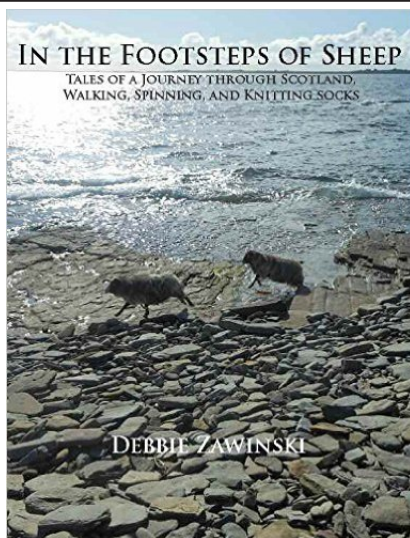


**New Book**

Follow along on author Debbie Zawinski's walking travels to all corners of Scotland, collecting native fleece to knit 11 original sock patterns. A tale of exploration and discovery, captivatingly written and beautifully illustrated. Softcover, 192pp.



**In the Footsteps of Sheep**  
Tales of a Journey through Scotland,  
Walking, Spinning, and  
Knitting Socks

**Wool Gathering**

WG#93 features Meg's stunning *Norwegian Mitten Cardigan* (photo, p2). See Q&A about cardigan borders in this NL, p2.



Fans of Wool Gathering have been very patient with us as we have sorted through various dissemination options. Many knitters still want physical copies, and some want a downloadable version; some want both. So we reinstated our **subscription service**, and, beginning with current **WG issue #93**, we now provide free downloadable copies to those who subscribe to the physical version.

Newsletter readers receive  
**20% off**  
**any order**  
**over \$50!**  
(Through 12/17/15)  
Use promo code:  
**IKNIT2**

**Newsletter #29**  
**December 2015**

Dear Knitter,

As the days shorten and evenings become cooler, my fingers begin to twitch, colors and construction shapes fill my thoughts, and suddenly I have three new designs on my needles.

My granddaughters paid me a surprise visit just as I was finishing one, and I took advantage of having two beautiful young models in the house to photograph WG#93 (photo, p2).

To celebrate the cardigan in the current Wool Gathering, plus the new pattern from Felipe Cavalheiro (SPP#59), I describe EZ's beautiful all-in-one cardigan border (no sewing) on page 2. I also share answers to 5 questions about knitting cardigans.

-Meg Swansen

Schoolhouse  
Press

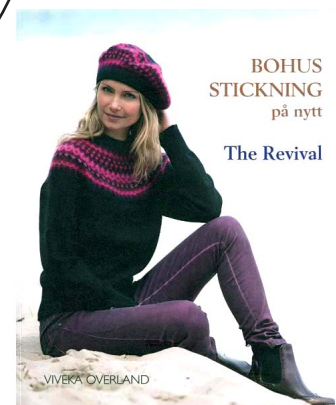


**New**  
**Schoolhouse Press Pattern**  
**(SPP#59)**

Brazilian designer Felipe Cavalheiro brings us this beautiful new Norwegian cardigan. Constructed in the classic dropped-shoulder style, the pattern includes detailed charts and instructions covering circumferences of 38, 42, 46, and 50". An altogether alluring new design.



**New Book**



The photos of 43 stunning Bohus designs that Solveig Gustafsson has carefully recreated from the originals, made me catch my breath. Add to that more detailed historical information that from any previous publication, including letters, photos, articles and interviews, and full page photographs and precise instructions for fourteen classic sweaters, several of which have been heretofore unknown to us ardent (and even obsessive) American Bohus-followers. The result is an altogether beautiful book worthy of careful study through the long winter to come (in English and Swedish, 150pp).

**Bohus Stickning på nytt (The Revival)**  
Viveka Overland

WG#93 Meg's  
Norwegian  
Mitten  
Cardigan



**Notes on Cardigan Borders:** A demonstration of this method - and more - are included in Meg's [DVD/streaming video](#), [Cardigan Details](#).

You may be familiar with the method of knitting a *separate* long border strip that is sewn onto the edge...but how long shall it be? Slightly stretched to fit the edge and prevent drooping? Should you block it first? And block the sweater as well? Sometimes the lower-edge back-and-forth ribbing has an appendage on each side of the center front, and when the ribbing is done, the appendage-sts are put onto a holder.

