

Yarn2Yarn v2.0 User Manual

DesiKnit

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Introduction

Yarn2Yarn is a flat-knitting pattern design and conversion tool that helps you adapt any pattern to any yarn. It works by showing your garment as a **grid of stitches and rows**. You draw the outline of the piece on this grid, and Yarn2Yarn automatically calculates a new set of knitting instructions at your chosen gauge. It's ideal for converting vintage patterns to a different yarn weight, designing your own garments from measurements, or previewing Fair Isle motifs on a piece before knitting.

Key capabilities

- **Design flat pieces on a stitch grid:** draw your outline with anchor points and let the software calculate increases/decreases.
- **Adapt patterns to your gauge:** input a swatch and desired final size; Yarn2Yarn computes the required columns and rows.
- **Preview colourwork motifs:** design a motif chart and see it repeated across a section of your piece.

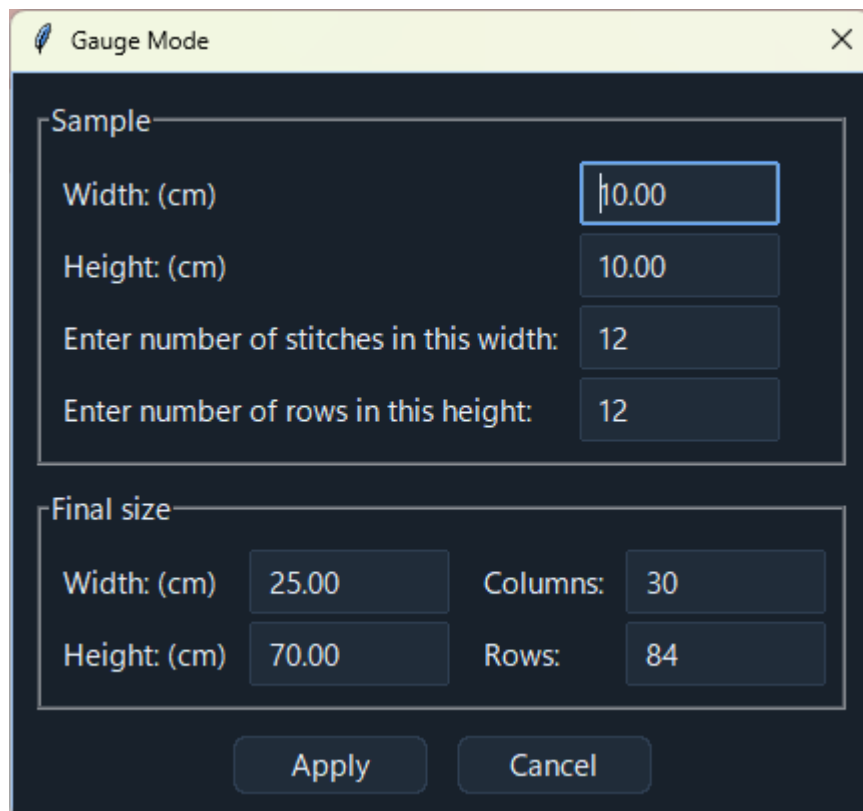
- **Generate knitting instructions:** Yarn2Yarn writes row-by-row shaping instructions tailored to your outline and gauge.
- **Multi-unit and multilingual:** switch between centimetres and inches, and choose your language. A dark mode is available for comfort during long sessions.

Quickstart Guide

This guide walks through the main workflow of Yarn2Yarn: setting your gauge, drawing the outline, creating a motif, placing it on the piece and generating instructions. Each section references a figure showing the software in use.

1 – Set up your gauge and grid

Use **Sample → Gauge Mode** to convert your swatch into columns and rows. Enter the physical width and height of your swatch and the number of stitches and rows it contains. Then enter your desired final dimensions. Yarn2Yarn calculates the number of columns and rows required and displays them in the **Final size** section of the dialog. Click *Apply* to create a grid with that number of stitches and rows.



