

The Perfect Sweater

Designed by the readers of Mason-Dixon Knitting • Pattern by Mandy Moore and Ann Shayne

Jewelneck or V-neck pullover with set-in long sleeves and a slightly shaped waist. Worked in stockinette stitch, with hemmed and seed stitch edge options.

SIZE

2XS[XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL]

To fit bust size up to 26[30, 34, 38, 42, 46, 50, 54, 58] inches / 66[76, 86.5, 96.5, 106.5, 117, 127, 137, 147] cm

Note: If you are at the upper end of your size range, there will be about 2 inches of wearing ease in the bust of the sweater. If you prefer a looser fit, choose a larger size.

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Bust: 28[32, 36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56, 60] inches / 71[81, 91.5, 101.5, 111.5, 122, 132, 142, 152] cm

Length: 19.5[20, 21.5, 22.5, 23, 24, 25.5, 25.5, 27] inches / 49.5[51, 54.5, 57, 58.5, 61, 65, 65, 68.5] cm

Armhole depth: 7.5[8, 8.5, 8.5, 9, 9, 9.5, 9.5, 10] inches / 19[20.5, 21.5, 21.5, 23, 23, 24, 24, 25.5] cm

Sleeve Length, lower edge to underarm: 17 inches/ 43 cm

MATERIALS

Cascade 220 Peruvian wool, 100 grams, 220 yds/198 m, 4[5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8, 9, 10] skeins

Size 6 (4 mm) and size 5 (3.75 mm) needles (or size needed to achieve gauge)

Stitch holders

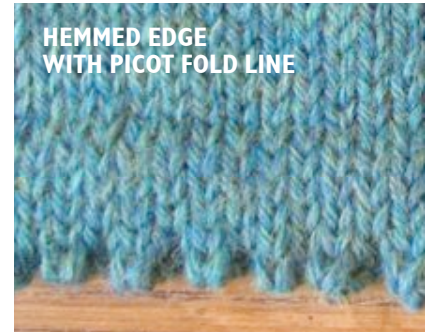
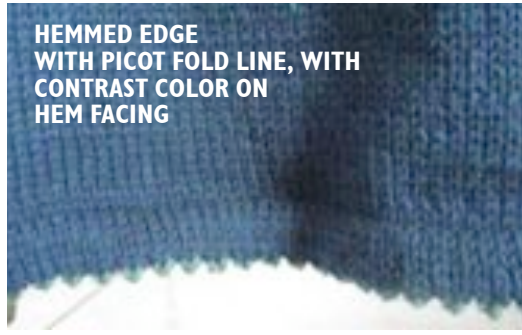
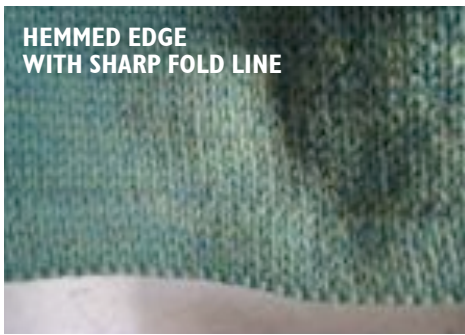
GAUGE

20 sts + 25 rows = 4 inches (10 cm) in stockinette stitch using size 6 (4mm) needles



© 2006 by Mandy Moore and Ann Shayne. Licensed to the public under a Creative Commons license, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/>. This pattern is intended to grow as knitters create variations and new elements. If you create a new element and would like to share your cleverness with others, please send your amended pattern to Ann Shayne at ashayne@bellsouth.net. To read the Search for the Perfect Handknit, visit http://www.masondixonknitting.com/archives/2005_09.html#001210.

Pattern Notes



Hemmed Edge

Using larger needle, cast on specified number of sts.
[Note: The Crochet Cast On (see directions below), or any other provisional cast on method, would be very suitable for this edging. If you use a provisional cast on, remove the waste yarn and place the live stitches on an extra needle before working the Joining Row.]

