Quick Links

The Knit Figures! app was developed to be a companion tool for garment knitters to customize the fit of their garments where increases and decreases are worked along a slope.

Imagine the different scenarios where sloped increases and decreases are used and are affected by row/round gauge: sleeves, raglan shaping, assymetrical cardigan fronts, V-necks, a-line skirts, and waist/hip shaping.

Knit Figures! has the flexibility to calculate your increases/decreases to your customized length and/or row/round gauge if it differs from the designer's stated gauge/length whether you are:

o   working in rows or rounds
o   working from the top down or vice-versa
o   increasing/decreasing any number of sts per increase/decrease row/round
o   increasing/decreasing only on even (RS) rows/rounds or can accommodate odd rows/rounds
o   and it returns all measurements based on your preferred unit of measurement (inches or centimeters).

It only takes a few seconds to enter your data and preferences and the app will display your custom calculation on your mobile device.

Finally, that calculation is automatically saved to your device's clipboard, so you can hop over to your email or notes app to paste and save it for reference while you are knitting.
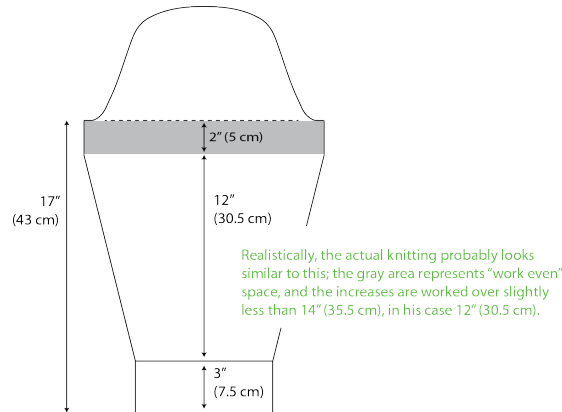
There are 2 basic reasons to use this app.

1. First, you are not matching the designer's row/round gauge.

   o Please note that this app is not intended to redesign a garment. The designer's stitch gauge is considered to be a constant. It is something that you, as the knitter, must match. Also, it would be remiss not to mention that your swatch should be worked in rows or rounds (yes, as painfully messy as swatches worked in rounds can be) as stated in the pattern.

   o Since it is often difficult to match the specified row or round gauge once you have matched the stitch gauge, Knit Figures! allows you to recalculate your increases or decreases at a different rate in order to achieve the proper stitch count in the required length.

2. Second, you would like to alter the pattern to better fit your body. The most common, but definitely not the only, example of this use of Knit Figures! is adjusting sleeve lengths.
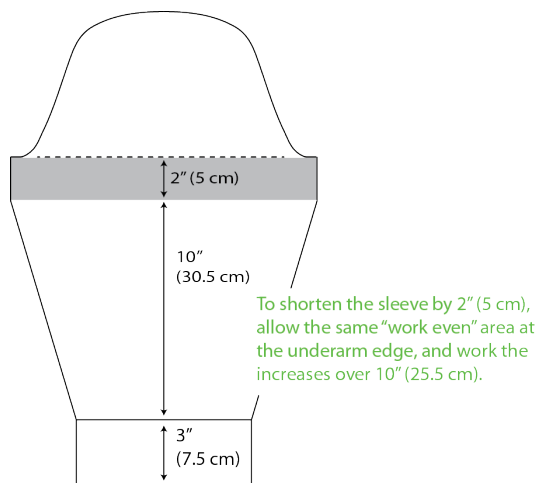
Follow along with this example:

17"
(43 cm)

14"
(35.5 cm)

Most sleeve schematics look similar to this.

