

# OPHELLIA BLOUSE



A romantic, feminine blouse that skims your curves. It's knitted seamlessly from the top-down. The upper back is shaped with German short rows and knitted until the underarms, then the shoulder stitches are picked up. The front and back are joined at the underarm, and the rest is knitted in one piece, with waist and hip shaping along vertical darts on both the front and back. The bottom hem is finished with English Mesh lace stitch, then stitches are picked up along the neckline to add a lace border. The sleeves are picked up and knitted in the round using German short rows for sleeve cap shaping. The blouse is finished with a delicate crocheted picot hem.

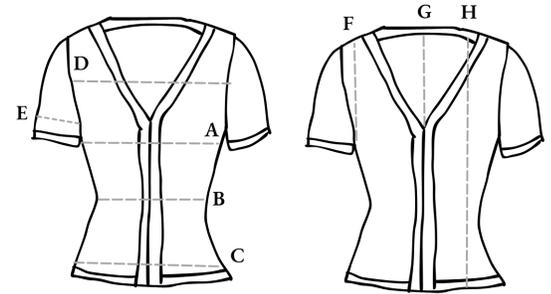
**GAUGE:** 24 st, 36 rows = 4" (10.16 cm) on US 2 (2.75) mm needles in stockinette, after blocking

## **NEEDLES & TOOLS:**

- US 2 (2.75 mm) needles (or whatever needle size achieves gauge), either flat or with a cable long enough to fit your body circumference
- the same needle size in DPNs or with a cable long enough for magic loop, for knitting the sleeves
- 2.25 - 2.75 mm crochet hook for picot edges
- 6 stitch markers (at least 4 must be locking)
- 4 - 8 buttons, in a size of your choosing. The sample uses 0.5" (13mm) shank buttons.
- sewing needle & thread for buttons, tapestry needle for weaving yarn ends

**YARN:** 1 strand of Knitting for Olive Pure Silk (fingering weight 100% silk, 250m per 50g) - see sizing chart for yarn estimates. **Alternate yarn suggestions:** Choose a fingering weight yarn that includes fiber with drape, like silk, bamboo, alpaca, linen, mohair, or superwash merino. Examples: Cascade Yarns Heritage Silk (85% merino wool, 15% silk), Lang Yarns Alpaca Superlight (54% alpaca, 22% wool, 24% nylon), Sweet Georgie Flaxen Silk Fine (65% silk, 35% linen)

**FIT:** This top is meant to be worn with 0.75 - 1.25" (2 - 3.5 cm) of positive ease at the bust and waist, ~2.75" (7 cm) of positive ease at the high hip, and 1.75 - 2.25" (4.5 - 5.5 cm) of positive ease on the upper arm. The pattern includes waist and hip shaping along vertical "princess seams" at the front and back, with tips on how to customize the fit for your body. If your bust is proportionally larger than on the size chart, I recommend choosing a size that matches your other measurements and adding additional increases/decreases where noted in the pattern to accommodate your bust (otherwise, the shoulders of the top may be too loose on you).



*The sample is a size 3 worn on a 34.5" (87.5 cm) bust, in Knitting For Olive Pure Silk in coal.*

**SIZES:** All sizes listed below are of the finished garment, including the intended ease.

Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>A: Bust</b> circumference	31.25" 79 cm	32.75" 83 cm	35.25" 90 cm	37.25" 95 cm	39.25" 100 cm	41.25" 105 cm	42.75" 109 cm	45.25" 115 cm
<b>B: Waist</b> circumference	25.25" 64 cm	27.5" 70 cm	29.25" 74.5 cm	31.25" 79.5 cm	33.25" 84.5 cm	35.25" 89.5 cm	37.5" 95.5 cm	39.25" 99.5 cm
<b>C: High hip</b> circumference	31.25" 79.5 cm	33.5" 85 cm	35.25" 89.5 cm	37.25" 94.5 cm	39.25" 99.5 cm	41.25" 105 cm	43.5" 110.5 cm	45.25" 115 cm
<b>D: Crossback</b> width	12.25" 31 cm	12.25" 31 cm	12.75" 32.5 cm	12.75" 32.5 cm	13.25" 33.5 cm	13.5" 34.5 cm	13.75" 35 cm	14" 35.5 cm
<b>E: Upper arm</b> circumference	11.25" 28.5 cm	12.25" 31 cm	12.25" 31 cm	13.25" 33.5 cm	13.25" 33.5 cm	14.25" 36 cm	14.25" 36 cm	15.25" 38.5 cm
<b>F: Armhole</b> depth	7" 18 cm	7.25" 18.5 cm	7.25" 18.5 cm	7.5" 19 cm	7.75" 19.5 cm	7.75" 19.5 cm	8" 20.5 cm	8.25" 21 cm
<b>G: V-neck</b> depth	8.25" 21 cm	8.5" 21.5 cm	8.5" 21.5 cm	8.75" 22 cm	9" 23 cm	9" 23 cm	9.25" 23.5 cm	9.5" 24 cm
<b>H: Length</b>	20.5" 52 cm	20.5" 52 cm	20.5" 52 cm	20.5" 52 cm	21" 53.5 cm	21" 53.5 cm	21.25" 54 cm	21.25" 54 cm
<b>Yarn estimate</b>	740 yds 675 m	765 yds 700 m	820 yds 750 m	875 yds 800 m	930 yds 850 m	985 yds 900 m	1040 yds 950 m	1095 yds 1000 m

