Ribbed Cuff

(As used in the Claremont Sweater)

(US Crochet Terminology)

A crochet pattern by Merrian Holland

Tools & Materials : You can use any yarn weight and corresponding hook size but for these instructions, I am using a Light DK / Sport weight yarn in one colour with a 4mm / G hook – [Paintbox Yarns DK in Champagne White](#).

You can find video instructions here, although I recommend using the video in conjunction with this pattern for the best results:

https://youtu.be/Ped1s5sKgjE

Key (US crochet terminology)

beg – beginning
ch – chain
sc – single crochet
sl st – slip stitch
sk – skip

Ribbed Cuff

These instructions are for making the ribbing first and then sewing onto the sleeve afterwards. There are methods where you attach the ribbing directly to the garment as you make it, but in this instance, because the sleeve is considerably wider and I wanted the cuff to be a specific fit around my wrist, I chose to make the ribbing independently.

The ribbing is created sideways, i.e. worked perpendicular with the edge of the sleeve, with slip stitch rows, where each stitch is made in the back loop of the slip stitch from the previous row.

You can make the ribbed cuff as long as you like, in this case my cuff is 8cm with 22 sts.

Starting chain :

Leaving a long tail (for seaming the edges of the cuff together later), start with a slip knot loop on your hook and chain the required number of stitch and add 1 chain as a turning chain – I chained 23 for 22 stitches.

Note : you'll need a nice, neat and even chain that isn't loose as it will end up making one end of your ribbing wider. If you struggle to make a tighter chain, go down a hook size, just for the starting chain.

Row 1 : sk the 1st ch, work 1 sl st into the back loop of each chain (*see fig.1*).

Note: you will need to crochet the sl sts quite loosely or you will not be able to work into them again on the return row. Practise pulling up the loop a little higher through the stitch than you normally would. One way to do this is to tip the back end of the hook down towards the ground as you pull the loop through the st. (*see fig.2*)

Tip : To keep the edges of your ribbing looking neat, you'll need to make sure you turn the work in the same direction each time you start a new row. I am turning my work clockwise. (*see fig.3*)

Fig.1   Fig. 2   Fig. 3
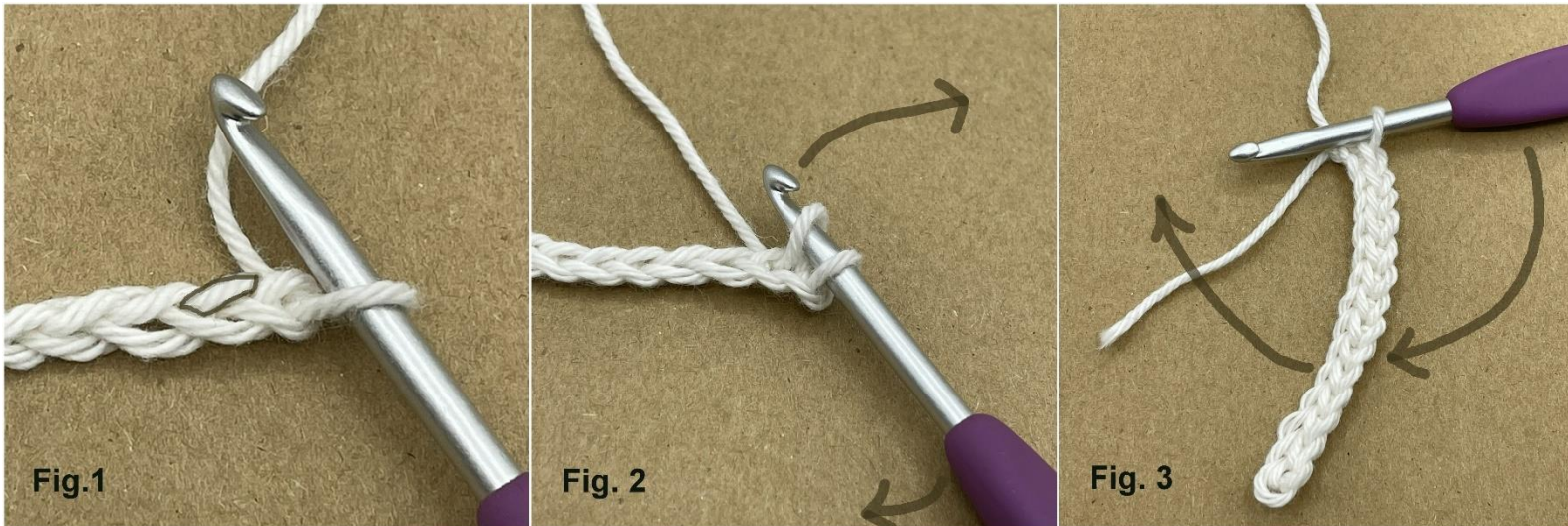
Row 2 : ch1, do not sk any sts, sl st into the back loop of each st, bearing in mind you may need to tilt the back of the fabric towards you to see the back loop as this stitch sits very flat to the fabric and therefore the loops are only visible when you tip the top edge of the work towards you *(see fig.4)*. Take care not to miss the last stitch *(see fig.6)*! This can often be smaller and is sometimes accidentally missed. If you are unsure whether you need to crochet into what's left of the row, **count the stitches you have already made**! Remember to crochet loosely by opening up the loop you create when you pull it put through the stitch.

