Multicolour Rib-Trim Dog Sweater



Edition and sample status

Version 1.0 | October 19, 2026. A complete reading/making route for this reference style, with its required shared construction steps included. The method is measure-as-you-go; it is not a fixed stitch-count size chart. Added measurement conventions, count clarifications, joining interpretations and finishing changes are prototype-ready drafts until physically crocheted, finished and fitted. No new physical sample, wash test or fastening test has been made. Source photographs are preserved and are not proof of testing these additions.

Finished-size approach

Measure-to-fit construction, not a graded size chart. Measure actual neck, chest, forechest and back length; no universal finished dimensions or yardage are supplied.

Materials and starting hooks

Medium #4 yarn is the reference starting weight; #3 or #5 requires a new fit/gauge trial. Use the actual yarn-label hook as the starting point. Basic worked example: I Love This Yarn Print, 5.5 mm body hook and 4 mm collar hook. Other styles do not establish those exact hooks for every dog. No measured consumption or numerical gauge supplied. Also use a tape measure, blunt yarn needle, removable markers and scissors. Choose actual colour yarns with compatible care. Detachable fittings and sewing materials are optional only where that style specifies them; omit them when unsuitable for the dog. No added wire, elastic or load-bearing attachment is part of the route.

Measurements, gauge and endpoints

Record NE neck circumference at the collar position, CH fullest rib-cage circumference, FC distance from the lower collar edge to the point between the front legs, and BL centre-back distance from that same lower collar edge to the tail base. Record optional HA distance to the actual harness attachment ring. Also check head passage and leg/elbow clearance. Use one unit consistently: 1 inch = 2.54 cm. Let the dog stand normally and recheck measurements; stop measuring if the dog is uncomfortable.

Choose finished neck and chest targets with suitable ease from a cloth/template and a real fit trial. Do not assume negative ease or use a breed label as a size. Make a finished, rested hdc swatch and a separate ribbing swatch with the actual yarn and hooks. Record stitches per cm s, rounds per cm r and collar rows per cm q. Approximate collar-row target is finished neck target x q; round ribbed-collar rows to an even number and verify actual length and head passage. Chest target stitches are approximately finished chest target x s; actual measurements override this estimate. No numerical gauge or fixed yardage is supplied. Measure and finish a sample; record its real yarn use before estimating another sweater.

Length convention added in this edition: measure every body/back endpoint from the lower collar edge along centre back. Choose body-to-tail transition T near 2BL/3 only if that gives proper belly clearance and leaves room after the FC yoke. Then work the back tail until the intended finished back length, allowing for trim. The source example about an 8-inch body and remaining tail is internally unclear; it is not a second fixed instruction. Do not add FC again to an endpoint already measured from the collar. For very different body proportions, choose T on a template and fit trial instead of forcing the two-thirds suggestion.

US terms and finishing rules

US crochet terms. Ch = chain; sc = single crochet; hdc = half double crochet; dc = double crochet; sl st = slip stitch; st = stitch; sp = space; BLO/FLO = back/front loop only; RS/WS = right/wrong side. Ch 1 and ch 2 do not count unless a row specifically says they count. Hdc: yarn over, insert, draw up a loop, yarn over and pull through three loops. Hdc2tog: yarn over, insert in next stitch and draw up a loop (three loops on hook); yarn over again, insert in the following stitch and draw up a loop (five loops); yarn over and pull through all five. This consumes two stitches and produces one. Fpdc: yarn over, insert front-to-back-to-front around the next stitch post, draw up a loop, then finish dc. Sc3tog: draw up a loop in each of three next stitches, yarn over and pull through all four; consumes three and produces one. Change colour on the final pull-through before the new colour begins. Secure every cut end by weaving through several stitches and changing direction; a knot or trimming flush is not the whole finish.

Colour plan and taller ribbed collar

Choose a solid S for collar/rib trim and a multicolour or ombre O for the body. These are two yarn roles, not a requirement to use the same fibre as the pictured samples. Make the collar as follows: with S ch 10, sc in second chain and each remaining chain, giving 9 sc. Ch 1 and turn. On every next row sc through both loops at each end and BLO across the seven middle stitches. Continue to the measured neckline length with an even row total. Seam the two short ends with matching sl sts, RS together, fasten off S and turn RS out. The source's "chain 10" gives nine stitches here; it is not ten sc plus a turning chain.

Join O at the collar seam, ch 2, not counted, and follow the complete yoke/leg steps below. Keep O through the body and first hem round.

Yoke and chest expansion

With the O yarn joined at the seam and collar RS out, ch 2, not counted. Yoke round 1: work one hdc into each collar-row end, adding a second hdc in every sixth or seventh row end as a starting trial; use six for a fuller chest and seven for less initial expansion, then measure. With R collar rows and interval k, the first-round count is R+floor(R/k), with each remaining row end worked once. This is a reproducible starting interpretation of the source's interval advice, not a tested fit for every dog. Do not join; use a running marker for the round start.

Lay the collar seam at centre back and flatten gently. Mark the two side edges as increase lines. Round 2: sc in the first stitch to soften the spiral transition, hdc in each remaining stitch, making 2 hdc in the stitch at EACH side marker. Move markers to the centre of their new increase line. Count goes from N to N+2. Round 3: hdc once in each stitch; if the chest width still needs expansion, make the same paired side increases for N+2 instead. Repeat rounds 2-3, measuring height and circumference every few rounds until both FC and the chosen chest target are reached. Laid-flat width should approximate half the chosen finished chest circumference. If circumference is ready early, work plain rounds to FC. If FC is reached before sufficient width, undo to distribute more increases earlier; do not simply lengthen a too-narrow yoke below the legs. For a much larger chest-to-neck ratio, additional paired increase lines can be trialled symmetrically, with their counts recorded.

At the last yoke round replace its final two hdc with sc and sl st to level the edge. Do not add two uncounted extra stitches. Mark the centre back and centre belly separately before positioning leg openings.

