

Ladies Lace Yoke Top

Sizes S (M-L-XL-XXL-XXXL) Finished Width 36 (40-44-48-52-56) inches

Made on plastic midgauge knitting machines, LK 150 or Brother KX 350. **Note: There are not enough needles on the KX 350 to make the largest size.**



Materials Required:

Ice Yarns Alara 50 gram balls, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic, average length per ball is 140 m/153 yds. Manufacturer calls it a #3 yarn, DK or Light Worsted.

6 (7-8-9-10-12) balls required. 2 (2-3-3-3-3) balls more will be needed for long sleeves.

Gauge is averaging 20 sts and 28 rows per 10 cm, or 5 sts, 7 rows per inch after washing. (The fabric feels more like sport or DK than worsted.)

LK 150 T 6 for stockinet, 5 ½ for lace

Brother KX350 T 5 ½ for stockinet, 5 for lace

You may substitute any other yarn that will knit to specified gauge.

Special Notes: Please Read

Yoke lace pattern is worked manually, using the transfer tools. The stitch pattern in this yoke is created by moving stitches inwards onto a central stitch or “spine” in each multiple. Many rows will require using the transfer tool twice to move several stitches inwards.

*To transfer 6 stitches, use the 3-prong tool. Move 3 stitches left of the center “spine” stitch one needle to the right. The spine will now have two stitches on it, and each of the next 2 needles to its left have one stitch each. Again, with the 3-prong tool, move the next 3 stitches one needle to the right. 6 stitches have now been moved over one needle to the right. The needle where the 6th stitch was originally is empty; be sure it is in position B so that it will knit on the next row.

To make the right side of the pattern repeat, work from *, but in reverse. That is, move all 6 stitches one needle to the left. The spine needle will now have 3 stitches on it, and the needle where the 6th stitch was originally is empty. Be sure the empty needle is in work position.

Repeat from * all the way across the row. Knit 2 rows. Continue to make the transfers in the same manner, following the chart from the bottom up. When there are 5 transferred stitches, move the first three with the 3-prong tool, then move the remaining 2 stitches with the 2-prong tool. Likewise, to move 4 stitches, make two transfers with the 2-prong tool.

Yoke

Make 2 alike

Section 1

Bring forward 129 needles, from 64L to 65R. Cast on with waste yarn and ravel cord. Change to main color. End with carriage on right side of bed.

T 5 ½ on LK 150, T 5 on KX 350. knit 2 rows.

RC 000. Begin at bottom of chart. **Pattern Set-Up:** Pull the 9th, then every following 14th needle forward slightly, but do not allow the stitches to slide behind the latches. This marks the central spine stitch of each repeat and makes it easier to transfer correctly. Transfer 6 stitches left of each spine stitch one needle to the right, then transfer the 6 stitches right of each spine stitch one needle to the left. There are now three stitches on each spine needle, and the 6th needle each side of every spine stitch is empty. Be sure these empty needles are in work position, then knit 2 rows.

Continue working in the same manner, following the chart upwards, to RC 11, as follows:

RC 2: transfer 5 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows.

RC 4: transfer 4 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows

RC 6: transfer 3 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows

RC 8: transfer 2 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows

RC 10: transfer 1 stitch both sides of each spine stitch. **Take all of the emptied needles back to position A so they cannot knit. Knit just 1 row, ending carriage on left.**

Remove fabric on waste yarn. Place the carriage on the left side of the bed.

Section 2

Bring forward 111 needles, from 55L to 56R, and rehang the main color stitches from waste yarn. Do not pick up anything in the spaces left from the empty needles, simply skip them. This creates decreases across the row and is how the yoke is shaped into a curve.

RC 11: Rethread the carriage with main color and knit 1 row.

Pattern Set-Up: Pull the 8th, then every following 12th needle forward slightly to mark the spine stitch.

RC 12: transfer 5 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows.

RC 14: transfer 4 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows

RC 16: transfer 3 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows

RC 18: transfer 2 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows

RC 20: transfer 1 stitch both sides of each spine stitch. **Take all of the emptied needles back to position A so they cannot knit. Knit just 1 row, ending carriage on left.**

Remove fabric on waste yarn. Place the carriage on the left side of the bed.

Section 3

Bring forward 93 needles, from 46L to 47R, and rehang the main color stitches from waste yarn.

RC 21: Rethread the carriage with main color and knit 1 row.

Pattern Set-Up: Pull the 7th, then every following 10th needle forward slightly to mark the spine stitch.

RC 22: transfer 4 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows.

RC 24: transfer 3 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows

RC 26: transfer 2 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows

RC 28: transfer 1 stitch both sides of each spine stitch. ***Take all of the emptied needles back to position A so they cannot knit. Knit just 1 row, ending carriage on left.***

Remove fabric on waste yarn. Place the carriage on the left side of the bed.

Section 4

Bring forward 75 needles, from 37L to 38R, and rehang the main color stitches from waste yarn.

RC 29: Rethread the carriage with main color and knit 1 row.

