

# SEMPER

*Sweater*



The Knit Purl Girl

SEMPER SWEATER - V1.2



The Semper Sweater is my take on a classic raglan jumper. There is nothing fancy about it but it has quickly become my go-to piece of clothing when I don't want to think about what I want to wear. Somehow, though, I always want to wear this sweater. In Latin, 'semper' means 'always', so the name seemed fitting.

The Sweater itself is worked top-down and in the round using a combination of fingering- and lace-weight yarns, or a single strand of a DK-weight yarn, if you prefer to work with just one yarn at a time. It starts with a double-folded collar and then is shaped with some German short rows and raglan shaping. Once the yoke is finished, you will leave the sleeves to rest and work the body to your desired length. You will then pick up the stitches for the sleeves and work them with some gentle decreases to create a slight taper. I recommend that you finish the body and sleeves with tubular cast-offs, but you can use your preferred method.

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## Materials & Fit

**Notions:** 3.5-mm [US 4] (40-cm [16-in] cord) and 4.5 mm [US 7] (40-, 60-, 80-, and/or 100-cm [16-, 24-, 32-, and/or 40-in] cord; the 100-cm [40in] cord may not be useful for all sizes but I would recommend it if you are using the magic loop method for, say, the sleeves) circular needles.

You will also need 8 stitch markers (one of which should be in a contrasting colour to indicate the beginning of the round and have a clip-on fastening), a darning needle, and some spare needles/scrap yarn/stitch holders where the stitches of the sleeves will rest.

**Tension:** 21 sts x 28 rows = 10 cm [4 in] stocking stitch on 4.5 mm [US 7] needles. Make sure to wash and block your swatch for the most accurate results. Please note that I have tighter-than-average row gauge, but this isn't too important in this pattern. You may wish to go up or down a needle size, working in 0.25/0.5 mm [.5/1 US needle size] increments as needed to meet gauge.

**Yarn:** Approximately 4 (4) 4 (4) 5, (5) 5 (6) 6 (6) 7 skeins of Knitting for Olive Merino (100% merino; 50 g = 250 m 273 yds) and 4 (4) 5 (5) 5, (5) 6 (6) 6 (7) 7 skeins of Knitting for Olive Soft Silk Mohair (70% mohair; 30% silk; 25 g = 225 m 246 yds), held together throughout (i.e., you hold the two yarns together as you knit with them).

This works out to be 1,000 (1,000) 1,000 (1,000) 1,250, (1,250) 1,250 (1,500) 1,500 (1,500) 1,750 m (or 1,092 (1,092) 1,092 (1,092) 1,365 (1,365) 1,365 (1,638) 1,638 (1,638) 1,911 yds) of Merino held with 900 (900) 1,125 (1,125) 1,125, (1,125) 1,350 (1,350) 1,350 (1,575) 1,575 m (or 984 (984) 1,230 (1,230) 1,230, (1,230) 1,476 (1,476) 1,476 (1,722) 1,722 yds) of Soft Silk Mohair

Where possible, buy more yarn than you need to avoid issues with dye lots.

**Yarn alternatives:** Any combination of fingering- and lace-weight yarns or DK-weight yarn suitable for 3.5-4.5 mm [US 4-7] needles should work well. A more thorough explanation of finding yarn substitutions is available through my website. Where possible, I would recommend sticking with a wool based-yarn, as alpaca- or cotton- based yarns tend to stretch over time with washing and wear. If you are using such fibres, I would perhaps recommend going down a size to accommodate any changes to the shape of your Semper Sweater over time.

Good alternatives for the Knitting for Olive Merino include Filcolana Arwetta Classic (80% superwash merino 20% nylon; 50 g = 210 m [230 yds]), Along Avec Anna Merino (100% superwash merino; 50 g = 200 m [218 yds]), Sandnes Garn Sunday (100% merino; 50 g = 235 m [257 yds]), Sandnes Garn Tynn Peer Gynt (100% Norwegian wool; 50 g = 205 m [224 yds]), and Drops Flora (65% Wool, 35% Alpaca; 50 g = 210 m [230 yds]).