*[Sizes 9 - 16 continued on next page]*

Size	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>A: Bust</b> circumference	47.25" 120 cm	48.75" 124 cm	51.25" 130 cm	53.25" 135 cm	55.25" 140 cm	57.25" 145 cm	58.75" 149 cm	61.25" 156 cm
<b>B: Waist</b> circumference	41.25" 105 cm	43.5" 110.5 cm	45.25" 115 cm	47.25" 120 cm	49.25" 125 cm	51.25" 130 cm	53.5" 136 cm	55.25" 140.5 cm
<b>C: High hip</b> circumference	47.25" 120 cm	49.5" 125.5 cm	51.25" 130 cm	53.25" 135.5 cm	55.25" 140.5 cm	57.25" 145.5 cm	59.5" 151 cm	61.25" 155.5 cm
<b>D: Crossback</b> width	14.25 36 cm	14.25" 36 cm	14.75" 37.5 cm	14.75" 37.5 cm	15.25" 38.5 cm	15.5" 39.5 cm	15.75" 40 cm	16" 40.5 cm
<b>E: Upper arm</b> circumference	15.25" 38.5 cm	16.25" 41.5 cm	17.25" 44 cm	18.25" 46.5 cm	18.25" 46.5 cm	19.25" 49 cm	20.25" 51.5 cm	21.25" 54 cm
<b>F: Armhole</b> depth	8.25" 21 cm	8.5" 21.5 cm	8.75" 22 cm	8.75" 22 cm	9.25" 23.5 cm	9.25" 23.5 cm	9.5" 24 cm	9.75" 25 cm
<b>G: V-neck</b> depth	9.5" 24 cm	9.75" 25 cm	10" 25.5 cm	10" 25.5 cm	10.5" 26.5 cm	10.5" 26.5 cm	10.75" 27.5 cm	11" 28 cm
<b>H: Length</b>	21.25" 54 cm	21.5" 54.5 cm	21.75" 55 cm	21.75" 55 cm	22" 56 cm	22" 56 cm	22.25" 56.5 cm	22.5" 57 cm
<b>Yarn estimate</b>	1150 yds 1050 m	1205 yds 1100 m	1260 yds 1150 m	1310 yds 1200 m	1365 yds 1250 m	1420 yds 1300 m	1475 yds 1350 m	1560 yds 1425 m

### **TECHNIQUES:**

- [backwards loop cast-on](#)
- [bind off](#)
- [English lace mesh stitch](#)
- [German short rows](#), “**turn work**”: turn your work so the opposite side is facing you, and move the yarn to the front between your needles, as if to purl. Slip the last stitch you made from the left needle to your right needle purlwise, tug the working yarn tightly, and wrap it over the right needle counter-clockwise so it is in back. If your next stitch is a purl, bring the yarn to the front in-between the needles, so you don’t unravel the yarn-over. (*When you knit these “double” stitches in a future row, knit or purl both legs together like a k2tog or p2tog. See video tutorial for example*)
- [k2tog](#): “knit 2 together”. Place the right needle knitwise through the front legs of 2 adjacent stitches, then knit them together into 1 stitch (decreases by 1 right-leaning stitch)

- [long-tail cast on](#)
- **m1lk**: “make one left-leaning knit stitch”. Place your left needle under the bar between two stitches from the front, pick the bar up onto the left needle, and knit into this loop through its back leg.
- **m1lp**: “make one left-leaning purl stitch”. Place your left needle under the bar between two stitches from the front, pick the bar up onto the left needle, and purl into this loop through its back leg.
- **m1rk**: “make one right-leaning knit stitch”. Place your left needle under the bar between two stitches from the back side of the work, pick the bar up onto the left needle, and knit into this loop through its front leg.
- **m1rp**: “make one right-leaning purl stitch”. Place your left needle under the bar between two stitches from the back, pick the bar up onto the left needle, and purl into the loop through its front leg.
- [picking up stitches](#)
- **slip stitch**: insert the right needle into the stitch as if to purl, and transfer it to right stitch without working the stitch
- **ssk**: “slip, slip, knit”. Slip 2 stitches knitwise, insert the left needle into the front of the two stitches, and knit them together through the back loops (decreases by 1 left-leaning knit stitch)
- **ssp**: “slip, slip, purl”. Bring yarn forward, slip 2 stitches knitwise, slip back to left needle and purl both together through the front loops (decreases by 1 left-leaning purl stitch)
- **stockinette stitch**: knit all stitches on the RS, purl all stitches on the WS
- [crochet picot edge](#) - tutorial
- **yo**: “yarn over”. Wrap the working yarn around the right needle counter-clockwise. Try to wrap somewhat tightly, especially as you pull this working yarn to be used to make the next stitch