Pattern Set-Up: Pull the 6th, then every following 8th needle forward slightly to mark the spine stitch.

RC 30: transfer 3 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows

RC 32: transfer 2 stitches both sides of each spine stitch, knit 2 rows

RC 34: transfer 1 stitch both sides of each spine stitch. ***Take all of the emptied needles back to position A. Knit just 1 row, ending carriage on left.***

Remove fabric on waste yarn.

Neckband

Bring forward 57 needles, from 28L to 29R, and rehang the main color stitches from waste yarn.

Do not remove the waste yarn yet; it will act as a lifeline when converting the neckband to ribbing, and will prevent the dropped stitches from running too far. Decrease 1 stitch (makes the 2 x 1 ribbing sequence come out even on both edges.) 56 stitches.

RC 000. T 6. Carriage is on the left side of the bed. Knit 1 row, ending carriage on right.

T 5 ½, knit 2 rows; T 5, knit 2 rows; T 4 ½, knit 2 rows. T 9, Knit 1 row.

Convert to K2, P1 ribbing.

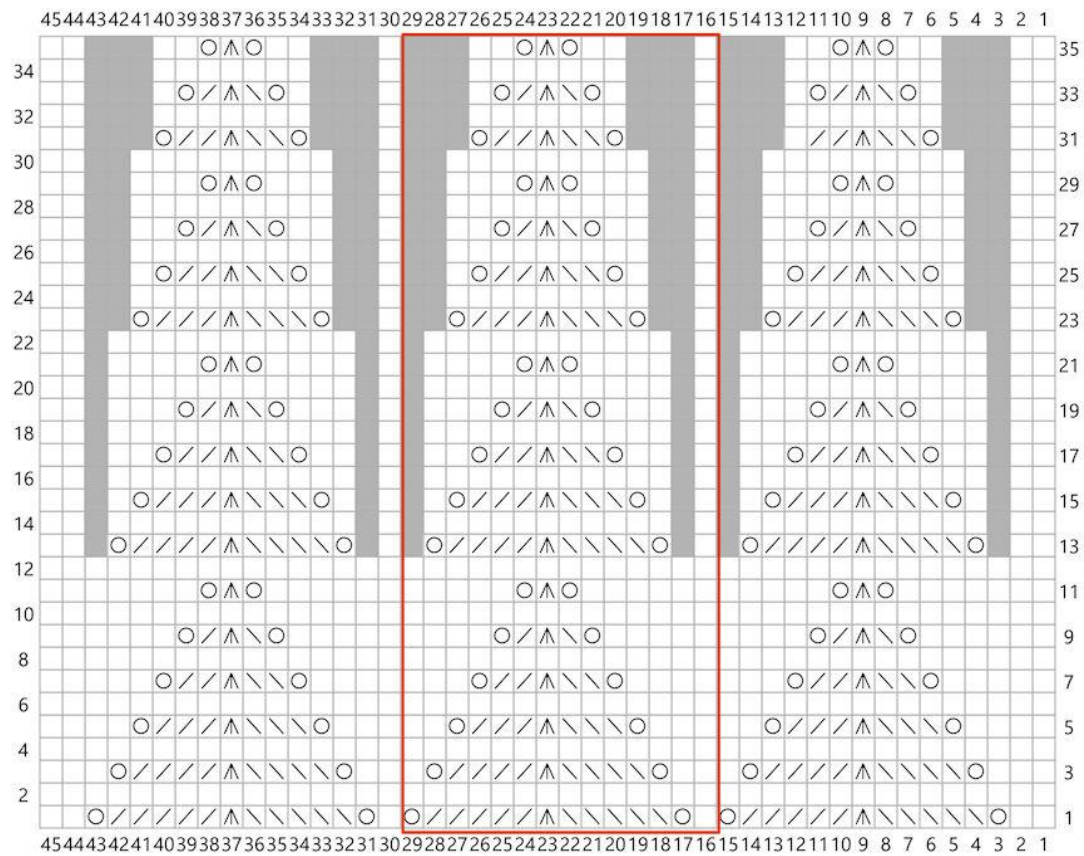
Bind off, using stitch through stitch method.

Note: for Brother KX 350 machines; if you have been using T5 for the lace yoke, begin at T 5 ½, or the main tension you will use for stockinet. As instructed above, turn the tension down 1 click every two rows.

Alara tolerates steam blocking. If you are using a different yarn, test this first on the gauge swatch. You can wait to block until the garment is completed if you prefer, but many people find it easier to block the yoke sections at this stage. Do not steam the ribbing. That can stretch it out of shape, and some yarns can never recover from it.



Sew both seams. These will be shoulder seams, and the sleeves will be centered on them.



