

Dear Sweater Knitters,

I'm very excited to guide you through using the basic charted instructions in *The Knitter's Handy Book of Top-Down Sweaters* to design your own sweater! This letter is to give you an overview of the class so that everyone is equally prepared. Remember that this class is designed to help you create your own sweater using your choice of size, yarn, and gauge following the basic instructions in the top-down book. You will not be following a pattern that's already been published, though you're free to incorporate aspects of a published pattern into your own design.

The first class will be hosted by Longmont Yarn Shoppe on Saturday, November 6 at 9:00-10:30am Mountain Time (11:00am-12:30pm Eastern Time; 10:00 – 11:30am Central Time; 8:00 – 9:30am Pacific Time). Subsequent classes will be at the same time on Saturdays November 13 and 20, December 4, 11 and 18. Note that there is no class November 27.

Longmont Yarn Shoppe will email you a Zoom link prior to the first class.

In preparation for the first class, please do the following:

1. Obtain a copy of *The Knitter's Handy Book of Top-Down Sweaters* (we will be following the basic charted instructions for raglan sweaters on pages 62–90).
2. Read the Introduction (pages 5-20).
3. Choose between a pullover and a cardigan.
4. Choose between a V-neck and a crewneck.
5. Choose a size based on the finished chest/bust circumferences listed on page 64 for children (26", 28", 30", 32", 34") or page 75 for adults (36", 38", 40", 42", 44", 46", 48" 50", 52", 54"). Refer to the schematics on page 74 for all of the finished measurements. I'll discuss how to refine the fit during class.
6. Choose a yarn from fingering to bulky weight that will give a gauge of 3 to 7 stitches/inch (a yarn that's at least 75% wool will be easiest to work with). Note that your gauge doesn't have to be a whole number of stitches per inch—I'll show you how to accommodate fractions of stitches, such as 4.75 stitches/inch.
7. To determine the amount of yarn you'll need, refer to the charts highlighted in yellow tones on pages 64 (child sizes) and 75 (adult sizes). Photocopies of the charts are attached if you don't have your copy of the book yet. For example, if you want to knit a sweater with a finished circumference of 42" at a gauge of 5 stitches/inch, you'll need 1310 yards/1198 meters of yarn.
8. I'll discuss how to knit a proper gauge swatch during the first class.

In the first class we'll review choosing sizes, working a gauge swatch and measuring gauge, and adding personal touches such as color or texture patterns, adding waist or hip shaping, adjusting sleeve length, etc. We won't actually cast on until the second class on November 7, so you have ample time to consider your options.

I will be designing/knitting a sweater along with you so you'll see demonstrations every step of the way. It might help you to know that I'm planning a V-neck pullover with a finished bust measurement of about 39", and a gauge of about 5.25 stitches/inch. I'm thinking of incorporating some type of narrow lace panel along the four raglan line. According to the yarn requirements chart on page 187, I'll need around 1210 yards (1106 meters).

I've chosen Greenwood DK Yakity Yak (65% superwash merino, 20% yak, 15% silk), which has 232 yards per 100-gram skein. My size will therefore require 5.2 skeins. I have purchased 7 skeins to allow for plenty of yarn for swatching and making modifications along the way.

I'm telling this so you'll understand the types of choices you should make prior to casting on. You don't have to have a mental picture of the finished garment, but you should know the size, gauge, and yarn you're going to use.

I'm so looking forward to knitting together!

Ann Budd