






















Let's just look at the right edge of the chart, from stitches fourteen through twenty-eight, showing the as-written instructions.

<b>b 8</b>	□□□	
	□□□  □□□	<b>b 7</b>
<b>b 6</b>	□□□□□	
	□□□□□  □□□	<b>b 5</b>
<b>b 4</b>	□□□□□□□	
	□□□□□□□  □□□	<b>b 3</b>
<b>b 2</b>	□□□□□□□□	
	□□□□□□□□  □□□	<b>b 1</b>
<b>b</b>	□□□□□□□□□□□□□□	
	28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14	

What we want to show is that at the end of a row just before a row that starts with bound-off stitches, we will decrease one stitch. We'll show that by changing the symbol below the first bound-off stitch to a decrease slanting in the proper direction (we chose to make the decrease slant point at the diagonal edge of the fabric).

<b>b 8</b>	□□□	
	□□□  □□□	<b>b 7</b>
<b>b 6</b>	□□□□□ 	
	□□□□□  □□□	<b>b 5</b>
<b>b 4</b>	□□□□□□□ 	
	□□□□□□□  □□□	<b>b 3</b>
<b>b 2</b>	□□□□□□□□ 	
	□□□□□□□□  □□□	<b>b 1</b>
<b>b</b>	□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ 	
	28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14	

Since that decrease means we have one less stitch to bind off, we'll turn the bind-off symbol above each decrease to a blank space, indicating that that stitch is no longer there and that we bind off one less stitch.

<b>b 8</b>	□□□	
	□□□□□	<b>b 7</b>
<b>b 6</b>	□□□□□ 	
	□□□□□□□	<b>b 5</b>
<b>b 4</b>	□□□□□□□ 	
	□□□□□□□  □□□	<b>b 3</b>
<b>b 2</b>	□□□□□□□□ 	
	□□□□□□□□□□□	<b>b 1</b>
<b>b</b>	□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ 	
	28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14	

Note that row B8 does not end with a decrease, since that's the last row we work on the back; there will be no row B9.

We can do the exact same modifications at the left edge of the chart, indicating the back's left shoulder shaping. The next chart shows the last fifteen stitches of the as-written shoulder shaping.









## Tweaking the V-Neck Slope

What if we want our V-neck's diagonal slope to continue all the way to the shoulder instead of having a vertical segment between the end of the neck decreases and the top of the shoulder? If we know our row gauge and the exact armhole depth we want, we can adjust the rate of decreases to make the neck edge go straight from one spot to the other.

Let's keep our armhole depth of nine inches and our working gauge of seven rows per inch, which means we need sixty-three rows. As before, we'll bump that to sixty-four, and when we add the number of shoulder rows, we have a total of seventy-two rows from the bottom of the V to the very top of the front neck. We still have the same number of decreases, twenty, to make on both sides of the front neck, but we have to space them farther apart so that it takes more rows to complete the V-neck decreases. So the question is, How often do we now make the decreases?

- ☉ We know that decreasing every other row uses forty (technically thirty-nine) rows.
- ☉ If we decrease every third row, so that we work a decrease row then work two rows evenly (working evenly only at the neck edge, that is, since we'll still be doing underarm decreases on the first few rows), we'll need twenty decrease rows times three, which is sixty rows (technically fifty-eight, since we wouldn't do the two plain rows after the final decrease row).
- ☉ If we decrease every four rows (one decrease row followed by three rows worked evenly at the neck edge), then we need twenty decrease rows times four, for a total of eighty rows (technically seventy-seven, because we wouldn't do the three plain rows after the final decrease row).

We can't do any of these options exactly as written in the seventy-two rows we have available, so let's put on our designer hats and figure out what we can do.

### *Option 1: Deepen the Armhole*

We can make the armholes several rows deeper—six, as it turns out—while we do the neck decreases every fourth row. With those six extra rows, the new armhole will be deeper by a bit less than an inch at our working gauge of seven rows per inch. Since it's a vest that we may well want to wear over a shirt, the additional rows give the shirtsleeve's fabric some extra space at the underarm.

Note that in row seventy-seven, while doing the bind-offs on the left shoulder, we SSK the last two stitches as we bind them off.



