
Knit a Seamless Pullover with Norah Gaughan

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(bright music) - Hi, I'm Norah Gaughan. I'm a knitwear designer and teacher. I'm also the author of *Knitting Nature*. When I wrote that book, I designed a lot of things with geometric shapes, and I still love the concept. The pullover we're doing today is constructed from six obtuse triangles. We'll talk a little bit about working with a ribbon yarn. The sweater starts out being knit flat, and then the pieces are combined and worked in the round. Along the way, we'll be working with a small lace chart, and we'll do a cable join at the shoulder. This is a really interesting pullover to knit, and you'll find it works up quickly. When you're done, you have a great layering piece. (bright music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- For this pullover, you'll need some basic knitting materials. You can use any yarn that has a gauge of about four stitches to the inch. I've used a ribbon yarn that's made of all linen. It's Quince Kestrel. The sample pullover is a size small. It's about 20 inches wide and 24 inches long, and I used eight hanks of this yarn for that pullover. I've given you a formula in your PDF for how many hanks of this yarn you'll need for your size. You'll use size 10 knitting needles with a very long cord. This one is about 32 inches long, and it's really handy to have more than one of them so that you can have the body on one while you're working on the sleeve of another. You'll need scissors, tape to mark the chart, that's removable tape. I found it really handy to use the cords from interchangeable needles as holders because we're holding a lot of stitches. Tapestry needle, some safety pins or paperclips to use as markers that you can move. You want a variety of stitch markers that you put between stitches, and lastly, you'll want to print out your chart from the PDF.

Chapter 3 - Make Front Top and Back Top

Cast on and start front top

- Before you get started with the sweater, I want to talk a little bit about gauge. It's really important to do a gauge swatch first so you know what the fabric will be like and that your piece will fit you. So make a gauge swatch of about 20 stitches, maybe bigger. I've made a gauge swatch that's 27 stitches wide, and I've put most of the chart on there, too, but you can just do stockinette stitch. When you've finished your swatch, it's important for you to treat it like you'll treat the sweater, so I washed this swatch before I measured it because the fabric changes quite a bit, especially the linen relaxes a lot. The gauge that you want to get is four stitches to the inch. Once you have the gauge and you've determined you have the right needle size, you'll want to cast on. We'll cast on 13 stitches, and that will be here. Down and around, 13 that starts the base of each of these triangles. I've wound my hank into balls, and using a long tail cast on, we're going to cast on 13 stitches. This is a long needle, but it's going to pay off later. The first row is just purl. On row two, we're going to start to make our eyelets out of yarn overs. First we knit three, and then I want to make a yarn over, which means I bring the yarn towards the front and over the needle to the back. Knit one, make another yarn over to the front and over to the back. Then I'm going to knit two, yarn over, knit one, yarn over, knit two, yarn over, knit one, yarn over, and knit the last three. I purl back on the wrong side row. You treat those yarn overs just like any other stitch. On this next right side row, I not only

do the yarn overs as increases, but I put in some make ones. We start out with knit three. Yarn over, knit one. Now I'm going to make one right. We pick up this bar, put it on the left-hand needle, and then knit into it. I'm going to knit one. Now I want to make one left, so I pick up the bar, and put it on. This time it's sort of on the needle the other direction, and we knit into the back of it. And that's a make one left because it slants to the left. Knit one, yarn over, knit two. Yarn over, knit one, I'm going to make one right. Knit one, make one left. I think this might be the hardest row in your sweater. Gets easier. Knit one, yarn over, knit two, yarn over, knit one. Make one right. Knit one. Make one left. Knit one, yarn over. Knit three, and you purl back. On the next row, Row 6, the only increases are the eyelet increases, the yarn overs. There aren't any make one rights or lefts. The make one rights and lefts are actually gonna happen every other right side row. This is a super easy row. You knit three. Yarn over, knit seven. Yarn over. Knit two, yarn over, knit seven. Yarn over, knit two, yarn over, knit seven. Yarn over, and knit three. And we'll just purl back. When we take a look at this, you'll notice that we started to grow three sections, that we have a triangle growing in here, and in here, and in here. And on the next row I'm going to put markers between the sections. I'm going to put a marker there and there. I can't put them in now 'cause I'm going to use the ones that you just slip on the needle and not the ones that clip. Knit three. Yarn over, knit two, and now this is the row where we're putting the make one increases in. So we'll pick up the bar, make a make one right. One, two, three, four, five. I'm going until I have two more left before my eyelet, but that was knit five. And then I make one left. Knit two, yarn over, knit one, and that's where I want my marker. Knit one, yarn over, knit two. Make one right. Try not to split the stitch. One, two, three, four, five, make one left. Knit two. Whoops, there we go, splitting the stitch again. This happens sometimes with ribbon yarn. You'll catch it with a sharp needle. But just back it out and start again. Yarn over, knit one. Time to place the second marker. Knit one, yarn over, knit two, make one right. One, two, three, four, five, make one left. One, two, yarn over, and end with knit three. To complete Row 9, we just purl back.