Good alternatives for the Knitting for Olive Soft Silk Mohair include Drops Kid-Silk (75% mohair, 25% silk; 25 g = 210 m [230 yds]), Sandnes Garn Tynn Silk Mohair (57% mohair, 15% wool and 28% silk; 25 g = 212m [232 yds]), Along Avec Anna Silk Mohair (72% mohair, 28% silk; 25 g = 210 m [230 yds]), and CaMaRose Midnatssol (54% baby alpaca, 36% tencel, 10% merino wool; 25 g = 200 m [219 yds]). I have written an extensive mohair comparison post on my blog, reviewing lots of different products, should you want a different alternative to the Knitting for Olive Soft Silk Mohair. Please note that I would not recommend an alpaca-based mohair alternative, with the exception of CaMaRose Midnatssol, as in my experience they are rarely – if ever – a true lace-weight yarn.

Good DK-weight options include West Yorkshire Spinners [WYS] Elements (60% TENCEL™ Lyocell 40%, Falkland Islands Wool; 50g = 122m [122yd], Sandnes Garn Double Sunday (100% merino; 50g = 108 m [118 yds]), Along Avec Anna Double Merino (100% superwash merino, 108 m [118 yds]), and Sandnes Garn Peer Gynt (100% Norwegian wool; 50g = 91 m [100 yds]).

**Sizing and ease:** The Semper Sweater has about 5-10 cm [2-4 in] positive ease for sizes A-H, and 5-15 cm [2-6 in] positive ease for sizes H-J. Choose your size based on your chest measurement. If you would like a closer fitting or looser garment, size up or down accordingly. The sizes are as follows:

Size: A (B) C (D) E, (F) G (H) I (J) K

**Chest measurement (cm):** 75-80 (80-85) 85-90 (90-95) 95-100, (100-105) 105-110 (110-115) 115-125 (125-135) 135-145

**Chest measurement (in):** 29.5-31.5 (31.5-33.5) 33.5-35.5 (35.5-37.5) 37.5-39.3, (39.3-41.3) 41.3-43.3 (43.3-45.3) 45.3-49.2 (49.2-53.1) 53.1-57

**Actual circumference of garment (cm):** 85 (90) 95 (100) 105, (110) 115 (120) 130(140) 150

**Actual circumference of garment (in):** 33.5 (35.5) 37.5 (39.3) 41.3, (43.3) 45.3 (47.3) 51.2 (55.1) 59

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## Techniques

### Knitting in the round

Knitting in the round is a technique that allows you to work pieces of knitting in one go without seams. Essentially, you are knitting a big tube rather than flat panels. The key point to remember is that the RS of the work is always facing you (except when working short rows, see below). It's much less complicated than it seems but if this is your first time working in the round, you may find this tutorial helpful: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_BNZx2Nt8Ng](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_BNZx2Nt8Ng)

### Double-folded collar

This is a technique that is often used in sweaters and for the brims of hats. I have my live stitches on a 40 cm [16 in] needle, and then use the same needle to work the stitches. It's just what feels more comfortable for me. Essentially, you work the rib to twice your desired length with a round of purl stitches halfway through. You then fold your knitting over on itself, so that the cast-on edge sits inside your circular needle. When you go to work the first stitch of the round, you need to follow the column of stitches back down to the cast-on, pick up the corresponding stitch along the cast-on edge, and work them together. It is a bit fiddly but the results are so worth it. This video offers a good explanation, though personally I find it easier to put the picked-up stitch on my left-hand needle:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nL\\_5UF1e9Jk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nL_5UF1e9Jk)

## German short rows

Short rows are a technique used to add extra shape to a garment. If you have never worked them before, don't worry – they are much easier than they first appear. For this project, they are used to add extra shape to the shoulders and back.

