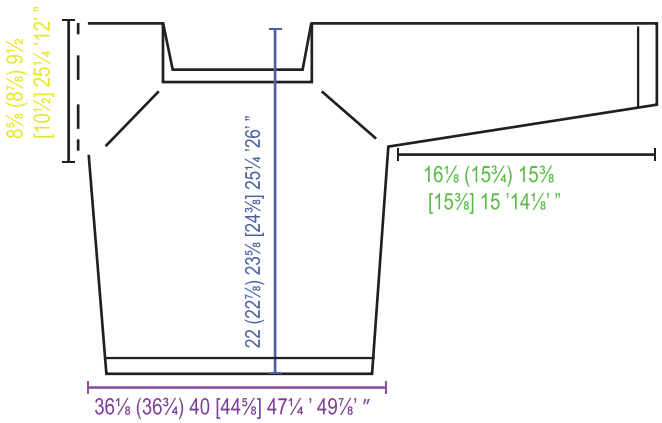
Rigid Raglan

Tutorial and pattern for a beginner sweater without short row shaping.





This is a beginner pattern for a raglan sweater. I have tried to include elements of a tutorial to make it easier to follow.

Info

Yarn Drops baby merino
amount 7 (8) 8 [9] 10 ’10’ balls of 50 g
Needles 3 mm *(or whichever gets you the gauge)*
You need circular needles*(magic loop)* or dpns
Gauge 4” x 4” (10 cm x 10 cm) = 24 sts x 32 rows

Sizes S (M) L [XL] 2XL ’3XL’
The sizes can be adjusted as you knit.

To get gauge using the website:

All is knit in stockinette, you need the main yarn and a contrasting yarn.

- Cast on 40 sts and work 4 rows
- now switch to the contrast yarn and work 1 row
- work 10 rows in the main yarn
- on the next row, work 9 sts, 1 st in contrast yarn, 20 sts in main yarn, 1 st in contrast yarn and 9 sts in main yarn.
- work 9 rows in main yarn
- work 1 row in the contrast yarn
- work 4 rows of main yarn.
- Cast off all sts.

measure between (but excluding) the contrast sts
measure between (but excluding) the contrast rows

Your swatch should look like this



Go to: https://johannenal.com/tools/gauge-calculator/ to calculate your gauge.

Abbreviations

To make the pattern shorter and easier to skim, I am using these abbreviations.

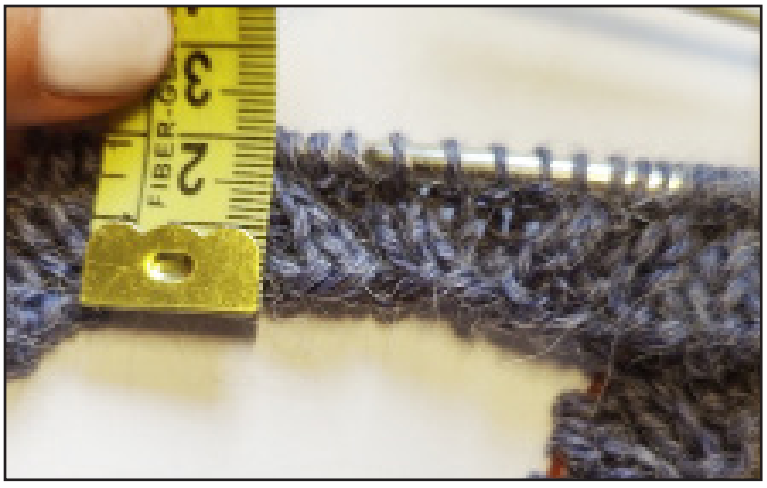
CO	Cast on
BO	Bind off
k	knit
p	purl
j	join
r	row/round
st(s)	stitch(es)
m	marker(s)
pm	place marker
2x2 rib	ribbing (k2, p2)
YO	yarn over
ktbl	knit through back loop
k2tog	knit 2 together
SSK	Slip slip knit

Casting on for the neckline

1) Using a pair of circular needles, CO 144 (144) 152 [164] 168 ’172’ sts

2) j to knit in the round. Avoid twisting the sts.

3) work 2x2 rib until the work measures 1¼ ” under the needle.



What’s this?

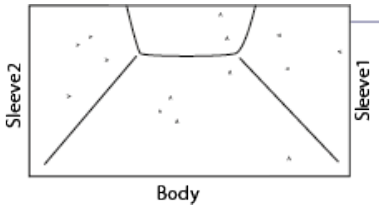
These numbers correspond to the different sizes in this pattern.
If you are a size L, go look at the sizes available and see which of the numbers correspond to this size. In this case, L is the number between the () and the []

If you have printed the pattern, go in and highlight your size.

