

Red Lantern Sweater

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1. Introduction

The Red Lantern Sweater came to my mind when I was craving for a knitwear with wine red and turquoise colour palette. As an amateur knitter, it is the first time I tried to include different sizes. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns about the measures or calculation. The model I knitted is in the size XS.

The sweater is knitted top-down seamlessly with Icelandic yarns. The side splits help identify the front and the back pieces as no short-row technique is applied in the knitting; it also adds a bit flow to a heavy Icelandic sweater. The sleeves are with a slight balloon-like design and long hems to bring a vintage look.

When you read the instruction, please pay attention to texts highlighted with **red font**, where it helps you avoid critical mistakes and benefit the following steps. You may notice the footnotes too, which for example explain the reason why we do certain increasing stitches, or give tips on external helpful materials.

2. Sizes

The measures refers to the sweater after blocking.

Measures	XS	S	M	L	XL
Collar to armpit	19 cm	19 cm	20 cm	21 cm	22 cm
<i>Rows</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>52</i>
Yoke widest circumference	139 cm	144 cm	150 cm	156 cm	161 cm
<i>Stitches</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>260</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>290</i>
Chest circumference	86 cm	92 cm	97 cm	103 cm	108 cm
<i>Stitches</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>194</i>
Front body (armpit to hem)	35 cm	37 cm	39 cm	41 cm	43 cm
<i>Rows</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>103</i>
Back body (armpit to hem)	38 cm	40 cm	42 cm	44 cm	46 cm
<i>Rows</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>111</i>

Sleeve widest circumference	36 cm	38 cm	40 cm	42 cm	44 cm
<i>Stitches</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>80</i>
Sleeve length	37 cm	39 cm	41 cm	43 cm	46 cm
<i>Rows</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>110</i>

3. Yarns, Needles and Gauge

3.1 Yarns

- Léttlopi 1409 Garnet Red: 8 (XS), 9 (S), 10 (M), 11 (L), 12 (XL) balls
- Léttlopi 1404 Glacier Blue: 2 (XS, S), 3 (M, L, XL) balls
- Léttlopi 1419 Barley: 1 (XS), 1-2(S), 2 (M, L, XL) balls¹

3.2 Needles

- 4mm circular needles for the yoke, main body and sleeves
- 3mm circular / double pointed needles for the neck and hems of the body & sleeves

3.3 Gauge 10×10 cm

- 18 stitches and 24 rows

4. Abbreviations

- St / sts: stitch / stitches
- #: number, e.g. “# sts” means number of stitches
- K: knit
- P: purl
- K2tg: knit 2 stitches together
- Ssk: slip slip knit
- Kbf: knit from the back and the front, it results in 1 stitch increasing
- Sm: stitch marker
- RS: right side
- WS: wrong side

5. Instruction

5.1 Cast-on

Cast-on and knitting the ribbed rouble-folded collar are both with the 3mm needles. **You should have a sm to mark the beginning of the round**, if you want to create a double-folded collar, because it requires to sew the knitted row together with the cast-on row, the sm will prevent unalignment.

Instruction	XS	S	M	L	XL
# sts cast on	74	78	80	84	86
Knitting in round, repeat (k1, p1)*	37 times	39 times	40 times	42 times	43 times
Repeat the row in total for 24 rows / 10 cm to create a double-folded collar					
Knit the previously knitted row and the cast-on row together ²					
Knit the next row, add # sts	1	0	1	0	1
Now you have # sts in total	75	78	81	84	87

¹ In the model, I was using my stashed Novita Icelandic Wool colour code 601 which is closest to Léttlopi1419 Barley colour

² The video [Creating a Folded Neckband](#) may help

5.2 Yoke

Knit the yoke with 4mm needles.

Read and instruction below and refer the *Figure 2 Colorwork Graph*.

Instruction	XS	S	M	L	XL
<i>Suggest³ to insert sm every 3 sts for all sizes when start the colour work, you will divide the row into</i>					
	25 sections	26 sections	27 sections	28 sections	29 sections
Knit the graph accordingly, remember to skip the rows that doesn't belong to the size you chose					
Now you have # sts in total	250	260	270	280	290
knit with the Garnet Red yarn for 1 more row					
Now you have # rows in total	46	46	48	50	52

5.3 Set body and sleeves

Instruction	XS	S	M	L	XL	Unit / Notes
(1) For back body, knit	69	72	75	78	81	sts
(2) For left sleeve, put	56	58	60	62	64	sts on hold with a scrap yarn
(3) For left armpit, cast on	8	10	12	14	16	sts
Insert a sm in the middle of the left armpit, which helps identify the front and back piece						
(4) For front body, knit	69	72	75	78	81	sts
(5) For right sleeve, put	56	58	60	62	64	sts on hold with a scrap yarn
(6) For right armpit, cast on	8	10	12	14	16	sts
Insert a sm in the middle of the right armpit, which identifies the front and back piece, and is the new beginning of the round						
Now you have	154	164	174	184	194	sts in total for the body
Now you have	64	68	72	76	80	sts in total for each sleeve
Knit the next round, add 1 st for size S and L in both the back and front, in total 2 sts increased⁴						
Now you have	154	166	174	186	194	sts in total for the body
Now you have	77	83	87	93	97	sts for the front / back piece

