

Cardi-wrap in an hour

This comfy half sweater, half shawl is a fashion must-have

Each spring and fall, one garment or accessory makes it to the top of my must-sew list. This time around, it's the cardi-wrap—a cross between a cardigan sweater and a stole. Fashionable and easy to make, it's just a rectangle with inserted sleeves. Here, I'll show you how to cut and construct one in less than an hour. Then, depending on the weight of the fabric, you can wear the garment in several artsy ways, as shown in the bottom photo panel. Each configuration gives this stylish alternative to a sweater or jacket an entirely different look and feel: Tie it, belt it, wrap it, or try a unique combination of these for a look that's all your own.

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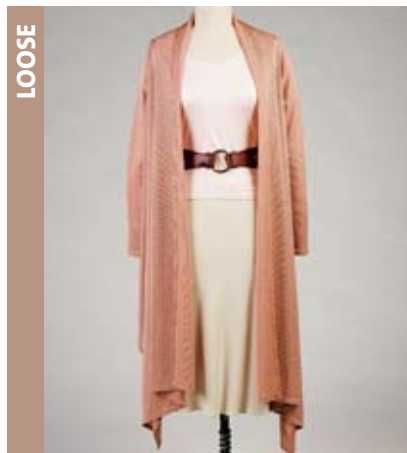
1 Customize the fit

The rectangle dimensions on p. 33 work for an average slim figure. To achieve a custom fit, you only need three measurements:

- 1 Overall length.** Lay a tape measure around your neck, and determine how long you want the cardi-wrap to fall in the front. This establishes the length of the rectangle. You can also adjust the width of the rectangle to fit your figure.
- 2 Across back.** Ask a friend to measure your back across the shoulder blades from arm to arm. This will help you position the sleeve armholes on the rectangle at right.
- 3 Sleeve length.** Measure from the shoulder point (where arm and shoulder meet) to your desired sleeve length. Adjust the sleeve pattern accordingly.

WEAR IT ALL SORTS OF WAYS

Here are just a few methods for twisting, wrapping, and tying this versatile garment:



Model photo: Jack Deutsch; hair and makeup: Christie McCabe; stylist: Jessica Saal. Studio photos: Scott Phillips. Illustrations: Lisa Summerell. Styling credit: Pants—BCBG Max Azria, BCBG.com

2 Cut to size

The best fabric choice is a lightweight two-way stretch knit. Most of the fabric will hang to the front of the body, so stay away from drapery, heavy knits. Chunky knits can be used as long as they are light and lofty. With 54-inch- or 60-inch-wide fabric, you'll need 2¾ yards. With 45-inch-wide fabric, you'll need 3½ yards.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN SLEEVE

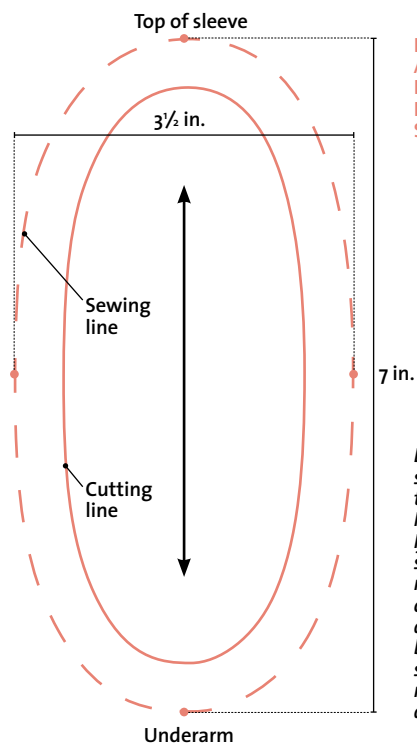
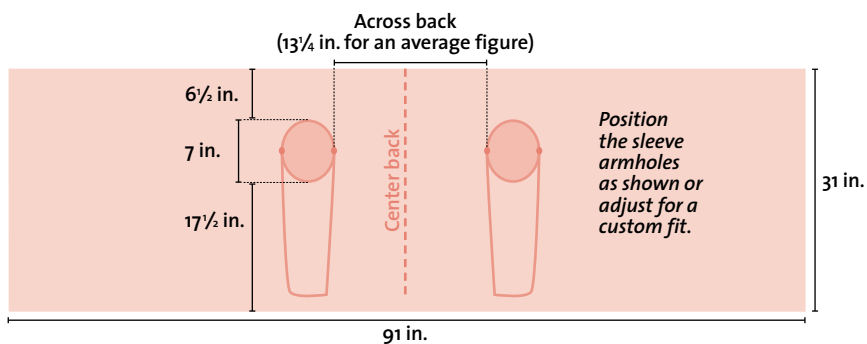
For the wrap shown, I used the sleeve from Neue Mode 23381 (View C, size 12) and lengthened it 8 inches. But you can use any knit sleeve pattern of your choice, and use your sleeve-length measurement to adjust the fit. You can also use rectangles—tapered or not—for the sleeves, which give a kimono look.

DRAFT THE ARMHOLE PATTERN

Follow the diagram at right. Seam allowances are included and are ½ inch.

POSITION THE ARMHOLES

First, measure and cut out your rectangle (½-inch hem allowances are included). Fold it in half, and pin the armhole pattern in place. Snip into the center of the pattern through all layers, then cut out on the cutting line.



ENLARGE THE ARMHOLE PATTERN ON A PHOTOCOPIER SET TO 150%.

Dimensions shown correspond to the sleeve from Neue Mode 23381. If you use another sleeve pattern, measure its corresponding armhole on the bodice along the sewing line and reconfigure into an oval.

3 Sew in a flash

Putting the cardi-wrap together is a quick process on your sewing machine or serger.

- 1 Sew the sleeve seams.** Place right sides together, and sew or serge the underarm seams. Press the seam allowances and turn right sides out.
- 2 Insert the sleeves.** With right sides together, pin each sleeve into the oval along the sewing line and reconfigure into an oval. Align the top of the sleeve with the top of the oval, and the underarm seam with the bottom of the oval. Sew or serge, easing the extra fabric at the cap. Lightly press and turn.
- 3 Hem all edges.** Press up a ½-inch hem allowance on all edges of the rectangle and on the sleeves. Topstitch with a single or double needle.

