

TannenBOOM

swanky emu knits design philosophy

I've had to modify *every single* garment I've ever knitted for myself. I know plenty of people who look like me, but my body is larger or differently proportioned than most knitting patterns seem to call for.

I create size-inclusive instructions to ensure my patterns work effortlessly for absolutely every body size and shape, *no matter what*. No need to learn pattern grading to knit a perfectly-fitting garment every time.

I build this into the framework of the design rather than add it later. Everyone deserves to wear something that is both tailored to their shape and that makes them look and feel amazing.

About TannenBOOM

TannenBOOM is a top down colorwork sweater that is custom-sized to your specific measurements. It's also an experiment! I designed it to use a yarn advent calendar I purchased and challenged myself to write the entire design before I saw any of the yarn. I'm releasing the pattern before I open my yarns so that other folks can knit along with me this season, however this means the design hasn't been test knit and yardage estimates are not given at this time.

Each of the 25 different advent yarn colors are used in the design's yoke, exploding in a festive riot of color down the top of the sweater. From there, remaining yarn is used for the rest of the garment, making stripes, fades, or even re-using some of the colorwork charts. It's flexible based on each knitter's personal taste as well as how much of each color remains.

No advent calendar? No problem! Dive into your sock yarn scraps or use any minis you have in your stash.



General Construction

TannenBOOM is knit from the top down with a custom number and spacing of increases based on your unique body measurements. Once the underarm is reached, sleeve stitches are held to the side on waste yarn while the torso is completed and cast off. Each short sleeve is then worked and cast off.

Physical items needed:

- Circular needles and DPNs (approximately US 1-4, depending on your gauge preference)
- Needles one size smaller than those used to make gauge, for neck and hems
- Stitch markers
- 1 blunt darning needle
- Tape measure (and probably a friend) to take several measurements of yourself
- Yarn and Yardage – sock weight yarn suitable for colorwork, 25 different colors (slightly more of one color if possible, for matching hems and gauge swatching)
 - As so many pieces of this sweater are customizable to your measurements, yardage can vary significantly. My sock yarn advent calendar has 24 mini skeins of 92 yards each, plus one full sized skein, giving me 2870 yards to work with. This is at least two (and possibly three or four!) times as much as I estimate I need for my 49 inch bust measurement.
 - Color #0: The yoke colorwork charts use Colors #1-24 which correspond to December 1 – 24 on the advent calendar. The neck, sleeve, and bottom hems use Color #0. This could either be a separate skein from your stash, a 25th color from your advent calendar, or you could shift and use December 1st's yarn for Color #0. For my sweater, I used the full skein from my advent calendar for my #0 since I knew I would have more than enough and I wanted those portions of my sweater to match. I also used this yarn for my gauge swatches.

Gauge

To ensure a precise fit, fairly precise gauge is important for this project. No need to swatch in the round, however, a flat gauge swatch will work fine.

Using your sock yarn, choose a needle size and gauge that you like and select it from the dropdown boxes on your spreadsheet. Stitch gauge may be anywhere from:

28 to 36 stitches and 40 to 56 rows = 4" (10 cm) in stockinette stitch

Spreadsheet info

This pattern uses a corresponding spreadsheet (open in Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets) to handle all pattern calculations and detailed instructions.

Garment Sizing and Fit

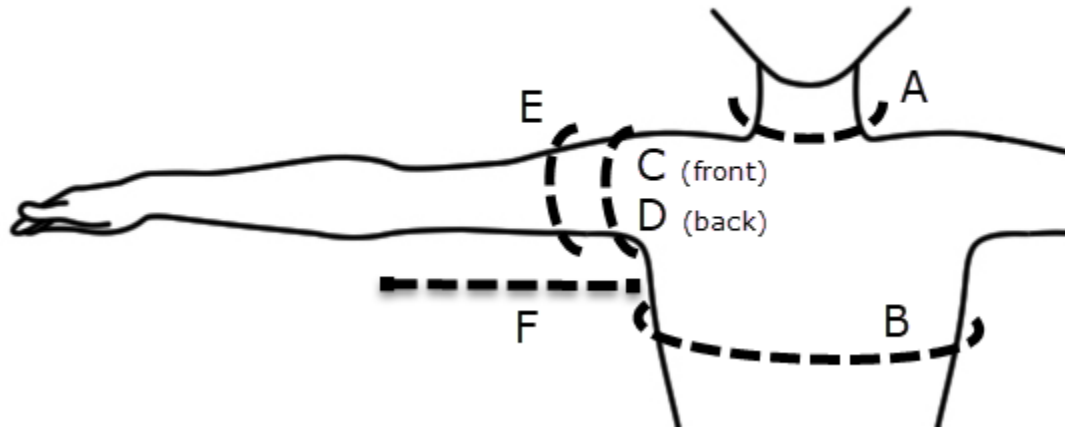
Although TannenBOOM has *absolutely* no upper size limits, the colorwork style means it cannot be sized down smaller than an approximately 6" yoke depth (a standard Adult Women's XS) without altering the colorwork portion of the sweater.

