Free "Ray" Poncho Pattern

This poncho uses panels of ribbing to create a forgiving, easy-wear design. It's knit in the round with a slouchy ribbed neck built in, so you don't have to do any seaming.

**Stitch Gauge:** 4 stitches per inch, or 16 stitches = 4 inches. Row gauge is not important for this design.

**Materials**

- Two or more size 8 (US) circular needles, or as needed to attain the stitch gauge. One needle should have a 16-inch or shorter cable, and another should have a very long cable to accommodate the large number of stitches.
- Worsted weight yarn (at least 800 yards; the exact amount needed will vary depending on how long you choose to make the poncho).
- Stitch markers
- Yarn needle

**Poncho Pattern**

**Neck Ribbing**

1. Using the shorter circular needle and one strand of worsted-weight yarn, loosely cast on 80 stitches (This creates an approximately 20-inch neck opening).
2. Join, being careful not to twist. Place a marker at the beginning of the round. This marker should be a different color or design from the other stitch markers you'll use.
3. Knit in k4, p4 ribbing until the neck ribbing measures 12 inches long.
4. Next round: k1, place marker, k2, place marker, k1, continue in p4, k4 ribbing until you reach the knitted rib on the opposite side of the round from the beginning-of-round marker (40 stitches from beginning of round, 37 stitches from last marker); k1, place marker, k2, place marker, k1, continue in p4, k4 ribbing until end of round.
5. Next 3 rounds: purl even, slipping the markers as you go.

**Body Increases**

1. Round 1: k1, sm (slip marker), M1 (see notes below), k2, M1F (see notes below), sm, k1. Continue in p4, k4 ribbing until one stitch before the next marker. Then k1, sm, M1, k2, M1F (see notes below), sm, k1. Continue in p4, k4 ribbing to the end of the round.
2. Round 2: k1, sm, M1, knit to marker, M1F, sm, k1. Continue in p4, k4 ribbing until one stitch before the next marker. Then k1, sm, M1, knit to marker, M1F, sm, k1. Continue in p4, k4 ribbing to the end of the round.
3. Repeat Round 2 until the poncho is as long as desired.

**Finishing (garter-stitch edging)**

1. Round 1: purl even
2. Round 2: knit even
3. Round 3: purl even
4. Round 4: knit even
5. Cast off loosely. Snip the excess yarn, leaving an 8-inch tail. Thread this through the yarn needle and weave it into the garter-stitch edging for several inches, then clip any remaining excess yarn.

**Notes**

- M1 or Make One = place your left-hand needle underneath the crossbar between two stitches, from back to front. Knit into the front of this crossbar as if it were a normal stitch.
- M1F or Make One Front = place your left-hand needle underneath the crossbar between two stitches, from front to back. Knit into the back of this crossbar as if it were a normal stitch.