

Welcome to our 2020 Shop KAL, the Rowe Cardigan!

This garment is going to be a big skill builder: We'll learn cable knitting, reading charts, knitting garments in pieces, seaming, setting in sleeves, picking up stitches, and lots more! Our hope is that over this year you'll grow in knowledge and confidence in a supportive community. We can't wait to see everyone's finished sweaters in December!

For this first support session we're going to cover:

- Swatches
- Sizing
- Cable charts
- Tubular cast on

Swatches

You should have knit three swatches:

- Double Moss Stitch swatch gauge should measure 19 stitches and 30 rows in 4"
- Cable Chart A (or C) swatch should measure 5" wide and 4" tall (after 30 rows)
- Cable Chart B swatch should measure 6 3/4" wide and 4" tall (after 30 rows)

If you need help measuring your swatches please don't hesitate to come into the shop!

For the Rowe pattern it's very important that we match not only Michele Wang's stitch gauge, but also her row gauge. When we knit a garment in one piece, whether it's in the round or a flat cardigan, we have the advantage of being able to try it on as we knit and make adjustments "on the fly". If the yoke isn't deep enough we can knit more rounds before we divide for the arms. If the sleeves aren't long enough (or are getting too long) we can keep knitting or stop and bind off early. But Rowe is a pieced garment; we will knit each front, each sleeve, and the back as separate flat pieces and then seam everything together (including seaming the sleeves into tubes and setting them into the armholes). Therefore, we won't be able to try the sweater on until the very end. Getting stitch and row gauge right at the beginning will help ensure that all our pieces block out to the correct dimensions and therefore will all fit together right to size, just like a perfect puzzle!

Michele recommends using a size US 8 needle for the bulk of the sweater (the ribbing is done on size US 7 needles). If you are struggling to meet gauge you need to adjust your needle size. If you have too many stitches or rows in 4" you need to go UP a size. If you have too few stitches or rows in 4" you need to go DOWN a size. If you're still struggling after changing needle sizes please bring your swatches into the shop so we can help you.

***A quick note about row gauge on the cable swatches: The two cable swatches are both supposed to measure 4" tall after 30 rows. If your swatches are slightly taller (say 4 1/4" or 4 1/2" tall) but your Double Moss Stitch swatch is right on gauge you should be good to proceed.

If your cable swatches are significantly taller (say 5"+) or shorter than 4" you will need to adjust your needle size.***

Sizing

Once you have gauge set it's time to pick a size! The sizing in the pattern is given via the finished circumference: 40 1/4, 43 1/2, 46 3/4, 50 1/2, 53 1/2, 57 1/4" with the fronts of the sweater just touching. (The cardigan is not designed with buttons, therefore it is not intended to have the fronts overlap, but instead be worn open.) Michele intends for the cardigan to fit you with 6-8" of positive ease. This means you need to select a size that is 6-8" BIGGER around than your actual measurement at the widest part of your bust.

Example: If your bust measures 42", you would need to knit the size 50 1/2" in order for the sweater to fit with the recommended amount of ease.

Now, ease is a very personal thing; some people like their garments to be roomy, others prefer things more fitted. Here's some points to think through as you select your size:

- The schematics on page 3 of the pattern give you the complete sizing breakdown, including armhole depth, sleeve length, shoulder measurements, etc. Looking at these numbers can be a huge help.
- There is no waist shaping in this cardigan, so the smallest size is 40 1/4" around at the bust AND the hip. Rowe is a longer cardigan, so if your hips are significantly wider than your bust you may want to base your sizing on your hip measurement + desired ease.
- Look in your closet: If you have a cardigan you really like the fit of lay it out on a flat surface, measure the width across right under the arm holes, and multiply that number by 2. Compare that measurement to the Rowe sizes.
- If you're really struggling to choose between two sizes remember that this is a cardigan, so you'll be wearing it as an outer layer over other clothes. For the most part, you'll want to choose the larger size, particularly if you want to be able to pull it closed.

If you're struggling with measurements and size selection please come to the shop!

Cable Charts

One of the big skills we'll be developing in this KAL is chart reading. Charts can seem very intimidating, but ultimately all they are is a visual representation of your knitting. For cables a chart helps us to see how the knit stitches move and shift across the purl stitch background.

That being said, there are tricks out there to help make reading your charts easier! For this pattern, our suggestion is to break out those colored pencils! Assign each cable cross symbol used a different color, color in those symbols on the charts, then color in those symbols on the

