



HOW TO CHOOSE A KNITTING PATTERN FOR A SWEATER YOU WILL LOVE TO WEAR.

You put your soul into making a sweater, not to mention time and money, so we want to help you choose a sweater pattern that will give you a garment you will love to wear. How, you wonder? It's really a matter of noticing. Let's get started.√

FINDING YOUR STYLE

- I. From your closet, pull out 3-5 tops that you love to wear. These are your confidence clothes, the ones that make you feel good in your skin. They can be sweaters, shirts, jackets, tops.
- II. If you find you're in a spot where you don't like anything in your wardrobe currently (because that happens), it's time for a scouting trip. Head to your favorite place to purchase clothing. You don't have to buy anything – just try on several styles. Take a friend if you want. This is an analyzing mission – not a session for self-criticism. You want to find and take note of the shapes and styles that make you feel good, that boost your confidence and help you tap into your superpowers!
- III. When you try on the garments, you'll be *noticing* (remember, we said that this is really a matter of noticing) and taking note of details about the fit, garment and neck shapes, length, sleeve style, and fabric of each item you try on. What do you love about each piece? What don't you love? Identifying what doesn't make you feel good will help you know what you don't want in a sweater pattern.
- IV. Reference page and checklist: A list of style details that are found in sweater design are described for reference. The final page is a checklist to make notes on the garments you try on.

Once you are aware of what you want out of a sweater pattern, you can proceed to the next step in making a sweater you will love, which is knowing how to choose your size and to make any adjustments so that the sweater will fit you. For now, however, let's get started on noticing.

IDENTIFYING STYLE AND SHAPE

FIT – HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR SWEATER TO FIT YOU OVERALL?

Tight: The garment is smaller than your body so that it is body hugging when worn. This fit is referred to as having ‘negative ease’ when knitting. The garment stretches to fit you.

Fitted: The garment is the same size as you – it has ‘zero ease’ or just a wee bit of ‘positive ease’. It simply fits close to the body.

Loose: The garment has a lot of positive ease or looseness everywhere.

Oversized: The garment has extra roominess or a lot of extra positive ease.

GARMENT SHAPE – WHAT IS OVERALL SHAPE OF A SWEATER DO YOU LIKE?

Hourglass: A shape that follows your curves.

Straight: No shaping with a little extra room to not be body hugging.

Boxy: A roomy garment with no shaping creating a boxy shape.

A-line: Flares out at the bottom, creating an overall A shape

Inverted A-line: Wider at the bust, narrowing to the waist.

NECKLINE: HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR GARMENT TO FIT YOU AT THE NECK?

Crew/Round/Jewel: Round neck opening

V: Neck shape creates a V

Scoop: Round neck opening that dips in the front

Square: Square opening for neck

Boat Neck: Wide, shallow neckline that extends toward the shoulders

Collar: Neck openings can have various collar types

Turtleneck: High, closefitting neck often turned over.

WHAT SHOULDER/ARMHOLE SHAPE DO YOU PREFER?

Set-in sleeve: Armhole seam sits at the top of the arm/shoulder joint and goes in a circle around the arm.

Raglan: Sleeve opening seam is angled from underarm toward neck

Circular Yoke: Sweater gradually increases in size from the neck opening; sleeves are separated at the appropriate depth with no obvious sleeve shaping

Drop Shoulder: Shoulder seam drops below shoulder

Saddle Shoulder: Strip at the top of each shoulder that extends to the sleeves

WHAT SLEEVE TYPE DO YOU LIKE?

Sleeveless: No sleeves

Cap: Shoulder extension off the top of the arm

Dolman or Batwing: Sleeve is narrow at wrist and wide at the armhole

Tapered to wrist: Sleeve gradually tapers from armhole to wrist

Straight: Sleeve keeps the same shape the whole length

WHAT LENGTH DO YOU PREFER FOR SLEEVES?

Short: Length ending midway to elbow

Elbow: Sleeve ends at elbow

3/4: Sleeve ends halfway between elbow and wrist

Bracelet: Sleeve stops just above wrist bone

Long: Sleeve ends below wrist

WHAT TYPE OF HEMLINE/LENGTH DO YOU PREFER FOR YOUR GARMENT?

Cropped: Short length with a hem stopping at or above the waist

High, Mid, or Low Hip: Length of garment hits either at the top, mid or bottom of hip

Tunic: A very long garment.

Asymmetrical: One side longer than the other.

High/Low: Garment is longer in the back and shorter in the front

WHAT TYPE OF KNITTED FABRIC DO YOU LIKE?

Texture: Lace, Stockinette, Garter Stitch, Cables, Twisted stitches, Slip stitches

Colorwork: Stripes, Brioché, Blocks of color/Color Blocking, Stranded colorwork, Slip stitch colorwork

Weight: Lightweight fabric (lace, fingering, sport weight yarns); Medium weight (DK, Worsted yarns) Heavy fabric (Aran, Chunky yarns)

YOUR TURN

Print out the checklist to mark the details of each top you try on. Use the ‘Impressions’ section to write what you like and don’t like about each garment. Finally, summarize your findings so that you know what style details you’d like to wear in a sweater.

CHECKLIST	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3	TOP 4	TOP 5
FIT					
TIGHT					
FITTED					
LOOSE					
OVERSIZED					
SHAPE					
HOURLASS					
STRAIGHT					
BOXY					
A-LINE					
REVERSE A					
SLEEVE					
SLEEVELESS					
CAP					
DOLMAN					
TAPERED					
STRAIGHT					
ARMHOLE					
SET-IN SLEEVE					
RAGLAN					
CIRCULAR YOKE					
DROP SHOULDER					
SADDLE SHOULDER					
SLEEVE LENGTH					
SHORT					
ELBOW					
3/4					
BRACELET					
LONG					
NECK					
CREW					
V-NECK					
SCOOP					
SQUARE					
BOAT					
COLLAR					
TURTLENECK					
SWEATER LENGTH					
CROPPED					
HIGH/MID/LOW HIP					
TUNIC					
ASYMMETRICAL					
HIGH/LOW					
FABRIC					
TEXTURE					
COLORWORK					
WEIGHT					

IMPRESSIONS

SUMMARY OF SWEATER STYLE DETAILS YOU LIKE