

Introduction

Welcome to The Knitting Gauge Converter!

KGC is a simple program that will help you quickly convert one gauge to another.

Suppose your pattern calls for a gauge of 20 st = 4" and tells you to cast on 80 stitches -- but you've decided to use a different yarn or needle size and your swatch gauge is 18 st = 4". KGC will calculate the number of stitches you need to cast on so that the finished item is the same width as the pattern, even though your gauge is different.

[Using The Knitting Gauge Converter](#)

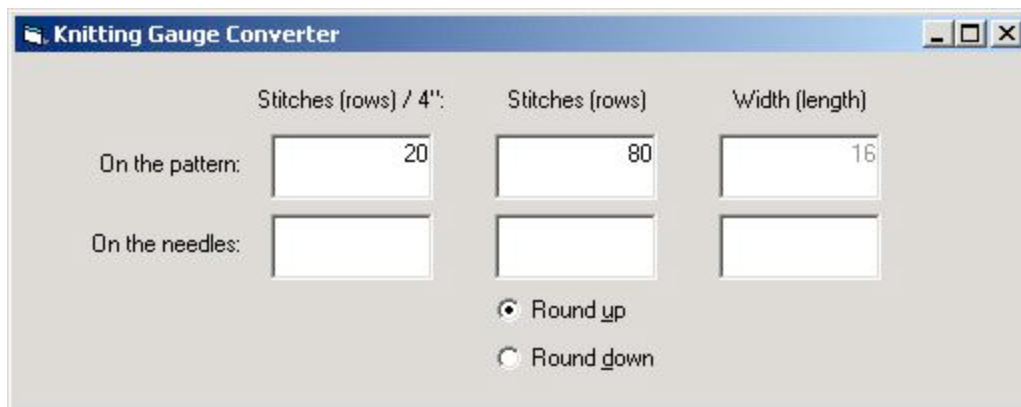
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Using The Knitting Gauge Converter

Step 1. Entering pattern information

You must first enter the # stitches (rows) per 4" and the # stitches (rows) required by the pattern. If your pattern calls for 20 st = 4" and a cast on of 80 stitches, you would enter 20 and 80 as illustrated below.



The screenshot shows a window titled "Knitting Gauge Converter". It contains three columns of input fields: "Stitches (rows) / 4\"", "Stitches (rows)", and "Width (length)".

	Stitches (rows) / 4"	Stitches (rows)	Width (length)
On the pattern:	20	80	16
On the needles:			

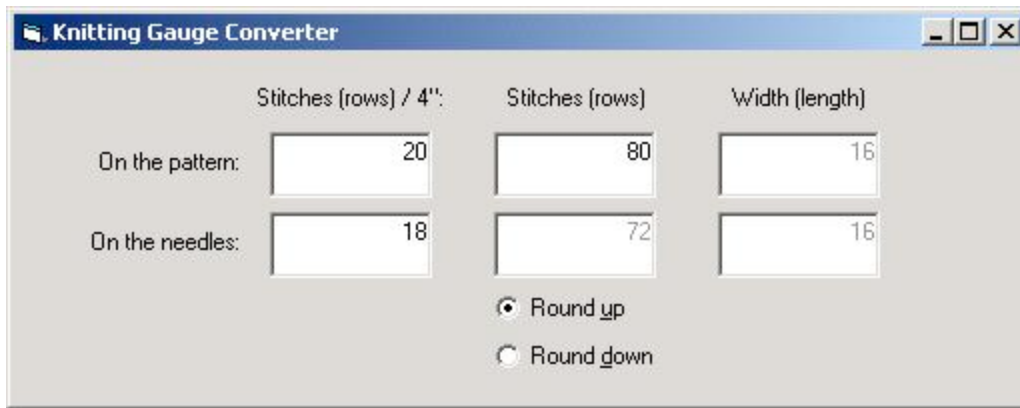
Below the input fields are two radio buttons: "Round up" (selected) and "Round down".

KGC automatically calculates the finished width (length) based on the pattern gauge and # stitches (rows).

Rows are converted exactly the same as stitches. If your pattern calls for 20 r = 4" and tells you to knit 80 rows, you would still enter 20 and 80 as illustrated above.

Step 2. Entering swatch information

You must enter the # stitches (rows) per 4" for your swatch. If your swatch gauge is 18 st = 4", you would enter 18 as illustrated below:

