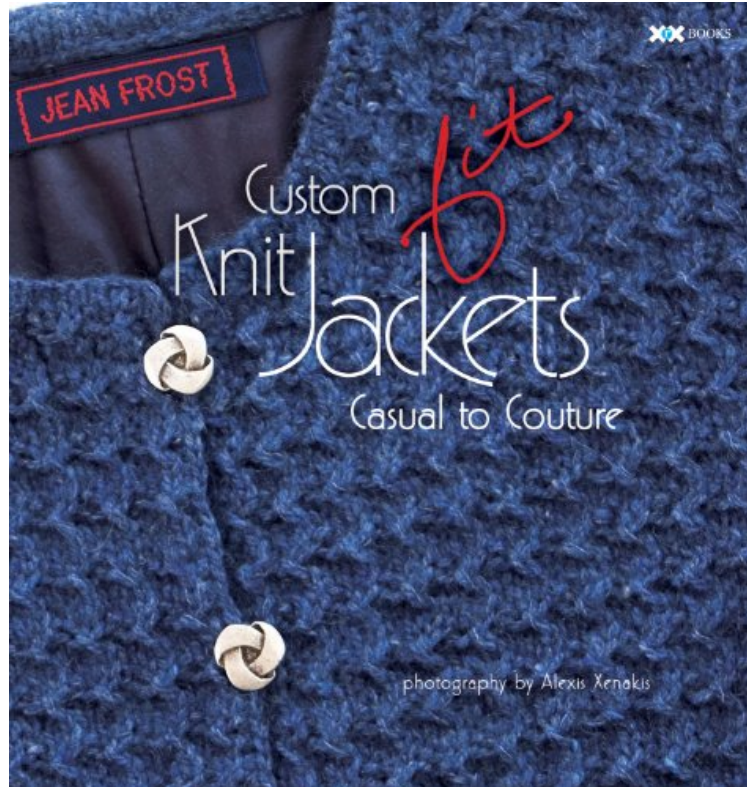


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Custom Knit Jackets: Casual to Couture

Jean Frost

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Jean Frost : Custom Knit Jackets: Casual to Couture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Custom Knit Jackets: Casual to Couture:

44 of 44 people found the following review helpful. For Advanced Knitters: Detailed Instructions for Designing and Constructing a Custom-Fit Jean Frost Jacket By Lynne E. This book starts with detailed, step-by-step instructions for making a paper pattern for a custom-fit jacket that is based on your personal measurements. Using the paper pattern, you then make a jacket from sweatshirt fabric, to test the custom fit. When you're satisfied with the paper master pattern, you use that pattern (along with a gauge swatch for the yarn you plan to use) to convert inches on this book's schematic patterns to stitches and rows for actual knitting of your custom-fit jacket. If you're already a fairly standard body size, you will be interested in the book's instructions for comparing your personal measurements to the standard measurements for jacket fronts, backs, and sleeves. If the measurements are close, you can use the standard measurements for your paper pattern, or you can download a full-scale gridded pattern from the publisher's web site. The standard sizes can also be customized for full-figure fronts. In addition, the book discusses jacket details, such as cuffs, borders, and edges, and has instructions for adding fabric jacket linings. The book has Jean Frost designer patterns for 14 jackets based on your master pattern: 3-color tweed, Coco (a Chanel jacket), String of Pearls (textured stitch pattern), Le Smoking (inspired by famous Yves Saint Laurent jacket), Basketweave, Boyfriend Jacket (narrow V collar), Gabrielle (slip-stitch pattern), Leaf Jacket (leaf bordered front closing), Peacock Tails (ripple pattern), Swing

Lace, Houndstooth, Woven Jacket (trompe l'oeil "woven" fabric done with slipstitches), Amber (double-breasted front closing), and Military Dress (lots of buttons!). I see no reason why a knitter could not jump in and just knit the included patterns from the master schematics (skipping the process of making a paper and/or jersey pattern for a custom fit). However, the book is really intended for advanced (or adventurous intermediate) knitters, who are already somewhat familiar with knitting patterns and schematics. I think that a new knitter would have some difficulty in understanding how to do the custom-fit pattern conversions from inches to stitches and rows, and in interpreting the schematics. As a book on advanced knitwear design and construction, which also includes many attractive knitted jacket patterns, I rate this at 5 stars. If what you're looking for are standard knitting patterns for a great-looking, great-fitting jackets, then you will probably be interested in author Jean Frost's first book, *Jean Frost Jackets: Fabric, Fit, and Finish for Today's Knits*. (My copy of *JACKETS*, purchased right after the book's release in 2003, included woven fabric "Jean Frost" labels as a little added bonus. I don't know whether these are still included.) Another good book of patterns for knitted jackets, also from XRX Books, is *Jackets-For Work Play* (Best of Knitter's Magazine series).