□ Plain stitch

○ Eyelet

↘ Transfer stitch to the right

↙ Transfer stitch to the left

▲ Transfer left and right stitches onto center stitch

The red rectangle indicates the stitch repeat

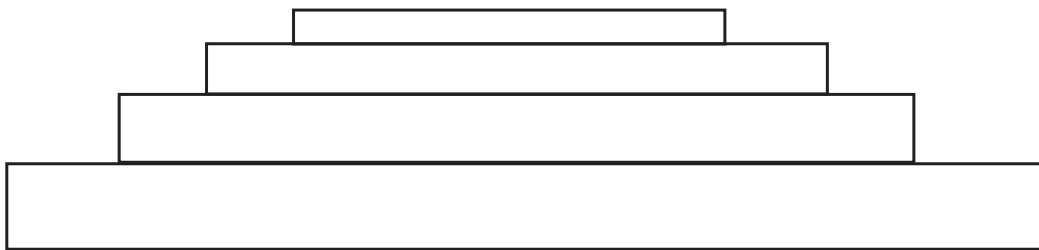
Hints and Tips for New Knitters

The following explanation and hints are for newer knitters, or those who have never worked with yokes and charts. This can seem as complicated as learning a foreign language.

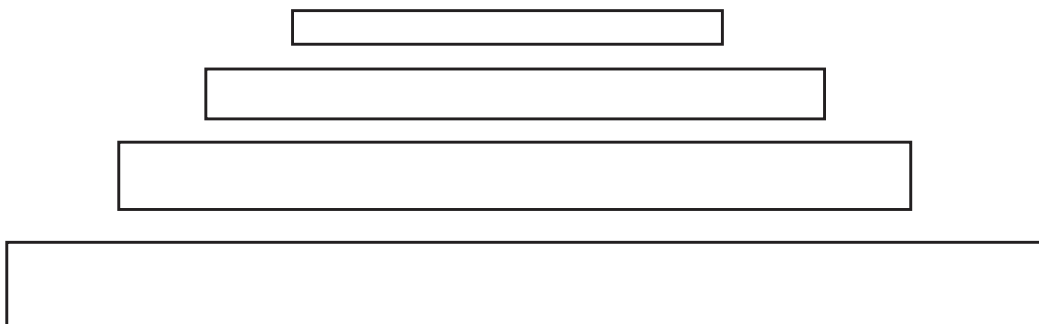
One thing that can be confusing is that the row showing on the chart is 1 row different than that showing on the machine's row counter. This is because the machine hasn't actually knitted the row yet. After you take the carriage across, the row counter clicks forward 1 number. So, the row showing on the chart is the row you must make the transfers, and the row counter on the machine shows the number of rows you have completed. The number showing on your row counter is always 1 less than the chart number.

Let's change this to a different way of approaching the pattern. First, it is difficult to describe either in words or charts what is going on in yoke shaping. Hand knitters are used to knitting in the round, and making multiple decreases in a single round, often right in the pattern repeat. This is not easy to do in machine knitting. Instead, we usually construct our yokes in tiers. We knit through a tier, make all decreases at the top, remove the fabric and rehang on a narrower span of needles. Then we knit the second tier, make decreases, remove and rehang, and so on to the top of the yoke.

The schematic for a machine knit yoke typically looks like this:



Or this:

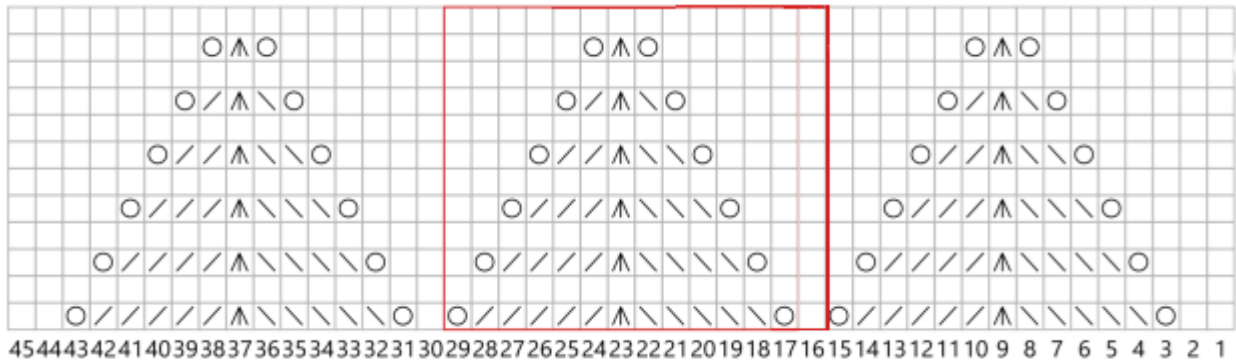


The first reaction most people have when seeing this schematic is “How in the world can that stair-steppy thing possibly turn into a curve??” Remember, there is a row at the top of each tier that has multiple decreases. We remove it and rehang on fewer needles in order to knit the next tier up. This is similar to gathering a length of fabric, then sewing it to a narrower piece.