The screenshot shows a 'Gauge Mode' dialog box with a dark background and a light green title bar. The dialog is divided into two main sections: 'Sample' and 'Final size'. The 'Sample' section contains four input fields: 'Width: (cm)' with a value of 10.00, 'Height: (cm)' with a value of 10.00, 'Enter number of stitches in this width:' with a value of 12, and 'Enter number of rows in this height:' with a value of 12. The 'Final size' section contains four input fields: 'Width: (cm)' with a value of 25.00, 'Height: (cm)' with a value of 70.00, 'Columns:' with a value of 30, and 'Rows:' with a value of 84. At the bottom of the dialog are two buttons: 'Apply' and 'Cancel'.

Sample			
Width: (cm)	10.00		
Height: (cm)	10.00		
Enter number of stitches in this width:	12		
Enter number of rows in this height:	12		

Final size			
Width: (cm)	25.00	Columns:	30
Height: (cm)	70.00	Rows:	84

Apply Cancel

Figure 1 – Gauge Mode

Figure 1 shows the **Gauge Mode** dialog. Enter your swatch dimensions and the target piece size; the software computes the column and row counts automatically.

Alternatively, choose **Grid → Grid Settings** to enter the number of columns and rows directly along with their physical dimensions. This is useful when converting an existing pattern that already lists its stitch and row counts. You can later expand or shrink the grid from any side using **Grid → Expand Grid**, adding or removing stitches or rows as needed.

2 – Draw the pattern outline

Select the **Design** tab. Your grid appears with tools down the left side. To draw the outline, choose the **Point** tool and click along the perimeter of your piece. Each click places a *blue anchor point* and Yarn2Yarn draws a line between the previous point and the new point. These anchors control the shaping: horizontal segments produce straight knitting, vertical segments produce sharp increases or decreases, and slanted segments produce gradual shaping.

- **Mirror mode:** Toggle the last icon in the toolbar to mirror your Drawing. The pink pattern appears, the mirrored version of the project. When mirror is on, the entire shape drawn on one side is automatically mirrored on the other side. The axis itself is always visible, but the mirrored preview (pink overlay) appears only when mirror mode is enabled. Mirror mode is ideal for symmetric pieces such as sweater fronts or backs; leave it off for asymmetric pieces like raglan sleeves.
- **Tool order:** From top to bottom and left to right the toolbar contains: **Point**, **Selection**, **Eraser**, **Mark**, **Rotate Grid**, **Measure**, **Zoom –**, **Zoom +** and **Mirror**. Select the **Selection** tool to move anchor points; use **Eraser** to remove them.
- **Measurements:** The on-screen rulers show the stitch and row numbers. The status area displays the current mouse position in stitches and rows as well as the equivalent dimensions. Use this to place points at precise locations.

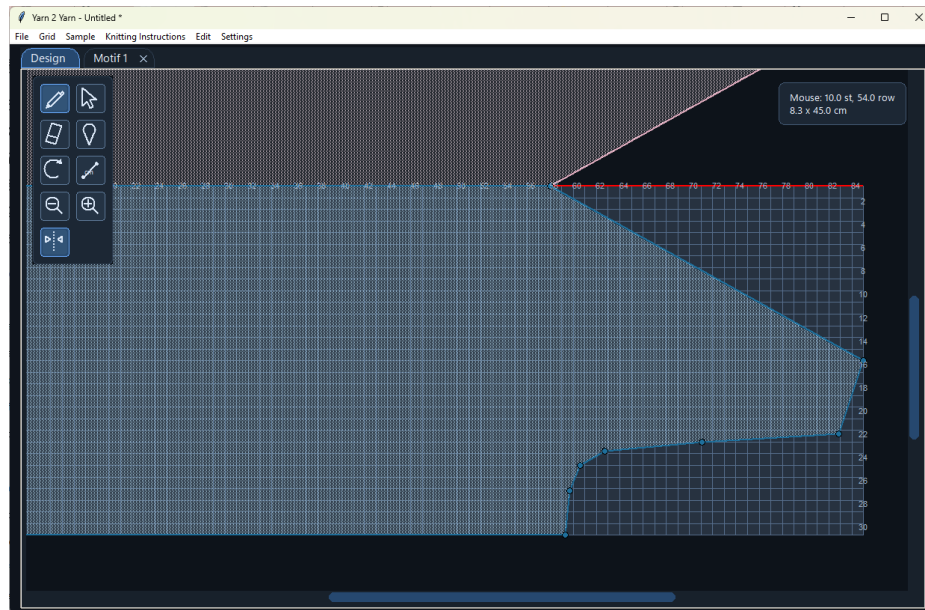


Figure 2 – Drawing the outline

Figure 2 illustrates drawing a piece outline. Blue anchors define the shape. The pink overlay on the right is the mirrored preview; the red axis lies between the pink preview and the blue piece. The toolbar on the left holds the Point, Selection, Eraser, Mark, Rotate Grid, Measure, Zoom –, Zoom + and Mirror tools.

