



BYNESET
HUSFLIDSLAG

Old, knitted sweater from Byneset

with pattern made from the original sweater.



Knitted about 1860 for Lars Gudmundson Rye, 1836 – 1920.

The story about Halt-Marit.

In a cottage in the outskirts of Byneset, lived Siri-Beret with her two daughters, Marit and Guru. The neighbors only called them Siri-Beret-Marit and Siri-Beret-Guru. Marit was born about 1800. They were very poor and the children often having to beg for food in their neighborhood. They seldom went to school, but the mother taught them everything she had learned, especially how to card and spin wool properly.

Around 1830, Marit was hired as a helping hand at the harvest to a farm on the far side of the country district. There she got pregnant, which, for an unmarried woman at that time was a terrible disgrace or even a sin. After the birth she desperately ended the baby's life. Few weeks later, Marit was arrested and sent to a prison in Trondheim with a life sentence. The prisoners were expected to work at different handicrafts for many hours every day. Then after 12 years, Marit thankfully was pardoned by the Queen. She returned home to Byneset where she began knitting sweaters to sell. She made the pattern herself, perhaps using inspirations from other sweaters she had seen while she was in Trondheim. Her sweaters became well known in the district. Back in 1985 in Byneset many elderly people still remembered Marit's sweaters. Nowadays she is most known as "Halt-Marit", maybe because she limped in her later years, (Halt, is to limp in Norwegian).

This old sweater. Gudmund Klevset is the owner of the sweater today. It was knitted about 1860 for Lars Gudmundson Rye, b 1836, d 1920. We cannot be sure if it was knitted by "Halt-Marit" or by Lars' fiancée, who was also named Marit.

The sweater is knitted in home spun yarn in a pattern of alternate white and blue stripes with small stars, across of the top and sleeves, as well as on the top of the body and the cuffs, there are borders of red, blue and white.

Today this sweater is the only exemplary, as we know, left of the sweaters by Halt-Marit. However, there is another old sweater in Byneset, Haldogardtrøya, knitted about 1875, both use the same technique, and the pattern seem to be related. That give us a lot of knowledge about knitting of the period.

In 1984, The local handicraft group, Byneset Husflidslag in conjunction with Rauma Ullvarefabrikk, made a pattern of the "sweaters of Halt-Marit". This pattern was simplified to suit the fashions in 1984, knitted with thicker needles and a looser tension.

In 2022 Byneset Husflidslag was asked by The Norwegian Folk Art and Craft Association (Norges Husflidslag) to make a new pattern of the old sweater. This pattern ought to be more authentic, both in the pattern and the yarn. The result would be present to several Nordic countries to which they collaborate.

The owner of the sweater was told about this new project, which he applauded and thought it was a splendid idea. It would imply that he let us have the sweater for some times, to get all the information we needed.

We will study how the sweater was knitted, make some thoughts about the yarn and the colors. Then we will knit a replica. Perhaps this study will bring us some new knowledge about the old way of knitting.

Furthermore, we will make the fate of "Halt-Marit" more known. At last, we will let this project be well known in Byneset.

THE PROCESS to make a more authentic pattern of the sweater.

We have counted every single stitch, marked all increases, studied the yarn and the colors, and drawn all the pattern boarders, found the method used for casting on. We learned to knit from left to the right on the frontside, as well as knitting two pieces together making a knitted row at the front, then we found which methods were used for increasing, finally measuring the tension, lengths and widths of the entire garment.

We had to ask experts about the yarn. In our neighborhood there are a small spinery, called Selbu Spinneri. We went for a visit and let them see the old sweater. They got curious about the yarn! This old yarn was made of 3 tightly twined threads made from unbleached and long hair wool from sheep like Crossbred type of wool. Such yarn is not available any longer, because people today want a more softly and fluffy yarn. They also told that the colors (red and dark blue) which were used in the sweater were synthetic, and not colored by plants as we thought. We needed a yarn that was most like the original and asked if they could make some for us. They would like to try. It would be a new challenge for them as well. A few weeks later they had made a test yarn for us. This yarn was quite hard twined and made of 3 threads from White Dala and Crossbred wool. They had also colored some of it red and blue. We tested the yarn and became very happy about the result. So now there will be produced more yarn like this, and it is named Bynesgarn. Byneset Husflidslag will participate in coloring some of this yarn.

