

# It's a Choo-Choo, Grandma!

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I don't knit, myself, and am ever so impressed by those who make it look so easy. My sister Karen, for example, is an outstanding knitter, famous throughout the family for her handmade sweaters. I have featured some of her work in the past, especially the series of cat-themed sweaters that she made last Christmas for the women in the family. She recently sent photos of another beautiful sweater, just finished, that I just have to share.

It's a cardigan for her 3-year-old grandson, who is a fan of Thomas the Tank Engine. This colour-blocked sweater with the Thomas motifs is just lovely, of course, but it's even more impressive when you consider the challenges it represented, not only in the execution, but in the level of planning required.



To begin with, Karen didn't have a pattern for the motifs; instead, she worked out the charts from scratch, based on a few images of the train.

In addition, with Covid restrictions back in place, it's hard to get out to buy more supplies, so she says she made a point of using up yarns she already had in her stash -- a process that takes a little more planning than if you could purchase colours especially for the project. For these reasons, she



reports, this sweater was "more of a challenge than it looks . . . But I was definitely pleased with the result." What a wonderful gift for a little boy, and what a great way to take a bite out of that yarn stash!



The challenge was worth it, as the result is gorgeous, and her little grandson, shown the sweater over skype, recognized Thomas immediately. I'm sure he was delighted when it arrived in the mail. Karen reports that she has saved the knitting charts "just in case I ever make another" of these beautiful cardigans.