

Navajo Sweater



Pattern Name: EPS (Elizabeth's Percentage System)

Source: EPS is available in many of Elizabeth Zimmermann's and Meg Swansen's books; colorwork pattern is from *Meg Swansen's Knitting*

Yarn: Knit Picks Palette (fingering)

Tags: secret-message, hem, raglan, crew-neck, I-cord, speed-bump

Finished: July 2007

Notes

I laboriously worked with a yarn in each hand, because I was bound and determined to do stranded colorwork. But that technique was, well, tedious, as my finger anatomy does not allow me to easily and consistently control tension on the yarn in my left hand.

More than eleven years later, I learned a valuable lesson about not needing to hold a yarn in both hands or both yarns in the left hand, or even holding both yarns at the same time. Instead, I could work in my usual brute-force throwing method, but simply pick up each yarn as it was needed, dropping the other one. I used this technique to make my [Brae cardigan](#) and [Hillhead slipover](#), even though the books all say that constantly dropping and picking up the yarns will lead to uneven tension. Well, that apparently depends on how you hold the yarn and form the stitches. For **my** knitting style, dropping and picking up are the only way I can get even tension in stranded colorwork.

Details

Neck has an I-cord edge with a “speed bump” to prevent it from rolling outward.



Bottom edge is hemmed with a secret message. Hem was knitted up after sweater was completed rather than as the cast-on. Instead of binding off the hem, I did a sort of half-grafting of its live stitches to purl bumps on one body round.

