

Modern Vintage Sweater



This is a slightly oversized cropped sweater. Ideally it should finish just at the level of the bones above your hips, just below the waist to create a modern fashionable look. Cables create a lovely slimming effect, so that your body looks great despite the comfy wideness of the sweater. This is further enhanced by a deep V-shaped neckline.

Techniques

I used a wide array of techniques to make this sweater:

- Cables are the accent of the model - there are 3 cables in front, creating a slimming effect, and only 2 on the back.
- Tubular/Italian cast on (you can use long tail instead, but tubular looks nicer on the ribbing, and will match the bind off for the neckline and sleeves).
- Short row shaping was used for shoulders, and for the neckline on the back. I made a video tutorial to explain it.
- Three-needle bind off for the shoulders.
- Picking up stitches for the neckline and sleeves. There is a video on that, too.
- Italian bind-off for ribbing on the neckline and sleeves.

Tools and materials

- Drops Nepal (65% wool, 35% alpaca, aran weight) yarn – 11 balls or 550g /19.36 oz of yarn (cca 825m/900yds) for size M. As a substitute I recommend other soft yarns medium weight yarns (#4) that have a bit of fluff. Mohair and angora blends will work well. You may use a lighter weight, but I do not recommend using yarn that is thicker than 82 yards (75 meters) per 50 grams (1.76 ounces).
- Needles - 5mm (US size 8) for the main part, 4mm (US size 6) for ribbing, or any other combination of sizes that would work with your yarn. The larger needle size should give you a soft fabric in stockinette stitch, and the smaller should be 2 sizes less to create a neat ribbing. I have used circular needles with for the whole project, as I usually do. The front and the back are worked separately and can be done on straight needles. You will need a circular needle for the neck opening edge and sleeves.
- Two extra needles to hold the shoulder stitches for the three-needle bind off.
- A cable needle.
- At least 3 stitch markers – preferably the safety-pin like ones that you can attach to a stitch rather than put on the needle.
- A wool needle to sew up the side seams and weave in the ends.

Abbreviations

dd – double decrease: slip 2 stitches together (as if to knit them together), knit the next stitch, pass slipped stitches over it and off the right needle

k – knit

k2tog – knit 2 stitches together

m1 – make 1: Insert the tip of the left-hand needle from the front to the back under the thread running between the previous end the next stitch. Knit this loop through the back to twist it

p – purl

PM – place marker

sl – slip

spp – slip the next stitch knitwise with yarn in the back, purl the following stitch, pass the slipped stitch over it

spyb – slip next stitch purlwise with yarn in back

spyf - slip next stitch purlwise with yarn in front

st - stitch

w&t – wrap and turn

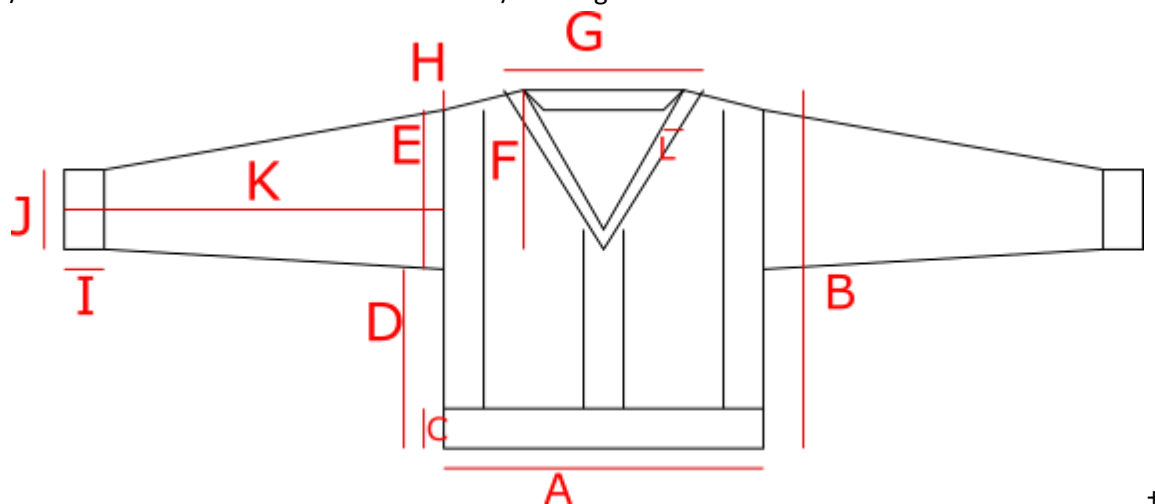
4/4 LC - slip 4 to cable needle and hold in front. Knit 4 then Knit 4 from cable needle

4/4 RC - slip 4 to cable needle and hold in back. Knit 4 then Knit 4 from cable needle.

