

Patient is resting comfortably.

In the last post, we left a lovely all but in the middle sweater awaiting surgery:



This knitting surgeon is happy to report that the patient is resting comfortably. Here's how it went.

1. **With a circular needle, thread the circular into each stitch on the row below the stripe.** This went uneventfully (sorry, no photo).
2. **Do the same for the row immediately above the stripe.** Here I deviated from the original plan. I decided to just keep the big stripe on the top of the sweater - the stripe acts as waste yarn and holds the stitches that I want to graft in place
3. **Carefully pull out all the stitches of the first and last row of the stripe (save yarn for something else!).** I only pulled out the bottom row of the stripe. This is how the sweater looks in its two parts:

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Vaguely unsettling to see the sweater like this - almost like an amputation.

1. With the bottom of the sweater, knit the same number of rows as the stripe.

But queasiness aside, I moved on to knitting the fill-in inches of the body on the bottom part of the sweater.

1. Options here:

1. Take a couple of long pieces of yarn and graft the two rows together
2. Do a three-needle bind off with the two pieces.

I started with the grafting method - and it worked beautifully. Partly it is that this is a nice wool (this part of the sweater is in the reliable Cascade 200 Heathers) that has bounce and give, and partly it happens to be a dark color that will be forgiving of all the wonkiness. I grafted together the two parts of the sweater with about 3 shorter lengths of yarn like this:



Then I unraveled the old stripe with a "rip it" method.

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There were a few places on the last round where the plies had been caught by the darning needle, they were snipped and I moved on. This is a little pile that will go into another project:



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And the sweater? Pre-blocking it looks pretty good already. Patient is awaiting the weaving of ends and blocking.



Summary: This was not as bad as I feared - and the outcome totally worth it!