

# Superior & Nirvana Poncho

Designed by Jan Hurwitz



## finished dimensions

parentheses are simply for ease of reading the range of sizes

Width: (24, 26, 28, 30)" (32, 34, 36, 38, 40)"

Length: (19½, 20, 20½, 21)" (22, 23, 24, 24½, 25)"

\*\* See note on page 2 "how to measure for your size" \*\*

## materials

(3, 3, 3, 4) (4, 5, 5, 5, 6) balls Filatura Di Crosa Superior (70% cashmere, 25% silk, 5% wool; 328 yds / 25 grams)

(3, 3, 3, 3) (4, 4, 4, 5, 5) balls Filatura Di Crosa Nirvana (100% extrafine merino; 372yds / 25 grams)

\*\* These two yarns are held together throughout.

US size 6 circular needle, 32" length

2nd US size 6 circular needle, 24" or longer, for 3-needle bind-off

US size 6 circular needle, 16" length

Tapestry needle for weaving in ends

Removable stitch markers - 8

## gauge

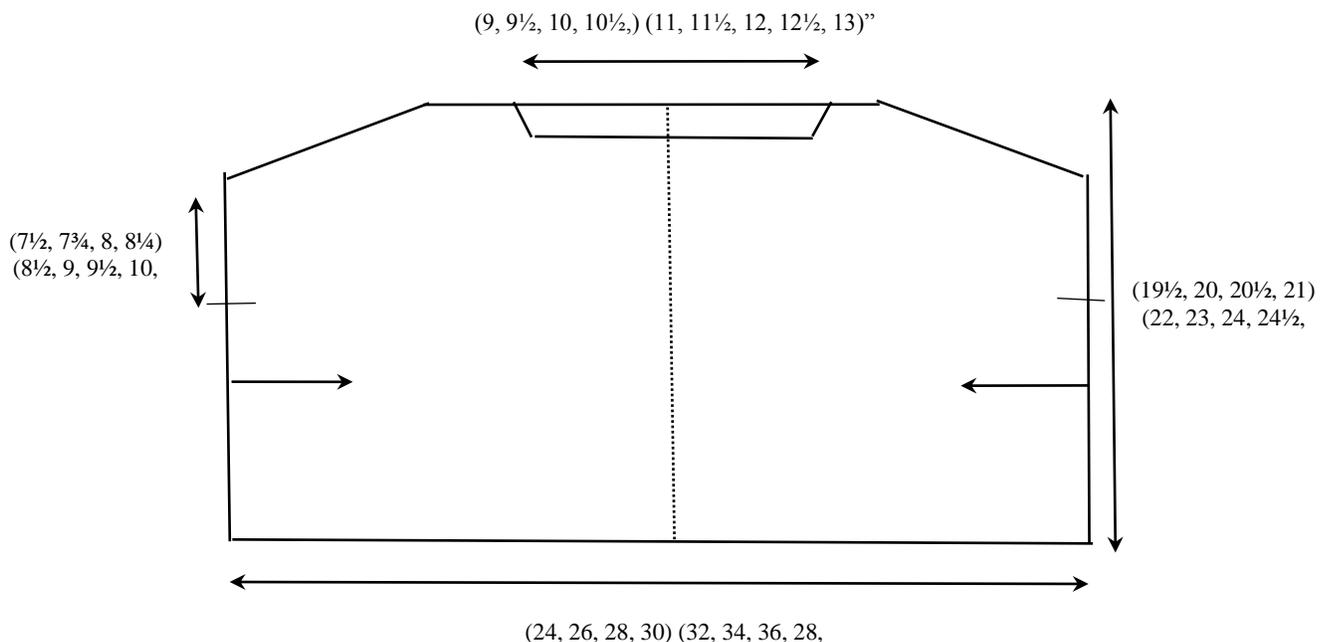
22 sts = 4" in stockinette stitch on size 6 needles (or size needed to obtain gauge). Please take time to check ensure an fit. gauge to accurate

Since the poncho is knit side-to-side, the stitch gauge will determine the length and the row gauge will determine the width of the garment. Don't worry if your row gauge doesn't exactly match that designated in the pattern, as you will be given points to measure your knitting as you go, rather than a specified number of rows. The key is to get the right stitch gauge.

## how to measure for your size

To determine the width of your poncho, have a friend measure you standing, with arms held out straight at your sides (like you are going to fly). Measure from center back neck to your elbow, or just above the elbow, depending on how far down your arm you want the "sleeve" to go. This also determines the width of the poncho at your hip area, since it falls straight down from the arm. Multiply this number by 2; this is the total width of the poncho, elbow to elbow.

To determine the length of your poncho, measure from the top of your shoulder down to your hip - choose a length that is best for your height and body type. It is very easy to make this poncho shorter or longer by casting on fewer or more stitches (the pattern instructions will indicate where to do this). Just remember, that if you make it longer than the pattern indicates, you will need more yarn.



