

Tick Tick Boom

## 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.

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## About Tick Tick Boom

Tick Tick Boom is a top down colorwork sweater that is custom-sized to your specific measurements. It's also an annual Swanky Emu Knits tradition! Each year I challenge myself to create a garment design using a 25 color countdown/advent calendar that I've purchased from an indie dyer. I also challenge myself to write the entire design before I see any of the yarn and then release the pattern before I open my yarns so that other folks can knit along with me.

Each of the 25 different yarn colors are used in the design's yoke, exploding in a 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 anything else you like. It's flexible based on each knitter's personal taste as well as how much of each color remains.

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

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### General Construction

Tick Tick Boom 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 sleeve (long or short) is then worked and cast off.

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### Spreadsheet info

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

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## 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 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 countdown calendar has 24 mini skeins of 20g each, plus one full sized skein, giving me 2870 yards to work with. This is at least two times as much as I estimate I need for my 49 inch chest measurement. Some 20g minis will be completely used up and 15+g of others will be left when I'm done.
  - Color #0: The yoke colorwork charts use Colors #1-24 which correspond to Days 1 – 24 on the countdown calendar. The neck, sleeve, and bottom hems use Color #0. This could either be a separate skein from your stash, a 25<sup>th</sup> color from your calendar, or you could shift and use Day 1 yarn for Color #0. For my sweater, I used the full skein from my 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 swatch.

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## Gauge

To ensure a precise fit, fairly precise gauge is important for this project. No need to swatch in the round or with colorwork unless you prefer, however, a flat stockinette 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

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## Garment Sizing and Fit

Although Tick Tick Boom has *absolutely* no upper size limits, the colorwork forces lower size limits to the yoke depth. At the loosest row gauge, it cannot be sized smaller than an 8" yoke depth. At the tightest row gauge, it cannot be sized smaller than a 6" yoke depth (approximately an adult women's XS). When in doubt, especially if you have a shorter upper body, go with a tighter gauge.

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

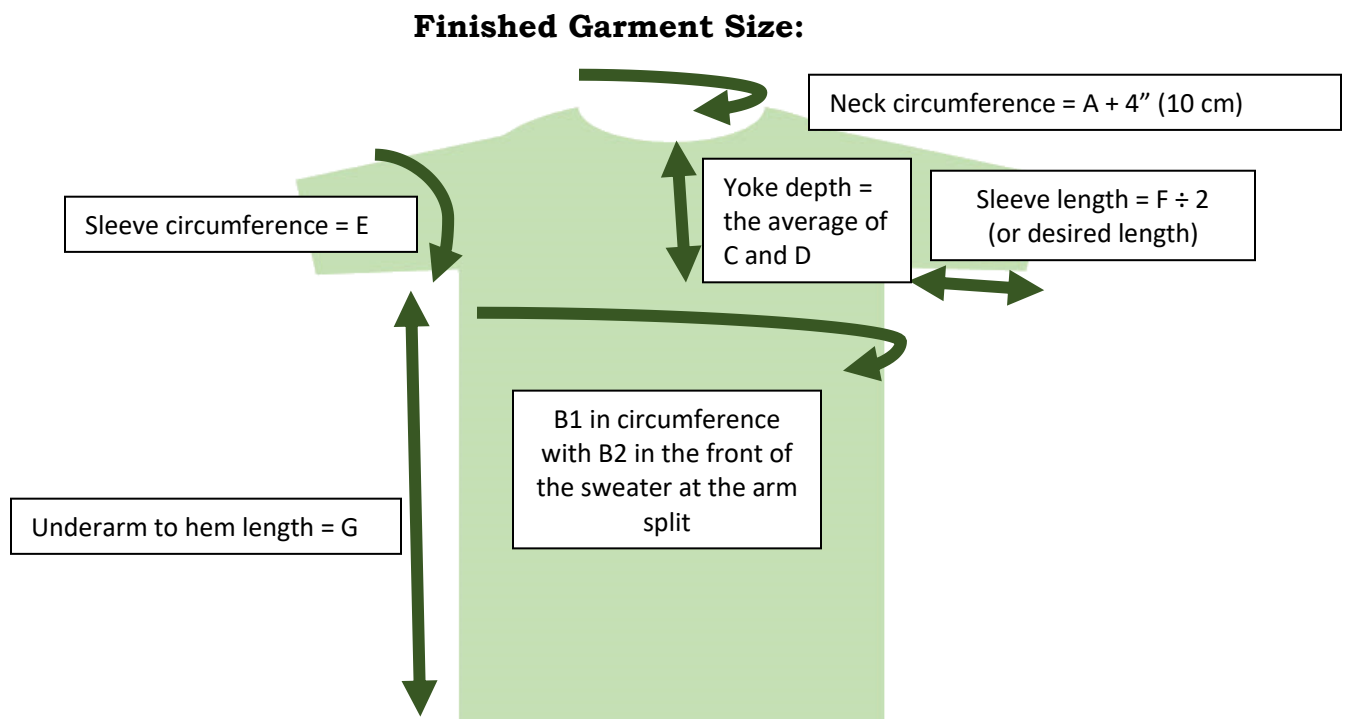
To download additional files, see errata, or learn info about the (M)KAL in December 2021, please visit <https://www.swankyemuknits.com/ticktickboom>

*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.



**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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# #TickTickBoomMysteryishKAL