

Copacetic Boyfriend Sweater



These pattern notes give you the basics for a loosely fitted sweater with lightly tailored 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, and neck line adjustments 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: 4 mm hook (This hook size gave both strands of yarn a little room to move about and be squishy in.)

Yarn: 6 hanks (1100 yards per hank) of lace weight yarn held double-about 6700 yards of lace weight (I used Juggerspun Lace in Seaweed and Ebony. 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 2 hanks of each colorway (about 4500 yards); whereas, with the 3 XL that I made I needed 6 hanks total, 3 of each colorway and more would have enabled sweater paws. Alas, it was not to be.)

Size worked: 3 XL

A small mess of stitch markers

I based this pattern on direct measurements. I went with three inches of positive ease. This stitch pattern is somewhat 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 (or where you wish to start the 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

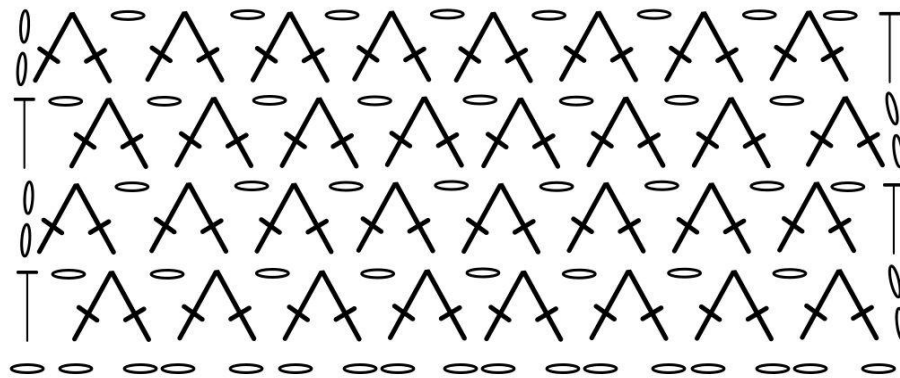
To each of these measurements, add some positive ease, not for the neck opening though unless you want it to be farther down the shoulders.

Throughout the body, I added three inches. In the sleeves it was closer to an

inch and a half to two inches. You can adjust the amount of positive ease through the parts of your sweater to make it fit exactly as you wish. Isn't making custom sweaters just the best? No more too tight sleeves and baggy waistlines for you!

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

Each single crochet together in the first row is worked over **two** chains
 In each row after, the single crochet together begins in a chain space and ends on top of the single crochet together from the previous row. This stitch repeats in twos and requires a multiple of two plus 1 for the beginning chain.

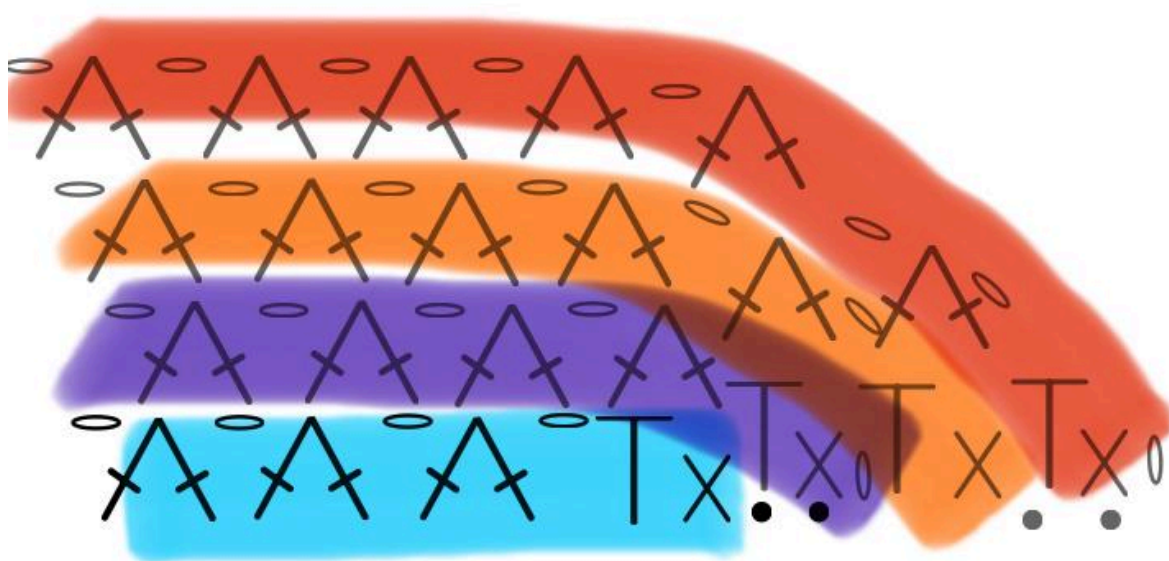
You are now ready to set out on your sweater making journey. Keep your swatch handy in case you have to do new measurements or learn at some critical juncture that measuring is harder than you thought and you have made a critical error.



