

optional short row shaping for Flax and Flax Light

a little fit adjustment ♥ by Tin Can Knits

Learn to knit with Alexa and Emily! The Flax and Flax Light sweaters are part of [The Simple Collection](#), a learn to knit series with excellent free patterns and clear tutorials.

From your first scarf, to mittens, socks, and sweaters, learn everything you need to know to make modern seamless knits for all of your loved ones. **Check out the [whole collection here](#).**

This PDF is designed for use alongside the Flax and Flax Light patterns. To get these free sweater patterns [click here](#).

what are short rows?

Short rows are rows that don't go all the way to the end of the round or row; they stop short. Working a series of these short rows creates a wedge of fabric. Here, this extra wedge of fabric is located at the back of the sweater. The result is that the back neck of the sweater sits higher than the front.

should I add short rows to my Flax or Flax Light sweater?

The answer is: it's totally optional! Emily and Eric are wearing their Flax sweaters without short rows, Francine is wearing hers with short rows. (See page 3 for images.)

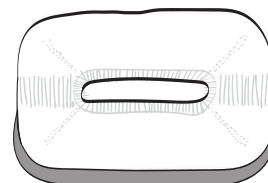
The benefit of adding in short rows is that it gives your sweater a slightly better fit by raising the back of the sweater to be a bit higher than the front.

Working the pattern without short rows is a simpler to knit and it makes the back and front the same, so there is no wondering if you've put your sweater on backwards.

Note: Though we have included them in these instructions, for baby sweaters and smaller child sizes (the under 6 crowd) we recommend skipping the short row shaping to make the sweater reversible. That way you don't have to worry about front and back when popping it over small heads. Plus if they stain the front you can just make it the back, let's be practical!

where will these short rows go?:

For the Flax and Flax Light sweaters the instructions below place the short rows at the bottom of the yoke, just before splitting for body and sleeves. All of the raglan increases have been completed and you will have worked even until the yoke has reached full depth. You will have just completed a round 2.



For this tutorial we have used German short rows, our favourite method. Other methods will work just fine, feel free to substitute your favourite short row method instead.

placing centre back marker:

The short rows are worked symmetrically around the centre back of the sweater. The BOR marker is currently located at the back right shoulder, just before the right sleeve. We will now place a CB (centre back) marker around which we will work the short rows.

Flax: [knit to marker, SM] 3 times, k18 (20, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, **31, 33, 35, 37, 40, 44, 49, 52, 56, 59, 62, 66**), place centre back (CB) marker.

Flax light: [knit to marker, SM] 3 times, k23 (24, 26, 28, 31, 34, 37, **41, 43, 46, 49, 52, 58, 63, 69, 76, 82, 86, 91**) place centre back (CB) marker.

You have now placed the CB marker. Short rows will be worked symmetrically around this marker. Slip CB and all other markers as you come to them.

Flax short rows:

Short row 1 (RS): k24 (27, 28, 29, 32, 35, 39, **43, 47, 50, 53, 57, 64, 70, 76, 81, 88, 91, 95**), turn work

Short row 2 (WS): with yarn in front (*on the WS of the work*), slip the first st from the LH needle to the RH needle purlwise (*the last st worked*). Next, pull the working yarn over the RH needle to the back of the work, then between the needle tips to the front of the work, ready to purl. This distorts the stitch and makes it appear as 2 loops over the needle. This is referred to as the doubled stitch. Purl to CB, SM, p24 (27, 28, 29, 32, 34, 38, **43, 46, 49, 52, 57, 63, 70, 75, 81, 87, 90, 95**), turn work

Short row 3 (RS): bring the yarn to the front of work between the needles. Slip the stitch from the left needle to the right needle purlwise. Next, pull the working yarn over the RH needle to the back of the work. This distorts the stitches and makes it appear as 2 loops over the needle. Knit to CB, SM, knit to 5 sts before doubled st, turn work

Short row 4 (WS): with yarn in front (*on the WS of the work*), slip the first st from the LH needle to the RH needle purlwise. Next, pull the working yarn over the RH needle to the back of the work, then between the needle tips to the front of the work, ready to purl. This creates an extra loop over the needle. Purl to CB, SM, purl to 5 sts before doubled st, turn work

Work short rows 3-4 a total of 1 (1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, **5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6**) times.