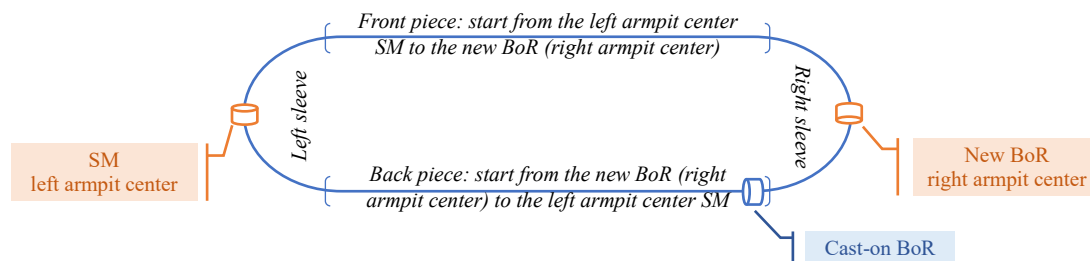


Figure 1 Separate Body and Sleeves, Mark the New Beginning of Round

5.4 Body and hems

Instruction	XS	S	M	L	XL	Unit / Notes
Knit the body for	45	50	55	60	65	rows
Prepare the side splits	10	10	10	10	10	rows
Front hem splits	28	28	28	28	28	rows
Back hem	36	36	36	36	36	rows
From total # rows	83	88	93	98	103	rows
Length	35 cm	37 cm	39 cm	41 cm	43 cm	

³ Adding sm every 3 sts, or a multiple of 3 such as 6 or 9 sts, helps you to count the increasing sts correctly within each repeat of the pattern

⁴ The reason of increasing 1 stitch for size S and L in both back and front pieces is: to ensure the back and front piece both have **odd number** of stitches, preparing for the rib pattern (k1, p1) in the hem where it should start with knit stitch and end up with in a knit stitch too.


Back total # rows	91	96	101	106	111	rows
Length	38 cm	40 cm	42 cm	44 cm	46 cm	
Italian cast-off						
Instruction of preparing the side splits						
Knit in round:						
(1) start from the back piece: (k1,p1)*3 times, 6 sts before the end of the back piece, (p1,k1)*3 times, slip sm						
(2) continue knit the front piece: (k1,p1)*3 times, 6 sts before the end of the front piece, (p1,k1)*3 times, slip sm						
Repeat the row above for 10 rows for all the sizes						
Instruction of hems						
Switch to 3mm needles, separate the front and back pieces in 2 different needles and knit back and forth; you shall join the new yarn to the piece inconsistent with the working yarn.						
(1) RS: repeat (k1,p1) rib, slip the last st knit-wise with the yarn in the back (to create a neat edge)						
(2) WS: repeat (p1,k1) rib, slip the last st purl-wise with the yarn in the front (to create a neat edge)						
For the front piece, repeat the 2 rows above for 14 times (28 rows) / hem reaches 15 cm						
For the back piece, repeat the 2 rows above for 18 times (36 rows) / hem reaches 20 cm						

5.5 Sleeves

Transfer the sleeve stitches on hold with a scrap yarn into knitting needles, start to knit in around. To avoid holes in the armpit, I recommend this video: [Picking Up Underarm Stitches for a Gap-Free Sweater Sleeve - YouTube](#)

Instruction	XS	S	M	L	XL	Unit / Notes
# sts in each sleeve	64	68	72	76	80	sts
Knit in round for	55	60	65	70	75	rows
Place 4 sm from the middle of the armpit in every following # sts						
	16	17	18	19	20	sts
Decrease the sleeve by the following instruction: k1, k2tg; (knit until 3 sts before the sm, ssk, k1; slip the sm, k1, k2tg)*3 times; knit until 3 sts before the end of the row, ssk, k1. 8 sts decreased						
Repeat the decrease for	3	3	3	3	3	rows / times
Now you have	40	44	48	52	56	sts
Decrease the sleeve by the following instruction: Only for size M, L, XL Ignore the 1st and the 3rd marker, only make the decrease in the round beginning, the 2nd marker and the end of the round k1, k2tg; 3 sts before the 2nd sm, ssk, k1; slip the 2nd sm, k1, k2tg; 3 sts before the end of the row, ssk, k1. 4 sts decreased						
Repeat the decrease for	0	0	1	1	2	rows / times
Now you have	40	44	44	48	48	sts
Switch to 3mm needles for the hem						
Repeat the rib (k1, p1)*	20 times	22 times	22 times	24 times	24 times	
Knit the rib for	30	30	30	30	30	rows
Now have knitted sleeves for	88	93	99	104	110	rows in total
You sleeves measure	37 cm	39 cm	41 cm	43 cm	46 cm	
Italian cast-off						

6. Contact

Congratulations! Now you have your own-version of the Red Lantern Sweater !