It is customized to your unique set of body measurements with approximately 0" (0 cm) of ease across the upper torso and arms.

Personal Body Measurements

To take measurements, wear a close-fitting top (or no top!), any undergarments you'd wear under the final finished sweater, and don't pull the tape measure too tightly.

Record measurements to the nearest half inch or full centimeter **in your spreadsheet**.



A = _____ inches or cm

neck circumference

B1 = _____ inches or cm

bust/chest circumference, measured at the widest part of your upper body, across the widest part of your breasts, if applicable

B2 = _____ inches or cm

bust/chest front, measured at the same place as above but only the front half, measuring from side seam to side seam

C = _____ inches or cm

armhole depth (front), top of shoulder to bottom of underarm

D = _____ inches or cm

armhole depth (back), top of shoulder to bottom of underarm

E = _____ inches or cm

bicep circumference

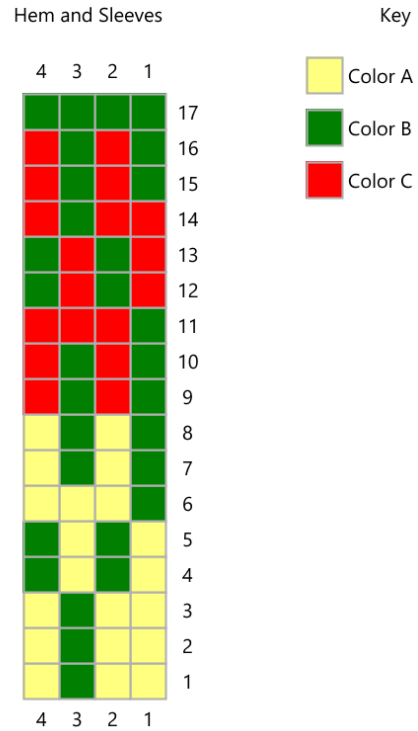
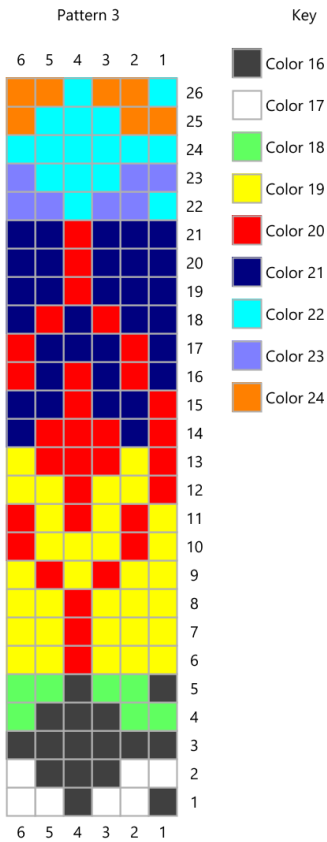
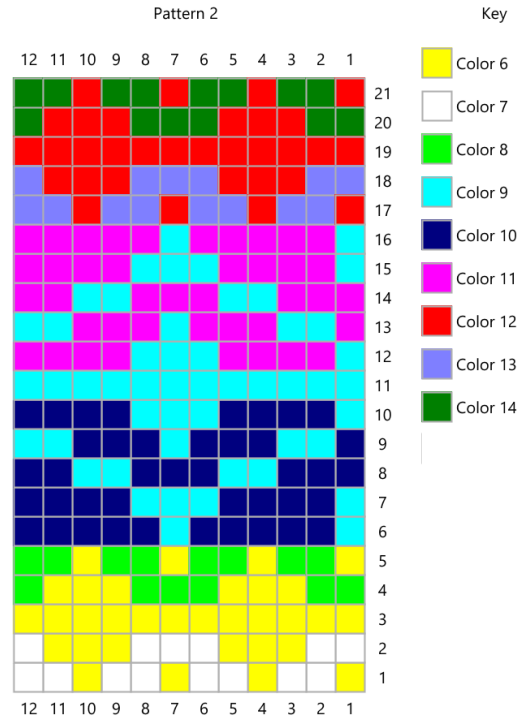
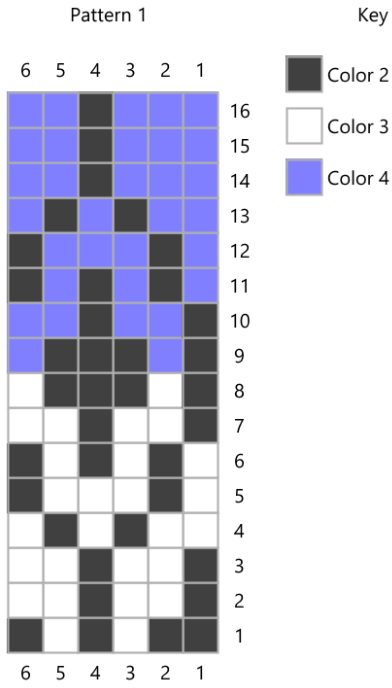
F = _____ inches or cm