Bring the yarn to the front of work between the needles. Slip the stitch from the left needle to the right needle purlwise. Pull the working yarn over the RH needle to the back of the work. Knit to CB, remove marker. Knit to BOR, purling the garter panels and knitting the 2 loops of the doubled sts together as one stitch.

Short rows are now complete. Proceed to instructions for separating body and sleeves in the Flax pattern.

Flax Light short rows:

Short row 1 (RS): k30 (32, 34, 36, 41, 45, 51, **59, 62, 65, 70, 74, 85, 92, 102, 112, 121, 127, 135**), turn work

Short row 2 (WS): with yarn in front (*on the WS of the work*), slip the first st from the LH needle to the RH needle purlwise (*the last st worked*). Next, pull the working yarn over the RH needle to the back of the work, then between the needle tips to the front of the work, ready to purl. This distorts the stitch and makes it appear as 2 loops over the needle. This is referred to as the doubled stitch. Purl to CB, SM, p30 (31, 34, 36, 41, 45, 51, **58, 61, 64, 69, 73, 84, 91, 101, 111, 120, 127, 135**) turn work

Short row 3 (RS): bring the yarn to the front of work between the needles. Slip the stitch from the left needle to the right needle purlwise. Next, pull the working yarn over the RH needle to the back of the work. This distorts the stitches and makes it appear as 2 loops over the needle. Knit to CB, SM, knit to 7 sts before doubled st, turn work

Short row 4 (WS): with yarn in front (*on the WS of the work*), slip the first st from the LH needle to the RH needle purlwise. Next, pull the working yarn over the RH needle to the back of the work, then between the needle tips to the front of the work, ready to purl. This creates an extra loop over the needle. Purl to CB, SM, purl to 7 sts before doubled st, turn work

Work short rows 3-4 a total of 2 (2, 3, 3, 5, 5, 6, **7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9**) times.

Bring the yarn to the front of work between the needles. Slip the stitch from the left needle to the right needle purlwise. Pull the working yarn over the RH needle to the back of the work. Knit to CB, remove marker. Knit to BOR, purling the garter panels and knitting the 2 loops of the doubled sts together as one stitch.

Short rows are now complete. Proceed to instructions for separating body and sleeves in the Flax Light pattern.

Share your progress with us on [Instagram](#) or [Ravelry](#) by adding the hashtags [#FlaxSweater](#) or [#FlaxLightSweater](#) and [#TinCanKnits](#)
- we love to see your knits!

? abbreviations:

BOR - beginning of round marker
CB - center back marker
k - knit
LH - left hand
p - purl
RH - right hand
RS - right side
SM - slip marker
st(s) - stitch(es)
WS - wrong side

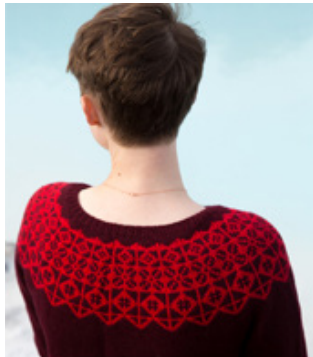


Emily and Eric, in the light brown and olive sweaters, have no short row shaping at the neckline. Francine, in the blue sweater, is wearing hers with short row shaping added to raise the back neck.





Tin Can Knits ■ in Vancouver + Edinburgh ■ www.tincanknits.com



compass



vivid



sitka spruce



oaken



stovetop



love note



bumble



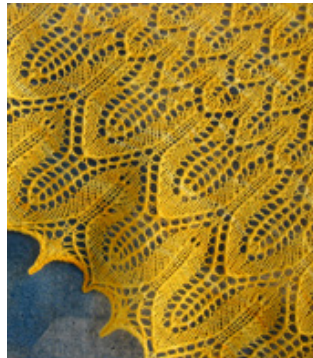
antler mittens



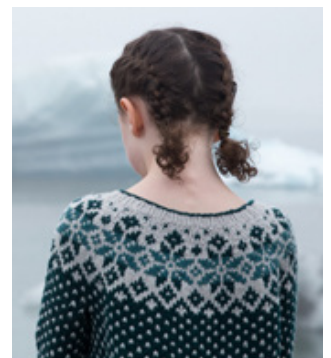
lush



bounce



sunflower



moraine



mountain mist



beloved



playdate



marshland