## ***ABBREVIATIONS***

- **BOR**: “beginning of round”
- **inc**: increase(s), ex: “2 inc” = “2 increases”
- **k**: knit, ex: “k 2” = “knit 2 stitches”
- **p**: purl, ex: “p to end” = “purl to the end of the row”
- **psso**: “pass slipped stitch over” - pass the slipped stitch over the stitch to its left, dropping it off the needle and binding that stitch off
- **RS**: “right side” of the work, with knitted V shapes visible
- **WS**: “wrong side” of the work, with purl bumps visible
- **sl**: “slip” stitch purlwise, ex sl1 = slip 1 stitch purlwise.
- **sm**: slip marker. Pass the stitch marker from the left needle to the right needle.
- **st**: stitch, ex: “1 st inc” = “1 stitch increased”
- **Crochet terminology for picot edge**:
  - **ch**: chain
  - **sc**: single crochet

## ***UPPER BACK***

Cast on [73; 74; 77; 77] (80; 81; 82; 84) [85; 86; 89; 89] (92; 93; 94; 96) stitches to your needles with **long-tail cast-on**. Place 2 locking stitch markers *into* the cast-on edge, on the [15; 15; 16; 16] (17; 17; 17; 18) [18; 18; 19; 19] (20; 20; 20; 21)th stitch in from each side; this will help you see where the neck is when you do shoulder shaping and later pick up the shoulder stitches.

Purl 1 row.

Now you'll shape the upper back using **German Short Rows** (see techniques).

**Row 1:** k [59; 60; 62; 62] (64; 65; 66; 67) [68; 69; 71; 71] (73; 74; 75; 76) stitches - this should bring you to the 2nd stitch marker on the cast-on edge; turn work.

**Row 2:** p [45; 46; 47; 47] (48; 49; 50; 50) [51; 52; 53; 53] (54; 55; 56; 56) stitches - this should bring you back to the 1st stitch marker on the cast-on edge; turn work.

**Rows 3 - 8:** k or p to [4; 4; 5; 5] (5; 5; 5; 5) [5; 5; 6; 6] (6; 6; 6; 6) stitches past the previous turn, turn work. *Note - you can see the last place you turned by looking for the double-stitch. When you pass these double stitches, knit or purl the two legs of the double-stitch together like a k2tog or p2tog.*

You'll now continue knitting flat for [56; 55; 54; 54] (55; 56; 55; 56) [55; 56; 57; 57] (58; 59; 59; 58) more rows, or [6.25; 6; 6; 6] (6; 6.25; 6; 6.25) [6; 6.25; 6.25; 6.25] (6.5; 6.5; 6.5; 6.5) inches / [16; 15; 15; 15] (15; 16; 15; 16) [15; 16; 16; 16] (16.5; 16.5; 16.5; 16.5) centimeters measured along the side of the work.

Next you'll shape the underarms with 1 increase at each side:

**RS:** k2, **m1lk**, k to 2 before end, **m1rk**, k2 (2 stitches increased)

**WS:** p2, **m1lp**, p to 2 before end, **m1rp**, p2 (2 stitches increased)

^ Follow this for [8; 10; 12; 14] (14; 15; 17; 18) [20; 21; 21; 23] (25; 25; 27; 29) **total rows** - it's fine if you end on a RS row and don't complete the repeat.

You should now have [89; 94; 101; 105] (108; 111; 116; 120) [125; 128; 131; 135] (142; 143; 148; 154) stitches on your needles. Place these stitches on hold for later, and cut the yarn leaving a tail.

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## ***RIGHT SHOULDER (when worn)***

With the RS of the work facing you, beginning at the outer edge, pick up [14; 14; 15; 15] (16; 16; 16; 17) [17; 17; 18; 18] (19; 19; 19; 20) stitches along the cast-on edge. This is picking up 1 stitch per stitch, and working inwards until you reach the stitch marker on the cast-on edge that marks the neck.