Repeat instructions in () brackets until the end of the row/round, or as indicated.

Gauge and final measurements

Reverse stockinette stitch, 5mm needles - 13.2 sts x 20 rows - 10x10 cm (4x4 in), cable - 6cm /2.5in wide. I recommend making a large swatch, that would have a cable on one side, and at least 15 cm /6 in of stockinette wide and about 20cm/8in long.



The final measurements:

Measurement	SIZE	S-M
To fit chest measurement of	cm	85-90
	in	34-36
A Width	cm	50
	in	19
B Length from the highest shoulder point to the bottom	cm	47
	in	18.5
C Bottom ribbing height	cm	5
	in	2
D Distance from the bottom to sleeve opening	cm	23
	in	9
E Sleeve opening height	cm	18
	in	7
F Neck opening height from the point of dividing the front to highest shoulder point	cm	26
	in	10
G Neck opening width	cm	23
	in	9
H Shoulder shaping height	cm	3
	in	1.25
I Sleeve cuff length	cm	5
	in	2
J Sleeve width at the cuff	cm	8
	in	3
K Sleeve length (total)	cm	42
	in	16.5
L Neck opening edging width	cm	3
	in	1.25

Instructions

Back

Cast on 100 stitches using 4mm/US 6 needles and Italian cast onⁱ. Odd-numbered rows are always the right side.

Rows 1 and 2: (Sl 1 st purlwise with yarn in front, k1) – tubular ribbing used after Italian cast on.

Rows 3-14: (k1, p1)

Switch to 5mm /US 8 needles.

Row 15: p2, k16, p64, k16, p2

Row 16: k2, p16, k64, p16, k2

Row 17: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 left cable cross, p64, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2

Row 18: k2, p16, k64, p16, k2

Row 19: p2, k16, p64, k16, p2

Row 20: k2, p16, k64, p16, k2

Rows 21-106: repeat rows 15-20 fourteen more times, and then rows 19 and 20 once. ⁱⁱ

Next row is the first row of back neck and shoulder shaping. ⁱⁱⁱ See pages 8-9 for a chart. YouTube video showing the next few rows: <https://youtu.be/2jtCD2SmjUg>.

Row 107: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p63, w&t^{iv}

Row 108: k62, w&t

Row 109: p20, w&t

Row 110: k15, w&t

Row 111: p10, w&t

Row 112: k3, w&t

Row 113: p47 (lifting and purling together through the back loop the wraps as you come across them), w&t

Row 114: k15, w&t

Row 115: p8, w&t

Row 116: k3, w&t

Row 117: p 14 lifting and purling together through the back loop the wraps as you come across them, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2

Row 118: k2, p16, k64, lifting the rest of the lifts up, p16, k2

Break yarn, leaving the longish tail to weave in well. Transfer your stitches on an extra needle, do not bind off.

Front

Cast on 100 stitches using 4mm/US 6 needles.

Rows 1 and 2: (Sl 1 st purlwise with yarn in front, k1) – tubular ribbing used after Italian cast on.

Rows 3-14: (k1, p1)

Switch to 5mm/US 8 needles.

Row 15: p2, k16, (p6,m1) 3 times, p6 , k16, (p6,m1) 3 times, p6 , k16, p2 = 106 sts^v

Row 16: k2, p16, k27, p16, k27, p16, k2

Row 17: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p27, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p27, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2

Row 18: k2, p16, k27, p16, k27, p16, k2

Row 19: p2, k16, p27, k16, p27, k16, p2

Row 20: k2, p16, k27, p16, k27, p16, k2

Row 21: p2, k16, p27, k16, p27, k16, p2

Row 22: k2, p16, k27, p16, k27, p16, k2

Rows 23-52: Repeat rows 17-22 5 more times.^{vi} You should still have 106 stitches on your needles at this point.

Now you will separate the right and left half of the front to shape the V-neck. This video <https://youtu.be/9f01B-aSWgU> shows you how to do it (and how to afterwards pick up the stitches for the neck edging).

