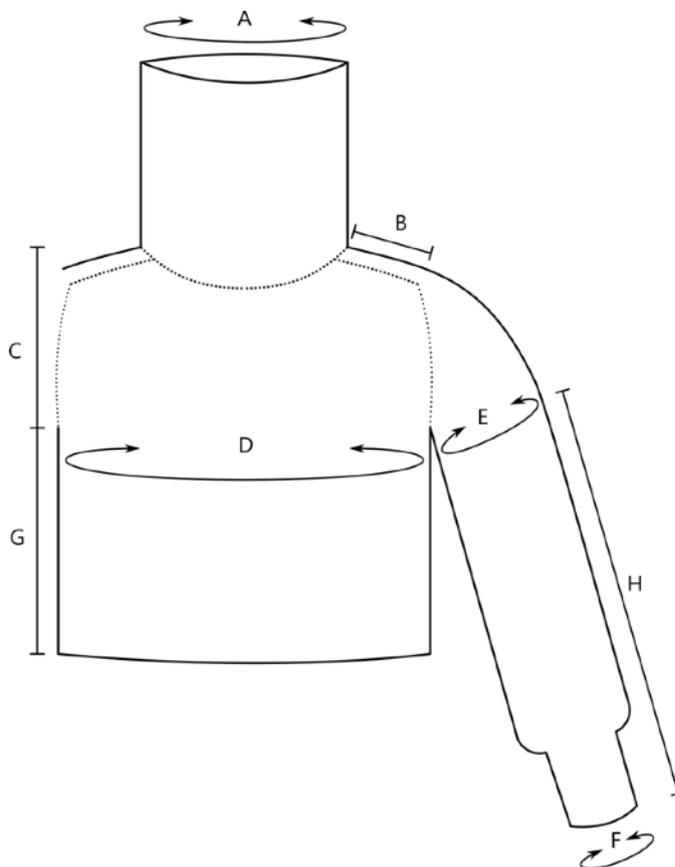


# VERSAL

by Ailbína McLochlainn

A basic pullover with saddle shoulder construction, Versal is designed with ease and versatility in mind. Select your preferred fit, bodice length, and neck treatment, for a sweater that suits your personal style and use-case scenario. The DK-to-Aran-weight gauge makes Versal a quick knit, and you might find yourself returning to this pattern for multiple iterations of a classic wardrobe staple. Try it with a high or a low neck option. Try it with some of the modifications suggested. Try it in a rustic wool for winter, in a linen blend for summer, or even in colourful sock yarn held double. The possibilities are what makes this pattern versatile and universal.



## MEASUREMENTS

Size 1 (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

Finished garment measures as follows:

### A. Neck Opening:

46cm/ 16.75" (48cm/ 17.5", 50cm/ 18.25", 52cm/ 19", 52cm/ 19", 54cm/ 19.75", 54cm/ 19.75", 56cm/ 20.25")

### B. Shoulder Length:

4.5cm/ 1.75" (4.5cm/ 1.75", 5cm/ 2", 6cm/ 2.5", 6cm/ 2.5", 7cm/ 2.75", 7cm/ 2.75", 7cm/ 2.75")

### C. Yoke Depth:

20cm/ 8" (22cm/ 8.75", 24cm/ 9.5", 26cm/ 10.5", 28cm/ 11.25", 30cm/ 12", 31cm/ 12.5", 33cm/ 13.25")

### D. Bodice Circumference:

85cm/ 34" (91cm/ 36.5", 98cm/ 39", 105cm/ 42", 115cm/ 46", 126cm/ 50.5", 138cm/ 55", 154cm/ 62")

### E. Sleeve Circumference:

29cm/ 11" (30cm/ 12", 32cm/ 13", 34.5cm/ 13.75", 39cm/ 15.5", 42cm/ 17", 45.5cm/ 18.25", 50cm/ 20")

### F. Cuff Circumference:

20cm/ 8" (20cm/ 8", 22cm/ 8.75", 22cm/ 8.75", 23.5cm/ 9.5", 23.5cm/ 9.5", 25.5cm/ 10.25", 27.5cm/ 11")

### G. Bodice Length from Underarm:

30cm/ 12"

### H. Sleeve Length from Underarm:

47cm/ 18.75"

## FIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Referring to Measurement D above, select a size with your preferred amount of ease around the chest, according to preference.

For a figure-hugging fit, select size with less than 5cm (2") of ease.

