

Chapter 19

THE BASIC VEST

Since part three is going to explain various types of charts showing multiple sizes at the same time, we need a basic design so we have real numbers to work with. A simple V-neck vest has armhole, neckline, and shoulder shaping, so we'll also get to handle the "AT THE SAME TIME" issue that comes up so often.

I designed this vest myself, so the six sizes given may or may not look so great if they were actually worked up. Note that I don't include instructions for the bottom ribbing or the finishing, because those portions of the vest would not be charted. The appendix "Garment Design Details" explains where all the numbers come from.

BASIC V-NECK VEST

Finished Chest Size: 36 (40, 44) [48, 52, 56] in (includes 2 in of ease)

Gauge: 5 sts = 1 in. Any row gauge is acceptable.

Note: Neckline and armhole openings are designed to have one inch of ribbing added in finishing.

Vest Back

CO 91 (101, 111) [121, 131, 141].

Having worked in stockinette to desired length to underarm, complete a WS row and turn to start a RS row.

Underarm Shaping

BO 6 (7, 8) [12, 15, 20] sts at beg of next 2 rows.

Dec or BO 1 (1, 2) [2, 2, 2] sts at beg of next 14 (14, 4) [6, 6, 6] rows.

Dec 0 (0, 1) [1, 1, 1] st at beg of next 0 (0, 10) [8, 8, 8] rows.

Work evenly on 65 (73, 77) [77, 81, 81] sts to 9 (9.5, 10) [10.5, 11, 11.5] inches above UA

BO (or to desired length) for armhole. Finished armholes will be 8 (8.5, 9) [9.5, 10, 10.5] inches deep after ribbing is added.

Shoulder Shaping

BO 3 sts at armhole end of next 6 rows.

BO 3 (3, 3) [3, 4, 4] sts at beg of next 2 rows.

BO 0 (3, 4) [4, 4, 4] sts at beg of next 2 rows.

Place rem 41 (43, 45) [45, 47, 47] on holder for back neck.

Vest Front

Work as for Back to underarm.

Underarm and V-Neck Shaping

Note: The UA and front neck shaping will begin on the same RS row. You will need to BO at the beg of the row, work to the center, put the center st on a holder, and either (1) start a second ball of yarn for the right front shoulder to work both sides at the same time, or (2) put the right front shoulder stitches on a holder, finish the left front shoulder completely, then join new yarn to work the right front shoulder.

Work UA BOs and decs as for Back, and AT THE SAME TIME, begin front neck shaping by putting center st on a holder and working each side of front neck with separate balls of yarn, either simultaneously or one at a time.

Dec one st at the neck edge on each RS row (including the one when the center st is put on a holder) 20 (21, 22) [22, 23, 23] times, until 12 (15, 16) [16, 17, 17] sts rem on each side of front neck.

Work evenly to same length from UA BO to beg of shoulder shaping as on Back.

Repeat shoulder shaping as for Back, working each front neck with a different ball of yarn and BO only at the armhole ends of the rows.

