



Kids' (basic, seamless, top-down) Raglan Sweater

by Catherine McMillan

Kids' (basic, seamless, top-down) Raglan Sweater

There are many patterns for basic raglan sweaters. Not all of them are top-down, and since I'm picky, none of them are written quite the way I like. I've designed this pattern to be easy to follow and easy to customize. I hope you like it too!

This is a kids' sweater with ribbed neck and ribbed or straight hem and cuffs. The ribbed version of the cuffs is designed to fold so that you can adjust the sleeve length as the child grows. The fit is classic and comfortable. If possible, choose the size to knit not by the child's age but by his or her measurements.

I strongly recommend knitting a good gauge swatch ("good" = at least 6 in. x 6 in. and measured for gauge before and after blocking) to give your sweater the best chance of fitting your recipient. Also, remember to check your gauge as you knit along to make sure you haven't strayed.

<> Get Ready <>

SIZES

Size	2	4	6	8	10	years
Chest	22	24	26	28	29	in.
	56	61	66	71	74	cm

YARN

Samples were knitted in:

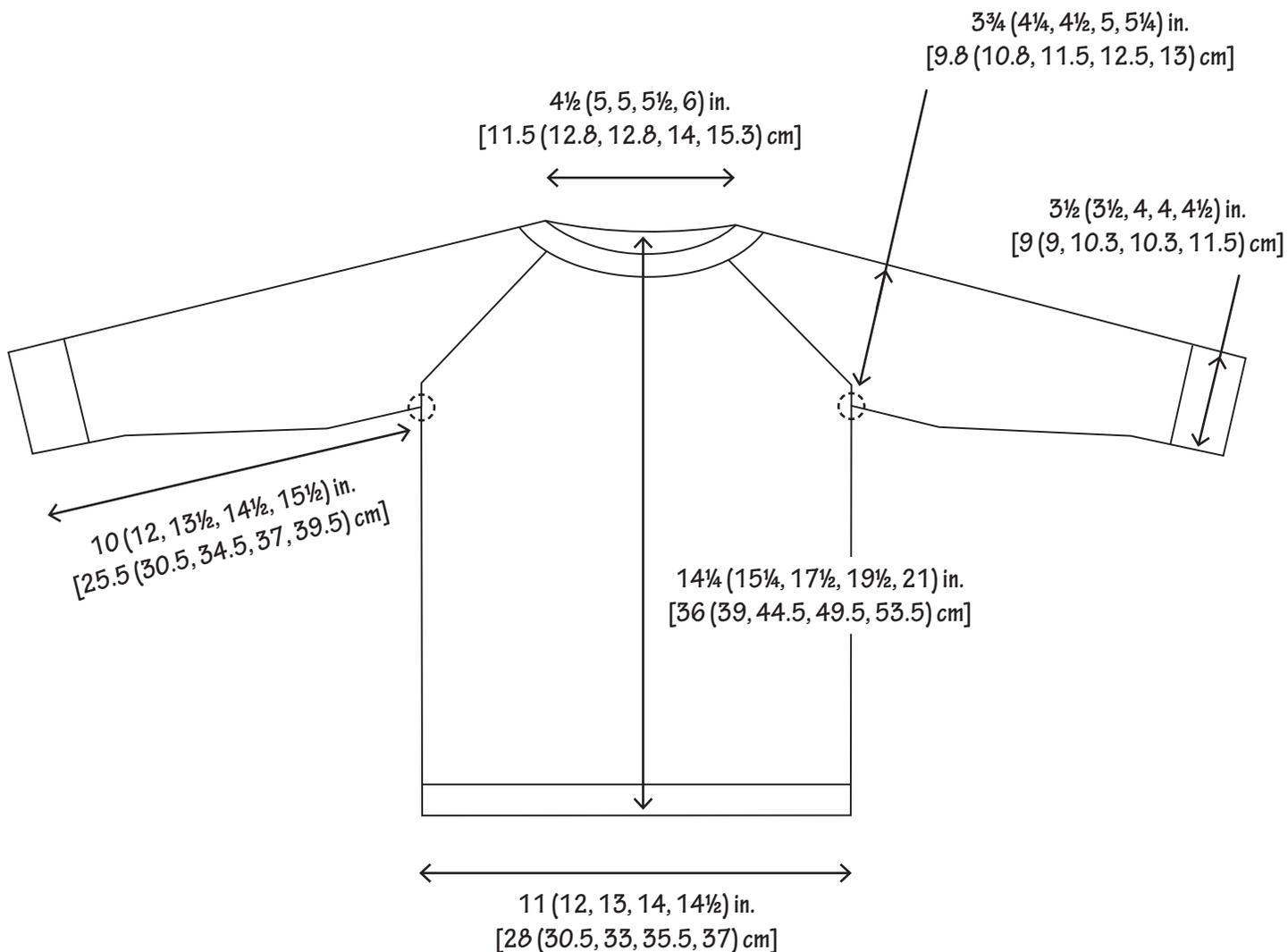
Malabrigo Rios {100% superwash merino wool, plied 210 yards (192m), 18-22 sts = 4 in. /10 cm}
Color: English Rose (shown in size 2)