Using smaller needle and beginning with a WS row, work 6 rows in stockinette stitch. This forms the hem facing.

Turning Row:

Read the next 2 rows before proceeding.

Next Row [WS]: K all sts. This will form a sharp fold line.

OR

Next Row [WS]: P1, [p2tog, yo] to last st, p1. This will form a picot fold line.

Switch to larger needles. Beginning with a RS row, work 6 rows in stockinette stitch.

Fold facing along fold line so wrong sides are together. Each stitch on the needle will line up with a stitch on the cast on edge. You will need to knit into each stitch along the cast on edge; take a look at your edge and decide which part of the stitch you will knit into. (This will depend on which cast on technique you have used. If you have used a provisional cast on method, you will knit into the live stitch which is left when the waste yarn has been removed.)

Joining Row [RS]: Knit each stitch on the needle together with the corresponding stitch of the cast on row.

Crochet Cast On

Using waste yarn, work a crochet chain several sts longer than the number of sts to be cast on. Starting 1 or 2 sts in from end of chain and using working yarn, pick up and k 1 st in the back loop of each st until the required number of sts have been worked. Later, the chain will be unraveled and the resulting live sts picked up.

Seed Stitch Edge

Using smaller needle, cast on specified number of sts.

Row 1 [RS]: [K1, p1] to end.

Row 2 [WS]: [P1, k1] to end.

Repeat these 2 rows twice more (6 rows worked in total).

Switch to larger needles and k 1 row.

Increasing

M1L: Lift loop of stitch that is 2 stitches below last stitch on right needle. Place this loop on left needle, and knit into it. 1 st increased.

M1R: Lift loop of stitch that is 1 stitch below first stitch on left needle. Place this loop on left needle, and knit into it. 1 st increased.

W&T

This means Wrap and Turn, and is the technique used at the turning points of short rows. In this pattern, short rows are used when shaping the shoulders, to give a smooth, slanted edge.

When you wrap a stitch (as described below), you prevent a hole from forming in your work at the turning point of the short row. The next time you knit the stitch that has been wrapped (on a subsequent row), pick up the wrap (the loop of yarn wrapped around the base of the stitch), place it on your left needle, and knit or purl it together with the stitch it had wrapped.

To W&T at the end of a WS short row:

Bring yarn between needles to back of work, slip next st to right needle, bring yarn between needles to front of work, slip stitch from right needle back to left needle, turn work around to begin working a RS row.

To W&T at the end of a RS short row:

Bring yarn between needles to front of work, slip next st to right needle, bring yarn between needles to back of work, slip stitch from right needle back to left needle, turn work around to begin working a WS row.

Three-Needle Bind Off

Hold both pieces of knitting with right sides together.

Insert needle into first st on front needle and first st on back needle, and knit them together. Repeat this for the next st on the front and back needles. Draw the first st worked over the second st.

Repeat from * to * until all sts have been bound off. Break yarn and draw through remaining st.

The Pattern

BACK

* Choose Hemmed Edge or Seed Stitch Edge, and read directions in Pattern Notes. Using needles specified, cast on 70[80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150] sts. Work edging of choice. Work 5[5, 7, 9, 9, 11, 7, 7, 9] rows in stockinette stitch, ending with a WS row.

Next Row [RS]: K2, ssk, k to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2. Work 5[5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 7, 7, 7] rows in stockinette stitch. Repeat these 6[6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 8, 8, 8] rows 4 times more. 60[70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140] sts remain.

Work 2 additional rows in stockinette stitch (7[7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 9, 9, 9] rows worked after last decrease).

Next Row [RS]: K2, M1R, k to last 2 sts, M1L, k2. Work 5[5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 7, 7, 7] rows in stockinette stitch. Repeat these 6[6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 8, 8, 8] rows 4 times more. 70[80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150] sts. Continue in stockinette stitch until work measures 12[12, 13, 14, 14, 15, 16, 16, 17] inches (30.5[30.5, 33, 35.5, 35.5, 38, 40.5, 40.5, 43] cm), ending with a WS row.