## garment construction

- You are knitting four pieces, worked from the sides to the center back/front.
- You begin each piece with a provisional cast-on, which allows you to join “live” stitches at the side seams when each piece is finished, using the 3-needle bind-off technique.
- Each piece ends by placing the “live” stitches on waste yarn, and later joined at the center seam with a 3-needle bind-off.
- It is recommended that you block all four pieces prior to joining side and center seams.

provisional cast-on: There are some good tutorials on the internet for this technique. Search “provisional cast on lucy neatby” for a great YouTube video demonstration by Lucy Neatby. Also search “provisional cast on” at purlbee.com for an alternate method.

## instructions

### Right Back (worked in st st throughout)

Using the provisional cast-on technique, cast on:  
(99, 102, 104, 106) (110, 115, 119, 121, 123) sts.

Add or subtract sts here at the cast on to make your poncho longer or shorter.

Work 4 rows, then begin shaping the shoulder slope as follows:

Inc 1 st on next and every foll 4th row (4, 1, 2, 2) (2, 3, 3, 4, 4) times, then every foll 6th row (3, 6, 6, 7) (8, 8, 9, 9, 10) times. (107, 110, 113, 116) (121, 127, 132, 135, 138) sts.

After last row of shoulder slope increase place marker on first st of neck edge; work even (without shaping) until piece measures (7½, 8¼, 9, 9¾) (10½, 11¼, 12, 12¾, 13½)” from cast on edge; now place a 2nd marker to indicate edge of neck opening. (These markers will be helpful later when seaming front to back at shoulders and neck edge.)

Work even (without shaping) until piece measures (4¾, 5, 5¼, 5½) (5¾, 6, 6¼, 6½)” from last marker. Place sts on waste yarn.

### Left Back:

Work same as Right Back, reversing shaping.

### Right Front (worked in st st throughout)

Work same as Left Back to edge of neck opening.

After placing 2nd marker to indicate edge of neck opening, begin front neck neck shaping:

Dec 1 st at neck edge on next and foll 4th row 3 times. (103, 106, 109, 112) (117, 123, 128, 131, 134) sts

Cont even (without shaping) until piece measures (4¾, 5, 5¼, 5½) (5¾, 6, 6¼, 6½)” from last marker. Place sts on waste yarn.

### Left Front:

Work same as Right Back for shoulder shaping, and Right Front for neck shaping, reversing the shaping.

## blocking

Wet blocking:

Soak pieces in a basin of water, with a teaspoon or two of fabric or wool wash. Let sit for about 30 min to fully saturate.

Squeeze out water, being careful not to twist or wring. Roll in a towel and press firmly to remove excess moisture. Pin to measurements and allow to dry. The use of blocking wires will ensure nice even edges.

## finishing

Join center back & center front:

Place center sts from Right Front and Left Front pieces on a needle (each set of sts will be on its own needle) and remove waste yarn. With wrong sides together join and bind off using the 3-needle bind-off technique. The seam will show on the right side of the garment.

### 3-needle bind-off

twistcollective.com has a good illustration of this technique; also search on YouTube.com for “3 needle bind off” to see a good video from planetpurl

Sew shoulder seams

Sew front to back at shoulder seams using the mattress stitch, matching the points at the top of the shoulder slope (stitch marker #1) and neck edge opening (stitch marker #2). Keep the provisional cast-on intact for now, and free from the seam.

Joining sides

Step 1:

On Left Front, with RS facing, carefully remove provisional cast-on and place “live” sts from bottom edge up to shoulder seam, on one circular needle (24” or longer). Place sts for Left Back on a second circular needle, with RS facing, starting at shoulder seam working down to bottom edge.

Step 2:

With wrong sides together and beg at bottom edge, join and bind off (58, 59, 60, 61) (63, 66, 67, 66, 65) sts using the 3-needle bind-off technique. The seam will show on the right side of the garment. One stitch will be left on your right needle (or the third needle used for the 3-needle bind-off).

Step 3:

You are now going to finish the edge for the armhole opening as follows: transfer the last st from the third needle in Step 2 to a 16” long circular needle. Purl sts from the Left Front needle (the needle that was used to pick up sts in Step 1 above.)

When you reach the second circular needle (for Left Back armhole sts) continue purling the sts onto your 16” circular needle.

You will now have one continuous purl row around the entire armhole, ending at the side seam.

(82, 86, 88, 90) (94, 100, 104, 110, 116) sts

Bind off loosely knitwise.

### Neck edge:

Beginning at a shoulder seam, pick up and knit around the neck edge. Purl one row, then bind off loosely.

### Bottom edge:

Beg at a side seam, with RS facing, pick up and knit 3 out of every 4 sts. Place marker and join in the round. Purl one row, then bind off loosely knitwise.

Weave in all ends.

## abbreviations

k = knit

st(s) = stitch(es)

beg = beginning

inc = increase

dec = decrease

foll = following

st st = stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row)

RS = right side (the knit side of your work)

WS = wrong side (the purl side of your work)



Please do not use this pattern in the production of clothing for resale.