Row 53: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p27, 4/4 RC and 4/4 LC with bind off in the middle: put 4 stitches on the cable needle, place behind your work; knit 4 stitches from the main needle, then bind off 4 stitches from the cable needle, move next 4 stitches on the cable needle and place in front of your work, bind off next 4 stitches from the main needle, and the first stitch from the cable needle - you will now have 1 stitch after the bind off on your right needle- and knit next 3 stitches), p27, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2. You should now have 49 stitches on each side.

Transfer the stitches of the right half of the front on an extra needle, and work on the left half only for now.^{vii}:

Row 54: k2, p16, k27, p4 (49 sts)

Row 55: k1, dd, p27, k16, p2 (47 sts)

Row 56: k2, p16, k27, p2

Row 57: k2, p27, k16, p2

Row 58: k2, p16, k27, p2

Row 59: k1, spp, p26, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2 (46 sts)

Row 60: k2, p16, k26, p2

Row 61: k2, p26, k16, p2

Row 62: k2, p16, k26, p2

Row 63: k1, spp, p25, k16, p2 (45 sts)

Row 64: k2, p16, k25, p2

Row 65: k2, p25, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2

Row 66: k2, p16, k25, p2

Row 67: k1, spp, p24, k16, p2 (44 sts)

Row 68: k2, p16, k24, p2

Row 69: k2, p24, k16, p2

Row 70: k2, p16, k24, p2
Row 71: k1, spp, p23, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2 (43 sts)
Row 72: k2, p16, k23, p2
Row 73: k2, p23, k16, p2
Row 74: k2, p16, k23, p2
Row 75: k1, spp, p22, k16, p2 (42 sts)
Row 76: k2, p16, k22, p2
Row 77: k2, p22, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2
Row 78: k2, p16, k22, p2
Row 79: k1, spp, p21, k16, p2 (41sts)
Row 80: k2, p16, k21, p2
Row 81: k2, p21, k16, p2
Row 82: k2, p16, k21, p2
Row 83: k1, spp, p20, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2 (40 sts)
Row 84: k2, p16, k20, p2
Row 85: k2, p20, k16, p2
Row 86: k2, p16, k20, p2
Row 87: k1, spp, p19, k16, p2 (39 sts)
Row 88: k2, p16, k19, p2
Row 89: k2, p19, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2
Row 90: k2, p16, k19, p2
Row 91: k1, spp, p18, k16, p2 (38 sts)
Row 92: k2, p16, k18, p2
Row 93: k2, p18, k16, p2
Row 94: k2, p16, k18, p2
Row 95: k1, spp, p17, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2 (37 sts)
Row 96: k2, p16, k17, p2
Row 97: k2, p17, k16, p2
Row 98: k2, p16, k17, p2
Row 99: k1, spp, p16, k16, p2 (36 sts)
Row 100: k2, p16, k16, p2
Row 101: k2, p16, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2
Row 102: k2, p16, k16, p2
Row 103: k1, spp, p15, k16, p2 (35 sts)
Row 104: k2, p16, k15, p2
Row 105: k2, p15, k16, p2
Row 106: k2, p16, k15, p2

Start shaping the shoulder as follows:

Row 107: k1, spp, p13, w&t (34 sts)
Row 108: k13, p2
Row 109: k2, p 9, w&t
Row 110: k9 p2
Row 111: k1, spp, p4, w&t (33 sts)
Row 112: k4, p2
Row 113: k2, p13 lifting the wraps and purling them together with the stitch through the back loops,

4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p2

Row 114: k2, p16, k 13, p2

Transfer the stitches on an extra needle.

For the right half of the front, join the yarn in the middle of the front piece.

Row 54: p4, k27, p16, k2 (49 sts)

Row 55: p2, k16, p27, dd, k1 (47 sts)

Row 56: p2, k27, p16, k2

Row 57: p2, k16, p27, k2

Row 58: p2, k27, p16, k2

Row 59: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p26, k2tog, k1 (46 sts)

Row 60: p2, k26, p16, k2

Row 61: p2, k16, p26, k2

Row 62: p2, k26, p16, k2

Row 63: p2, k16, p25, k2tog, k1 (45 sts)

Row 64: p2, k25, p16, k2

Row 65: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p25, k2

Row 66: p2, k25, p16, k2

Row 67: p2, k16, p24, k2tog, k1 (44 sts)

Row 68: p2, k24, p16, k2

Row 69: p2, k16, p24, k2

Row 70: p2, k24, p16, k2

Row 71: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p23, k2tog, k1 (43 sts)

