



## Woodfords pattern notes

### choosing a size

Although the pattern calls for 4 to 6" of positive ease, the design is pretty forgiving size-wise, and looks fine with half that amount of ease. Be sure to check the schematic for the upper arm circumference. To make the oversized fit look intentional, the sleeves should fit with a minimum of positive ease at the point where they join the body—taking into consideration the sort of garment you plan to wear underneath.

### adjusting for fabric stretch

Because of the greater width of the fabric from armhole to armhole, drop shoulder designs can be very stretchy from side to side. If you are substituting yarn and lateral stretch is a concern, check the stretch of your swatch by turning it 90° (so that the rows are running vertically) and pinning it to a bulletin board or to the back of a chair. Add a little weight by attaching a couple binder clips or clothes pins evenly across the lower edge of the swatch. You only need to add a few grams to see if your fabric stretches a lot. If it does, consider making the next size smaller than you would normally choose. Follow the instructions for the smaller size up to the point of joining front and back, then adjust the number of decreases to achieve your desired body circumference.

There are two places where adjustments can be made. You can bind off fewer stitches when you join the pieces at the underarms, or work fewer decreases in the underarm shaping, or do a combination of these things. Use the stitch counts for the size you would normally have made as your guide, and keep in mind that the decreases need to be eliminated in multiples of four to maintain the broken rib pattern in the body.

For example, the smallest size has 12 sets of underarm decreases after the union row. If you cast on for the smallest shoulder width, you could adjust the body circumference by working 8 sets of underarm decreases, or even 4 sets. Each set of 4 decreases eliminated would add approximately 2¾" to the body circumference.

### row gauge and armhole depth

If your row gauge is different from the pattern's stated gauge, use the depth measurements given in the pattern, rather than the specified row counts. This is key in getting the proper fit for the armholes. Be sure to try on the upper bodice before joining fronts to check the armhole fit.

*Note: If you work fewer rows in the upper bodice, this will not change the number of stitches that are picked up for the sleeves, but it will affect the rate at which stitches are picked up.*

### row gauge and bodice depth

The pattern is designed so that the horizontal braid that completes the upper bodice begins at, or just below, the fullest part of the bust at center front. The braid will dip lower in the back due to the short row shaping. While this might at first seem like it is pointing to the bustline, in fact, when the fronts hang open, the braid drops below the bust, creating a flattering line.

If your row gauge is a lot looser than the pattern's, consider working the front increase rows every 6th row, instead of every 8th, so that the overall bodice depth does not become too long.

The depth of the back curve of the bodice can also be adjusted by decreasing the number of short rows worked.