

## **Raglan Lace** *by Cheryl Kemp*

Knitting top down in the raglan style allows for great flexibility in sizing and customization.

Photo credit [Cheryl Kemp/Jim Kemp]

### **SIZE**

XS [S, M, L, 1X, 2X, 3X] (shown in size M)

### **FINISHED MEASUREMENTS**

Chest: 30 [34, 38, 42, 46, 50, 54] inches

Length: 23 [23, 23, 23, 25, 25, 25] inches

### **MATERIALS**

Plymouth Suri Merino [80% Alpaca, 20% Merino Wool yd/m per 50g skein]; color: 2037, orange 5 [5, 6, 7, 8, 8, 9] skeins



- 1- 24" inch US #7 circular needle (or longer for magic loop sleeves)
- 2- #7 DPNs if not using magic loop for sleeves.

notions required:

stitch markers

scissors

tape measure

### **GAUGE**

16 sts/23 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch AFTER wet blocking.

### **NOTES**

Alpaca stretches and that ease is accounted for in this pattern. If you are using a less elastic fiber or choose not to wet block, you may need to size up to get the proper fit.

M1f= From the *front*, lift loop between stitches with left needle, knit into back of loop

M1b= From the *back*, lift loop between stitches with left needle, knit into front of loop

This pattern has not been test knit and was written quite a while after I made the garment, so please let me know if you find any mistakes or have suggestions. I will incorporate them into future versions of the pattern as need.

## PATTERN

Using the long tail method, CO 32 [36, 40, 44, 48, 52, 56] sts (do not join).

Row 1: Purl one row (wrong side). Row 2: K1, m1b, yo, place marker, k1 (seam st), place marker, yo, k 5[6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 9] (sleeve sts), yo, place marker, k1 (seam st), place marker, yo, k 16[ 18, 20, 24, 26, 30, 32] (these are the sts for the back) yo, place marker, k1, place marker, yo, k 5[6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 9] (sleeve sts), yo, place marker, k1, place marker, yo, m1f, k1

Work back and forth increasing one stitch after and before the first and last stitch **every other RS row** (ie every fourth row), double increase (yo, k1, yo) around each of the seam sts every RS row) until there are as many stitches on the two front sections as there are on the back section, minus one stitch. Cast on a single stitch, join and begin working in the round. Be sure to place markers to indicate this new center front stitch.

Work one row even. When you reach the front center, slip the stitch before the marker, slip the center stitch, k1, pass the two slipped stitches over the knit stitch (double decrease). Work one row (continuing raglan increases) then work the front center decrease again. Finished with center decreases.

Continue with raglan increases until line at shoulders measures 9 [8.5, 9, 9.5, 10, 10, 11] inches or desired length. I like close fitting sleeves and the 9.5 inch for the medium fits perfectly for me. However, Barbara Walker recommends a raglan length of 10-11 inches for women. To custom fit the raglan to your body, place the yoke over your head and shoulders and measure along the line of raglan stitches on a diagonal and extend the diagonal line to at least 1-2 inches below the under arm. Yoke is complete.

Sleeves (placing on holder):

When you have reached the desired raglan length, end on a non-increase round and work from the center front marker to the first raglan seam. Place the sleeve stitches including the seam stitch on waste yarn. Cast on 9[9, 10, 10, 11, 12, 12] sts and continue working across the back until the other sleeve is reached. Put sts on waste yarn and cast on sts as before. If you have tried on the yoke at this point the under arm cast on is a great way to add width to the front if needed. Extra stitches can be decreased away as you go.

Bust and back darts (aka decreases): These are placed strategically. Mine are 7 sts either side of the center stitch on the front and on the back (see picture). You can customize this to your figure. Choose the stitches around which you will decrease and place markers on either side of these stitches (two in front and two in back). Beginning at the center front, work to within one st of marker, ssk, k1, k2t, work to within one st of first marker on the back, ssk, k1, k2t, work to second decrease marker on back, ssk, k1, k2t, work to decrease marker on right front, ssk, k1, k2t, complete round. Work one row even. Continue decrease rows and even rows 4 more times or until desired circumference for rib cage is reached.

### Begin lace pattern:

The lace pattern is worked over 45 sts. Depending on the number of sts you have left you will need to add knit sts at the beginning and end of the chart for sizes large and above. For sizes small and xs, you may need to take out the first and last stitch of the chart as well as a stitch around either side of the middle. If you need to shrink the pattern more for the smaller sizes you can easily leave off an equal number of columns on either side of the chart without much change in the pattern. Work lace pattern 3 times, 8 inches or until desired length is achieved. Finish by working in garter stitch for 6 rows. Bind off loosely (I can't stress this enough).

### Sleeves:

Using sts on holder begin working sleeve in the round. When you reach the under arm, pick up the same number of sts from the ones you cast on earlier and place marker for beginning of round. Work in stst decreasing two sts every 6 rows 5 times (around center underarm stitch). Work even until the length is the same as where the lace pattern on the body begins. Begin lace pattern on sleeves and continue until sleeves measure 15 [15.5, 15.5, 16, 16, 17, 17] inches from under arm or desired length. Work 6 rows in garter st and bind off loosely.

### Finishing:

Weave in ends and soak in water with a bit of fabric softener for 20 minutes. Wrap in towel and squeeze out excess water. Lay flat, pin to shape and let dry.



