

TIED & TRUE TANK



The Tied & True Tank is a sweet and flirty top that accentuates your figure. It's knitted top-down, beginning with the upper back and then picking up each shoulder. The back and front are joined at the underarms, and the rest of the top is knitted in one piece. It comes in 9 sizes with suggestions on how you can customize the bust for a better fit. There are optional horizontal short-row bust darts and shaping for the underbust. The top is held closed with three i-cords at the bust, underbust, and waist; the underbust and waist ties allow you to cinch them for a closer fit. The body is finished with a ruffled peplum hem and i-cord edging. It can be worn alone as a flirty cropped tank, or layered as a vest.

GAUGE: 4" x 4" (10 cm x 10 cm) in stockinette with US 7 / 4.5 mm needle: 18 stitches, 26 rows

TOOLS & MATERIALS

- US 7 (4.5 mm) knitting needles or whatever size meets gauge, with a cable or length that is longer than your full bust circumference; these will be used for knitting the body flat
- a spare knitting needle (can be US 7 / 4.5 mm or any size smaller), for folded hems
- 2 locking stitch markers

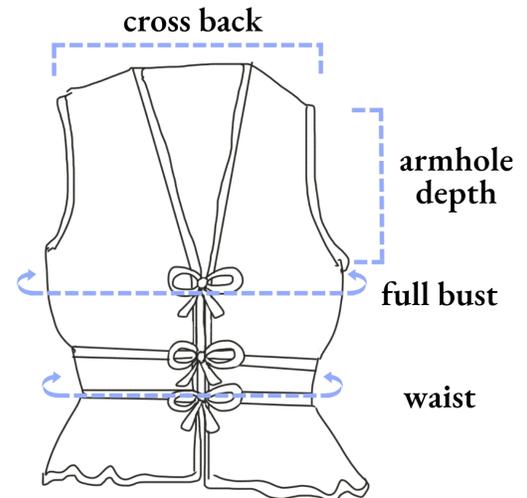
YARN

Recommended yarn: Wool and the Gang, Shiny Happy Cotton (100% Cotton Aran/Worsted)

Alternate yarn suggestions: Cotton yarns make a great choice for a tank top, but wool and acrylic yarns make a great vest for layering! Examples - Knit Picks Simply Cotton Organic Worsted, Cascade Nifty Cotton, Knit Picks Dishie, We Are Knitters Pima Cotton, Lion Brand Cotton Ease, DROPS Nepal, Berroco Comfort Solids

FIT

This top is meant to be worn with -1.5” to +1” of ease at the bust, +1” to +3.5” of ease at the waist, and -1.5” of ease at the cross-back point. The functional ties at the underbust and waist allow you to cinch them to your comfort if you prefer a tighter fit at those points. If you have a larger bust proportionally than in the size chart below, I recommend choosing a size that best matches your cross-back width, which is the measurement across your back where your underarms split from your body, and then modifying the bust; if you size up to accommodate a larger bust, the shoulders and underarms may be too loose. The pattern offers recommendations on how to modify for a larger bust, and how to modify for a larger or smaller waist-- look for dashed boxes throughout the pattern. The length is customizable.



Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
To fit bust:	28-30” 71 - 76 cm	32-34” 81 - 86.5cm	36-38” 91.5 - 96.5 cm	40-42” 101.5 - 106.5 cm	44-46” 112 - 117 cm	48-50” 122 - 127 cm	52-54” 132 - 137 cm	56-58” 142 - 147.5 cm	60-62” 152.5 - 157.5 cm
To fit cross-back:	13.25” 34 cm	13.75” 35 cm	14.25” 36 cm	14.75” 37 cm	15.25” 39 cm	15.75” 40 cm	16.25” 41 cm	16.75” 43 cm	17” 43 cm
Full Bust of garment (with intended ease)	28.5” 72 cm	33” 83.5 cm	37” 93.5 cm	40.75” 103.5 cm	44.75” 113.5 cm	49” 124.5 cm	53” 135 cm	56.75” 144 cm	59” 150 cm
Cross Back of garment (with intended ease)	11.5” 29 cm	12” 30.5 cm	12.5” 32 cm	13” 33 cm	13.5” 34.5 cm	14” 35.5 cm	14.5” 37 cm	15” 38 cm	15.25” 38.5 cm