For a standard fit, select size with 5cm (2") - 10cm (4") of ease.

For a relaxed fit, select size with at least 10cm (4") of ease.

For half-sizes, or a size larger than Size 8: Change gauge to 17 sts/ 10cm (4") and follow instructions for the *smaller* or the two sizes.

For half-sizes, or a size smaller than Size 1: Change gauge to 19 sts/ 10cm (4") and follow instructions for the *larger* or the two sizes.

To alter the proportions of this sweater: See Appendix for modification suggestions.

## MATERIALS & INFORMATION

### Yarn

suitable for DK to Aran weight yarns (150-200m/ 100g)  
requires approximately 5 (5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 7, 7) 100g skeins

### Gauge

18 sts x 24 rounds = 10cm/ 4" x 10cm/ 4" in stockinette, for main fabric  
22 sts x 29 rounds = 10cm/ 4" x 10cm/ 4" in double rib (blocked open), for edgings

### Needles

**Needle A:** circular needle, 4.5mm (US 7) in diameter,  
or as needed to meet gauge for main fabric  
**Needle B:** circular needle, 3.00mm (US 3) in diameter,  
or as needed to meet gauge for edgings

### Notions

stitch markers, tapestry needle, scrap yarn, measuring tape

### Special Techniques

short rows, provisional cast-on

## ABBREVIATIONS

K = knit

K2Tog = K 2 sts together

M1L = make 1 left

M1R = make 1 right

P = purl

PM = place marker

RS = right side of work

SKP = slip 1, K1, pass the slipped st over

SLM(s) = slip(ping) marker(s)

St(s) = stitch(es)

WS = wrong side of work

W&T = wrap and turn

∅ = no action in this size

## PATTERN NOTES

### Construction

This pullover is worked seamlessly from the top down, with contiguous saddle shoulder construction and short row neckline shaping. The Bodice is worked top-down to a cropped length, with a deep hem. Sleeves are picked up from live sts and likewise worked top-down, with elongated cuffs.

### Neck Length Options

Instructions are provided for polo neck, mock neck, and crewneck options.

If unsure which neck length you prefer: Cast on the stated number of sts using a provisional cast-on method, and begin with the Yoke instructions. After completing the sweater, move the live cast-on sts onto working needle and work the Neck until it reaches your preferred length. Bind off using an elastic bind-off method.

If over-stretching is a concern, you can alternatively cast on using an elastic (non-provisional) cast-on method and pick up sts for the Neck from the resulting selvage edge.

### Working Short Rows

Where instructions indicate to wrap and turn (W&T), wrap yarn around the next st and turn work. Where instructions indicate to 'pick up wraps', unwrap st and work st together with wrap. If you are new to short rows and find these instructions insufficient, look up video tutorials using the search terms 'short rows' and 'wrap and turn.'

### Working the Provisional Cast-On at Underarms

My preferred provisional cast-on method is the 'invisible cast-on.' It is simple, suitable for beginners, and does not involve crochet! Carol Feller offers an excellent tutorial: <https://stolenstitches.com/blogs/tutorials/provisional-cast-on-invisible-method>

Note: when casting on underarm sts, you can use the same piece of scrap yarn onto which you've placed the Sleeve sts.



## INSTRUCTIONS

### Neck

With Needle B and using an elastic cast-on method, CO 92 (96, 100, 104, 104, 108, 108, 112) sts. Connect to work in the round, taking care not to twist.

Round 1: K2, P2, to end.

For a polo neck: Repeat Round 1 until piece measures 25cm/ 10".

For a mock neck: Repeat Round 1 until piece measures 10cm/ 4".

For a crewneck: Repeat Round 1 until piece measures 5cm/ 2". Purl the next round. Repeat Round 1 again for a further 5cm/2".

### Yoke

*Continue with Needle B.*

Setup Round: K10, PM, K34 (36, 38, 40, 40, 42, 42, 44), PM, K10, PM, K38 (40, 42, 44, 44, 46, 46, 48), PM.

Identify sections of your work as follows:

The sections with 10 sts each flanked by markers are the Shoulders. The section with 34 (36, 38, 40, 40, 42, 42, 44) sts is the Back of the Body. The section with 38 (40, 42, 44, 44, 46, 46, 48) sts is the Front of the Body. Round begins at Left Shoulder.

Switch to Needle A.