To work this technique, knit across the round until you are told to 'turn'. Turn your work around so that you are looking at the wrong side. Making sure that your working yarn is in front of your work, slip the last stitch you knitted from your left-hand needle to your righthand needle. Pull the working yarn over the top of your needle tightly, so that you can see a little inverted 'V' rather than a normal, single stitch. Bring your working yarn all the way around to the front of your work again and continue to purl until you need to turn your work again. When you reach this point, turn your work so that the right side is once again facing you and, with the working yarn in front of the work, once again slip the last stitch you purled from the left-hand needle to the right. Again, pull the working yarn so that you can see the inverted 'V' but, this time, keep the working yarn behind the work, so that you are ready to knit. It is normal for the turning stitches to look a little distorted. When you next work these GSR stitches, simply knit them like a normal stitch.

Please note that the 'V' stitch is often referred to as the 'GSR stitch', but I also refer to it as 'the previous GSR turning stitch'.

I recommend watching this video by Purl Soho, which provides a good demonstration and explanation of the technique:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3S9cl47PYw>

## Leaning increases

**Make 1 right/M1R:** This is a right-leaning increase. Insert your needle under the strand of yarn between the stitch you have just knit and the next stitch from back to front and place it on your left-hand needle. Knit it through the front loop, like a normal stitch.

**Make 1 left/M1L:** This is a left-leaning increase. Insert your needle under the strand of yarn between the stitch you have just knit and the next stitch from front to back and place it on your left-hand needle. Knit it through the back loop so that it is twisted.

## Leaning decreases

**Knit 2 together/K2tog:** A right-leaning decrease. Knit two stitches together as if they were one.

**Slip, slip, knit/SSK:** A left-leaning decrease. Slip the next stitch in your row/round from the left-hand needle to the right-hand needle knit-wise, repeat for the next stitch, pass them both back to the left hand needle purl-wise and work them together through the back loop. If you prefer, you can use any other left-leaning decrease, e.g., Slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over or k2tog through the back loop.

### **Casting on in the middle of a row**

You will need to cast on new stitches in the middle of a row when you separate the body from the sleeves. It's not particularly difficult, but can be tricky for beginners. You can either use the backward loop/thumb method, or the knitted method. If you use the knitted method, you will need to knit/purl through the back of the new stitches on the next row/round. I tend to prefer the backwards loop/thumb method because it is faster but the two cast-on methods yield very similar results in practice. The following tutorial is very helpful and explains the differences: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTgT7kE1c\\_k&](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTgT7kE1c_k&)

### **Tubular bind-off**

A tubular bind-off is a type of sewn bind-off that gives the illusion of the rib stitch rolling over on itself towards the WS of your work. This produces a really neat and professional finish without a harsh line at the end. Alternatively, you can work an elastic bind-off – but I recommend going down at least 1 needle size or the edge will fan out. I really do recommend learning the tubular bind-off, though, as the finish is so beautiful and it really isn't too difficult once you've got your head around it. Here is a good tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNbanlVzbxw>

### **Stitches**

#### **1x1 rib (in the round)**

Round 1 (RS): \*Knit 1, purl 1\*, repeat to the end of the round.

#### **Stocking stitch (in the round)**

Round 1 (RS): Knit all stitches.

### **Abbreviations**

BOR: Beginning of round

K: Knit

M[x]: Marker

M1L: Make one left-leaning increase (see above)

M1R: Make one right-leaning increase (see above)

P: Purl  
SR: Short row  
RS: Right side  
WS: Wrong side  
WYIB: With yarn in back  
WYIF: With yarn in front  
\*...\*: Repeat steps between the asterisks until otherwise stated

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## Collar

Using 4.5 mm [US 7] 40-cm [16-in] circular needles and the long-tail method, cast on 80 (88) 88 (92) 92, (100) 108 (112) 116 (120) 124 stitches.

In the next round change to a 3.5 mm [US 4] 40-cm [16-in] circular needle. This will make the double-folded collar easier to work. Place a marker between the first and last stitch to keep track of the BOR and join in the round.

