

Spencer Inspired Jacket



These pattern notes give you the basics for a short, Spencer inspired jacket with fitted sleeves, though you can easily adapt it to a longer or less fitted sweater. The basic stitch pattern, two increases, and the decrease are included, so now you can play with those for any project that pops into your head. Please adapt what I did to fit your yarn, hook, and size requirements, remembering that larger sizes need more arm stitches, smaller sizes need less.

Hook size: 3 mm

Yarn: 3 hanks single ply, fingering weight yarn (I used Malabrigo Mechita,

but I think a plied yarn would work equally well. Substitute as desired, remember to adjust your hook size as required. Please note that for larger sizes you will need more yarn. As an example, for 3XL sweaters,

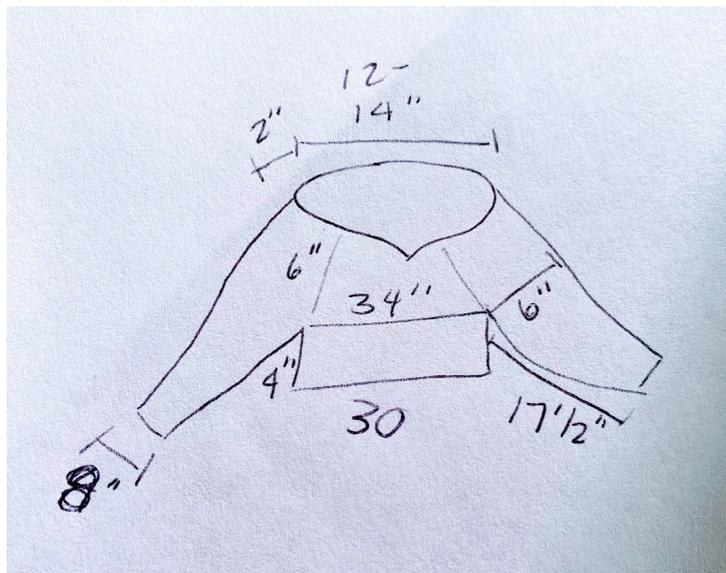
I

would plan on 5 hanks.)

Size worked: XXXS

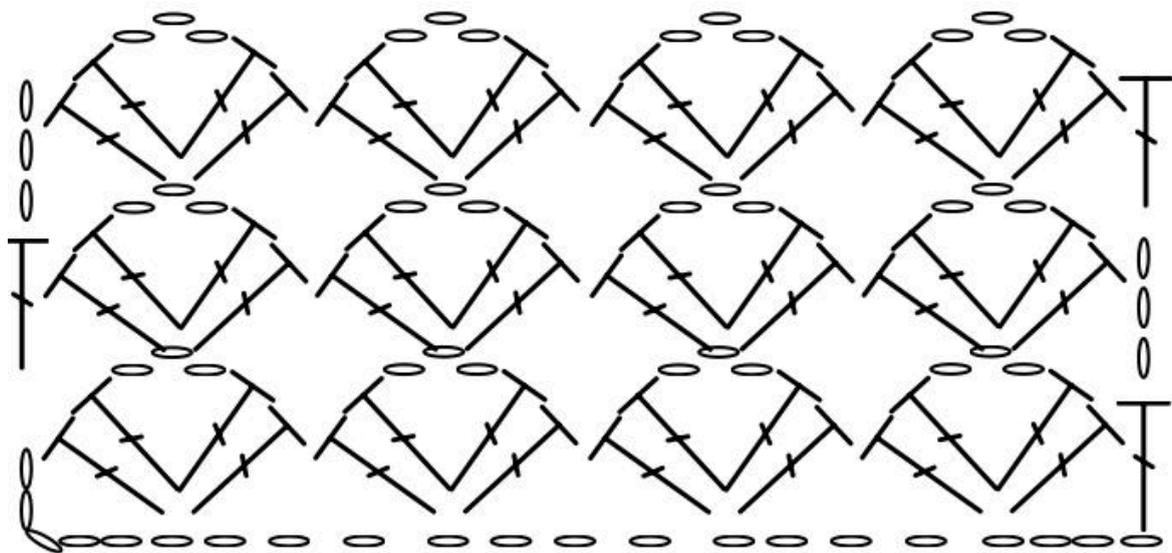
A small mess of stitch markers

This sweater is based off of a swatch and measurements taken, in inches, from the wearer. This was my initial diagram with ease included in the measurements:



I began with a chain that went just beyond where I wanted the top of the front of the shoulder to hit, about 13 inches long for my chain. This sweater is for my daughter Hannah who is tiny human adult. If you, too, are a tiny

human, my chains and stitch counts may work well for you. If you are not, you will need to work out your own stitch counts based on your measurements and swatch. Work in groups of four plus two stitches for the turning chain to determine your chain length. Mine was 90 chains or 23 v stitches plus the turning chain.



