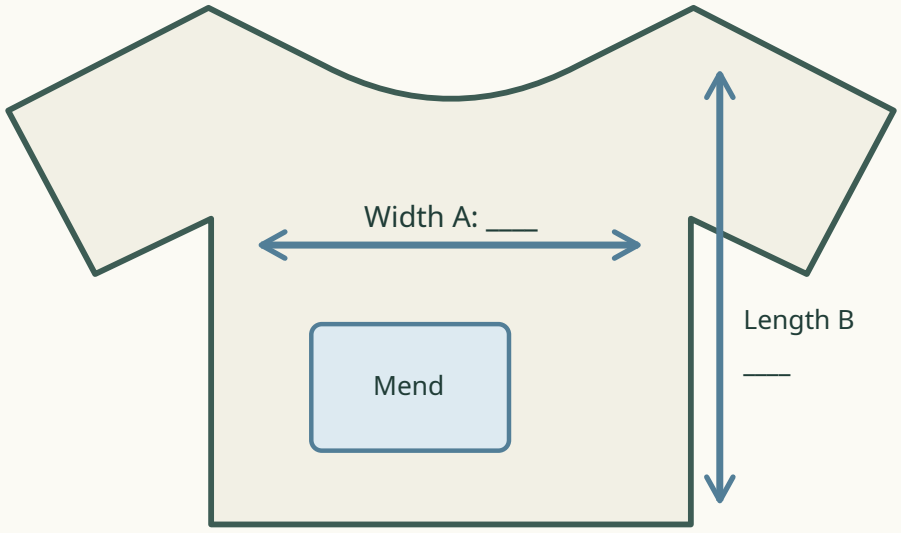
Block a Repaired Wool Knit to Restore Shape

Record actual relaxed dry dimensions



Fibre / label: _____

Use the same named points and units before and after drying.

Use the actual care label and relaxed measurements to guide gentle flat blocking of a suitable repaired wool knit.

14 practical steps • Original diagrams and repair records

Illustrative repair plans — not physical test results

Before you start

Blocking means allowing a knit to settle to an intended shape under controlled care. It does not restore lost fibres, reverse felting or certify a repair. This worked route is for ordinary adult wool knitwear whose actual care label permits washing by hand and drying flat, with a sound completed repair and no special finish. Do not wet-block dry-clean-only, unknown, fragile, felted, embellished or colour-unstable knitwear without specialist advice. Work off the body.

Materials

Garment and readable care instructions, clean basin, water at the label-permitted temperature, a suitable wool detergent if allowed, several clean colourfast towels, flat ventilated drying surface, ruler or tape, paper and a reliable relaxed shape reference. Avoid heat, vigorous rubbing, twisting or aggressive pinning.

Plan the repair

Check the fibre blend and care instructions first; do not assume all wool can be wet-blocked. Map relaxed dimensions against a reliable pre-repair measurement or sound garment reference, not a forced target. If hand washing and flat drying are permitted, use the prescribed gentle care process. Support the whole garment when wet, remove excess moisture without wringing, then arrange it flat into its natural shape with minimal manipulation. Allow to dry fully as directed, without forced heat or stretching. If the repair or material becomes unstable, stop shaping and seek advice.

Steps 1–2

1. Read the care label

Record fibre content, allowed wash method, temperature, detergent restrictions and drying instructions. If hand washing or flat drying is not permitted or unknown, refer instead.

2. Inspect the completed mend

Check the repaired and neighbouring knit for live loops, unstable yarn, loose ends and previous damage. Do not begin wet care until an appropriate repair is complete.

Steps 3–4

3. Establish a shape reference

Use reliable pre-repair relaxed measurements, an intact symmetrical area if applicable, or the garment's known original silhouette. Do not invent a target size or force symmetry in deliberately shaped pieces.

4. Measure while dry and relaxed

Record length and width at named points on a flat surface, with units. Mark the repair location and any existing distortion. See Pattern 1.

Steps 5–6

5. Prepare the care area

Use a clean basin and flat surface with clean colourfast towels. Keep the whole wet garment supported when transferring. Follow the label and any detergent instructions.

6. Check colour and trim concerns

If dye transfer, trim compatibility or shrinkage is uncertain, seek advice. Do not experiment with a valuable garment. A compatible sample can inform a decision but does not guarantee the garment result.

Steps 7–8

7. Use permitted gentle care

If the actual label permits, immerse or hand wash as directed using the allowed water temperature and suitable detergent if specified. Avoid rubbing, agitation and unnecessary prolonged soaking.

8. Rinse as permitted

If rinsing is required, follow the care and detergent instructions. Support the garment rather than lifting it by a sleeve or the repaired area. Avoid abrupt temperature changes.

Steps 9–10

9. Remove excess water

Support the wet knit and gently press out water without twisting. Transfer onto a towel, roll loosely and press gently if suitable. Replace saturated towels as needed.

