

Swatching for Customfit

I've been doing some secret knitting, but other things can be revealed. Today, I'll show some swatches for upcoming [Customfit](#) sweaters.

First, some great news for folks in the Bay Area wanting to knit a Customfit sweater: [Bluebird Yarn and Fiber Crafts](#) is going to carry Customfit patterns in their store. This will be great for local knitters, because the staff will be able to measure you, and also give advice on yarns and styles of sweaters. I couldn't be happier about this; I will be working with Sophie, the owner, to train the staff, since I've now knit two sweaters. And we'll be working on perhaps a summer KAL to work together on Customfit so that by Fall, everyone has the perfect sweater for those cooler days.

Here's a confession: the first Customfit sweater that I knit for the beta-test, the one I blogged about [here](#), got frogged. I know! It wasn't anything to do with the software, it was about my choices. Why did I frog?

- I chose a pullover sweater in worsted weight wool. In hindsight, this was a dumb decision because in the temperate coastal climate I live in, I only wear cardigans in this weight of wool. It's just too warm.
- The V-neck was too high. It didn't flatter me as much as my deeper V-necks, plus it increased the warmth of the sweater.
- I wasn't wild about the yarn. It was intentional as I knit this, because as a test-knit, I wasn't going to pull out the precious sweater yarn in my stash, and I also wanted to see how a basic workhouse yarn held up with the pattern. But it also made me love the sweater less.

So, the yarn is frogged and will likely become some lovely socks and mittens for Afghans for Afghans.

Now, onto the new sweaters! One of them is for me, and the other will be a store sample for Bluebird. Let's look at the sample yarn first - oh my, it *is* lovely. I give you [Island Yarn](#), Blackwater (100% superwash merino wool, 185 yards in 100 grams) in the Twilight colorway:



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It's actually difficult to photograph the lovely navy and maroon subtleties. I did a swatch in four different needle sizes to show how swatching should be done. Because it is superwash, I wet it and threw it in the dryer so I could know how the yarn would hold up with regular care. It looks fabulous!



The other swatch is a very different beast: Knit Picks Gloss DK (merino silk) in a lovely spring green:



This will be a cardigan, 3/4 sleeves, and I'm mimicking a sweater that I really like ([Vodka Lemonade by Thea Colman](#)) (rav link) but don't want to knit because I just don't fit top-down raglan sweaters as well. I had to make a lot of guesses on my Dark and Stormy and it is a looser fit. So I'll be knitting bottom-up in pieces, and putting in some lace patterns from a new

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stitch dictionary by Melissa Leapman in similar places. I hope it works!

It's so great to start a new, let's-keep-it-cardigan with Customfit, I will definitely be blogging more about this process, and letting folks know when Customfit is launched at Bluebird!