



GOOD CHOICES CHECKLIST

We've all been disappointed, in hindsight, by projects that were probably not a good idea in the first place. Here's a checklist we use to help us choose projects that are 'WTT' (worth the time) and 'WTM' (worth the money). Some of these questions also inform our design process.

PROJECTS FOR YOURSELF

STYLE:

- Would I wear this?
- Would I buy it if I saw it ready-to-wear?
- Is this style flattering on me?
- Can I customize to a more flattering length?
- Is this a 'key piece' or an accessory?

LEARNING:

- Do I have the skills I need to do this?
- What skills will I learn?

PLEASURE:

- Will this knitting be fun? (swatch to find out)
- Am I in the mood for this project right now?

SIZE:

- How much ease do I want for this style?
- Given my personal measurements (see Measuring Worksheet), which size should I knit?

YARN:

- What yarn will work well for this piece?
- Do I run hot? cold? (Cardigans and open necks are cooler to wear.)
- Yds/m per skein? _____
- How many yds/m of yarn will I need for the size I've chosen? _____
- Do I need any extra (or any less) for customizing the lengths? _____?
- Divide yds/m needed by yds/m per skein = number of skeins I'll need +1 for swatching and after-care: _____

COLOR:

- What colors in this yarn are attracting me?
- How does this color make me look? feel?
- Will this color work with my wardrobe?
- What season(s) am I knitting this for?

COST:

- Number of skeins (see above) _____
- X price per skein: _____
- = estimated cost: \$ _____
- Now ask yourself again, "Will I enjoy this? Will I wear this?"

ESTIMATING KNITTING TIME

We're often asked "How much time will this project take?" Of course it depends on how quickly you knit and how much knitting time you have. But here's our favorite method for a ball-park estimate of the time a project might take. It may seem a little silly, but when we're knitting design prototypes and shop samples, it keeps us honest!

▶ STEP 1

EST. TIME PER SQUARE INCH

Square inches in swatch: _____
 Minutes it took to knit swatch: _____
 Divide sq" by swatch minutes
 = min. per sq" _____ [A].

▶ STEP 1

EST. SQUARE INCHES IN PROJECT

Using pattern dimensions and/or schematic, calculate square inches of each piece using outermost dimensions (a conservative estimate).

BACK: _____ sq"
 FRONT(S): _____ (X 2 = _____ sq")
 SLEEVES: _____ X 2 = _____ sq"
 COLLAR, BANDS, ETC: _____ sq"
 TOTAL SQ " _____ [B]

▶ STEP 3

EST. KNITTING HRS IN PROJECT:

Multiply total sq " [A] _____ X min. per sq" [B] _____ = _____ total min.
 Divide by 60 for knitting hours _____.
 Add 1-6 hours for finishing and blocking for Total Hours: _____

REALITY CHECK:

Is this project on a deadline?
Do I have this kind of time right now?
(But don't forget—ten minutes here and there can really add up!)

PROJECTS FOR GIFTS

Most knitters love to knit for others, but our time is limited. It's important to choose knitted gifting carefully.

- Will the intended recipient like this?
- Will they actually wear this?
- What's their personal style?
- Do I know what size to knit?
- What colors do I see them choose for themselves?
- Do they 'run hot'? cold?
- Do they lose things a lot?
- Do they have the time and inclination to take care of this?
- Have they ever said "It's itchy!"?
- How much time will this take? (see box at left)
- How much will it cost? (see first column, Yarn)
- Is this person 'knitworthy'?
- Will I enjoy knitting this?
- Do I have time?
- Can I knit and give this without expectations, "no string attached"?