

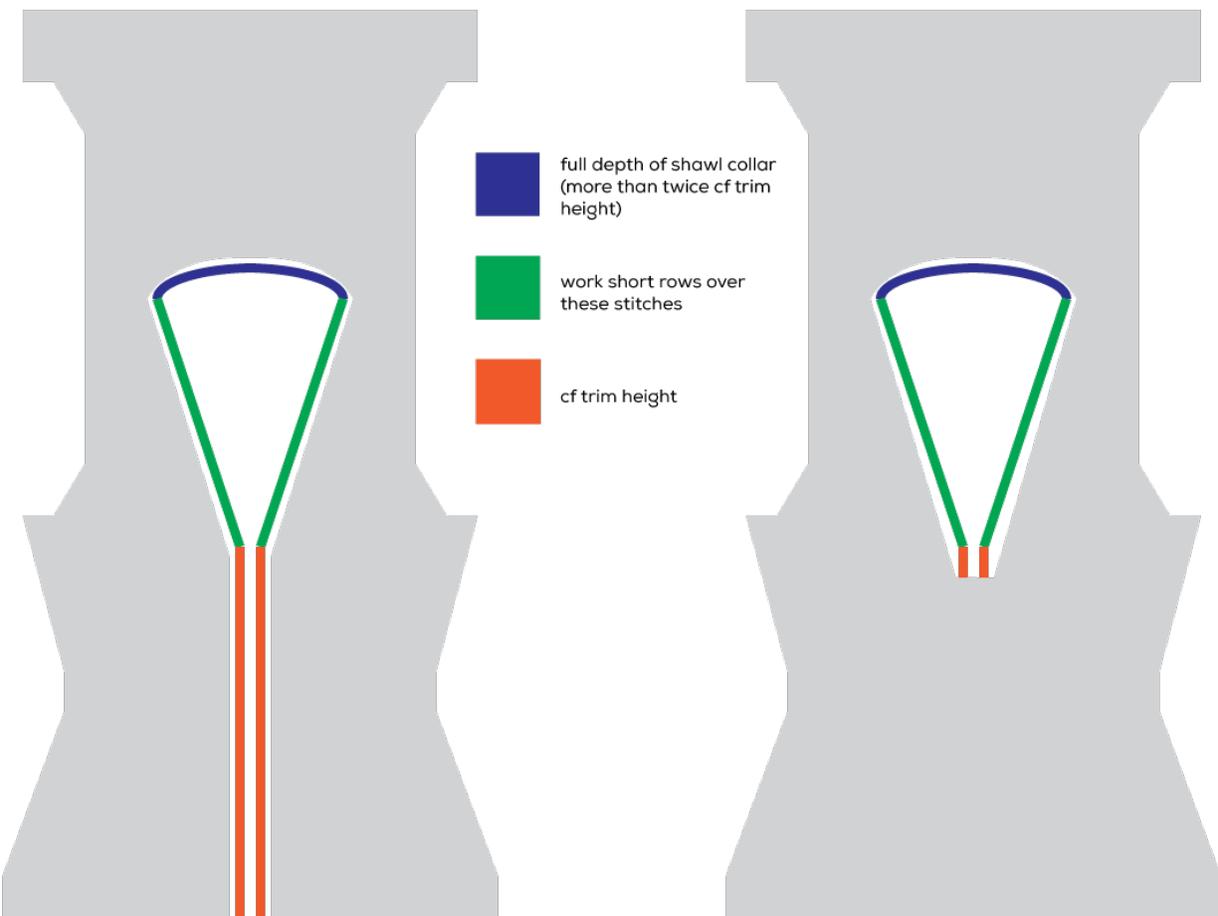


# shawl collars and cf

While shawl collars aren't built directly into CustomFit as of this writing (summer 2015), it's fairly easy to add a shawl collar to a cardigan! Pullovers are a little more tricky, so please be sure you understand the approach for adding a shawl collar to a cardigan before trying one.

## Visual Overview

**the gist** Shawl collars are formed by using short rows to make the back neck trim a bit more than twice as wide as the front neck trim. Here are some pictures:



**cardigans vs. pullovers** The shawl collar is formed the same way whether you're knitting a cardigan or a pullover; but to sew in the "sides" of the neck trim on a pullover, you'll need to make some changes. Here are the details!

# shawl collars and cf (2)

## Front Pieces

**general** You'll want to make your sweater with an average-width (wide is ok too) V-neckline. Make it fairly deep (1-4" / 2.5 - 10 cm below the armhole shaping), since the fabric of the shawl collar itself will "eat up" a couple of inches of depth.

**cardigan** No changes are needed to the neck shaping in your CustomFit pattern.

**pullover** You'll need to "square off" the bottom of the V-neckline in your pullover front, so that you have a place to seam the shawl collar edges. At the start of your neckline, bind off a number of stitches equal to the width of your neck trim (centered). Then, work decreases as written until you have the correct number of shoulder stitches.

## Finishing

**roadmap** Whether you're working a cardigan or a pullover, there are three phases to creating a shawl collar: the set-up phase, the short row phase, and the end phase.

**set-up** after picking up the button band as specified, work half the number of total edging rows indicated in your CustomFit pattern.

**short rows** now evenly spread short rows over the stitches that form the "front neck" portion of the neckline to double the number of rows worked on the back neck stitches. (see below)

**end phase** now work the remainder of the rows specified in your CustomFit pattern, plus a couple of extra. bind off all stitches.

**specifics** Count the number of stitches you have on the neckline edge (these are the green stitches in the photos). Write it down.

Take the # of edging rows in your CustomFit pattern, multiply by 1.25, then divide by 2, rounding up. Call this number X.

Divide the number of "green" stitches you have by  $X + 1$ , rounding down this time, and call this Z. Place X stitch markers every Z stitches over the "green" section of your stitches.



# shawl collars and cf (3)

**example** Let's say you have 63 stitches on each side of your neck in the "green" zone, and 20 rows in your CustomFit pattern's trim. "X" is  $(20 \times 1.25)/2 = 25/2 = 12.5 = 13$ . 63 divided by 14 = 4.5, which rounds down to 4. You'll place 14 stitch markers every 4 stitches in each "green" section of stitches.

**specifics** Now you're ready to work the short rows.

Starting with a RS row, \*work to last stitch before the first marker after left shoulder seam. wrap, turn, and remove marker. work to last stitch before the first marker after the right shoulder seam. wrap, turn, and remove marker.

Repeat from \*, picking up the wraps and knitting as you go, until all of your markers have been removed. You've now slightly more than doubled the back neck trim height vs. the front.

Work 2 full rows, working those last wraps with their wrapped stitches, and continue working in your CustomFit pattern's trim until your very edge stitches have the correct number of rows as marked in your CustomFit pattern.

Work 2 more rows for good measure, then bind off loosely.

**cardigan** You're done! Fold over the collar at the place you started the short rows. The fabric should want to stay folded, and the bound-off edge should cover your line of picked-up stitches.

**pullover** You now need to sew the sides of the **neck trim** to that "squared off" bottom of the front neck shaping. (Mattress stitch is the right way to do this.)

Once you've done so, you can fold the shawl collar over at the short row line. The fabric should want to stay folded, and the bound-off edge will cover your line of picked-up stitches by about halfway up the neck edge.