Two leg openings

Pause the working loop in a marker. Flatten with centre back on one face and centre belly on the other. Work on the FRONT/belly half only. Count two stitches inward from each side fold and mark them. Count the inclusive span M between those two marks. Split it as L + P + L, where L is the number for each leg opening and P is the chest bridge between them. An initial neutral split is L=floor(M/3), P=M-2L. For M=25 this gives 8,9,8. A broad chest might trial 6,13,6 or 7,11,7; broader shoulders might trial 9,7,9. These are distribution examples, not tested sizes. Mark each opening’s first and last skipped stitches. Keep both openings on the front half and compare them to the actual dog before proceeding.

Opening round: resume at the round marker, sc in first stitch and hdc to the stitch before the first marked opening. Ch L at normal tension, skip exactly L marked stitches, then hdc in the next stitch and across the P-stitch chest bridge. Ch L, skip the second L-stitch opening and hdc around the back to the start. Chaining L while skipping L keeps the round count N unchanged. Begin the next spiral with sc in first actual stitch, then hdc around, working one hdc in EACH chain, not one cluster in the whole opening. Count N again. Check that the bridges do not pull into the underarms and the dog can move its front legs freely. In a joined-round version, join and turn only as the style specifies; do not also create a spiral transition stitch.

Body and trim allowance

Continue hdc rounds from the leg-opening round to the chosen T endpoint, measured from the lower collar edge as defined above. For a belly that hangs, a trial can place two hdc2tog aligned with the underarm lines on one round, then remeasure; a later round may repeat them if needed. Each paired-decrease round reduces N by 2. Preserve room to put the legs in and remove them comfortably. Do not tighten the body simply to make it look closer-fitting. Smooth the final spiral with sc and sl st in its final two positions, ending at centre belly; use partial stitches to move there only if needed and record them. The back must remain centred over the belly opening.

For this style choose the untrimmed body transition about 1-1.5 inches (2.54-3.81 cm) before the intended finished T to allow the wide trim. Check a trim trial before reserving this much; the original allowance is not verified for other yarns. Stop at centre belly with sc, sl st and park the loop.

Mark and shape the multicolour back tail

Flatten with openings aligned. At the lower edge, project the inside point of each leg opening down to the hem, then mark two stitches outward from each of those projected points. The long back arc between the markers is worked; the shorter belly span stays open. Check both sides against a template. Move by sl st to the first tail marker.

The original tail uses counted turning chains and skip shaping, but its repeat wording is ambiguous. It expressly allows the Basic hdc2tog method instead. This edition uses that alternative consistently: ch 2, NOT counted; hdc2tog in the first two stitches, hdc in each stitch until two remain, hdc2tog over those last two. If the marked back arc has W stitches, this row gives W-2. Ch 2 and turn. On a plain row hdc once in each actual stitch, keeping the count; on a shaping row repeat the two end decreases, losing two stitches. Trial a shaping row every row, every other row or farther apart to suit the belly slope; record all rows and mirror both edges. Never mistake the noncounted turning chain for a base stitch. This source-permitted method is an added reading clarification, not a new fitted sample. Stop 1-1.5 inches before the desired BL to allow trim, or use the measured trim trial.

Wide solid ribbed hem

Round 1 in O: sc evenly around the entire lower opening as in the Basic hem, matching both slopes, then fasten off. Round 2 in S: sc around with flat corner/V adjustments as needed; do not fasten off. Round 3: ch 2, not counted in this clarified route; hdc once in each regular stitch, 3 hdc at each outward corner and hdc2tog over two positions at inward curves. Mark these positions and count the actual round.

Round 4: alternate fpdc around the next hdc post and hdc through both top loops of the next stitch. At each marked outward corner use ribinc: fpdc around corner post, hdc through its two top loops, fpdc around the same corner post again, making 3 from1. At each inward curve use a centred rib3tog across fpdc/hdc/fpdc positions. Rib3tog: yarn over and draw up a loop as for fpdc at first post, yarn over and pull through2; yarn over and draw up a loop through both top loops of next stitch, yarn over and pull through2; yarn over and draw up a loop as for fpdc at third post, yarn over and pull through2; yarn over and pull through4 remaining loops. This completes three partial stitches together. The source wording omits an intermediate pull-through; this full sequence is an added, untested correction.

Keep corner and curve placement above alternation purity. If parity does not meet, repeat a hdc in an inconspicuous belly position and record it, rather than adding bulk to an outward corner. Join to first actual stitch and fasten off. With H pre-trim hdc positions, a corner ribinc changes count by+2 and each rib3tog by-2; ordinary alternation preserves count.

Rib-trim sleeves

Pick up sleeves in O using the complete Basic sleeve method below, choosing an even number S of pickup stitches by checking the chain/junction distribution and flat fit, not by tightening a cuff. Work three total hdc rounds in O as a reference starting length, end with sc/sl st and fasten off. Join S solid yarn. Round 4: ch 1, sc in same position and each stitch around, join first sc. Round 5: ch 2 not counted, hdc once in every stitch, join first actual hdc. Round 6: ch 2 not counted, alternate fpdc and hdc across the even S stitches; join first actual stitch and fasten off. This explicit noncounting-chain convention avoids duplicating the source’s unclear joined hdc chain at the seam. Repeat identical counts/length on sleeve2 and check elbow clearance. Optional appliques are finishing choices, not additional sweater patterns.

Full sleeve pickup method

Make two matching short sleeves. Join yarn at the inner/underarm junction, ch 1, sc in the same position and hdc evenly around the opening, working into the hdc tops, row-end junctions and the two remaining loops under each foundation chain as available. Do not cram extra stitches into one chain space. Record this pickup total S and use the same count for the other sleeve if the openings match. Continue with the multicolour sleeve sequence above: three initial O hdc rounds, then the defined solid sc, hdc and ribbed rounds. Do not add the Basic four-round sleeve or its plain sc hem to this trim.