THE PATTERN LINES - did they have any meaning?

The red and white boarder below are most likely old signs for defend and protection.

The tree of life makes the wish of a good life come true.

The rhomb has the power to protect people against a bad life. A filled rhomb gives even a better defend! These signs were importance, especially to farmers.

The zigzag boarder on the sleeves makes it very difficult to the bad evils to invade.

The rose boarder over the zigzag boarder helps the love come true. The sloping lines on the shoulders are also a defending sign but can also illustrate the water.



TECHNIQUE and SHAPING

In the 1860s, men usually tucked their sweaters inside the trousers. In the holidays they also wore a waistcoat over the sweater. Therefore the men's sweaters should fit closely at the hips and get wider and wider up to the shoulders. The armpits were also quite small to fit in a jacket sleeve. So the sweaters were shaped to whom who should wear it.

Stitches are increased all over the sweater's body and sleeves to make the right shape.

The lower part of the sweater has a mix of knitted and purled rows before stocking stitches.

The striped pattern begins at the waist. The body is knitted in rounds on a circular needle from cast on to armpit, from this point it is knitted forwards and backwards to the top, including the red and white boarder. The back neckline has about 15 more stitches than the front neckline.

The shoulder flaps are knitted on each side of the front and then knitted to the backside. The neckline has some rows with garter stitches in both sides before a purled round before binding off.

The cuffs on the sleeves have 2 pattern boarders with 3 colours before the stripes begin. Both the body and the sleeves are knitted in shape.

PATTERN of the original, old sweater from Byneset.

THE YARN

BYNESGARN from www.selbugarn.no

600 g white

350 g blue

100 g red

NEEDLES:

Circular needles 2mm, 80 cm and 40 cm, double pointed needles 2mm.

It is very important to keep the right tension to get the correct measurement.

THE TENSION

33 stitches and 48 rows = 10 cm (the white part beneath the waist)

33 stitches and 44 rows = 10 cm (for the parts with two or three colors)

MEASUREMENTS with sweater lying flat

With: Hip 42 cm, chest 55cm, shoulders in front 63 cm, shoulders back 68 cm.

Length: From bottom to top 65 cm, the white part below waist 21,5 cm, from bottom to armpit ca 45 cm.

Sleeves: Zigzag pattern 8,5cm, the total length of the sleeves 48 cm.

BODY

Cast on with the white yarn 240 stitches, circular needle 2mm.

Place stitch markers at the beginning of the row and after 120 stitches.

Purl 1 row, knit 1 row

Purl 2 rows, knit 3 rows

Purl 2 rows, knit 4 rows

Purl 2 rounds, knit 6 rows

Purl 2 rows.

Then begin increasing. It is important to spread the increases all over the body to avoid new stitches coming at the same place as the increase's stitches beyond. Look at the picture below.

Now increase as the schedule below.

Number of the row after the latest purled row	Stitch increases in the front	Stitch increasing in the back
1	2 inc.	2 inc.
10	6	6
13	2	2
16	2	2
21	3	3
25	4	4
38	4	4
49	4	4
78	12	12

The body is now about 21,5 cm.



The increasing is spread over the entire body marked with safety pins (original sweater).

Pattern board 1

All rows with the small stars always begin in the same way as the pattern scheme show. The increasing stitches must be placed all over the body and is best to do on the round before the stars. Then the small stars will be placed with no order to the stars beneath and that is correct. The first two white stripes have in the original sweater 4 rounds of white yarn of each side of the blue stars (=11 rows). Look at the picture below.

Knit the 3 rows that make up the “small blue stars”.

Then follow the schedule below and knit 4 rows of white yarn and increase 2 stitches in front and the back. Then begin the stripe nr 2 (blue) with white stars and follow the schedule until finished third round of stripe nr 13 (white).