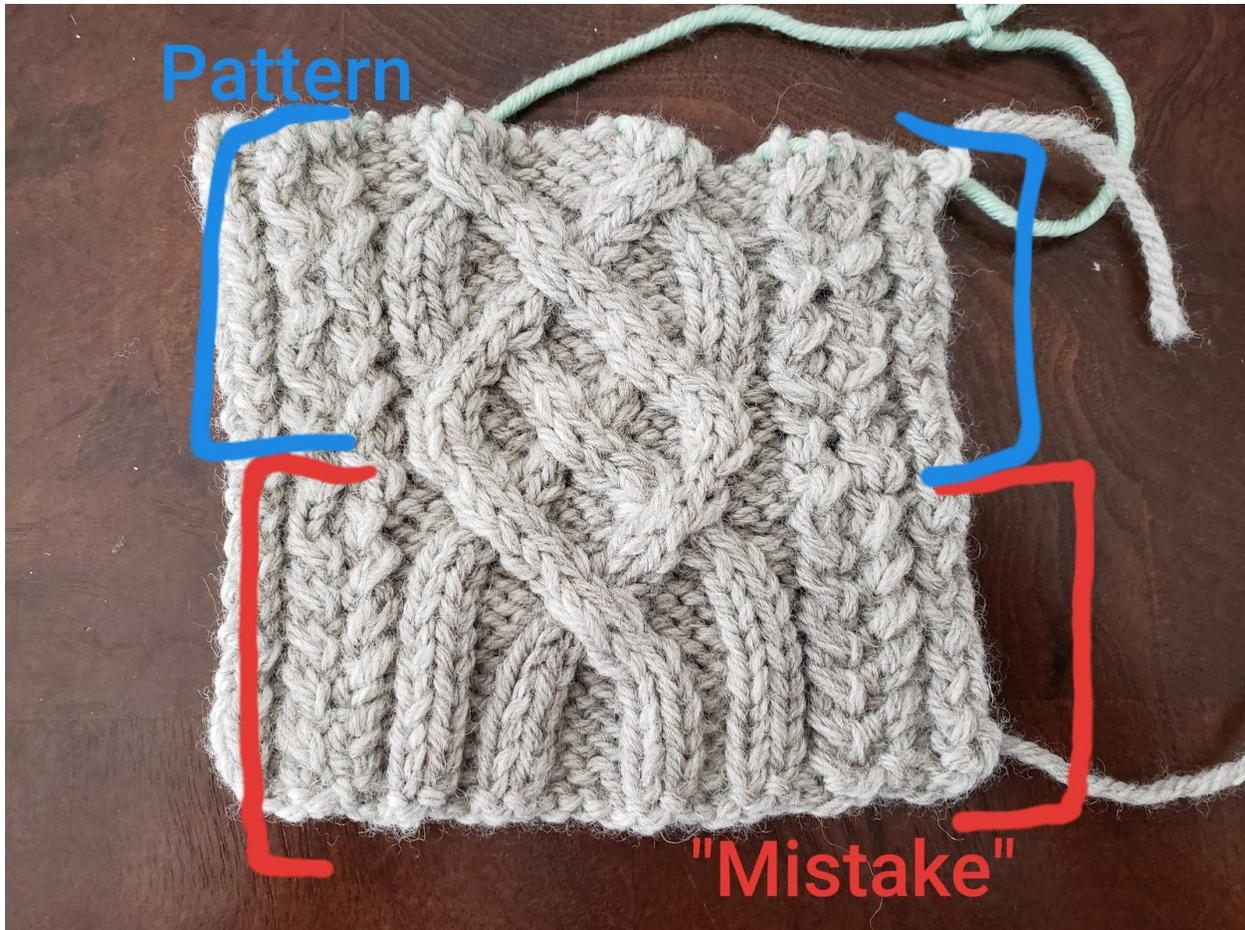
key. It's much faster to see a purple block on the chart and find the purple block on the key than trying to decipher the symbols on their own.

Other tools that can help keep you on track with your chart reading:

- Highlighter tape
- Magnetic chart keepers
- Stitch markers (use these to separate cable sections from double moss stitch)
- Row counter apps on your phone/tablet (Erin's favorite is Row Counter by Annapurnapp Technologies, free on Google Play)

Knit Companion is another app that can be hugely helpful for all your projects. The full (paid) version has the ability to color code chart symbols just like you would with colored pencils. **Pam Winne will be offering Knit Companion Basics classes on March 21 & 23, please see our website for more information and to register.** If you already are familiar with Knit Companion but need help getting your Rowe chart set up we can help you at the shop, just call ahead.

One quick note on Cable Chart A and C: When Erin was knitting her swatches, she accidentally misread the "border" cables on Chart A. You can see the difference in her swatch, the first half has the two-stitch cables leaning consistently away from each other every right side row (a mistake) while the second half has the two-stitch cables changing direction every fifth row (following the chart as written). Erin's mistake creates a steady braided cable; Michele's pattern intends to have the "border" cables create an alternating pattern.



If you like Erin's "mistake" and want to repeat it, color in the "border" cable symbols consistently on every right side row.

Tubular Cast On

For the Rowe cardigan, Michele uses a variant of the Italian Tubular Cast On developed by one of her colleagues at Brooklyn Tweed. The directions are found on page 10 of the pattern; the cast on is worked over 6 rows. Erin has filmed a video of herself casting on:

The tubular cast on creates a lovely edge, very stretchy with the ribbing seemingly growing out of "nothing." You can, however, use any cast on you like as long as it is moderately stretchy.

Begin your Row!

We have decided to begin our Rowe cardigans by knitting the front pieces first (rather than tackling the far more complicated back piece). Following the directions found on page 6, cast on and knit your Left Front piece. You will use a needle one size smaller than what you swatched with for your ribbing.

*****Important Note: Where you begin on the first time working Chart A depends on your size! Pay close attention to the notes on your chart! After working through Row 36, EVERYONE will then go back down to Row 1 and repeat the chart again, regardless of size.*****

Homework:

Knit your Left Front, stopping when you reach Shape Armhole. We will cover armhole shaping in our next session.

Next Support Sessions:

Friday, April 3 at 9:00 am OR Sunday, April 5 at 4:30 pm

Video Resources:

Reading charts

<https://knitpurlhunter.com/blog/knitting-charts/>

Working cables without a cable needle (it really can be faster!)

<https://knitpurlhunter.com/blog/cables-without-a-cable-needle/>

How to fix a mis-crossed cable (without ripping back!)

<https://knitpurlhunter.com/blog/fixing-a-mis-crossed-cable/>

If you want to insert lifelines, they can be placed after any even (wrong side) row

<https://knitpurlhunter.com/blog/lifelines/>