Waist of garment (with intended ease)	25" 63.5 cm	29.25" 74.5 cm	33.25" 84.5 cm	37" 94 cm	41" 104 cm	45.5" 115.5 cm	49.5" 125.5 cm	53" 134.5 cm	55.5" 141 cm
Armhole depth (also depth of v-neck)	7.75" 19.5 cm	8" 20.5 cm	8.25" 21 cm	8.5" 21.5 cm	9" 23 cm	9.25" 23.5 cm	9.5" 24 cm	9.75" 25 cm	10.25" 26 cm
Total length (length is adjustable)	17.25" 44 cm	17.5" 44.5 cm	17.75" 45 cm	18" 45.5 cm	18.5" 47 cm	19" 48.5 cm	19.5" 49.5 cm	20" 51 cm	20.5" 52 cm
Estimated yarn amount (increasing length will use more yarn)	450 yds 410 m	520 yds 480 m	600 yds 550 m	660 yds 610 m	750 yds 680 m	840 yds 770 m	940 yds 860 m	1020 yds 940 m	1100 yds 1000 m

TECHNIQUES

- [applied i-cord edge](#)
- [backwards loop cast-on](#)
- [German short rows](#), **“turn work”**: turn your work so the opposite side is facing you, and move the yarn to front 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*)
- [i-cord](#)
- [i-cord bind-off](#)
- [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)
- [kfb](#): knit 1 stitch without slipping it off the left needle, then knit into the back loop of the same stitch (increases by 1 stitch)
- [long-tail cast on](#)
- [m1l](#): “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.
- **m2lk**: “make 2 left-leaning knit stitches.” Do a m1lk, but **don’t** slip the new stitch off your left needle yet. Knit another stitch into the front leg of the bar that you just knitted into, then slip the two stitches to your right needle.
- **m2lp**: “make 2 left-leaning purl stitches.” Do a m1lp but **don’t** slip the new stitch off your left needle yet. Purl another stitch into the front leg of the bar you just purled into, then slip the two stitches to your right needle.
- **m2rk**: “make 2 right-leaning knit stitches.” Do a m1rk, but **don’t** slip the new stitch off your left needle yet. Knit another stitch into the back leg of the bar that you just knitted into, then slip the two stitches to your right needle.
- **m2rp**: “make 2 right-leaning purl stitches.” Do a m1rp but **don’t** slip the new stitch off your left needle yet. Purl another stitch into the back leg of the bar that you just knitted into, then slip the two stitches to your right needle.
- **p2tog**: “purl 2 stitches together.” Move the yarn to the front and place the right needle tip through the front legs of the next two stitches purlwise, and purl together through the front legs.
- **picking up stitches**
- **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)

ABBREVIATIONS

- **BOR**: “beginning of round”
- **inc**: increase(s)
- **k**: knit (ex, “k 2” = “knit 2 stitches”)
- **p**: purl (ex, “p to end” = “purl to the end of the row”)

- **RS:** “right side” of the work, with knitted V shapes visible
- **st:** stitch(es)
- **WS:** “wrong side” of the work, with purl bumps visible

UPPER BACK

Cast on (52; 54; 56) [59; 61; 63] (65; 67; 68) stitches to your US 7 / 4.5 mm needles with **long-tail cast on**.

Now you’ll add some shoulder shaping with **German Short Rows**, beginning with 2 setup rows:

Setup Row 1 (RS): Knit (38; 40; 41) [43; 45; 46] (48; 50; 50) stitches, **turn work** (*turn work so the other side is facing you, slip the last stitch you made back onto the right needle, pull the working yarn over the right needle counter-clockwise like a yarn-over so it is in back. Use this German Short Row technique every time this pattern tells you “turn work”*). Place a **locking stitch marker** into the cast-on edge stitch at this location; this will help you see where the back of the neck of the top is in later steps.

Setup Row 2 (WS): Purl (23; 25; 25) [26; 28; 28] (30; 32; 31) stitches, turn work. Place a locking stitch marker into the cast-on edge stitch at this location.

Now you’ll do this 2-row repeat:

Row 1 (RS): Knit until you’ve knitted the last turned stitch, then knit an additional (4; 4; 4) [5; 5; 5] (5; 5; 5) stitches. **Turn work.** (*note: you can see the last place you turned by looking for the double stitch created when you turn. When you reach that double stitch, knit its two legs together like a k2tog - see German Short Row tutorial for example*)

Row 2 (WS): Purl through the last place you turned, then purl (4; 4; 4) [5; 5; 5] (5; 5; 5) additional stitches. **Turn work.** (*note: when you pass a double stitch, purl both legs together like a p2tog*).