Shape Armholes:

Bind off 2[3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14] sts at beginning of next 2 rows. 66[74, 80, 86, 94, 102, 108, 116, 122] sts remain. Bind off 1[2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9] sts at beginning of next 2 rows. 64[70, 74, 78, 84, 90, 94, 100, 104] sts remain.

Next Row [RS]: K2, ssk, k to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2. P 1 row. Repeat these 2 rows 1[1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6] times more. 60[66, 68, 70, 76, 80, 82, 86, 90] sts remain. *

Continue in stockinette stitch until armhole measures 7.25[7.75, 8.25, 8.25, 8.75, 8.75, 9.25, 9.25, 9.75] inches (18.5[19.5, 21, 21, 22, 22, 23.5, 23.5, 24.5] cm), ending with a WS row. Work measures 19.25[19.75, 21.25, 22.25, 22.75, 23.75, 25.25, 25.25, 26.75] inches (49[50, 54, 56.5, 58, 60.5, 64, 64, 68] cm).

Shape Shoulders:

See Pattern Notes above for information about turning short rows, and about the abbreviation W&T.

Next Row [RS]: K54[60, 62, 64, 69, 73, 75, 78, 82], W&T. Next Row [WS]: P48[54, 56, 58, 62, 66, 68, 70, 74], W&T. Next Row [RS]: K43[48, 50, 52, 55, 59, 61, 63, 66], W&T. Next Row [WS]: P38[42, 44, 46, 48, 52, 54, 56, 58], W&T. Next Row [RS]: K33[36, 38, 40, 42, 45, 47, 49, 51], W&T. Next Row [WS]: P28[30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44], W&T. Next Row [RS]: K to end. Next Row [WS]: P16[18, 18, 18, 20, 21, 21, 22, 23], place all

sts just worked on stitch holder, bind off 28[30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44] sts, p to end. Place remaining 16[18, 18, 18, 20, 21, 21, 22, 23] sts on stitch holder.

FRONT

Work as for Back from * to *. Choose Jewel Neckline or V-Neckline and proceed to directions for neckline of choice.

Jewel Neckline

Continue in stockinette stitch until armhole measures 5.75[5.75, 6.25, 6, 6.5, 6.5, 6.75, 6.75, 6.75] inches (14.5[14.5, 16, 15, 16.5, 16.5, 17, 17, 17] cm), ending with a WS row. Work measures 17.75[17.75, 19.25, 20, 20.5, 21.5, 22.75, 22.75, 23.75] inches (45[45, 49, 51, 52, 54.5, 58, 58, 60.5] cm).

Next Row [RS]: K23[26, 26, 27, 29, 31, 31, 33, 34], place all sts just worked on stitch holder, bind off 14[14, 16, 16, 18, 18, 20, 20, 22] sts, k to end. 23[26, 26, 27, 29, 31, 31, 33, 34] sts on needle.

Shape Right Neckline and Shoulder:

P1 row. Next Row [RS]: Bind off 3 sts, k to end. P 1 row. Next Row [RS]: Bind off 2 sts, k to end. 18[21, 21, 22, 24, 26, 26, 28, 29] sts remain.

P 1 row. Next Row [RS]: K1, k2tog, k to end. Repeat these 2 rows 1[2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5] times more. 16[18, 18, 18, 20, 21, 21, 22, 23] sts remain.

P 1 row. Work until front measures same as back to beginning of short-row shoulder shaping, ending with a WS row.

Next Row [RS]: K10[12, 12, 12, 13, 14, 14, 14, 15], W&T. P to end.

Next Row [RS]: K5[6, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 7], W&T. P to end. K 1 row. Place all sts on stitch holder.

Shape Left Neckline and Shoulder:

Replace held sts from left shoulder on needle with RS facing. Rejoin yarn and k 1 row.

Next Row [WS]: Bind off 3 sts, p to end. K 1 row. Next Row [WS]: Bind off 2 sts, p to end.

