

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 help ensure 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 (there's no need for this class if you're following a published pattern), though you're free to incorporate aspects of a published pattern into your own design.

The first class will be Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 9:00 to 11:00 am Mountain Time (11:00 am to 1:00 pm Eastern Time; 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Central Time; 8:00 to 10:00 am Pacific Time). The subsequent classes will be at the same times on February 10, 17, 24, March 9 and 23. Note that there is no class March 1 or 16—these are catch-up weeks.

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 set-in sleeve sweaters on pages 114–171).
2. Read the introduction to the book.
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 116 for children (26", 28", 30", 32", 34") or page 128 for adults (36", 38", 40", 42", 44", 46", 48" 50", 52", 54"). Refer to the schematics on page 127 for all of the finished measurements.
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). To determine the amount of yarn you'll need, refer to the charts highlighted in yellow tones on pages 116 (child sizes) and 128 (adult sizes). 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. It's always a good idea to purchase an extra skein for swatching!
7. I'll discuss how to knit a proper gauge swatch for this sweater 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 simple color or texture patterns (please don't get over ambitious on your first sweater), adding waist or hip shaping, adjusting sleeve length, etc. We won't actually cast on until the second class on February 10, so you have ample time to measure your gauges and consider your design 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 at this point I'm planning to make an adult crewneck cardigan with a finished bust circumference of about 40" (106.5 cm) at a gauge of about 6 stitches/inch. According to the yarn requirements chart on page 174, I'll need about 1710 yards (1564 meters) of yarn. I plan to purchase an extra skein so I'll have plenty of yarn for swatching stitch patterns.

I'm telling you all of this so you'll understand the types of choices you should think about prior to the first class. You don't have to have settled on all the design details, but you should know the size, gauge, and yarn you're going to use.

I'm so looking forward to knitting together!

Ann Budd