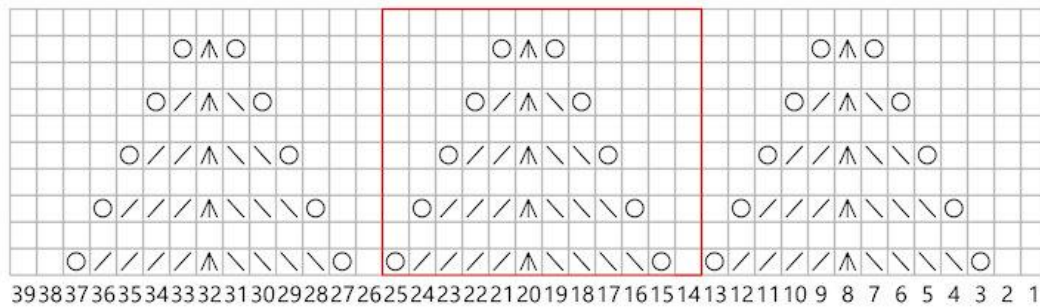
Now let's try looking at the lace stitch chart split up into separate ones for each tier. It is the same chart. We are just going to break it apart into individual sections.

Refer to the written instructions on page 2 for the entire chart. That tells you in detail what you should do. These stitch charts are the visual representation of those instructions.

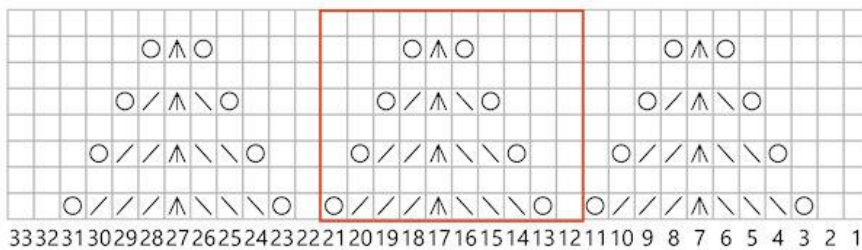
Lace Tier 1



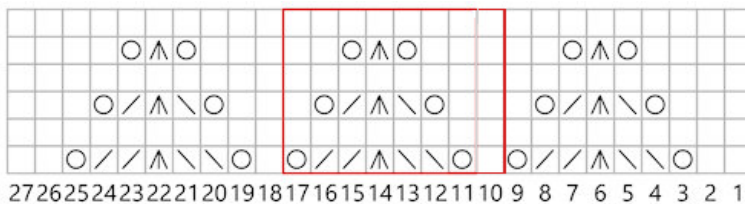
Lace Tier 2



Lace Tier 3



Lace Tier 4



Referring to the written instructions, always bring forward the spine stitch before making the decreases. It really helps to prevent errors transferring stitches. The spine stitch always has a stitch from each side transferred onto it; there will be three stitches on that needle after the transfers are made.

The charts and schematic still look like stairsteps. For machine knit patterns there really isn't a better way to illustrate the yoke



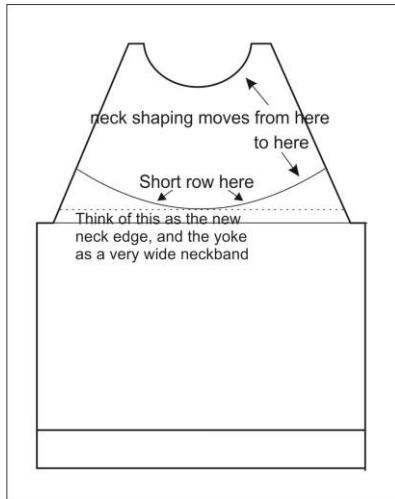
This is the same photo used earlier in the pattern to show the yoke pinned out for steaming. I began with waste yarn and ravel cord at the bottom, the dark green section. This has not been steamed yet, which is why the sides are rolling. It is easy to see where the tiers are (they begin where the new points of the Vs begin). That blocky, stairstep diagram does indeed turn into a very nicely curved yoke.

I do recommend blocking the finished yoke sections when made from this yarn. That sets the stitches, and it will be a little easier to pick up the sleeves, back, and front. This yarn shrinks when washed. Even though the yoke has been blocked, the completed garment really needs to be washed before wearing. Either machine wash on the delicate setting, or hand wash, then pull into the correct measurements and dry flat.

This garment is designed for loose, comfortable fit, especially for summer wear. The sleeves are quite wide. There is not much that can be done to make them smaller at the underarm, because the size of the lace repeat on the yoke and the raglan armhole shaping determine that width. You could make the sleeve narrower by decreasing every row, or decreasing multiple stitches every two rows.

The pattern has a 15" side seam for all sizes. Length is a very personal choice. This style can easily be lengthened by adding more rows just before the ribbing; it can also be shortened there, if you wish. Be sure to make a note of how many rows were added or removed. You will need more yarn than stated if you lengthen.