Later, they are picked up and the border is knitted up from them; first one side, then the other side, then the neck, in three separate bits.

For me, this is unnecessarily complex, and I encourage you to try Elizabeth Zimmermann's **all-in-one cardigan-border** method; one based upon simplicity, ease of execution and the elimination of sewing.

To add a Garter stitch edging onto a Stocking stitch sweater, begin at the lower corner, and into the 'knit-up-stitch' (thoughtfully provided on each side of the center steek), knit up \*2 sts for every 3 rounds up the front; then every stitch along the base of the neck (horizontal raw sts); every stitch along the diagonal shaping (if any) and 2 for 3 up the final straight bit to the shoulder. Now knit along the raw sts of the

neck-back and mirror-image the foregoing around and down the other side. \*This ratio is to accommodate square Garter stitches being knitted on to oblong Stocking stitches.

There. All border sts now are on a single (40") circular needle and you are ready to work back and forth in garter stitch as you incorporate all kinds of details: mitre the top corners to right angles, decrease across the neck-back to prevent splaying, add stripes of cc if you feel like it, knit your favorite buttonholes, and finally cast off loosely.



Now 20% off!  
EZ's charming sheep  
doodle necklace w/  
silver chain.

### Baby Surprise Jacket Ruffled Border (thanks to Melissa Zucker)

Work [Elizabeth Zimmermann's BSJ](#) to the ending button band rows. Then, for the ruffle detail, kfb into every stitch in the row.

Knit the next row, then kfb of every other stitch of the following row (it will start to get crowded on the needle). Knit a few more rows plain and bind off.



### Cardigan Q&A:

**Q:** I am just about to cast on for a [Nalgar](#) and I want to make a cardigan. Should I add 3 or 5 steek sts. to my K number?

My concern is that the button bands are going to add width to the front of the garment. Should I deduct some sts to compensate for this?

Am I over-thinking this? Any help would be very much appreciated.

**A:** Dear Karl, My minimum steek-width is 5 sts (depending upon gauge; in Shetland it is 7 or 9 sts), since ideally you want a bit of facing to fold back once the steek is cut.

I assign the sts on either side of the steek (as it might be #1 and #7) to be the 'knit-up' stitches for the cardigan border (or the sleeves), and I keep them in background color throughout - uninterrupted by any shaping or motif (the 5 steek sts are worked in alternate colors; either striped or speckled). The 5 (or 7) steek sts are not part of the circumference measurement.

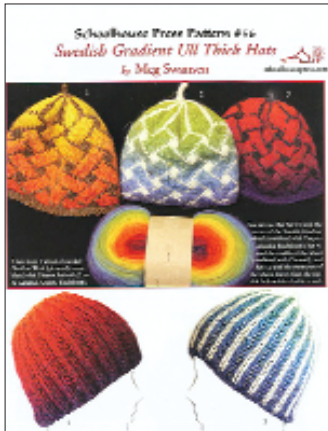
When I plan an *overlapping* cardigan border (or a few layers of I-Cord), I divide the body sts evenly - front and back, since both of these borders will add very little to the overall circumference.

If the border is a color-patterned one and the two sides will meet head-on (*not overlap*, but close with clasps), then I count the



Detail photo of Meg's Turkish Coat. Now available as Schoolhouse Press Pattern #60.

# NEW SPPs from schoolhousepress.com



SPP56, three different hats



SPP57 EZ's Pelerine (lace & garter)



SPP58 Felipe Cavalheiro's Bohus



SPP59 Norwegian Cardigan

border sts as part of the front measurement and divide front and back unevenly at the outset.

If there is a discrepancy in stitch count between front and back, I'd rather have extra sts across the front - for both men and women; backs are relatively flat and chests are curved. So if - as I work my way up the body - I change my mind from an overlapping border to a flat one, I don't let it bother me that there will be a small extra width across the front.

**Q:** I purchased yarn to make your *Turkish Maple* sweater design, and upon further reflection, I am wondering what you think about me making this into a cardigan. Don't you think I could put a steek up the center, keep the center stitch on both sides of the steek, make an I-cord edging and insert a zipper?



