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DENISE SAMSON

# PONCHOS *to knit*



More than 40 Projects  
and Paired Accessories  
in Classic and  
Contemporary Styles



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search for "Andre  
Boller - Denise  
Samson."*



# PREFACE

The poncho—a simple but elegant garment. I always feel a little taller somehow when I'm wearing a poncho; there's something so sophisticated about them! And, happily, ponchos are back in fashion all over the world these days. Just take a look around on the bus, in shop windows, and at pictures from the fashion world's catwalks. This simple garment has become quite a craze—and not without reason! A poncho can be light or heavy, with or without fringe, neutral or patterned, an outer garment or perfect for a party. Ponchos can be made with all kinds of techniques and adjusted to suit almost any style, but they have a common denominator: they're gloriously easy to shape compared to other knitted garments.

The poncho had its peak of popularity during the 1970s, when any self-respecting hippie owned a colorful poncho. Ideally woven with water-resistant wool fabric, ponchos originated in Peru and are traditionally worn all over South America. The basic shape of the poncho is essentially a square, with an opening at the center to push the head through. Anyone who's participated in outdoor events has probably been saved from a sudden shower with a hooded rain poncho!

In this book, I've collected twenty of my own designs, most of them knitted but a few crocheted or with crocheted edges; and in addition, I've selected fifteen of my favorites from Norwegian yarn producers. I know some of the designers personally, and it was wonderful to be able to spice up the book with their designs. The names of the individual designers are included with the patterns.

Some of the designs are crosses between ponchos and sweaters, while others are more like large shawls. Most are somewhere in between, and shaped like classic ponchos. They're very straightforward to make—there's almost no finishing, other than a few easy seams.

Some of the ponchos have matching accessories like hats, headbands, wrist warmers, or boot toppers.

Oh, and one last thing: I recommend that you knit ponchos on a circular needle even when working back and forth, to make it less stressful on your shoulders, neck, and arms.

I hope this collection will inspire you to sit down and treat yourself to some cozy hours of crafting!

*Denise Samson*

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## Acknowledgments

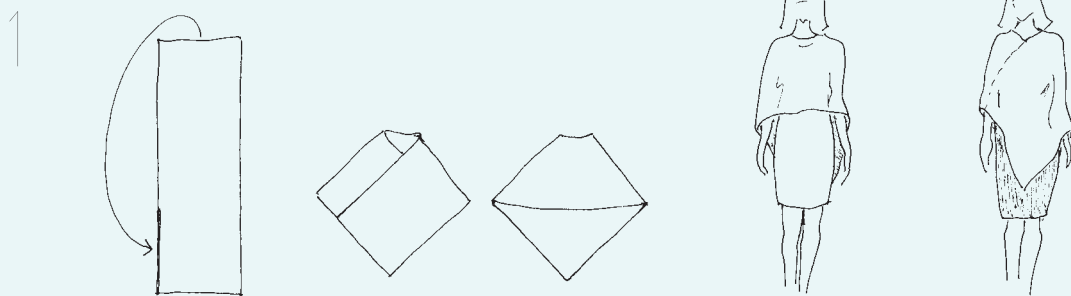
The biggest thanks go to the publisher and my editor, Toril Blomquist, who showed faith in me and who believed that I could produce this book in record time. To the photographer, Guri Pfeifer, who once again took such fantastic photos of my work, and to Laila Sundet, who designed the interior of this lovely book. A big thank you to May Britt Bjella Zamori for one of the poncho patterns, as well as for technical editing of the manuscript. Thank you to House of Yarn, Viking of Norway, and A Knit Story for generously sharing their patterns with me. House of Yarn, Sandnes Yarn, and Tjorven also contributed yarns for my designs. A heartfelt thank you to my knitters, Anne-Grethe Kolstad, Bente Bodin Sundet, and Solbjørg Rustad, who helped me out in a pinch when I wasn't able to knit all the ponchos myself. And, of course, thank you to my dear, kind, and patient Tormod—who is equally enthusiastic about each and every one of the garments I produce. Thanks also to the models who wore these ponchos so well: Anna Pfeifer, Frøya Hetzel, Kaja Marie Lereng Kvernbakken, Linda Aagnes, and Marion Range Aasbø.