Work the collar as follows:

**Rounds 1-12:** \*Knit 1, purl 1\* to the end of the round.

**Round 13:** Purl all stitches.

**Rounds 14-25:** \*Knit 1, purl 1\* to the end of the round.

In the next round, you will work each stitch together with the corresponding stitch of the cast-on edge to form a double-folded collar. This can be intimidating and a bit fiddly if you are new to the technique, but it gets easier when you get into the flow of it. You may find it helpful to place a stitch marker every few stitches to ensure that your collar doesn't become skewed. Work the collar as follows:

**Round 26:** Fold the collar in half along the row of purl stitches so that the cast-on edge is sitting inside of your circular needle. \*Look back down the column of the next stitch on your left-hand needle and identify the cast-on stitch for that column. Put it on the left-hand needle and knit it together as you would with a K2tog with the live stitch.\* Repeat this process to the end of the round until all of the stitches have been worked with their corresponding cast-on stitch.

You may wish to insert some shirring elastic into the collar whilst you work the

fold, or you can sew or crochet it in later. I do really recommend adding some elastic to maintain the best fit over time, but the method of insertion is up to you.

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## Yoke

You will now begin to work the yoke of your Semper Sweater.

To set up, change back to your 4.5 mm [US7] 40-cm [16-in] circular and knit 1 round, placing stitch markers throughout the round as follows:

M1 – 1 stitch – M2 – 13 (15) 15 (15) 15, (17) 19 (19) 19 (19) 19 (left sleeve) – M3 – 1 stitch – M4 – 25 (27) 27 (29) 29, (31) 33 (35) 37 (39) 41 stitches (back) – M5 – 1 stitch – M6 – 13 (15) 15 (15) 15, (17) 19 (19) 19 (19) 19 (right sleeve) – M7 – 1 stitch – M8 – 25 (27) 27 (29) 29, (31) 33 (35) 37 (39) 41 stitches (front)

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## Short rows

You will now work a series of German short rows to shape the neckline of your Semper Sweater. You may wish to change to a 60- or 80-cm [24- or 32-in] circular needle as you work these rows to accommodate your new stitches. To set up, work the following 2 rows:

**SR 1 (RS):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, M1L, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, M1R, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, M1L, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, M1R, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit 2 stitches, and knit the next stitch to use as your GSR turning stitch (+ 8 stitches).

**SR 2 (WS):** Purl all stitches back to M1, slipping all other markers as you work. Slip M1, purl 3, and purl the next stitch to use as your GSR turning stitch.

You will now continue to work short rows, repeating the follows 2 rows a total of 2 (2) 2 (2) 2, (3) 3 (4) 4 (4) 5 times:

**SR 3 (RS):** Knit back to M1, M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, M1L, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, M1R, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, M1L, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, M1R, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit to the previous turning stitch and work it like a

normal knit stitch, knit 2 stitches and use the next stitch as your GSR turning stitch (+ 8 stitches).

**SR 4 (WS):** Purl all stitches back to M1, slipping all other markers as you work. Slip M1, purl to the previous turning stitch and work it like a normal purl stitch, purl 2, and use the next stitch as your GSR turning stitch.

At the end of these short rows you will need to knit back to M1 and you will have a total of 104 (112) 112 (116) 116 (132) 140 (152) 156 (160) 172 stitches, distributed as follows:

M1 – 1 stitch – M2 – 19 (21) 21 (21) 21, (25) 27 (29) 29 (29) 31 (left sleeve) – M3 – 1 stitch – M4 – 31 (33) 33 (35) 35, (39) 41 (45) 47 (49) 53 stitches (back) – M5 – 1 stitch – M6 – 19 (21) 21 (21) 21, (25) 27 (29) 29 (29) 31 (right sleeve) – M7 – 1 stitch – M8 – 31 (33) 33 (35) 35, (39) 41 (45) 47 (49) 53 stitches (front)

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### Shaping the yoke, pt. 1 (all sizes)

You will now continue to work raglan increases to shape the yoke. You may wish to change to an 80 or 100 cm [32 or 40 in] circular needle as you work these rows to accommodate your new stitches. These 2 rounds are worked a total of 14 (13) 14 (15) 14, (12) 10 (14) 18 (22) 21 times, as follows:

**Round 1 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, M1L, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, M1R, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, M1L, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, M1R, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+8 stitches).

