



## Modular Waistcoat

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Modular knitting covers a number of techniques which are used to produce small sections (modules) of knitting that are joined together to form a whole. They are usually geometric shapes and can be joined together once knitted or knit one onto the other so that there is no seaming involved. Whole projects can be worked modularly or modules can be used in sections of a project. It is a wonderful way to knit patchwork quilts and an especially good technique for using hand painted and variegated yarn. When using a modular knitting technique, I prefer to pick up stitches from existing modules to avoid a lot of seaming at the end. Depending on what type of module you are knitting and the sequence of work, there may still be a seam or two to complete.

There are a number of things to remember when knitting modules that will make your knitting a lot more pleasurable,

1. No matter what stitch pattern you are using, always knit into the back of the 1<sup>st</sup> stitch and slip the last stitch of each row purl wise. This forms a chain edge on the sides of your knitting.
2. The size of a module is determined by the number of stitches (X) cast on or picked up on each side at the beginning.
3. Your cast on (or pick up) is counted as row 1.
4. Pick up stitches working from right to left with the right side of your work facing you. Insert your needle through both loops of the chain formed on the edge of the previous module, wrap the yarn knit wise around your needle and pull the yarn through onto your needle to form a stitch.
5. Be sure start and finish picking up stitches on the very ends of the previous module so that you have the correct amount of stitches and to make sure your work lies flat.
6. When working mitred modules, knitting will start with the edge stitches and work in toward the centre. This means that stitches will have to be decreased at each corner, 1 decrease on each side of a centre stitch (double decrease).
7. Modular knitting is usually worked on 2 needles but to avoid having to seam, certain modules can be worked in the round.
8. To make your work more interesting, vary your stitch patterns
9. Only change colours on right side rows and weave the ends in as you knit to avoid having to work them in later.
10. To keep modules the correct size to fit together, use mainly the same weight of yarn throughout. Thinner yarns can be doubled up, use thicker yarns for just 1 or 2 rows.

## You will need

Approximately 500g assorted ColourSpun yarn – Sock, DK, Aran, Chunky depending on size of garment made  
4mm knitting needles – or larger depending on your main yarn weight

## Abbreviations

st/s = stitch/es

dec = decrease – slip 2 together, knit 1, pass slipped stitches over

k2tog = knit 2 stitches together

k2togtbl = knit 2 stitches together through the back of the loops

RS = right side of work

WS = wrong side of work

## Mitred Shapes

The instructions given are worked in garter stitch and stocking stitch mixed.

### Mitred Square

The size of these squares is determined by the number of stitches cast on (and/or picked up) in the beginning. This will always be an odd number of stitches as follows  $X + 1 + X$ . When working an overlapping squares pattern, this square will be a quarter of the size of the Large Mitred Square. Here  $X = 11$

Cast on and/or pick up 23 sts (row 1)

Row 2, 4, 6: Knit

Row 3: K10; dec; K10

Row 5: K9; dec K9

Row 7: K8; dec; K8

Row 8 + 10: Purl

Row 9: K7; dec; K7

Row 11: K6; dec; K6

Row 12 + 14: Knit

Row 13: K5; dec; K5

Row 15: K4; dec; K4

Row 16 + 18: Purl

Row 17: K3; dec; K3

Row 19: K2; dec; K2

Row 20 + 22: Knit

Row 21: K1; dec; K1

Row 23: dec; end off

### Mitred Rectangle

The size of the rectangle is determined by the number of stitches cast on (and/or picked up) in the beginning. This will always be an even number of stitches as follows  $X + 1 + (X) \times 2 + 1 + X$ . When working an overlapping squares pattern this square will be half the size of the Large Mitred Square.  $X = 11$

Cast on and/or pick up 46 sts (row 1)

Row 2, 4, 6: Knit

Row 3: K10; dec; K20; dec; K10

Row 5: K9; dec K18; dec; K9

Row 7: K8; dec; K16; dec; K8

Row 8 + 10: Purl

Row 9: K7; dec; K14; dec; K7

Row 11: K6; dec; K12; dec K6

Row 12 + 14: Knit

Row 13: K5; dec; K10; dec; K5

Row 15: K4; dec; K8; dec; K4

Row 16 + 18: Purl

Row 17: K3; dec; K6; dec; K3

Row 19: K2; dec; K4; dec; K2

Row 20 + 22: Knit

Row 21: K1; dec; K2; dec; K1

Row 23: (dec)x2

Row 24: k2togtbl; fasten off.

