

# BEGINNERS HOW TO... by Lidia Higson RO Co-ordinator

## 'V' NECKS and RAGLANS

'V' necks and Raglans can be treated in the same way as the technique is the same. Raglan also give a better fit on the shoulder as unlike drop shoulder or set in sleeve, it does not rely on the width of a person's shoulder, so the sleeve head falls over the shoulder naturally giving a better fit. Fully fashioned or fancy decreasing can also lift a plain garment and looks very neat. This is done by decreasing the stitches several needles in from the edge using the 2, 3 or 7 pronged tool.

## 'V' NECKS

### TIP

When you have knitted to the start of the 'V', before putting one side into hold, knit two rows over those stitches in WY, this stops the side from fluffing up. Fully fashioned decreasing (that is using a two or three pronged tool) gives a firmer finish and the neckband will sit better.

### Try this sample

Cast on 40 sts knit 20 rows. Divide for 'V' neck. On the first side do simple decreases using the one tool, e.g. one stitch every two rows until no stitches are left. On the other side use the three pronged tool. You will find that the fully fashioned side is a little shorter, firmer and slightly curved. This gives a better finish and the neck lies flatter on the body.

### MY FAVOURITE NECK BAND - FULL NEEDLE ON TOP BED

### TIP

Always cast off the back of the neck or if you use WY reduce the number of stitches by 4 for a child's, 6/8 for an adult by putting two stitches together when putting on the neckband.

Sew all pieces together. Estimate the stitches needed for half the neck (point to centre back)

Cast on using E-wrap or WY.

MT knit 2 rows

\*MT-1 decrease 1 stitch at front neck edge knit 2 rows (do this twice)\*

Repeat \* to \* for MT-2 & MT-3. Six decreases in all, 14 rows.

Knit 1 row T10 (fold line)

MT-3 knit 2 rows.

MT-3 increase 1 stitch knit 2 rows.

MT-2 increase 1 stitch knit 2 rows (Twice)

MT-1 increase 1 stitch knit 2 rows (twice)

MT increase 1 stitch knit 2 rows.

Six increases in all.

Make a hem, knit 1 row at MT. This gives a purl row on the right side.

Place neck to band (right side facing band), knit 1 row main tension if casting off behind the gate pegs, or T10 if latch tooling off.

When knitting the other half don't forget to do the shaping on the opposite side.



## RAGLANS

### TIP

There are numerous fancy raglans to try. Look out for them in patterns. You don't need to knit the garment, just pick out the raglan. Remember you can also use the same technique on a 'V' neck.

When shaping raglans, the rule to follow is; When decreasing 1 stitch knit 2 rows in between decreases, a 2 stitch decrease knit 4 rows and a 3 stitch decrease knit 6 rows.

Don't forget to take empty needles at edge out of work.

### A few fancy raglans for you to try.

This is a nice one for a man's garment, using the seven pronged tool.

### Feather

Start with all prongs in work and transfer stitches 1 to 7 onto needles 2 to 8. Knit 2 rows.

Reduce the number of prongs by 1 and continue to decrease 1 stitch every 2 rows until 2 prongs remain. Then go back to 7 prongs and repeat until all shaping is complete.

### Eyelet

Using a 3 pronged tool, transfer stitches 1, 2 & 3 onto needles 3, 4 & 5. Take empty needles to NWP. Transfer stitches 6, 7, & 8 to needles 7, 8 & 9, leave empty needles in WP. Knit 4 rows. Repeat to end.

**Small cable**

Set 7 pronged tool to | . | . | . | and transfer stitches 1, 3, 5, & 7 onto needles 3, 5, 7 & 9, (1 stitch decrease) knit 2 rows.

**Large cable**

Transfer stitches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 onto needles 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 (3 stitch decrease) Knit 6 rows.

**Cable and Lace**

Set the 7 pronged tool as | | . | . | transfer stitches 1, 2, 4 & 6 to needles 3, 4, 6 & 8. Knit 4 rows.

