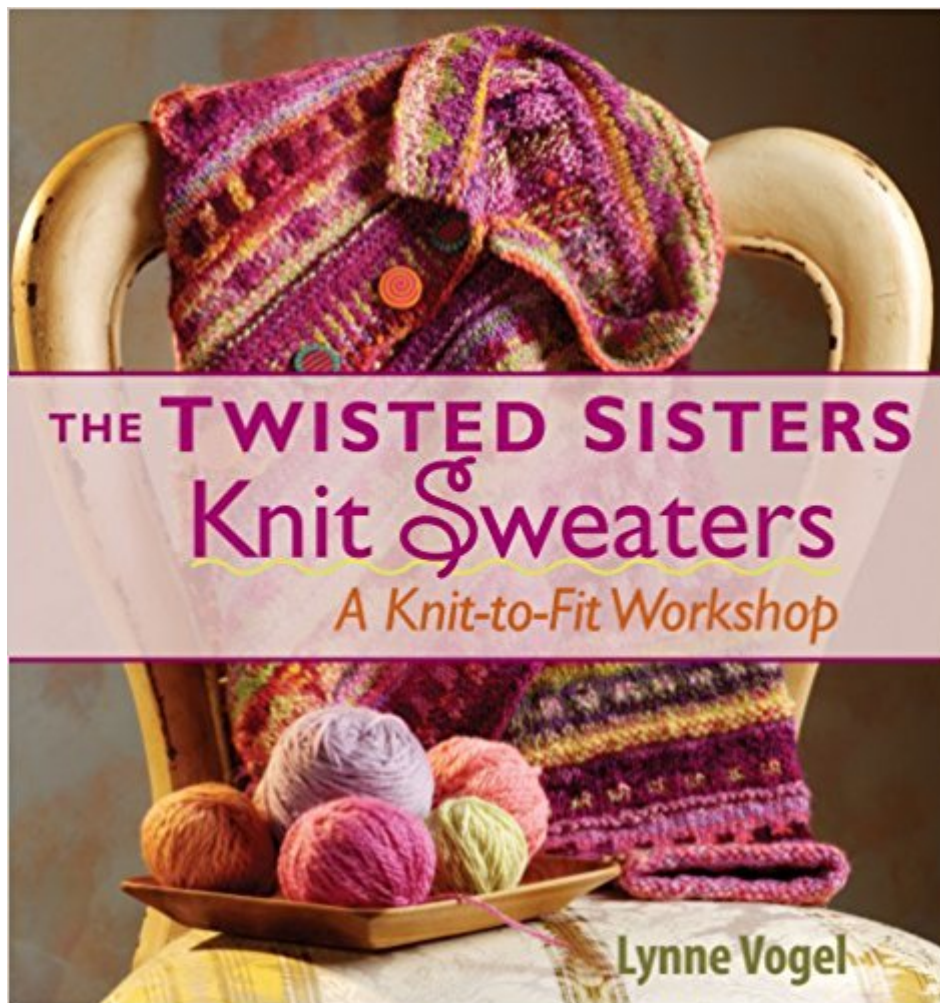


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# The Twisted Sisters Knit Sweaters



## Synopsis

Adapting basic sweater patterns for personal preferences and measurements is the focus of this step-by-step guidebook that helps knitters refashion knitting schematics. The designs, illustrations, and photos demonstrate how to adjust patterns to different styles so that any knitter can customize sweater patterns into unique creations. Challenging projects--ranging from sweaters and vests to pullovers and jackets--and easy-to-follow instructions illustrate the basic elements of sweater design to inspire knitters at all levels. Learning how to fit the bodice; change yarns, proportions, neckline styles, sleeve length, and color and stitch patterns; and add collars and edgings will give knitters the confidence to alter any pattern to meet their needs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I don't like the sweaters in this book. They're boxy and unattractive things. However, to look at the pictures and then dismiss this book out of hand would be a mistake. I almost did it myself. This book is not a pattern book so if you're looking for out-of-the-box patterns, this book is not for you. Rather, this is a designer's handbook, a tutorial, a workshop, a reference for knitting sweaters that fit the way the knitter wants them to fit. The first five chapters alone are worth the price of the book. Here, they discuss measuring and charting, increases, decreases, figuring gauge, short rows, neckline shapings, sleeve styles, and a host of other technique issues. The authors use charts, diagrams, fill in the blank forms, and readable text to teach the reader how to measure in the right spots and how to create fit--all in an amazingly short volume. I believe the actual projects and patterns are only