**Round 2:** Knit all stitches, slipping all markers as you work.

At the end of these rounds, you will have a total of 216 (216) 224 (236) 228, (228) 220 (264) 300 (336) 340 stitches, distributed as follows:

M1– 1 stitch – M2 – 47 (47) 49 (51) 49, (49) 47 (57) 65 (73) 73 stitches (left sleeve) – M3 – 1 stitch – M4 – 59 (59) 61 (65) 63, (63) 61 (73) 83 (93) 95 stitches (back) – M5 – 1 stitch – M6 – 47 (47) 49 (51) 49, (49) 47 (57) 65 (73) 73 (right sleeve) – M7 – 1 stitch – M8 – 59 (59) 61 (65) 63, (63) 61 (73) 83 (93) 95 stitches (front)

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**Shaping the yoke, pt. 2 (Sizes A-I only; Size J should proceed to Shaping the yoke, pt. 3 and Size K should proceed to Shaping the yoke pt. 4)**

You will now continue to work raglan increases, but the increase rate will change slightly in the sleeves so that you will now work increases to the sleeves every other increase round. The increase rate for the body sections is unchanged. These increases are worked over a total of 4 rounds, which you will work a total of 4 (5) 6 (6) 8, (9) 10 (6) 2 (-) - times, as follows:

**Round 1 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, M1L, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, M1R, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, M1L, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, M1R, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+8 stitches).

**Round 2:** Knit all stitches, slipping all markers as you work.

**Round 3 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+4 stitches).

**Round 4:** Knit all stitches, slipping all markers as you work.

Sizes B, G, and I will now need to repeat Rounds 1 and 2 only once more.

At the end of these rounds, you will have a total of 264 (284) 296 (308) 324, (336) 348 (336) 332 (-) - stitches, distributed as follows:

M1 – 1 stitch – M2 – 55 (59) 61 (63) 65, (67) 69 (69) 69 (-) - stitches (left sleeve) – M3 – 1 stitch – M4 – 75 (81) 85 (89) 95, (99) 103 (97) 95 (-) - stitches (back) – M5 – 1 stitch – M6 – 55 (59) 61 (63) 65, (67) 69 (69) 69 (-) - (right sleeve) – M7 – 1 stitch – M8 – 75 (81) 85 (89) 95, (99) 103 (97) 95 (-) - stitches (front)

Sizes A-G should now proceed to Divide body and sleeves below. Sizes H-I should proceed to Shaping the yoke, pt. 3 below.

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**Shaping the yoke, pt. 3 (Sizes H-J only)**

You will now continue to work raglan increases, but the increase rate will again

change slightly. This time, the rate changes for just the body as you will now be working increases to the body sections in every round. You will continue to work increases to the sleeves every 4th round. These increases are worked over 4 rounds, which you will work a total of - (-) - (-) - (-) - (1) 3 (4) - times, as follows:

**Round 1 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, M1L, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, M1R, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, M1L, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, M1R, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+8 stitches).

**Round 2 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+4 stitches).

**Round 3 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+4 stitches).

**Round 4 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+4 stitches).

Sizes H and J will now need to repeat Rounds 1 and 2 only once more.

At the end of these rounds, you will have a total of - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (368) 392 (428) - stitches, distributed as follows:

M1 – 1 stitch – M2 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (73) 75 (83) - stitches (left sleeve) – M3 – 1 stitch – M4 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (109) 119 (129) - stitches (back) – M5 – 1 stitch – M6 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (73) 75 (83) - stitches (right sleeve) – M7 – 1 stitch – M8 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (109) 119 (129) - stitches (front)

You should now proceed to Divide body and sleeves below.