^ Follow this 2-row repeat for **6 total rows** (3 repeats). You’ve now knitted **8 total short rows** including the two set-up rows, and you’ve created a trapezoid shape that is 8 rows deep when measured at the center. The slanting edges are your shoulder edges, and the straight top at the cast-on edge is the back of the neck. The two stitch markers you placed in the setup rows mark where the back of the neck will be.

After your final short row turn, knit back to the beginning of the row. Continue knitting flat in **stockinette** for (46; 44; 44) (44; 44; 46) (48; 50; 52) rows, or (7"; 6.75"; 6.75") (6.75"; 6.75"; 7") (7.5"; 7.75"; 8") / (18; 17; 17) (17; 17; 18) (19; 19.5; 20.5) cm measured along the side of the work, ending on a **WS**. (Measure along the side of the work so you're not including the short rows at the center of the back.)

UNDERARM INCREASES

Now you'll make one increase on each side of the work.

RS: k1, **m1rk**, k to 1 stitch before end, **m1lk**, k1 (2 increases made)

WS: p1, **m1rp**, p to 1 stitch before end, **m1lp**, p1 (2 increases made)

^ Work the back with the increases shown above for (4; 8; 10) [12; 14; 12] (8; 6; 6) **rows**. You've now increased by (8; 16; 20) [24; 28; 24] (16; 12; 12) stitches.

SIZES 6, 7, 8, 9 ONLY:

You'll now do some rows where you make **two increases** towards each armhole per row

RS: k1, **m2rk**, k to 1 stitch before end, **m2lk**, k1 (4 increases made)

WS: p1, **m2rp**, p to 1 before end, **m2lp**, p1 (4 increases made)

^ Follow the repeat above for (-; -; -) (-; -; 2) (6; 8; 8) **total rows**. You've increased by an additional (-; -; -) (-; -; 8) (24; 32; 32) stitches.

You now have (60; 70; 76) (83; 89; 95) (105; 111; 112) stitches on your needles. Transfer these stitches to waste yarn or a stitch holder, and cut the yarn leaving a tail to weave in later.

FRONT RIGHT SHOULDER

Now you'll pick up stitches from the cast-on edge for the right shoulder of the top. With the **RS** of the work facing you, pick up (14; 14; 15) [16; 16; 17] (17; 17; 18) stitches along the right shoulder (when worn), starting at the outer right corner of the cast-on edge and working towards the stitch marker you placed on your second short row turn. You should be picking up roughly 1 stitch per stitch. You can remove the stitch marker from the cast-on edge when you're done.

Purl **1 row**.

CUSTOMIZING YOUR FIT: Adding extra width to the bust

If your bust is larger than the bust measurement listed for your size, you can make additional increases for the bust. Calculate how much extra width you need by subtracting the measurement of your full bust from the one listed for your size in the size chart. Multiply the extra width by your stitch gauge (4.5 stitches per inch or 1.8 stitches per cm) to find the total number of extra stitches you need. Divide this amount by 2 to see how many increases you need to do per each front side of the top, rounding to the closest whole number.

Here are some suggestions for where you can add these extra increases:

1. Add increases along the side seam below the armhole. You can add ~3" / 7.5 cm of width there. The ***Joining Front & Back*** section describes these increases in more depth, since that's where they will be worked. Look for the dashed box similar to this one.

2. Increase more frequently along the neckline in the ***Shaping the V-Neck*** section below. You can add extra increases in the non-increase rows knitted below, especially as you get closer to the bottom of the v-neck.

3. Add extra increases along the armhole in the ***Armhole Increases*** section below. You can begin adding armhole increases earlier while spacing them out with non-increase rows, and/or swap some of the m1 increases with m2.

I recommend doing as many increases as you can along the side seam in option 1, then distributing the remaining increases in the bottom of the v-neck and armhole shaping with options 2 & 3.

SHAPING THE V-NECK

You'll begin gradually increasing at the neckline for the v-neck below, beginning with a **RS** row. You'll first increase at the neckline every **4th row** as shown below:

Rows 1 - 3: knit in flat stockinette (k on RS, p on WS)

Row 4 (WS): p1, **m1lp**, p to end (1 stitch increased)

^ Work these increases for (32; 28; 24) (32; 16; 24) (8; 8; 12) **total rows**. You should end with (22; 21; 21) (24; 20; 23) (19; 19; 21) sts.

You'll now increase more rapidly for the v-neck, every **3rd row**.

