



wrap star

Be cozy and fashionable
in this hybrid cardigan
and shawl

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 photo panel on p. 28. 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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WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ◆ Lightweight knit fabric
- ◆ Sewing machine or serger
- ◆ Matching thread
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Measuring tape

customize the fit

The rectangle dimensions below 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 the 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 below.

3 Sleeve length. Measure from the shoulder point (where arm and shoulder meet) to your desired sleeve length. Adjust the sleeve pattern accordingly.

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 drapey, heavy knits. Chunky knits can be used as long as they are light and lofty. With 54- or 60-inch-wide fabric, you'll need $2\frac{3}{4}$ yards. With 45-inch-wide fabric, you'll need $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN SLEEVE

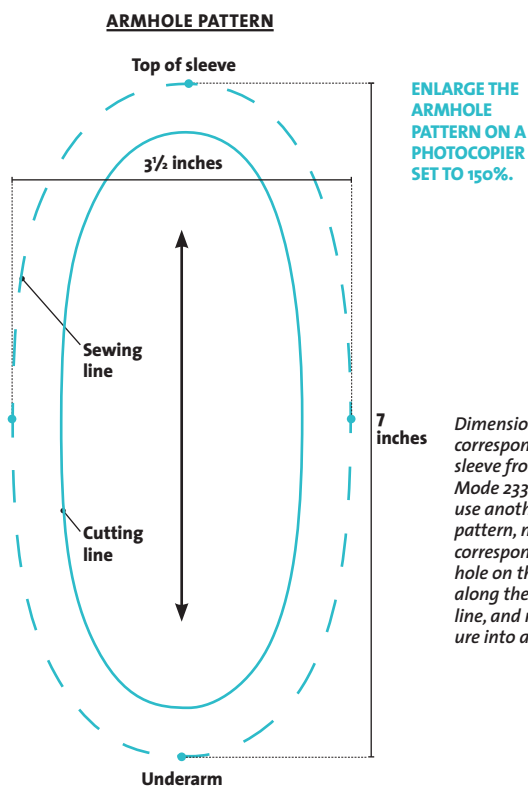
For the wrap shown, I used the sleeve from Neue Mode 23381 (View C, size 12) and lengthened it 8 inches. But you can use any knit sleeve pattern of your choice, and use your sleeve-length measurement to adjust the fit. You can also use rectangles—tapered or not—for the sleeves, which give a kimono look.

DRAFT THE ARMHOLE PATTERN

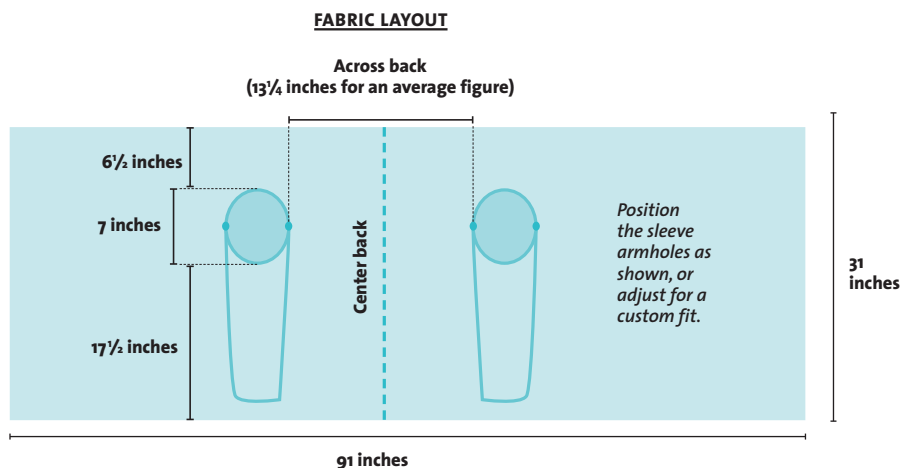
Follow the diagram at right. Seam allowances are included and are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

POSITION THE ARMHOLES

First, measure and cut out your rectangle as shown at right ($\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hem allowances are included). Fold it in half at the center back line and pin the armhole pattern in place. Snip into the center of the pattern through all layers, then cut out on the cutting line.



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.



continued >>>

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 opening. 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 1/2-inch hem allowance on all edges of the rectangle and on the sleeves. Topstitch with a single or double needle.

wear it all sorts of ways

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