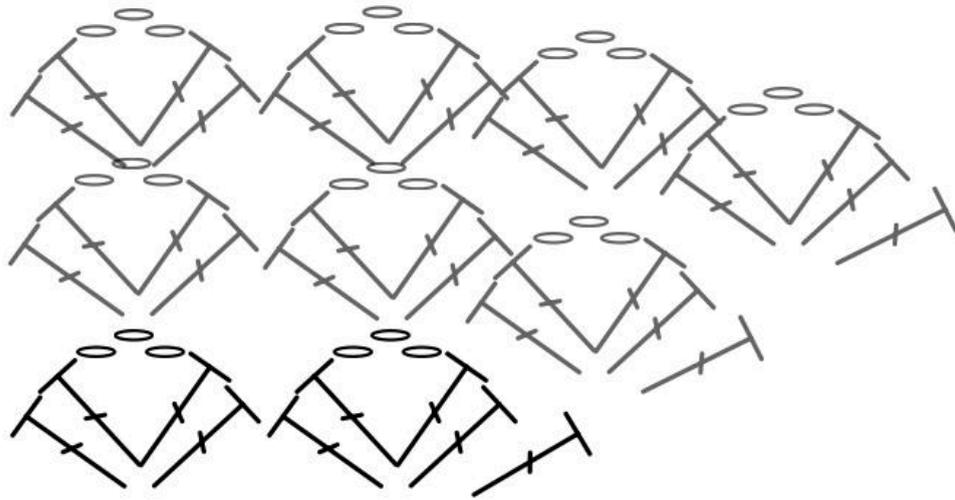
Basic stitch for reference

Begin the v stitches on the **fourth chain**, this is different from the diagram. You will end with your last v stitch worked into the last chain. Work two double crochets, chain 2, 2 double crochets into the fourth chain (the

turning chain counts as an extra double at the beginning which will serve as the point to make the edge increase in subsequent rows) and 2 double crochets, chain 2, 3 double crochets into the last chain. Always work an extra double crochet on the outside edge of the scoop part of the neckline. This is the set up for the scooped neck. Increase along the outside edges until the scoop is to your taste for depth or the stitch count matches the back, which is a natural stop spot. You may need to go slightly beyond the same number of stitches in the back panel if you need more space in the front of your sweater. Or you could keep going and make a wrap sweater. See? Endless options when you know the stitch pattern and how it works.

If you do decide to stop the scoop before the sides meet, chain on both sides and in groups of 4 (plus 1 for the final double of the row) the length you will need to reach the other side. Do this on both sides. On the return row, work v stitches into the chain, your turning chain counts as a stitch.

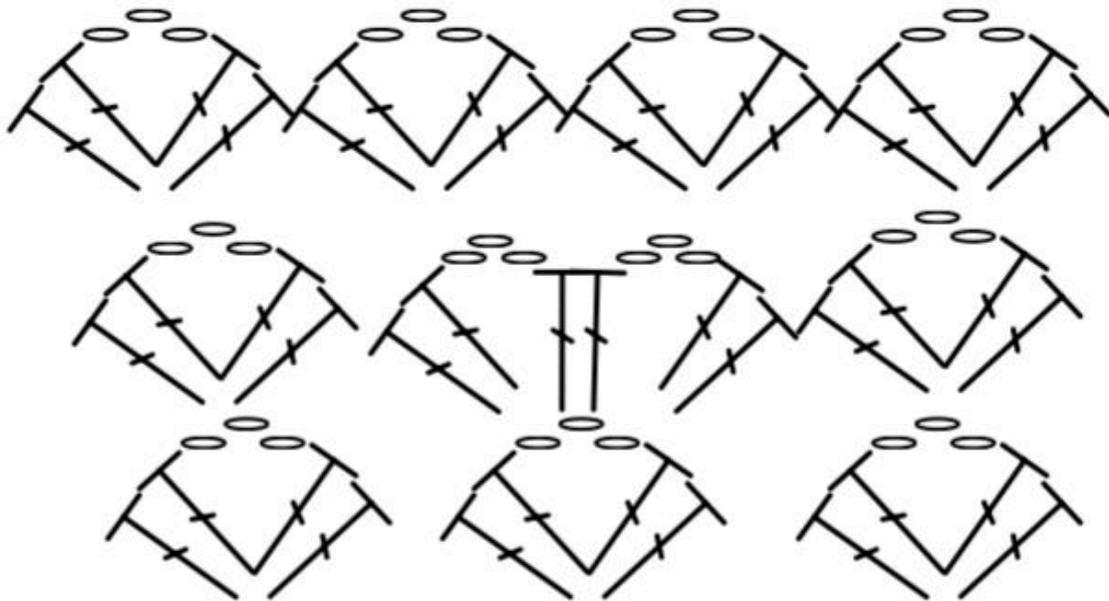
When you reach the point you want to stop with the scoop part of the neckline, work a double crochet into the third double crochet of the edge v stitch. Each row thereafter, work a double crochet into that final double to give yourself a flat edge to work the button placket from.



