

FIND ME TECH EDITING ...

... FOR CROCHET AND KNITTING



TECHNICAL EDITING SERVICES

My aim is to help you produce a pattern that's as perfect as it can be. When I edit a pattern, I check the whole pattern – numbers, words, style, layout, charts, completeness & clarity.

My background is in mathematics and finance, where accuracy and clarity are key. I also love knitting and crocheting, and all things woolly. Tech editing combines all of those things perfectly.

PREVIOUS WORK

You can see some of the patterns I have edited (or graded) on my Instagram page (@findmeknitting) – in the story highlights, or search for the tag #FindMeTechEditing.

I have experience editing:

- hand knitting, crochet (in both UK and US terminology), and Tunisian crochet.
- socks, shawls, garments, and all sorts of accessories and homewares.
- brioche knitting and crochet.
- for both new and experienced designers.
- for designers whose first language is not English.

FEES

I charge the same hourly rate for all tech editing services: **£30 an hour**

- Existing clients will be given at least 3 months' notice of any rate increases.
- My time is recorded using a tracker on my computer. It is billed in completed 5-minute blocks.
- Invoices are issued, by email, in the first week of the month.
- For individual patterns, I will issue an invoice when my work is completed. This is generally after the pattern has been published. However, if there is a delay of more than two calendar months after I have carried out any work, I reserve the right to issue an interim invoice for work to that date.
- For longer-running projects, such as magazines, books or other collections of patterns, I will invoice monthly, for the previous month's work.
- All invoices are due within 30 days. If payment is not made within this time, I will exercise my statutory right to interest and compensation for debt recovery costs under the late payment legislation.
- For UK-based clients, payment should be made by direct bank transfer and in Sterling (GBP).
- For non-UK based clients, payment can be made by transfer to my account with Wise, or by card via Square or Stripe.
- Payment details are provided on the invoice.
- I am not registered for VAT.

TECH EDIT

WHAT I DO

For individual patterns, a full tech edit includes checking that:

- all the maths is correct.
- all the written and charted instructions are correct, clear, and produce the item you say they do.
- all the necessary elements are included, so that your customers have all the information they need to produce the finished object.
- there are no errors in your spelling, punctuation or grammar.
- the style used in the pattern is consistent throughout and follows your style guide (if you have one).

In most cases, I will look at the pattern more than once – to check changes made after the first edit or maybe after testing.

I like to carry out a final proofread of the pattern before you publish – to make sure no errors have snuck in with any last-minute changes.

HOW I WORK

I work on a Mac, and can work with most file types.

In particular, I have the following software/accounts:

- Microsoft Office
- Open Office
- Pages
- Adobe Creative Cloud
- Google
- Remarkable II

For the first edit, I will go through the whole pattern and check everything. I will then send you back a copy of the pattern with my comments and suggestions, and with any errors highlighted.

More often than not, there will be a lot of things marked up in the first edit. For that reason, my preference is to work with an editable file for the first edits – it's much quicker to mark up suggestions and comments using, for example, Track Changes in Word than to mark up a pdf. My edits will be marked as suggestions, which you can then accept or reject as you wish.

For garments and multi-size patterns, I check all the maths using an Excel spreadsheet.

For the near-final version, I like to have a pdf so I can see the pattern as it will be published. When proofreading, I always print a copy of the pattern to work from as I find it's too easy to miss the smaller details working only on screen. Any final comments will be marked on the pdf by hand (on my Remarkable), so there shouldn't be any issues with software compatibility.

I'm happy to exchange documents via email. I also use Dropbox for larger files. If I use Dropbox, I will send you a link to the folder, to which only you and I will have access. You are welcome to send me files via email, Dropbox, Google or iCloud.

HOW LONG IT TAKES

As a rough guide, this is how long I expect a full tech edit of a well-written pattern to take:

- Accessories, such as hats or cowls:
 - simple, one-size – 1-1½ hours
 - more complex, such as brioche, unusual construction, multiple sizes – 2-3 hours
- Shawls:
 - simple, one-size – 2-2½ hours
 - more complex, such as brioche, lace, unusual construction, multiple sizes – 3-4 hours
- Socks: unless they're particularly complicated – 2-2½ hours
- Jumpers & cardigans: unless they're particularly complicated – 4-6 hours

The first time I work with a designer, it can be more difficult to estimate how long an edit will take; it often takes a little longer as we get used to working together. When I give you an estimate, I will cap the time charged for the first pattern. This doesn't mean I'll do a less thorough job, just that you won't have to worry about the cost getting out of hand.

For many new designers, writing their first pattern can take a long time – as well as the actual designing and grading, there are big decisions to make on style and layout. For similar reasons, editing of first patterns can also take longer. But, subsequent patterns do become progressively quicker to edit (and hopefully to write).

Generally, the longer and more complex the pattern, the longer it will take to edit. For example, more sizes, complex charts as well as written instructions, and unusual constructions will all add to the editing time. But there are things you can do to cut down on that:

- Write down your style guide, or at least have a clear idea of what you want your style to be. This not only makes it easier for any editor to check your pattern, but can also make you more aware of what your style is and help you to be consistent.
- Check your pattern before you send it for editing. Even better, leave it a few days after you've finished writing it before checking it – it's amazing what you notice when you look at something with a fresh pair of eyes!
- If there are parts of the pattern you're not confident about, make a note for the editor.

OTHER SERVICES

GRADING

If you've only written your pattern in one size, I can help you extend it to cover a range of sizes. I have experience grading accessories and garments in both crochet and knitting.

If I grade your pattern, you will need to use another tech editor to check the final pattern – or be confident checking it yourself (as I can't check my own work).

The amount of work involved varies greatly. It will depend on complexity of pattern; whether the sample size written has been checked; how much detail you provide on the sizes, the ease required, and any special design features.

HOW LONG IT TAKES

Grading takes longer than tech editing.

As a **very** rough estimate, an adult-size jumper pattern can easily take an hour per graded size.

CHARTS

I can produce written instructions from charts, or charts from written instructions, or even charts from your hand-drawn sketch.

For crochet, I use either StitchFiddle or Illustrator.
For knitting, I use StitchMastery.

Charts can be formatted to match your own style, and can be provided in pdf, jpeg or the original software format.

Per chart:

- knit – 1-2 hours
- crochet – 1-3 hours

SCHEMATICS

I can produce schematics for your pattern using Illustrator.

These can be formatted to match your own style, and can be provided in pdf, jpeg or ai/eps format.

Per diagram:

- 1-2 hours

STYLE GUIDE

Your style guide covers everything about how your pattern looks: the order in which it's written; the fonts, colours and abbreviations you use; how you show repeats, multiple sizes and stitch counts ... the list is long!

Having a style guide can save both you and your editor time (and so save you money) on future patterns.

- 1-4 hours

(it really depends on how much guidance you'd like)

PATTERN TEMPLATES

If you're putting the effort into producing great, well-written patterns, it makes sense to make sure they look great too.

I can produce templates for you to then use to create your own patterns using InDesign, Word or Pages.

Or, if you don't have the software, I can lay out individual patterns for you using InDesign and provide you with a finished pdf.

For templates: 2-3 hours per template

For layout: 1-1½ hours for a two-page pattern; longer patterns ½ hour for every two extra pages.