

# handmade by florence

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## STEP BY STEP SWEATER

The Step By Step Sweater is a simple raglan sweater with no complicated techniques, perfect as your first garment knitting project. It has a relaxed fit and two options for the neckline. This sweater also has an associated video demonstrating all the tricky steps in the knitting process. It can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/wtofisZp7EA>

Note the video is quite long, so it may be helpful to use the timestamps in the description to navigate it.

<b>Sizes:</b>	A (B, C, D) (E, F, G) Throughout the pattern, use the values in the position of the size you have decided to make.
<b>Measurements:</b>	Approximately 90 (100, 110, 120) (130, 140, 150) cm finished garment bust measurement after washing and blocking.
<b>Needles:</b>	4.5mm circular needles (40cm and 80cm lengths) 5.5mm circular needles (40cm and 80 or 100cm lengths) It is possible to use the magic loop technique to avoid the need for 40cm needles.
<b>Gauge:</b>	16 stitches x 20 rows in stockinette on 5.5mm needles
<b>Yarn:</b>	Nepal by DROPS (75m/50g) For the striped version: 7 (8, 9, 11) (12, 13, 15) skeins of the main colour

3 (3, 4, 4) (5, 5, 6) skeins of the contrast colour

For a solid coloured version:

9 (10, 12, 13) (15, 16, 18) skeins

Alternatively you could use the same length of one of the following yarns:

Alaska by DROPS (70m/50g)

Fishermen's Wool by Lion Brand (425m/225g)

Eco+ by Cascade (437m/250g)

KOS by Sandnes Garn (150m/50g)

Note that I have not knitted full samples in these alternatives, and so you must be especially careful to check your gauge before using them.

For a fluffier sweater, you could also use a worsted weight yarn held with a strand of lace weight silk mohair.

#### *On choosing a size:*

Measure around the widest part of your bust. The sweater is intended to have around 15cm positive ease, so add 15cm to your bust measurement and choose the size with the closest bust measurement to the resulting value.

For example, if you measure 83cm around your bust, you want to choose the size closest to 98cm around the bust. You would then choose size B, which has a 100cm bust measurement.

Alternatively, feel free to measure a sweater you already have with a fit you like. Size up for a more oversized fit.

#### *On gauge swatching:*

Before you start, make sure to knit a swatch to check your gauge. Meeting gauge will ensure your finished sweater is the correct size. Knit a square and wash and dry it like you would wash the final garment, by soaking it in cool water for a few minutes, gently squeezing the water out and then leaving it flat to dry. Carefully measure how many stitches cover 10cm both horizontally and vertically. The goal is for these numbers to be 16 and 20 respectively.

If the gauge is too tight (there are more than 16 stitches per 10cm), try using a slightly larger needle. If it is too loose (there are fewer than 16 stitches per 10cm), try using a slightly smaller needle. The row gauge matters a little less for this pattern; it only affects the yoke depth which should have a little room for variation anyway.

Remember which needle size was used to achieve gauge, and use this throughout the pattern wherever a 5.5mm needle is called for. For the ribbing, use a needle that is 1mm smaller. For example, if you do not meet gauge on a 5.5mm needle but successfully achieve it on a 6mm needle, use a 6mm needle for the stockinette and a 5mm needle for the ribbing throughout the sweater.

#### *Abbreviations:*

This pattern is written more verbosely than some to make it more accessible to beginners, but some abbreviations are used throughout.

k	Knit
p	Purl
M1R	Pick up the bar between the stitches with the left needle from back to front. Knit it like a regular stitch.
M1L	Pick up the bar between the stitches with the left needle from front to back. Knit it through the back loop.
M1Rp	Pick up the bar between the stitches with the left needle from back to front. Purl it like a regular stitch.
M1Lp	Pick up the bar between the stitches with the left needle from front to back. Purl it through the back loop.
BOR	Beginning of round, this is where your row starts when you are knitting in the round on circular needles.
k2tog	Insert the right needle into the two stitches closest to the end of your left needle and knit them as if they are one stitch.
ssk	Insert the right needle into the stitch on your left needle as if to knit it, but instead of wrapping the yarn around it, just slip the stitch onto your right needle. Repeat with the next stitch. Then transfer these stitches back to your left needle and knit them together through the back loop.