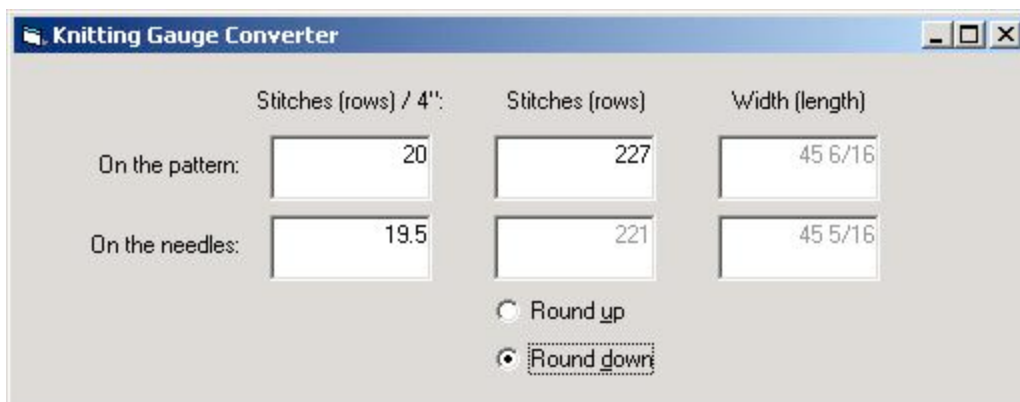
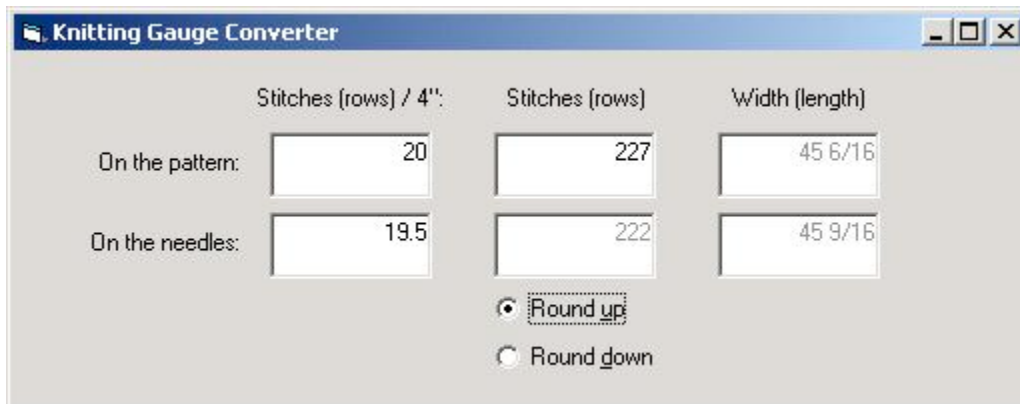


KGC automatically calculates the number of stitches (rows) you need to cast-on (knit) to make the finished item the same width (length) as the pattern. It also calculates the finished width (length) for your gauge so you can compare it to the pattern's width (length).

Note that you do not absolutely have to enter gauge in terms of 4", but you do have to be consistent. If you enter stitches per inch for the pattern gauge, you must enter stitches per inch for the swatch gauge.

Step 3. Fine-tuning the result

Sometimes, you will want to control whether the converted # stitches (rows) is odd or even in order to properly center a stitch pattern. You can do this by using the Round Up and Round Down buttons at the bottom of the screen.



Sometimes, the converted # stitches (rows) is an exact multiple of the pattern gauge as illustrated

below.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Knitting Gauge Converter". It has three columns: "Stitches (rows) / 4\"", "Stitches (rows)", and "Width (length)". There are two rows of input fields. The first row, labeled "On the pattern:", has values 20, 80, and 16. The second row, labeled "On the needles:", has values 18, 72, and 16. Below the input fields are two radio buttons: "Round up" (which is disabled) and "Round down" (which is selected).

	Stitches (rows) / 4"	Stitches (rows)	Width (length)
On the pattern:	20	80	16
On the needles:	18	72	16

Round up
 Round down

In this case, the Round Up and Round Down buttons are disabled. If you need an even or odd result, you must make a manual decision as to whether you want the finished item to be narrower or wider by one stitch.

Tips & Tricks

Use the wrong size pattern to make the right size garment

Let's say you're looking at a sweater pattern that provides instructions for 4 different sizes (S, M, L and XL) and you want to make a medium sweater. The pattern says that 20 st = 4" and you should cast on 120 stitches. Your swatch gauge is 19 st = 4" so you use KGC to determine you need to cast on 114 stitches.

Your gauge is bigger, e.g., you have fewer stitches per inch, so a smaller pattern size will produce a bigger sweater using your gauge. Look at the pattern again -- if there are instructions for a smaller size that requires you to cast on 114 stitches, simply follow those instructions to knit your medium sweater.

Even if the smaller size is off by one or two stitches, you may still be able to use that size depending on the style of the garment.

Manually calculate stitches (rows) when all you have is gauge and width (length)

Sometimes a pattern will omit the row gauge and tell you to knit so many inches rather than the number of rows. When this happens, you need to manually determine the number of rows to knit in your gauge. The formula for this calculation is:

$$\text{finished length} \times \text{rows per inch} = \# \text{ rows to knit}$$

If you gauge is 20 r = 4" and the finished length is 12 inches, then:

$$\text{rows per inch} = 20 \div 4 = 5$$

$$\# \text{ rows to knit} = 12 \times 5 = 60$$

Remember: For a given yarn and needle size, the gauge for stockinette will not be the same as the gauge for rib, garter stitch, cables, lace or any other stitch pattern. If the pattern specifies gauge for stockinette, your swatch must be stockinette; otherwise, your swatch must be knit using the same stitch pattern as the finished item in order to correctly calculate stitches, rows, width or length.

Use KGC to convert stitches (rows) for shaping

Suppose your pattern tells you to bind off the center 10 stitches to begin neckline shaping. You can use KGC to determine that binding off 10 stitches in the pattern gauge (20 st = 4") really means to bind off the center 2". If your swatch gauge is 24 st = 4", KGC will determine that you need to bind off 12 stitches instead of 10.

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