Two white stripes have 11 rows.

Knit the stripes and increase as the schedule below.

Number of stripes	Frontside increases	Backside increases
1 after finished blue stars, knit 4 rows with white yarn	2 stitches	2 stitches
2 blue	4 “	4 “
3 white (11 rows)	4 “	4 “
4 blue	2 “	2 “
5 white (11 rows)	2 “	2 “
6-11	2 “	2 “
12 blue	4 “	4 “
13 white knit only 3 rows white (stop where the little stars begin)	2 “	4 “
Totally 380 stitches	= 184 stitches	= 196 stitches

The length of the body is now ca 45 cm. This is where the sleeves will come.

The front- and backside are to be knitted in two pieces. Each part must be knitted forward and backwards.

Bring on another circular needle 2mm to the frontside and finish the white stripe in front. Follow the schedule for rest of the stripes.

Number of stripes	Frontside increases	Backside increases
13 white continue the stripe	Knit small stars + 3 rows	Knit small stars + 3 rows
14 blue	6	6
15 white	0	6
16 blue	4	8
17 white	6	8
18 blue	6	6
19 white	6	6
20 blue	6	4
Knit 2 white row	10=228 stitches	4= 244 stitches

Pattern board 2

Find the middle of the frontside and place a stitch marker. The pattern begins and ends with a rhomb. The rhomb and the “tree of life” will alternate to the middle and then reverse. Because all the signs must be uncut there will be some more vertical stripes in middle of the front before reversing. In the back there are lot more stitches and 2 rhombs run into each other in the middle.

Backside: Note that the last red row is **not** to be knitted! Let the stitches remain in the needle.



From the frontside.

Pattern board 3 The shoulders are knitted on each side of the **front side**. Put 60 stitches in the middle (front neckline) onto a tread or a spare needle. Start knitting from the right side at the edge and knit the shoulder pattern forwards and backwards. Let the remaining stitches stay on the needle.

Do the same at the left side but reverse the pattern. Start from where the neckline stitches are ending and be sure that it is the same number of stitches on each shoulder flap.



Shoulder flap.

Now the back is to be knitted. Follow the schedule for the backside increases in pattern 1. Knit pattern board 2 and remember **not** to knit the last red row. Let the stitches stay on the needle.

Knit the shoulder flaps to the back

Knit the shoulder flaps to the back with a red tread. Start on the edge with the wrong side towards you; the shoulder flap on one needle in one hand, and the back on another needle in the other hand, both with the wrong side towards you. Knit with the yarn behind the work (the right side)

Knit 2 stitches twisted together, set 3 stitches from the right needle to the left needle.

“Knit 2 stitches together and knit 2 stitches twisted together. Set 3 stitches to the left needle.”

Repeat from ” to “ until there are two stitches left. Put the remaining stitch over the last one.

Now you got 2 rows of red stitches at the wrong side and one knitted red row at the right side.

Do the same at the other shoulder.



The shoulder flaps are knitted to the back.

NECKLINE

Pick up the stitches in the end of the shoulder and knit with white tread forwards and backwards 10 rows, while the last stitch on every row knits together with the first stitch from the front- and backside. Do the same at the other side. Then purl one row with white yarn around the whole neckline before binding off not too tight.



Pattern board 2 and the front neckline.



Pattern boarder 2 and the back neckline.

SLEEVES

Cast on 80 stitches with red yarn on double pointed needles 2mm. Purl 2 rows. Knit 1 row and increase 16 stitches (4 stitches on each pin) = 96 stitches.

Pattern board 4

The cuff is knitted with 3 colors. Held the yarn in the same order all the time and you get a fine backside. Knit a bit tight. Decrease 4 stitches in the last row of the pattern.

On the second cuff **the zigzag is knitted in the opposite way**.

Knit 2 rounds with white yarn.



The second cuff has the zigzag in opposite way.

Pattern board 5

Knit pattern 5. When pattern 5 is finished, knit 2 rows with white yarn and increase 4 stitches.