These techniques are also demonstrated in the video.

#### *Overview of the pattern:*

The Step by Step Sweater is knitted seamlessly from the top down in the round. The collar is knitted first, and then the yoke is knitted while working raglan increases. The sleeve stitches are put on hold while the body is completed, and then the sleeves are finished one at a time.

This pattern contains two different neckline options (the funnel neck or the folded collar) and two neck shaping options (German short row shaping or no neck shaping). These options can be combined in any way to achieve your perfect fit. The German short row neck shaping is a little bit more difficult and so is most suitable for knitters with some experience or adventurous beginners.

#### *A note on stripes:*

This sweater can be knitted with or without stripes. The stripes in the sample are 6 rows wide, and each separated by 14 rows in the main colour. In order to avoid a 'jog' in the stripe when knitting in the round, a small trick can be used.

After knitting the first round with a new colour, lift the stitch below the first stitch of the next round onto the left needle. Knit it together with the first stitch of the next round and then continue. This technique can be seen in the video, or by searching for videos demonstrating jogless stripes by knitting into the stitch below.

On the sample, the first stripe begins around 8cm below the collar.

*Pattern begins here.*

Cast on 64 (68, 72, 80) (84, 88, 88) stitches on 4.5mm 40cm circular needles using the longtail cast on. If you don't use this cast on, make sure you are casting on loosely enough to get the collar over your head, and check you can once you have knitted a few centimetres.

Join in the round and place a BOR marker to indicate the beginning of the round.

Select one of the following neckline options.

#### Option One: Funnel Neck Collar

Work in rib (\*k1 p1\*, repeat \*-\* to end of round) until the collar measures 8cm from the cast on edge.

#### Option Two: Folded Collar

Work in rib (\*k1 p1\*, repeat \*-\* to end of round) until the collar measures 4cm from the cast on edge. P one round. Work in rib (\*k1 p1\*, repeat \*-\* to end of round) until the collar measures 8cm from the cast on edge. Now knit the live stitches together with the cast on edge. It may be helpful to check the video for help with this step.

### Yoke

Switch to 5.5mm 40cm needles and knit one round while placing stitch markers as follows:

k 11 (13, 15, 17) (18, 19, 19), place marker, k2, place marker, k 6 (4, 2, 2) (2, 2, 2), place marker, k2, place marker, k 22 (26, 30, 34) (36, 38, 38), place marker, k2, place marker, k 6 (4, 2, 2) (2, 2, 2), place marker, k2, place marker, k 11 (13, 15, 17) (18, 19, 19) to end of round.

Choose whether or not to include the German short row neck shaping. For a total beginner, you may wish to exclude it. For an adventurous beginner or more experienced knitter, it may improve the fit around the neck.

#### Option One: Without neck shaping

Now work the yoke increases as follows:

Round 1 \*k to next marker, M1R, slip marker, k2, slip marker, M1L\*, repeat \*-\* four times in total, k to BOR marker

Round 2 k all stitches

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 a total of 21 (23, 25, 27) (29, 32, 35) times, so you have worked 42 (46, 50, 54) (58, 64, 70) rows in total.

#### Option Two: With neck shaping

Begin by working the German short rows.

Row 1 \*k to next marker, M1R, slip marker, k2, slip marker, M1L\*, work \*-\* two times in total, k3, turn

Row 2 p to BOR marker, \*p to next marker, M1Lp, slip marker, p2, slip marker, M1Rp\*, work \*-\* two times in total, p3, turn

Row 3 k to BOR marker, \*k to next marker, M1R, slip marker, k2, slip marker, M1L\*, work \*-\* two times in total, k to 3 sts past previous turn, turn



Row 4 p to BOR marker, \*p to next marker, M1Lp, slip marker, p2, slip marker, M1Rp\*, work \*-\* two times in total, p to 3 sts past previous turn, turn

Repeat rows 3-4 a total of 1 (2, 2, 2) (2, 2, 2) times. Now continue to work the raglan increases.