45 of 47 people found the following review helpful. OMGOSH!! What a great book!!!!!! By Cultured Purll absolutely* love* this book! As a long time knitter of sweaters, in the round, top down, fair isle, cabled (etc) I realize that I needed *no more sweaters* in my wardrobe ~ I handwashed my sweaters recently for fall/winter,,, and it took days for me to do this! I was in a knitting funk, I didn't know what to knit and had become bored. I took up a few projects for my husband using some wonderful stitch patterns and lovely yarns but I just felt like I was in a slump ~ and I had no desire to knit after years of learning many different techniques~ This book came at a time when I needed to get my knitting mojo back ,,,, and I cannot even begin to tell you how this book has encouraged me to knit some of the very lovely jackets that are in this book~ I love how Jean Frost has helped take the fear of good fit out of knitting a lovely hand made jacket,,, and demonstrates how easy it is to make up mock up jacket(no real sewing skills necessary other than very very basic) You fit your jacket BEFORE you start putting needles to yarn, so you get a guaranteed fit! NOW my interest is piqued now,,, I do not knit unless I am sure of fit anymore . I learned the hard way,,, years ago ,as I am sure most knitters have., Next ,you work up your swatch ,so you are certain you are *in love* with the fabric that you make ,and are willing to commit time and money to it. I like that some of her ideas include the use of 2 or more(??) yarns to make a lush fabric b/c even tho I am a seamstress, I know I am limited w/fabrics for sewing jackets, no matter where I go or order from on line~ I rarely have access to designer fabrics,, but I do search them out. I am also pleased that the yarns she choose are not necessarily high end yarns, I love the heavy use of Cascade b/c it is also AFFORDABLE yarn to many. It is all about stitch pattern and fit~ I will begin with a basic jacket, and work on getting a good fit before I commit my knitting time to making up more ~ in other words ,I will make darn sure I tweak my jacket pattern first. She includes basic jackets for several different stitch sizes so you can make a basic sweater/jacket for fitting ,,OR ,,just because you desire to do so! I had no idea this project was being worked on at XRX, as I have not read *Knitters* magazine or gone to a *Stitches* event for quite a few years. I came across it while looking at Ravelry. I teach knitting, so I tend to teach methods of EZ, B Walker, and A Staremore,, but this is very very different. This is knitting w/ a nod to a professionally fit jacket, and ventures into couture (which is really wonderful) I tend to sew things like this,,, but to knit them ??and create my own fabrics?? A dream come true!!!! It is a whole new way of thinking for me. You are knitting w/ the eye of Coco Chanel herself and Jean has done her homework, I would love to take a class from her someday~ I am very appreciative to Jean Frost for writing a book like this because I know if I whip up the mock up done in sweatshirt fabric) I can be assured my jacket will fit me like a glove (which happens to be my chief complaint w/pieced and sewn knitting~) No more holding your breath until your project is sewn together to see if it fits! THAT is worth its weight in gold!!!!!! While it is not necessary to line a jacket you are taught that process,(should you desire to do so.) Remember * if* you line your jacket to allow more ease in the jacket itself but I doubt many knitters will line b/c it is added time to the project (and I think you do have to have some sewing skills for this) I plan to do this b/c I am a seamstress , and I think it is wonderful to slip an arm thru a jacket a bit more easily but again *NOT necessary* As mentioned by another reviewer,, you can start if you are a fairly standard size) by knitting your swatch and watching your measurements as you knit along. I want to be clear, you do NOT have to be a seamstress to knit a jacket to fit you,,, I just happen to be a knitter and seamstress,, so I am looking at this book w/ a different eye, but I DO want every knitter to know they can create these lovely jackets w/ basic knitting skills! Some of my students have seen this book and want to start the basic jacket/sweater. I think it is great,, provided we take good measurements and knit that swatch! I also will encourage the basic fitting shell in the book but not expect it. We will continue to measure as we knit. As a matter of fact I will make fitting mock ups for my husband's vests! I wonder why I had never thought of this myself, its so simple and relieves the stress of fit after you are done w/ the garment I do question one thing I have read ,, and I need to check on this further. It is where the shoulder seam is placed. I have only sewn a true couture dress once in my life hand sewing everything picked is very consuming!) so I am not 100% sure on this, but I always thought that the shoulder seam was to meet smack dab in the middle of your shoulder and this book claims differently so I have some work to do in terms of research . She does not agree w/this but says the shoulder seam should be in the back thereby eliminating the need for short rows to fit the back. I do question this bc short rows are done for comfort even when you knit in the round, you get rid of that annoying " gotta tug the front down syndrome"! I am pretty sure I would