You will now work short rows to shape the Neckline. And at the same time you will begin to increase for the Front and the Back of the Body, to the 'outside' of the Shoulder markers, *on every row*. Work as follows:

Short Row 1 (RS): K to marker, SLM, M1L, K to marker, M1R, SLM, K to marker, SLM, M1L, W&T.

Short Row 2 (WS): P to marker, M1R, SLM, P to marker, SLM, M1L, P to marker, M1R, SLM, P to marker, SLM, M1L, W&T.

Short Row 3 (RS): K to marker, M1R, SLM, K to marker, SLM, M1L, K to marker, M1R, SLM, K to marker, SLM, M1L,

K 1 st past previous turn, picking up wrap along the way, W&T.

Short Row 4 (WS): P to marker, M1R, SLM, P to marker, SLM, M1L, P to marker, M1R, SLM, P to marker, SLM, M1L,

P 1 st past previous turn, picking up wrap along the way, W&T.

Work Short Rows 3&4 until you have worked a total of 8 (8, 10, 12, 12, 14, 14, 14) short rows. After the final turn, work to return to the original start of the round as follows: K to marker, M1R, SLM.

There are now 50 (52, 58, 64, 64, 70, 70, 72) Back sts and 54 (56, 62, 68, 68, 74, 74, 76) Front sts.

No longer increasing for Front or Back of the Body, you will now begin to increase for Sleeves to the 'insides' of markers on every row, while continuing to shape the Neckline with short rows, as follows -

Short Row 1 (RS): K1, M1L, K to 1 st before marker, M1R, K1, SLM, K to marker, SLM, K1, M1L, K to 1 st before marker, M1R, K1, SLM, K 2 sts past previous turn, picking up wrap along the way, W&T.

Short Rows 2 and 4 (WS): \*P to marker, SLM, P1, M1L, P to 1 st before marker, M1R, P1, SLM, repeat from \* once more, P 2 sts past previous turn, picking up wrap along the way, W&T.

Short Row 3 (RS): \*K to marker, SLM, K1, M1L, K to 1 st before marker, M1R, K1, SLM, repeat from \* once more, K 2 sts past previous turn, picking up wrap along the way, W&T.

Repeat Short Rows 3&4 (if needed) until you have worked 4 (4, 4, 4, 6, 6, 6) additional short rows in this section. After the final turn, work to return to the original start of the round as follows: K to marker, SLM.

There are now 18 (18, 18, 18, 22, 22, 22, 22) sts for each Sleeve. (The Front and Back st counts remain as previously.)

When you resume working in the round in the next section, remember to pick up remaining wraps on the first full round.

#### For Sizes 1, 2 & 3 Only:

You will now resume working in the round, and continue to increase for the Sleeves to the 'insides' of markers *on every other round*, as follows -

Round 1: \*K1, M1L, K to 1 st before marker, M1R, K1, SLM, K to marker, SLM, repeat from \* once more.

Round 2: K to end, SLMs.

Repeat Rounds 1 & 2 until there are 40 (44, 48, Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø) sts for each Sleeve.

#### For Sizes 4-6 Only:

You will now resume working in the round, and continue to increase for the Sleeves to the 'insides' of markers *on every 3 out of 4 rounds*, as follows -

Rounds 1-3: \*K1, M1L, K to 1 st before marker, M1R, K1, SLM, K to marker, SLM, repeat from \* once more.

Round 4: K to end, SLMs.

Repeat Rounds 1-4 until there are Ø (Ø, Ø, 52, 58, 64, Ø, Ø) sts for each Sleeve.

#### For Sizes 7&8 Only:

You will now resume working in the round, and continue to increase for the Sleeves to the 'insides' of markers *on every round*, as follows -

Round 1: \*K1, M1L, K to 1 st before marker, M1R, K1, SLM, K to marker, SLM, repeat from \* once more.

Repeat Round 1 until there are Ø (Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø, Ø, 70, 76) sts for each Sleeve.

#### For All Sizes:

No longer increasing for the Sleeves, increase again for the Front and Back of the Body, to the 'outside' of the Sleeve markers, *on every round*, as follows -

Round 1: \*K to marker, SLM, M1L, K to marker, M1R, SLM, repeat from \* once more.

Repeat Round 1 until there are 64 (70, 76, 82, 90, 100, 110, 122) Back sts and 68 (74, 80, 86, 94, 104, 114, 126) Front sts. There are now 212 (232, 252, 272, 300, 332, 364, 400) sts on the needles in total.

