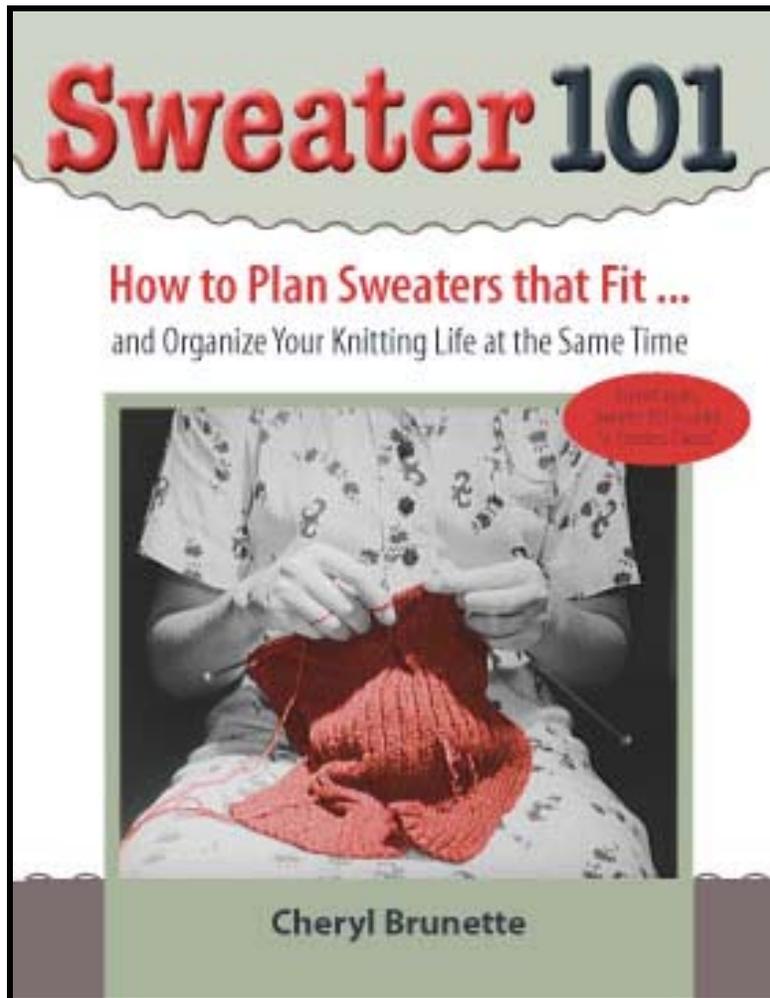


Reviews for

Sweater 101

*How to Plan Sweaters that Fit . . . and
Organize Your Knitting Life at the Same Time*



[Review: Sweater 101](#)

Posted by Erika Barcott
[Redshirt Knitting](#)
Dec 27, 2008

As a preface to this review, I want to point out that this book's author runs an affiliate program, so that people can earn money selling copies of her book. I want to make it clear that I am not involved in that program, nor will I be in the future. (Damned ethics.) I don't earn any money if you buy *Sweater 101*.

Sweater 101 is the PDF version of Cheryl Brunette's bestselling book, which sadly went out of print. It is now available for sale from the author's website. I'll just cut to the chase and tell you to go buy it now. NOW.

Cheryl offers a spiral-bound print version of the book for \$32.95, or a downloadable electronic version for \$29. I think you want to pay the extra few dollars and get the paper copy. Ebooks are awesome, particularly reference ebooks. Why should a book take up all that room on your shelf when all you do is look something up once in a while? Nevertheless, a 120-page ebook presents a formidable challenge for those of us who like to step away from our desks once in a while.

All you really need to know is that this is a 120-page book about knitting sweaters. It's not a 120-page book of sweater patterns. It's about knitting sweaters. Brunette focuses on giving you the tools you need to knit sweaters. I love her.

Here is what happened when I opened the ebook.

