 turn, and continue in stockinette stitch for 6 inches, decrease one st. 5 times along the leg opening, end with a knit row. Cut yarn and attach to first of those on the other needles to continue with ribbing on next 18 sts. for 6 inches ending in a K row. Cut yarn and attach in order to work left side which is done in the reverse of the right side, end in K row. Next row P80 across, keeping the ribbing pattern in the middle, next row K80 across, keeping the ribbing pattern in the middle. Continue in this manner and decrease one st. in the first st. on either side of ribbing as follows: every other row, for 5 times, then every fourth row 3 times. Continue those 64 remaining stitches until total length along back is 14 1/2 in., ending with a P row. (The decreases take care of the necessary fit for the ‘tuck-up!’). The first 23 sts. will begin right side of rear leg. K23 sts., turn, P23 sts., continue in stockinette until leg opening measures 1 in; on P row P22, turn, sl. st. K next 21 sts., turn, P20 Sts., turn sl. st., K19, continue in this manner until all sts. remain on right needle. Cut yarn and attach to first of those on other needle to continue with ribbing on next 18 st. for 4 1/2 in. (this is where those knitting for a male would make an adjustment). Cut yarn and attach in order to work left side which is done in the reverse of the right side. Cut yarn, leave stitches on needle (they will all be on the right needle).

LEGS: Cast on 16 sts., on sock needles distributed 8 on 1st needle and 4 on the other two. Work in ribbing pattern 2 inches. On last st. of last row, inc. 1 st., then inc. 1 st. on first st. of next row, repeat at end of 1st needle and beginning of 2nd needle, K next row, then continue increasing every other row as above until you have 60 sts. (increases will make a seam at front and rear of leg piece). K one more row, then weave in place having picked up 30 sts. on each side of one front leg opening on extra needle. On rear legs leave 8 sts., beyond end of ribbing and 7 sts. on outside of leg to be picked up on the band around the tail.

BAND AROUND TAIL: Knit all stitches in ribbing pattern for 3/4 in., picking up the 12 sts. from each leg with the first row. Cast off!

Sew in 20-inch open end zipper, with the open end at the neck.