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If you intend to make a jacket, it is almost certain that you will not want the neck to be a V at the back. Many sweaters would also be better with a straight back to the neck. When you are working in small pieces and joining them together it is a simple matter to fill in the V shape with some extra pieces.

These instructions explain how to start your garment with the straight part of the neck and work outwards from that point.



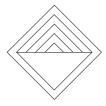




These triangles could be the start of two ordinary squares. They join together to make another triangle.

Work the two triangles together for the back of your jacket. You will have to increase twice in the centre of the triangle (Once for each triangle) and as usual at the outside edges. Keep going until the long edge is the width you want for the back of the neck.

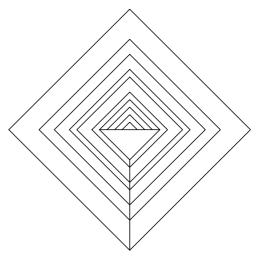
Count the stitches on each of the shorter edges and cast on the same number at each side, for the front neck. This is now the same square centre as in all the other examples. It resembles the corners of four small squares joined together.

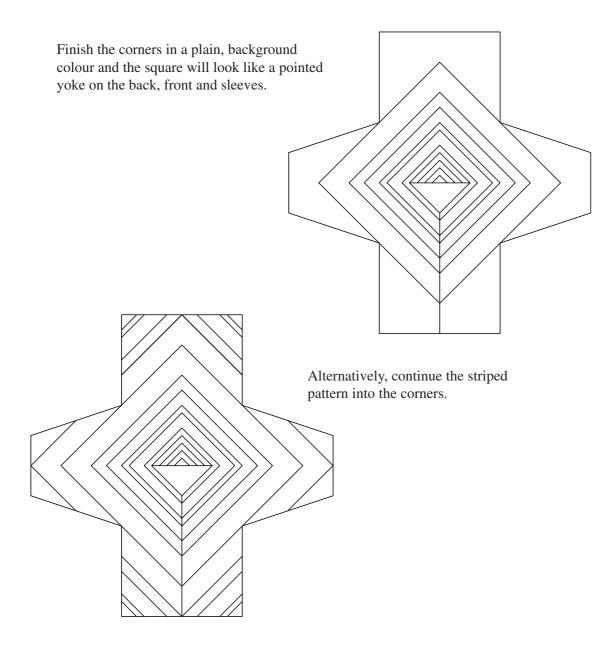


You could work long rows, backwards and forwards, on all the stitches, or split them into four separate parts and do one section at a time. Whichever method you choose it is important to have the same number of stitches on each side, and increase to maintain an accurate shape.

Everywhere that two shapes come together there must be one increase for each shape. I prefer these to be at either side of a central stitch, because I think it looks neater.

Keep knitting, in any pattern of stripes, until the square is big enough





Whatever design you are using, the easiest shape for the front of the neck is a V. If you like straight necks, you could use the process described opposite for the front as well as the back. With a little experience, you will also be able to adapt the neckline to other shapes, if you think it necessary. A square neck is particularly easy and can look very effective on a design based on squares. Your choice will depend on personal choice and the type of square you are using. The most important point is not to get so carried away that you forget to leave a hole for the neck!