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Top Down: Reimagining Set-In Sleeve Design



Synopsis

This collection takes classic set-in sleeve sweater construction and turns it on its head, with designs that are worked seamlessly from the top down. By beginning at the shoulders--the part of the garment where fit matters most--knitters can try on sweaters as they go, and make adjustments, if needed, in response to the actual fit. In addition to patterns, the book takes an in-depth look at sleeve cap architecture, and details an improved method for working perfect, seamless, top-down sleeves that fit as well (or better!) than conventionally set-in sleeves. Six sweater designs using this method are included--as well as a wealth of information on customizing both the sweater body and sleeve caps to achieve your perfect fit.

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Customer Reviews

Elizabeth Doherty lives and designs in California's Sierra Nevada--where it's nearly always sweater weather. She has a background in fine art and graphic design, and long experience in sewing tailored garments. Her knitting designs have been published by Quince & Company, Brooklyn Tweed and Twist Collective. Quince & Co. is a small yarn company founded by two knitwear designers and the owner of a spinning mill. They have a strong bias toward natural fibers and create thoughtfully conceived quality yarns spun mostly from American wool. They are based in Portland, Maine.

Been waiting a LONG time for a book like this!! I had been seeing this book over and over again on

(a new release) b/c I love top down knitting so very much, Why?? Because one can try it on and fit as they knit, and being top down (as the author does state) there is not a lot of knitting invested should one need to go back and correct any neck or bust measurement etc, I sew, and I have realized for years that having a CORRECT fit in the shoulders makes all the difference in the world on how any garment fits , (well,,,or poorly) In fact I have recently made a sloper (kind of a body blueprint) of myself so I can make my sewing much easier w/ my perfect fit, But,,,,,alas, I could NOT do this with my knitting no matter HOW hard I tried! Yes, I did lots of top down in the round but all were raglan sleeved garments , which is OK for a casual sweater as I see it~ I really hate seaming a sweater,,,taking a deep breath and hoping beyond hope that it fits,,,,,one reason is that I can purchase sweatering fabric and just whip it up on my serger instead, I knit bc I LOVE to knit, I had hoped I could knit a set in sleeved garment and had read all of Barbara Walkers info on this but to me it was still like reading Greek, (I do not know the language) This author takes it many steps further and shows us how important it is to have the correct set in sleeve for our shoulder width(and how to tweak to fit), I could NOT ask for more, and while there are six patterns in this book (six VERY classic patterns that one can knit over and over again!) I think I have finally found " my book" ,,,,,the book that will take me further in knitting than I had anticipated I could go, Thanks to the author for her good eye,,,,,her explanations and her diagrams, I think I will be working on sweaters from this book for a LONG time!! Can I say that I really LOVE this book? Yes,,,,,I guess I can!

This book not only has patterns for great classic sweater designs, it has a detailed explanation of how to build a set in sleeve if you are designing a top down sweater and great discussion about proper fit for set-in sleeves and sweaters in general and ease. Proper armhole placement, width and depth can mean the difference between a fabulous sweater and one that looks sloppy regardless of how it fits everywhere else. Designing armholes and sleeve caps to fit those armholes can be tricky, but this book gives detailed instructions about how to do this. There is also a tutorial on adjusting for gauge differences, adjusting fit including shoulder slope adjustments and bust alterations and armhole adjustments. Many knitting books cover fit adjustments, but this is the first one I've seen that has an in-depth discussion about designing and adjusting armholes and sleeve caps that match.

This is a great book! I'm lucky enough to know the author and some of the backstory around the book. It is obviously as much a labor of love as I expected from hearing about the process! Along with fantastic information on shoulder and sleeve cap shaping for top down sleeves, there are 6

classic sweater designs with enough simplicity that you could add your own embellishments if your taste tends in that direction. I like them as they are: simple in an every day elegance sort of way, with well thought-out design details and finishing that make them easy to wear with jeans or more formal outfits. Having played with top down set-in sleeves myself (I can never knit a pattern as written, I'm afraid), I love the discussion of fitting the sleeve properly. I've had enough experience ripping and reknitting to know how important the details are if you want to get rid of unsightly fabric bunching in the underarm and bust, and come up with a nice clean fit (like the sweaters in this book). I'm now considering breaking out an old sweater of mine that never quite fit in the shoulder and upper sleeve and seeing if I can't just reknit those sleeves One More Time to get it right. Bravo, Elizabeth. Between the fit methodology and the patterns, this is a must-have for any knitter who wants to produce a classic well-fitted garment, whether it be from one of the patterns in the book, or from another pattern that needs a little help in the fit department.

Very helpful book, she goes into depth, explaining the armsyce (armhole) and sleeve cap. Own other top down books, hoped this might have something new--so glad I took that chance.

This is a very good book for anyone interested in doing top down knitted sweaters with set in sleeves. I've knit several other patterns for them but this is the best, most thorough explanation - with diagrams - that I have ever seen. It's as tho the author is sitting on the couch next to you as you knit. There are several that I will knit, including the cover pattern...which is lovely. Great book. Highly recommend!

I am a life long knitter and always looking for new techniques to challenge my knitting knowledge . This book has has some beautiful patterns and I am looking forward to delving into Ms Doherty's knitting theory and construction methods.

I've bought loads of knitting books, but this is the first one that made me want to make every project in the book. I prefer set-in sleeves as they seem to best complement my small frame, but find top-down, circularly knitted tops the easiest to knit. The information in this book will allow me to convert other patterns to this preferred system, or even design my own.

I would actually love this book except for the size and shape of it. It is awkward to handle and as someone else commented, feels floppy. And, I like to make a photocopy of the pattern I'm using so I

can write on it and mark it up while keeping the book clean. The copies made from this book will have a landscape orientation rather than portrait (which would be preferable, for me anyway). Otherwise, beautiful book and great content.

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