

# Venus Rising Cardigan Swatch

THE MOST VERSATILE CARDIGAN YOU'LL EVER MAKE!

## VENUS RISING PRACTICE SWATCH

There are several unusual techniques involved in this pattern, this swatch is designed not only to check your gauge, but also to put you through your paces before you get started. If you are concerned about using up too much of your yarn, the swatch may be unraveled on completion. However, do not attempt to make the yarn single strand again. Wind the tripled yarn onto the outside of the ball as it is. Use gauge size (8mm/US #11) circular needles of your choice (one extra long or two regular length). The first section of the swatch is worked to and fro and will be folded into the round after the practice short rows are completed.

The directions for the swatch are numbered in amongst the text relating the various techniques. Read through the text and work the swatch directions in sequence. For any abbreviations used see p. 2 - 3 of the pattern.

## Making Navaho Triple Yarn (Swatch Part 1)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1-ZAuW0tik>

KNITTING VENUS 1 - Navaho Triple Strand Knitting

Following the directions on p.1 of the pattern, make several meters/yards of triple yarn.

Use the triple yarn to cast on 34 sts.

Work several rows of Garter stitch (every row knit), tripling the yarn each time you reach the end of a yarn loop. Once you are comfortable with the Navaho process you may make much longer loops, less frequently. Change to Stocking stitch / Stockinette: (Knit one row, purl one row) repeat. Work 4 rows ending on completion of a purl row.

## JAPANESE SHORT ROWS

Whilst you may use any form of short-row neatening that pleases you, including slip and wrap or the yarn-over methods, the Japanese technique with pins or marker yarns\*\* is ideal. The Japanese short-row is the ultimate method for making neat short-rows and is well suited to the VR Cardigan as we wish to mark each short-row turn anyway. The result is topographically identical to the conventional 'wrapped' short-row method but is somewhat easier and neater.

\*\*In this case the markers should be left in place until the second side of the cardigan is complete, so you may prefer to use lengths of yarn or be prepared to use a lot of pins. [KNITTING GEMS 2 - Short Row Techniques: Japanese method](#)

## Preparation

Work (in either knit or purl) until the directions indicate that you have reached the turning point. Place a pin or loop of yarn around the working yarn and slide it up close to the work. Turn the work around to the new direction, now slip the first stitch purlwise to the right-hand needle and ensuring that the pin is close to the fabric, proceed to work the remainder of the stitches in the new direction. The pin should become trapped between the first (slipped) and second stitches of the new direction. There will be a noticeable gap between the stitches at the turning point. This gap will be closed on the subsequent row.

## Japanese Short Rows (Swatch Part 2)

This swatch will have both knit and purl neatened short rows. In the cardigan you will be working short rows with less frequency. Six coil-less safety pins, re-closeable markers or 6" lengths of yarn will be needed (one per 'turn'). The markers must be fastened **around** the working yarn. Regular ring markers will not work. The slip stitches are purlwise.

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Begin Short Rows (each short row is four stitches less than the previous one):

- RS K 30, place marker around the working yarn and slide it up close to the work. **Turn.**  
WS S1, p 25, place marker around the working yarn and slide it up close to the work. **Turn.**  
RS S1, knit 21, place the marker around the working yarn and slide it up close to the work. **Turn.**  
WS S1, purl 17, place the marker around the working yarn and slide it up close to the work. **Turn.**  
RS S1, knit 13, place the marker around the working yarn and slide it up close to the work. **Turn.**  
WS S1, purl 9, place the marker around the working yarn and slide it up close to the work. **Turn.**

## **Closing the Gaps on a Knit Row**

RS S1, \* knit right up to the first gap (it appears to be one stitch past the marker, for the sample k9 to reach the first gap). Neaten all three short row gaps in the knit direction and continue knitting until you reach the end of the knit row. See full directions below.

## **Closing the Gap on a Knit Row**

Knit **right up to the gap** (it appears to be one stitch beyond the marker), pull the marker at the back of the work, gently and horizontally to the left, to create a small loop of working yarn, put the loop onto the tip of the LHN so as not to twist it. Now insert the tip of the RHN into both the next real stitch and the loop simultaneously and knit the two pieces of yarn together. This creates the link behind the fabric which closes the gap. This link automatically lies on the purl side of the fabric and takes a little slack out of both of the stitches it is connected to, thus further tidying the short row.

## **Closing the Gaps on a Purl Row (Swatch Part 3)**

Turn the work as usual and purl across the previously neaten short-rows until you reach the first of the three gaps on the far side of the row. Neaten all three gaps in the purl direction and continue purling until you reach the end of the purl row. See full directions below.

## **Closing the Gap on a Purl Row**

Purl right up to the first gap (it appears to be one stitch beyond the marker), **SLIP THE NEXT STITCH purlwise and unworked to the RHN**, keeping your stitches near the needle tips on both sides, now pull the marker gently horizontally to the left to create a small loop of working yarn, lift this loop over the RHN tip (so as not to twist the loop), insert the tip of the LHN into both the loop and slipped stitch and purl them together.

## **Preparation for Joining into the Round (Swatch Part 4)**

Work two more rows of Stocking stitch. You may wish to check your gauge at this time. Now pretend these stitches are your cast-on edge and fold your swatch into the round and work Stocking stitch in the round, using either the one or two circular needle method and experiment with needle usage from the notes below.