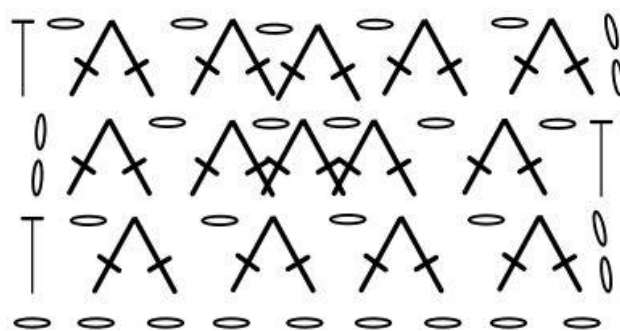
I began with a foundation double crochet because it gives a nice finished look to the edge and I love not having to come back and cover the raw edge with a line of singles to make it look finished. One less step is always a good thing. I worked my foundation double row to about 24 inches making sure it was a multiple of 2 plus 1 for the stitch pattern to come. Join your

foundation double crochet row and break the yarn. I wanted the neckline to be more open so it could be worn either alone or with a button down shirt underneath without feeling like the wearer was being choked. If you want a higher neckline, make a shorter foundation double crochet to start.

If you haven't already figured the math for your raglan increase, use your measurements and swatch to determine where your raglan increases will be. Mark the increase points on the foundation double crochet band and continue moving these markers up as you work the yoke. Attach the yarn two 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 two stitches beyond the opposite front marker. As you go, and after the first row, 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.



Staggered start for front neckline. At the end of each row, work a half double and a single crochet, slip stitch into the next two stitches of the foundation double crochet band, chain 1, work a single and a half double into the slip stitches, then work in pattern across the next single and half double and then around the neckline to the other side. The first row will begin with a single crochet placed two foundation double crochet stitches on the front sweater side of the front raglan increase marker.



Increase pattern used for the raglan increase and anywhere else you need to increase. Work the increase just before and just after the raglan marker. This means that each increase is an independent increase. You can increase the body portion of the yoke and not the arms, or vice versa. You could use this sort of stitch pattern to easily do a compound raglan.

To do the increase, you work the single crochet together such that the first one starts in a chain and ends on top of a single crochet together, the next starts in the same stitch you just ended in and ends in the next chain, and the next starts in that same chain and ends on a single crochet together as usual. You are basically smooshing an extra single crochet together and its friendly chain sidekick between two other stitches.

To keep things smooth, I like to work a row with no increases on top of the increase row. If you need more increases than will allow such foolery, work them as needed.

You could very easily use this sort of increase for a nice round (or as I prefer oblong) yoke by spreading 6 increases equally around the neck opening and going from there.

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 with two chains to start, worked in pattern around, and then slip stitched into the turning chain. I did turn the rows. It's actually important here because the stitches are staggered and they will not nest into each nicely if you do not turn the rows.

You will likely find that some of the neck band stitches have not been worked yet. This is fine. Just continue to work into them and around the other side as you complete your first full round. Your stitches will smooth out in the next row or two. Continue to work your raglan increases each round or as needed.

If you decide to do the stripes, I worked 12 rows in a single color and then switched to the secondary color to create wide, bold stripes. Since the stripes serve no purpose in holding the sweater together, you can ignore them. Make a monochrome sweater if you wish. Or make a stash busting sweater with tiny stripes or stripes of random thicknesses. Have fun with it!

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. This stitch pattern is very nicely forgiving about not being blatantly and glaring obvious where you increase.