1. I read the introduction and smiled.
 2. I read "The Goals of *Sweater 101*" and nodded in agreement. Yes. People need this.
 3. I read "Tools that Enhance *Sweater 101*," saw that the first item on the list was a hand-held calculator, and resisted the urge to applaud.
 4. A few pages later, I read something (about how a drop-shoulder sweater is meant to be seamed) that made my eyes go unfocused as I realized how much simpler my life would have been, had I known this tidbit earlier.
 5. On the next page, I read something (about how to program your calculator to memorize your stitch gauge) that made my eyes go unfocused as I realized how much simpler my life would have been, had I known this tidbit earlier.
 6. I had to go make a pot of coffee before continuing further.
- If any aspect of knitting a sweater - all of it, or just a tiny bit of it - is mystifying to you, then you need this book. It demystifies everything about sweaters, from the very basic (gauge) to the complex (equations for determining decrease rate).

I'm just going to lay it out there and say that every knitter should read this book. Even if you're already designing and knitting your own sweaters from scratch without a pattern, there's probably something in here you need. (Are you really drafting your own sleeve cap calculations for set-in sleeves? Or do you do what I do, which is to cheat and use the info from an existing pattern? Cheryl will show you how to draft your own sleeve cap from scratch.)

Just to give you a hand, Brunette has included schematics for thirty different sizes, from child's size 6 months to men's size 50. Each of these sizes includes schematics for drop-shoulder, set-in sleeve, and raglan sleeve versions. And with all the other information, you won't have any trouble adapting the schematics to suit you.

Trust me. You need this. A+!

[Review: Sweater 101](#)

Nancy Parsons
[Knitter's Bookshelf](#)
October 24, 2008

Let's see . . . if I were to be stranded on a desert island with all the yarn I might want (in my fantasy, I'd have sent the yarn ahead so it would be there waiting for me when the ship went down), what knitting books would I take with me? (Isn't that a fun question?)

In my case, there are so many possibilities that I could spend days just musing about it. But through the haze of beloved books shines a couple very clear rays of light: I would take everything by Elizabeth Zimmermann, and I would absolutely take a copy of *Sweater 101*. [I would also take much more, enough probably to send me to Davy Jones locker along with my fantasy ship, but that is beside the point here.]

Sweater 101 is one of the most practical, clearly written guides to the art of knitting. It is also one of the easiest to learn from as well as being one of those books that will so empower you that your knitting life will take on creative dimensions in ways that will surprise and delight you as they enrich every stitch you make. Following her clear and sensible advice will yield sweater after sweater that fits perfectly. Add your own design elements whenever and where ever you wish - even if you are now a novice, Cheryl's pointers make it so simple to know what to do next that once you try them out, you'll never look back.

In other words, *Sweater 101* will set you free. It is a must-have for your knitting techniques bookshelf. Don't leave home without it (even if your destination is not a desert island!).

[Review: Sweater 101](#)

Posted by Sandra Bennett, editor
[Fiber Femmes Magazine](#)
Thursday, July 17, 2008

Sweater 101 by Cheryl Brunette

Are you, like me, far, far away from a local yarn shop? Do you gain your knowledge, expertise, tips, help and assistance from the internet or books?

Cheryl Brunette has re-published *Sweater 101* - How to Plan Sweaters that Fit...and Organize Your Knitting Life at the Same Time.

First published in 1991, it's now become a classic in the knitting world and for Good Reason. Cheryl has written a knitting book that is...GASP!...easy to read, easier to understand and addresses a world of concerns.

In her introduction, she gives a brief history of knitting and her family and then gives the goals of *Sweater 101*. How nice! She suggests a few basic tools, other than the "regular" knitting tools that will add better measurement making a more refined finished garment. This book teaches the knitter not only how to design their own garments but also teaches others how to measure themselves.

The spiral bound book lies flat enabling the knitter to knit more easily and quickly and the "recipes" are easy to read, easy to understand, easy to follow. This book comes highly recommended by the knitting world divas including Meg Swansen of Schoolhouse Press and daughter of Elizabeth Zimmerman, Lea-Ann McGregor of Knitting Today, Linda Skolnik founder of Patternworks and others.

There are a lot of how-to knitting books being published today and *Sweater 101* gives you a great start. Such a great start you may never buy another how-to knitting book.

[Review: Sweater 101](#)

Posted by Amy L. Singer, Editor
[Knitty Magazine](#)
Fall, 2008 Edition

Sweater 101: how to plan sweaters that fit and organize your knitting life at the same time by *Cheryl Brunette*, Marrowstone Island Press \$32.95, hardcover over spiral binding \$29.00, e-book download version

Originally published in 1991, this new edition features the following quote on the back cover: "I had no idea your wonderful book was coming back...hooray. Don't think I've given a workshop in the last 15 years without mentioning you and it." Who said that? *Meg Swansen*. That's a pretty hefty endorsement!