3 – Create a motif

Switch to the **Motif 1** tab. Use **File → New Motif** to create a blank motif grid. The grid starts white. To change its size, go to **Grid → Grid Settings** while still in the motif tab and enter the number of columns and rows. A motif is essentially a small chart that will be repeated across your design.

Choose one of the two colour squares on the toolbar to change the drawing colour. Use the **Pencil** to fill individual squares and the **Bucket** to fill large areas. Yarn2Yarn supports two active colours; clicking the colour swatch opens a colour picker. The default motif shipped with the software is a repeating heart-and-zigzag pattern as shown in Figure 3. Fair Isle motifs repeat automatically when placed on a design.

You can import motif files with **File → Import Motif** (.yyj files) and export your motif to share or reuse via **File → Export Motif**. Motifs are saved separately from your main project (.yy file).



Figure 3 – Motif editor

Figure 3 shows the **Motif tab**. Use the pencil to draw squares and the bucket to fill areas. Two colours are active; click a swatch to choose a colour. The example displays the default heart-and-zigzag motif.

4 – Place the motif on the design

Return to the **Design** tab and choose **Configure pattern** (via the toolbar or context menu). In the dialog, select a **Section** (a row range defined by your grid and any horizontal marks) and choose a **Motif** from the drop-down list. Yarn2Yarn tiles the motif across the selected section automatically. Use the **cross-hair button** to reposition the motif relative to the section. The **X offset** and **Y offset** sliders are purely visual controls for nudging the motif. Other sections default to Motif 1. To leave a section without a motif, assign a blank motif (an empty grid).

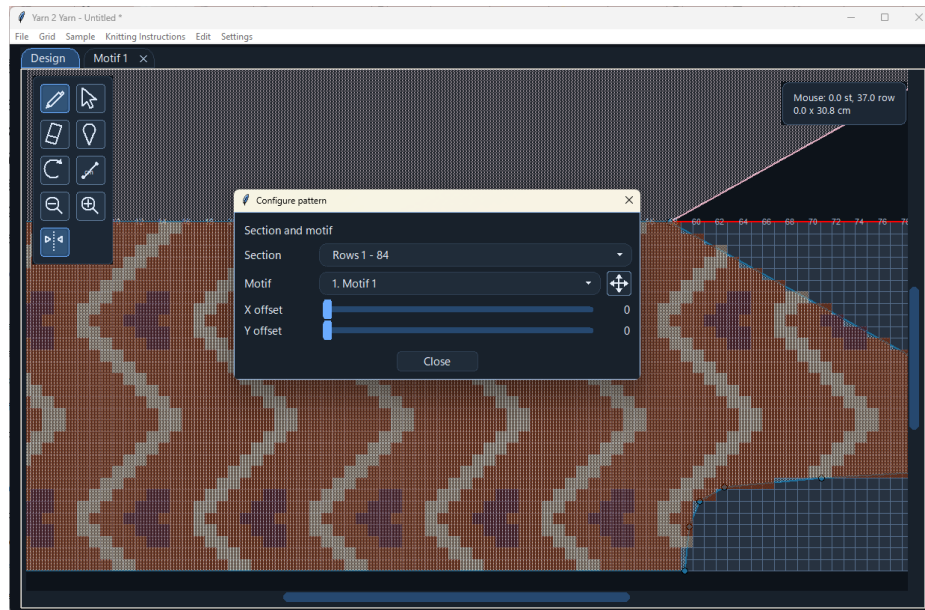


Figure 4 – Configure pattern

Figure 4 shows the **Configure pattern** dialog used to place a motif. Choose the section (rows) and motif, then use the cross-hair to reposition it. Offsets slide the motif visually; all other sections default to Motif 1 unless you select a blank motif.