10. Lay flat in natural shape

Spread the garment on a clean supported drying surface. Smooth by hand toward its reliable relaxed dimensions; do not stretch the mend to fit a target. Keep seams, ribbing and folds in their original arrangement.

Steps 11–12

11. Check the repaired region

Observe the knit around the repair for pulling, unstable yarn or uneven shaping. If the repair distorts, stop manipulating it; support flat and seek advice. Do not use weights or forceful pinning.

12. Dry according to care

Let the garment dry fully on the permitted flat surface with suitable air circulation. Avoid a radiator, tumble dryer or direct heat unless specifically permitted; do not hang a water-heavy knit.

Steps 13–14

13. Compare dry dimensions

Once dry, measure the same named points in the same relaxed state and units. Record actual changes and texture; no promised restoration or shrinkage result.

14. Document and follow up

Retain the actual care details, dry dimensions and repair appearance. If shape remains distorted, yarn has felted or the repair has loosened, consult a repairer instead of repeating wet blocking.

Fix, care and preserve

The label is unreadable

Do not infer wet-care suitability from the word wool or from appearance. Obtain product-specific guidance before wet blocking.

The garment remains misshapen

Do not pull to a desired size or pin under sustained tension. Refer if natural shape cannot be regained gently.

The yarn feels felted or stiff

Stop further washing or stretching. Blocking cannot reliably undo felting or damaged fibres; seek advice.

The repair loosens when wet

Keep the garment supported and avoid manipulating the repair. Let it dry as permitted and arrange suitable repair assessment.

Originality and evidence boundary

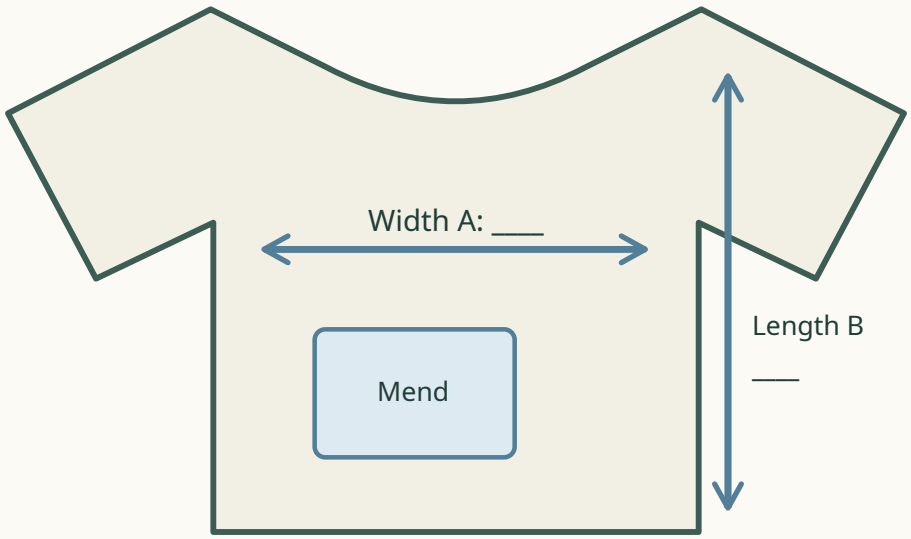
Original Steadleaf English prose, design, diagrams and records. Follow the actual item, textile and tool instructions. No physical repair, durability, load, strength, washing, flame-resistance or compatibility testing was performed by the publisher. Ordinary adult garments and non-technical household textiles only; no safety or performance certification.

Print the following pages separately if desired. Schematics are illustrative, not full-size cutting patterns. Record only actual observations.

Pattern 1

Fibre-label and measurement worksheet: record fibre blend, permitted hand-wash and flat-dry instructions, relaxed dry length and width at named garment points and reliable shape reference. Use the same named points and units after drying. Illustration not a target dimension.

Record actual relaxed dry dimensions



Fibre / label: _____

Use the same named points and units before and after drying.

Pattern 2

Gentle flat-block sequence: label-permitted care, support the entire wet garment, press moisture with towels without wringing, arrange flat in a natural shape and dry as directed. Stop manipulating if a repair distorts. Compare only actual relaxed dry observations.

Gentle flat blocking — follow the label

1. Confirm permitted care
   Hand wash and flat dry only when allowed.
2. Support the entire wet knit
   Lift with support; press gently with towels.
3. Arrange flat in natural shape
   No wringing, forceful stretching or aggressive pinning.
4. Dry fully and remeasure
   Compare actual relaxed dimensions at the same points.

If the repaired region distorts, stop shaping and seek advice.

Record 1 — Materials and repair plan

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Fibre blend / care label

Hand wash / flat dry permitted?

Repair complete and sound?

Reference dimensions / source

Named dry measuring points / units

Colour / trim concerns

Care method and surface

Decision: block / refer

Record 2 — Finish and follow-up

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Actual permitted care method

Supported transfer / towel method

Dry dimensions at same points

Shape and texture observations

Repair / edge condition

Ordinary care follow-up

Decision: continue / refer

Date / follow-up