Continue with pattern 1 and increase as the schedule. The increases should be done within 2 cm – 10 cm from the beginning/end of the row to make a nice shape.



Shape of sleeve.

Number of the stripe	Increasing	Total
1 white - continue the stripe	Knit blue stars and 3 white rows	24 stars
2 blue	6	25 stars + 2 stitches
3 white	6	27
4 blue	4	28
5 white	6	29+2
6 blue	4	30+2
7 white	6	32
8 blue	0	32
9 white	6	33+2
10 blue	2	34
11 white	0	34
12 blue	Decrease 2	33+2
13 white	Decrease 2	32
14-18	0	32

19, white row+ 20, blue row+ 21, white row without stars	Knit 2 stitches, increase 1 stitch. Knit till 2 stitches are left, increase 1 stitch. Do this every second row!
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Stripe 21 is knitted without stars. It has 5 rows. Bind off not too tight. Knit the other sleeve.



The increases on top of the sleeves

MAKING UP

Sew the sleeves to the body: Fasten with a needle on top of the shoulder and at the armpit. Sew with the white yarn using backstitches. The seam should be 2 stitches from the edge. Start at the top following the same stitch as long you can. Maybe it will be some adjustments at the bottom. Fasten all ends securely.

NOTE

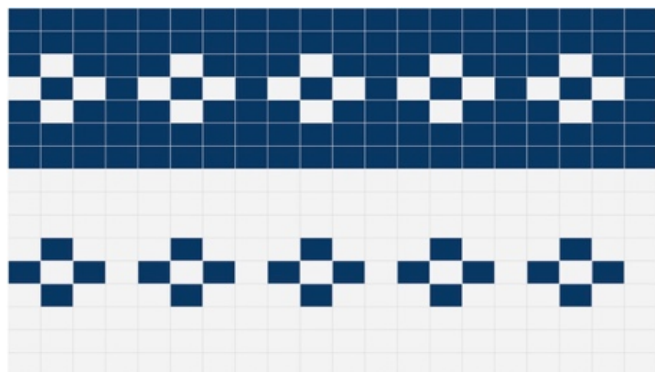
As we have done the work of making an authentic pattern of this old sweater from Byneset, from which we knitted a replica, we noted that some improvements that can be done for people who will make a sweater to wear:

- The body can be knitted to the top in circular needles and then be cut in each side for the sleeves. Although, the shoulder flaps must be knitted like the original. Then the sleeves also need 5 purled rounds on the top as a coat, before binding off.
- The original sweater has no red row on top of pattern board 2 in the back neckline. It can be done at the same time as knitting the shoulder flaps to the back.
- The original has a lot more masks in the back neckline than the front neckline. Then the neckline can buckle. It would be better to have about the same number of stitches both in the front and back neckline.
- The neck opening is not so deep. For some it can be a problem that the sweater comes to high at the throat. To avoid this, just knit extra rows in pattern 3.
- The neckline will lie flatter if you Knit 1 row, Purl 1 row, Knit 1 row and Purl 1 row before binding off.
- The edge of the sleeve will lie flatter if you Purl 1 row, Knit 1 row, Purl 1 row before pattern board 4.



Byneset Husflidslag give our gratefully thanks to the owners, Greta and Gudmund Klevset for lending this sweater to make this document!

Pattern borders used in the sweater from Bynestrøya



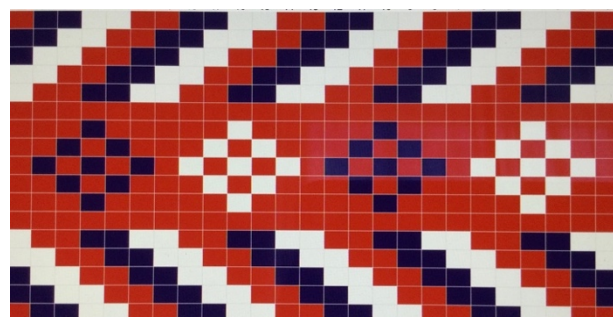
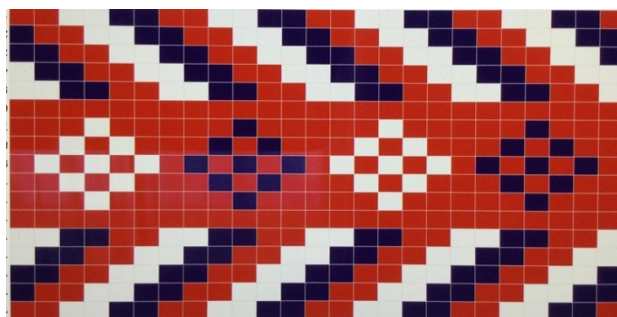
Pattern board 1 Main pattern with small stars.

