

## Tertian

by Lara Neel



They say, to knit a typical sweater, one third of the stitches are for the sleeves, one third are for the yoke, and one third are for the body of the sweater below the underarms.

Well, I wanted, mainly, to knit the sleeves, and draw them together using ribbons and bows. Here is my attempt.

Tertian music is based on the interval of a third. In medicine, a tertian fever returns every three days. Let's hope this one-third of a sweater makes you feel like humming and chases chills away.

You can use any yarn, any needles, and any gauge you like. I think, though, if it's much heavier than a light worsted, it might feel strange to have at least a small slit down the back, covered only by ribbon.

I've written the pattern so that you can fill in your own numbers, but I'm also telling you what I did.

Your Yarn:

Yarn I Used: South West Trading Company's Bamboo. I used three skeins, although it didn't take much of the last one. Mine was color #521, Plum, but it's pretty old, and I don't think they sell that color any more.

Your Needles:

Needles I Used: #6

Your Stitch Gauge = G =

Stitch Gauge I Used: The gauge for the swatch before I washed it was 6.5 stitches to the inch. After washing, it was 6 stitches to the inch. So, be very careful and make sure to wash your swatch before you measure, if you use a bamboo-based or rayon yarn.

Your Row Gauge = R = (This one is tricky! Measure it before you start and measure it again before you begin your sleeve decreases, if you have a yarn that doesn't act crazy when you wash it, like mine did.)

My Row Gauge = 8 rows/inch

### Measurements Needed

Circumference of upper arm, with desired ease = A =

Me: 17.3" (My measurement is closer to 16", but a sweater I really like measures 17.3" at the armhole, so that's the number I used.)

Circumference of arm, at desired cuff of sleeve, with ease = C =

Me: 12" (I took the real measurement, 11", and added 10%, or 1 inch.)

Distance between underarm and desired cuff of sleeve = L =

Me: 10" (On me, this is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeve.)

### You will also need

2 markers in color A and 1 marker in color B. If you don't have different markers, add a safety pin or something else to one of your usual markers and call it color B. Some waste yarn is also needed, and, of course, your ribbon. I used about 8 feet of ribbon, but you should experiment and see what works for you. If you are buying ribbon for this project, you could lace up the back with waste yarn until you like the fit, then use that as a basis for how much ribbon to buy. Don't forget to account for the bow.

It all starts with just a small amount of very simple lace.



Scallops, Not Oysters Lace (starts and ends with 5 stitches)

Row 1: yo, k2t, k1, yo, k2 (6 stitches)  
Row 2 (and all even-numbered rows): knit across  
Row 3: yo, k2t, k1, yo, k3 (7 stitches)  
Row 5: yo, k2t, k1, yo, k4 (8 stitches)  
Row 7: yo, k2t, k2t, yo, k2t, k2 (7 stitches)  
Row 9: yo, k2t, k2t, yo, k2t, k1 (6 stitches)  
Row 11: yo, k2t, k2t, yo, k2t (5 stitches)  
Row 12: knit across

Short-Row Turn

Row 1: knit 5 stitches, turn.  
Row 2: yo, k2t, knit 3 stitches, turn.  
Row 3: knit 5 stitches, turn.  
Row 4: yo, k2t, knit 2 stitches, turn.  
Row 5: knit 4 stitches, turn.  
Row 6: yo, k2t, knit 1 stitch, turn.  
Row 7: knit 3 stitches, turn.  
Row 8: yo, k2t, turn.  
Row 9: knit 2 stitches, turn  
Row 10: yo, k2t, knit 3 stitches, turn.  
Row 11: knit 5 stitches, turn.



## Left Sleeve

Using a provisional cast-on, cast on 5 stitches.  
Work short-row turn.

Work 2 repeats of Scallops, Not Oysters Lace.  
Starting with row 2, work another short-row turn.

Start by working row 1 of Scallops, Not Oysters Lace, place a color A marker. Pick up and knit 16 stitches across the bottom of your Scallops, Not Oysters Lace. Place your color B marker. Pick up and knit 1 more stitch. Place a color A marker. Pick up and knit the 5 stitches from the original cast on edge.

### Wrong-Side Rows

For the next and all other WS rows: Work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace to the first marker, purl to the second marker, purling into the back of the second yarn over you reach, work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace to the end. You will be on different rows of Scallops, Not Oysters Lace on each side of the work.

### Right-Side Rows

Work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace to the first color A marker and slip it. Yarn over. Knit to color B marker. Yarn over, slip marker, yarn over. Knit to second color A marker and slip it. Work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace to the end.

