

## Sweater Paws and Stripes Sweater



These pattern notes give you the basics for a loosely fitted sweater with lightly tailored sleeves with sweater paws, 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, basic increase and decrease, raglan increase, 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 fewer. This stitch pattern is fairly solid, so a large yarn should still provide a solid fabric without too many gaps. A smaller yarn will always yield smaller holes and gaps, so if you want a solid looking fabric, choose a smaller yarn.

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.

Yarn: 6 hanks of Juniper Moon Farm Herriot Fine in ochre (1 hank) and sienna (5 hanks)

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 anticipate needing 3 to 4 hanks of sienna and 1 hank of ochre; whereas, with the 3 XL sweater that I made, I needed 6 hanks total, 5 hanks of sienna and 1 hank of ochre.

Size worked: 3 XL

You will need a small mess of stitch markers

I based this pattern on direct measurements. I went with six inches of positive ease. Though the stitch pattern is solid, it will quickly reveal gaps if

there is too much negative ease. If you do not want holes, you can work with minimal ease but avoid negative ease.

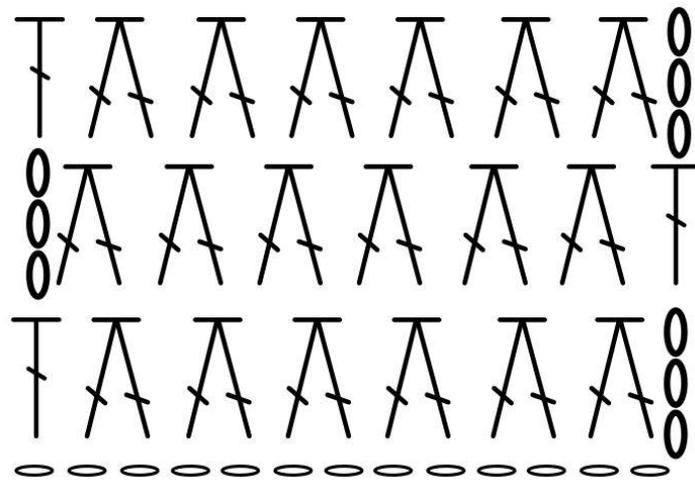
You will need the following measurements:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 neck 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 neck band to the planned bottom of  
the sweater
- \_\_\_\_\_ Length of arm from the end of the neck band to the wrist or where  
you  
want the sweater paw to stop
- \_\_\_\_\_ Length of arm from the bottom of the yoke to the wrist
- \_\_\_\_\_ Circumference of hand or wrist where you want the sleeve to stop

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). I worked this sweater with a fairly large neck opening so it would accommodate turtlenecks and button down shirts underneath. Throughout the body, I added six inches. In the sleeves it was closer to three inches. You can adjust the amount of positive ease through the parts of your sweater to make it fit exactly as you wish, which is why custom, measured to fit sweaters are the very best.

Once you have these measurements, make a 12 inch by 12 inch 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](#).



Your starting chain should be an odd number with three chains for the turning chain. In the first row, you work the double crochet together over two chains. In the second row, start the double crochet together in the stitch you just finished a stitch in and end it in the next stitch.

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 you learn at some critical juncture that measuring is harder than you thought and you have made a terrible 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 single crochets to make it look finished. One less step is always a good thing. I worked my foundation double row to about 22 inches (129 stitches for me) making sure it was an odd number of stitches for the

stitch pattern to come. Join your foundation double crochet row, work three rounds of alternating front and back post double crochets, 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 row to start.