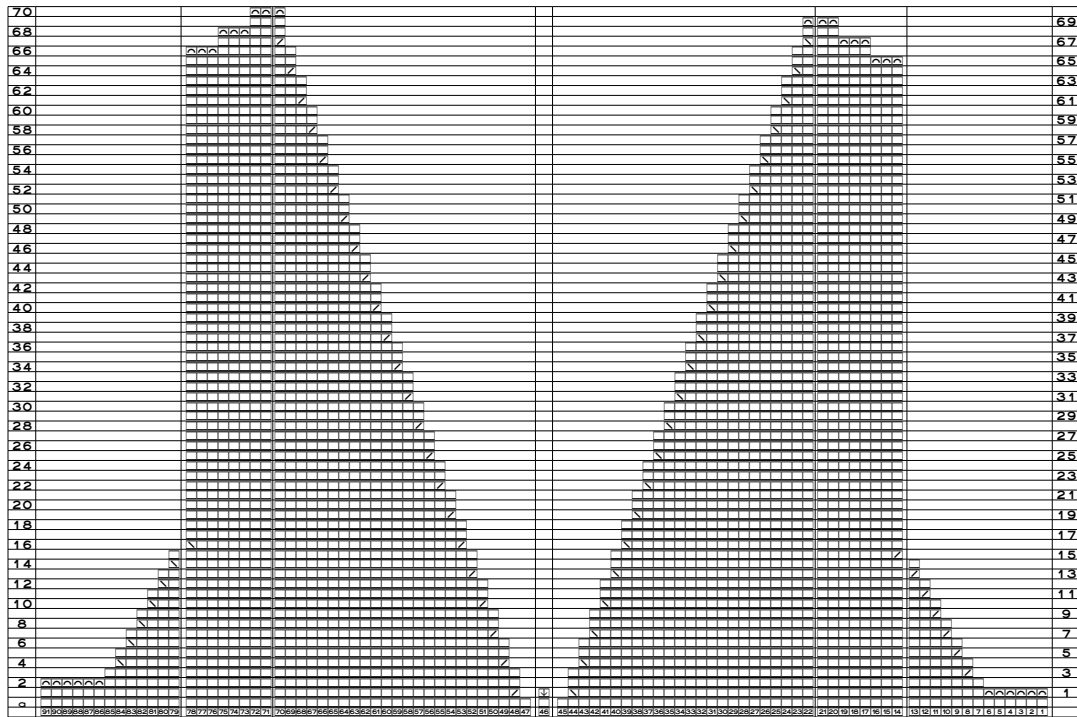




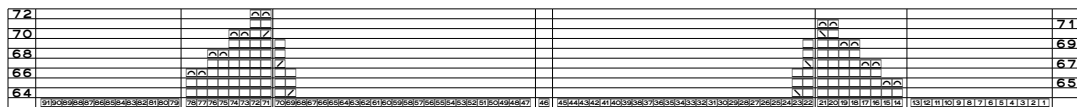
decreases every third row means we'll actually decrease only twenty-three stitches on each side. Close enough!

Note that in the next chart, four of the shoulder stitches on each side have been moved to the adjacent column containing the neck stitches. That change reflects the fact that we'll have four fewer stitches at the top of the shoulder and that we're decreasing more stitches along the neckline.

Also, we have to do directional purl decreases on private-side rows, as described in option two.



We could also change the shoulder shaping to bind off just two stitches at the beginning of each row, which would use exactly the eight stitches we have left and also fit perfectly in the original eight rows. Since we add those two rows back to the shoulder shaping, we also get to do the twenty-fourth decrease on each neck edge.

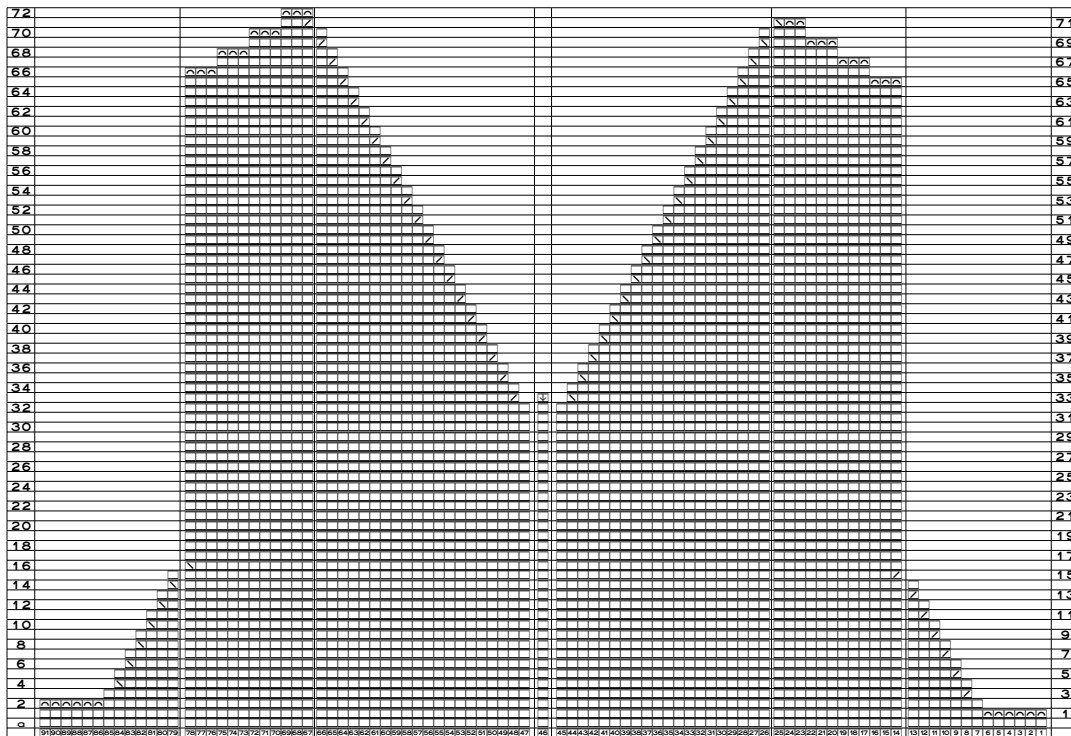


### *A Different Kind of Option: Start the V-Neck Decreases Later*

We could delay the V-neck's starting point so that it **ends** at the **last** shoulder row instead of

**starting** at the **first** armhole row. The designed twenty decreases every other row are completed in forty rows. So where do we begin the front neck decreases? Since the neck edge of the armhole will be seventy-two rows tall and the neck decreases use forty rows, we subtract forty rows from seventy-two rows, then add one to get the inclusive row number. We therefore start the neck decreases on armhole row thirty-three instead of armhole row one.

As in option one, we have to work an SSK as we bind off the final two stitches on the left shoulder.



However, the wearer's head may or may not fit through this raised neckline, especially after the neck ribbing is added.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> My imagination simply fails me in this situation.