Body of Garment



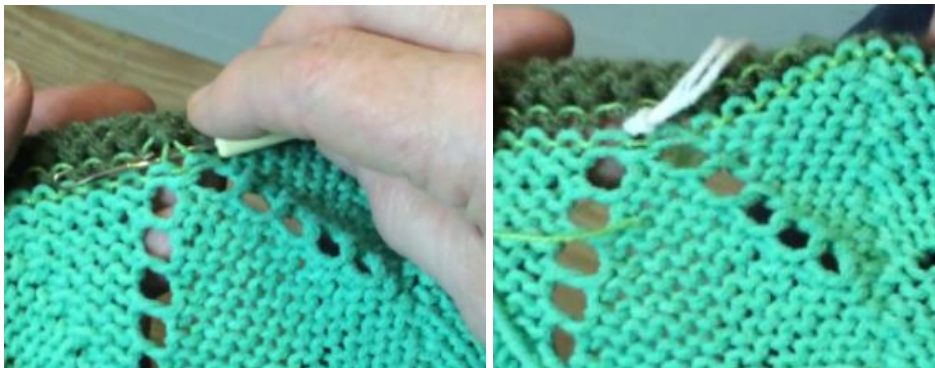
The illustration on the left shows how the yoke relates to the body; this is the front, but the back and sleeves also have a curved top line where they join the yoke. The triangle sections just above the armholes are short rows, and they are necessary for the garment to fit correctly.

It does not matter whether the entire garment is knitted from bottom to top, or that the yoke is made first, then the sleeves, back and front are picked up from the bottom of the yoke and knitted downwards. Those short rowed triangles, or wedges are necessary

This garment is based on raglan styling. The yoke is completed first, in two sections, which are sewn together at the shoulders. The sleeves and body are then picked up from the first row of main color and worked down to the hems.

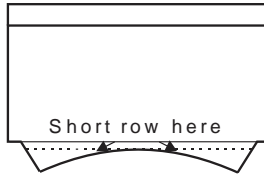
Prepare The Yoke

Begin by tying a yarn marker around the ravel cord loop that is between the 29th and 30th stitch from each side of both yokes at the cast on edge. It is the one between the long main color stitches at the point of the V. This makes it easier to pick up the correct stitches for the sleeve.



Sleeves make 2 alike

Hold bottom edge of yoke with knit side toward the machine, purl side facing you, and the seam at center 0 on the needle bed. Pick up 29 stitches on each side of center 0, ending with the long stitch next to the inside of the yarn marker.



Note: the top of the sleeve is shaped with short rows, and increases are made at the same time on the sides of the sleeve for raglan armhole, using the 2-prong transfer tool.

T 6. Begin with the carriage on the left. Work short rows on left side of sleeve only. Place all 58 stitches into hold position and set the carriage to hold.

RC 000. Return first 6 stitches to work, bring a new needle into WP on the left; e-wrap it and thread the carriage. Knit to the right, wrap first HP needle, knit back to left. (this is called KWK, stands for knit-wrap-knit.) 7 sts in work on left.

RC 2. Return next 6 sts to work, inc 1 st on left. Knit to the right, wrap, knit back to left. (KWK) 14 sts in work on left.

RC 4. Return next 6 sts to work, inc 1 st on left. KWK. 21 stitches are now in work position (WP). End on RC 6.

Cut yarn and put all stitches back into hold position (HP).

Place carriage on right side of needle bed.

RC 000. Return first 6 stitches to work. Bring a new needle into WP on the right; e-wrap it and thread the carriage; knit to the left, wrap first HP needle, knit back to right. 7 sts in work on right.

RC 2. Return next 6 sts to work, inc 1 st on right. KWK. 14 sts.

RC 4. Return next 6 sts to work, inc 1 st on right. KWK. 21 stitches are now in work position. Short row shaping is complete for all sizes. There are now 64 sts, ending on RC 6.

RC 6. Increase 1 st both sides on this and every following 2 rows a **total** of 4 (6-6-6-6-7) more times, ending on RC 14 (18-18-18-18-20). There are now 72 (76-76-76-76-78) sts.

This completes the armhole for size S. The 0 in the following instruction is not a mistake; it is a placeholder for size S. Do not make any more increases for size S.

Increase 1 st both sides on this and **every following row** 0 (2-6-10-14-16) times, ending on RC 14 (20-24-28-32-34). There are now 72 (80-88-96-104-110) sts.

Cast on 4 (5-6-7-8-10) sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows for underarm. This completes the armhole shaping. 80 (90-100-110-120-130) sts.

Shape Sleeve

RC 000. Decrease 1 st at the beginning of the next and every following 2nd row a total of 6 times, end on RC 12. There are 68 (78-88-98-108-118) sts.

Decrease 0 (1-2-0-1-2) sts before knitting the next row to make the K2, P1 rib come out evenly on both sides. There are now 68 (77-86-98-107-116) sts. Knit to RC 14.

T 5. Knit 6 rows. T 9. Knit 1 row. Convert to ribbing; drop every 3rd stitch and latch back up as a knit stitch. Bind off, using stitch-through-stitch, also called loop-through-loop, method.