5 – Generate knitting instructions

When your outline is complete, go to **Knitting Instructions → Generate Instructions**. Yarn2Yarn converts your outline into row-by-row shaping. The instructions include the initial cast-on count, instructions for right and left sides (if the piece is mirrored), bind-offs for a collar, and decreases or increases along each edge. A single collar is supported for automatic splitting; if your design has more complex splits you will need to adapt the instructions manually. Yarn2Yarn can generate repeats like “Repeat X times: decrease Y on the left,” saving you time.

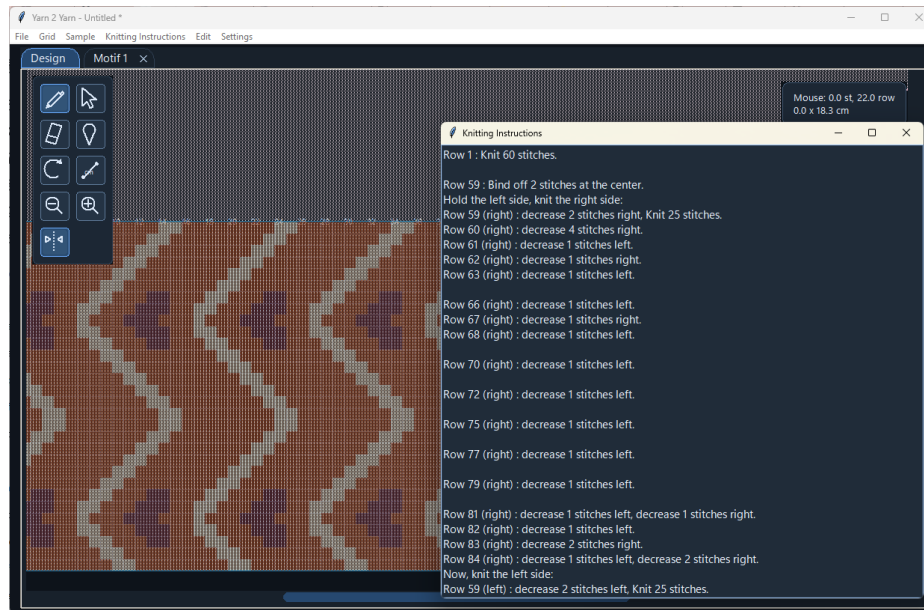


Figure 5 – Knitting instructions

Figure 5 shows the **Knitting Instructions** window. The software lists each row and notes decreases on the left or right edge. The collar split (row 59) binds off two central stitches and then alternates between the right and left sides.

Optionally use **Knitting Instructions** → **Generate Instruction Grid** to visualise your colourwork. The resulting grid displays vertical stripes for each colour, numbers indicating how many consecutive stitches of that colour to knit, and horizontal bars representing rows.

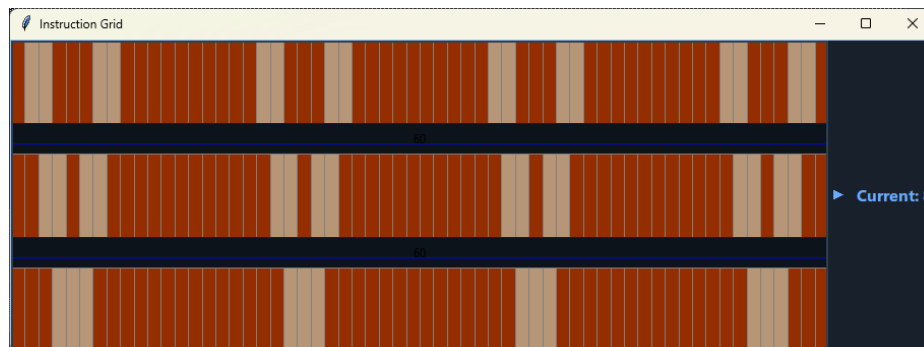


Figure 6 – Instruction Grid

Figure 6 depicts the **Instruction Grid**. Vertical stripes show the colour sequence from the motif, numbers indicate how many stitches are worked consecutively, and dark bars separate rows.