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Shaping the yoke, pt. 4 (Size K only, overleaf)

You will now continue to work raglan increases, but the increase rate will change slightly in the body so that you will now work increases to the body every increase round. The increase rate for the sleeve sections is unchanged. These increases are worked over 2 rounds, which you will work a total of - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 7 times, as follows:

**Round 1 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, M1L, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, M1R, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, M1L, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, M1R, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+8 stitches).

**Round 2 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+4 stitches).

At the end of these rounds, you will have a total of - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 424 stitches, distributed as follows:

M1 – 1 stitch – M2 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 87 stitches (left sleeve) – M3 – 1 stitch – M4 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 123 stitches (back) – M5 – 1 stitch – M6 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 87 (right sleeve) – M7 – 1 stitch – M8 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 123 stitches (front)

You will now work some more raglan increases, but the increase rate will again change slightly. This time, the rate changes for just the body as you will now be working increases to the body sections in every round. You will continue to work increases to the sleeves every 4th round. These increases are worked over 4 rounds, which you will work a total of - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 2 times, as follows:

**Round 1 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, M1L, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, M1R, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, M1L, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, M1R, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+8 stitches).

**Round 2 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+4 stitches).

**Round 3 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+4 stitches).

**Round 4 (increase round):** M1R, slip M1, knit 1, slip M2, knit all left sleeve stitches to M3, slip M3, knit 1, slip M4, M1L, knit all back stitches to M5, M1R, slip M5, knit 1, slip M6, knit all right sleeve stitches to M7, slip M7, knit 1, slip M8, M1L, knit all front stitches to M1 (+4 stitches).

At the end of these rounds, you will have a total of - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) - (-) 464 stitches, distributed as follows:

M1 – 1 stitch – M2 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 91 stitches (left sleeve) – M3 – 1 stitch – M4 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 139 stitches (back) – M5 – 1 stitch – M6 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 91 (right sleeve) – M7 – 1 stitch – M8 – - (-) - (-) -, (-) - (-) - (-) 139 stitches (front)

You should now proceed to **Divide body and sleeves** below.

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### Divide body and sleeves

To reiterate for all sizes, you now have a total of 264 (284) 296 (308) 324, (336) 348 (368) 392 (428) 464 stitches, distributed as follows:

M1 – 1 stitch – M2 – 55 (59) 61 (63) 65, (67) 69 (73) 75 (83) 91 stitches (left sleeve) – M3 – 1 stitch – M4 – 75 (81) 85 (89) 95, (99) 103 (109) 119 (129) 139 stitches (back) – M5 – 1 stitch – M6 – 55 (59) 61 (63) 65, (67) 69 (73) 75 (83) 91 (right sleeve) – M7 – 1 stitch – M8 – 75 (81) 85 (89) 95, (99) 103 (109) 119 (129) 139 stitches (front)

You will now divide your yoke and cast on underarm stitches to form the body and sleeve sections respectively. This is done as follows:

**Round 1:** Slip M1, knit 1, remove M2, cast on 12 (12) 13 (14) 14, (15) 15 (15) 16 (16) 16 new stitches using the backwards loop or knitted method, slip the left sleeve stitches onto a spare circular needle, stitch holder, or piece of scrap yarn. Remove M3, knit 1, remove M4, knit all of the back stitches, remove M5, knit 1, remove M6, cast on 12 (12) 13 (14) 14, (15) 15 (15) 16 (16) 16 new stitches

using the backwards loop or knitted method, slip the right sleeve stitches onto a spare circular needle, stitch holder, or piece of scrap yarn. Remove M7, knit 1, remove M8, knit all of the front stitches back to M1.

At the end of this round, you will have two sets of 55 (59) 61 (63) 65, (67) 69 (73) 75 (83) 91 sleeve stitches resting, and a total of 178 (190) 200 (210) 222, (232) 240 (252) 274 (294) 314 body stitches. You may wish to change back to an shorter length circular needle cord to accommodate your live body stitches to make knitting the body more comfortable.