# VARIOUS PONCHO SILHOUETTES

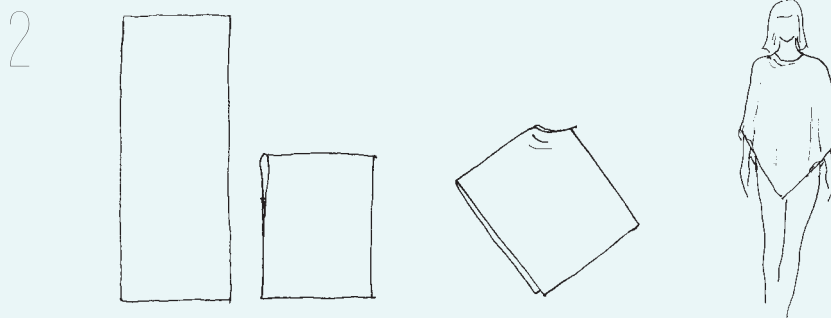
A poncho can be, in principle, something as simple as a square piece of fabric with a hole for the head. I haven't included this "ur-version" in my book, but many ponchos consist of one or two pieces with no shaping at all. A knitted or crocheted poncho will quickly conform to the body and shape itself around the shoulders and arms, even if it consists only of flat, straight pieces.

Some of the ponchos in this book were fashioned with round shaping or raglan shaping over the shoulders, but some are made of straight pieces with easy seams, which are nevertheless quite versatile. Below I've sketched some of the ways you can join a poncho—by knitting or crocheting two matching pieces that are then sewn together, or by working a single rectangular piece that can be joined at certain edges in various ways.

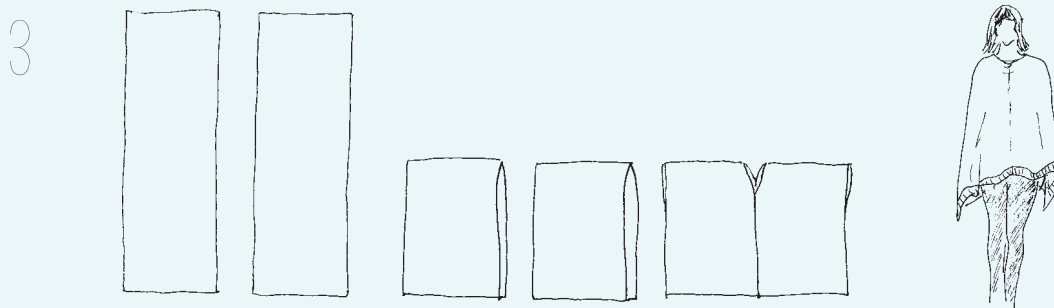
## PONCHO SILHOUETTES



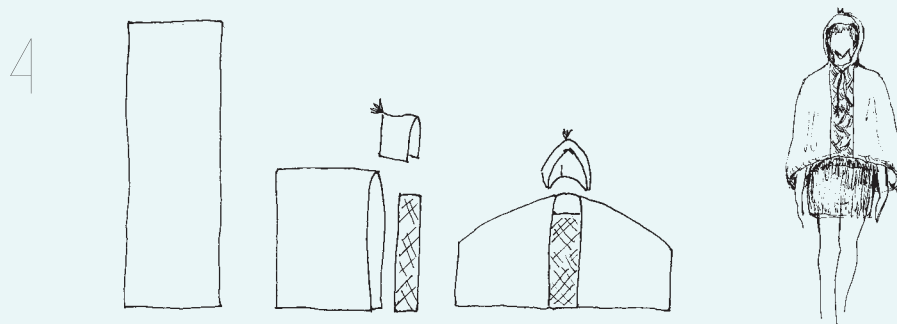
A poncho made from one long, rectangular piece. One short edge is seamed to one long edge, as you can see in the sketch. The poncho has one side with a point and one side that is crossed over. It can be worn with the point to the front or the back, as desired. The *Classic Cabled Poncho* (page 32) and the *Poncho with Leaf Motifs* (page 36) are made this way.