Grid Setup and Gauge Settings

Gauge Mode vs Grid Settings

Use **Gauge Mode** to derive the column and row counts from your swatch and desired dimensions. If you already know the stitch and row counts, **Grid Settings** lets you enter them directly. Grid settings also specify the physical width and height of the grid and the unit (cm or in).

Expand Grid

If you need more space after drawing your outline, choose **Grid → Expand Grid**. Select *Expand* or *Shrink*, choose a side (Left, Right, Top or Bottom) and specify the amount by stitches/rows or by centimetres/inches. Expanding adds blank stitches/rows beyond your outline; shrinking removes them, deleting any anchors in the removed area.

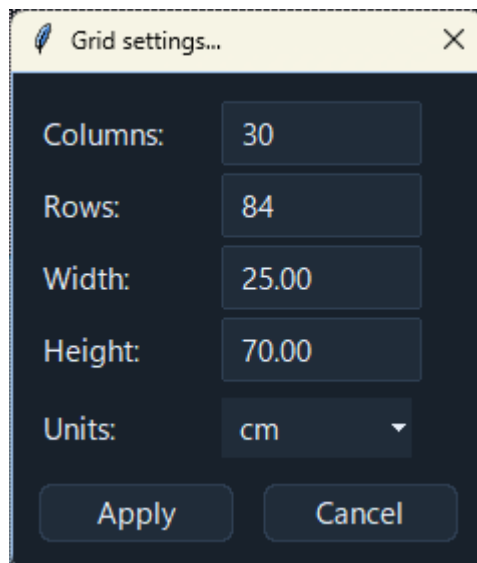


Figure 7a – Grid Settings

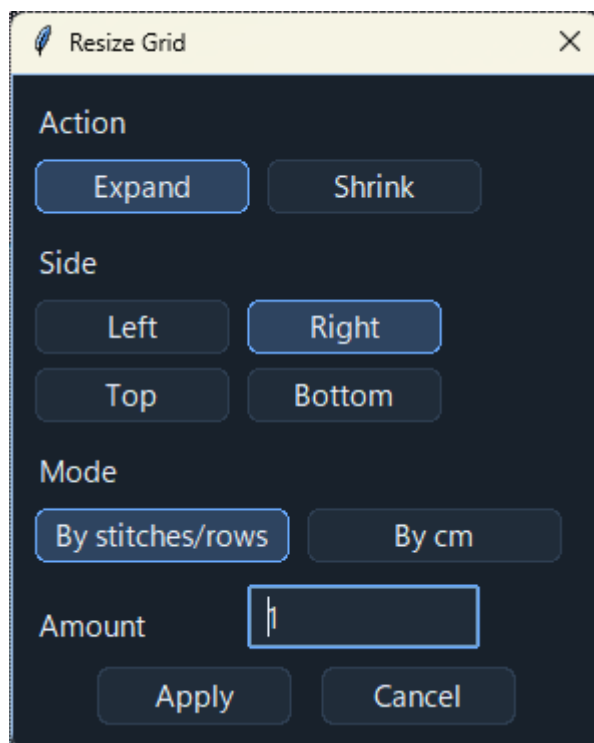


Figure 7b – Resize Grid

Figure 7a (top) shows **Grid Settings**, where you change the number of columns and rows, set the physical width and height and choose the unit. Figure 7b (bottom) shows **Resize Grid**, used to add or remove stitches or rows from a specific side.

Marks and Sections

Marks are user-placed reference lines. Click the **Mark** tool and then click on the grid or on the edge ruler to create a vertical or horizontal mark. A vertical mark appears in yellow and divides your design into sections; a horizontal mark appears across the grid when you click on the side ruler. Marks are saved in centimetres, so they stay in the same physical location even if you change gauge later. They do not influence the shape calculations; instead they appear in your diagrams and text instructions as landmarks (e.g. “Mark 1”). You can delete a mark and create a new one, but marks cannot be renamed.

Sections are defined by the borders of the piece and any horizontal marks. They allow you to assign motifs to specific ranges of rows using **Configure pattern**. All unconfigured sections default to Motif 1, but you can choose a blank motif if you want a section to remain plain.

