



These pattern notes give you the basics for a fitted sweater with flared sleeves, though you can easily adapt it to a shorter or longer or less or even more fitted sweater by using the included diagrams. The basic stitch pattern, increase, decrease, neck line adjustments, and mock turtleneck pattern 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 when planning your raglan increase that larger sweater sizes need more arm stitches, smaller sizes need less. With this stitch pattern

especially, larger yarns are going to create large gaps in the fabric. If a tighter, closed fabric is your goal, the smaller the yarn, the better your result will be.

What I used:

Hook size: 3.5 mm (most of the sweater), 4 mm hook (the front of the sweater only at the bustline), 4.5 mm hook (the flared part of the sleeves)

Yarn: 8 hanks sock yarn (I used Malabrigo sock. Substitute as desired, remembering to adjust your hook size as required. Please note that for smaller sizes you will need less yarn and for larger sizes you will need more yarn. As an example, for 3 XS sweaters, I would plan on 4 to 5 hanks; whereas, with the 3 XL that I made I needed 8 hanks.)

Size worked: 3 XL

A small mess of stitch markers

I based this pattern on direct measurements. I went with half an inch of positive ease. This stitch pattern is very stretchy and will accommodate negative ease, BUT you need to be conscious of the fact that too much negative ease is going to stretch the fabric in a way that creates holes. If you do not want holes, you can work with minimal ease but avoid negative ease.

You will need the following measurements:

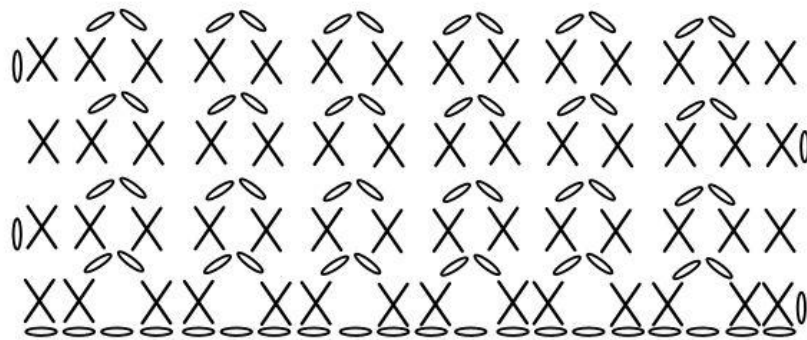
_____Neck

- _____Torso at bottom of planned yoke
- _____Circumference of arms and torso at bottom of planned yoke
- _____Circumference of arms alone at bottom of planned yoke
- _____Distance from the end of the turtleneck band to the end of the yoke
(straight down from the middle of the body)
- _____Distance from the end of the turtleneck band to the waist
- _____Waist circumference
- _____Length from the waist to the planned bottom of the sweater
- _____Circumference of body at the planned bottom of the sweater
- _____Length from the end of the turtleneck band to the planned bottom of
the sweater
- _____Length of arm from the end of the turtleneck band to the wrist
- _____Length of arm from the bottom of the yoke to the wrist
- _____Circumference of arm just above elbow

Once you have these measurements, make a 12 inch by 12 swatch in the basic stitch pattern. A bigger swatch will give you a much better sense of how a stitch pattern behaves when there is more of it, as there will be in a sweater. After you finish the swatch, wash it and block it as you plan to block your sweater. If you want to give the sweater a good, strong, wet blocking, do this to your swatch. If you want to give your sweater a more gentle damp blocking, as I did, do this to the swatch. Without this step, you will be

crocheting blind into the void of Stretchings from Washings to Come. Do not torture yourself this way.

Use your washed and blocked swatch to set up your pattern. If you need extra guidance on this, see my post about How to Move from Swatch to Project.