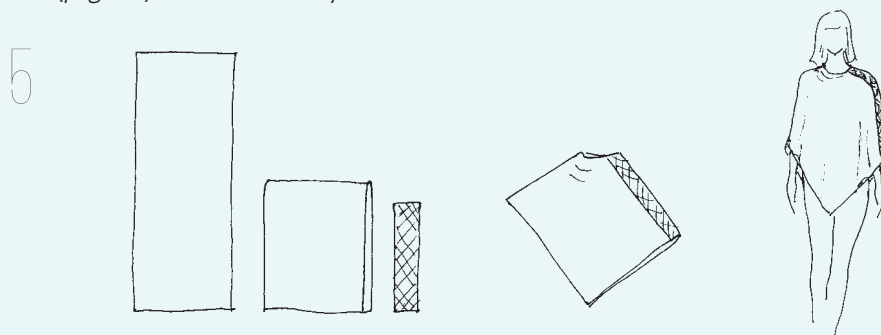
This version of the poncho is made with a rectangular piece, folded double and sewn together along one side. A neck opening is formed at the top of the fold. The *Poncho in Missoni Stripes* (page 26) is made this way.



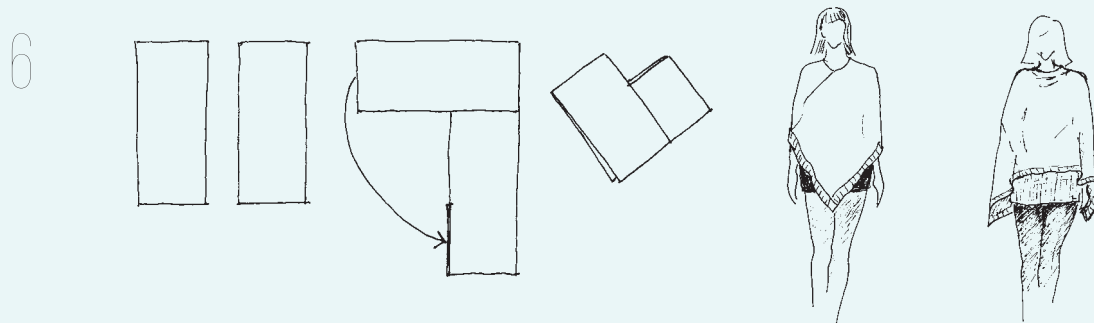
A poncho made from two rectangular pieces, folded double and sewn together at the sides, at the center front, and at the center back. The armholes are open at the top of the sides, and the neck opening is above the center seam. The *Large Pouch Poncho* (page 20) and *Woolen Square* (page 21) are made this way.



A poncho made from a rectangular piece folded double and sewn together, with a separate cabled piece (insert panel) at the center front (see drawing above). If desired, a hood can be added by picking up stitches around the neck. The Hooded Poncho (page 86) was made this way.



A poncho made from a long, rectangular piece folded double, with a separate cable panel added on the open side. In principle, this is the same as #4 above, but the poncho is turned so the point faces down and the cable cascades down one shoulder. The Celtic Knot Poncho (page 98) is made this way.



A poncho made from two matching, rectangular pieces, sewn together with the short side against the long side (see sketch), which makes matching points at the front and back—or, of course, it can be turned so the points are at the sides. Many of the ponchos in the book are made this way. For examples of this method, see the Square Poncho (page 29), Crocheted Four-Leafed Clover Poncho (page 40), Cable-Knit Square Poncho (page 51), Honeycomb Brioche Poncho (page 68), Net Crocheted Poncho with Picots (page 71), and Ribbed Poncho (page 76).

## ABBREVIATIONS

beg	begin(s)(ning)	stitch	front and then back of same	cc	single crochet (= British double crochet)
BO	bind off (= British cast off)	k2tog	knit two stitches together = 1 stitch decreased	sl	slip
CF	center front	k3tog	knit three stitches together = 2 stitches decreased	slm	slip marker
ch	chain	m	meter(s)	ssk	(sl 1 knitwise) 2 times; knit the 2 sts together through back loops
cm	centimeter(s)	M1	make 1 = lift strand between two stitches and knit into back loop	st(s)	stitch(es)
cn	cable needle	mm	millimeters	St st	stockinette stitch (= British stocking stitch)
CO	cast on	p	purl	tog	together
dc	double crochet (= British treble crochet)	pm	place marker	tr	treble crochet (= British double treble)
dec	decrease(s)	psso	pass slipped stitch over	WS	wrong side
dpn	double-pointed needles	rem	remain(s)(ing)	wyb	with yarn held in back
est	established	rep	repeat	wyf	with yarn held in front
inc	increase(s)	rnd(s)	round(s)	yd	yard(s)
k	knit	RS	right side	yo	yarnover
k1f&b	knit 1 front and back= knit into				