First, you'll gradually increase at the neckline to form the v-neck every **5th row**, beginning with a WS (purl) row:

**Rows 1 - 4:** k or p all

**Row 5:** *if a WS row:* p2, **m1lp**, p to end (1 st inc)

*if a RS row:* k to 2 before end, **m1rk**, k2 (1 st inc)

^ Work this 5-row repeat [8; 9; 6; 8] (9; 7; 8; 10) [7; 9; 6; 8] (11; 8; 10; 11) times, or for [40; 45; 30; 40] (45; 35; 40; 50) [35; 45; 30; 40] (55; 40; 50; 55) rows.

Next, you'll increase more rapidly at the neckline, every **4th row**. *Note: you may begin with a RS or a WS depending on where you left off in the repeat above.*

**Rows 1 - 3:** k or p all

**Row 4:** *if a WS row:* p2, **m1lp**, p to end (1 st inc)

*if a RS row:* k to 2 before end, **m1rk**, k2 (1 st inc)

^ Work this 4-row repeat for [16; 10; 24; 14] (10; 21; 15; 6) [20; 11; 27; 17] (3; 19; 9; 3) **rows**. It's okay if you're finishing on a non-increase row; you'll continue working this neckline increase below, while adding in some armhole shaping. You should currently have [26; 25; 27; 26] (27; 28; 27; 28) [29; 28; 30; 30] (30; 31; 31; 31) stitches on your needle.

You will now **continue increasing every 4th row at the neckline, while also** increasing 1 st at the armhole edge. *Note: you may begin on a WS or RS depending on where you left off above.*

**RS:** k2, **m1lk**, k to end [ do neckline inc if on 4th row ] (1 st inc at armhole)

**WS:** [ do neckline inc if on 4th row ], p to 2 before end, **m1rp**, p2 (1 st inc at armhole)

^ Work these increases for [8; 10; 12; 14] (14; 15; 17; 18) [20; 21; 21; 23] (25; 25; 27; 29) **rows**, ending with [36; 38; 42; 44] (45; 47; 49; 51) [54; 55; 57; 59] (62; 63; 65; 68) stitches and [64; 65; 66; 68] (69; 71; 72; 74) [75; 77; 78; 80] (83; 84; 86; 87) total rows worked so far.

The length of this front piece should match the armhole depth listed for your size in the sizing chart. You'll finish the remainder of your v-neck increases after joining the front and back together. For now, put these stitches on hold on waste yarn or a stitch holder, and cut the yarn leaving a tail.

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## ***LEFT SHOULDER (when worn)***

The left shoulder is worked similarly to the right shoulder, but in mirror image. With the RS of the work facing you, beginning at the stitch marker on the left side of the upper back, pick up [14; 14; 15;

15] (16; 16; 16; 17) [17; 17; 18; 18] (19; 19; 19; 20) stitches along the cast-on edge. This is picking up 1 stitch per stitch, and working outwards until you reach the edge of the back piece.

First, you'll gradually increase at the neckline to form the v-neck every **5th row**, beginning with a WS (purl) row:

**Rows 1 - 4:** k or p all

**Row 5:** *if a RS row:* k2, **m1lk**, k to end (1 st inc)

*if a WS row:* p to 2 before end, **m1rp**, p2 (1 st inc)

^ Work this 5-row repeat [8; 9; 6; 8] (9; 7; 8; 10) [7; 9; 6; 8] (11; 8; 10; 11) times, or for [40; 45; 30; 40] (45; 35; 40; 50) [35; 45; 30; 40] (55; 40; 50; 55) rows.

Next, you'll increase at the neckline every **4th row**. *Note: you may begin with a RS or a WS depending on where you left off in the repeat above.*

**Rows 1 - 3:** k or p all

**Row 4:** *if a RS row:* k2, **m1lk**, k to end (1 st inc)

*if a WS row:* p to 2 before end, **m1rp**, p2 (1 st inc)

^ Work this 4-row repeat for [16; 10; 24; 14] (10; 21; 15; 6) [20; 11; 27; 17] (3; 19; 9; 3) **rows**. It's okay if you're finishing on a non-increase row; you'll continue working this neckline increase below, while adding in some armhole shaping. You should currently have [26; 25; 27; 26] (27; 28; 27; 28) [29; 28; 30; 30] (30; 31; 31; 31) stitches on your needle.

You will now **continue increasing every 4th row at the neckline, while also** increasing 1 st at the armhole edge. *Note: you may begin on a WS or RS depending on where you left off above.*

**RS:** [ do neckline inc if on 4th row ], k to 2 before end, **m1rk**, k2 (1 st inc at armhole)

**WS:** p2, **m1lp**, p to end [ do neckline inc if on 4th row ] (1 st inc at armhole)

^ Work these increases for [8; 10; 12; 14] (14; 15; 17; 18) [20; 21; 21; 23] (25; 25; 27; 29) **rows**, ending with [36; 38; 42; 44] (45; 47; 49; 51) [54; 55; 57; 59] (62; 63; 65; 68) stitches and [64; 65; 66; 68] (69; 71; 72; 74) [75; 77; 78; 80] (83; 84; 86; 87) total rows worked so far.