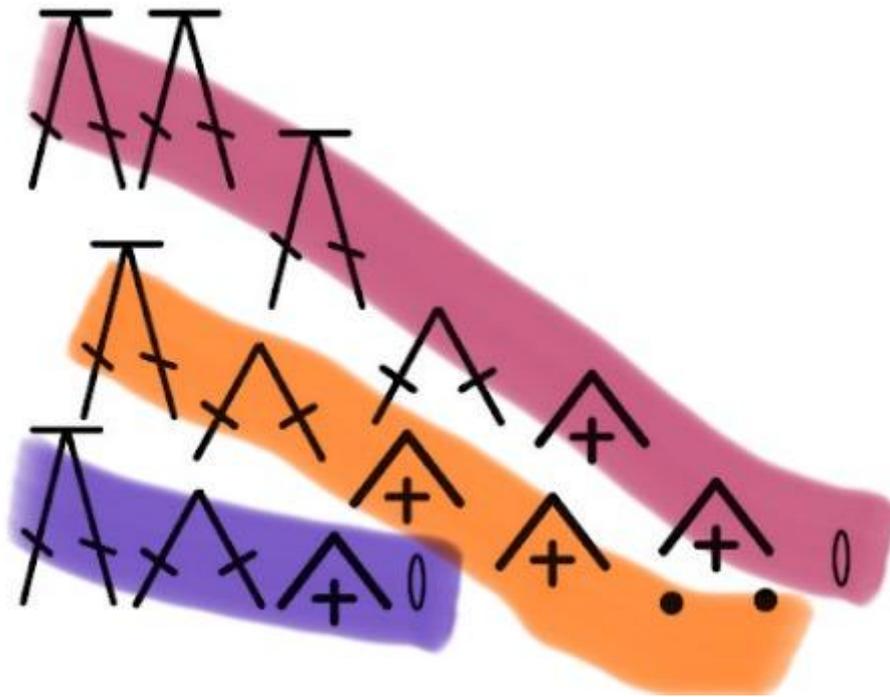
If you haven't already figured the math for your raglan increase, use your measurements and swatch to determine where your raglan increases will be. Because you can increase on either side of the raglan increase with this stitch pattern, it works really well for a compound raglan. You can figure out exactly the number of stitches you will need for each arm, the back, and the front and increase only that number of times, focusing the arm increases closer to the bottom of the raglan line and the front and back increases closer to the top of the raglan line. As it turned out with my sweater, I needed to increase all down the line, but I took the time to figure out how many stitches I needed to increase by for each section and marked my raglan increase points to reflect that growth. Take the time to figure this out. It makes the raglan line placement look sharp and the fit so much better.

This stitch pattern is a little tricky because with the increase as written, you actually only get one stitch pattern increase per section per round.

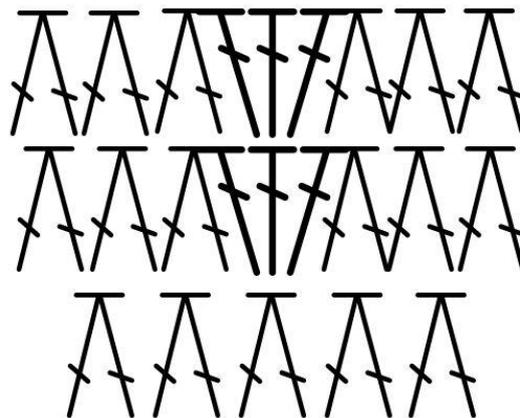
Frustrating if you want two increases per section per round. To get two

increases over two rounds, I worked the raglan increase as written in one round and then added another double crochet together worked over the last stitch before the raglan and into the middle stitch of the raglan increase in the next round. Then I did the three doubles in the raglan increase spot and continued on, varying the increase each row as needed to get my stitch count. Keep this in mind when planning.

Mark the increase points on the neck band and continue moving these markers up as you work the yoke. For the next part, see the diagram below. Attach the yarn six stitches before the left front stitch marker when the band is held upside down. Work that stitch and the rest of the row in pattern around to six stitches beyond the opposite front marker. As you go, and including 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. The first row will begin with a single crochet together placed over two neck band stitches on the front sweater side of the front raglan increase marker.



Raglan increase: Work the increase on each row of the yoke or as needed if you are doing a compound raglan. Each increase is an independent increase meaning you could choose to eliminate one of the three double crochets for the raglan increase and just work the next round without an increase. (You will need to leave one of the doubles for the raglan in to maintain stitch

count though.) You can increase the body portion of the yoke and not the arms or vice versa.

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 neck rise you need to build for sweaters. They will explain it better than I can.)

I worked my rounds with three chains to start, worked in pattern around, and then slip stitched into the *first* stitch of the round. Is this the way it is supposed to be done? Not really. Did it create a nice smooth join without gaps? Yes. Work your rounds as you like. The world is feral. I did turn the rounds.

You will likely find that some of the neck band stitches have not been worked yet when you are finished with the neck build-up. This is fine. Just continue to work into them and around the other side of the neckband 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.

I added stripes in the last two rows of the yoke. Each stripe is only one row wide. I stranded the yarn to reduce the number of ends I had to weave. I added another five yellow stripes on each sleeve when I joined the arm. I started the arm with the main color and then worked a complimentary color row on the second round.