Rows 1 - 2: knit in flat stockinette (k on RS, p on WS)

Row 3: *if an odd, RS row:* k to 1 before end of row, **m1rk**, k1 (1 stitch increased)

if an even, WS row: p1, **m1lp**, p to end (1 stitch increased)

^ Work these increases for (14; 16; 20) (12; 28; 22) (40; 42; 40) additional rows, or until you've knitted (46; 44; 44) (44; 44; 46) (48; 50; 52) total rows of the shoulder so far. It's fine if you end partway

through the repeat on a non-increase row, as you'll continue with this neckline shaping in the next step. You now have (26; 26; 27) (28; 29; 30) (32; 33; 34) stitches.

ARMHOLE INCREASES

Now you'll make one increase toward the armhole every row, ***while still increasing*** at the neckline every **3rd row** as above.

RS: k1, **m1lk**, k to end of row [do neckline inc if needed] (1 stitch increased at armhole)

WS: p1, [do neckline inc if needed], p to 1 before end of row, **m1rp**, p1 (1 stitch increased at armhole)

^ Work these increases for (4; 8; 10) (12; 14; 12) (8; 6; 6) **rows**, ending at (50; 52; 54) (56; 58; 58) (56; 56; 58) total rows of shaping worked for the right shoulder so far. You now have (32; 37; 41) (44; 48; 46) (43; 41; 42) stitches.

SIZES 6, 7, 8, 9 ONLY:

You'll now make **two increases** towards the armhole per row, ***while still increasing*** at the neckline every **3rd row** as above.

RS: k1, **m2lk**, k to end of row [do neckline inc if needed] (2 stitches increased at armhole)

WS: p1, [do neckline inc if needed], p to 1 before end of row, **m2rp**, p1 (2 stitches increased at armhole)

^ Work these increases for (-; -; -) (-; -; 2) (6; 8; 8) **rows**, ending at (-; -; -) (-; -; 60) (62; 64; 66) total rows of shaping worked for the entire right front shoulder so far.

ALL SIZES: You've increased by at least (14; 15; 16) (16; 18; 18) (20; 20; 21) total stitches at the bust and (4; 8; 10) [12; 14; 16] (20; 22; 22) total stitches at the armpit, for a total of (32; 37; 41) (44; 48; 51) (57; 59; 61) stitches on your needles.

Move these stitches to scrap yarn or a stitch holder and cut the yarn.

LEFT FRONT SHOULDER

Now you'll pick up stitches for the left shoulder from the cast-on edge. With the **RS** of the work facing you, pick up (14; 14; 15) [16; 16; 17] (17; 17; 18) stitches along the left shoulder (when worn), starting at the inner stitch marker and working your way outwards to the outer left corner of the cast-on edge.

You should be picking up roughly 1 stitch per stitch. You can remove the stitch marker when you're done.

Purl 1 row.

Note: If you customized the right shoulder to add bust increases, make the same customizations on this side as well.

SHAPING THE V-NECK

You'll begin gradually increasing for the v-neck below, beginning with a **RS** row. You'll increase at the neckline every **4th row** as shown below:

Rows 1 - 3: knit in flat stockinette (k on RS, p on WS)

Row 4 (WS): p to 1 before end, **m1rp**, p1 (1 stitch increased)

^ Work these increases for (32; 28; 24) (32; 16; 24) (8; 8; 12) **total rows**. You should end with (22; 21; 21) (24; 20; 23) (19; 19; 21) sts.

You'll now increase more rapidly for the v-neck, every **3rd row**.

Rows 1 - 2: knit in flat stockinette (k on RS, p on WS)

Row 3: *if an odd, RS row:* k1, **m1lk**, k to end (1 stitch increased)

if an even, WS row: p to 1 before end, **m1rp**, p1 (1 stitch increased)

^ Work these increases for (14; 16; 20) (12; 28; 22) (40; 42; 40) additional rows, or until you've knitted (46; 44; 44) (44; 44; 46) (48; 50; 52) total rows of the shoulder so far. It's fine if you end partway through the repeat on a non-increase row, as you'll continue with this neckline shaping in the next step. You now have (26; 26; 27) (28; 29; 30) (32; 33; 34) stitches.

ARMHOLE INCREASES

Now you'll make one increase toward the armhole every row, ***while still increasing*** at the neckline every **3rd row** as above.

RS: k1, [do neckline inc if needed], k to 1 before end of row, **m1rk**, k1 (1 stitch increased at armhole)

WS: p1, **m1lp**, p to end of row [do neckline inc if needed] (1 stitch increased at armhole)

^ Work these increases for (4; 8; 10) (12; 14; 12) (8; 6; 6) **rows**, ending at (50; 52; 54) (56; 58; 58) (56; 56; 58) total rows of shaping worked for the right shoulder so far. You now have (32; 37; 41) (44; 48; 46) (43; 41; 42) stitches.