## POCKET SCARF

Design: *Hríonn Jónsdóttir*

### SIZES

S/M(L/XL)

### FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

11¾ x 65 in (11¾ x 76¾) in / 30 x 165 (30 x 195) cm

### MATERIALS

**YARN:** CYCA #6 (super bulky) Pus from Du Store Alpaka (70% alpaca, 17% acrylic, 13% nylon; 109 yd/100 m / 50 g)

### YARN AMOUNTS:

300 (350) g White 4001

**NEEDLES:** U.S. size 10½ or 11 / 7 mm, short circular

**GAUGE:** 15 sts in texture pattern = 4 in / 10 cm.

Adjust needle size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

---

This pocket scarf is multi-functional—you can wear it as a scarf, a vest, or a shawl. It's quick work on big needles! The scarf is worked both back and forth and in the round.

### TEXTURE PATTERN

**Row/Rnd 1:** (K1, p1) across/around.

**Row/Rnd 2:** Work knit over knit and purl over purl.

**Row/Rnd 3:** (P1, k1) across/around.

**Row/Rnd 4:** Work knit over knit and purl over purl.

Rep Rows/Rnds 1–4.

CO 91 sts and join, being careful not to twist cast-on row. Pm for beg of rnd and work 7 rnds in garter stitch (alternate purl and knit rnds). Continue in texture pattern, keeping the first 5 and last 5 sts in garter st. When piece is about 6¼ / 16 cm long, divide the work at the beg of the rnd and work back and forth. Dec 1 st inside the 5 garter sts at each side on every other row until 45 sts rem. Dec with ssk at the beg of the row and k2tog at the end of the row. Continue without further shaping until the piece measures approx. 50¾ (62½) in / 129 (159) cm. Now inc 1 st inside the 5 garter sts at each side on every other row until there are 91 sts. Pm to measure the pocket from this point. Resume working in the round in texture pattern and garter st until pocket measures approx. 4¾ in / 12 cm. Work 7 rnds in garter st and then BO knitwise.

### FINISHING

Fold the cast-on edge double and seam to close the pocket. Fold and seam the bound-off edge the same way. Weave in all ends neatly on WS.

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# SQUARE PONCHO







# CROCHETED FOUR-LEAFED CLOVER PONCHO

*Design: Denise Samson*

## SIZE

One size

## FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Each piece measures: 17¼ x 29½ in / 44 x 75 cm

Total length: 30 in / 76 cm

## MATERIALS

**YARN:** CYCA #2 (sport/baby) Cotton Viscose from Drops (54% cotton, 46% rayon/viscose; 120 yd/110 m / 50 g)

## YARN AMOUNTS:

450 g Denim 22

**CROCHET HOOK:** U.S. size G-6 / 4 mm

**GAUGE:** Each square measures 2 x 2 in / 5 x 5 cm.

Adjust hook size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.

This crocheted poncho is made with a total of 192 squares, joined into two larger pieces. The pattern is reversible and can be worked in many types of yarn. It takes some patience to crochet so many identical squares, but the results are so fine that it'll be totally worth it!

## CROCHETED SQUARE

Ch 8 and join into a ring with 1 sl st into first ch.

**Rnd 1:** Work 16 sc around ring and join rnd with 1 sl st into first ch.

**Rnd 2:** \*Ch 9, skip 3 sts, 1 sc\*. Rep \* to \* around = 4 ch loops.

**Rnd 3:** \*1 sl st, (3 sc, ch 3) 3 times, 3 sc\*. Rep \* to \* in each ch loop.

You can sew or crochet the squares together in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> picots (ch loops) of the 3<sup>rd</sup> rnd to make a cross between four crocheted squares. You should make two matching pieces with 8 squares across and 12 squares in length = 96 squares for each piece. Join the short side of one piece to the long side of the other piece and do the same on the opposite side so that you have an opening for the head and a point at both front and back. See the sketch on page 42.