Continue front top, working the chart

- On row 10, we're gonna start to work a little eyelet chart in the middle of each of our triangles. If you haven't worked a chart before, you'll wanna know a few basics, like each of these rectangles equals one knitting stitch. And when you come to a symbol, you'll look over at the key to figure out what it means. So this symbol, and look over here, is knit two together. And the next symbol, the big circle is a yarn over. I've numbered each right side row over here on the right. And that means that the row starts on the right and goes to the left. I haven't put too many numbers on the wrong side rows, except the last row is numbered 33, but these numbers should keep you going. We're gonna start row 10, it's knit three, yarn over, knit one. Then I want to place a marker that's gonna show me where the chart is going to begin. So I'm using a different color than I did before, so I can tell the difference between these markers I put in already and the new ones. So I put in that marker and now we'll start the chart. Knit four, knit two together and yarn over, and then knit five. That ends the chart, but I have one more to knit, you'll see that's the one that's over the yarn over. I do yarn over and I knit one. Slip that marker that's between, so then knit one, yarn over, knit one, put the marker in that starts the beginning of the chart. One, two, three, four knits. Knit two together, yarn over. Now I'm basically going to knit to one stitch before this marker to put my yarn over and that's another way to think of it. One, two, three, six in this case. Yarn over, knit one, slip that marker knit one, yarn over, knit one and put this marker in. Looking at that chart I'm knitting four, one, two, three, four, knit two together, yarn over, two, three, four. Now I'm knitting to the last three stitches

and that's where I put in the yarn over, knit the last three. And the wrong side row is once again a pearl row, so you just pearl back. We're ready to work row 12 of the chart, so I want to move my tape up so it's under the row I'm about to work. We'll knit three, yarn over, knit two, make one right. Now when we come to the marker that starts the chart, we slip the marker and start reading the chart. Knit three, knit two together, yarn over, knit one, yarn over. Here's a new symbol, slip slip knit, here it is over on the key, s s k. To do slip slip knit, you insert your right-hand needle as if to knit, slip it off, do that again with a second stitch, put the left-hand needle back in through both of them and then wrap the yarn around as if to knit and pull it through as if to knit. And then you have the slip slip knit, which makes a decrease that goes from right to left and it's the opposite of the knit two together decrease. And now we knit until there are three stitches left before the marker, the one that separates the different segments. So there we are. And we're gonna make one left, knit two, yarn over, knit one and slip the marker. Knit one, yarn over, knit two, make one right, slip the marker, do the chart, knit three, knit two together, yarn over, knit one, yarn over, slip slip knit, knit until we have three before that marker, make one left, knit two, yarn over, knit one, slip the marker, knit one, yarn over, knit two, make one right, slip the marker, read the chart, knit three, knit two together, yarn over, knit one, yarn over, slip slip knit. Now we're gonna knit until we're five from the end, that's one more, make one left, knit two, yarn over and finish up with knit three. Now you'll notice that the ribbon has started to twist a bit. I just run my finger along it and kind of push the twist towards the end of the ball. But that's all you have to worry about. You'll pearl back on the wrong side row, just like you have been. We're going to be alternating right side rows that have the make one increases and those that don't. So row 14 is one that doesn't and that's the row we're about to start. Row 14 starts with knit three, yarn over, then we can just knit straight to the marker that starts the chart. Slip the marker, read the chart which is knit two, knit two together, yarn over, knit three, yarn over, slip slip knit. Now we're gonna knit until we have one stitch before this next marker. And just so you can read your knitting, you'll see that the stitch we're stopping at was the yarn over of the row below and now we're about to knit another yarn over. So work that yarn over, knit one, and slip the marker, knit one, yarn over, knit to this marker that marks the chart. Slip the marker and work the chart. Knit two, knit two together, yarn over, knit three, yarn over, slip slip knit, knit to we have one before the marker. That's where we put the yarn over, knit one, slip the marker, knit one, yarn over, knit to this marker. Slip it. Knit two, knit two together, yarn over, knit three, yarn over, slip slip knit. And now we're gonna knit until we have three left, to those three edge stitches. Put in a yarn over and knit three. We're going to pearl back. On right side rows, continue to alternate which ones have the make one increases and which ones don't and at the same time, work through the chart. Row 26 has a new symbol which I'm gonna teach you when we get there.