Optional hardware access, if needed

Optional collar/harness access opening: measure the actual attachment position and ring while the dog wears its normal purpose-made collar/harness. Mark the opening at centre back, away from increase lines. For a five-position opening in a body round, replace five hdc positions with sc, sl st, sl st, sl st, sc. On the next round ch 5 over and skip exactly those five positions, then resume hdc. On the following round work one hdc into each of the five chains. A smaller three-position trial replaces three hdc with sc, sl st, sc and uses a ch-3 bridge over those three positions. These explicit skip instructions preserve the original count; they clarify the source's abbreviated "span the dip". Test the actual hardware off the dog. A five-chain gap is not guaranteed to fit every ring. Never attach a lead to the crochet opening; use only the actual approved equipment ring, keeping it accessible without loading the yarn. Omit the opening if it is unnecessary or poorly placed.

Troubleshooting and sample record

If neckline fits the neck but will not pass the head comfortably, stop and change the opening/collar design before adding the body. If yoke height reaches FC while chest is narrow, undo to add expansion earlier. If underarms pull, check skipped-versus-chain counts and opening placement on the front half. If the body twists, check centre back, centre belly and matching side increases. If a trim curls or flares, work a small pickup trial and mirror changes on matching edges. Counted and noncounted turning chains must follow the named section; do not carry one convention into every style.

Record: actual NE___ CH___ FC___ BL___ HA___; chosen finished neck___ chest___; yarn/colour___ hooks___; rested swatch s___ r___ q___; collar rows___; yoke rounds/counts___; leg L___ P___ L___; body T___; tail start W___ decrease rows___; sleeve S___ rounds___; actual hem/trim counts___; completed measurements before/after care___; yarn used___; fit and mobility result___. Stop and revise rather than labelling an unmade formula a tested size.

Comfort, equipment and care

A sweater may help a dog that needs an extra layer, but crochet does not establish waterproofing, wind protection or a safe temperature rating. Check with a vet if warmth needs or garment suitability are uncertain. Fit should allow free walking, running, sitting and toileting, without underarm rubbing or a stretched neckline. Keep the head, eyes, ears, nose and mouth unobstructed. Remove the garment if the dog bites/scratches at it, rubs against furniture, freezes or seems too warm. Supervise wear and remove for rough play, crating, sleep or time alone. Keep working pins, needles, markers, loose braids, yarn ends and small fittings out of reach. The sweater is not restraint or identification equipment. Use the real collar/harness for a lead and keep its fastening clear.

Follow the actual yarn and trim labels for care. Trial the intended cleaning on swatches first; then remeasure the whole sweater after drying, including neck, chest, leg openings and sleeves. Remove or avoid fittings that cannot tolerate that care. Stop using a garment with loose seams, stretched openings, damaged yarn or loose decorations. No new wash, fit, snag, warmth or fastener-security tests have been made.

Reference pages included

The next 15 pages preserve the relevant supplied instruction/photo pages in their original order and original numbering. Reference page numbers: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 34, 35. All required core making steps are written above, so this guide does not require opening another guide. Original optional stitch/collar/sleeve/hem/applique pages, where included, are bonus references rather than extra numbered sweater designs. Those bonus routes are not newly tested or fully re-edited here; do not assume their measurements or small decorations suit every dog.



Finished reference view of the same sweater style. This is not an additional pattern or evidence of a new fit test.

History
Not long after I first took up crocheting (2008), I went about making my small Rat Terrier a sweater. I started with a couple of free patterns and found that they weren't going to fit her any better than store-bought sweaters. The main problem: she is a small dog with a medium-size chest. Anything that fit her up front hung off her everywhere else- and was entirely too long. Since I didn't know enough about crocheting to take an existing pattern and alter it and absolutely refused to try to understand gauge, I just started from scratch. I crocheted and fitted as I went- and at last she had a well-fitted sweater. After a couple more times- and learning things like using durable yarn and sewing ends in better- I knew exactly what to do. I made sweaters for a couple more dogs then got the idea to write it down, photograph the steps. That pattern, The Dog Sweater Tutorial, became a hit on A Dog In A Sweater. Hundreds of people have made sweaters for their dogs from this simple measure-to-fit pattern. Over the next couple of years I added 3 variations all based on this custom-fit concept and the logical truth that all dogs are shaped like themselves and not like every other dog their breed. Even though I have moved away from dog sweaters to other fun animal-inspired designs, doggies having just the right sweater is still as important to me as it was in the beginning. It pleases me to know that so many dogs are warm and extra cute because I like to solve problems- and because great people like you love them so much!

As always, Happy Crocheting!
-Jenna, *Jenna Wingate Designs*

Usage
I have always asked that this pattern not be used for profit. It was intended for practical use and to pamper the ones you love. Please do not sell or copy these patterns. Please do not base any pattern you intend to sell on any of these patterns. I do whole-heartedly encourage you to donate and raise money for shelters and rescues, but if you do so in the form of selling finished items from any of my free patterns, please ask my permission first. I am always happy to help spread the word and often give away free copies of other patterns to help your efforts. Just drop me an email with a little info about your charity and event. Thanks so much for your honesty!

How to Use These Patterns *****IMPORTANT! MUST READ!*****
The two most important things to keep in mind: You need reliable measurements AND you should read the pattern through before beginning. Almost every question I ever get from someone having trouble with their sweater was answered in the pattern already. I do not mind helping, but you will save yourself the time waiting for my reply and a lot of frustration by reading the pattern through.

If you have not made a dog sweater successfully before OR if you are new to crocheting, I really do recommend that you make the Basic Sweater first. This way you will understand fully how to fit the dog and how the sweater is structured. The additional patterns are based on this Basic Sweater concept, so if you don't already know it, the others are going to be a lot harder to accomplish.