Increasing along the raglan seams

1) **setup round**

- k 22 sts **(sleeve 1)**, pm
- k 50 (50) 54 [60] 62 ’64’ sts (**front**), pm
- k 22 sts **(sleeve 2)**, pm
- k 50 (50) 54 [60] 62 ’64’ sts (**back**), pm



OH NO!

I did this, but there are more/less stitches on my round!

As a beginner, this will happen (a lot). If the neckline is the wrong size, go back and start over, but if it looks all right to you, just make sure the sleeve count is right (22 sts per sleeve) and that the rest of your stitches are divided evenly. If you need to decrease a stitch to get it even, you now have my permission to do so. Go forth and knit!

2) **increase rounds**

Continue working in the round while increasing before and after the m on every other row like this:

Row 1 *k to 1 st before m, YO, k1, slip m, k1, YO* repeat this step (between the *s) all the way around. Before the first m (on sleeve1) k to 1 st before m, YO - - - The round has increased by 8 sts.

Row 2 On the next row, k all sts except yarnovers, which should be ktbl.

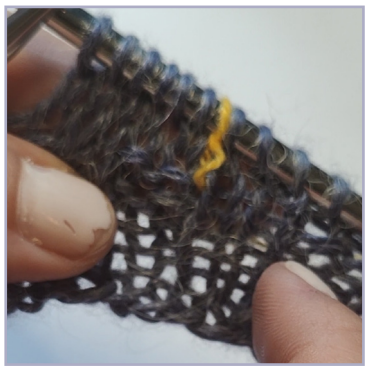
Repeat row 1 and 2 for a total of 30 (31) 34 [38] 41 44 r, or until the yoke measures 7½ (7¾) 8⅝ [9½] 10¼ ’11’ ” under the needle.


1 st before the marker


YO


k1, slip m, k1


YO

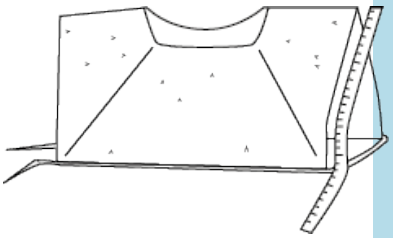

on row 2 the yarn overs are ktbl



this makes a visible seam

First fitting

We're all different, and this is not that kind of pattern, so let's measure you, rather than just following the sizing chart.



Method 1: measure from the top of your shoulder (if wearing a T-shirt, find the shoulder seam) and straight down to your armpit. Now lay your knitting flat with the sleeve sts folded and the body sts flat. Measure the piece and decide if you need more rows to reach the correct length.

Method 2: find a long circular needle (or several) or a piece of scrap yarn and pull every st on to this. Now put on the sweater. Is the yoke long enough for you?

If you need more length, continue knitting row 1 and 2 until it is. We will adjust for the new stitch-count later.

Dividing the round

Remove markers when you get to them.

1. Slip all **sleeve 1** sts on to waste yarn
2. CO 10 (12) 14 [16] 18 '22' new sts and k all sts for the front
3. slip all **sleeve 2** sts onto waste yarn
4. CO 10 (12) 14 [16] 18 '22' new sts
5. k all sts left on the body-round
6. j to work the body in the round

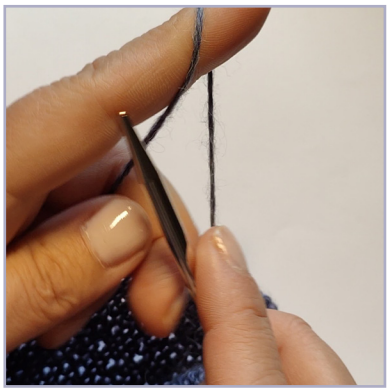
Wait, what is waste yarn?

It's just yarn you don't plan on using for anything else. As you knit more, you will accumulate a stash of fine, but unusably small amounts of scrap/waste yarn which you can use for this.

If you don't have that yet, just get any yarn in a different color for this step.



here, one sleeve is on hold

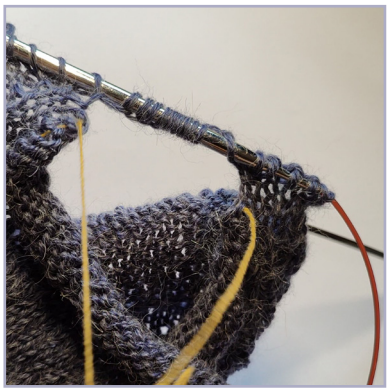


cast on new sts right next to the body sts on the needle.