### Mitred $\frac{3}{4}$ Square

The size of the  $\frac{3}{4}$  Square is determined by the number of stitches cast on (and/or picked up) in the beginning. This will always be an odd number of stitches as follows  $X + 1 + (X) \times 2 + 1 + (X) \times 2 + 1 + X$ . When working an overlapping squares pattern this square will be  $\frac{3}{4}$  the size of the Large Mitred Square.  $X = 11$

Cast on and/or pick up 69 sts (row 1)

Row 2, 4, 6: Knit

Row 3: K10; dec; K20; dec; K20; dec; K10

Row 5: K9; dec K18; dec; K18; dec; K9

Row 7: K8; dec; K16; dec; K16; dec; K8

Row 8 + 10: Purl

Row 9: K7; dec; K14; dec; K14; dec; K7

Row 11: K6; dec; K12; dec; K12; dec; K6

Row 12 + 14: Knit

Row 13: K5; dec; K10; dec; K10; dec; K5

Row 15: K4; dec; K8; dec; K8; dec; K4

Row 16 + 18: Purl

Row 17: K3; dec; K6; dec; K6; dec; K3

Row 19: K2; dec; K4; dec; K4; dec; K2

Row 20 + 22: Knit

Row 21: K1; dec; K2; dec; K2; dec; K1

Row 23: (dec) x3

Row 24: dec; fasten off.

## Large Mitred Square

The size of the Large Mitred Square is determined by the number of stitches cast on (and/or picked up) in the beginning. This will always be an even number of stitches as follows  $1 + X + 1 + (X) \times 2 + 1 + (X) \times 2 + 1 + (X) \times 2 + 1 + X + 1$ . (The extra stitch at the beginning and end of each row will be taken up in the seam when the square is knit on 2 needles. If knitting in the round, do not include them.) When working an overlapping squares pattern this square will be 4 times the size of the Mitred Square.  $X = 11$

Cast on and/or pick up 92 sts (row 1)

Row 2, 4, 6: Knit

Row 3: K1; K10; dec; K20; dec; K20; dec; K20; dec; K10; K1

Row 5: K1; K9; dec K18; dec; K18; dec; K18; dec; K9; K1

Row 7: K1; K8; dec; K16; dec; K16; dec; K16; dec; K8; K1

Row 8 + 10: Purl

Row 9: K1; K7; dec; K14; dec; K14; dec; K14; dec; K7; K1

Row 11: K1; K6; dec; K12; dec; K12; dec; K12; dec; K6; K1

Row 12 + 14: Knit

Row 13: K1; K5; dec; K10; dec; K10; dec; K10; dec; K5; K1

Row 15: K1; K4; dec; K8; dec; K8; dec; K8; dec; K4; K1

Row 16 + 18: Purl

Row 17: K1; K3; dec; K6; dec; K6; dec; K6; dec; K3; K1

Row 19: K1; K2; dec; K4; dec; K4; dec; K4; dec; K2; K1

Row 20 + 22: Knit

Row 21: K1; K1; dec; K2; dec; K2; dec; K2; dec; K1; K1

Row 23: K1; (dec) x4; K1

Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through remaining stitches, pull up tight and if necessary, close seam using mattress/ladder stitch.

## Instructions

Worked in an overlapping squares pattern broken by a striped section, this modular waistcoat can be made to fit most adults by changing the value of "X". Once determined, the value of X must remain constant for all the modules in each garment.

Take the larger of the bust and hip measurements of the person for whom you are making the waist coat. Add on 5 – 10cm ease. Call this measurement "A"

Work a test Mitred Square to determine the size of *your* square. Measure one side of the square, call this measurement "B"  
 $B \times 16$  should be equal to A

It is very likely that your equation will not work out exactly, get it as close as possible.

Also note that changing the value of "X" will alter both the width and the length of your waistcoat.

Construct waistcoat according to the graph, adding modules as indicated in numerical order to avoid seaming. The direction of knitting is indicated by the blue arrows.

