

Thank you for helping me test knit this free, recipe knit pattern! I am currently using the Incredible Custom-Fit Raglan (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140802104231/http://www.woolworks.org/patterns/raglan.html>) to give knitters a custom fit with handspun, which might have a variable gauge. It also allows knitters to mold the design to their ease preference and make the sleeves longer or shorter if desired. If any of you know a way to contact the person who wrote this recipe, let me know so I can get permission to host it on my website (www.expertlydyed.com).

Measurements

The following measurements are needed:

Neck-size: _____ (measure snugly around the neck, or use an appropriate man's collar size)

Raglan-length: _____ (measure raglan from collar to underarm, or measure a well-liked raglan sweater or sweatshirt)

Body-length: _____ (measure from underarm to desired length of sweater)

Sleeve-length: _____ (measure from underarm to desired length of sleeve)

Wrist-size: _____ (measure snugly around the wrist)

Determining gauge

Cast on twenty stitches and work in your desired stitch for about 4 inches. Carefully measure the width of your swatch. Calculate the gauge as the number of stitches divided by the width of your swatch, rounding your answer to two decimal places:

Gauge: _____ = $20 \div \text{width-of-swatch:}$ _____

Calculating the stitches around the neck

The next step is to calculate the number of stitches around neck and divide the total stitches into portions for the front and back, and for each sleeve. In these calculations, round any fractional number to the nearest number of whole stitches.

The total number of stitches is the gauge times the neck size:

Total-neck-stitches: _____ = gauge: _____ \times neck-size: _____

Now divide the total up into segments:

Back-stitches: _____ = total-neck-stitches: _____ \times 0.33

Sleeve-stitches: _____ = back-stitches: _____ \times 0.25

Increase-stitches: 8 (this is a fixed number)

The front then gets the remainder of the stitches, which is calculated as the total stitches minus the sum of the back, two sleeves, and the 8 increase stitches:

Front-stitches: _____ = total-neck-stitches: _____ -

(back-stitches: _____ + sleeve-stitches: _____ + sleeve-stitches: _____ + 8)

After making these calculations, go back and verify that the front has more stitches than the back. If this isn't so, move some stitches from the back to the front so that this condition is met.

The front of the neck is then divided into three parts. The right and left side of the front each get a quarter of the front stitches, and the center gets the remaining half:

Right-front-stitches: _____ = front-stitches: _____ \times 0.25

Left-front-stitches: _____ = front-stitches: _____ \times 0.25

Center-front-stitches: _____ = front-stitches: _____ -

(right-front-stitches: _____ + left-front-stitches: _____)

Casting on

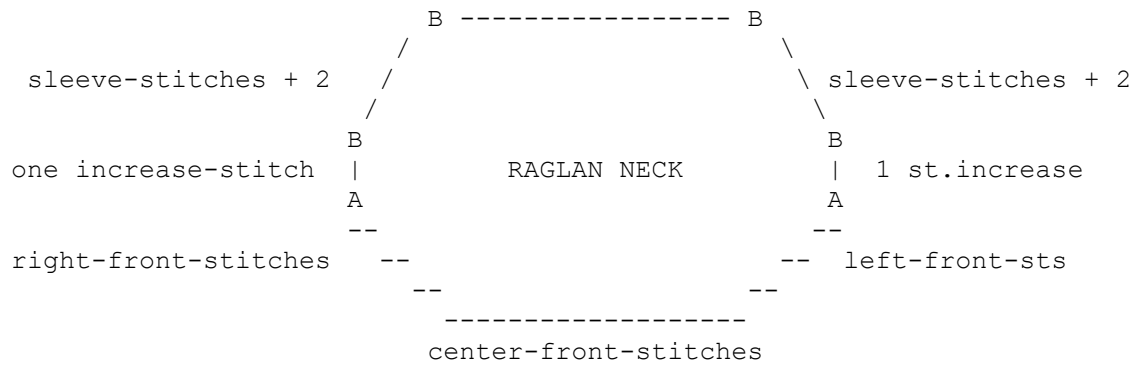
The most complicated part of the raglan is the neck. Once you get past this part, the rest is a breeze!

If you were to simply cast on the total neck stitches in a circle, you would not be able to get the completed sweater over your head! This problem is solved by having the front of the neck dropped. To achieve this, the neck is knit as an incomplete circle, increasing one stitch on each end every other row until half (____) of the front stitches have been added. The remaining front stitches are then cast on to complete the circle.