Finish the front top and make back top

- Row 25 is complete and now it's time to work row 26 and that's the row that has the new symbol, knit three together. Start with knit three as we have been, yarn over and now I can tell by looking that this is a row that does not have make one increase, so we'll just knit across. And then we'll slip the marker, that designates the start of the chart. So then we'll have one, two, three, four knits, yarn over and here's our knit three together. Go clear over to the left of the third stitch and put your needle through all three of them and pull through, and that's the knit three together. So we yarn over, and knit until we're close to the next marker. Now one stitch before the next marker, we yarn over, knit one, slip marker, knit one, yarn over, and work your way over to the start of the chart again. Four knits before we have that yarn over, one, two, three, four, yarn over and another knit

three together. Yarn over, and knit to one stitch before the next marker. Yarn over, knit one, slip the marker, knit one, yarn over, knit to the beginning of the chart. So we're at the beginning of that chart, we slip that marker, knit four, yarn over, knit three together, yarn over, and knit to the last three stitches. Pearl back as normal, and then you keep going finishing the chart, and remembering to do the make one increases every fourth row, you keep going like this until row 38 is complete. So here I have a piece where row 38 is complete, and I've got the neck depth that I want. This part, the cast on, is going to be folded in half like this, and sewn together later. So I'm measuring from here to here, and this has a neck depth of nine inches. If you want more, you have to add in four row increments. When this piece is complete, and you've got the neck depth that you want, you make another piece identical to it for the back, the back is identical to the front. And then we're gonna join the two pieces.