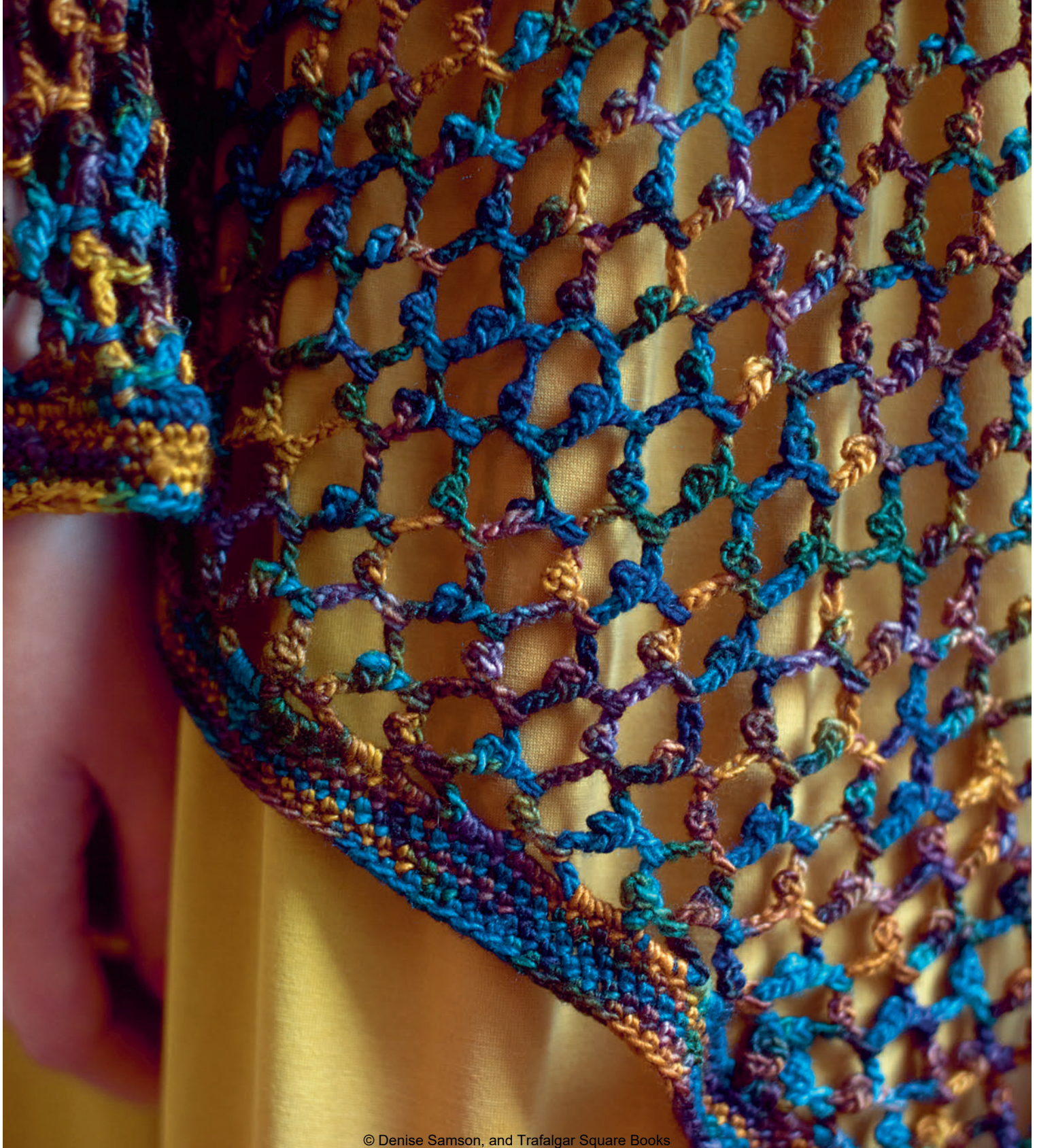








# NET CROCHETED PONCHO WITH PICOTS





### FINISHING TIP

If you want the edge to roll, use crab stitch. You can also work the edging only around one edge, as shown in this photo.