I ended up with 48 rows, half of them holding an increase of some sort. This gave me a yoke a bit longer than I would ordinarily make, but it continued the loose, baggy look of the sweater. I worked about an inch to an inch and a half beyond where I would normally end a yoke.

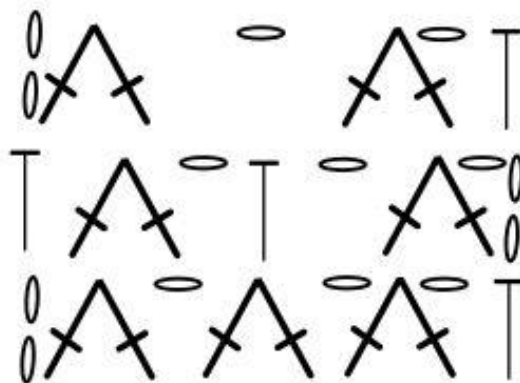
To divide for the arms, add a row of chains between the raglan markers for the number of stitch repeats you will need for the underarm. The pattern repeat is two stitches, so add chains in multiples of two. I needed 30 chains

for 15 single crochet together 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.

Please remember when working the stitches into the chains that each single crochet together is worked across TWO chains. Do not do as I did, before the frog fest began, and work each single crochet together in such a way that a stitch begins in the same chain the last one ended in. Especially do not look at it after you have done this and think it looks weird, but then continue working for *several* rows thinking it will work itself out. It will not. Let me be your cautionary tale of woe and frogging.

For the body of the sweater, work in the stitch pattern in turned rounds. Because of the baggy fit for this sweater, I did not need a gusset for the bust. I didn't even have to bump my hook size up. It just fit, which was a miracle and I am not going to question it. Should the gods of crochet, a fickle lot to be sure, not be smiling upon you and your sweater, you can use the increase outlined above to create gussets for the bustline. 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.

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 non-linear nature of this stitch pattern, you can work decreases or increases anywhere along the row to really focus your shaping as best fits your body.



Copacetic sweater decrease

If you wish to do hip shaping, you can work 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. (I worked two

increase points starting from a central point. It gives even increase to the back and the front and creates a smoother hemline.) To give the hem a finished look, I worked a row of linked double crochets around the bottom of the sweater body. Linked doubles most closely resemble foundation double crochets and I think they tie the hem to the neckline nicely.

If you want to play with a more exciting hemline, now is your chance! Whatever you do, use some sort of finishing stitch at the hemline. Design your sweater to the very edges.

For the sleeves, attach the yarn to the middle of the chain under the arm, right side facing out or however you need to make the pattern work correctly. The number of rows you need to work to reach the bottom of the yoke will likely be different from mine. Start the first row of your arm in the correct direction to make the stitches work. As you work, move the stitch marker from the yoke into the first and last 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 single crochet together, move the markers closer together under the arm, this will create a neat v shape under the arm which will help the sweater lay smoothly. I decreased every third row at this point. 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.

Because the increases for the arms (and body) can be specifically tailored to the size you need, you should be able to eliminate the extra stitches problem so common in the sleeves of raglan sweaters. If you are working this as a baggy sweater, again, no problem. If you want a more fitted sleeve and find you have too many stitches when you begin the sleeve, decrease a little more quickly by making extra decreases around the rest of the sleeve. The stitch pattern is fairly forgiving when it comes to needing to make increases and decreases that don't call the viewer's eye.

In my sweater, the v shaped underarm decrease worked quite well and I got the baggy look I was going for at a consistent decrease rate. After the v, I just continued making occasional decreases as I worked down the arm, near either side of the row join, to get a slightly baggy look. I spaced the decreases evenly down the arms about every 4 rows. I wanted the sweater to be baggy but not so much so that poor Adia was forever getting dirty, soggy sleeves from them dipping in everything. It would drive me mad if my sleeves were always damp. Dare I say moist, even? Nearly as bad as a wet sock.

At the end of the sleeve, work the linked double crochet border used for the hem line. Of course, this is also a place you can insert your own finishing hem.

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.

Have fun with the sweater or whatever project you come up with based on the increases and decreases I laid out, or the ones you came up with on your own. My increases and decreases are hardly the only ones and you may very well come up with something way more awesome than what I did. Make this stitch pattern your own and have fun creating your perfect projects.