be wrong b/c I do not know that much about couture and I assume Jean Frost does , but I still want to check it out~I do not think you have to be an advanced knitter, a fairly new knitter can easily make up one of the basic fitting sweaters ,and have it come out quite lovely and work from that point on~ *and *the " math" is all done for you!This way you can grow in skills with this book on fitting issues,, as well as learning many different stitches used to make lovely textured jackets~ I would suggest the " Finishing School " book for knits ,by Deborah Newton as a book that would compliment this jacket book nicely~The range for jackets is very large , from tiny small to XXlarge and anywhere in between!I look at the work that must have been done to produce a book such as this. and it is mind boggling! Since I plan on having some waist shaping added to all my jackets,, I may have to do some easy math, but the jacket in the book w/ waist shaping is done in simple stockinette so its pretty to start out w/ that one and move on from there.I have heard others suggest to needle down in the waist to stay in pattern,,,, so maybe that would be a better choice?? I am going to really enjoy working out of this book!I am putting this book on my shelf right next to my EZ books,,,,,THAT is how much I love it! I hope you do too!!!!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A new level of knittingBy DuinoThis is one of the best investments for advanced knitters who want to design their own knitwear. Jan Frost takes you step by step through measuring your own body shape and creating a standard jacket pattern taylorred to you, which then can be used as a template for all kinds of knitwear design. She also explains the basic structure of a Chanel style jacket, so if you are into innovative design, quality, and couture,this is the book for you. She also provides a wonderful set of great jacket patterns which showcase knitting and finishing techniques(which you can adapt to your own measurements and she even teaches you how to make a silk lining for a knit jacket!). I learned how to knit from my German mother when I was a young child, and I always felt like a fish in water with knitting techniques, but often the sweaters did not fit as I imagined. I then started subscribing to Vogue Knitting more than 20 years ago and have knitted patterns from there and from books. I mostly knitted for my husband and son -- because men are easy to design for. But Lately I have had the urge to design knitwear that is suited to my body shape and follows my own vision. I love garments that are unique and well fitting and have an artistic flair. Jean Frost has given me the tools and the confidence to be able to do that. If you love the art of knitting, unique designs, and cannot afford couture unless you make it yourself, Knit Jackets -- Casual to Couture is an essential tool along the way.

With one master pattern, this resource guides knitters through creating 12 jacket silhouettes in five standard sizes, with four different weights of yarn. Reminiscent of the designer details that have made the Chanel jacket a signature piece for more than 50 years, the details in this book add professional finish to collars, pockets, fabrics, and hand-stitched silk lining. The process to create a perfect-fit jacket requires only simple math and graph paper. Using real-body examples, Jean Frost shows how to adjust patterns for narrow shoulders, long arms, short or long waist, a large bust, and other common fitting problems.

About the AuthorJean Frost teaches knitting and is the author of Jean Frost Jackets. She lives in San Diego, California. Rick Mondragon is a knitting designer, a teacher of specialized knitting techniques, and the editor of Knitter's Magazine. Elaine Rowley is the former editor of Knitter's Magazine and an editor for XRX Books. Alexis Xenakis is the publisher of Knitter's Magazine and XRX Books. His photography is featured in all XRX books. They all live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.