This is a clean, functional, step-by-step guide to building your own sweater patterns. You don't get out of measuring, but you do get someone guiding you clearly along the path to sweater success time after time. Brunette's approach requires us to take careful notes on design sheets included in the book. She provides standardized schematics for the three basic sweater shapes -- drop-shoulder, set-in sleeve and raglan in chest sizes 30-50" for women, other handy resource sheets, and discusses current trends in sweater design [did you know that raglan sleeves used to come to a sharp point at the top?].

My favorite tip in the book is the proper use of a calculator's memory function. Smart woman, that Cheryl Brunette.

[Review: Sweater 101](#)

Posted by Rose,
[Madame Purl, Fiber Artist](#)
November 4, 2008

I was so happy when I got home tonight and found my emergency KnitPicks order waiting for me. With their 40% off sale on books and getting an email that the one I wanted at that price was back in stock I had to jump on it.

I'm totally thrilled. If you haven't yet had a chance to peruse *Sweater 101*, it's wonderful. It's really simplified my view of designing a sweater to fit and better than that - to make sure a pre-written pattern will fit. I just flipped page after page and was amazed at how easy and what valuable info is in this book. I can't wait to get started and try my hand at designing a sweater. This is in print again after being out of print for a while and definitely a worthwhile purchase for your knitting book collection . . . You can also get this as an e-book at the author's site, which would be handy to print off the worksheets. Although the book is in spiral format, so you can make yourself a copy to work from.

[Review: Sweater 101](#)

Kathie Meyer, Staff Writer
[The Port Townsend Leader](#)

November 19, 2008

Sweater 101: How to Plan Sweaters That Fit and Organize Your Knitting Life at the Same Time By Cheryl Brunette Marrowstone Island Press, 2008

Knitters rejoice! When Marrowstone resident Cheryl Brunette learned her book *Sweater 101* was going out of print, she Googled its title to see if it was still relevant to today's knitters. When she found nothing but positive feedback, she decided to self-publish this fine reference book that gives everything you need to know to create sweaters of any size and gauge. And don't worry about the math; Brunette (a substitute math teacher) explains it so well it's super easy. Make any sweater, vest or cardigan with a drop shoulder, set-in or raglan sleeve using these simple instructions. Also included are schematics ranging from children's size 6 months to men's size 50 as well as reproducible worksheets to keep track of everything.

Books are available at local yarn stores; digital copies and books can be ordered at www.sweater101.com.

Foreword

As the owner of Patternworks, I was in the fortunate position of being able to introduce tools that enhance the joy of knitting. When Cheryl Brunette brought us her manuscript for “How to Plan Sweaters That Fit and Organize Your Knitting Life at the Same Time,” I was amazed at how simple she had made the process—for both designing a sweater and working from a pattern.

Cheryl used her gift for capturing and celebrating the essentials of life to lay out a basic reference that brings sanity to the sweater-knitting life. Now, sixteen years later, her Sweater 101 continues to provide an elegant solution—and serves as an invaluable reference—for successful sweater knitting. A classic is timeless.

Progress has made it possible to have an e-book version of Sweater 101 available for instant reference and, fortuitously, Cheryl sent a copy to my computer just in time to save the sweater I had impulsively started using a commercial pattern that I hadn’t put through the Sweater 101 sanity check. It turns out that I needed to check my body measurements and adjust the sweater dimensions.

Recently I helped a friend through a simple top-down raglan cardigan for her husband. I originally lent her a popular sweater leaflet from an established publisher with patterns for different top-down raglan styles in a range of sizes and gauges. We had probably sold more than a thousand copies and I never heard of a problem.

When she got to the body, the pattern indicated a number of stitches that would have made the sweater fit an elephant. I couldn’t believe it. Then I plugged the measurements into sweater software for a top-down raglan. This time other numbers didn’t jive. Incredible! The Sweater 101 once-over saved the day.

How simple it is to avoid aggravation and experience the joy of knitting with a little help from our friends. Thank you, Cheryl.

Linda Skolnik
founder of Patternworks and
co-author of The Knitting Way: A Guide to Spiritual Self-Discovery