Work your yoke to your desired depth. Work your increases as you figured from your swatch. This stitch pattern is very nicely forgiving about not being blatantly and glaring obvious where you increase.

I ended up with 35 rows and increased on all of them. This gave me a yoke a bit longer than I would ordinarily make, but it established 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 line of chains between the raglan markers corresponding to 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 48 chains for 24 double 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.

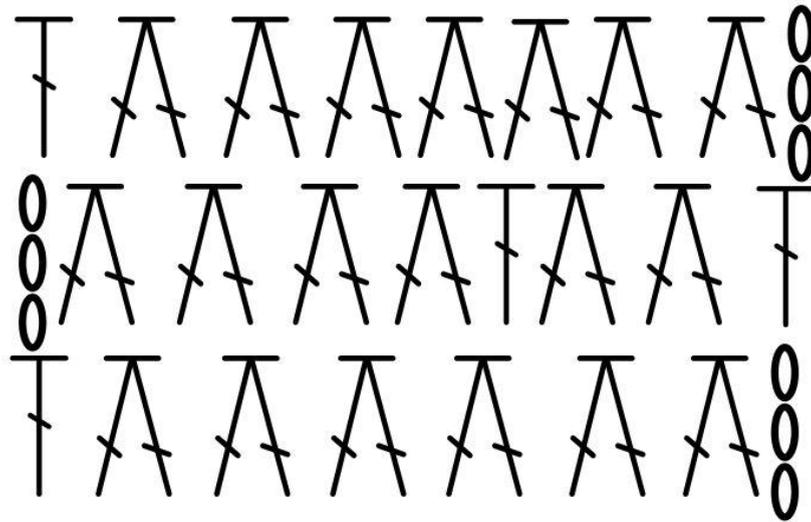
Please remember when working the stitches into the chains that each double crochet together is worked across TWO chains. This will save you frogging later when the underarm of your sleeve magically grows quite rudely and for no apparent reason.

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.

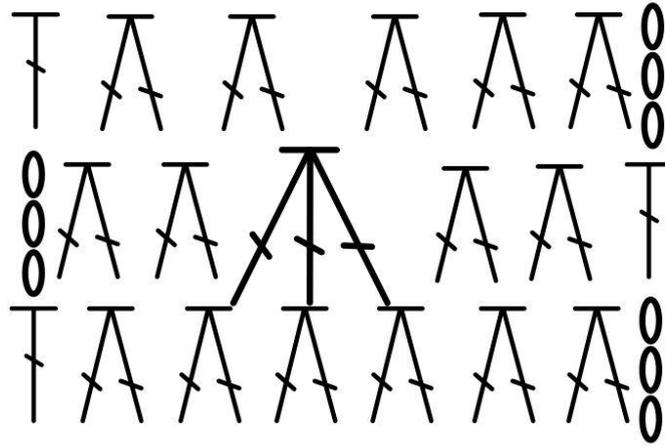
I didn't even have to bump my hook size up. It just fit, which was a miracle and I am not going to question it. Should the gods of crochet, a fickle lot to be sure, not be smiling upon you and your sweater, you can use the increase outlined above to create gussets for the bustline. Remember to add the 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.

For this stitch pattern, there is an alternate internal increase that might be helpful for a bust increase.



For this increase, you work an extra double crochet between two of the double crochet together in your present row. In the next row, end and begin a double crochet together in that stitch and you will have a one stitch increase in your row. This increase can also be used to create a round yoke, just work 12 extra double crochets into each increase round and work the next round in pattern.

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.



### Internal decrease

Work a three double crochet together stitches over three double crochet together stitches.

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.

To give the hem a finished look, I worked a row of double crochets (one in each double crochet together) around the bottom of the sweater body. I then worked three rounds of alternating front post/back post double crochet ribbing around the bottom of the sweater.

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, wrong 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 your

yoke will likely be different from mine, but the stitch pattern looks weird if you don't keep up the turned round pattern. Start the first row of your arm in the correct direction to make the stitches work. As you work, move the stitch markers 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 double crochet together, move the markers up, this will create a neat v shape under the arm which will help the sweater lay smoothly. I decreased every 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. This 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 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 a round of double crochets into the double crochet together stitches and then work three rounds of alternating front and back post stitches. 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.