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## Body

You will now continue to work the body in stocking stitch until it measures approximately 38 (40) 40 (40) 42, (42) 44 (46) 46 (48) 48 cm [15.25 (15.75) 15.75 (15.75) 16.5, (16.5) 17.25 (18) 18 (19) 19 in], or about 3 cm [1.25 in] shorter than your preferred length when measuring from the bottom of the collar in the middle of the back. Please note that if you add a significant amount of length, this will affect the estimated yarn quantity given here.

When you are happy with the length, change back to your preferred length of 3.5 mm [US 4] needles and work the rib hem. Please note that rounds 13 and 14 set up the tubular cast-off. If you would prefer to use an alternative cast-off method (e.g., an elastic cast-off), you can omit these rows. Work the hem as follows:

**Rounds 1-12:** Slip M1, \*knit 1, purl 1\* to the end of the round.

**Round 13:** Slip M1, \*knit 1, slip 1 purlwise WYIF\* to the end of the round.

**Round 14:** Slip M1, \*slip 1 purlwise WYIB, purl 1\* to the end of the round.

Cut your yarn, leaving a tail 3-4 times longer than the circumference of your sweater. Thread a darning needle with this tail and work a tubular cast-off as follows:

Remove M1.

You may wish to place a clip-on marker onto the first stitch of the round, as this will help you achieve a neat finish at the end of the cast-off. To begin, pass your threaded darning needle behind your left-hand needle and bring it in-between the

first and second stitch on the needle, working from back to front. Slip the second stitch (which should be a purl stitch) on your left-hand needle as if to knit it. Do not let any stitches fall off your needle. Instead, (\*) slip the first stitch knitwise. Keeping your darning needle in front of your work, skip the next stitch on your left-hand needle and instead pass your darning needle through the second stitch purlwise. Once again keeping your darning needle in front of your work, slip the first stitch on your needle as if to purl it and let it fall off of your needle. Bring your darning needle behind your work and bring it in-between the first and second stitch on the needle, working from back to front. Just as the beginning of the cast-off, pass the needle through the second stitch as if to knit it on your left-hand needle.

Repeat this pattern of 'knit, drop, skip, purl, purl, drop, bring yarn through, knit, from (\*) until all but 2 of the stitches have been worked. You may find it helpful to think that you are essentially grafting two pieces of knitted fabric together by working Kitchener's Stitch, but all of the stitches are on 1 needle instead of 2. In Kitchener's Stitch 'proper', all of the knit stitches would be on the needle closest to you and all of the purl stitches would be on the needle furthest from you.

When you work the final 2 stitches of the round, work them as follows:

Knit into the first stitch with your darning needle as established and let it fall off of your left-hand needle. Skip the next stitch as established and purl into the first stitch of the round. Bring your yarn back around and purl into the final stitch of the round and let it slip off of your needle. Give your working yarn a good pull and weave in the end through the rib as neatly as possible. This should give you a really seamless finish.

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## Sleeves (x2)

You will now resume working the sleeves. The sleeves have a relaxed but slightly tapered shape, with some decreases worked every few rounds.

To begin, slip your 55 (59) 61 (63) 65, (67) 69 (73) 75 (83) 91 resting sleeve stitches back onto a 4.5 mm [US 7] 40 cm [16 in] circular needle. Locate the centre point of the underarm cast on and with a new piece of working yarn, pick up and knit 7 (7) 8 (8) 8, (9) 9 (9) 9 (9) 9 stitches making sure that the last stitch comes from the point at which the body and sleeves were separated. Clip on a BOR marker on the first stitch of the round. Knit all of the sleeve stitches and,

again, pick up and knit another 7 (7) 7 (8) 8, (8) 8 (8) 9 (9) 9 stitches from along the cast-on edge of the underarm, making sure that the first stitch comes from the point at which the body and sleeves were separated.