Chapter 4 - Finish Constructing Center

Join the back and front and work shoulder

- Let me show you where we are right now on the sweater. We've worked all the front to here, and we've done the same with the back. So we're ready to join them and do the little cable join on the shoulder. I have the front and the back pieces here, both done to row 38, both identical and on the right size needle. So I'm going to start to join them. Work with this needle. And at the same time, I'm also out of yarn, so I need to join a new ball of yarn. So I have the two yarns overlapped and I'm going to knit them together for one stitch, and then drop that end and keep going. Now, I'm going to knit these three, and because this is the shoulder, it's no longer going to have these increases. But on this particular row, it's just going to go straight. And I'm just going to knit until I get to the part where I make the yarn over increases. Those increases are going to continue as we have been doing them. So I can tell it's been four rows since I did the make one, so I'll be doing the make one three from the marker. And the yarn over that I need every right side row. So all this is ridiculously boring until I get to the next shoulder. So I'm at the end of the third triangle of the back. I'm at the other shoulder. I don't want to do the increase, but I work up to the last three stitches, and now I'm going to do that join with the first three stitches of the front. So I'll hold these three stitches from the back in back of the first three stitches from the front, and I'm going to work one stitch off of each needle together. So first through the first one on the front needle and then the back one. Work them through and slide them off. Now that's a little loose because I've cut the thread there, so I'm going to pull that up and do that again with the next two stitches. Through the one in the back, through the one in the front, and slide off. It's a little awkward, but it's worth it. Through the one in the front, through the one in the back, pull through. And now you'll see I've overlapped those two and worked those three and those three together. They're just three there. And I need to place a marker on those, so I'm gonna use a safety pin to mark those are the three shoulder stitches. Now we're gonna work our way across in pattern with the increases like we had established until I reach the first shoulder, and then I'm gonna join that one. I'm up to the last three stitches of my front, and I wanna do the shoulder join. This time I want these three stitches to be held in front. So I'm going to slip them onto this needle and then back onto my other needle so that I can hold them in front. Again, a little awkward. So we'll go through this stitch in the front needle, this stitch in the back needle. This time remember we joined a yarn, so it looks like two stitches. Go through and pull that all off. And again the first one there and the first one there, pull it through, slide it off. And we're onto the last one. I have that second shoulder joined, and I wanna mark this shoulder as well. Because it's the beginning of the round, I wanna mark it with a different color. So I'm going to use a paperclip this

time. And mark these three stitches. So when I see this red, I'll always know I'm at the beginning of a round. The next round will be knit all the way around. It's the equivalent of the purl row that we did when we were working back and forth. Knitting the three marked stitches, and I'm ready for my decrease row. Or as I call it, a dec row. So we're going to knit two together right after the marked three stitches. And then continue around, just like we have been before with the increases that you would normally expect between the triangles. So we have to go through all three triangles before we get to the other shoulder, and we're gonna decrease there as well. So I'm just checking, the last time we had a right side row I worked the make one, so this right side row I don't want to work a make one. Well I'm thinking of it as a right side row. They're all right side rows now, but on those increase rows. So I'm just going to work to one stitch before the marker, yarn over, knit one, slip marker, knit one, yarn over, and keep going to the next marker. I am one stitch before the marker, so I'm gonna yarn over, knit one, slip the marker, knit one, and yarn over. Now I knit until I'm two stitches before the shoulder marker, slip slip knit on this side, knit the marked three, and knit two together on this side. I've knit to one stitch before the marker so it's time for a yarn over, knit one, slip the marker, knit one, yarn over, knit 'til we're one away from the next marker. One stitch away from the marker I do a yarn over, knit one, slip the marker, knit one, yarn over, knit until we're two stitches away from the shoulder marker. Okay, those are the three marked stitches, two away slip slip knit to make this decrease. Knit the three marked stitches and that dec row is complete. You're going to alternate plain knit rows with the dec row that you've just done remembering to alternate the right side rows with just yarn overs and make ones on the edges of the triangles. So you're gonna alternate those rows until you have the number of stitches you want for your full width of the sweater. Now you will have calculated that because you know what width you want the sweater, you multiply it times the gauge of four stitches to the inch. My sweater is 20 inches across, so I wanted 80 stitches. It turns out you need an odd number, so I chose between 79 and 81 and decided that it's 81 stitches I want across.

Finish sleeves and body

- [Instructor] The shoulder segment is now complete and we're ready to divide for two sleeves and the body. This segment is done. We're ready to work this sleeve and put the body stitches on a holder, and the other sleeve on a holder. The last round I knit was a decrease round. So this round is just a knit. I'm going to knit until the first marker. This part that we're doing now is going to be part of the first sleeve, the one that we're going to be working on. When I get to the marker, I don't have to worry at all about increases anymore, that is over. Now that I've reached the marker, I can just get rid of it. I can drop it, I'm not going to need it anymore. My favorite kind of holder is this interchangeable needle. It's got a cord that can attach to any kind of needle end and also you can put a holder end on the end. So it's very easy to take the needle and slip all these stitches onto the cord. These are the stitches from marker to marker across the front. So I have 81 stitches that I'm going to slip onto this holder for the front. Later we're going to put the back stitches on here as well. After we get the other sleeve on another holder. Now that I have the 81 stitches from the front on this holder, I'm going to start a new holder and put the sleeve stitches on. So it'll be from the point I just ended to the shoulder and then back down to the next marker. Okay, we're to that marker. Take it out. Now don't lose those. These are the stitches we need for the second sleeve. And I can just take the needle end off and cap it off with a little plastic end. Now that I have all the sleeve stitches on a holder, I can go back to the body holder and put the next group of stitches, from marker to marker, on there, because these are the back stitches. When you knit these stitches off

