Leap Year Mods – Adjustment for Shoulder Fit

My mods are meant to make the fronts fit better. So many people said that the sweater is ill fitting on the front shoulders – like it is pulling toward the back. I believe it is because of the misplacement of the front raglan increases – I have seen this on other top down raglan cardigans. I changed this and the fit is great. Also, I did not want the visible lines along the center back neck. I believe these lines were there to mask the change in knitting direction. However, by simply knitting the collar in one piece, the change in knitting direction (on the right front where the color change takes place) is virtually invisible.

My Mods
I knit the collar in one piece from right edge to left (using a prov CO to start), and also changed the collar stitch pattern slightly. I made the collar slightly longer as well.

32 collar sts (CC) x 140 rows:
Row 1: knit
Row 2: p1, (p1, K2) to last st, p1

In CC, I picked up 111 sts across the 140 rows (~4 sts for every 5 rows) to work a 3-st i-cord along the top edge (prov CO to start). This used up the single knit st at the top edge (31 sts rem) and will appear to be too loose! It makes the back neck fit better.

With MC, k3 (i-cord), knit 30 collar sts, pm, **pick up sts along lower edge of collar between the 2 knit sts*** (this uses up one more collar st), k30 sts across right edge of collar (after releasing the provisional sts), bring yarn fwd, slip 3 sts as to purl (the other i-cord sts). For my i-cord edge along the fronts, I k3 at the beg of the collar and at the end I brought yarn fwd and slipped 3 sts as to purl.

*Pick up sts along lower edge of collar between the 2 knit sts:
I picked up 16 sts (~2 sts / 3 rows), then 49 sts (1 st every other row), then 16 sts (~2 sts / 3 rows) = 81 sts

I prefer 3-st spacing for top-down raglan increases so my set up was:

33 collar sts (incl i-cord) - 16 sleeve sts – 3 raglan sts – 43 back sts -- 3 raglan sts -- 16 sleeve sts – 33 collar sts (incl i-cord) = 147 sts

Your stitch counts will differ if you follow the pattern more closely.

To achieve better fit at shoulders:
I held off starting the front raglan increases. Instead I created more sleeve sts:
Did back raglan increases every other row *EOR* (as described in pattern, but with 3 sts in-between). I only did one increase between collar and body on both sides EOR **× 10**. These 20 rows created the distance needed to bring the front raglan increase line into proper position.

Start front raglan increases (note: the YOs are added to build in some slack for making the M1 sts on the following row):

WS row #1: work collar sts, YO, purl to collar, YO, work collar sts
RS row #1: work collar sts, drop YO, M1, **k1**, M1, work per pattern to collar, drop YO, M1, **k1**, M1, work collar sts

WS row #2: work collar sts, YO, purl to collar, YO, work collar sts
RS row #2: work collar sts, drop YO, M1, **k2**, M1, work per pattern to collar, drop YO, M1, **k2**, M1, work collar sts

WS row #3: work collar sts, YO, purl to collar, YO, work collar sts
RS row #3: work collar sts, drop YO, M1, **k3**, M1, work per pattern to collar, drop YO, M1, **k3**, M1, work collar sts

NOTE: If you do increases as described in the pattern, you will stop after WS row #1 + RS Row #1 and have a single-stitch increase line, but might have to do more inc's after.

Front increases:
Because all of the increases thus far only counted for the sleeves, my front was non-existent (tho from this point there are front sts being created with the raglan shaping).

I continued with the raglan increases as set, and also did increases next to the collar on both sides as **front increases** every 4 rows x8 until my stitch counts equaled those in the pattern. I started them after doing 12 rows without these increases. Can't remember why!