No longer increasing for Sleeves or Body, work additional rounds in stockinette (K to end, SLMs) if needed, until the Yoke measures 20cm/ 8" (22cm/ 8.75", 24cm/ 9.5", 26cm/ 10.25", 28cm/11.25", 30cm/ 12.25", 31cm/ 12.75", 33cm/13.25") from the base of the neckline, measured along centre Back.

### **Sleeve Separation**

You will now separate the Sleeve sts from the Bodice sts, so that these sections can be worked on separately.

Work the next round as follows:

Move the sts between the start of round and the next st marker onto scrap yarn, RMs in the process. Using a provisional cast-on method and scrap yarn, CO 10 (10, 10, 10, 12, 12, 12, 14) sts for the Underarm onto the right needle. K to marker. Move the sts between the next two markers onto scrap yarn, RMs in the process. Using a provisional cast-on method and scrap yarn, CO 10 (10, 10, 10, 12, 12, 12, 14) sts for the Underarm onto the right needle. K to end. RM. K5 (5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 7). Round now begins at centre Underarm. With Sleeve sts set aside on scrap yarn, you are ready to work the Bodice.

### **Bodice**

There are now 152 (164, 176, 188, 208, 228, 248, 276) sts on the needles.

For a Straight Bodice: Work in stockinette (K to end, every round) until Bodice measures 18cm/ 7.25" from underarm, or 12cm/ 4.75" shorter than desired length.

#### For a Tapered Bodice:

PM at each centre Underarm. Work in stockinette (K to end, every round). And at the same time work paired decreases, approximately every 6cm/ 2.4", as follows - SKP, K to 2 sts before marker, K2Tog, SLM, repeat from \* once more - until Bodice measures 18cm/ 7.25" from underarm, or 12cm/ 4.75" shorter than desired length.

#### For an A-Line Bodice:

PM at each centre Underarm. Work in stockinette (K to end, every round). And at the same time work paired increases, approximately every 6cm/ 2.4", as follows - K1, M1L, K to 1 st before marker, M1R, SLM, repeat from \* once more - until Bodice measures 18cm/ 7.25" from underarm, or 12cm/ 4.75" shorter than desired length.

## Hem

Switch to Needle B.

Round 1: \*K2, P2, repeat from \* to end.

Repeat Round 1 until Hem measures 12cm/ 4.75".

Bind off using an elastic bind-off method.

## Sleeves

(Worked identically). Starting at centre Underarm, move Sleeve sts and Underarm sts from scrap yarn onto Needle A. There are now 50 (54, 58, 62, 70, 76, 82, 90) sts on the needles.

Setup Round: K to end, and at the same time pick up 1 st to each side of Underarm sts (i.e. 2 sts in total), to avoid gaps.

There are now 52 (56, 60, 64, 72, 78, 84, 92) sts on the needles.

### For a Full Sleeve:

Work in stockinette (K to end, every round) until Sleeve measures approximately 35cm/14" from Underarm, or 12cm / 4.75" shorter than preferred length.

On the final round: K to end and at the same time decrease evenly by 8 (12, 12, 16, 20, 26, 28, 32) sts.

{This can be managed as follows: Divide sts into 4 approximately equal sections. Then work 2 (3, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) decreases, using K2Tog or preferred method, within each section. For Size 6 only, add an additional decrease at the very start and also at the very end of the round.}

There are now 44 (44, 48, 48, 52, 52, 56, 60) sts on the needles.

### For a Tapered Sleeve:

Work in stockinette (K to end, every round). And at the same time, work paired decreases approximately every 8cm/ 3.25" (5cm/ 2", 5cm/ 2", 4cm/ 1.5", 3cm/ 1.25", 2cm/ 0.75", 2cm/ 0.75", 2cm/ 0.75") as follows - SKP, K until 2 sts before marker, K2Tog - until there are 44 (44, 48, 48, 52, 52, 56, 60) sts on the needles. Then, no longer decreasing, continue if needed until Sleeve measures approximately 35cm/14" from Underarm, or 12cm / 4.75" shorter than preferred length.

## Cuffs

Switch to Needle B.

Round 1: \*K2, P2, repeat from \* to end.

Repeat Round 1 until Cuff measures 12cm/ 4.75".

Bind off using elastic bind-off method.