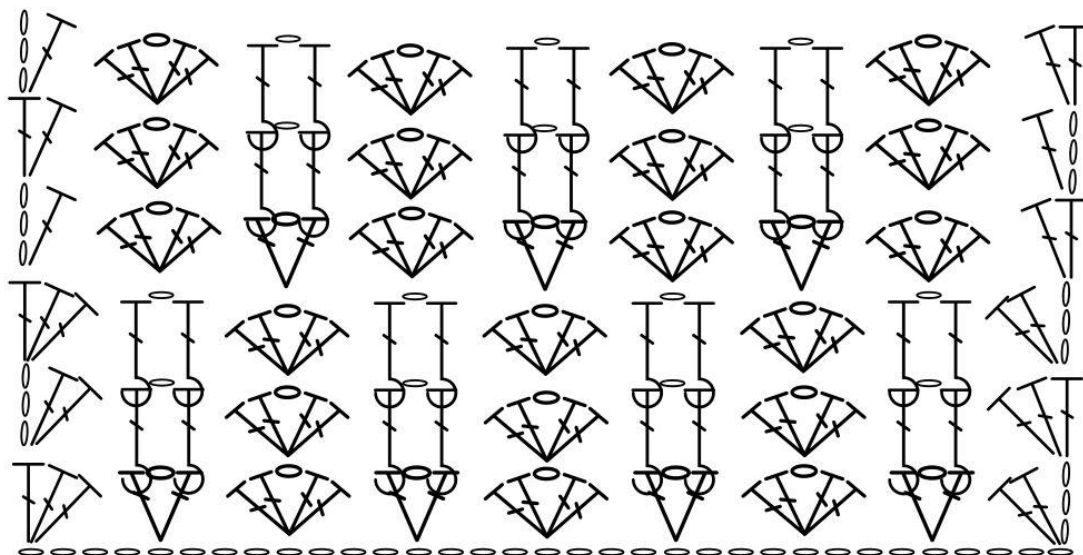
Basic stitch pattern

Stitch repeat is 3 chains with three extra chains for the ends and the initial turning chain

You have your swatch and your measurements. You have a sense of how to merge the two and you have a plan based on that merger. You are now ready to begin your sweater.



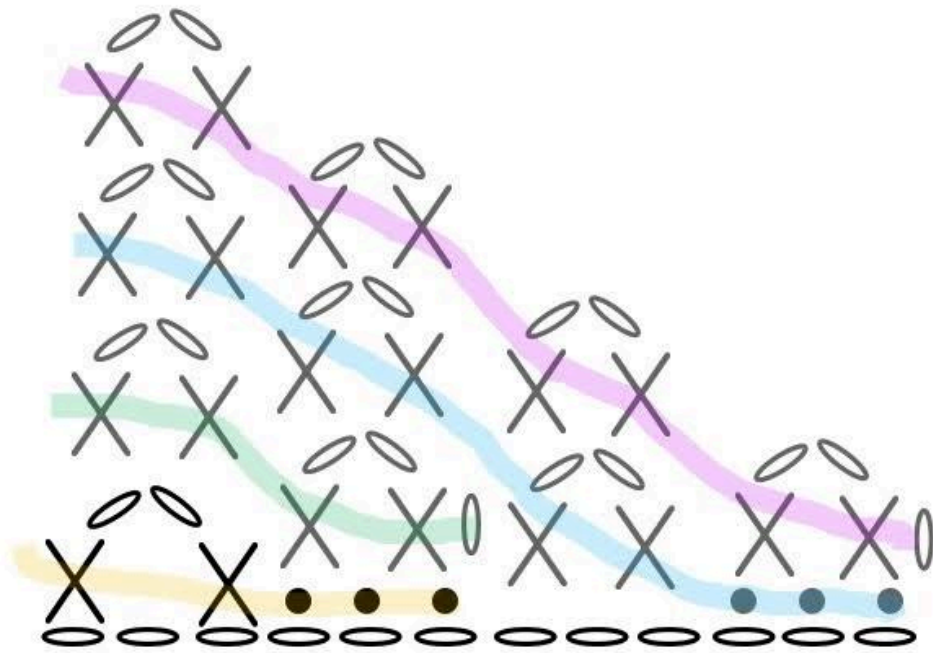
I began with a foundation double crochet because it is stretchy and I want the mock turtleneck to go on easily. I worked mine to about 19 inches making sure it was a multiple of 8 plus 1, as required by the stitch pattern for the mock turtleneck. Join your foundation double crochet row and work the mock turtleneck in joined rounds to your desired length, mine was about 2 inches. I did not turn the rounds.



Basic stitch pattern for the mock turtle neck

The post stitches are worked all to one side because the neck is worked without turning the rounds. If you do turn your rounds or use the stitch pattern for a project with turned rows or rounds, use front post stitches for one row and back post for the next to continue the raised line on the “right” side of the fabric.