## **NEEDLE USAGE**

It is quite possible to use dpns or a small circular needle to work the sleeve but especially with the larger needle size used in this project you may find it useful to use one or two long circular needles instead which then may be used for the rest of the cardigan. [SOCK TECHNIQUES 1 - In the round with Circular Needles](#)

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Whilst your circle is small use the Magic Loop method of working, but once there are sufficient stitches to go across the the rigid section of the needle and back again on the flex comfortably there is no need to have two loops. This means that you may work an entire round without having to adjust the needles.

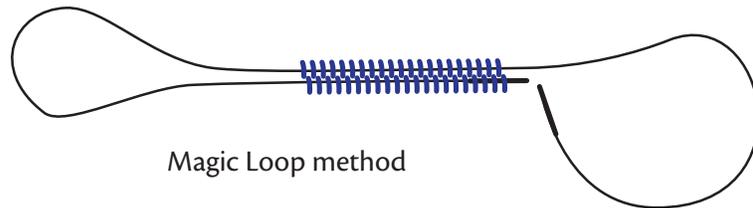
## 'Magic' Two-Loop Technique

Cast-on the full edge length onto your extra-long circular needle (for maximum comfort the needle should be at least 100cm/ 40").

With the first stitch of the new round to the left, slide the cast-on edge to the middle of the needle flex, fold the edge in half with the

'hinge' at the left-hand side and the last stitch cast-on on the back needle. Now pull a loop of flex through between the two stitches on either side of the fold point (this doesn't have to be exactly 50/50).

\*Slide the stitches you wish to work next up to the tip of the front needle (creating a bigger left side loop) and then pull some flex out of the right-hand end of the back needle (the flex will pull through from the big left loop). Use this needle to work across the front stitches. When both needle tips are at the left-hand side, turn the work around by 180 degrees and repeat from \*.

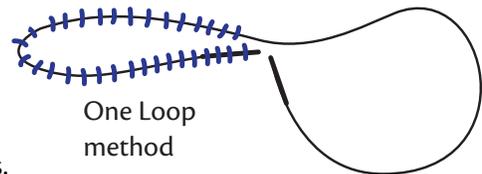


Magic Loop method

## One-Loop Technique

When there are enough stitches to go across the the rigid section of the needle and back again on the flex comfortably, pull the mid-flex loop through and put all the extra needle flex at the the working needle tip end.

You may work an entire round without having to adjust the needles.

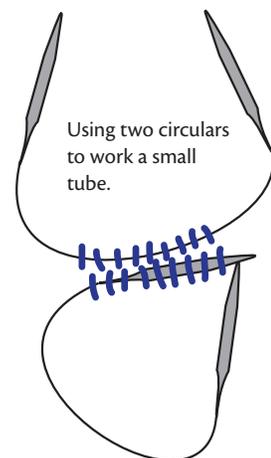


One Loop method

## Two Circulars Technique

Cast-on the full edge length onto one of your circular needles (any needle length may be used). Slip half of stitches onto the second needle, fold the edge in half with the hinge at the left-hand side and the last stitch cast-on on the back needle. Hold the sections of both needles with the stitches together.

\*Slide the next stitch to be worked to the tip of the front needle and use the opposite end of the SAME needle to work the stitches. On completion of this needle, pull the stitches onto the flexible section of the needle so both tips dangle, now turn the work around by 180 degrees and repeat from \* across the second needle.



## Working in the Round (Swatch Part 5)

Add a beginning of round marker as described in Note #7 on p.4 of the pattern. Work a couple of rounds to establish the marker.

[KNITTING VENUS 1 - Yarn Marker Applications](#)

Now tackle two short rows in the round beginning at the marker. You will continue to work on your circular needles, but you will be turning the work WS facing periodically.

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It is easiest to check the turning positions by counting the number of stitches remaining unworked between the turning point and the underarm (B/E) marker; this figure is given for each row.

[KNITTING VENUS 1 - Short Rows in the Round](#)

When making the short row turns, use the Japanese method, as before, to neaten the resulting gaps. Always slip the first stitch of the new direction row.

Row 1: Knit 30 sts (4 sts remain before the B/E marker), **turn**.  
Row 2: WS S1, purl 25 (4 sts remain before the B/E marker), **turn**.  
Round 3: S1, knit to B/E marker, neaten the first short row gap as you pass by.  
Row 4: Knit to marker, neaten the second short row wrap as you pass by. (In order to neaten this gap **knit up to one stitch before** the gap, slip this stitch knitwise to the right-hand needle, pull on the marker and tuck the right-hand needle tip into the loop created and now knit the loop and the slipped stitch together.)

This concludes the practice swatch! Have fun with the cardigan.

## **Bibliography**

Socks Soar on Two Circular Needles	Bordhi Cat	Passing Paws Press
The Magic Loop	Hauschka Sarah	Fiber Trends
Knitting With Jean	Wong Jean	<a href="http://www.knittingwithjean.com">http://www.knittingwithjean.com</a>

## **“Learn with Lucy” DVD series:**

Knitting Venus 1	Neatby	ISBN 978-0-9782898-7-4
Knitting Venus 2	Neatby	ISBN 978-0-972898-8-1
Sock Techniques 1	Neatby	ISBN 0-9733940-3-X
Knitting Gems 2	Neatby	ISBN 978-0-9733940-6-1

DVD references are given as follows: [TITLE - Chapter: Topic](#)