

## Any Size Any Gauge Circle Sweater in memory of Wilma Mankiller

This is a recipe for creating your very own circle sweater. It can be any size, in any yarn, and knit in any gauge you like.

- Yarn (the same amount as you would normally use for a sweater - <http://www.interweavestore.com/Knitting/Books/The-Knitters-Handy-Guide-To-Yarn-Requirements.html>) (I used 9 skeins of Encore by Plymouth Yarn, a worsted weight that is 75% acrylic and 25% wool)
- Gauge: Any, mine was 4.25 stitches/inch
- Needles, to go with your yarn, mine were several sets of #8 circular needles
- scissors
- measuring tape
- a doily pattern or something else round and flat (I used a vintage doily pattern I found for free online at <http://www.yarnover.net/patterns/doilies/donner/index.html>)
- an edging pattern, or the desire to make a lot of attached i-cord, or a strong desire to loosely cast off a whole lot of stitches (I used Cockleshell Edging from Barbara Walker's Second Treasury of Knitted Patterns)



I started out by knitting up my doily pattern, on #8 needles, with worsted weight yarn. I wanted my sweater to be cozy and warm, not lacy and delicate, so that's why I didn't use larger needles. You may choose the fabric drape and style you prefer by changing your needle size. I then continued on, extending the lines of the doily pattern, using yarn-overs and some decreases. My particular pattern had 7 sections to it instead of 8, so every other round, I added 7 stitches with yarn-overs and also had 7 sets of yarn-overs that were decreased away, and existed purely for decoration. I worked until I thought it was about 42" across, then I added two ridges of seamless in-the-round garter stitch (find out how here: <http://fleeglesblog.blogspot.com/search?q=garter+stitch+in+the+round>), and a lacy edging around to close it off. My chest measurement is 42" around, so I thought making the sweater at least 42" across (plus edging) would make it nice and full.

In theory, as long as you have room for your shoulders and a few more rounds, you could make the circle section pretty small. I will go on the record and say that mine is large. Enormous, in fact. Slightly over 4 feet across. I love it.

For the lace edging to end well, I had to be a bit sneaky. I didn't count and consider my stitches before I began the edging. When I was about halfway around the sweater, I divided my



remaining stitches out into groups of 16 with stitch markers, and discovered that I had about 11 left over at the end. I decided I didn't want to increase stitches to make it even, so I snuck in 11 groups of 17 stitches. If I finished a repeat of the pattern and an "extra" stitch was looking at me, I simply moved it from the right-hand to the left-hand needle and knit 2 together after I turned the work to continue. I don't think even I can tell where I did this and where I did not. I think the garter-stitch base of the pattern helped me. Another way to accomplish the same task would be to simply knit 3 together instead of 2 together on the last row of the pattern repeat.

### Adding Sleeves

- 1) Measure around the top of your arm to see how big your armhole needs to be.
- 2) Divide that number by 2.
- 3) Figure out how many stitches you need to get to the measurement in step 2, either by direct measurement on the circle or by taking a gauge swatch and doing arithmetic. I did both and split the difference.



- 4) Guess, then measure, where the center of each armhole should be. The exact position will depend on your pattern and preference. Make sure that the distance between the two armholes is not too large or too small. In my opinion, it can vary. On me, for example, I think it would work for my armholes to be anywhere from between 15" apart to 20" apart. Snip the center stitch and pull back until you have opened up enough stitches to equal what you discovered in step 3.

- 5) Pick up the live stitches. I picked up two stitches from each edge, to help make the corners neat.

- 6) Knit sleeves. After decreasing away the four extra stitches for the corners, I knit straight from the shoulder, in stockinette stitch, until the sleeves were long enough to reach my elbow.

- 7) To match the body, I knit 2 garter stitch ridges before completing the sleeve edging. Sleeve edging is optional, but since you have a smaller area, it's best to stop and consider if you have the correct number of stitches to make all of your edging in full repeats. My edging is 32 rows long, which means it uses 16 stitches of the sleeve for each repeat. Sixty-six does not divide evenly by 16, but 64 does. So, the row before I began the garter stitch ridges, I knit 31 stitches and knit 2 together twice to change my sleeve stitches from 66 to 64.



It's that simple. Have fun!

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