Next Row [RS]: K to last 2 sts, ssk, k1. P 1 row. Repeat these 2 rows 1[2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5] times more. 16[18, 18, 18, 20, 21, 21, 22, 23] sts remain.

K 1 row.

Work until front measures same as back to beginning of short-row shoulder shaping, ending with a RS row.

Next Row [WS]: P10[12, 12, 12, 13, 14, 14, 14, 15], W&T. K to end.

Next Row [WS]: P5[6, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 7], W&T. K to end.
P 1 row. Place all sts on stitch holder.

V-Neckline

V-Neckline shaping begins immediately after armhole shaping is complete.

Next Row [RS]: K26[29, 30, 31, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41], k2tog, k2; place remaining 30[33, 34, 35, 38, 40, 41, 43, 45] sts on hold on st holder. 29[32, 33, 34, 37, 39, 40, 42, 44] sts on needle.

Shape Left Neckline and Shoulder:

P 1 row.

Decrease Row [RS]: K to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2.

Repeat these 2 rows 8[8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20] times more. 20[23, 22, 21, 23, 21, 21, 22, 23] sts remain.

Sizes 2XS, XS, S, M, L Only:

Work 3 rows in stockinette stitch.

Work Decrease Row.

Repeat these 4 rows 3[4, 3, 2, 2, -, -, -, -] times more. 16[18, 18, 18, 20, -, -, -, -] sts remain.

All Sizes:

Work until front measures same as back to beginning of short-row shoulder shaping, ending with a RS row.

Next Row [WS]: P10[12, 12, 12, 13, 14, 14, 14, 15], W&T. K to end.

Next Row [WS]: P5[6, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 7], W&T. K to end.
P 1 row. Place all sts on stitch holder.

Shape Right Neckline and Shoulder:

Replace held sts of right front on needle with RS facing, and rejoin yarn.

Decrease Row [RS]: K2, ssk, k to end.

P 1 row.

Repeat these 2 rows 8[8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20] times more, then work Decrease Row once more. 20[23, 22, 21, 23, 21, 21, 22, 23] sts remain.

Sizes 2XS, XS, S, M, L Only:

Work 3 rows in stockinette stitch.

Work Decrease Row.

Repeat these 4 rows 3[4, 3, 2, 2, -, -, -, -] times more. 16[18, 18, 18, 20, -, -, -, -] sts remain.

All Sizes:

P 1 row.

Work until front measures same as back to beginning of

short-row shoulder shaping, ending with a WS row.

Next Row [RS]: K10[12, 12, 12, 13, 14, 14, 14, 15], W&T. P to end.

Next Row [RS]: K5[6, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 7], W&T. P to end.
K 1 row. Place all sts on stitch holder.

SLEEVES (Make 2)

Using needles specified for desired edging, cast on 42[46, 46, 46, 52, 52, 52, 54, 54] sts.

Work edging of choice.

Work 7[7, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 3] rows in stockinette stitch, ending with a WS row.

Increase Row [RS]: K2, M1R, k to last 2 sts, M1L, k2.

Repeat these 8[8, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 4] rows 5[5, 15, 11, 13, 9, 5, 3, 23] times more.

54[58, 78, 70, 80, 72, 64, 62, 102] sts.

Sizes 2XS, XS, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL Only:

Work 5[5, -, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, -] rows in stockinette stitch.

Work Increase Row.

Repeat these 6[6, -, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, -] rows 7[7, -, 5, 2, 8, 14, 17, -] times more.

70[74, -, 82, 86, 90, 94, 98, -] sts.

All Sizes:

Continue in stockinette stitch until work measures 17 inches or desired length to underarm, ending with a WS row.

Shape Sleeve Cap:

Bind off 2[3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14] sts at beginning of next 2 rows. 66[68, 68, 68, 70, 72, 72, 74, 74] sts remain.

Bind off 1[2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9] sts at beginning of next 2 rows. 64[64, 62, 60, 60, 60, 58, 58, 56] sts remain.