Do you think there would have to be any other modifications? I'm thinking this would work, but I need some advise since I am alone on my knitting island here!

**A:** Dear June, The main question is, have you already knitted the pullover, or are you in the planning stage?

The pattern will make a handsome cardigan, and it will be easier to plan in advance (although you *can* turn it into a cardigan after finishing the pullover version, it is a bit trickier).

For advance planning, at this gauge, I would add 9 sts at center-front for the future cutting (the 'steek'); these are not part of the circumference measurement. Keep the steek sts in alternate colors (either vertical stripes, or speckles) - with the first and last steek-stitch (#1 and #9) kept always in background color throughout and not involved with the motif; these are the 'knit-up' sts for the border at the end.

Cast on a second steek when you reach the bottom of the neck opening (put the first steek, and lower-neck-edge-sts on a thread). Since my pullover has a fairly wide and shallow neck, you will want to alter the neck shape a bit - making it deeper and narrower.

Once done and cut open, you can use EZ's Garter Stitch border to finish.

**Q:** I just received my pattern for the *Aspen Yoke Sweater*. I want to make a cardigan as I saw in your newsletter. I note in the pattern instructions that as you begin the leaf pattern it says, "Make sure that the leaf point hits the marked center-front stitch." Can you please tell me what you would do differently, if anything, in the center front in order to cut a steek later? Also, do you have instructions for knitting up the facing and neck of the cardigan?

**A:** Dear Tifere, If you plan on a cardigan from the outset, cast on an additional 7 sts at center-front; 5 sts for the steek (not part of the measure-



ment) and a stitch on each side of the steek for a "knit-up stitch" when adding on the border. When you get to the color pattern part, make sure the motif (or the partial motif) is perfectly balanced each side of the center 7 sts. I like to center the leaves in the middle of the back (either the point of a leaf, or between 2 leaves), then count forward in increments of the pattern repeat until you bump into the center 7 sts. That will be the starting stitch within the leaf. You may have to increase 1 stitch somewhere in the first pattern round, in order to end on the same stitch at the other side of the front. Cully goes into great detail on this subject in the book *Knitting With 2 Colors*.

Also, we produced a DVD to deal specifically with your question about knitting up for the cardigan: *Cardigan Details* (now also available as a streaming video). It shows a dropped-shoulder cardigan being knitted from cast on to final blocking. Your sweater will be a yoke-shape (instead of a dropped-shoulder), but the cardigan part will be the same.

**Q:** Hi, all, I'm doing a V-neck cardigan with a garter stitch button band. It's hard to tell from the pics in *The Opinionated Knitter* for newsletter 12 whether or not I should increase a stitch on each side at the beginning of the V, where it starts to slant to go up to the shoulder (basically at the top button location). It seems like one extra stitch on, say, ridge three would help the band "bend" around the decrease starting spot, but there's no mention of it in the NL text.



**A:** Very astute of you, dear Holly, and I agree. Although the angle is relatively slight, my instinct also is to provide an extra stitch or two within the border at that point to alter the direction very slightly.

**Q:** Dear Meg, I have owned your *Cardigan Details* video for a number of years and I love it. Thank you! I am about to knit up the buttonband/buttonholes in a cardigan and I know this video describes how to calculate buttonhole placement. My problem has become clear to me in that the teenage geek in my house has done away with the VCR and replaced it with a DVD player. This has rendered my video totally unusable to me. I am hoping that you can help me with a brief explanation of how to calculate buttonhole placement.

**A:** Dear Linda, I hope this is the formula you are looking for. [For those whose technology is obsolete, we offer Cardigan details as a [DVD](#) or [streaming video](#).] Onward, Meg



Buttonhole Spacing Formula by Mary Rowe, (author of *Knitting Tams: Charted Fair Isle Designs*):

$$S = \frac{N - (H \times B) - E}{B - 1}$$

S = number of stitches between buttonholes

N = total number of stitches

H = number of stitches in each buttonhole

B = number of wanted buttonholes

E = number of stitches remaining at each end of button band.

Try it, it works.