there as an aid for the reluctant or less sure knitter to put feet to the teaching done in the first five chapters. In addition, they constitute a gallery of possibilities and idea starters, especially when it comes to color. They serve to get the ball rolling, but regardless, the fit is still up to the knitter, not the pattern, if the first section is taken seriously. Honestly, if a knitter reads the first five chapters, follows the suggestions, measures the curves of the body, accurately figures gauge, fills in the forms to guide the process and uses the aids provided, and then knits a boxy unattractive sweater, they have no one to blame but themselves. I'm impressed that the authors have provided such encouragement to explore and experiment. If this book were full of designer sweaters and perfect specimens of fashion displayed on perfect models, it would lose much of its influence. This book appeals to the everyday and physically imperfect woman who is an adventurer and an artist at heart. Isn't that most of us who knit? This book is the best and first step to leaving pattern dependency behind since Elizabeth Zimmermann.

I knew I had to have this book the moment I saw it previewed online several months ago, and I've been waiting for it to come out. The other day, I went to a local yarn shop for their Christmas in July sale, and lo-and-behold this book was sitting on the counter display so I nabbed the last copy they had in stock. It is not a disappointment. Just as in her book on designing and knitting socks, in this book, Lynne Vogel features the designs of the Twisted Sisters knitting group and provides a detailed map that leads the reader from yarn selection and sizing to finished sweaters. The projects are all beautiful, ranging from simple stitches in gorgeous yarns to more complex colorwork and texture patterns. There's even one Aran sweater! The sweaters are all simple silhouettes with minimal shaping, made bottom up or side to side, so if you're a fan of fitted garments and couture shaping, this book won't meet your needs. But for those who have never designed a sweater before, it's a great introduction. The opening chapters provide an overview of the Twisted Sisters' design process, including hand-holding through the calculations, and each sample sweater features copious details about how the designer conceptualized and made the garment. A gallery at the back of the book will inspire you even more. One of the most interesting parts is where the author talks about mistakes several designers made along the way, and how they incorporated them into the finished designs. Especially wonderful for hand spinners, who may find that their custom yarns are not always well-suited for commercial patterns, this book is a must-have for every independent and adventurous knitter who wants to go beyond knitting from line-by-line patterns.

Lynne Vogel has done it again -- an instant classic. And not only that, but it's designed to give you

the freedom to knit what you really want to knit, using a base pattern as a jumping-off point, perfect for all you budding designers and creative knitters. From the introduction: "I've knitted hundreds of sweaters but have never knitted the same one twice. Most of them sprang from the same roots, but something always changed: the yarn, the size, the shape; usually all three. As I spoke with other twisted sisters, I found that, as handspinners, most of us had to adapt either our yarn to fit a pattern or the pattern to fit our yarn." This is one of the more frustrating parts of knitting with handspun yarn if you're just getting your feet wet. I attempted to solve some of that frustration in *Spin to Knit: The Knitter's Guide to Making Yarn*, particularly in my Faux Fair Isle sweater pattern -- by making just the yoke in handspun, for example, you know you're not going to run out halfway through the sweater and be stuck without more of the same "dye lot" -- or "spin lot," if you prefer. But Lynne and her Twisted Sisters take it a step farther, brilliantly, with the Knitter Fitter system. (A sidenote: Some of the sweaters in the book were on exhibit at a gallery when I was down to take pictures of Lynne's dyeing class for *Spin to Knit*, and I can attest that photos don't (cannot) do them justice). There's valuable sections on knitting with handpainted yarns and calculating how much yarn you'll actually need. But the cornerstone of the book is the Knitter Fitter system, comprising the Fitter List and the Sweater Map. The List is measurements you need to know to get started, and the sweater map, not surprisingly, shows you where you're going with those measurements. If you like using noncommercial yarns, if you're a spinner or just a fan of handspun, you will adore this book. If you've got a massive stash that varies in yarn shape and style? You can use this book to help create some truly one of a kind stashbusting sweaters. No matter what your personal knitting style and yarn preferences, *The Twisted Sisters Knit Sweaters* will give you both great information and inspiration to use.

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