## Finishing

Weave in ends. For the Crewneck option: Fold neck inward (toward WS) and sew edge to WS of main fabric. To block: Soak in lukewarm water, squeeze out excess moisture, and let dry flat - with the ribbed sections blocked according to instructions in Pattern Notes. If you have opted for an A-Line or a straight Bodice, block the Hem with the ribbing open, and if you have opted for a cinched waist Bodice, block the Hem with the ribbing closed.



## APPENDIX

### Altering the Proportions of the Versal Pullover

As-written, the pattern instructions will result in a pullover with classic proportions. Meaning: The larger the size, as determined by the bodice circumference, the longer the shoulder-line, the wider the neck opening, and the roomier the sleeves. For reasons of either aesthetic preference or fit, some knitters may wish to alter these proportions. For example: you may prefer neater-fitting sleeves, a tighter neck opening, or narrower shoulders. The construction of the Versal pullover makes it extremely easy to adjust proportions in this manner. Here is how:

For a sweater with narrower shoulders (recommended if you have narrow shoulders and a large bust, or if you'd like for the sweater to be fitted at the shoulders and relaxed through the bodice):

1. Referring to Measurement D on Page 2, determine the size you will knit.
2. Then cast on for a size smaller than the actual size you plan to knit.
3. Follow instructions for this smaller size until the middle of Page 4, up to (but not including) the paragraph beginning with the sentence 'No longer increasing for Front or Back of the Body...'
4. Then, starting with the above-mentioned paragraph *and for the remainder of the pattern*, simply switch to following instructions for your actual (i.e. larger) size. This includes following the Sleeve st counts, the final Front and Back of Bodice st counts before Sleeve Separation, and the vertical yoke depth measurement, for the *larger size*.

For a sweater with a tighter neck opening (recommended if you are opting for a crewneck):

1. Referring to Measurement D on Page 2, determine the size you will knit.
2. Then cast on for a size smaller than the actual size you plan to knit.
3. Follow instructions for this smaller size up to (but not including) the paragraph beginning with 'You will now work short rows to shape the neckline,' on Page 4.
4. Then, follow the instructions of the aforementioned paragraph, with the following modification: Ignore the stated number of short rows, and instead work as many short rows as needed until you attain the stitch count for the larger size of your choosing.
5. For the rest of the pattern, continue following the instructions for your actual (i.e. larger) size.

For a sweater with neater-fitting sleeves (recommended if you have particularly slender arms in proportion to your torso, or if you simply prefer the look/fit of narrow sleeves in proportion to the bodice):

1. Referring to Measurement D on Page 2, determine the size you will knit and cast on for this size.
2. Follow instructions for this size until the bottom of Page 4, stopping immediately *after* working the paragraph beginning with the sentence 'No longer increasing for Front or Back of the Body...'
3. Referring to Measurement E on Page 2, determine what size Sleeve would suit your preference, and follow the remainder of the Sleeve increase instructions for this size (aiming for the Sleeve st count given for that size).
4. Follow the Yoke Depth measurement instructions, the Sleeve Separation instructions, the Bodice instructions, and the Hem instructions for the size you cast on.
5. Follow the Sleeve and Cuff instructions for the Sleeve size you chose earlier.

### Yarn Selection and Fabric Characteristics

The fabric characteristics of this sweater can differ quite a bit depending on the yarn you choose.

For an Airy, Diaphanous Fabric:

Select a woollen-spun yarn that is closer to DK weight than to Aran weight in meterage, and can be worked above gauge. Some examples of this include Lettlopi, Nutiden yarn (held double), woollen-spun cashmere, and woollen spun alpaca. Various 'rustic' Scandinavian woollen-spun yarns with fingering-weight meterage can be likewise be held double and worked at the stated gauge.

For a firmer, more structured fabric:

Select a yarn that is Aran weight in meterage. Note that worsted-spun yarns will result in a denser and heavier fabric than woollen-spun yarns.



**SAMPLES INFO.**

**teal polo-neck sweater (pictured on the cover):**

Size 2, modelled with 5cm/ 2" of ease; knitted with Höner och Eir Nutiden, held double.

**taupe mock-neck/ crewneck sweater (pictured on Page 6):**

Size 4, modelled with 15cm/ 6" of ease; knitted with Höner och Eir Nutiden, held double.

**pink polo-neck sweater (pictured on this page):**

Size 5, modelled with 25cm/ 10" of ease; knitted with Studio Donegal Aran Tweed.