Row 72: p2, k23, p16, k2

Row 73: p2, k16, p23, k2

Row 74: p2, k23, p16, k2

Row 75: p2, k16, p22, k2tog, k1 (42 sts)

Row 76: p2, k22, p16, k2

Row 77: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p22, k2

Row 78: p2, k22, p16, k2

Row 79: p2, k16, p21, k2tog, k1 (41 sts)

Row 80: p2, k21, p16, k2

Row 81: p2, k16, p21, k2

Row 82: p2, k21, p16, k2

Row 83: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p20, k2tog, k1 (40 sts)

Row 84: p2, k20, p16, k2

Row 85: p2, k16, p20, k2

Row 86: p2, k20, p16, k2

Row 87: p2, k16, p19, k2tog, k1 (39 sts)

Row 88: p2, k19, p16, k2

Row 89: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p19, k2

Row 90: p2, k19, p16, k2

Row 91: p2, k16, p18, k2tog, k1 (38 sts)

Row 92: p2, k18, p16, k2

Row 93: p2, k16, p18, k2

Row 94: p2, k18, p16, k2

Row 95: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p17, k2tog, k1 (37 sts)

Row 96: p2, k17, p16, k2
Row 97: p2, k16, p17, k2
Row 98: p2, k17, p16, k2
Row 99: p2, k16, p16, k2tog, k1 (36 sts)
Row 100: p2, k16, p16, k2
Row 101: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p16, k2
Row 102: p2, k16, p16, k2
Row 103: p2, k16, p15, k2tog, k1 (35 sts)
Row 104: p2, k15, p16, k2
Row 105: p2, k16, p15, k2
Row 106: p2, k15, p16, k2

Start shaping the shoulder as follows:

Row 107: p2, 4/4 RC, 4/4 LC, p14, k2tog, k1 (34 sts)
Row 108: p2, k13, w&t
Row 109: p13, k2
Row 110: p2; k9, w&t
Row 111: p8, k2tog, k1 (33 sts)
Row 112: p2, k4, w&t
Row 113: p4, k2
Row 114: p2, k 15, lifting wraps, p16, k2

Short row charts

On the following page you will find the charts to help you understand the short row shaping. Like regular knitting charts, the odd rows are read from right to left, and the even rows from left to right. Please, pay attention to the fact, that knit/purl instructions are written as they are, you do not need to convert knit to purl and vice versa on even rows.

Joining the back and the front

Put together the front and the back with the right sides facing, and the back piece on top, closer to you. Bind off the shoulder stitches using 3-needle bind off and the working yarn from the front piece, then bind off the neck stitches of the back regularly, then bind off the shoulder stitches using 3-needle bind off.

Neck edging

Using 4mm/US 6 needles, with right side facing, pick up and knit stitches moving clockwise alongside the neck opening, starting from the back: 35 for the back, 1 in the seam between the back and the front - PM 1, 51 for the right front (roughly picking up 4 stitches for 5 rows), 1 st in the middle of the central cable - PM2, 51 for the left front, and 1 st between front and back - PM3 (140 sts). Work in the round.^{viii}

I recommend marking the corner stitches themselves – the ones in the seams and between the cable twists (for example, by closing a safety pin around one leg of the stitch, rather than placing markers on your needles, as they will be getting in the way with decreases, and you will need to fiddle and move them around.

The second part of this video (minute 24 onwards) <https://youtu.be/9f01B-aSWgU> shows how to pick up the stitches for the neck opening.

Round 1: (p1, k1)

Round 2: (p1, k1) until 1 st before M1, dd, (k1, p1) until 1 st before M2, dd, (k1, p1) until 1 st before M3, dd (134 sts)

Round 3: (k1, p1) until 1 st before M1, k3, (p1, k1) until 2sts before M 2, p1, dd, (p1, k1) until 2sts before M3, p1, k3. (132 sts)

Round 4: (p1, k1) until 2 sts before M1, p1, dd, (p1, k1) until 1 st before M2, dd, (k1, p1) until 1 st before M3, dd (126 sts)

Round 5: (p1, k1) until 2sts before M 2, p1, dd, (p1, k1) until M3, (124 sts)

Round 6: (p1, k1) until 1 st before M1, dd, (k1, p1) until 2 sts before M2, k1, dd, (k1, p1) until 1 st before M3, dd (118 sts)

Row 7: (k1, spyf1) until 1 st before M1, dd, (spyf1, k1) until 2 sts before M2, spyf, dd, (spyf1, k1) until 2 sts before M3, dd (112 sts)

Row 8: (p1, spyb)

Bind off using tubular bind off.