When you have the mock turtleneck portion to length, add one row of single crochets to make sure your stitch count is divisible by three. Then use your measurements and swatch to determine where your raglan increases will be. Mark the increase points on the neck band and continue moving these markers up as you work the yoke. Attach the yarn three stitches before the left front stitch marker when the band is held upside down. Work that stitch and the rest of the row around to three chains beyond the opposite front marker. As you go, work the raglan increases at the marked points. You are simultaneously beginning the sweater and building up the neck. The stitches at the front will appear a little squashy but they will build happily and it will create a smoother fit.



Beginning of the raglan increase and first rows of the sweater. Continue in this pattern until you have worked 1 to 1 1/2 inches worth of rows.



Raglan increase

The increase is worked over three rows. In the first row, a v stitch is worked between two v stitches from the row below. In the second pass, a v stitch and a half is worked into the additional v stitch from the row below. In the last row of the increase, a full v stitch is worked into every chain 2 space and the increase is complete.

Once you work an inch to an inch and a half in pattern, break the yarn and attach it at the middle of the back. (It may be more for you, but an inch to an inch and a half is a good starting point for building up the neckline.

There are some really nice videos online about how to figure out how much of a rise you need to build for sweaters. They will explain it better than I can.) I worked my rounds in such a way that the slip stitch to join the round went into the first single crochet of the first v stitch of the round. Then I slip stitched once into the v stitch chain space, chained 1, and started the new round.

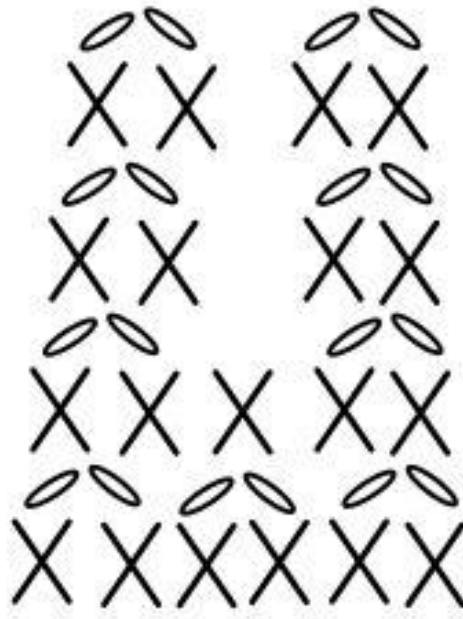
At this point in the project, you have a crucial choice, do you turn the rounds or not. I did not. The yarn I used was mottled and it hid my sins quite nicely. That being said, since you started turning the rows, maybe keep doing it? It's a personal choice. Make peace with your own.

When your moral struggle over turning is done, work the first round around the entire edge of the sweater and mock turtleneck. Some of the neck band stitches may not have been worked yet. This is fine. Just continue to work into them and around the other side. Your stitches will smooth out in the next row or two. Continue to work your raglan increases each round.

Work your yoke to your desired depth. You may need to stop increasing before you reach the bottom of the yoke. That's fine. You can also space the increases out more evenly over the entirety of the yoke. Use your swatch to figure out how many rounds you will have to work for the yoke and how many increases you will need. From that you can figure out a smooth increase schedule. I did not do this because the increases create a very linear pattern. I decided it was better to maintain this pattern and work several rounds without increases at the bottom than to have evenly spaced increases across the whole of the yoke. It's up to you what you do in your sweater, just be very aware of the linear nature of the stitch pattern.

To divide for the arms, add a row of chains between marked stitches (at this point my markers were between two v stitches) for the number of v stitch repeats you will need for the underarm. The pattern repeat is three stitches, so add chains in multiples of three. I needed 33 chains for 11 v stitches. I left the stitch markers in place because I find it is easier later when I begin the sleeves if the markers stay in place.

For the body of the sweater, work in the v stitch pattern in rounds, turning or not as you did for the yoke. To make the sweater fit well, I was going to need a gusset for the bustline. I didn't want to do that, though, because the stitch pattern is so very, very linear. It felt like the gussets would create weird umbrellas over the bustline that would read as very odd. To get around this, I bumped my hook size up to a 4 mm hook and used that only across the front of the sweater until I was past the widest part of the bustline. Then I switched back to the 3.5 mm hook. I marked stitches under the arms to change hooks at. I did do an extra front of the round with the 4 mm hook occasionally to keep the front and the back of the sweater even in terms of length. This gave me the extra space I needed without messing with the linear aspects of the stitch pattern or creating uncomfortable lines or strange gaps in the fabric. If these lines do not bother you, insert a gusset using the increase outlined above. Remember to add the dart, as outlined in the decrease, in the rows below the widest part of the bust if you want to bring the sweater back in for your waist. If you need a wider waist, the bustline might actually be a nice place to build that ease in. You can also use this increase if you need to increase the size of the sleeve through the upper part of the arm even after the raglan increase.