SIZES 6, 7, 8, 9 ONLY:

You'll now make **two increases** towards the armhole per row, ***while still increasing*** at the neckline every **3rd row** as above.

RS: k to 1 before end of row, **m2rk**, k1 (2 stitches increased at armhole)

WS: p1, **m2lp**, p to end of row [do bust-side inc if needed](2 stitches increased at armhole)

^ Work these increases for (-; -; -) (-; -; 2) (6; 8; 8) **rows**, ending at (-; -; -) (-; -; 60) (62; 64; 66) total rows of shaping worked for the entire right front shoulder so far.

ALL SIZES: You've increased by at least (14; 15; 16) (16; 18; 18) (20; 20; 21) total stitches at the bust and (4; 8; 10) [12; 14; 16] (20; 22; 22) total stitches at the armpit, for a total of (32; 37; 41) (44; 48; 51) (57; 59; 61) stitches on your needles.

JOINING FRONT & BACK

On the next **RS** row, you'll join the front and back of the work. Use the **backwards-loop cast on** for all stitches casted on below:

Knit across left front shoulder stitches, cast on (1; 1; 2) (3; 4; 6) (5; 7; 8) stitches, place an underarm stitch marker, cast on (1; 1; 2) (3; 4; 6) (5; 6; 8) stitches, knit across back stitches, cast on (1; 1; 2) (3; 4; 6) (5; 6; 8) stitches, place a second underarm stitch marker, cast on (1; 1; 2) (3; 4; 6) (5; 7; 8) stitches, knit across right shoulder stitches. (*Size 8: note that there are an odd number of underarm stitches cast on.*)

You should now have (128; 148; 166) (183; 201; 221) (239; 255; 266) stitches on your needles.

Continue knitting (while making additional bust increases as described in the box below, if needed) for 1" / 2.5 cm, ending on a **WS** row. Try on your top at this point. If your top hasn't yet reached the full length and width of the fullest point of your bust, continue until the front reaches the fullest point of your bust along the front. All busts are different, so this may be at different lengths for different people.

CUSTOMIZING: extra bust increase option

You've reached the last place you can add extra width to the bust if you need to. Follow these steps:

1. Try your top on to see how much extra length you need to knit before you reach your full bust.

2. Find how many rows you have to work with by multiplying the length by 6.5 rows per inch or 2.6 rows per cm.
3. You can make 2 increases per increase row. Find how frequently to increase by dividing the number of rows available by the number of stitches you still need to increase, and rounding down. I recommend increasing *at most* every RS row (so every 2nd row).

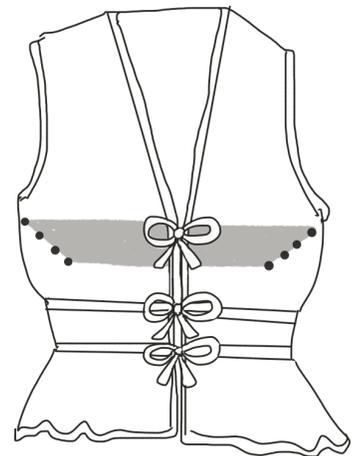
How to increase:

k until 1 stitch before the left underarm marker, **m1rk**, k1, slip marker, k across back to right underarm marker, slip marker, k1, **m1lk**, k to end of row (2 stitches increased)

BUST DARTS

[**Note:** Sizes 1, 2 in the standard size chart can skip adding bust darts unless you are customizing the fit for a larger bust size. Skip ahead to the **Underbust/Waist Shaping** section below.]

Why add short rows: Short-row bust darts ensure that the under-bust tie is level across your body, despite the extra vertical space that your bust takes up; if your knitting is all the same vertical length but the front has to travel much farther around the curve of your bust, then the underbust tie will either be too high up on your bust, or the back will be too long and may bag out with excess fabric. Short rows allow you to add vertical distance (rows) to just one part of your knitting, in this case the bust area.



All of the short row turns should happen in the space between your underarm and the apex of your breast, on each side of the top. The illustration shows the trapezoid shape that the bust darts create, adding the extra gray area into only the bust area. The black dots on each side represent each of the short row turns.

Count (17; 19; 22) (24; 26; 29) (31; 33; 35) stitches in from the underarm marker on each side of the front of the top, and place a stitch marker there. When you try your top on, these stitch markers should be roughly 0.5" / 1.25cm outside the apex of your bust. You can adjust the placement or customize the bust darts with the info in the box below. Otherwise, move on to the **LEFT DART** section below the box.