The length of this front piece should match the armhole depth listed for your size in the sizing chart. You'll finish the remainder of your v-neck increases after joining the front and back together. If your last row worked was a **RS** row, cut the yarn leaving a tail and slide your stitches to the other side of your needle. Rejoin the yarn on this side of the work in your next step, so the next row will be a **RS** row.

## ***JOINING FRONT AND BACK***

On this next step, you'll join the front and back while casting on underarm stitches on a **RS** row. First knit across all stitches on the left front, bringing you to the underarm.

Cast on [2; 2; 2; 3] (5; 6; 6; 8) [8; 9; 11; 12] (12; 14; 14; 15) stitches to your right needle with **backwards-loop cast-on**, place underarm stitch marker, cast on [2; 2; 2; 3] (5; 6; 6; 8) [8; 9; 11; 12] (12; 14; 14; 15) stitches.

Place the back stitches onto your left needle, and knit across them, being careful not to twist your stitches as you join them with the front. You've now joined the left front and the back.

Cast on [2; 2; 2; 3] (5; 6; 6; 8) [8; 9; 11; 12] (12; 14; 14; 15) stitches, place second underarm stitch marker, cast on [2; 2; 2; 3] (5; 6; 6; 8) [8; 9; 11; 12] (12; 14; 14; 15) stitches, and knit across the right shoulder stitches, being careful not to twist your stitches as you join.

You've now joined the three panels (left front, back, and right front) and cast on [8; 8; 8; 12] (20; 24; 24; 32) [32; 36; 44; 48] (48; 56; 56; 60) new underarm stitch stitches, for a total of [169; 178; 193; 205] (218; 229; 238; 254) [265; 274; 289; 301] (314; 325; 334; 350) stitches.

### ***CUSTOMIZING THE FIT: BUST INCREASES***

If your bust is larger proportionally than on the size chart for the size you're knitting, you may want to add additional bust increases to get a better fit. You'll need to increase by 6 stitches for every 1" / 2.5 cm of circumference you want to add to the bust. You can distribute these extra stitches in two places:

1. Add extra neckline increases by skipping some of the non-increase rows in the neckline increases below this box, and/or continue increasing after those 12 rows have been completed.
2. Increase along the underarms after joining the front and back, as shown below:

**RS:** k to 2 before left underarm stitch marker, m1rk, k2, sm, k across back to right underarm stitch marker, sm, k2, m1lk, k to end of row (2 st inc); {{if you need to fit a lot of increases into a small amount of length, you can also increase on both sides of each stitch marker}}

**WS:** p all (no increases)

You'll now complete your remaining neckline increases by increasing 1st at each edge of the neckline every **4th row**. For just the first repeat below, begin on Row 2 (since joining was row 1):

**Rows 1 - 3:** k or p all (no increases)

**Row 4:** *if a RS row:* k2, **m1lk**, k to 2 before end, **m1rk**, k2 (2 st inc, 1 at each edge of neckline)

*if a WS row:* p2, **m1lp**, p to 2 before end, **m1rp**, p2 (2 st inc, 1 at each edge of neckline)

^ Work these increases 3 times, or for 12 total rows. You've now increased by 6 additional stitches, for a total of [175; 184; 199; 211] (224; 235; 244; 260) [271; 280; 295; 307] (320; 331; 340; 356) stitches.

Continue knitting until you've reached the fullest point of your bust. This may be ~1.5" / 4 cm below your underarm cast-on, but it's different on every person, so try the top on to confirm. It's important you've reached the fullest point of your bust before beginning any waist decreases or the fit will be affected. (Please also note while trying on that the lace edging will add ~1" / 2.5 cm to each edge, closing the gap in the center of the top).

#### ***CUSTOMIZING THE FIT: SHORT ROW BUST DARTS***

If your tops tend to ride up in the front due to your bust, you may want to consider adding short row bust darts. Short rows allow you to add length to just one part of your knitting; in this case, they can add some length to just the front of your top, to account for the extra distance the fabric needs to travel over your bust. If you'd like to add them, [this blog post](#) covers how to determine how many to add and where to place them. Use the instructions for "cardigans" since this top opens in the front.

Complete whatever short rows you'd like to add before moving on to the ***WAIST SHAPING*** section below.