Sleeves, Narrower Style

Note from the designer

When this pattern started, in the summer of 2018, I was making it as a summer top, just for myself. I live about 45 minutes away from the Phoenix, AZ metro area, and our temps were 112-115F at the time. I *wanted* very wide, caftan-like sleeves. We had previously worked on some round yoke garments, and I realized the short row shaping at the bottom of the yoke had not been demonstrated, so posted a photo and explanation of that. Several people asked if we could do this as a KAL, and the pattern just grew under its own power. At the time I did not realize that the yoke controlled so much of the rest of the sweater shape. If you don't care where the raglan seam extends from the yoke, you can place that point anywhere. On normal fairisle yoke sweaters that works out fine; but I don't like the results on this lace yoke pattern. For me, the raglan only looks right if the seam extends either from the spine stitch, or the center stitch between the two eyelets.

After making several of these tops, I feel the easiest way to get a narrower sleeve is to work rapid decreases, beginning immediately after the raglan cast on at the bottom of the armhole.

Set row counter to 000. Bind off 3 sts at the beginning of the next 4 rows, then bind off 2 sts at the beginning of the next 6 rows. This completes the rapid decrease section, RC 10, and 56 (66-76-86-96-106 stitches remain).

Knit 2 rows even. Work ribbing.



This shaping produces a sharp point at the underarm on the sleeve, similar to the shape of some dolman sleeve tops. It does not change the armhole on the body in any way.

Shaping is shown on a size 44 top.

When using the decreasing formula, above, 24 stitches are eliminated in the sleeve. By itself, this takes 5 inches out of the sleeve width. The ribbing also pulls in the bottom of the sleeve a little more.



T 5. Knit 6 rows. T 9. Knit 1 row. Convert to ribbing; drop every 3rd stitch and latch back up as a knit stitch. Bind off, using stitch-through-stitch, also called loop-through-loop, method.

Long sleeves are not shown, but they are very easy to do. Knit the sleeve exactly as above, until RC 12. Instructions for lower sleeves continue on page 11.

Long Sleeve, Lower Part

On RC 10, there are 56 (66-76-86-96-106 stitches. Shape lower sleeve as follows:

S: Decrease 1 st both sides every 11 rows 6 times, then 1 st both sides every 12 rows 1 time; knit even to RC 100. 42 sts remain.

M: Decrease 1 st both sides every 9 rows 6 times, then 1 st both sides every 10 rows 3 times; knit even to RC 104. 48 sts remain.

L: Decrease 1 st both sides every 7 rows 13 times; knit even to RC 108. 50 sts remain.

XL: Decrease 1 st both sides every 6 rows 16 times; knit even to RC 112. 54 sts remain.

XXL: Decrease 1 st both sides every 5 rows 14 times, then 1 st both sides every 6 rows 5 times; knit even to RC 116. 58 sts remain.

XXXL: Decrease 1 st both sides every 4 rows 12 times, then 1 st both sides every 5 rows 11 times; knit even to RC 118. 60 sts remain

Remove remaining stitches on waste yarn, and rehang on 37 (41-43-45-47-49) needles, decreasing 5 (7-7-9-11-11) stitches evenly across.

T 5. Knit 14 rows. T 9. Knit 1 row. Convert to ribbing; drop every 3rd stitch and latch back up as a knit stitch. Bind off, using stitch-through-stitch, also called loop-through-loop, method.

Back

Hold bottom edge of yoke with knit side toward the machine, purl side facing you. Pick up 70 stitches, from 35L to 35R. This should be every stitch remaining that is held by waste yarn and ravel cord on one of the yoke sections. (We began with 129 sts when casting on the the yoke. When we turn the fabric the other way, and pick up the main color stitches to knit downwards, we lose a stitch. This is not a mistake. Because of the way stockinet is formed, a stitch is lost when picking up from the first row and knitting in the opposite direction.)

Note: the top of the back is shaped with short rows, and increases are made at the same time on the sides of the sleeve for raglan armhole, using the 2-prong transfer tool, the same as for the sleeves.

T 6. Begin with the carriage on the left. Work short rows on left side of back only. Place all 70 stitches into hold position and set the carriage to hold.

RC 000. Return first 6 stitches to work, bring a new needle into WP on the left; e-wrap it and thread the carriage. Knit to the right, wrap first HP needle, knit back to left. (KWK) 7 sts in work on left.

RC 2. Return next 6 sts to work, inc 1 st on left. KWK. 14 sts in work on left.

RC 4. Return next 6 sts to work, inc 1 st on left. KWK. 21 sts are now in work position (WP).

RC 6. Return 6 sts to work, inc 1 st on the left. KWK. 28 sts are now in work position,

Cut yarn and put all stitches back into HP.

Place carriage on right side of needle bed.

RC 000. Return first 6 stitches to work. Bring a new needle into WP on the right; e-wrap it and thread the carriage; knit to the left, wrap first HP needle, knit back to right. 7 sts in work on right.

RC 2. Return next 6 sts to work, inc 1 st on right. KWK. 14 sts.

RC 4. Return next 6 sts to work, inc 1 st on right. KWK. 21 sts.