***CUSTOMIZING:** Adjusting the bust darts*

1. Adjust the placement: Try the top on, and locate the “apex” or fullest point of each breast. This may be where your nipple is, but all bodies are different. Place a stitch marker on the needle ~1/2” / 1.25cm outside of this point, moving it slightly closer to your armpit. Do the same on the other side, and then count how far each one is from its adjacent underarm marker, adjusting them so they’re spaced evenly.

2. Customizing the bust darts: If your bust dart placement is very different from the pattern’s, or if you’ve customized the bust size significantly, follow [this blog post](#) to determine how many short rows you need to add and how often you need to turn. Replace the turn amounts in the instructions below with the numbers calculated here, and replace the total rows worked with the number of short rows you need to add.

Note that your short row turns should *always* happen in the space between your underarm and the bust marker, and never between the bust marker and the neckline. If you reach the bust marker and still have more turns to do, you can skip them if there are just a few left, or you can start another dart stacked below the first: on the next RS row, k to the underarm stitch marker (knitting together the legs of any double stitches from past turns), and start again with **Setup Row 1**. Complete the remaining rows in this new bust dart.

LEFT DART

Setup row 1: k to the left underarm marker, **turn work** using German short row technique

Setup row 2: p back to end of row

Now you’ll follow this 2-row repeat:

Row 1 (RS): k to (-; -; 7) (6; 5; 4) (5; 4; 4) stitches before the past turn, **turn work**

Row 2 (WS): p to end of row

^ Repeat until you have completed (-; -; 6) (8; 10; 12) (12; 14; 16) **total rows**, *including* the 2 setup rows. This should space your turns out in the distance between the underarm marker and the bust marker.

Try-on Checkpoint:

You’ve now added your short rows to the left front. Try your top on and look at the left side sideways in the mirror: the front and back should be level with each other, like a horizontal line. The top doesn’t need to reach your underbust yet, it just needs to be level across the front and back. If the front is still

significantly shorter than the back, you may need more short rows. Try adding more short rows by turning more frequently, or try adding another bust dart stacked below your first if you were already turning every 1 stitch. If the front is significantly longer than the back, then you've added more short rows than you need; try turning less frequently to add fewer short rows. Once you're happy with the short rows worked on the left front, be sure to write down what you did as you'll need to repeat it again for the Right Front below.

Next RS row: k across all stitches, knitting together the legs of any double stitches as you pass them like a k2tog.

RIGHT DART

The right dart is worked similarly to the left; if you made any customizations to the left dart, do the same for this one.

Setup row 1 (WS): p to the underarm marker, **turn work**

Setup row 2 (RS): k back to end of row

Row 1 (WS): p to (-; -; 7) (6; 5; 4) (5; 4; 4) stitches before the past turn, turn work

Row 2 (RS): k to end of row

^ Repeat until you have completed (-; -; 6) (8; 10; 12) (12; 14; 16) **total rows**, *including* the 2 setup rows. This should space your turns out in the distance between the underarm marker and the bust marker.

Next WS row: p across all stitches, purling together the legs of any double stitches as you pass them like a p2tog. Remove the bust dart markers as you work.

UNDERBUST & WAIST

You'll now do some decreases along the side of the top as you knit from the fullest point of the bust to the underbust. The underbust and waist both have ties that let you cinch them in further if you'd like a closer fit.

CUSTOMIZING THE UNDERBUST & WAIST

Getting the right distance from full bust to underbust: The repeat below assumes there are ~3" / 7.5cm remaining until you reach the underbust. If you have less distance, you can do your decrease rounds more frequently (at most every 2nd row). If you have more space, you can space them out more.

If you need additional underbust decreases: If you added extra bust increases and now need more underbust decreases, you can add additional decreases on non-decrease rows. The final measurement should be your waist + 1" / 2.5 cm.

If your waist is larger than the size chart: You can skip some or all of the decreases, and simply use the ties to cinch in at your underbust. If your waist is larger than your bust, you can swap decreases for increases (swap ssk for m1rk, and k2tog for m1lk) in the repeat below, and follow that below or in the space between your underbust and your waist.

