



### Shape – Tension (gauge) - Tasks part one

#### Introduction

In this task you'll be producing a sample swatch that meets the tension requirements stated on the yarn ballband, illustrating how it was measured and stating the finished tension.

#### Task one

*To make your sample swatch:*

If you were working from a commercial pattern, the designer will state the needle size used and the stitches and rows required to achieve the stated tension for the garment (usually this will be a 10cm square measured over stocking stitch but do check, especially with heavily textured patterns).

However, for this lesson (and if you were designing your own pattern) there isn't a commercial pattern, so you'll need a yarn with its ballband. The ballband should state the expected range of tension for that yarn and the range of needle sizes recommended for the yarn over a stocking (stockinette) fabric. If you don't have the ballband, reference section 2 has a handy chart you can use.

1. Select the mid-range needles. (so if the ballband recommends 4mm-5mm needles, choose 4.5mm needles).
2. Identify the mid-range number of stitches in 10cm (4in).
3. Cast on this number plus an extra 10 sts. (so if the range is 20-24 stitches, the middle is 22sts, so cast on  $22+10=32$  sts).
4. Work the stated middle number of rows (if it's 28-32, that will be 30 rows). Add an extra 10 rows (that would be  $30+10=40$  rows worked in this sample).
5. Cast off the swatch and block.

*Note: The extra stitches and rows are needed because true tension should be measured in the centre of the fabric as the edges can distort and be difficult to count accurately.*

6. Measure the tension according to the tutorial. Be sure to include any partial stitches.
7. If you get a match, you're good to go. If not, you would ordinarily need to reknit with either larger or smaller needles.
8. For these purposes, simply record your tension as measured and indicate whether you would need to go up or down a needle size to get closer to the stated tension (if required).

When you've finished your swatch/es, take a picture and upload them to your Pinterest board.

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