Parts of a Sweater



Don't Skip the Notes!
Down the left column there are notes- and in the patterns themselves there are reference letters like this[A]. Most of these notations are essential to the pattern- and even the ones that are extra info will help you not to get backed into a crochet corner.

Pictures Help, Too!
If the notes don't explain well enough, then check the pictures- not just the ones nearest, but all of the pictures in the pattern just to be sure!

Materials Needed

- Yarn – Medium (#4) recommended, though #3 or #5 would work fine, too. *Amounts will vary by dog and style.*
- Hook – Use the hook that is recommended for your yarn unless otherwise stated or suggested
- Stitch Markers
- Measuring Tape
- Tapestry Needle
- Buttons (optional for some)
- Dog measurements
- Dog (really recommended for your first sweater- have a dog on hand for fittings)

Stitch Abbreviations

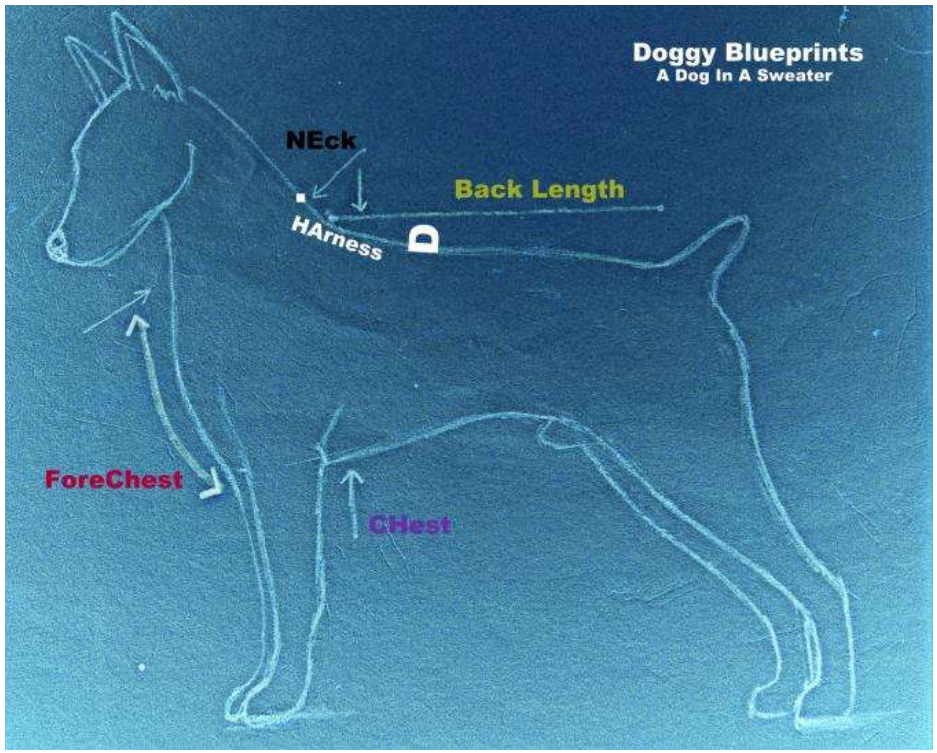
Some patterns will have extra stitches and definitions. These are American Crochet Terms.

ch- chain
slst- slip stitch
sc- single crochet
sk = skip
hdc- half double crochet
dc= double crochet
tr = treble
blo= back loop only
flo= front loop only
hdc2tog- half double crochet 2 stitches together (decrease)
inc- increase (make 2 stitches in one)
dc2tog – double crochet 2 together
FO- finish off
RS= Right Side
WS= Wrong Side

Measuring your Dog

Tips for getting accurate measurements:

• Have 2-3 measuring sessions with your dog so you will have more of an idea if you are getting correct results.
• Let your dog get used to the measuring tape by sight and by touch.
• Have an assistant!
• If you can't get your dog to stand flat for the back length measurement, then wait until they are lying flat on their side. Do not take this measurement while sitting, stretching, or curled up as it will not be accurate.
• Have a lot of patience and some good treats or a favorite toy!
• Keep a record and recheck every year!



You will need these 4(5) measurements:

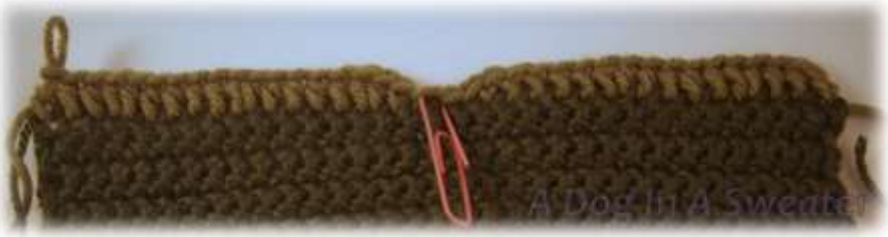
NE = Neck The circumference of the neck where the collar goes
CH = Chest The circumference of the fullest part of the rib cage
FC = Forechest The distance from the collar to right between the front legs
BL = Back Length The distance from the collar to the base of the tail
HA = Harness (optional) The distance from the collar position to the D-ring on the harness - *Instructions for Keyhole for Collar or Harness on page 4*

Contact/Connect

Jenna Wingate Designs / Email / Facebook / Ravelry / Craftsy

Keyhole for Collar or Harness

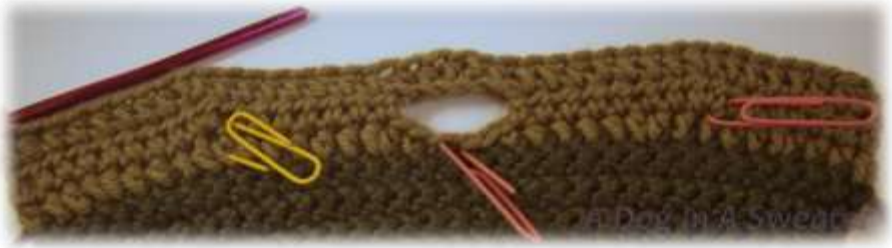
At the Collar:



No matter which collar you make, you can stitch a keyhole for a leash easily into the first round of the yoke. Mark you center and 3 stitches before (sc, slst in the next 3, sc) then resume your hdc. You may need to adjust your increases to before or after the keyhole.