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## ***WAIST SHAPING***

Now you'll decrease along four vertical darts, two on the front and two in the back, to add some waist shaping. First, place a stitch marker ("m1") on your needle on the left front of the top [23; 25; 26; 28] (30; 31; 32; 34) [35; 37; 38; 40] (42; 43; 44; 46) stitches from the left underarm marker. Place a 2nd stitch marker ("m2") on the left back side of the top, [23; 25; 26; 28] (30; 31; 32; 34) [35; 37; 38; 40] (42; 43; 44; 46) stitches from the left underarm marker in the opposite direction. Repeat these steps to place a 3rd ("m3") and 4th ("m4") stitch marker on the back right and front right sides of the top, again [23; 25; 26; 28] (30; 31; 32; 34) [35; 37; 38; 40] (42; 43; 44; 46) stitches away in each direction from the right underarm marker.

#### ***CUSTOMIZING THE FIT***

The standard size chart assumes your waist is 6" / 15 cm smaller than your bust, but everyone is different. Feel free to add extra decreases to get a narrower fit at the waist, or skip decreases to get a looser fit. Every 8-stitch decrease removes ~1.3" / 3.3 cm of width. The size chart also assumes there are ~ (6.75; 6; 6; 6.25) (6.25; 6.25; 6.25; 6) (6; 6; 6; 6) (6; 6; 6; 6) inches or (17; 15; 15; 16) (16; 16; 16; 15) (15; 15; 15; 15) (15; 15; 15; 15) cm left before you reach your waist. If your body has a longer / shorter distance to your waist, you can add / skip some non-increase rows to add / remove length.

You'll now begin gradually decreasing at these stitch markers, beginning on the next **RS** row. You'll decrease every [12; 13; 11; 11] (11; 11; 14; 11) [11; 13; 10; 10] (10; 10; 12; 10)th row as shown below:

**Non-decrease rows:** Work for [11; 12; 10; 10] (10; 10; 13; 10) [10; 12; 9; 9] (9; 9; 12; 9) rows in flat stockinette

**Decrease row:**

*if a RS:*

\*k to 3 sts before marker, **ssk**, k1, sm, k1, **k2tog**\* repeat between \*\* until you've passed all 4 markers, then k to end of row (8 sts dec)

*if a WS:*

\*p to 3 sts before marker, **p2tog**, p1, sm, p1, **ssp**\* repeat between \*\* until you've passed all 4 markers, then p to end of row (8 sts dec)

^ Work this sequence for 4 total repeats, or [48; 52; 44; 44] (44; 44; 56; 44) [44; 52; 40; 40] (40; 40; 48; 40) total rows. You've now decreased by 32 stitches.

***SIZES 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 ONLY:***

You'll do another decrease repeat, only at the front markers this time.

**Non-decrease rows:** Knit for [11; -; 10; 10] (10; 10; -; 10) [10; -; 9; 9] (9; 9; -; 9) rows in flat stockinette

**Decrease row:**

*if a RS:* k to 3 st before m1, **ssk**, k1, sm, k1, **k2tog**, k past back to 3 st before m4, **ssk**, k1, sm, k1, **k2tog**, k to end of row (4 st dec)

*if a WS:* p to 3 st before m1, **p2tog**, p1, sm, p1, **ssp**, p past back to 3 st before m4, **p2tog**, p1, sm, p1, **ssp**, p to end of row (4 st dec)

^ Work this sequence only once. You've now decreased by 4 additional stitches.

You should now have [139; 152; 163; 175] (188; 199; 212; 224) [235; 248; 259; 271] (284; 295; 308; 320) stitches. Continue knitting for 1" / 2.5 cm (don't remove the markers, you'll use them in the next step) or until you've reached your waist, ending on a **RS** row.

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## ***HIP SHAPING***

You'll now increase for the hips along the same darts where you decreased for the waist. Begin this repeat on the next **WS** row. *[Note: If you'd like a shorter top that is still as full at the hip, you can increase more frequently eg every 5th or 4th row instead of every 6th. If you'd like more or less circumference at the*

*hip, you can increase more or less frequently. Each full set of 8 increases corresponds to 1.3" (3.3 cm) of width.]*

**Rows 1 - 5:** k or p all

**Row 6 (RS):** k to 1 stitch before m1, **m1rk**, k1, sm, k1, **m1lk**, k to 1 stitch before m2, **m1rk**, k1, sm, k1, **m1lk**, k to 1 stitch before m3, **m1rk**, k1, sm, k1, **m1lk**, k to 1 stitch before m4, **m1rk**, k1, sm, k1, **m1lk**, k to end (8 st inc)

^ Follow this sequence for 4 total repeats, or 24 total rows. You've now increased by 32 stitches.

You'll do one more repeat, increasing only 4 stitches per round.