Sleeves (make 2)

Sew the side seams up to approximately 23cm/9 in, from the cast on, leaving the opening for the sleeves.

With right side facing, starting at the side seam (underarm) and using 5mm/US 8 needle pick up 76 stitches along the opening (38 for front, and 38 for back, approximately 3 stitches for 4 rows)^{ix}. Work in the round.

Rounds 1-5: purl every stitch.

Round 6: p1, p2tog, p until the last 3 sts of the round, p2tog, p1 (74 sts)

Rounds 7-78: repeat rounds 1-6 13 times. You will end up with a total of 50 sts.

Rounds 79-83: p all sts

Round 84: (p3; p2tog) (40 sts)

Switch to 4mm/US 6 needle.

Rounds 85-96: (k1, p1)

Round 97: (k1, spyf1)

Round 98: (spyb1, p1)

Bind off using tubular bind off.

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Ravelry designer's page – [Leyla Alieva](https://www.ravelry.com/designers/leyla-alieva)

You can tag your social media posts about this sweater with [#leylas_modernvintage](https://twitter.com/leylas_modernvintage)

Notes on adapting the pattern to your dimensions, yarn and gauge.

ⁱ To calculate the number of stitches to cast on for the back, take your desired width (your chest measurement divided by 2 plus + 15-17 cm for oversized fit). My chest is 90 cm. So $90/2+17=62$ cm. You then deduct from that number, the width of your cable 2 times: my cable comes out 6cm wide, so $62-6\times 2=50$. Multiply that by number of stitches in your stockinette stitch gauge per cm: $50\times 1.32=66$. Add to that 34 (16 sts per cable + 2 stitches for edges), and you have the number of stitches to cast on.

ⁱⁱ By now, your back should be the desired length minus the height of 8 rows, so if your gauge is different or you would like a longer or a shorter sweater, add or reduce the number of vertical repeats.

ⁱⁱⁱ This is based on the calculation that the shoulder seams should take $2+16+15=33$ sts each, and the back neck shaping is 34 stitches. You may do some math to calculate the short row shaping differently. Your shoulder shaping should be about 3 cm vertically, so you may need to adjust the number of rows and turning points. The idea is to divide the shoulder stitches into 4 sections (cable + 3 equal ones on the rest of the stitches) and leave unworked one additional section with each wrap and turn. For the neck shaping, I divided the stitches roughly into 4 parts, making 1 wrap & turn point, 1/4 of stitches into the neck, and then at the line separating the neck and the shoulder. The chart should also help you understand how this works and how to make adjustments.

^{iv} There is a video I made here to show you this part.

^v You are adding stitches at this point because unlike the back, there are 3 cables in front. The 3rd cable will make the front narrower, so we need to add stitches to compensate and make sure that the front is the same width as the back. To calculate the total number of stitches to add, measure how many stitches in stockinette stitch correspond to the width of your cable, subtract 16 from that number, and round up to an even number. Increase half of the stitches on one side, and half on the other.

^{vi} If you have adjusted the length of the back, adjust the number of vertical repeats for the front at this stage accordingly. So, if you made a total of 14 repeats for the back and not 13, make 6 repeats and not 5 for the front. If your gauge is different than mine, use the finished measurements to guide you.

^{vii} After the initial double decrease, I am going to decrease 1 stitch every 4th row for to create the V-shaped neckline. To calculate your decrease rhythm, you need to find out how many stitches you need to decrease to arrive at the desired shoulder width, and how many rows you will be working for, distributing the decreases evenly.

^{viii} You need to make sure that your horizontal and vertical gauge relation is the same as mine for the above numbers to work. To make sure you pick up correct number of stitches along the front, stretch your ribbing at the bottom of the piece slightly, and measure the number of stitches per 10cm. Then, using a tape measure, find out the length of the front neckline, and calculate the number of the stitches you need. Make sure you pick up odd number of stitches. For your first round of ribbing, make sure that the corner stitches (the ones after the marker) are knit stitches. In the following rows, you need to decrease the two stitches around the marked one every round for the bottom of the v-neck, and every other round for the corners between the front and the back.

^{ix} For a different gauge, calculate the number of stitches for the width of the opening x 2. Decrease 2 stitches every 6th row until desired length of sleeve less the length of cuff. Decrease the extra stitches to get the desired cuff width in the last round before ribbing.