On the 2nd round, chain 5 to span the 'dip' that you made and resume hdc as normal.



Work into these chains like any other stitch on the 3rd round.

This keyhole should be large enough for any D-ring to fit through.

Note: You may find you don't even need a keyhole to attach a leash at the collar if you are making a short collar. It is entirely up to you. It does look nice, but may not be necessary.

For Harness:

This is a little trickier, getting the right spot and remembering to put it in, but it would be made exactly the same. On the previous page you see there is a place to measure for the placement of the harness attachment. You will want to keep you measurements in plain view so this detail isn't skipped, especially since, depending on the dog, that keyhole may end up on the yoke, while setting in the legs, or even down on the body. Fold the sweater in half to find the absolute center of the back and make the keyhole in the same way as you would at the collar.

If you are using bulkier yarn and a larger hook, you may find this hole to be entirely too big. In that case you can alter the size by making it only 3 stitches wide OR you can go back later and sc around inside the opening to take up some of the space.



A sweater I made with a harness keyhole

Basic Dog Sweater

Collar Notes:
A. I use 5 as a minimum. You can make a tall collar- like a mock turtleneck- or even taller- like a real turtleneck which looks very nicely turned, but 5 is the minimum to get a neat, ribbed effect. +1 is the turning chain and does not count as a stitch.

B. For added strength in the ribbed collar, I generally do a regular sc in the ends and BLO in the middle stitches. This does not stretch quite as much this way, but it also does not stretch out of shape as easily. Unless your dog has a considerably larger head than neck, it really doesn't need to stretch too much, but you certainly do not want it to sag in the future.

C. An easy way to tell you have an even number of rows (without counting over and over) is to compare the two ends. As long as the last two rows on each end look the same, it is even. In other words, you will have either a roof peak or vee formed by the last two stitches (due to the BLOsc). 2 Roof peaks or 2 Vees= even number of rows!

Example Project
I will be making a sweater for my Rat Terrier Pagan. She was the model for the original sweater (and my inspiration to learn to crochet in the first place), and could use a new sweater. She's put a little weight on since 2009! Pagan is 13.5lbs and her measurements are: Neck – 10, Chest – 18, Forechest – 4.5, Back Length – 13. I will be using I Love This Yarn Print (Medium Weight) in colorway Surprise Stripe and an I/9 (5.5mm) hook. I will use a G/6(4mm) hook on the collar, though, because she has a tendency to walk through her sweaters when climbing out from under a blanket. Hopefully this will mean less sagging at the neck with all-day wear.

Dog Measurement Key

N = Neck
C = Chest
FC = Forechest
BL = Back length

Collar

Ch 5[A]+1

Row 1- sc in 2nd chain from hook and in each ch across. Ch 1, turn.

Row 2- sc in BLO[B] across. Ch1, turn.

Repeat row 2 until collar = N, ending on an even number of rows[C]. Ch1, turn.





Joining the collar

Fold collar in half, matching ends. Slst in each stitch across, being sure to match and stitch through both layers. Ch2 and turn collar right side out (With seam on the inside) Do not FO! *You will not FO until you are ready to add the sleeves!!!*

Yoke Notes:
A. Ch2 does not count as a stitch.

B. If the chest measurement is close to double or more the neck measurement, you will need more increases.

C. Some sweaters will need more increases than others since all dogs are different. See **TIP** and **HOW** to judge if more increases are needed.

D. The width should end up ½ your chest circumference. I need 18 inches for C, so I am shooting for 9 inches across.

TIP: You will want to measure every few rows to be sure the sweater is increasing enough or not too much. With my yarn and hook combo, each row of increase adds about 1/2 inch circumference, but yours may be different. You may need to add more increase rows, or spread them out further, depending on the difference between your dog's neck and chest circumferences.

Yoke

Round 1- (Previous ch2 does not count as hdc[A]) Hdc in the end of each row, increasing every sixth or seventh[B] stitch.. Do not join until indicated. Do not turn. You will be working in continuous rounds until the tail.

Fold piece flat, seam in center of top. On the right and left edges, place a stitch marker. This will tell you where to increase.



Round 2- begin round with sc in the next stitch, then hdc in each stitch around, making an increase at both markers.

Round 3- Hdc around <OR> hdc around, increasing at both markers as/if needed.[C]

Repeat Rounds 2 and 3, until the piece measures FC from bottom of collar to edge of work. It is better to go a fraction over than to be too short.

End the last round with a sc in the next and slst in the last so you can begin the sleeves at the same level.

HOW: Laying the piece flat and measuring from side to side[D] as you go will let you know how much more increasing you need to do. Measuring from the bottom of the collar to the working edge will tell you how much space you have left to make these increases. You will want to try to increase at regular intervals to get the neatest fit, but for the first try I wouldn't worry too much about it. You can remember how many increases it took for next time and space them better. (Examples on next page)

I did 3 checks:

Check #1
After the 5th round, it came out about 2inches high and 7 inches wide.

Check #2
After the 9th round, it came out to 3.5inches high and 8 inches, so…

Check #3
…I knew the remaining 2 rounds would need to be increase rounds to make 9 inches in the next inch.

Important: I do recommend that you try the sweater top on the dog at this point if at all possible just to be sure your measurements were correct.








Note: In the old version, I had you try the sweater on and mark the leg holes while the dog was wearing it. This was very tricky for a lot of people and dogs. You can still do it this way if you are more comfortable with it. Just be sure to not place any outer markers onto the back half of the sweater because this will actually cause the sleeves to pull oddly rather than give more room like you'd think.