Scoop neck increase

Simultaneously as you work the scoop edge of the neck, work the compound raglan shaping. (This is why you will need stitch markers. I put one into the edge stitches as well to remind myself to add the extra double and to increase.) After you work the first row of v stitches into the chain, place stitch markers between the front edge v stitches on both sides and the second v stitch in, as well as between the third and fourth v stitches on each side. On each side, the first marker divides the scoop neck from the shoulder, the second divides the shoulder from the back. To work increases, you work them in the v stitches just before or after the markers on the front and back sides or the shoulder sides (both markers and sides) as needed. Move the

markers up between the stitches each row. Do not move the marker over, keep it in a straight line from the beginning.



General and raglan increase on one side of the marker

Can be used to create gussets if need for the bustline or anywhere else

The increase is worked over two rows. In the first you set it up, in the second you fill it out.

From your swatch and personal measurements, determine how many stitches you will need to finish with at the bottom of the yoke for the arms, front, and back. Determine how many increases this will require, remembering that

the arms and back increase two times per increase row and the increase is worked over two rows. Also keep in mind that the front of the sweater is comprised of two panels but also gets two additional increases until you end the scoop neck increases. If you are really dedicated to the math, you can figure out at what point the front panels, increasing twice as quickly as the back panels, will a) be the same length and b) start increasing faster. Extra credit if you work out what this means for your own sweater and how you need to handle the back and front increases to make it fit. (Hint: Once they have an even number of v stitches, the front panels should meet, though not if you need a little extra space in the front, so you can stop the scoop neck increases.) Double extra credit if you didn't feel a cold shiver on reading that little math gem and have visions of trains leaving stations in far disparate towns traveling at radically different speeds fill your head.

For the compound raglan, split the body and front increases between the bottom and top of the planned yoke depth. For the arm increases, work those predominantly in the middle of the yoke depth. This will create more fitted sleeves while allowing you to work a top down sweater, which is awesome because I hate sewing.

The separate increases for the arms and body along the raglan line allow you to work exactly how many stitches you need for the arms and body, instead

of having to do both increases regardless of need as in a regular raglan sweater.

Depending on the depth of your yoke and your size needs, you may need to work arm increases immediately, or you may need to work body increases the whole way down. Either is fine and quite easy to manage. But what if you need more increases than can be accomplished along the raglan lines? I would add a gusset to the middle of the sleeve or body and work extra v stitches there.