RC 6. Return 6 sts to work, inc 1 st on the right. KWK. 28 sts.

Short row shaping is complete for all sizes. There are now 78 sts, ending on RC 8.

RC 8. Increase 1 st both sides on this and every following 2 rows a *total* of 3 (5-5-5-5-6) more times, ending on RC 14 (18-18-18-18-20). There are now 84 (88-88-88-88-90) sts.

This completes the armhole for size S. The 0 in the following instruction is not a mistake; it is a placeholder for size S. Do not make any more increases for size S.

Increase 1 st both sides on this and ***every following row*** 0 (2-6-10-14-16) times, ending on RC 14 (20-24-28-32-36). There are now 84 (92-100-108-116-122) sts.

Cast on 4 (5-6-7-8-10) sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows for underarm. This completes the armhole shaping. 92 (102-112-122-132-142) sts.

Lower Body With Straight Side Seam

RC 000. For body style with no shaping on the side seam, knit even to RC 98, or 1” less than desired length.

Ribbing

T 5, or 1 full number less than main tension. Knit 6 rows. T 9, knit 1 row. Convert to K2, P1 ribbing by dropping and relatching every 3rd stitch as a knit stitch. Bind off using stitch-through-stitch, also called loop-through-loop method.

Lower Body With Waist Shaping

RC 000. Knit even to RC 12. Decrease 1 st both sides on this and every following 8th row 4 times. Knit even to RC 52. Increase 1 st both sides on this and every following 8th row 4 times. Knit even to RC 98, or 1” less than desired length.

Work ribbing same as above.

Front

Hold bottom edge of yoke with knit side toward the machine, purl side facing you. Pick up 70 stitches, from 35L to 35R. This should be every stitch remaining that is held by waste yarn and ravel cord on the yoke section.

Note: the top of the front is shaped with short rows, and increases are made at the same time on the sides of the sleeve for raglan armhole, using the 2-prong transfer tool, the same as for the back.

T 6. Begin with the carriage on the left. Work short rows on left side of back only. Place all 70 stitches into hold position and set the carriage to hold.

RC 000. Return first 4 stitches to work, bring a new needle into WP on the left; e-wrap it and thread the carriage. Knit to the right, wrap first HP needle, knit back to left. (KWK) 5 sts in work on left.

RC 2. Return next 4 sts to work, inc 1 st on left. KWK. 10 sts in work on left.

RC 4. Return next 4 sts to work, inc 1 st on left. KWK. 15 sts are now in work position (WP).

RC 6. Return 4 sts to work, inc 1 st on the left. KWK. 20 sts are now in work position,

RC 8. Return 5 sts to work, inc 1 st on the left. KWK. 26 sts are now in work position,

RC 10. Return 5 sts to work, inc 1 st on the left. KWK. 32 sts are now in work position,

RC 12. Return 5 sts to work, inc 1 st on the left. KWK. 38 sts are now in work position,

End on RC 14.

Cut yarn and put all stitches back into HP.

Place carriage on right side of needle bed.

RC 000. Return first 4 stitches to work. Bring a new needle into WP on the right; e-wrap it and thread the carriage; knit to the left, wrap first HP needle, knit back to right. 5 sts in work on right.

RC 2. Return next 4 sts to work, inc 1 st on right. KWK. 10 sts.

RC 4. Return next 4 sts to work, inc 1 st on right. KWK. 15 sts.

RC 6. Return 4 sts to work, inc 1 st on the right. KWK. 20 sts.

RC 8. Return 5 sts to work, inc 1 st on the right. KWK. 26 sts are now in work position,

RC 10. Return 5 sts to work, inc 1 st on the right. KWK. 32 sts are now in work position,

RC 12. Return 5 sts to work, inc 1 st on the right. KWK. 38 sts are now in work position.

Short row shaping is complete for all sizes. There are now 84 sts, ending on RC 14.

This completes the armhole for size S. The 0 in the instruction is not a mistake; it is a placeholder for size S. Do not make any more increases for size S.

RC 14. Increase 1 st both sides on this and every following 2 rows a ***total*** of 0 (2-2-2-2-3) more times, ending on RC 14 (18-18-18-18-20). There are now 84 (88-88-88-88-90) sts.

.Increase 1 st both sides on this and ***every following row*** 0 (2-6-10-14-16) times, ending on RC 14 (20-24-28-32-36). There are now 84 (92-100-108-116-122) sts.

Cast on 4 (5-6-7-8-10) sts at the beginning of the next 2 rows for underarm. This completes the armhole shaping. 92 (102-112-122-132-142) sts.