- Show off your great work on Instagram with the hashtag: **#redlanternsweater #designedbyhanxiao**
- You may tag me on Instagram or drop me a direct message via: [@random.variable44](#)
- You can write me an email via: hanxiao.zhou44@gmail.com

Thank you for your support and happy knitting!

Appendix 1. Colorwork Graph

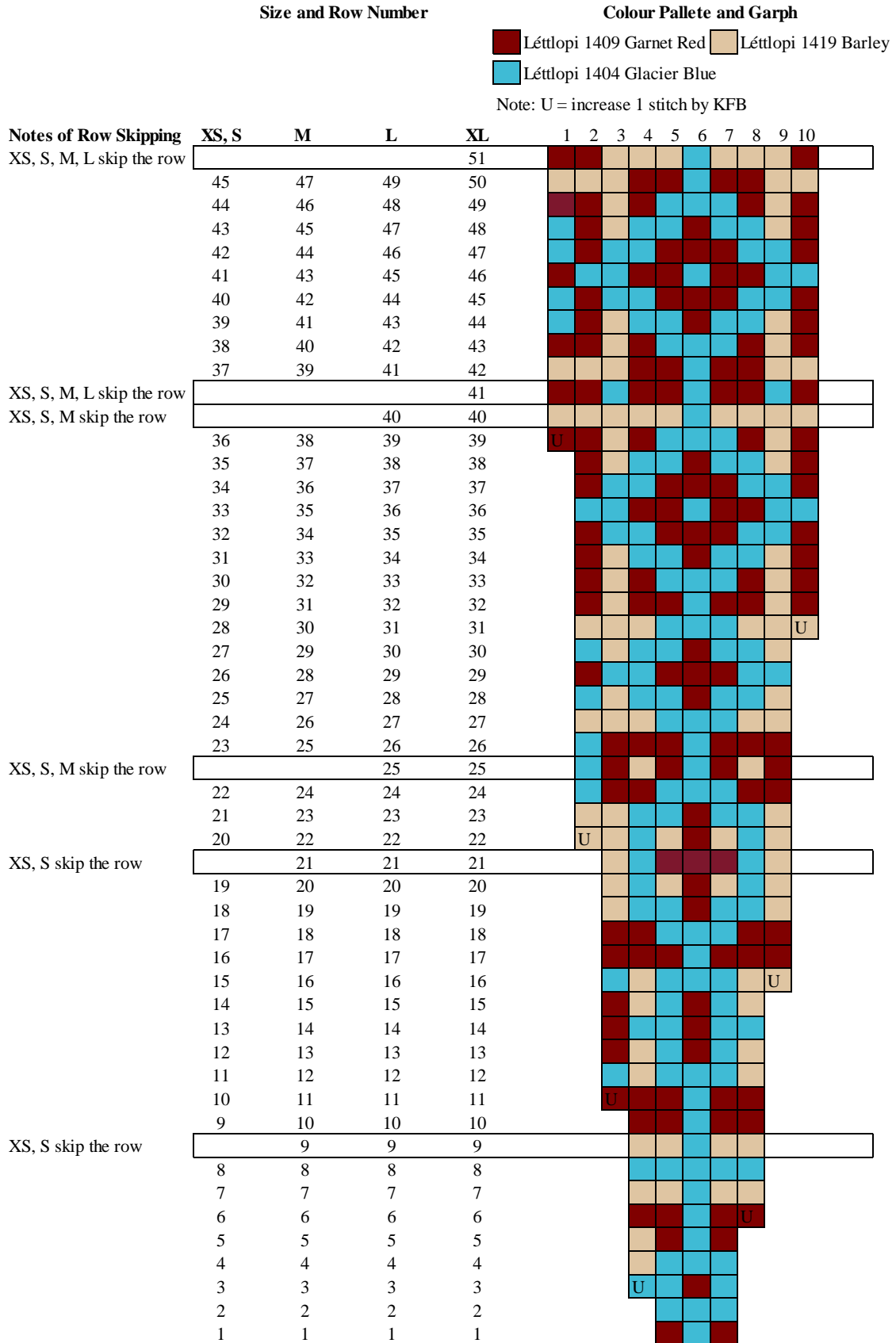


Figure 2 Colorwork Graph

Appendix 2. Version Logs

- First draft: pattern design and calculation, October 17, 2024, Helsinki
- Second draft: fined calculation and wording, October 18, 2024, Helsinki
- Modification: inserted demonstration *Figure 1*, October 27, 2024, Helsinki
- Knitting the XS: started on October 19; completed the body on October 27; completed the whole sweater on November 2; photographed on November 5 (dried from blocking) and 9 (fitted on)