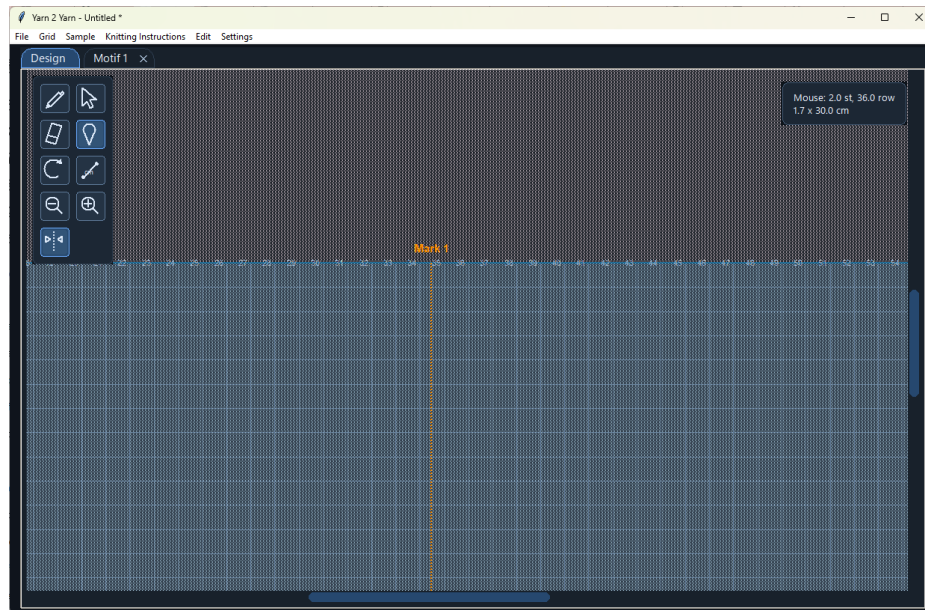


Figure 8 – Vertical mark

Figure 8 illustrates a **Vertical mark**. The yellow line labelled “Mark 1” shows a user-placed reference line that divides the piece into sections. Create it with the Mark tool by clicking on the grid or the ruler.

Motif Design Tab

The Motif tab is a simple chart editor. Create a new motif with **File → New Motif**. The grid appears blank; change its size via **Grid → Grid Settings** while still on the Motif tab. Use the **Pencil** and **Bucket** tools to draw with the active colour. Switch between colours by clicking the small colour squares. Yarn2Yarn supports two active colours at a time. The default motif, shown in Figure 3, is a repeating heart-and-zigzag design.

You can import motifs (.yyj files) and export your motif via **File → Import Motif** and **File → Export Motif**. Motifs stored inside a project (.yy file) will be enumerated as Motif 1, Motif 2, etc. Assign motifs to sections of your design using **Configure pattern** on the Design tab.

Generating Knitting Instructions

When you generate instructions, Yarn2Yarn produces shaping directions based solely on the outline you drew. It does not interpret your motif; colour changes follow your motif chart. Mirror mode affects instructions: if mirror is enabled, Yarn2Yarn writes one side and then mirrors it for the other. Without mirror, the instructions list decreases/increases separately for the left and right edges.

Yarn2Yarn supports one collar split: you can bind off stitches in the centre at a single row to create a neckline. More complex splits must be adjusted manually. The instructions may include **repeat** statements—for example, “Repeat 4 times: decrease 1 on the left,” which condense repeated decreases into a single line. Rows without shaping simply instruct you to knit the given number of stitches.

Appendix – Tool Icon Legend

The toolbar on the Design tab contains nine icons:

Icon	Name	Description
	Add point	Place a new anchor on the outline.
	Select	Select and move existing anchors.
	Eraser	Remove anchors.
	Mark	Create a vertical or horizontal reference line.
	Rotate Grid	Rotate the view by 90°. Useful for drawing long pieces.
	Show lengths	Display segment lengths on the outline.

Icon	Name	Description
	Zoom –	Zoom out.
	Zoom +	Zoom in.
	Mirror	Toggle symmetric drawing. When on, a red axis appears and points you place are mirrored to the opposite side.

The Motif tab has a smaller toolbar with the **Pencil** and **Bucket** tools, colour swatches and zoom controls. Motifs use only the colours you choose in the swatches.