

Basic Charting Methods: lesson #1

All knitting is based on gauge, the number of stitches and rows that equal an inch. The following formulas are all you need to adjust a pattern to knit with a different yarn (and resulting gauge) than the pattern calls for or, more importantly, to begin designing your own sweaters. If you know two of the variables for any formula, you can figure the rest.

Width x Stitch Gauge = # of stitches

So..... # stitches ÷ width = gauge

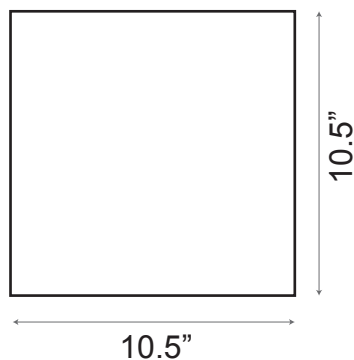
and.....# stitches ÷ gauge = width

Length x Gauge = # of rows

So.... # rows ÷ length = gauge

and.. # rows ÷ gauge = length

I never round off **any** numbers until the very end when I need to decide, for example, between casting on 39 vs. 40 stitches when my gauge calculations might come out to 39.4. It might be a case of wanting an even or odd number of stitches and one stitch either way won't matter at this point. It *would* matter if you rounded off the initial gauge numbers (which are not always whole numbers) to begin with. Use a calculator to work through the examples below; answers are at the bottom of the page.



The square at left is 10.5" wide and high. Use the formulas above to determine how many stitches- /rows to knit if your gauge is:

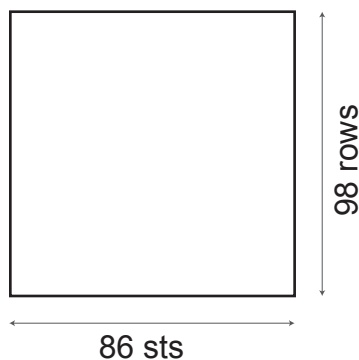
5 sts/7 rows=1" ___ sts ___ rows

8.25 sts/11 rows=1" ___ sts ___ rows

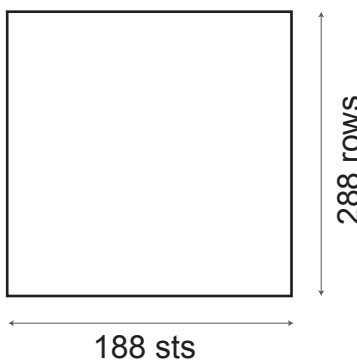
3.33 sts/5 rows=1" ___ sts ___ rows

What size are these blocks if their gauges are.....

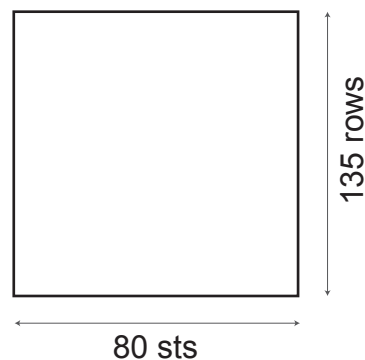
5 sts/7 rows = 1"



8.25 sts/11 rows = 1"



3.33 sts/5 rows = 1"



52.5sts/73.5 rows; 86.6 sts/115.5 rows; 34.9 sts/52.5 rows
17.2"/14"; 22.78"/26.18"; 24.02"/27"