

Rogers-esque Cardigan Jacket

Look like Mr. Rogers, only better.



Yarn Weight: Worsted. Yarn shown is a scratchy, heavy worsted tweed, imported nameless from New

Zealand by an Ebay seller, who alas, no longer sells. If you like the heavy scratchy jacket look, try [Carodan Farm Worsted](#). If you want a softer yarn that's a tweed closer to the picture, two strands of different shades plied together, try [Cascade 220 Quatro](#). If you want a speckled tweed that's soft, try Rowan Scottish Tweed DK.

Gauge: 20 stitches over four inches. Vertical length doesn't matter, as you knit each length to spec.

Needle Size: Main US #5, edges US#3, or size to get gauge. If you use a thicker worsted, you might need smaller needles to get gauge.

Notes: You'll be making a back, two sleeves, two fronts, and graft the collar ends. The directions for fitting in the pockets are on the original pattern, but I never made them personally.

Sizing: Directions are for men's chest 36" (38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48). In order to get the vintage look, make a size smaller than the man's actual measurements, for about 1" negative ease. The size shown above is 38" for a 39" chest. I've also included some suggestions about how to make the sweater fit the individual man in terms of length.

Pattern

Back

With smaller needles, cast on 92 (96, 100, 104, 108, 112, 116). Work in k1, p1 rib for 1.25 inches. Then switch to larger needles and work in stockinette stitch for 17.5 (17.5, 18, 18, 18, 18.5, 18.5) inches, or however long you want it to be from the bottom to the underarm. (NB: try measuring a sweater that looks good on him on the side seam from the bottom to underarm. He'll want it longer, but too long will make him look short.)

When the whole piece is long enough, then you shape the shoulders. Bind off 7 (8, 8, 8, 8, 9, 9) at the beginning of each of the next two rows (one right side, one wrong side). Then decrease 1 stitch at the beginning of every other row 5 (6, 6, 4, 4, 5, 6) times. Total stitches on needle at this point: 68 (68, 72, 80, 84, 84, 86). Now work even until armhole measures 8.5 (8.5, 8.5, 9, 9, 9.5, 9.5).

Finally, bind off 6 (6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 7) stitches at the beginning of each of the next 8 rows. Then bind off the remaining stitches, which will be the ones on the back of the neck. Now you're done with the back, the largest piece!

Right Front --your right, as if you were wearing the sweater.

With smaller needles, cast on 55 (58, 61, 64, 67, 70, 73). Work first 14 stitches in stockinette--this will be the band that is folded over. Work the rest in p1, k1 rib for 1.25 inches. Then, switch to larger needles and continue in stockinette stitch for the whole piece, except continue to purl the stitch right next to the fourteen-stitch band on the right side, and knit it on the wrong side. This will create a nice ridge in between the band and the rest of the piece. Thus, work straight after the ribbing, until the whole thing from the very bottom measures the same as the back did to the armhole--17.5 (17.5, 18, 18, 18, 18.5, 18.5) inches. don't worry, you can fudge this measurement by a millimeter. End with a **right** side row.

Now you'll be shaping the armhole and the neck slant at the same time. On the wrong side, the non-band

side, bind off 5 (5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 8) stitches at the beginning of that wrong-side row. On the very next row, a **right**-side one, decrease 1 stitch by purling two together just inside the band, the 16th and 17th stitch. Continue decreasing both sides by making the band slant, knitting two together just inside the band every 6th (4th, 4th, 4th, 4th, 4th, 3rd) row, 7 (9, 12, 11, 12, 13, 15) times more, which happens at the beginning of a right side row; and on the wrong-side, **at the same time**, keep making the armhole by decreasing 1 stitch at the armhole edge every other row 3 (4, 4, 4, 5, 6, 6) times.

This always confuses me, so to be clear: 1st wrong side, bind off at beginning, knit to end. 1st right side, knit 2 together after purl stitch. 2nd wrong side, purl 2 together at the end of the row at armhole edge. 2nd right side, work as normal. 3rd wrong side, purl 2 together at armhole edge. Damn. Continue as your size indicates.

When the armhole measures the same as the back one does, 8.5 (8.5, 8.5, 9, 9, 9.5, 9.5) inches, then it's time to shape the top of the shoulder. On the wrong side, at the beginning, bind off 6 (6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 7) stitches every other row **four** times. When you get down to just the 15 band stitches, keep working them for 4 (4, 5, 5, 5.5, 5.5, 6) inches. Don't bind these off, as you'll need to graft them to the other side of the collar later.