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6
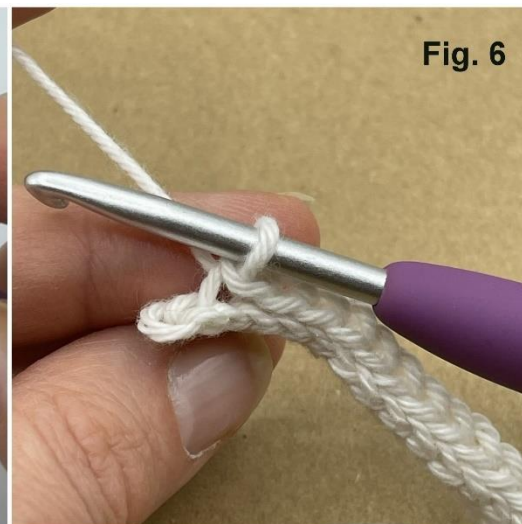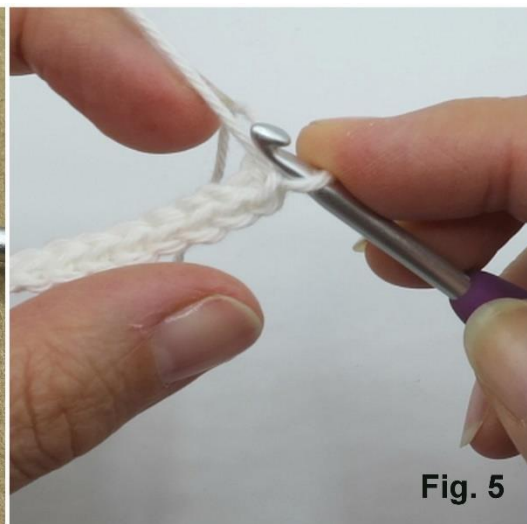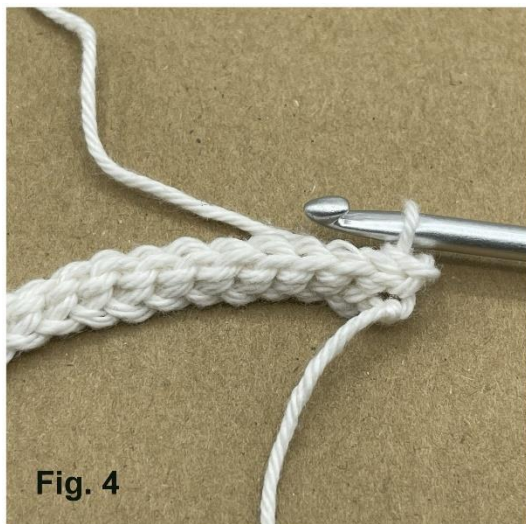
Repeat Row 2 as many times as needed.

Finish with an even row. Fasten off leaving a nice long tail – you'll use this to sew the cuff to the sweater sleeve.

Keep Going!

This stitch may require a new bit of muscle memory for you so don't be disheartened if the first few rows seem difficult – keep going, keep the stitches relaxed, keep the pulled-up loop nice and open... after a while it will start to come easily and you'll be able to work the stitch much more quickly and neatly.

You need to make at least 12 rows before you can experience the stretch effect of this slip stitch ribbing.