Leg Hole Notes:
A. Maybe this should be called the majority dog, because about 85% of the (many, many) dogs I have measured for sweaters require average sleeve placement.

B. Don't chain too tight here. Try to keep it average and even.

Tip: Tight stitching can sometimes be caused by lack of full movement of the hook and wrist. Make a point of sliding the loop up onto the shaft of the hook each time, instead of allowing it to hover at the throat, to get average, even stitches. Remember that the shaft is what determines the hook's size.



Positioning for the Leg Holes

More practical version: Remove your hook and place a stitch marker in the loop so nothing unravels. Fold the sweater flat and with the seam centered, count inward 2 stitches from each side. Place a marker in these stitches. Now count all the stitches across, starting and ending (and including) the marked stitches. Divide this number by 3.

Now you must use your discretion about how your dog is built. **Mark first and last stitch of leg holes only.**



Marked for an average dog

For the average dog[A]*:* Keep this number. If the number isn't even, place the extra in the center, or put the two extras to the legs. Mark the inner stitches of the where the legs would end, leaving all the stitches for the chest piece in the center of the 4 markers. (Example: 25 stitches. Mark 8 for each leg and leave 9 for chest)

For a dog with a wide chest: Give more stitches to the chest than to the legs. (Example: 25 stitches. Mark 6 or 7 for each leg and leave 13 or 11 for the chest, depending on room needed)

For a dog with larger shoulders: Give more stitches to the leg holes. (Example: 25 stitches. Mark 9 for each leg and leave 7 for the chest.

Try it on: At this point you can try the sweater on the dog and see if the leg hole seems about right. Adjust if needed., just be sure to keep them even.

Leg Hole Rounds
Round 1 - Place your working loop back on the hook and begin with a sc, then hdc in the next few stitches, stopping before the first marker. Chain[B] the same number of stitches marked for the leg. Skip all the stitches marked for the leg hole. Begin hdc again in the stitch after the 2nd marker and hdc all the way around, chaining and skipping the second leg hole as you did the 1st. Hdc back to the middle. Sc in the first hdc to begin working in the round again

Body and Tail Notes:
A. My BL was 13, so I crocheted the body until it was 8 inches long, leaving the leftover inch for the tail.

B. You may wish to make a lot of decreases to get a very fit sweater belly, but remember that the dog's leg (especially the elbow) has to fit thought that opening- and back out again. Err on the side of more room than less, at least for your first sweater.

C. For a dog with short legs, I would definitely recommend maximum decrease rows.

D. Or every 3rd row if this sweater is for a long, skinny (and also tall) dog.

Round 2 – hdc all around, working into each chain and each hdc from the previous round. Count your stitches as you work into the chain because it's easy to miss one or get too many. *Do not work into the chain space as this will be bulkier and may be uncomfortable for the dog in that sensitive underarm area.*



Sweater Body

Continue to hdc in the round until your sweater reaches about 2/3[A] of your total BL. You can adjust this for more room if your boy dog needs the extra space for his parts (pee-soaked sweater bellies make for a lot of laundry!)

Shaping: You can make a few decreases, spreading them out on two or three rounds. I did a total of four, two on two different rows, lined up with the leg holes. You can try the sweater on or measure to get an idea of how much sag you will want to take up. Don't overdo the decreases, though![B]

When the body reaches the desired length, end with a sc and slst in the center.

Tail

Slst over one more stitch (or 2 or 3 if your dog needs more parts room)
Ch2 hdc2tog, then hdc around- placing another hd2tog at the end. Remember to stop at a comparable distance from center on the other side. Ch2, turn.
Crochet the remainder of the tail length in rows, chaining 2 and turning each time. Depending on how open you wish the belly to be, or how many rows it will take, you should *decrease* at the beginning and end of each[C] **(or every other[D])** row. You would definitely wish more space there for a boydog.

Trim and Sleeve Notes:

A. Count your stitches on the first leg of the 'V' and make the same number on the second leg.

B. It is best to stitch through BOTH loops of chain that remain in order to make the sleeve stronger.

C. I like a minimum of 4 rounds just because that seems to be what it takes to get the shape. You can most definitely add more for a larger sweater or if you would like a longer sleeve. For a very active dog or one with short legs, I definitely recommend ending the sleeve above the elbow.

Trim

Before Finishing off, sc all around the bottom of the sweater, increasing at the corners and decreasing at the 'V' as you feel looks best and would still leave enough room. Space your stitches evenly so both sides match[A] and the fabric neither curls nor puckers. I like to do a second sc round, but it is not necessary. FO.

Sleeves

Round 1- Join yarn with a ch1 to arm hole. Sc in the same stitch and hdc around (In each hdc, the side of both hdc and bottom of chain[B])- spacing the stitches evenly. Do not join, do not turn. Use a stitch marker if needed to mark beginning of rounds. Sc in the beginning hdc.

Round 2 – 4[C] - Continue to hdc in rounds and sc in the last stitch. Continue to sc around once or twice in keeping with the trim at the tail. Slst in the last stitch and FO. Repeat for second sleeve, matching the same number of stitches on the beginning round. Sew in all ends well.



Stitch Options

Method 1:
Place your fancy stitches only on non-shaping rows

Basically, after you have set in the leg holes, you can switch stitching to something else. Shells or ripples or a block stitch or whatever you like. Keep in mind that some may cause your work to fan out and you might like that for more of a dress look (if you're not worried about the dog walking up into it) but in most cases you can prevent this by either going down a hook size OR by skipping an extra stitch or two in the set-up row. When it comes to decreasing for the tail, you may have to get creative.

Method 2:
Choose an easily increasable stitch

If you want to have a sweater full of a textured or lacy stitch, pick a stitch that is easy to increase. Easy to increase stitches would be ones that are generally made over 2 stitches like a cross-stitch of a staggered ridge stitch. With these stitches, it is very hard to tell that you increased at all- simply by not skipping when you would usually skip or by placing two stitches in the same stitch like a basic increase.