3"
(7.5 cm)
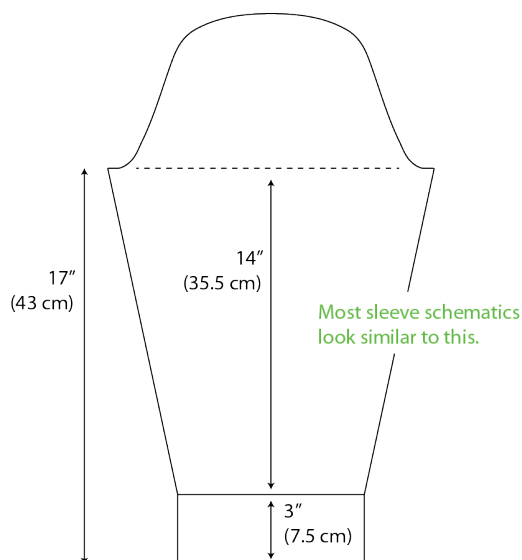
The number of sts around the upper arm is almost always more than the number around the lower arm. For this example, let's assume a set-in sleeve is knit in rows from the bottom up, and the instructions say to increase one stitch at each edge every 6 rows, one time, then every 8 rows, nine times. You know from the schematic diagram that these increases are to be worked over a length of 14 inches to the underarm.

17"
(43 cm)

2" (5 cm)

12"
(30.5 cm)

Realistically, the actual knitting probably looks similar to this; the gray area represents "work even" space, and the increases are worked over slightly less than 14" (35.5 cm), in his case 12" (30.5 cm).

3"
(7.5 cm)

But what if you have longer or shorter arms? By plugging a few numbers (i.e. your preferences) in to the Knit Figures! app, a custom set of instructions to make the adjustment will be returned, allowing you to redistribute the same number of increases at *your* row gauge over the length *you* need to achieve the proper stitch count.

2" (5 cm)

10"
(30.5 cm)

To shorten the sleeve by 2" (5 cm), allow the same "work even" area at the underarm edge, and work the increases over 10" (25.5 cm).

3"
(7.5 cm)

The illustration above shows the same sleeve scenario, but shortened by 2" (5 cm). By entering the desired changes into Knit

Figures!, the custom calculation would be to work the increases every 6 rows, seven times, then every 8 rows, three times. When you compare to the original instruction above, you will see that the increase row was worked 10 times in both cases, but in the latter case, the increases were completed in 12 fewer rows.

Converting Imperial Fractions to Decimals

$^1/_8$ = .13
$^1/_4$ = .25
$^3/_8$ = .38
$^1/_2$ = .50
$^5/_8$ = .63
$^3/_4$ = .75
$^7/_8$ = .88

Pointers for Deciding the Length Over Which to Recalculate

Sleeves: Allow a bit of "work even" length below the underarm. This can vary from as little as an inch (2.5 cm) for a child to 3 inches (7.5 cm) for a larger adult. If you are shortening sleeves, for an adult, 1.5-2 inches (4-5 cm) of "work even" length should be adequate. If you are lengthening sleeves, still for an adult, the full 3 inches (7-8 cm) might be appropriate. The "work even" length is **not** included in the length over which you will recalculate
Likewise, be sure to subtract any additional length that is not part of the length over which increases or decreases are worked, such as cuffs.

V-Necks: When working from the bottom up, many patterns have an inch (2-3 cm) of "work even" room at the top of the V-neck before binding off for the shoulders. You can decide whether or not to include this, but also consider whether you are doing short row shaping or stair-step bind offs at the shoulders. Both of these will add to the "work even" length at the top of the V-neck. This additional length is not always accounted for in pattern schematics.

Raglan Shaping: Designers write patterns from many sets of standards that are available in books and on the internet. Not many of the standards acknowledge that raglan armhole depths should be slightly deeper (.5-.75 inch or 1-2 cm) than armhole depths for set-in sleeves. This allows for freedom of movement and helps eliminate underarm wrinkling and creasing. For this reason, it is super critical that your row/round gauge not be too tight when working raglan style yokes.

One final word of caution:

If you are working a pattern that requires you to end by working a specific row or round of a pattern stitch, the adjusted calculation may interfere with the pattern ending as intended by the designer.

Still have questions? Email ssknits (at) ssknits (dot) com.