The four markers of the same color (called B) are used to separate the front, sleeves and back. The two markers of the other color (called A) are used to keep track of the increases of the front stitches.

The following diagram illustrates how the neck is cast on and the positioning of the markers:

back-stitches + 2



The neck is cast on in this order, using the larger needles:

- 1 stitch (to build the right side of the neck front)
- Marker A
- 1 stitch (increase stitch)
- Marker B
- Sleeve-stitches: + 2 increase stitches =
- Marker B
- Back-stitches: + 2 increase stitches =
- Marker B
- Sleeve-stitches: + 2 increase stitches =
- Marker B
- 1 stitch (increase stitch)
- Marker A
- 1 stitch (to build the left side of the neck front)

My recipe knit: V-neck Handspun Sweater with Rear Cabled Panel Block

Recipe notes: Jennifer Beamer, Expertly Dyed: Art by Science

Level: Advanced beginner, with knowledge of raglan construction (top down)



Recipe Knit:

I cast on 52 sts with 3.5mm needles and PM where described above.

I used the knitted increase on each end of RS; KFB (or M1R/M1L) at each B marker on RS. The majority of the sweater is stockinette, except for the cabled panel (see below).

I wanted a V-neck shape, so I carried on with established neck pattern until there were 36 stitches for the front, then I cast on 1 stitch which formed the bottom point of the V on the neck, and join for working in the round. I continued increasing the raglan

every other row until it was 9 inches long.

Separate sleeves from body. Cast on 6 sts for each underarm. Continue knitting until you reach the point just below the shoulder blades.

To make the cabled panel: Determine the mid-point of the back stitches and PM. Decide which type of cable pattern you like; I used a basic 4x4 cable with 4 purl stitches to offset each cable. I had 7 full cables spaced across the back. This panel serves to formulate waist shaping without the need of decreases/increases. Knit the body in pattern until the point where your waist widens towards the hips. The cable block finished as a mirror to the start of the block.

Knit in pattern until you are happy with the length of the body. Finish the bottom of sweater with about 1 inch of 4x4 ribbing. Bind off with preferred method.

For the sleeves: pick up held stitches and begin to knit, adding in the 6 underarm stitches. If you would like to do short row shaping for extra room in the shoulder (ideal for anyone who is broad shouldered). With short row shaping, add 1 new stitch at the end by performing a wrap and turn on the final stitch, picking up a new stitch, passing the new stitch from the left to right needle in pattern (as if to knit on the RS, as if to purl on the WS). Purl back to the starting row, then W&T, pick up new stitch, pass the new stitch from the left to right needle in pattern. Continue until you have completed enough short rows to produce the extra space needed in the shoulder. When finished, be sure to finish on a WS such that the final in the round movement is on the RS of the fabric. If you still have remaining stitches (of 6) to pick up, pick them up and knit to complete the sleeve. I picked up 4 stitches because I only had size 3mm needles, not 3.5mm needles (as I used in the body).



Figure 0.1 Up-close of cable detail on sleeve cuff.

Knit until you reach the elbow and begin decreases from the elbow to reach the wrist. I decreased by two stitches every 4 rows (k1, ssk, knit to 3 stitches before the end of the round, k2tog, k1). Adjust the decreases to be about every inch per decrease round (for me, that was every 9th row was a decrease row). When I was about 4 inches from the full sleeve length, I began making a cabled cuff detail. Find the mid-point of the sleeve for the central cable. This was a 2x2 cable with purl offset. Continue knitting in pattern until the first cable twist. On this round, section off a new cable on either side of the initial cable. This produces a cascade of cables on the cuff. When I was about 1 inch from the full sleeve length, I switched to k1p1 rib for the cuff. Knit the second sleeve exactly as the first.

To finish the neck: The v-neck was finished by picking up stitches along the two front sides and back, and knitted in k1p1 rib. I knitted about 6 rows, then bound off in pattern. With the

final stitch, I overlapped the front so the ribbed collar overlapped. This makes a nice square front. You can also do a mitered point for the v-neck. Do what you think looks good!

I did not finish the neck line on my sweater because I liked the way it looked.

Wash in warm water and detergent like you would your other handmade items. Blocking isn't necessary, just reshape and allow to air dry.



*Figure 0.2*Detail of the cabled back panel.