For my Claremont Sweater, I have crocheted 60 rows of sl st, giving me an 18cm strip of ribbing.

Seam the Cuff

Using the tail you left at the start (*see fig.7*), seam the edges of the cuff with a whip stitch through the back loops only of the starting ch and last row made – work front to back, matching stitch for stitch (*see fig.8*). Sew a double stitch for the first and last whip stitches made for security (*see fig.9*). Fasten off and weave in the end (*see fig.10*).
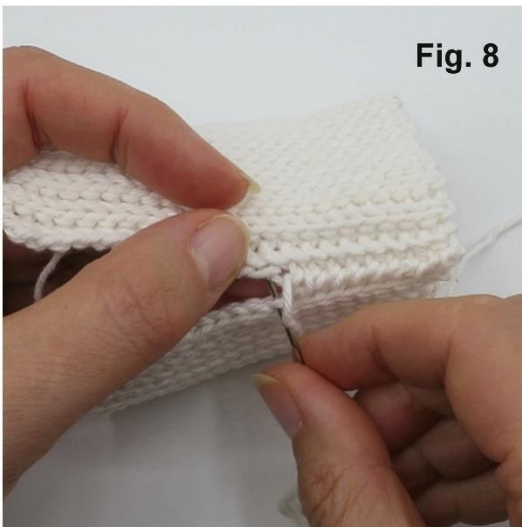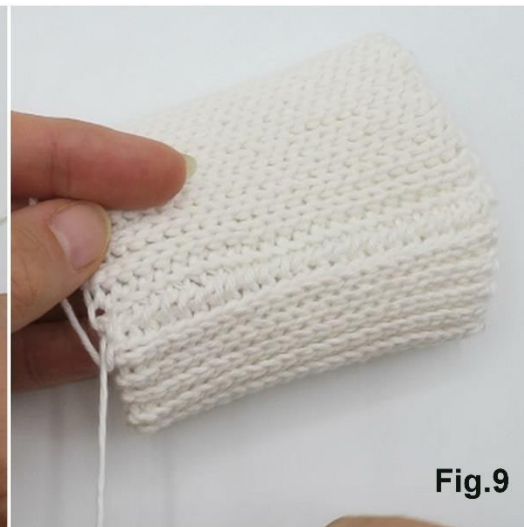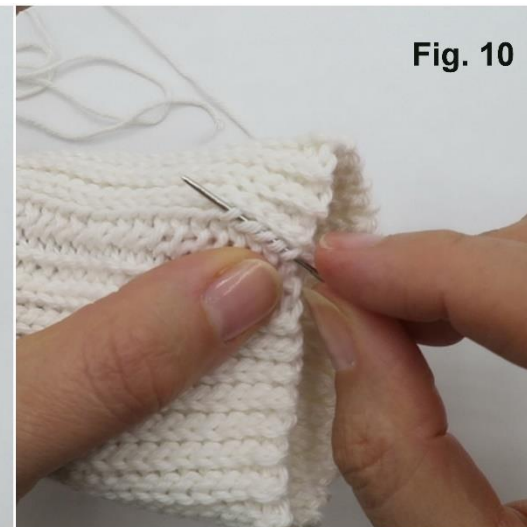

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

Fig.9

Fig. 10

Attaching the Ribbing to the Sweater Sleeve

You will need:

- Wool needle.
- Dressmakers' pins.
- Scrap yarn for tacking (either 4ply or sewing thread in a different colour to sweater).
- Scissors

Note: the edge of the sleeve has been prepared with a sc border to attach the cuff to. Please see separate instructions for this.

Turn the sleeve inside out. Insert the cuff, with right side facing, inside the sleeve. Line up the seam of the cuff with the inside seam of the sleeve. Pin in place (*see fig. 11*). Locate the middle of the sleeve edge – in this case, as the sleeve is 3 motifs wide, the middle is the starting ring of the 2nd motif. With the cuff folded at the side seam, match up the fold of the cuff with the middle of the sleeve edge and pin in place (*see fig. 12*).