The new sts might look uneven



until they are knit on the next round



The sleeves are on hold, the body is ready to be knit

Knitting the body

Setup round

k all sts on the body while placing a m in the middle of the new sts on each side (after 5 (6) 7 [8] 9 ’11’ new sts.)

Knit the body in the round. On every other r, decrease 1 st on either side of the m like this:

Row 1 *k to 3 sts before m, k2tog, k1, slip m, k1, SSK* repeat from * to * twice. k to r start.
Row 2 k all sts

Repeat row 1 and row 2 a total of 5 (6) 7 [8] 9 ’11’ times.

Continue knitting in the round without any more decreases until the full sweater measures 22 (22½) 22¾ [23¼] 23½ ’24¾’ ”

What does this do?

This bit creates the slope under the arm, it helps when moving around in the sweater.

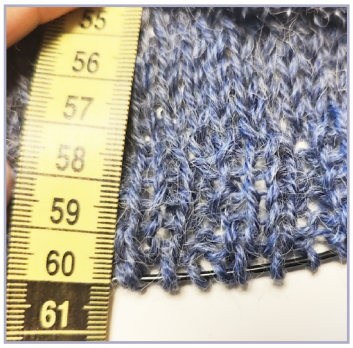
Ribbing

There are 220 (224) 244 [272] 288 *304* sts on the body.

On the next r: k 0 (0) 0 [12] 0 ’0’ sts, decrease 1 st after every 8 (8) 9 [12] 11 ’9’ sts for a total of 196 (200) 220 [252] 264 ’272’ sts

Knit 2x2 rib at the bottom of the sweater until it measures 1¼” and the total length is 23¼ (23¾) 24 [24½] 24¾ ’26’ ”

BO all sts.



Measuring the bottom of the sweater (here, in cm)


Here, all sts are bound off.

If you adjusted the yoke:

Count the sts on your round. We want to reduce our stittch-count by 10%. This is done by moving a decimal point like this:

If your count is 221 sts, place a decimal point one digit: **22.1**
Now round down by removing the number after the decimal point: **22**

Now go to the website and find the tool called ”Increase/Decrease calculator”.

Input how many fewer sts you need to have on the round.
Check if this number is divisible by 4 (when divided by 4 it gives you a whole number without a decimal point back)

Follow the instruction for the decrease round.

Knitting the sleeves

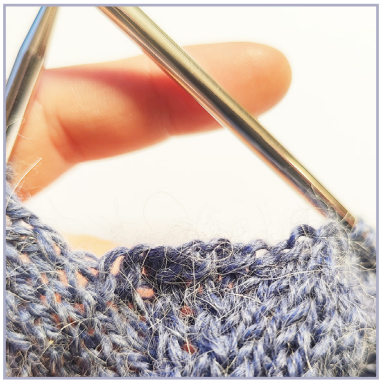
1) Slip stitches for one sleeve onto the needles while also picking up 10 (12) 14 [16] 18 ’22’ sts under the arm. Place a m in the middle of the new stitches.

2) knit in the round, on every 6th (5th) 4th [4th] 3rd *2nd* r k to 3 sts before the m, k2tog, k1, move marker, k1, SSL, 18 (20) 22 [27] 31 ’36’ times.

3) Knit stockinette until the sleeve measures 15 (14½) 14⅛ [14⅛] 13¾ ’13’ ”



When the sleeve sts are picked up, remove the waste yarn





The new sts for the body are used for picking up under the sleeve

Ribbing

There are 56 (56) 60 [60] 60 *60* sts on the round. Decrease 1 st after every 12 (12) 15 [15] 15 ’15’ sts for a total of 52 (52) 56 [56] 56 ’56’ sts

Knit 2x2 rib for the cuff of the sweater until it measures 1¼”

If you adjusted the yoke

This is done just like the body -
Count the sts on your sleeve-round. Take this number and decrease it by 10% as before, then go to the website and get the number of stitches to decrease.

Second fitting

If you haven’t already, slip on your sweater. Is it fitting like you want it to? If so, go ahead and BO, if not, make a note of the changes (longer/shorter) and copy these, when knitting the other sleeve.

....Which you will of course do now, making sure its roughly the same length as the first sleeve!

Remember! lots of people knit sweaters with uneven sleeves. Just try to make it as even as you can, no one will ever know.

Finishing touches

Sure, this is less fun, but it really helps your garment last longer and look finished so yes -

1) Weave in ends. This specific yarn (if you used the recommended yarn) is slippery, and therefore it needs to be woven back and forth to not come undone. I like splitting it in two smaller sections to weave in.

2) wash (and maybe block) the sweater. This yarn can and should be machine washed. If you soak it or hand wash it, it will grow. If it came out too small, this might be an option (trust me, I have stretched out sweaters and wool onesies for my kids many times, it works!).