Left Front

Cast on the same number of stitches as the right front, 55 (58, 61, 64, 67, 70, 73). Same old 1 1/4 inch of ribbing. But now, you'll basically be putting the band on the left side of your knitting, looking at it from the front, and the armhole decreases will be on the right-hand side. This means that the band will be at the **end** of your right side row, so at the end of your very first row, be sure to make that purl stitch on the fifteenth-to-last stitch. **But be careful!** You will also need to put buttonholes in the band this time. The first one goes on the first all-knit row after the ribbing. This is how you do it: on the right side, knit to the band stitches, purl that one stitch, knit 2, bind off 3 stitches, knit 4, bind off three more stitches, knit 2. This is the end of the row. Turn your work around, and purl 2, cast on 3, purl 4, cast on three again, purl two, knit one, purl the rest of the row. (For the casting on in the middle of a row, I recommend using the ["single cast-on"](#) way. Just be sure to do it tightly, and remember you can neaten these edges later on with [buttonhole stitch](#).) For the placement of the rest of the buttonholes, consider: the top buttonhole is right before you start the armhole shaping and front band slant. So the only difference between the sizes will be where the middle four buttons lie. For the 36" and 38", put each buttonhole 3.25 inches after the first. For the 40", 42", and 44", try 3 and 3/8; the math doesn't work out, but that'll be about right. The top button might be a little closer to the previous button, but you won't mind. For 46" and 48", try 3 and 5/8. (This is my obsession. You won't care.)

At the very end of the piece, keep working the band for the same 4 (4, 5, 5, 5.5, 5.5, 6) inches.

Sleeves

With smaller needles, cast on 50 (50, 52, 52, 54, 54, 56). Work in k1, p1 ribbing for 2 and 3/4 inches, increasing 6 (6, 7, 7, 7, 7, 8) stitches across the last row. With larger needles, begin working in stockinette. After an inch of stockinette, increase one stitch at beginning and end of a right-side row; do this after another inch of stockinette 8 more times for all sizes. Stitch count will then be 74 (74, 77, 77, 79, 79, 82) stitches in all. Work even until the whole piece measures 20 (20.5, 21, 21.5, 22, 22, 22) inches long.

(Nota Bene: Be sure to measure a well-fitting sweater from the underarm to the wrist to make sure you've got the right length for your man. Men are picky, as you know, and they hate it if their sleeve is too short or too long. It should cover that knob of bone on the top right of their right wrist, for instance. Some men

buy dress shirts with too-short sleeves! I ended up making my sleeves 21.5 inches at this point, even though I used the 38" size, as he's got rather long arms.)

Now it's time to shape the sleeve cap, which will fit into the armhole. Bind off 6 stitches at the beginning of the next two rows, one right side and one wrong side. Then decrease 1 stitch on each side of the next right side row 14 (14, 15, 16, 16, 17, 17) times. Then work two rows even. Then, right side again, decrease 1 stitch on each side on every row 7 (7, 7, 6, 6, 6, 7) times. Bind off the remaining stitches.

Then make another, identical to the first!

Making Up

Block! Block all the pieces! Do it! You'll be surprised how much nicer the fabric looks, and how much easier it is to sew blocked fabric together. I tend to pin things to my ironing board, or to a towel wrapped around a board or a piece of cardboard. I recommend getting an old spray bottle, filling it with tap water, and spraying A Lot. Then, just let it air dry for about 24 hours. Really. It's worth it.

I find the easiest order for sewing the pieces together to be: sew the front sides at the top shoulder to the back using [back stitch](#), right sides together. Then, sew each of the sleeves to the armhole gap, right sides together. Make sure the very center of the sleeve lines up with the seam between the front and back.

Next, sew the sleeves shut with [mattress stitch](#)--this'll give less bulk in the sleeves, important for that muscular man. (And really the skinny man as well.) Then, finally, you get to sew the sides together. Then, you should [graft](#) the back of the collar together. (Grafting sucks a little, but just using back stitch makes a huge bump that looks stupid.)

Once this is done, you can sew the band to the back of the neck. Finally, you can fold the band in half--to make it seven stitches wide--and sew the outermost knit stitch to the fourteenth stitch before that line of purls, using back stitch.

Last of all, you'll probably want to use the buttonhole stitch to make the gap-y buttonholes you made look more polished. When you sew the buttons on the right front, make sure you put them a little closer to the shoulder (the left, as you're looking at it)--otherwise, the band won't sit on top of the other band, but will gap a little. (These are snarky details, but this is the kind of thing I obsess about.)

The buttons I used are wooden ones 7/8 of an inch in diameter; bought from G Street Fabrics in Falls Church, VA. It seems to be a particularly good size for the three-stitch-wide buttonhole you made.

Please email me if you've got any questions at m.m.townsend@gmail.com. Enjoy! Hope it looks good! I love men in sweaters!