In other words, keep the stitches **before the first** color A marker and **after the second** color A marker of every row in Scallops, Not Oysters Lace.

When to stop?

The stitches in-between your first color A marker and your color B marker will be your sleeve stitches. You will stop increasing and move onto adding the back edge border when you have enough of these stitches.

A x G = time to move on =

What row of Scallops, Not Oysters Lace did you just work?

For me: 17.3" x 6 stitches to the inch = 103.8 stitches, which I took to be 104 stitches, since I can't work .8 of a stitch.



### Moving On

Stop after working a wrong-side row. With the right side of the work facing you, slip the stitches up to the first color A marker onto the right-hand needle. Then, slip all of the stitches from that point up to the color B marker onto a piece of waste yarn. Remove the color B marker. These are your sleeve stitches. Leave them alone for now.

Slip those before-marker-A stitches back onto the left-hand needle. Work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace, starting with whatever row would have been next before you moved on. You will work back and forth, making this lace edging, but you will attach it to the bottom of the back of the sweater by adding these instructions to every odd-numbered row:

Work the pattern, slip the stitch marker, knit 2 together, turn, knit 1, slip the stitch marker, and continue with the lace pattern (the continuation is the even-numbered row of the pattern).

Eventually, you will reach the second color A marker. Work a short-row turn, starting with row 2. Do you have the same number of stitches before the marker as after it? Graft them together. If you do not have the same number of

stitches, work one more row, increasing or decreasing as needed to make the two sides line up, then graft them together.

### We Need To Actually Make A Sleeve, Too, Right?

Yes. Go pick up the live stitches you left on a piece of waste yarn before. Place a marker to show the beginning of the round. Now, you need to figure out your sleeve decreases.

$R \times L =$

Me: 8 rows/inch x 10 inches = 80 rows

$A - C = \quad * G =$

Me: 17.3" - 12" = 5.3" \* G = 31.8, round to 32, because I can't knit .8 of an inch.

Now, it's normal to take stitches by increasing or decreasing in sets of 2. So, take your result and divide by 2. I get 16.

So, I need 16 sets of decreases in 80 rows.

$$80 / 16 = 5$$

If your result is not quite so neat and tidy, write it all out on a piece of paper, play around with solutions, round up or round down, or, contact me on Ravelry and I'll help you. My username is math4knitters.

Another wrinkle: if your final stitch count on your sleeve isn't divisible by 6, you should consider rounding up or down to make the lace pattern fit evenly all of the way around.

After you work all of your decreases, cast on 5 stitches onto the left-hand needle and work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace, attaching it with k2t just as you did for the back. Graft the beginning to the end.

## **Right Sleeve**

Start in exactly the same way, except that the set-up row is mirror-imaged.

Using a provisional cast-on, cast on 5 stitches. Work short-row turn.

Work 2 repeats of Scallops, Not Oysters Lace. Starting with row 2, work another short-row turn.

Start by working row 1 of Scallops, Not Oysters Lace. Place a color A marker. Pick up and knit 1 more stitch. Place your color B marker. Pick up and knit 16 stitches across the bottom of your Scallops, Not Oysters Lace. Place a second color A marker. Pick up and knit the 5 stitches from the original cast on edge.

### Wrong-Side Rows

For the next and all other WS rows: Work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace to the first marker, purl to the second marker, slip it, purl into the back of the second yarn over, purl to the third marker, work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace to the end. You will be on different rows of Scallops, Not Oysters Lace on each side of the work.

### Right-Side Rows

Work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace to the first color A marker and slip it. Work to the color B marker. Yarn over, slip marker, yarn over. Knit to second color A marker, yarn over, slip marker. Work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace to the end.

In other words, keep the stitches **before the first** color A marker and **after the second** color A marker of every row in Scallops, Not Oysters Lace.

### Moving On

Stop increasing after a wrong-side row. With the right side of the work facing you, move the first color A marker to after the 5th stitch. On those five stitches, work a short-row turn, starting with row 2.

Now, work Scallops, Not Oysters Lace, starting with row 1, but on every odd-numbered row, work the pattern, slip the stitch marker, knit 2 together, turn, knit 1, slip the stitch marker, and continue with the lace pattern (the continuation is the even-numbered row of the pattern).

This will bring your lace edging clear across the bottom of the sweater. When you reach the color B marker, graft your live lace stitches to the edge

stitches after the second color A marker, making up any differences in stitches between them.

Make the sleeve with the same shaping and cuff as the left-side sleeve.

Darn in all of your ends, wash and block both sides. Take your ribbon and thread it through the eyelet holes on the tips of the Scallops, Not Oysters Lace.



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