Round 1 \*k to next marker, M1R, slip marker, k2, slip marker, M1L\*, repeat \*-\* four times in total, k to BOR marker

Round 2 k all stitches

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 a total of 19 (20, 22, 24) (26, 29, 32) times.

As you work, switch to your 5.5mm 80 or 100cm needles when you have enough stitches to use them. If you are knitting the striped version, begin the first stripe around 8cm below the collar.

When finished you should have 232 (252, 272, 296) (316, 344, 368) stitches on your needles.

### Body

Now divide stitches for the body and sleeves and put the sleeve stitches on hold as follows:

K up to the first marker, remove marker, k2, remove marker, put the next 48 (50, 52, 56) (60, 66, 72) stitches up to the next marker onto scrap yarn, cast on 4 (6, 6, 6) (8, 8, 10) underarm stitches, remove marker, k2, remove marker, k up to the next marker, remove marker, k2, remove marker, put the next 48 (50, 52, 56) (60, 66, 72) stitches up to the next marker onto scrap yarn, cast on 4 (6, 6, 6) (8, 8, 10) underarm stitches, remove marker, k2, remove marker, k to BOR.

Remove the BOR marker and continue to knit until midway through the underarm stitches you cast on under the left arm. Place the BOR marker here. From now onwards, this will be the new BOR.

You should now have 144 (164, 180, 196) (212, 228, 244) stitches on your needles.

K in stockinette (k all stitches) until the sweater measures 22 (23, 24, 25) (26, 27, 28) cm from the underarm, or 7cm less than your desired length. Note the sweater may grow slightly in length while blocking. Switch to 4.5mm 80cm needles and k one round, and then work in rib (\*k1 p1\*) until the ribbing measures 7cm. Bind off loosely.

### Arms

Repeat this section for each arm.

Transfer the 48 (50, 52, 56) (60, 66, 72) stitches on scrap yarn onto your 5.5mm 40cm needle. Pick up 4 (6, 6, 6) (8, 8, 10) stitches from the underarm cast on. Place the BOR marker in the middle of the newly picked up stitches.

*Note: This may lead to some holes in the armpit area of the sweater. This is not a problem; you can sew them up when you are done. However you can alternatively pick up 4 extra stitches, 2 before the underarm picked up stitches and 2 after, and reduce these stitches in the first round by knitting them together with adjacent stitches as shown in the video.*

K 10cm in stockinette. Now begin to add sleeve decreases by knitting a decrease round once every 23 (15, 16, 12) (8, 6, 4) rounds with stockinette rounds in between.

Decrease round: k1, k2tog, k until three stitches before the BOR marker, ssk, k1

Continue until you have knitted a total of 2 (3, 3, 4) (6, 8, 11) decrease rounds. Continue in stockinette until the sleeve measures approximately 33 (33, 34, 34) (34, 35, 35) cm from the underarm cast on stitches or 7cm less than the desired length. Again, note the sleeve may grow with blocking. Switch to 4.5mm needles and k one round. Then work in rib (\*k1 p1\*) for 7cm and bind off loosely.

*Note: For some sizes, you may find the 40cm needles become too long to knit the sleeve with as you decrease and have fewer stitches left on your needles. In this case, you can use the magic loop technique demonstrated in the video to continue knitting the sleeve on 80cm needles. For some sizes this will not be necessary.*

To finish, weave in all ends. Put the sweater into cool water and leave it to soak for a few minutes. Gently squeeze out excess water without twisting or stretching it, and then lay the sweater flat to dry. At this point you can shape the sweater while wet to your desired measurements.



I'd be really happy to see any finished sweaters shared on Instagram under #stepbystepsweater

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