## PONCHO

With long circular and holding one strand of each yarn together, CO 210 (240) sts. Join, being careful not to twist cast-on row; pm for beg of rnd. Work around in garter st (alternating knit and purl rnds) for 1¼ in / 3 cm. Make sure knitting is not twisted on the needle. Pm at the center of the front and back = 105 (120) sts between markers. Work in the Slip Stitch pattern above until piece measures 2¾ in / 7 cm from cast-on row. Now begin shaping as follows: after the first marker, k2tog 4 times, work until 8 sts before next marker, k2tog 8 times, work until 8 sts before next marker and k2tog 4 times = 16 sts decreased = 194 (224) sts rem.

**NOTE:** Always decrease on a Rnd 3 of pattern.

Decrease the same way every 2¾ in / 7 cm a total of 7 (8) times = 98 (112) sts rem. Work 1 rnd in

pattern without decreasing. On the next rnd (Rnd 3) in pattern, decrease as follows: \*Sl 1 knitwise, p1, k2tog\*; rep \* to \* around. End S/M with k2 = 74 (84) sts rem. Work in pattern until piece measures 29¼ (30¼) in / 74 (77) cm. Make 1 garter ridge (= knit 1 rnd, purl 1 rnd) and then BO.

## SLEEVES

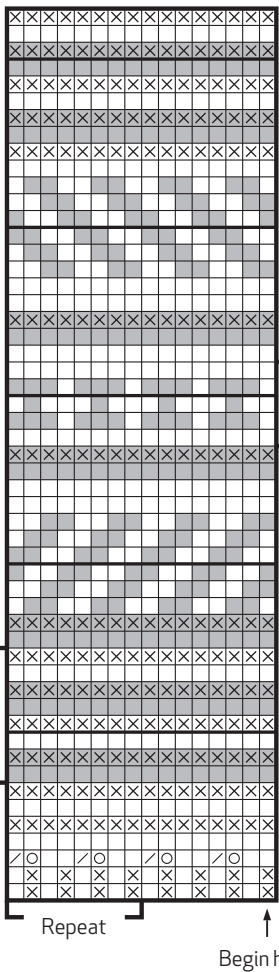
Lay the poncho flat and find the center at each side and pm. With dpn and holding both yarns together, at right side of poncho, pick up and knit 15 (16) sts on each side of marker = 30 (32) sts. Divide sts onto dpn; join. Work in pattern for 3¼ in / 8 cm. BO. Make the sleeve for the left side the same way.







Chart 1



Make sure that the motif is the same on each side of the markers at front and back

Begin decreasing at center front and center back here

Begin here

Chart 2

- White knit
- ⊗ White purl
- Gray (Beige) knit
- ⊗ Gray (Beige) purl
- Yarnover
- ⊞ K2tog

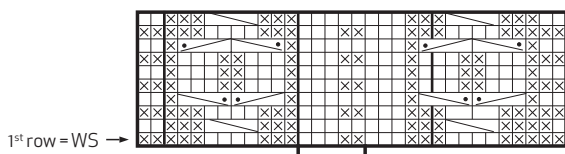








Chart



Repeat  
(Rep is a multiple of 5 sts +22)

- Knit on RS, purl on WS
- ⊗ Purl on RS, knit on WS
- ▽ Sl 2 sts to cn and hold in front of work, k2, k2 from cn
- ▾ Sl 2 knit sts to cn and hold in front of work, p2, k2 from cn
- Sl 2 purl sts to cn and hold in back of work, k2, p2 from cn

# A PONCHO COLLECTION YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

These simple garments are all the rage, and for good reason. Ponchos can be fine or heavy, with or without fringe, neutral or patterned, warm outer attire or perfect for a party. There are endless ways to shape them, style them, and wear them—their versatility is impossible to deny.

Now handcrafting expert Denise Samson, author of *The Cable Knitter's Guide*, has brought together her favorite poncho variations, along with the techniques that make them stand out from the crowd. Inside you'll find striking knitwear designs from some of the finest Norwegian yarn producers alongside Samson's own original patterns, plus four fabulous crochet projects.



*Featuring* a wide variety of looks and silhouettes—elegant classics, cozy with cables, chic and striped, and so much more.

*Includes* a stunning selection of shawls and other fine accessories, such as matching hats, headbands, and wrist warmers.

