

Raglans

Knit Club – March 2000

Raglans are so comfortable to wear and easy to knit. The diagonal armhole seam is a good place to do decorative shaping. Many times this is the only design you need to make a classic sweater.

Achieving a good fit at the armhole is most important. The armhole is not a straight line as you might think. It really is more like a moderate *S* shaped line.

- The front armhole depth is 1 inch shorter than the back armhole. Multiply this number by the number of rows per inch.
- Dart in the top of the sleeve. This will keep the widest part of the shoulder from pulling and making a wrinkle between the sleeve and the neck.
The dart is the length of the shoulder minus 1 inch. Multiply this times the number of rows per inch. Decrease 1 inch of stitches in the center of the sleeve in the number of rows of the dart.
- Subtract the number of stitches in the neck from the cast on and divide by 2. This is the number of stitches to shape in the armhole.
- Divide the armhole rows by 3. Each section will be decreased at a different rate this way achieving a gentle *S* shape.

- 1st Shaping section – Divide the number of stitches to be shaped by 2. This is the number of stitches to be shaped in this section. Bind off the same amount as for the front or back. Subtract the bind off from the number of stitches to be shaped in this section. Using the magic formula and the remaining stitches to be shaped, figure the shaping.
- 2nd Shaping section – Divide the other half of stitches to be shaped by 3. This section you will shape $\frac{1}{3}$ of the stitches by using the magic formula.
- 3rd Shaping section – Shape the remaining $\frac{2}{3}$ stitches by using the magic formula.

If you want to use decorative decreases on the body and the sleeves, the shaping sequence should be the same for the front and the front edge of the sleeve and the back and the back edge of the sleeve. Using this method, you don't have much control over the width of the upper arm. To find the number of stitches at the upper arm, add the number of stitches shaped for the front edge of the sleeve, the back edge of the sleeve, the number of stitches in the dart and the number of stitches for 3 inches at the top of the sleeve. This will most likely be a little larger than you really need but should still work. Once you have the number of stitches you can figure the rest of the sleeve. Subtract the number of stitches at the bottom of the sleeve from the stitches at the under arm and divide by 2. This is the number of stitches to be shaped on each side of the sleeve. Divide this number into the number of rows to the underarm bind off.

If you want the upper arm to be a specific size, the angle of the armhole will be different for the body and the sleeve. Simple shaping will look very nice and so will some decorative decreases.

If the front or back decrease need to line up with the sleeve decrease, the shaping on the matching edges need to be the same.

At the top of the sleeve (the number of rows for the front edge of the shaping) shape by short rowing the remaining 3 inches in 1 inch of knit.