UNDERBUST SHAPING

Decrease every **5th** row to reach the underbust, starting with a **RS** row:

Rows 1 - 4: k on RS, p on WS

Row 5 (RS): k to 3 before underarm marker, **ssk**, k1, slip marker, k1, **k2tog**, k to 3 before next marker, **ssk**, k1, slip marker, k1, **k2tog**, k to end (4 decreases)

Rows 6 - 9: k on RS, p on WS

Row 10 (WS): p to 3 before underarm marker, **ssp**, p1, slip marker, p1, **p2tog**, p to 3 before next marker, **ssp**, p1, slip marker, p1, **p2tog**, p to end (4 decreases)

Rows 11 - 14: k on RS, p on WS

Row 15 (RS): same as **Row 5** (4 decreases)

Rows 16 - 19: k on RS, p on WS

Row 20 (WS): p to 3 before underarm marker, **ssp**, p1, slip marker, p1, **p2tog**, p to 3 before next marker, **ssp**, p1, slip marker, p1, **p2tog**, p to end (4 decreases)

^ You've now decreased by **16 stitches** and have (112; 132; 150) (167; 185; 205) (223; 239; 250) stitches on the needle.

Try-on Checkpoint:

Try on your top to double-check that it now reaches to just underneath your bust. If the top is too short, continue knitting until you reach this distance. If it's too long, rip back the extra length before moving on to begin the underbust tie.

BEGINNING THE UNDERBUST TIE

PLACING A “LIFELINE”: You’ll need to pick up stitches from the next **RS** row you knit in order to create a channel through which the i-cord tie will pass. To help you identify this row and ensure you don’t miss any stitches, place a “lifeline” of a thinner slippery yarn (or string, or a piece of floss) through the stitches at this point. You can use a tapestry needle to pass the thinner yarn through the stitches while keeping them on your knitting needle, or some knitting needles allow you to place a lifeline as you knit.

Knit 1 row, and place a lifeline across it.

Knit in flat stockinette for **3** more rows beginning and ending with a WS row, then transfer your stitches to scrap yarn or a spare needle and cut the yarn leaving a tail to weave in. Next, create your i-cord tie.

CREATING THE I-CORD TIES

It’s a bit fussy to thread the ties into the underbust & waist channels after the fact, but if you knit the tie first then you can simply close the channel around it. You can also substitute a ribbon instead of the i-cord if you’d like. (If you choose to instead create the ties after you’ve already closed up the channels, pin a safety pin to the end of the tie and use that to help you guide it through the channel, since it’s easier to push along the stiff edge of the safety pin from the outside.)

CHOOSING A LENGTH: Your underbust and waist ties should be the circumferences of your underbust or waist, plus extra length to tie a bow. My sample has ~9” / 23cm on each end to tie a short bow - I’ll call this the “bow length” below. If you’d like to have a larger bow, add extra length to the bow length.

CREATING THE TIES: Cast **3** stitches on to your US 7 / 4.5 mm needles, and use the **i-cord technique** to create an i-cord as long as your underbust + (2 × *bow length*). When you’ve finished that length, cut the working yarn and pull the tail through all 3 stitches, then weave the tail in.

Repeat the same step for your waist, adding twice the bow length to your waist circumference.

For the optional 3rd tie at the bust, knit two 3-stitch i-cords that are each equal to the “bow length” described above.

FINISHING THE UNDERBUST TIE

CREATING THE I-CORD CHANNEL

Return to the row you placed a lifeline through and place those stitches back on your needle. Rejoin the yarn on the right front of the top, and begin with a **WS** purl row. (*This row will lie on top of the previously knitted rows.*)

Knit **2** more rows in flat stockinette (3 rows in total, ending with another **WS** row). At this point, you should now have two 3-row flaps, with the current one lying on top of one you knitted before.

On the next row, you’ll close this channel by knitting together the stitches from the top layer and the bottom layer that were set aside on waste yarn.

CLOSING THE CHANNEL

Place the stitches from the lower flap onto a spare needle (the size doesn’t matter, as long as it fits through the stitches). Lay your i-cord or ribbon tie between the two flaps. Align the spare needle so it is parallel to your left needle.

Insert your right needle into the front leg of the first stitch of the top flap, as well as the front leg of the first stitch from the bottom flap. Knit those two stitches together through the front loop like a **k2tog**, joining the two flaps of fabric at this stitch. Continue across the rest of the row. At the end of the row, the channel should be completely joined.

Tip: if you need a visual, look at [this tutorial](#) for finishing a folded hem with the same technique.

TRY-ON CHECKPOINT

Try on your top to ensure the underbust tie is sitting just beneath your bust. When it is cinched comfortably tightly, there shouldn’t be a large excess of fabric scrunching up along the tie. If there is, you may want to go back and add more decreases between the full bust and the underbust. If there’s not enough fabric to close the top in the front, you may want to go back and remove some decreases.

