

CREATIVE FIBRE 2027 NATIONAL CHALLENGE

SAMPLER KNITTED VEST

Pattern by Lorraine Major, Creative Fibre Westland

This garment is worked flat as two pieces – front and back. The concept of the 2027 challenge is to use this pattern as a springboard for your own design, not to recreate this vest. A baby-sized version of this pattern will be released at a later date.

MATERIALS

Choose any wool (or other yarn) and needles to suit. Because you are the designer, it is your choice whether you use many colours, just a few, or a single colour. Lighter colours are better for seeing the varied stitch patterns.

EASE

Ease is the difference between your actual body measurements and the garment's finished size. If you are wearing this over other garments the finished vest should not be too fitted. Thick wool needs more ease than finer.

Positive ease refers to having more cloth than your body is measured. This can create a nice drape, though too much ease can easily become clumsy and stiff with thicker yarns. Negative ease refers to the garment being slightly smaller than your body measurements. This is important if you are wanting a form-fitting style of vest.

Pro tip: Grab a favourite jumper-top-shirt in your wardrobe – something you enjoy wearing. Lay it flat on a surface and measure the width across the front.

Multiply this number by 2 to get the circumference of the garment. Comparing that to your own body measurements will determine the ease. That amount (e.g. 18cm/7") tells you the amount of ease in the item and gives you a starting calculation point for the vest.

Compare all of the measurements of your favourite item with the schematic to determine the correct measurements for your vest.

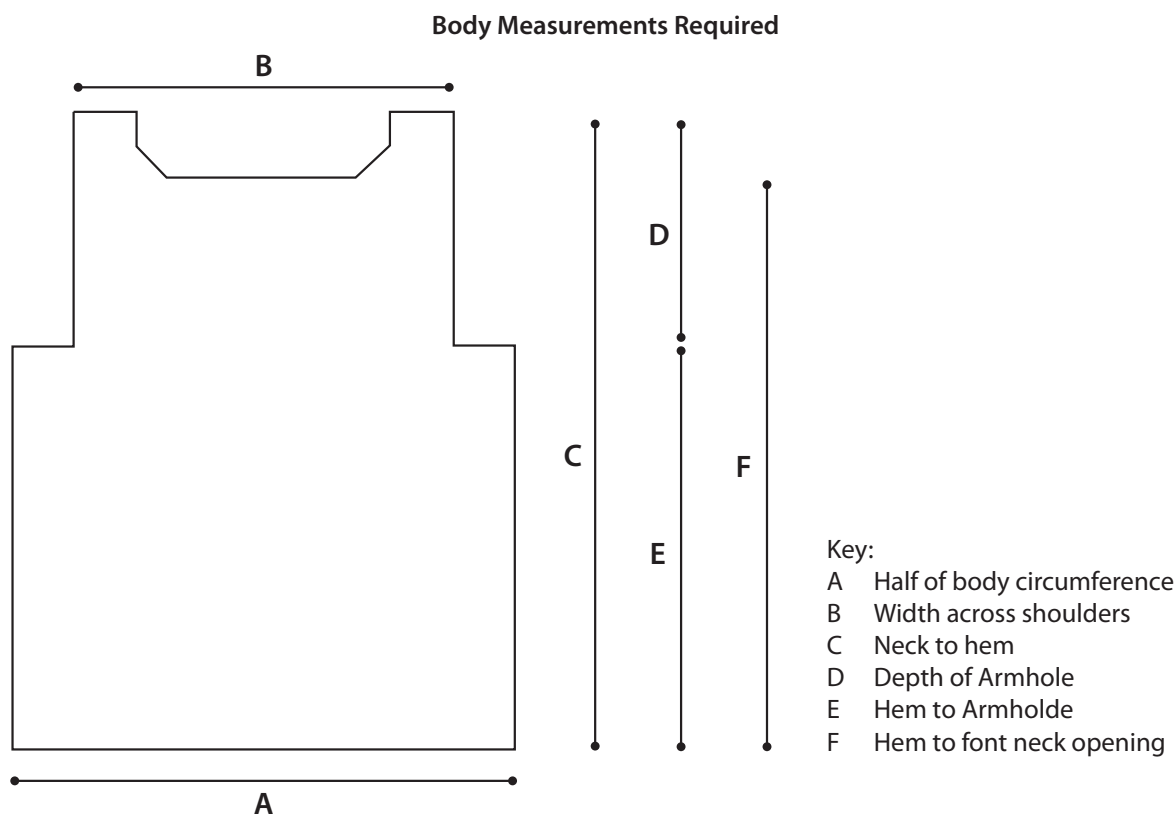
For women, often size calculations are based on the chest measurement but sometimes the waist is larger than the chest. Calculate any sizing based on the largest measurement.