Cascade 220 Superwash {100% superwash merino wool, 100g (3.5oz) / 220yds (200m), 20-22 sts = 4 in. /10 cm}
Color: 1951 Sapphire Heather (shown in size 6)

Size	2	4	6	8	10	years
Yarn required	410	470	590	690	780	yards
	370	430	540	630	710	meters

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Sizes 2 (4, 6, 8, 10)



NEEDLES

Needle A

US 6 16 in. (sizes 2, 4) or 24 in. (sizes 6, 8, 10) circular needle and/or set of double pointed needles, or size required to achieve gauge

Needle B

16 in. (sizes 2, 4) or 24 in. (sizes 6, 8, 10) circular needle and/or set of double pointed needles one size smaller than Needle A

NOTIONS

- » Stitch markers
- » 1 locking stitch marker or coil-less safety pin
- » Approximately 2 yards of smooth, non-felting waste yarn in a color contrasting with your MC

<> Get Set <>

GAUGE

20 sts = 4 in. / 10cm

28 rows/rounds = 4 in. / 10cm

ABBREVIATIONS

cm	centimeters
CO	cast on
dec('s)	decrease(s)
idi	Invisible double increase:

This lovely double increase shows up in Barbara Walker's book "Knitting from the Top,"¹ where she calls it "Double Increase #4." It produces a very tight and almost invisible double increase.

In this pattern you will have knitted to 1 st before a marker. This stitch is your increase stitch.

Step 1:

option A: Insert R needle downward into the back of the stitch below your increase stitch (downward into the purled head of the stitch below, coming at it from the wrong side) and knit it.

-OR-

option B: With R needle, pick up the R leg of the stitch below from the back side and place it onto L needle. Knit this loop.

Step 2: Knit into the back of the increase stitch itself and drop the stitch off the L needle. Slip marker if present.

Step 3: With L needle, pick up the L leg of the stitch below the increase stitch from back to front (the other leg of the same stitch below that you used in step 1), and knit into the back of this loop.

A full raglan increase round using idi looks like this:

*k to 1 st before marker, idi, repeat from * 3 times.

in.	inches
inc('s)	increase(s)
K	knit
k2tog	knit two together (right slanting decrease)
kfb	knit front and back increase
L	left
P	purl
pfb	purl front and back increase
pm	place marker
R	right
rnd(s)	round(s)
sm	slip marker
SSK	slip slip knit (left slanting decrease)
st(s)	stitch(es)

<> Go! <>

SIZE

NECK BACK RISE

- » Using Needle A, CO for working the neck back rise.

	2	4	6	8	10	
CO	50	50	58	60	60	sts

- » *Setup row:* Pfb, pm, p (R shoulder sts), pm, p (neck back sts), pm, p (L shoulder sts), pm, pfb.

R shoulder	10	10	12	12	12	sts
Neck back	28	28	32	34	34	sts
L shoulder	10	10	12	12	12	sts

A NOTE ABOUT INCREASES

There are many choices of increase that can be applied to the top-down raglan sweater. Some are invisible and some are decorative. Choose the inc method that suits your sweater's style. Just make sure that each marker receives 2 inc's per raglan inc rnd, and therefore that there are 8 sts inc'd per inc rnd.

This pattern is written using the kfb inc. However, the sample sweaters are knitted using idi (see glossary) to show what it looks like.

- » *Row 1:* Kfb, *k to 1 st before marker, kfb, sm, kfb, repeat from * 3 more times, k to last st, kfb.
- » *Row 2:* P, slipping markers.
- » Repeat rows 1 and 2 until the neck back rise is almost complete.

Repeats of rows 1 and 2:	2	2	3	3	3	repeats
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- » K row 1 once more.

Total rows since CO:	8	8	10	10	10	rows
St count:	92	92	110	112	112	total sts
Each shoulder:	18	18	22	22	22	sts
Neck back:	36	36	41	44	44	sts
Each side of neck front:	10	10	12	12	12	sts

YOKE

- » Continuing forward, CO sts for half of neck front, pm for new start of rnd, then CO sts to complete neck front.