Remember to start as the pattern shows every time. This will make the small stars not to be in order to the stars below, and this is as it should be! The white stripes have 9 rows, the blue stripes have only 7 rows.



Pattern board 2 On top of the body.

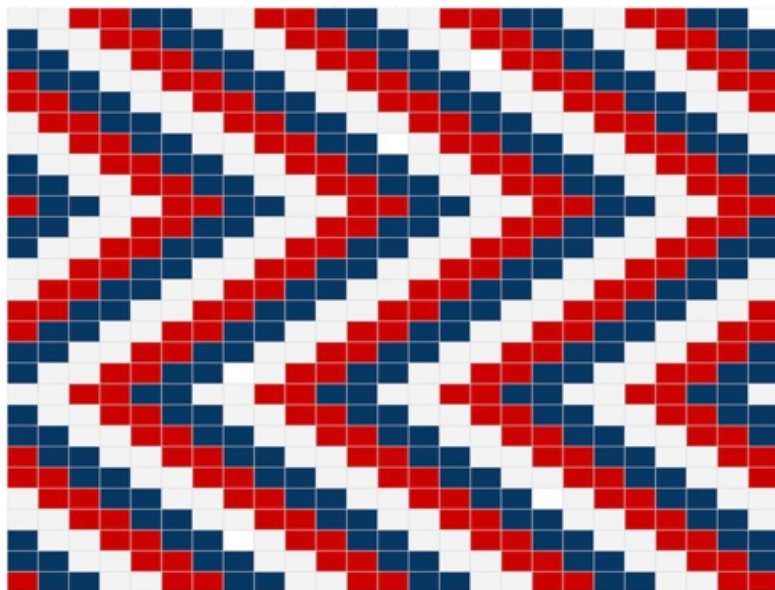
Set a stitch marker in the middle of the work. Start and end with a rhomb. The pattern is **reversed** in the middle of the work. Note that the latest red row is NOT to be knitted on the back!



Pattern board 3 Shoulders

Knitted to each side of the front side. Start the first one at the edge.

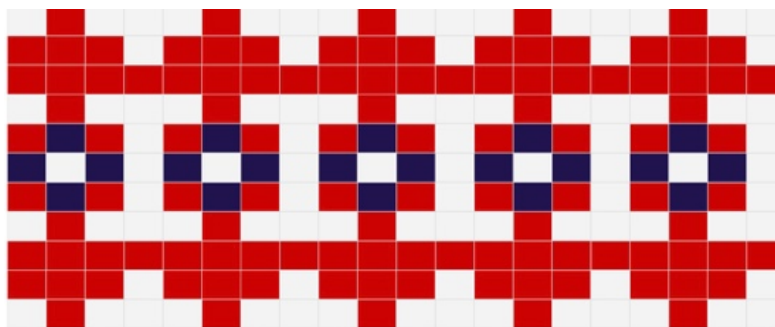
The other side is reversed. Start exactly in the same position were the first one ended.



Pattern board 4 Cuff.

Knit the cuff a bit tight. Hold the yarns always in the same order and you get a nice wrong side.

The cuff is reversed at the other sleeve.



Pattern board 5 Rose pattern on the sleeves.

Knit the rose pattern. Then knit 2 rows with white yarn and **increase 4 stitches** before blue little stars are knitted.

A finished replica knitted 2022 from the old sweater from Byneset.