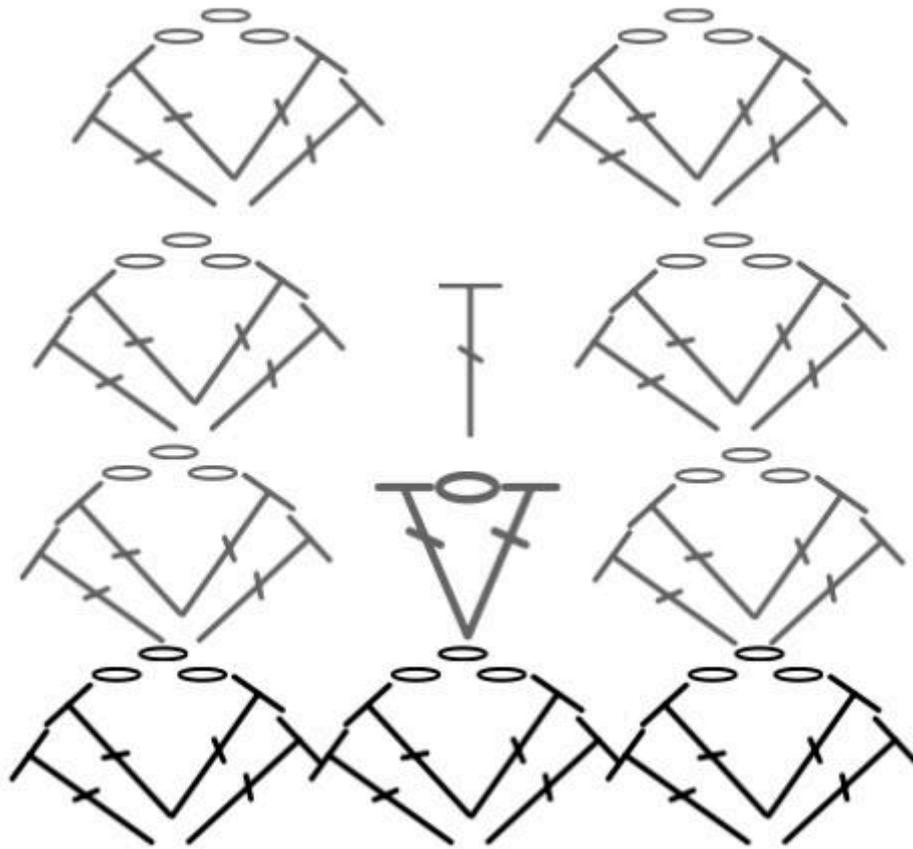
As an example of a yoke layout, I had 7 v stitches per 4 inches and 12 rows per 4 inches, as per my swatch. I increased my yoke depth to 7 inches from the planned 6 after some initial try-ons. So I needed to work 21 rows, which ended up being 22 to make everything work as I wished, with a total of 53 v stitches for the body, front and back, and 16 stitches for each sleeve by the end of the yoke. I started with 23 v stitches, so I needed to work an extra 30 for the body and an extra 14 for each sleeve. I began the front and back panel increases on the second row of the yoke, and worked them for 7 rows (6 extra v stitches every two rows, so 18 more v stitches). On row 8 I stopped the scoop neck increases and the front and back panel increases, and picked up sleeve increases. Two increases every two rows means the sleeves would need 14 rows of steady increases to reach their final count. I worked only those increases until I reached row 16 and then I picked up the front and back

panel increases again. I worked those until the bottom of the yoke. This inconsistent increase system sets up the fitted sleeve and is the heart of a compound raglan.

I divided for the sleeves with 18 chains, remember to add more or less for your own sweater in groups of 4. I added a lone double crochet between the v stitches I wanted to divide at (the marked ones from before) to give the dividing chain a clean place to attach to since the sleeve would exist between two v stitches. These two extra doubles added to the 18 chains gives 20 total spaces to work in.

I worked decreases down the sides of the body to create the fitted silhouette, as well as down the sleeves for a fitted sleeve. Figure out the number of v stitches to decrease by over the length of the sleeve or body and space those evenly between rows for a gradual decrease. I did not need to include bust room, but it could be easily accomplished with the increase laid out above. It is possible you would need to start this increase while still working the yoke. Your initial measurements should help with this.

You can create a longer sweater by continuing to work rows to cover the rest of the torso. If you are making a fitted jacket, you will need to add gussets after the waist to accommodate the hips.



Decrease stitch

The decrease is worked over three rows

To finish the sleeve hem, I worked a row of three chains between each v stitch and placed a single crochet into each chain 3 space of the v stitches. I then finished the edges of the sleeves with three rows of single crochets. I worked the same row of chains and single crochets along the bottom hem of the body to set up for the button placket and finishing panel.

To create the button placket and hem, work 7 rows of single crochet along the edges of the jacket front and across the hem, thus the set up row I mentioned above along the hem. This should be one continuous row of singles down one side, across the hem, and up the other side before turning and continuing back along your path. On the fourth row, add buttonholes to the right side of the placket. (You will need to determine the size of the buttonholes you need as per your buttons. I needed three chains.) In the next row, work the same number of single crochets as chains over your chains to finish the buttonholes. The final, seventh row of the placket should go the entire way around the edge of the jacket: down one side, across the neck or bottom hem, up the other side, across the neck or bottom hem. This will give the garment a completed looking finished edge. Add buttons of your choice.

Wash and block your sweater carefully measuring to make sure it blocks to your planned measurements. Wear your creation and be fabulous!