Decrease Row [RS]: K2, ssk, k to last 4 sts, k2tog, k2.

Work 1[1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 5] rows in stockinette stitch.

Repeat these 2[2, 2, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 6] rows 5[8, 11, 0, 2, 2, 5, 5, 2] times more.

52[46, 38, 58, 54, 54, 46, 46, 50] sts remain.

Sizes 2XS, XS Only:

Work Decrease Row.

Next Row [WS]: P2, p2tog, p to last 4 sts, p2tog tbl, p2.

Repeat these 2 rows 3[1, -, -, -, -, -, -] times more. 36[38, -, -, -, -, -, -] sts remain.

Sizes M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL Only:

Work Decrease Row.

Work -[-, -, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 3] rows in stockinette stitch.

Repeat these -[-, -, 2, 2, 2, 2, 4] rows -[-, -, 9, 6, 6, 1, 1, 2] times more.

-[-, -, 38, 40, 40, 42, 42, 44] sts remain.

All Sizes:

Bind off 2 sts at beginning of next 4 rows. 28[30, 30, 30, 32, 32, 34, 34, 36] sts remain.

Bind off 3 sts at beginning of next 4 rows.

BO rem 16[18, 18, 18, 20, 20, 22, 22, 24] sts.

FINISHING

Block pieces to given measurements.

Use three-needle bind off to attach front to back at left shoulder.

NECKBAND

Using smaller needle, starting at right back neckline and with RS facing, pick up and k 1 st in each bound off stitch and 3 stitches for every 4 rows around neckline.

If your sweater has a V-neckline, pick up 1 st in the center of the V, and use a safety pin or split ring marker to mark this st. Choose neckline finishing from options below.

1. Rolled Stockinette Neckband

Jewel Neckline:

Beg with a WS row, work 3 rows in stockinette stitch.

Using larger needle, bind off all sts loosely.

V-Neckline:

Rows 1, 3 [WS]: P to 2 sts before center st, p2tog, p1, p2tog tbl, p to end.

Row 2 [RS]: K to 2 sts before center st, ssk, k1, k2tog, k to end.

Using larger needle, bind off all sts loosely.

2. Seed Stitch Neckline

Jewel Neckline:

Beg with a WS row, work 4 rows in Seed Stitch.

Using larger needle, bind off all sts loosely.

V-Neckline:

Rows 1, 3 [WS]: Work in Seed Stitch to 2 sts before center

st, p2tog, p1, p2tog tbl, work in Seed Stitch to end.

Rows 2, 4 [RS]: Work in Seed Stitch to 2 sts before center st, ssk, k1, k2tog, work in Seed Stitch to end.

Using larger needle, bind off all sts loosely.

3. Hemmed Neckline (for V-Neckline only)

Rows 1, 3 [WS]: P to 2 sts before center st, p2tog, p1, p2tog tbl, p to end.

Row 2 [RS]: K to 2 sts before center st, ssk, k1, k2tog, k to end.

Row 4 [RS]: Work Turning Row (see Hemmed Edge, in Pattern Notes above).

Rows 5, 7 [WS]: P to center st, M1L, p1, M1R, p to end.

Row 6 [RS]: K to center st, M1L, k1, M1R, k to end.

Do not bind off. Sew live stitches to inside of neckline edge (whipstitch is recommended), covering ridge of selvage behind picked-up stitches. Be careful as you stitch this down; stretch the neckband as you go to ensure that it is not too tight.

SEAMS

Using three-needle bind off, attach front to back at right shoulder. Sew side edges of neckband together.

Sew side seams and sleeve seams using preferred method.

Turn sweater inside out. Pin sleeve into armhole, beginning at underarm and working gradually up both front and back of armhole. When pinning top third of sleeve cap into armhole, distribute ease evenly.

Sew sleeve into armhole.

Repeat for second sleeve.

Weave in all ends. Block again, for old time's sake.

Congratulations! You've just finished the Perfect Sweater!