**Rows 25 - 29:** k or p all

**Row 30 (RS):** k to m1, sm, k1, **m1lk**, k to 1 stitch before m2, **m1rk**, k1, sm, k to m3, sm, k1, **m1lk**, k to 1 stitch before m4, **m1rk**, k1, sm, k to end (4 st inc)

You now have [175; 188; 199; 211] (224; 235; 248; 260) [271; 284; 295; 307] (320; 331; 344; 356) stitches. If you'd like a longer length, continue knitting until the length you'd like your top to be, minus 1.25" / 3 cm that will be added by the lace edge, ending on a **RS** row.

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## ***LACE HEM***

*The lace repeat requires a stitch count that is a multiple of 6, plus 1 extra stitch (for instance 6 x 60 = 360, +1 = 361 is a valid stitch count). If you customized your fit above, count your stitches and find the closest number divisible by 6, then add 1 stitch. Increase or decrease your stitches in this next row by evenly spacing out **p2tog (decrease)** or **m1rp (increase)** across the row to bring you to the correct stitch count.*

On the next **WS** row, purl across the row while decreasing [-; 1; -; -] (1; -; 1; 1) [-; 1; -; -] (1; -; 1; 1) stitch with a **p2tog** at one of the underarm markers to get your stitch count ready for the lace. Your stitch count should now be [175; 187; 199; 211] (223; 235; 247; 259) [271; 283; 295; 307] (319; 331; 343; 355). You're now ready to knit the hem in [English Mesh Lace Stitch](#), also shown in the chart. Note- to avoid the lace edges flaring, wrap your YOs with tight tension (or size down a needle size).

**Row 1 (RS):** k1, \*yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, k1\* (repeat between \*\* until end of row)

**Row 2 (WS):** p all

**Row 3:** k1, \*yo, k1, sl1, k2tog, pss0, k1, yo, k1\* (repeat between \*\* until end of row)

**Row 4:** p all

**Row 5:** k1, \*k2tog, yo, k1, yo, ssk, k1\* (repeat between \*\* until end of row)

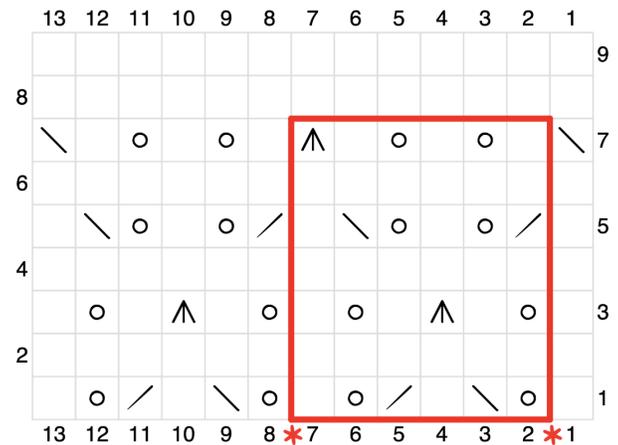
**Row 6:** p all

**Row 7:** k2tog, \*k1, yo, k1, yo, k1, sl1, k2tog, pss0\* (repeat between \*\* to last 5 stitches), k1, yo, k1, yo, k1, ssk

**Row 8:** p all

**Row 9:** k all

**Row 10: bind off** all stitches and cut the yarn, leaving a tail to weave in later.



- Knit
- \ Slip, slip, knit
- / Knit 2 together
- ⤴ Slip 1, knit 2 together, pass slipped stitch over
- Yarn over

## LACE NECKLINE

Now you'll pick up stitches along the neckline and center front of the top to add the lace edging. Begin at the bottom right front corner of the top (when worn), with the RS of the work facing you. Pick up 2 stitches for every 3 rows along the edge of the top, and 1 stitch out of every 2 stitches along the back neck of the top. Aim to end with a number that is divisible by 6, then add 1 extra stitch at the end (for instance, 360 is divisible by 6, plus 1 = 361). *Tip: It's helpful to keep track by counting in sets of 6 stitches while picking up, and then add/skip an extra stitch or two at the end as needed. You can also always increase or decrease on your first row to bring them to the correct count.*

**Purl 1 row**, increasing/decreasing if you need to bring your stitches to the right number for the lace repeat.

Now you'll knit the edging in [English Mesh Lace Stitch](#). Follow the same 10-row repeat described in the **LACE HEM** section (pg 12).

## ***SLEEVES***

### ***SLEEVELESS***

If you'd like a sleeveless version, you can use the same lace edge along the armholes as well. Again pick up roughly 2 out of every 3 stitches with the RS of the work facing you beginning in the center of the underarm, ending with a number that's divisible by 6 plus 1 extra stitch. Join in the round at the underarm, and follow the same steps and chart shown above in the **LACE HEM** section (pg 12), but knit all even rows instead of purling (since you're knitting the sleeves in the round instead of flat).