Modules 30 and 31 have stitches picked up from module 18.

Modules 43 and 44 have stitches picked up from module 41.

Module 42 is worked in stripes. Starting on the right edge of module 25, pick up 22 sts, turn

Pick up 1<sup>st</sup> chain from the bottom edge of 28 and slip onto right needle, work chain and 1<sup>st</sup> stitch together. Continue in stripes, joining the modules by working the next edge chain and the 1<sup>st</sup> stitch of every WS row together.

When you reach the end of module 28, work the next RS row and pick up 11 sts along the right edge then continue, joining along the bottom edge of module 40.

At the end of the next RS row, pick up 11 sts from the right edge of module 40 and continue, joining to the bottom edge of module 39.

At the end of the next RS row, pick up 22 stitches along the right edges of modules 39 and 37.

Work straight for 44 rows, cast on 11 stitches

Work straight for 43 rows, cast off.

Once all modules have been completed, pick up and knit 8 – 10 rows along left front edge, cast off on WS row.

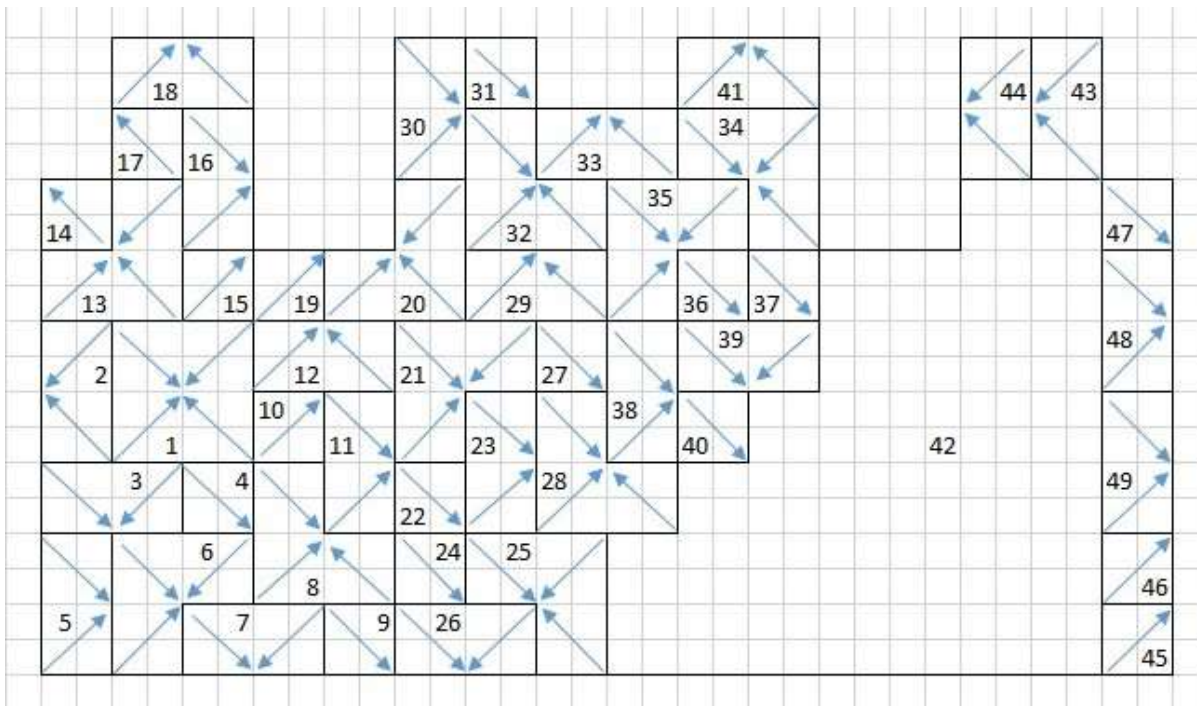
Repeat for right front edge.

Starting at under arm, pick up and work 6 – 8 rows garter stitch around each armhole, cast off on WS row.

Pick up and knit 6 – 8 rows around neck edge, working mitred decreases in each corner. Cast off on WS row.

Pick up and knit 8 – 10 rows along bottom edge, cast off on WS row.

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**The Small Print.**

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