underarm to elbow length

G = _____ inches or cm

desired sweater length from underarm to bottom hem

Colorwork Charts



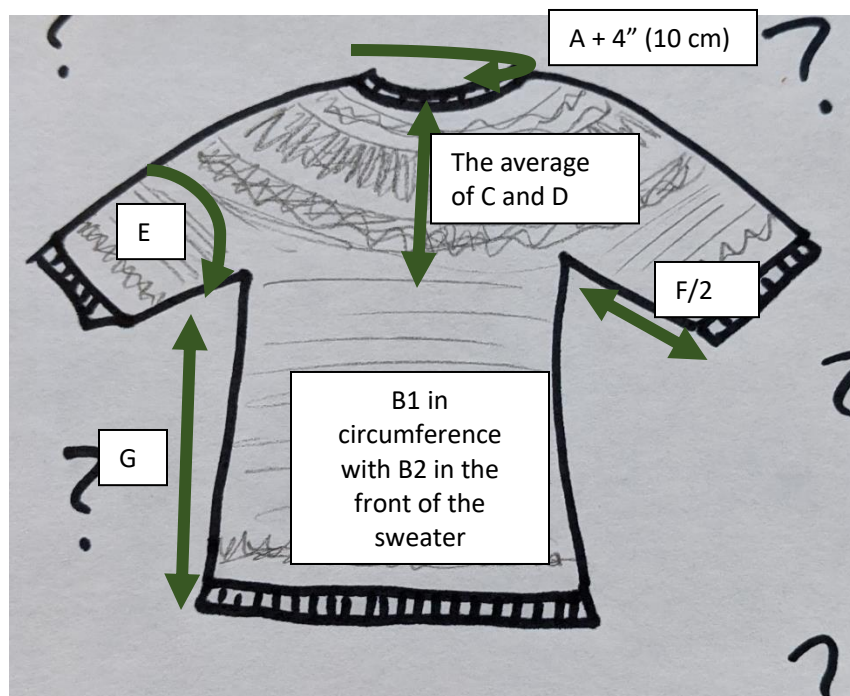
Other than blocking and finishing, use the spreadsheet pattern instructions from this point on.

Blocking and Finishing

Weave in all ends.

Soak the sweater in warm water and a little wool wash (optional). Remove and gently squish out excess water, using as many towels as needed. Pin flat to your sweater's dimensions (see below) and let dry.

Finished Garment Size:



**Please reach out to me with any questions or to share your projects!
Thank you for joining me in this design experiment!!**

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#TannenBOOM