WAIST TIE

Continue knitting for ~3" / 7.5cm, or the distance between your underbust and your waist. If your underbust and waist are very close together, you can also choose to omit this section altogether and add the ruffle directly underneath the underbust tie.

TRY-ON CHECKPOINT

Try on your top to ensure it's at the right length before you add the waist tie. The top may have a slight amount of positive ease at your waist, but there shouldn't be a large amount of excess fabric. If there is, you may need to add some decreases between the underbust tie and your waist; you can follow the same pattern of decreasing along the side seams that you did between the full bust and the underbust.

To add the waist tie, follow the same instructions as you did for the ***UNDERBUST TIE*** section. After finishing this tie, move on to the next section.

BOTTOM RUFFLE & HEM

After completing the waist tie, **purl 1 row**. On the next row, you'll create a ruffle by increasing every other stitch. *Note - if you'd like a more subtle ruffle than on the sample, you can increase every 3rd stitch. If you'd like even more volume in the ruffle, increase every stitch.*

Ruffle increase: *k1, kfb* repeat until end of row (doesn't matter if you end on a kfb or a k)

^ You've now increased by (56; 66; 75) (83; 92; 102) (111; 119; 125) stitches.

Knit in flat stockinette for at least 1.5" / 4cm, stopping whenever you've reached the length you'd like the top to be, ending on a **WS** row.

Bind off all stitches with a 3-stitch **i-cord bind-off**.

ADDING I-CORD EDGES

RECOMMENDED OPTION: I-CORD BIND-OFF

The cleanest way to finish the neckline is to pick up stitches around the neckline, and then do an i-cord bind-off. If your cables are too short to fit enough stitches for this option, skip below to Option 2.

With the RS of the work facing you, begin at the lower right edge of the neckline and pick up 3 out of every 4 rows or stitches along the neckline, across the back of the neck, and down to the bottom left edge of the top. *Note: when you reach the channels for the underbust and waist ties, pick up the stitches from the channel that sits **closest** to your body. This allows the ties to sit on top of the edging.*

Purl 1 row. On the next RS row, cast-on 3 stitches to complete an **i-cord bind-off**.

OPTION 2: APPLIED I-CORD EDGING

Add an **applied i-cord** edging with the **WS** of the work facing you, beginning at the bottom corner edge of the left front of the top (when worn). Cast on 3 stitches to your needles, then either slide them to the other end of your circular/DPN needles, or slip all stitches back to the left needle without twisting them.

Repeat:

k 2 stitches, slip the 3rd stitch purlwise, pick up 1 stitch from the edge of the top with the **WS** facing you (*picking this first one up into the i-cord bind-off edge*).

Move the picked up and the slipped stitch back to your left needle, and **k2tbl**.

You now have 3 stitches on your needles again. Slide them to the other end of your needle (or slip them all back to the left needle without twisting), and continue the repeat again.

Continue up the rest of the neckline, picking up **3 stitches out of every 4 rows**.

*Note: when you reach the channels for the underbust and waist ties, add the applied i-cord to the layer of the channel that sits **closest** to your body, aka the one that is facing you with the WS showing.*

When you've reached the i-cord bind-off edge at the bottom right corner of the front of the top, use a tapestry needle to pull the yarn through the 3 stitches on the needle, binding them off. Weave in the ends.

ARMHOLES

Use the same technique you used for adding the i-cord edge to the front of the top, beginning at the center of each underarm.

FINISHING TOUCHES

SEWING ON THE 3RD BUST TIE: Measure the distance between your underbust and waist ties, then pin the bust ties to the same length above the underbust. For instance if your underbust and waist tie have 4" / 10 cm between them, pin the two new ties 4" / 10 cm above the underbust tie, one on each side. Use a tapestry needle and yarn to seam each strap to the inside edge of the top, so the seams are hidden behind the i-cord edge.

BLOCKING: Weave in all ends and block the top, pinning the i-cord edges flat as it dries.

OPTIONAL HOOK & EYE CLOSURES: If you'd like the top to stay more securely closed, especially if you're using a slippery material for the ties like ribbons, you can use a needle and thread to add **hook and eye closures** along the front edges of the top. If you sew them to WS of the i-cord channels, the bows will hide them while worn. You can also choose to add them along the rest of the center, if you prefer not to have a gap in the center front while wearing the top.

congrats!!

Congratulations on finishing your top!! If you share it on social media, tag #TiedAndTrueTank and tag me (@starcrossed.knits) so I can see and share your beautiful work! Thank you so much for choosing to knit one of my patterns.

♥ tamara / starcrossed knits