

TRANSCRIPT

Finalizing Your Pattern

So we have moved from the design proposal, now you've knit your sample, what's next? It's deadline time, it's time to get the pattern in.

We have a pattern template, it's just a Word document. Now this part is really, really crucial. Getting everything put together and sent in to the publisher. Because if you're missing something or you don't follow the instructions appropriately then it really kind of puts some hiccups on where we put things and how we have to extract them and the image quality, and moving into layout.

So we have the template. The pattern template is set up so that it will flow very easily from our tech editor to our layout. We use what's called Adobe InDesign for our pagination, our pattern pagination. And Adobe InDesign is so super, super powerful and such an amazing program but it's also a little finicky too. So we try to make it flow in there with our styles and places as easily as possible. And so that's why the pattern template is really a crucial step in this. Also because of that, and how it flows into layout, we, it is very important that you do not imbed your images, such as your charts or your schematics, within the Word document. We require that they be sent separately, as a JPEG or a PNG or even as an SVG. We even accept the original, if you do it in Adobe Illustrator for example. We accept those files as well. In fact the SVG is really preferred because it enables us to have the highest quality of image to be able to put into layout later. The more thorough you are and the more attention you pay to our style guide, the easier it'll be for our tech editors later.

So once everything comes into us, and we have a little checklist in our welcome kit, and you'll see that over here, a little checklist of everything that we expect from you. You're gonna make sure that you tag your sample with your name and your shipping address and your email and then what size it is, just so that, because I'm based out of Tennessee, and my studio, awesome team, is based in Canada. The samples usually go to them, usually. For collections they go to Canada, for our individual monthly patterns they come to me to be photographed on a mannequin. But so for our collections that go to Canada, their office staff needs to be able to know what collection it's going to and to be able to set it aside so that, because they arrange the models and find everybody that fits the samples.

We ask that your pattern is written in Word with the pattern template. We ask that you keep mindful of our style guide and what types of abbreviations we use and how we end, end stitch changes and how we begin a row, all of those things in the style guide. We ask that graphics are not embedded in the pattern and sent separately. We've asked that you include gauge measurements for every stitch pattern used. So if you have ribbing and stockinette stitch then we want a stitch gauge for both of those stitch patterns.

We ask that you take a clear flat photograph of your sample before you pack it up and mail it to us. And the reason is, is our tech editors are based all over the world as well and so sometimes we can't send them the sample to be able to look at and inspect. So having a clear, flat photograph is something we can send to them with your pattern, and especially if your sample's still in the mail before we are able to send them the pattern. It helps them be able to visualize the piece and make sure everything lines up with the pattern that you send in.

We also have a designer information sheet that we send you. We hope you fill it out and send it back. And that is basically all the contact information, all of your social media handles, so that when it comes to marketing time later we can tag you appropriately wherever we pop it in there. It includes your preferred payment address for PayPal. So it's just, it's an information sheet that we keep on record on our end so that we can make sure that we are helping to promote you and pay you and work with you as best as we can.

So from there, we just ask you to email us the Word pattern, the separate images such as your chart and schematics, your designer information sheet, the flat pattern. And you just email it all in to, in to me. And then the sample is shipped to, in the instructions that are labeled within your welcome kit as well.

When it comes to writing your pattern, especially for new designers, they may, I will sometimes get questions like what's the best way to send in a schematic. Honestly, you can hand draw your schematic. We really like it if you do it within a vector program such as Inkscape, I think that's the name of it, or Adobe Illustrator, are two of the most common programs that I know of. I use Adobe Illustrator to draw my schematic. We use Stitchmastery and EnvisioKnit on our end, when it comes to making charts for patterns. There are a couple of other ones out there. I think there's Knit Visualizer, there might be another one, I just can't think of the name of it off the top of my head.

And then other people will make their charts in Excel, spreadsheets, other people will make their charts in Adobe Illustrator from scratch. There's lots, there's a lot of resources out there for you to make charts with. And honestly, we just want them as clear and as nicely put together as possible so that our tech editors can review them. We sometimes will redraw them so that they conform more to our style and our brand of patterns.

For those of you that are grading patterns, for a variety of sizes, for your garments, for example, there are, I won't say a ton, but there are some really good resources out there to help you learn how to grade your sweaters for multiple sizes. The first place is to just go to past patterns that have already been published and really study the schematics that they use and how they increment them. Jill Wolcott is a person who has extensive grading classes on her website. And she really, she goes into the really breaking it down, like just shoulder sloping, I mean the tiny, tiny little details. I think there are a couple of classes on Craftsy.

There are a lot of books out there that are really handy in helping you learn, not only the semantics of writing an actual pattern but being able to put all of those sizes together and figuring out how to grade for different sizes. And so we'll create a list for you that you attach to this. You'll be able to check out my list of recommended books.