You may have noticed that all of these sweaters use a hdc for the body. This is a good stitch for sweaters because it has more stretch to it than a sc, but is less gapped than a dc (and you have more chances for increases at the markers than with a taller stitch). You are absolutely not limited to these stitches, though. Here are 3 ways to work some fancier stitching into your dog' sweater



Note: You will still need to be able to decrease to make the tail, but this is usually pretty easy to do by ending early or slst'ing over before beginning the next row.

Method 3:
Business up front, Party in back
By placing your fancy stitch pattern on the back of the sweater only, the front is completely free for shaping. All you need to do is match your basic stitch height to the height of the stitch pattern you've chosen. On these swatches you can see the increases following the same line as they would on a plain-stitch sweater. I would recommend that you move your markers each row, though, to keep from losing where that line goes and mixing it up with what might actually be stitch pattern.

Neatest Stitch Tip:
Something I did not do in my gauge swatches, but fancier stitch patterns generally look better with a tight stitch- ie. size down on your hook. Once you get your collar made, you can play around with it a bit for a few rows. That's always fun even if you end up not liking the way it looks. Have fun!

Maintain the Stretch:
If you are using sc for your rounds, in whole or in part, or a stitch that is a sc stitch high, remember that these short stitches really don't stretch very well. My recommendation is to actually go UP on the hook size. Seed stitch, for instance, on a J or K hook looks pretty great!





What basic stitch to pair with?
That's usually pretty easy to figure out by looking at the pattern. If it tells you to ch3 to start a row (or that 3 stitches count as a dc) then you know that row is dc height. If your stitch pattern rows are different heights, use different height stitch rows on the front of the yoke, too.

Room for increases
If you use a taller stitch, you may not get enough rows to put in enough increases at the regular side stitch markers only. An easy way to correct this is to make 2 increases per side (or 2 on one round and 2 on the next) – and remind yourself to do so by placing more stitch markers (color-coding can help- especially if you won't increase at the second set each time). I would put the first marker in the regular place then move inward 4-5 stitches and place the second set of markers. It may take some experimentation to get it right, but I am betting you will be happy you took the time to do something extra special!

Stitch patterns are usually in rows and not in the round
True. And if it's a stitch pattern you are not familiar with enough to reverse the WS rows, then you can work the sweater it joined rows, turning each time. There is always a way around the technical stuff!

Help! I can't make this work!
I will be glad to help. Email me your special stitch pattern and I will tell you what basic stitches to pair it with, and any other tips I might see would help you to get a smooth transition. I am glad to help and I love seeing what you are making!

Multi-Color Dog Sweater
This sweater was designed to pair an ombre colorway with a solid color, but can be used in any color combination you like. The main differences are a differently shaped tail and a wide, ribbed trim to compliment the collar. There is also an option of a solid-color applique on the back of the sweater. I used free appliques found online.



Collar Notes
A. You COULD make it wider by chaining more, but a chain 10 is going to compliment the trim width.

Collar
The collar is made the same as the Basic Tutorial (refer to page 5), with the following changes:

- Begin the collar with your solid and a Chain 10[A].
- FO after you seam the collar.

Yoke
The yoke is made the same as the Basic Tutorial (refer to page 6), with the following changes:

- Join ombre yarn at the point of FO. Continue with this color until trim.

Leg Holes
The leg holes are made the same as the Basic Tutorial (refer to page 8).

Body
The body is made the same as the Basic Tutorial (refer to page 9) with the following changes:

- Stop 1 to 1.5 inches short of 2/3 the Back Length.
- At 2 stitches before center, sc in the next stitch, slst in the center stitch.
- Remove hook and place a stitch marker in your working loop to prevent unravelling.

Stitches Used:
Front Post Double Crochet = fpdc
Ribbing increase = ribinc
Rib stitch 3 together = rib3tog

Stitches Explained:
ribinc = Fpdc around stitch at corner. Hdc through both loops of same stitch. Fpdc around same post again.

rib3tog = YO and insert hook as if to fpdc. YO and draw up a loop. YO and pull through 2 loops on hook. (2 loops on hook) Insert hook under both loops of next stitch. YO and draw up a loop. YO and pull through 2 loops on hook. (3 loops on hook) YO and insert hook in next stitch as if to fpdc. YO and draw up a loop. YO and pull through all 4 loops on hook.

Marking for the Tail
Lay the sweater flat with the leg openings positioned evenly. Using a straight edge and 2 stitch markers, mark the end of the sweater 2 stitches *outward* from the inside point of the leg openings. Place markers.





Tail Notes:
A. This makes a neater decrease than hdc2together. If you are not comfortable with doing it this way, feel free to follow how it is done in the Basic Sweater (page 9).

B. You may not have an even number of stitches to make the ribbing exact. Don't worry. You can hide the small imperfection (a repeat of a stitch) somewhere on the belly area and it will not be noticeable. You may have to do this more than once to get the corners and curves positioned correctly. As long as you have the corners and the curves centered correctly, the edging will lie flat.

Sleeve Notes:
A. Or more for a larger dog.

Tail
Slst across to first marker and proceed as follows:

Row 1- Ch2 (counts as hdc). Hdc in next stitch and in each stitch around to 2ndstitch marker. Ch2, turn.

Row 2- Skip[A] first stitch. Hdc in next stitch each stitch around. Leave top of ch2 unworked. Ch2, turn.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until sweater measures 1 to 1.5inches less than Back Length. Do not FO.

Trim
The trim is made the same as the Basic Tutorial (refer to page 9), with the following changes:

- After the Round 1, FO ombre yarn.
- Join solid yarn and complete round 2. Do not FO.

Round 3 – Ch2 and hdc in each stitch around, placing 3hdc in the outward corners and hdc2tog at the inward curves.

