horizontal bust darts

And how to add them to your projects knitted seamlessly from the top down, worked in rounds using stockinette stitch?

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This guide is *not* a quick-fix solution that will allow you to add horizontal bust darts to any pattern in a matter of seconds.

Take the time to read the entire guide carefully and explore the theory before picking up your needles. As with any new skill, it's worth understanding the basics before putting your knowledge into practice.

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I've put a lot of time, care and years of accumulated knowledge into creating this e-book. **Please respect the work behind it and use it fairly.**

01

About

1.1 Why did I write this e-book?

If you've ever worked with any of my patterns, you probably know how much I love modifications. After all, the garments we sometimes spend months knitting should fit us as well as they possibly can.

And although I've always approached grading sizes with great care (and quite a bit of fear!), I never imagined that the possibility of adjusting a garment to fit different body sillhouettes would become one of the main features of my designs.

None of this would have happened without the wonderful group of test knitters I've been working with for the past few years. We started small. I asked them for specific measurements that were missing from standard measurement charts. I wanted to know what problems they encountered with their finished garments and what they wished could be different.

And then, by listening to their feedback, I did what I love most: reaserch. I looked for solutions.

It's thanks to Agata that I learned how often the hips, rather than the bust, are the main source of fit issues – especially when it comes to buttoned garments. Magda told me that most of her clothes tend to ride up at the front, while Natalia drew my attention to sleeves starting at the waist.

As I've said many times, **I don't write knitting patterns for myself**. I could simply design my own knitted wardrobe and stop there. But as a very petite woman, I know how frustrating it can be when clothes just don't fit the way they should. I know what it's like when the garment is too big, even when you're wearing the smallest of sizes. And while our bodies may be different, we often share the same struggles – we just usually happen to find ourselves at different ends of the same spectrum.

I want you to find your own sens of calm while knitting my patterns, but I also care deeply about making sure that the finished garments fit just the way you have hoped for.

And that's exactly why – **as a thank-you for your continued support along my knitting journey**, including opening my own online shop – I've put together this e-book for you.

It's just a small part of everything I'd love to teach you about garments' fit, but I hope it will help you fall in love with your next project and wear it with smile and confidence.

Thank you.

1.2 What is included, and what is not?

You could write an entire book about bust darts – and knitting modifications in general – or even create at least few courses. But, as they say, Rome wasn't built in a day. **So, for this guide, we're going to focus on just one thing: horizontal bust darts worked using German Short Rows.** We will discuss adding them to the garments knitted seamlessly from the top down, worked in rounds in stockinette stitch.

There will be time for horizontal bust darts in cardigans, textured stitches and bottom-up garments later on. It's good to challenge yourself when learning something new, but first, it's worth getting the basics right. And that's exactly what this guide is about: taking your first steps towards making your own modifications to all kinds of knitted garments.

What will you find in this e-book?

- A **good portion of theory on horizontal bust darts in top-down garments worked seamlessly in rounds in stockinette stitch**, so you can really understand what you're doing,
- Tips on **how to take your measurements** and easily figure out whether you need horizontal bust darts in a project of your choice,
- Step-by-step **instructions to help you work out all the numbers and knit your horizontal bust darts without a headache,**
- A **worksheet** to guide you through the calculations and **a calculator** if you'd rather have the finished numbers ready to go,
- A **video tutorial** by Ewelina Czempik, in which she explains and shows you exactly how to work German Short Rows,
- Another **video tutorial** with **her tips for getting a neat, polished result!**

As you work through this guide, keep in mind that **there's no one right way** to measure, calculate or work horizontal bust darts. Every designer has their own tried-and-tested approach. I'll walk you through mine, but that doesn't mean it's the only right way to do it.

1.3 Who is behind all this?

When the idea for this guide first started taking shape, I knew there was *no one I'd rather create it with than Ewelina*. She has been tech editing every one of my patterns, so we've been working closely together for quite some time. But! I honestly can't think of anyone better at breaking down a knitting technique and showing you exactly how it's done.

I love designing garments and writing patterns that guide you through every step, but teaching techniques is a whole different skill – and one Ewelina has a real gift for. I don't know anyone else who has quite as many tricks up their sleeve for making your garments look neat and polished.



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Ewelina

We hope this guide gives you the confidence and know-how to add horizontal bust darts to your next knitting project and get a better fit in the garments you make!

If anything in the guide is unclear or you'd like to ask me a question, just write me an e-mail. I'm always happy to help.