Lower Body

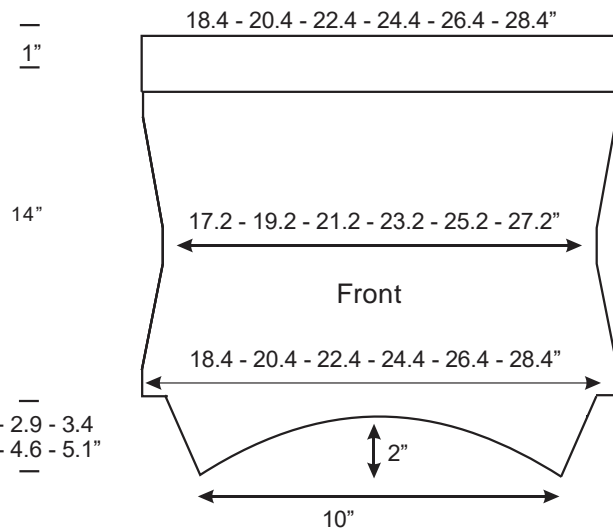
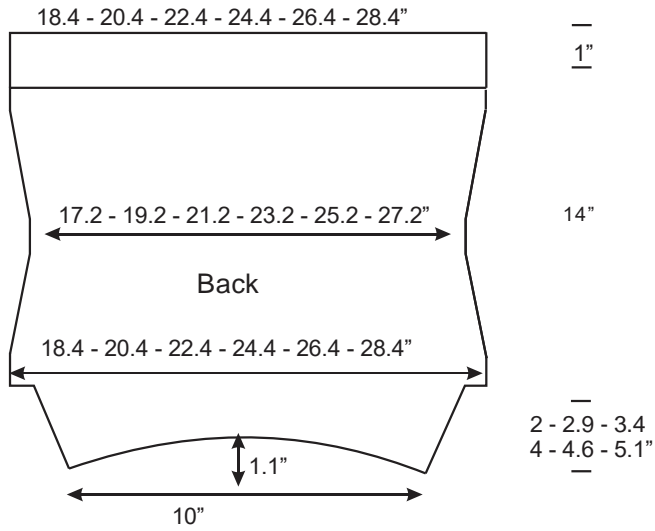
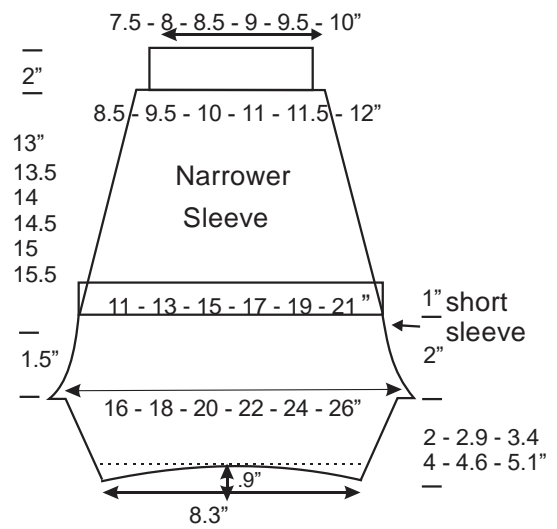
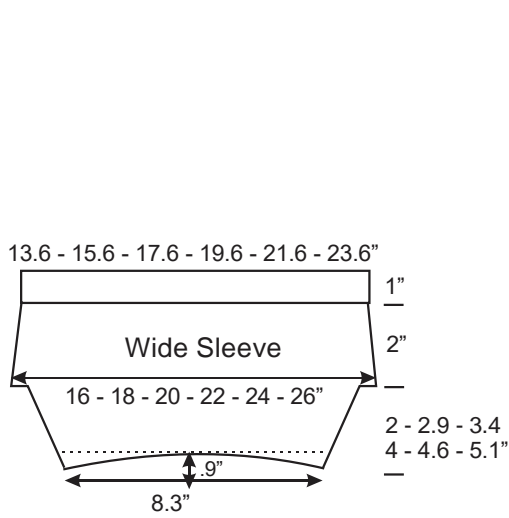
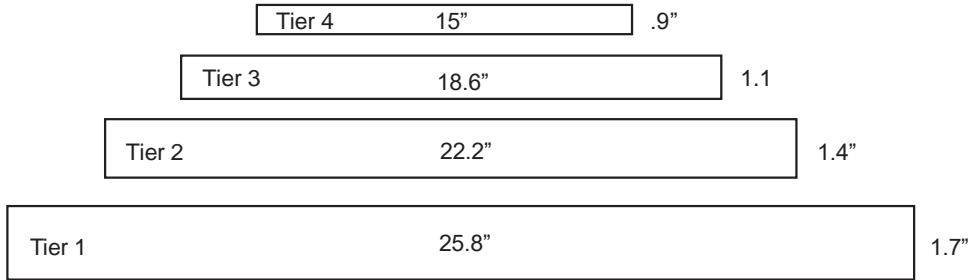
Work same as for Back, above.

Finishing

Sew side and sleeve seams, work in all yarn ends. This yarn shrinks, so it is best to wash before wearing the garment. Either machine wash on delicate cycle, or hand wash, then shape to measurements on a flat surface and allow to dry. It may be necessary to pull the garment lengthwise while still damp.

Lace Yoke Top

Sizes S-M-L-XL-XXL-XXXL
 Finished Bust 36-40-44-48-52-56 INCHES



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