this holder, you're going to be joining the front and the back, and it'll all be one circle. The body will be one circle. That completes the back stitches. And we'll cap that one off. Now the stitches that are left on my needle, that's all one sleeve. I'm going to start working around doing the sleeve and the decreases at the shoulder. The next round is a decrease round. We knit two together for the first two stitches after those marked stitches. And then knit all the way around till we're two stitches before the marked stitches. Now I'm two stitches before those marked stitches and we'll slip slip knit. Knit the three more stitches, and that completes the dec round. We'll repeat that dec round every round, no plain ones in-between, 31 more times. So you would have worked that 32 times. I have one ready here, where I have finished this sleeve up to that point. I've changed to smaller needles, because at some point during all of this decreasing, it became too small to go all the way around 32 inches. So I have shorter needles now. I've finished all 32 decrease rows. And now I'm ready to put a little finishing on the end of my sleeve. I'm going to do one round of perl. That's going to be followed by a round of knitting and binding off at the same time. It's kind of exciting at this time because the round is going so much faster. Now I've perled all the way around. And I'll be binding off. So we'll knit one, knit a second one, and pull the first one over the second one. Then you knit one, pass over, you don't do that though, do that over. Knit one, pass over, and keep doing that. Knit one, pass over, knit one, pass over, all the way around. I've gone all the way around, and now I want to cut the yarn off, leaving a six to eight inch end. And I'm going to pull that end through the last loop to finish it off. When we weave the end in, we're going to get those to join together nicely. I want to get it back through there, a little tight. Now I want to close that hole up a little from the wrong side. While you're weaving that around, you always have to kind of mess around here at the end. There's no exact science. And then I'm just going to weave that in and out for a couple stitches. And then back the other direction. That will help keep it from pulling out. And clip the end off. There, looks good on that side. You're going to do exactly the same thing for the second sleeve, working 32 dec rounds, and then the perl round and bind off round. After you've finished that, you go to the remaining stitches, which are the body stitches. You just knit around and around until you reach your finished length. Then you'll put a perl row and a bind off row on that.

Sew center seams and finish

- The very last thing we have to do on this sweater is to sew together those cast-on edges. They get folded in half and then woven together. First, you're going to look for where the stitch comes together in a V. That's on the opposite side from where the end comes up. And I'm going to take what comes up to that, so actually the V on the stitch before it. And then go over here and find the same thing, where these two stitches come together in a V. It's a little harder always on the end. So it's easier to look at the next stitch in. Just to reinforce looking for the V, see how the top of the stitches round at the bottom, these two come together and they form a V. So that's what I'm going in for. Pull over here. And maybe I'm being a bit particular about this, probably don't have to be quite as careful. Let me get my hand underneath. It's gonna help me out. Here's the V. V over there. And I've pretty much come to the end. I have one in the center. I can make that a little bit neater by pulling these up. The other thing I could do is just pull on the yarn. Let's do both and you can see what it's like. So you could leave it woven like that, or you can just pull up tight, which is what I did on the other side. Now you've got a neat looking seam. Bring the yarn to the other side. And then you're gonna weave it in. So since there's a bit of a seam there, that seems like the easy place to weave it in and out of. You don't have to be exact, it just hides it nicely. And then like we did before, when we're weaving in ends. Let's go back a few stitches the other direction. And then, clip it off.

Now you're going to do exactly the same thing to the little seam in the other side. And look, you've completed this great modern sweater! You can wear this layered in the spring or even knit it in wool for the fall. You'll find that this piece is really versatile. I think you're really gonna like this one.