Fig.11

Fig.12

Gather the Sleeve to Match the Cuff with a Running Stitch:

Starting close to one of the pins, attach the tacking thread in the sc border row on the sleeve. Make a double stitch to secure the tacking thread (*see fig.13*). Make a simple running stitch through the sc border of the sleeve (you're not attaching the cuff yet, this stitch is ONLY going through the fabric of the sleeve). Stop when you reach the second pin. Carefully pull the tacking thread so that the sleeve fabric gathers (*see fig.14*). Once you've pulled it in enough to match the width of the cuff, make a double stitch to secure the gathers. Massage the gathers to distribute evenly and pin to the cuff (*see fig.15*).

Now do the same for the other half/side of the sleeve. Cut the tacking thread.

Fig. 13   Fig. 14   Fig. 15
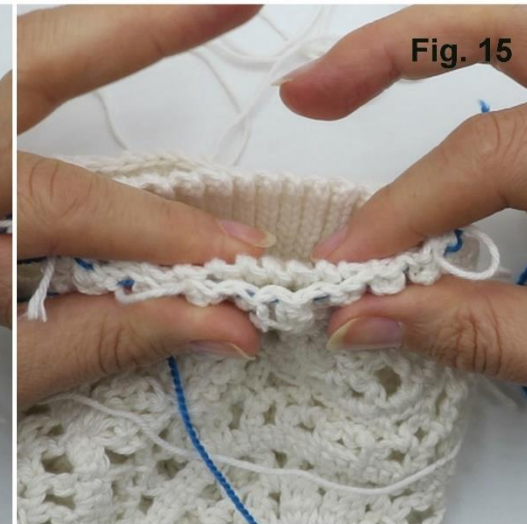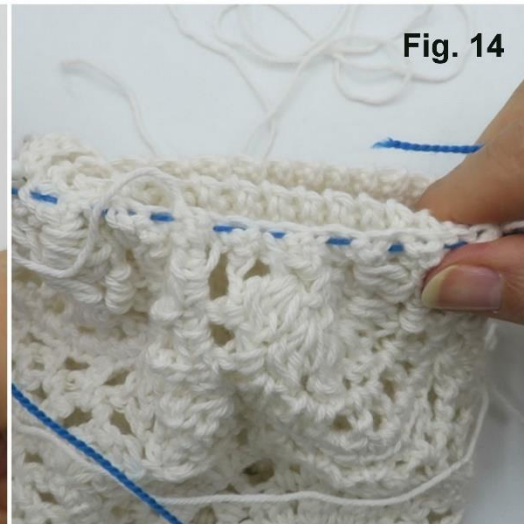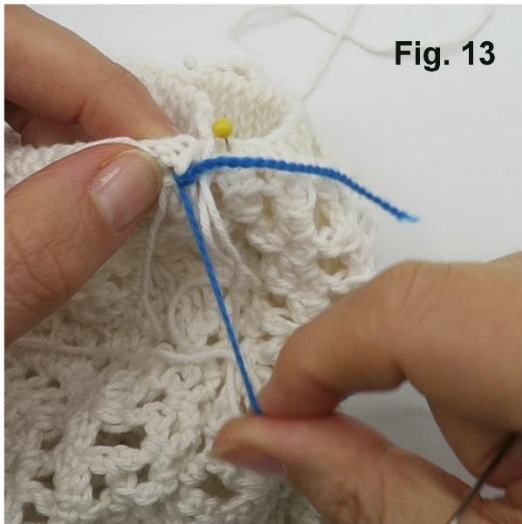
Sew the Cuff to the Sleeve

Thread the extra long tail from the cuff onto the wool needle. If you've ended up the long tail at the wrong end/side of the cuff, simply start with a fresh piece of yarn, ensuring it's about 5 times as long as the circumference of the cuff and secure near the inside seam of cuff.

Whip stitch the cuff to the sweater – insert the needle through both loops of the sc border on the sweater (same way as you'd insert a hook) and then sew to the part of the ribbing that's directly adjacent, making sure to catch 2 "strands" of yarn from the ribbed edge (*see fig. 16*). If you only catch one strand it will not be very secure and can also create holes where the loop you've caught on the ribbing pulls open.

Remove pins as you go. Finish with a double stitch. Before securing and tying off, carefully remove all tacking, turn the work inside out and check you are happy with your work before you commit to tying off and sewing in ends (*see fig.17*).

Fig. 16

Fig. 17

My Project

This ribbed cuff was made for the sweater I designed using the Claremont motif. You can find the pattern for the motif here:

Claremont Granny Square with Join - Free Crochet Pattern - (mezzacraft.com)