In the next round, slip the BOR marker, knit 6 (6) 7 (7) 7, (8) 8 (8) 8 (8) 8, SSK, knit until 8 (8) 9 (9) 9, (10) 10 (10) 10 (10) 10 stitches remain in the round, k2tog, knit the remaining stitches. This should help to prevent holes forming between the body and sleeve sections, but you may also wish to go in with a darning needle to add some extra strength here, too.

You now have a total of 67 (71) 74 (77) 79, (82) 84 (88) 91 (99) 107 live stitches.

Please note that the following section is based on a sleeve length of 43.5 cm [17 in] for all sizes. If your arm is significantly shorter or longer than this, you may wish to increase/decrease the frequency of decrease rounds as needed. To do this, just work more/fewer rounds in stocking stitch between each decrease round.

Work another 18 (13) 11 (10) 10, (9) 9 (7) 6 (5) 4 rounds in stocking stitch (i.e., knit all stitches).

Work the next rounds as follows:

**Decrease round:** Slip BOR marker, knit 1, k2tog, knit until 3 stitches remain on the needle, SSK, knit 1 (-2 stitches).

You will now continue to work the following rounds a total of 5 (7) 8 (9) 9, (10) 11 (12) 13 (16) 19 times:

\*Work 19 (14) 12 (11) 11, (10) 9 (8) 7 (6) 5 rounds in stocking stitch. On the next round, slip BOR marker, knit 1, k2tog, knit until 3 stitches remain on the needle, SSK, knit 1 (-2 stitches).

By the end of each sleeve, you will have decreased a total of 12 (16) 18 (20) 20, (22) 24 (26) 28 (34) 40 stitches and you now have a total of 55 (55) 56 (57) 59, (60) 60 (62) 63 (65) 67 live stitches. The sleeve should be between 3-5 cm [1.25-2 in] too short at this point.

**Note:** If you would prefer a more cinched-in cuff, you can work some extra decrease in the final round of your sleeve as follows:

**Optional final decrease round:** Slip BOR marker, knit 1, k2tog, \*knit 4-6 stitches, depending on how tight you want the cuff to be, k2tog\* until the end of the round.

If you find that your sleeve is long enough before you have reached the end of the decreases, feel free to stop working them at any point to get the right length for your body. Equally, if you find that the sleeve isn't quite long enough at the end of these rounds, feel free to continue working in stocking stitch until the sleeve is 3 cm [1.25 in] shorter than your ideal length. As you work the decreases, you may find it easier to change to double-pointed knitting needles.

When you are happy with the length, you can change back to your preferred length and mode of 3.5 mm [US 4] needles to work the cuff in 1x1 rib. As with the body, please note that rounds 13 and 14 set up the tubular cast-off. If you would prefer to use an alternative cast-off method (e.g., an elastic cast-off), you can omit these rows. You will now work the cuff as follows:

**Rounds 1-12:** Slip BOR marker, \*knit 1, purl 1\* to the end of the round. Please note that on the first round, you may need to begin the round with a k2tog to get an even number of stitches if you are left with an odd number of stitches at the end of the sleeve.

**Round 13:** Slip BOR marker, \*knit 1, slip 1 purlwise WYIF\* to the end of the round.

**Round 14:** Slip BOR marker, \*slip 1 purlwise WYIB, purl 1\* to the end of the round.

You are now ready to work the tubular cast-off in the same way as you did for the body.

Repeat all steps here for the second sleeve.

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## Finishing

Weave in all ends and wet block your work. Your Semper Sweater is all done.

If you would like to share your work on Instagram, make sure to tag me @the\_knit\_purl\_girl and use #SemperSweater in your posts so that I can share them.

For pattern support, please email [the.knit.purl.girl2020@gmail.com](mailto:the.knit.purl.girl2020@gmail.com). Please do not contact me via Instagram or Ravelry as I cannot guarantee that I will see your messages on these platforms.

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The Knit Purl Girl

## LET'S GET IN TOUCH

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