CO before marker:	8	8	9	10	10	sts
CO after marker:	8	8	9	10	10	sts

- » Join for knitting in the rnd, then K 1 rnd.

Inc rnd using kfb: *k to 1 st before marker, kft, sm, kfb, repeat from * 3 times more, k to end.

All non-inc rnds: k around.

- » Begin with an inc rnd.
- » Perform an inc rnd every 3 rnds. Continue until you have reached your final yoke st count.

Number of inc rnds altogether:	6	7	7	8	9	inc rnds
Total rnds from neck front:	18	21	21	24	27	rnds total

St count total:	156	164	184	196	204	sts
Each front and back section:	48	50	56	60	62	sts
Each sleeve section:	30	32	36	38	40	sts

- » Continue knitting straight until you have reached your shoulder height.

Straight knitting distance:	1 (2.5)	1 (2.5)	1 (2.5)	1 (2.5)	.75 (2)	in. (cm)
Yoke height from neck front:	3.75 (9.5)	4.25 (10.8)	4.25 (10.8)	4.5 (11.5)	4.75 (12)	in. (cm)

SLEEVE SEPARATION

- » Remove start-of-rnd marker.
- » K to first marker (front of L sleeve) and place the L sleeve sts on a length of waste yarn. (See st count above.)
- » CO sts for the L underarm using backwards loop method.

L underarm CO sts:	8	10	10	10	10	sts
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- » Remove the next marker (back of L sleeve) and K across the back.
- » Remove the next marker (back of R sleeve) and place the R sleeve sts on a length of waste yarn (see st count above.)

2

4

6

8

10

- » CO half the sts for the R underarm, pm, then CO the rest of the underarm sts. This will be your new start-of-rnd marker.

R underarm, CO before marker:

4

5

5

5

5

sts

R underarm, CO after marker:

4

5

5

5

5

sts

- » Remove the next marker (front of R sleeve) and begin knitting the body.

St count:

112

120

132

140

144

sts



BODY

- » K until you've reached the start of the hem.

	2	4	6	8	10	
Body length from NECK BACK:	12.5 (32)	13.5 (34.3)	15 (38)	17 (43.2)	18.5 (47)	in. (cm)

BOTTOM HEM OPTION 1: RIBBED

- » Change to Needle B. Make sure your st count is a multiple of 4. If needed, make st count adjustments (inc's or dec's) in the first rnd of the hem.
- » Work in 2x2 ribbing until you've reached the final sweater length (before collar).

Body length from NECK BACK:	13.5 (34.3)	14.5 (37)	16.5 (42)	18.5 (47)	20 (51)	in. (cm)
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- » Bind off using a stretchy bind off. My favorite for 2x2 ribbing is the 2x2 invisible ribbed bind-off², but any very stretchy bind off will do.

BOTTOM HEM OPTION 2: SMOOTH

- » Thread a tapestry needle with smooth, non-felting, contrast color waste yarn that can reach 1.5x around the body. Run the yarn through all the stitches while keeping them on the needle. This yarn will serve as a visual guide for sewing the hem down later.
- » Continue knitting in the rnd until you've reached the final sweater length (before collar).

Body length from NECK BACK:	13.5 (34.3)	14.5 (37)	16.5 (42)	18.5 (47)	20 (51)	in. (cm)
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- » P 1 rnd.
- » Change to Needle B. Continue knitting in the rnd for the same distance as between your waste yarn and your P rnd.

This inside hem is a good place, if you are so inclined, to work in your lucky recipient's name, your name, the date, a message, or anything else that's meant only for the wearer to see.

- » Break yarn, leaving a tail equal to approximately 3x around your sweater body.
- » Using a tapestry needle, sew down the hem to the inside of the sweater using a LOOSE whip stitch, folding at the P rnd. Use the contrast colored yarn you installed earlier as a visual reference. (Sewing, rather than binding off to the inside of the sweater, will preserve stretchiness and minimize bulk.) Once you are finished you can remove the waste yarn.



SLEEVES

- » Place sts from one of the sleeves back onto Needle A. At the underarm and with the working yarn, pick up and K sts from the body to join in the sleeve underarm. Leave a long tail with the working yarn for closing up the holes that will form at the front and back of the underarm.