### ***CAP SLEEVES***

With the RS of the work facing you, beginning at the center of the underarm, pick up [67; 73; 73; 79] (79; 85; 85; 91) [91; 97; 103; 109] (109; 115; 121; 127) along the circumference of the armhole. Pick up roughly 1 out of every 2 (for Sizes 1 - 9) or 3 out of every 5 (for Sizes 10 - 16) stitches per row/stitch along the armhole.

Place a stitch marker at the top of the armhole, about [34; 37; 37; 40] (40; 43; 43; 46) [46; 49; 52; 55] (55; 58; 61; 64) stitches away from the center of the underarm. Place another 2 locking stitch markers on either side of the lower armhole, marking where the underarm shaping began on the front and back panels- these will be roughly [8; 10; 12; 14] (14; 15; 17; 18) [20; 21; 21; 23] (25; 25; 27; 29) rows above where you cast on stitches for the underarm.

You'll now begin shaping the cap sleeves with **German short rows**.

**Setup row 1:** Join in the round at the center underarm, and place a BOR marker. k to the top armhole stitch marker, then k an additional (9; 10; 10; 10) (10; 11; 11; 12) (12; 13; 13; 14) (14; 15; 16; 16) stitches past it. Turn work

**Setup row 2:** p back to the top stitch marker, then p an additional (9; 10; 10; 10) (10; 11; 11; 12) (12; 13; 13; 14) (14; 15; 16; 16) stitches past it. Turn work.

**Short-row repeat:** k or p to 1 stitch past the last place you turned. Turn work. *You can see the last place you turned by looking for the double-stitch. When you knit that stitch, work the 2 legs together like a k2tog or p2tog.*

^ Continue this row until you reach the stitch markers along the bottom of the armhole, marking where the underarm shaping began.

Knit in the round for another 1" / 2.5 cm, or the length you'd like the sleeves to be minus 1.25" / 3 cm for the lace edging.

Now you'll knit the edging in [English Mesh Lace Stitch](#) in the round; follow the same steps and chart shown above in the **LACE HEM** section (pg 12), but knit all even rows instead of purling (since you're knitting the sleeves in the round instead of flat).

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## ***PICOT HEMS & FINISHING TOUCHES***

### ***CHOOSING BUTTONS***

The sample uses 9/16" (13 mm) shank buttons. Choose your buttons before you add the crochet edge, since the button-loops are created at the same time and you'll want to make sure they fit your buttons.

### ***BUTTON PLACEMENT***

Try the top on, and place stitch markers where you'd like your buttons to be placed while worn. Place a stitch marker across from where each button will be as well, so you know where to add the button-loop. If you'd like to have less gapping between the edges than on the sample, use more buttons and place them more closely together, or you can sew hook and eye closures in between buttons.

With your **2.5 mm** crochet hook, beginning at the back of the neck with the **RS** of the fabric facing you, add a [crocheted picot border](#) along the cast-off edge of the lace neckline and lace hem. You'll space out picot bumps with 1 single chain in between, as shown below (see video tutorial if you need visual):

**Picot border repeat:** \*create picot [sc 1, ch 2, insert hook under front loop and left front leg of sc, yarn over, pull up a loop, slip to secure], sc 1\* repeat between \*\*

Continue alternating a picot with a single crochet, working in between the stitches along the cast-off edge until you reach the first stitch marker where a button-loop should be placed.

**Adding a button-loop:** Instead of chaining 2 for the picot stitch, continue chaining stitches until you have a loop long enough to snugly pass your button through (for the sample's buttons, this was chaining 7 stitches). Then slip stitch through the front loop and left front leg of sc to secure your loop. *Note - if you haven't chosen your buttons yet or decided on your button placement, then just picot around the entire neckline and add extra crochet chain loops for the buttons later, to make sure they fit.*

Continue on in this way throughout the rest of the neckline. When you reach the bottom left corner, sc 1, ch 1, sc 1 into the same stitch (on the corner), then continue with the picot repeat - this helps

square the edge. Then continue along the back, repeat the same instructions on the right front corner, and continue up the right front to the back of the neck where you started. Cut the yarn leaving a tail and pass it through the last crochet stitch, securing it.

Add a picot hem along the bottoms of the sleeves as well, beginning and ending at the inner arm where the BOR was.

Use a needle and thread to sew the buttons to the front where you marked their placements. Use a tapestry needle to weave in your ends, block gently with cool water or according to your yarn's wash instructions, and lay flat to dry, pinning lace into place so it will dry flat.

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you're done!! congratulations! thank you so much for choosing to knit one of my patterns. if you share it online, please tag #OpheliaBlouse and tag me so I can see & re-share your beautiful work!

♥ tamara / @starcrossed.knits