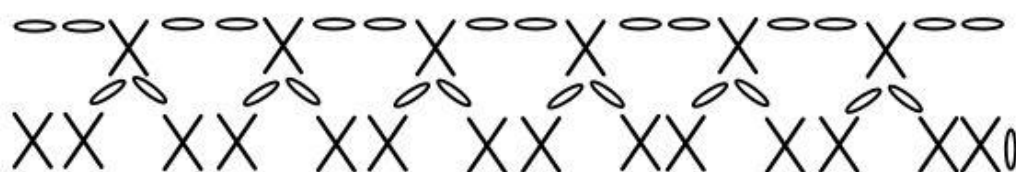


Decrease stitch

This is worked over two rows. In the first row you replace a v stitch with a single crochet. In the second row, you skip the solitary single.

If you wish to do shaping for the waist, I like to begin that just after the widest part of the bust. Work out how many decreases you will need to make to get the fit you desire and then spread those evenly over the rounds you will work to get to the smallest part of the waist. If you need more stitches for the waist, work those increases as you would when planning decreases: Figure out how many increases you need to make over how many rounds and space them evenly. Use markers to denote your decrease or increase points. Because of the linear stitch pattern, work decreases or increases along the sides of the torso to hide the weird lines.

If you wish to do hip shaping, work those increases along the sides using the increase, or decrease if that's what you need, as depicted. I worked an increase as a gusset along each side to accommodate the hips. Remember to work the hem edging after you complete your last round of v stitches.



Hemline and sleeve edge

For the sleeves, attach the yarn to the middle of the chain under the arm. As you work, move the stitch marker from the yoke into the first and last v stitches worked into the chains. Start shaping the upper arm by working decreases at the marked stitches, for as many decreases as you need to achieve the fit you desire. Each time you eliminate a v stitch, move the markers closer together under the arm, this will create a neat v shape under the arm which will help the sweater lay neatly. If you reach the middle with your decreases and need more decreases, work them to either side of the beginning of the round under the arm. Work in pattern to the elbow.

In my sweater, the v shaped underarm decrease wasn't quite fast enough at the top of the arm, so I worked three extra decreases just on the other side of each of the marked stitches. This allowed me greater control over how fast the sleeves came in at the top. I ended up not needing to do a whole v shaped decrease under the arm, but I am glad I could make the extra decreases at the top.

The extra arm stitches, in this case, came from the number of v stitches needed to cover the edge of the mock turtleneck. In a perfect world, I could have tailored that start to give the exact (or really close) number of stitches that would increase to my yoke measurement perfectly. That was not the case here. I decided to place the extra stitches on the arms instead of the torso because I did not want to simultaneously make allowances for the bustline and eliminate extra stitches. The extra stitches worked out well on the arms and I was able to eliminate them easily without it looking strange.

Once you reach the elbow, place a stitch marker on the stitch that is in the center of your actual elbow. You will have to put the sweater on to find this stitch. You will create the flared bottom of the sleeve from this marked stitch. Change to a 4.5 mm hook or one that gives you good floppy drape for your yarn choice without distorting the stitch pattern. I found the 3.5 mm and 4 mm hooks made a tighter fabric than I wanted for what should be the flowy bottom of the sleeve. The 4.5 mm hook gave me the right look. Work

increases consistently to the end of your sleeve. For a less full sleeve, work less increases. For a more full sleeve, perhaps two increase points would be better. I worked one increase after another until I reached my desired length. Work the sleeve/hem edging after your last row.

Wash and block your sweater as you washed and blocked your swatch. I like to weave my ends before I wash, but there are plenty of good reasons to weave after the first wash and block. Do what speaks to you.

With the increase and decrease laid out, you can sculpt the perfect sweater for you. Or use them to make a cute pair of fingerless gloves, a hat, whatever. Make this stitch pattern your own and have fun creating your perfect projects.