Round 4[B]- (Fpdc in next stitch, hdc in next stitch) around, placing ribinc on the corners and rib3tog at the inward curves. Slst to beginning ch2 and FO.

Sleeves
The sleeves are made the same as the Basic Tutorial (refer to page 9), with the following changes:

- You will need an even number of stitches to set up for the ribbing.
- Join ombre yarn and complete 3[A] rounds of hdc. End with a sc and slst, FO.
- Join solid yarn and proceed as follows:

Round 4- Ch1 and sc in same stitch. Sc around. Join with a slst to beginning sc. Ch2.

Round 5- Hdc around and join with a slst to beginning ch2. Ch2.

Round 6- (fpdc in next stitch, hdc in next) around, hiding any possible repeat of stitch to the inside of the leg if needed. Join with a slst to beginning ch2. FO.

Sew in all ends securely.

Add applique to the back of sweater if desired. Links to free appliques online:
Appliques Directory on Crochet Pattern Central Appliques on Ravelry Search

Doggy Appliques

Use whatever yarn and a hook a few sizes smaller than recommended to get a nice, tight stitch. Actual applique sizes will vary with yarn and hook choice.





Hearts
Small (Medium, Large)

Chain 4(6, 8)
Row 1: Sc in 2nd chain from hook and each stitch across (3, 5, 7 stitches)
Row 2: Ch1, turn. Sc across.
Row 2: Repeat 1(3, 5) more times.
Bumpy bits: Ch1, sl st in same stich. *rotate 90degrees. In the side of middle row, place 3hdc (5dc, 7tr). Shell Made. Sl st in next corner. Repeat from * once more.
Ch1, sc in same stitch. Sc 2(4, 6) stitches down the side of straight edge. Rotate 90degrees. Sc in same stitch and in the next 2(4, 6) stitches (on the bottom of the chain). Sc in the first 1(2, 2) stitches of the first shell. 2sc in the next 1(2, 3) stitches. Sc in the remaining 1(1, 2) stitches of the shell. Sl st into the square on a row below. Sc in the first 1(1, 2) stitches of the second shell. 2sc in the next 1(2, 3) stitches. Sc in the last 1(2, 2) stitches. Join with a sl st to beginning sc. FO leaving a long tail for sewing your heart to the sweater.

Bone

Small
Base row: Ch2. (Sc, hdc, dc, ch2, sl st) all in 2nd chain from hook. *Rounded corner* made. Chain 11.
Row 1: Turn. *Rounded corner* in 2nd chain from hook. Sc in each of the 9 chains across. Sl st to the bottom side of the first *rounded corner*.
Row 2: Turn. Ch2, (dc, hdc, sc) all in last stitch. Sc in each stitch across. Ch2, (dc, hdc, sc) all in last stitch. Sl st to center of end. FO, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Large
Base row: Ch2. (Sc, hdc, 3dc, ch2, sl st) all in 2nd chain from hook. *Rounded corner* made. Chain 17.
Row 1: Turn. *Rounded corner* in 2nd chain from hook. Sc in each of the 15 chains across. Sl st to the bottom side of the first *rounded corner*.
Row 2: Turn. Ch2, (3dc, hdc, sc) all in last stitch. Sc in each stitch across. Ch2, (3dc, hdc, sc) all in last stitch. Sl st to center of end. FO, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Star
Use a stitch marker to mark your last stitch of each round

1. 5sc in a magic ring. (5sc)
2. 2sc in each stitch (10sc)
3. *(Sc, ch2) in next stitch. Sc in next stitch. Repeat from * around. (10sc, 5chains)
4. *Sc in the next stitch. (Sc, ch2, sc) in the next stitch. Sc in the next stitch.* Repeat from * to * around. (20sc, 5chains)





5. Sl st over to the nearest chain space. *Ch6. Sl st in 2nd chain from hook. Sc, hdc, dc, tr, respectively, in remaining chains. Sl st to next chain space.* Repeat from * to * for each side. FO, leaving long tail for sewing. (5 points)

Tennis Ball
Crochet in the round. Mark the last stitch of each round.

Rd 1: 6sc in a magic circle.
Rd 2: 2sc in each stitch around (12sc)
Rd 3: (2sc in next stitch, sc in next stitch) around. (18sc)
Rd 4: (2sc in next stitch, sc in next 2 stitches) around. (24sc)
Rd 5: Sc in next 2 stitches. (2sc in next stitch, sc in next 3 stitches) 5times. 2sc in next stitch, sc in last stitch. (30sc)
FO, leaving long tail for sewing.
With small amount of gray yarn, embroider two curved lines as seams.

Fire Hydrant

Bobble (worked on the wrong side) = (YO, insert hook in stitch, YO, pull up a loop) 5 times. YO and pull through all 11 loops on hook.

With red
Row 1: Ch 7. Sc in 2nd chain from hook and each chain across. (6sc)
Row 2: Ch1, turn. Sc in first stitch. Bobble in next stitch. Sc in next 4 stitches. (5sc, 1 bobble)
Row 3: Ch1, turn. Sc in each sc and top of bobble stitch across. (6sc)
Do not turn from this point. Rotate to work around the post of the hydrant.
Round 4. Ch2, sl st in 2nd chain from hook. Sl st in end of last row.

Working on the end of the rows, 5dc in the end stitch of middle row. Sl st in end of the first row.

Ch2, sl st in 2nd chain from hook. Sl st in end sc. Sl st in next 2 (bottom of chain).

Ch4, sl st in same sc. Sl st to the end. Ch2, rotate. Sc in 2nd chain from hook. Sc in the end of each row.

Ch2, rotate. Sc in 2nd chain from hook. Sk first stich on the side of post, sl st in next 3 stitches. Ch4, sl st in same stitch. Sl st in last 2 stitches on that side. FO, leaving a long tail for sewing.

With black yarn, embroider circle in the center of the bobble and straight lines across the top and side arms of the hydrant.