	2	4	6	8	10	
Sts to pick up at underarm:	8	10	10	10	10	sts
St count:	38	42	46	48	50	sts

- » Place a non-moving st marker (such as a coil-less safety pin) into one of the underarm sts to mark the underarm join.
- » K around the sleeve once until you return back to the center of the underarm. Pm to mark the start of rnd.
- » K in the rnd without dec'ing before beginning to taper the sleeve.

	2	4	6	8	10	
Distance to K straight from underarm join:	3 (7.5)	4 (10.3)	4 (10.3)	4 (10.3)	4 (10.3)	in. (cm)

Dec section:

- » *K2tog, K to 2 sts before marker, SSK, sm...

	2	4	6	8	10	
...then K	5	6	6	6	6	rnds...
... then repeat from *	1	3	3	4	3	times.

	2	4	6	8	10	
St count:	36	36	40	40	44	sts

- » Continue knitting in the rnd until you reach the beginning of the cuff.

	2	4	6	8	10	
Sleeve length from underarm join:	8 (20.3)	9 (22.8)	9.5 (24.3)	10.5 (26.8)	11.5 (29.3)	in. (cm)

2 4 6 8 10

SLEEVE CUFF OPTION 1: RIBBED

- » Change to Needle B. Make sure your st count is a multiple of 4. If needed, make st count adjustments (inc's or dec's) in the first rnd of the cuff.
- » K in 2x2 rib until you've reached twice the length of the finished cuff.

Distance to K in 2x2:	3 (7.5)	3 (7.5)	4 (10.3)	4 (10.3)	4 (10.3)	in. (cm)
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- » Bind off using a stretchy bind off. My favorite for 2x2 ribbing is the 2x2 invisible ribbed bind-off², but any very stretchy bind off will do

SLEEVE CUFF OPTION 2: SMOOTH

- » Thread a tapestry needle with smooth, non-felting, contrast color waste yarn that can reach 1.5x around the cuff. Run the yarn through all the stitches while keeping them on the needle. This yarn will serve as a visual guide for sewing the hem down later.
- » Continue knitting in the rnd until you've reached the wrist.

Sleeve length from underarm join:	9.5 (24)	10.5 (26.7)	11.5 (29.2)	12.5 (31.8)	13.5 (34.3)	in. (cm)
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- » P 1 rnd.
- » Change to Needle B. Continue knitting in the rnd for the same distance as between your waste yarn and your P rnd.
- » Break yarn, leaving a tail equal to approximately 3x around your sleeve cuff.
- » Using a tapestry needle, sew down the hem to the inside of the cuff using a LOOSE whip stitch, folding at the P rnd. Use the contrast colored yarn you installed earlier as a visual reference. Once you are finished you can remove the waste yarn.

SECOND SLEEVE

- » Complete this sleeve as you did the first one.



COLLAR

	2	4	6	8	10	
Pick up across L shoulder:	10	10	12	12	12	sts
Pick up across front L diagonal:	6	6	8	8	8	sts
Pick up across front straight section:	16	16	18	20	20	sts
Pick up across front R diagonal:	6	6	8	8	8	sts
Pick up across R shoulder:	10	10	12	12	12	sts
Pick up across neck back:	28	28	34	36	36	sts
Total sts picked up:	76	76	92	96	96	sts

» Change to Needle B, and begin at the back of the L shoulder. Pick up and K sts around the neck like this:



2

4

6

8

10

If you have a different size collar than this, count your stitches. You need to have a multiple of 4 stitches. If you do not have a multiple of 4, make any adjustments (inc's or dec's) as you work your first rnd. Try to distribute your dec's or inc's evenly around the collar and/or locate them at the raglan "corners."

- » Join to work in the rnd and begin working in 2x2 ribbing.
- » Work until you've reached the finished collar height.

Collar height:	.75 (1.9)	.75 (1.9)	1 (2.5)	1 (2.5)	1 (2.5)	in. (cm)
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- » Bind off using a stretchy bind off. My favorite for 2x2 ribbing is the 2x2 invisible ribbed bind-off², but any very stretchy bind off will do.

FINISHING

- » If you have holes at the front and back of the underarm joins, go back and use yarn tails or extra lengths of yarn to close these up.
- » Weave in ends but do not snip yet.
- » Wet block. After you are satisfied with fit and finish, snip all ends and enjoy!

<> Notes <>

1. Walker, Barbara G. *Knitting from the Top*. Pittsville: Schoolhouse Press, 1996. Print.
2. KnitFreedom with Liat Gat. "2x2 Invisible Ribbed Bind-Off." Online video clip. *YouTube*. YouTube, 21 Sept. 2011. Web. 25 Mar. 2015.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UBE-CuHXYM>

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