MEASUREMENTS (SEE SCHEMATIC)

The measurements you need are:

- (A) Body circumference including desired ease. The front and back will each be half that measure.
- (B) Width across shoulders, or where you would like the shoulders to fall.
- (C) Total length neck to hem
- (D) Armhole depth – remember layering the vest over other garments will need a larger armhole.
- (E) Hem to underarm = (C)–(D)
- (F) Hem to neck opening – front. You choose how low and how wide you want your neck opening.

Depending on your body shape and how drapery your knitted fabric is, you may choose to work straight without armhole shaping.



GAUGE/TENSION

Please make a swatch in stocking st, about 15 cm square, and measure 10cm in the centre of that. Do you like the feel of it? Too firm? Too drapery? Once you have a swatch that you like the feel of, note down how many sts and rows you get to 10cm/4".

Then wash that piece and, when it is completely dry, measure it again.

The number of sts you get to 10cm/4" after washing is what you will use to calculate your cast on number.

Abbreviations Used:

RS = right side
WS = wrong side
sts = stitches
k = knit
p = purl

Your vest will be worked in stripes, with each stripe a different pattern. I made my stripes 5–7cm/2–3" – each. They may vary depending on the number of rows in a pattern repeat.

Online stitch guide:

<https://newstitchaday.com/>

BACK

Based on your gauge and the width of your desired garment, cast on the required number of sts.

Example:

Your gauge is 16 sts for 10cm/4"
Your desired width is 61cm/24"
You need to cast on 96–97 sts

First Stripe

Broken Rib was used so that the vest sits flat without pulling in. This stitch requires an odd number of sts, so cast on accordingly.

Broken Rib: Row 1 (RS) Knit. Row 2 (WS) *K1, p1* repeat across, end k1. Repeat those 2 rows as many times as you want.

Change colour. Cut wool, leaving a long enough strand to sew seam of that colour.

Pro tip: To keep clean lines work the first row of each new colour in knit.

Second and subsequent stripes:

Use any pattern stitch you like. Knit/purl patterns work well. You may need to increase or decrease a stitch according to whether your stitch pattern needs an odd or even number. Simply k2tog or M1R/L when you need it.

The stitches I used in the pattern sample are from bottom to top:

Broken Rib, Garter, Box, Moss (Seed), Butterfly, Waving Rib, Flag, Basket, Diamond Brocade, Garter Rib offset.

Decision Point

Will you be (1) shaping the armholes or (2) working straight up?

If (2), continue until the back measures 6–8 rows less than the total length desired. Work 6–8 rows in a non-rolling pattern, e.g. garter st, as it will form the back of the neck, and cast off.

If (1), work until it measures desired length to armhole (E).

Shape Armholes

Decide how many sts you need to take off to give desired width across shoulders. Half of that number will come off each side.

Cast off about 2/3 of that number each side, then decrease each end of right side rows until all surplus sts are gone. For neatness, work decreases inside the edge st.

Example (you will need to substitute your desired numbers for mine):

My vest is knitted with thick wool at a gauge of 15sts per 10cm/4".

I am not a small person, so my cast on was 93 sts, reduced to 92 when I was working multiples which needed an even number.

The measurement across my shoulders meant I only wanted 62 sts up top.

I needed to remove 30 sts, 15 each end. I cast off 9 at start of next 2 rows, then decreased each end of the next 6 RS rows. (Do the decrease 1 st in from the edge st for a neater edge.)

Continue

After finishing the shaping, continue working straight until it measures 6–8 rows less than the total wanted length. Work 6–8 rows in a non-rolling pattern, e.g. garter st, as it will form the back of the neck, and cast off.

FRONT

Work as for back to end of armhole shaping.

Next Decision

How wide do you want your neck opening?

Mark the row where you want your neck opening to start.

Example (you will need to substitute your desired numbers for mine):

I decided that I would use 32 sts for the neck. I worked to 6 rows before the noted row, then continued on but worked the centre 32 sts in garter st, with the regular st pattern each side of that. On the 6th row (WS) I cast off the centre 24 sts, and worked to end of row.

Next row: (Working on one side of neck) Work in pattern on 15 sts, k2tog, k2.

Next, K2, p1, work in patt to end.

Repeat these 2 rows 3 times, leaving you with 15 sts. Continue with a non-rolling stitch pattern as on the back until work measures the same as back. Cast off and work the other side to correspond.

FINISHING

Sew up shoulders and side seams. You may choose to leave the bottom few cm open at the sides.

Done. Marvel at your accomplishment and enjoy.

Any questions?

Contact me, Lorraine Major at lmajor@xtra.co.nz