



## Guidelines for Choosing a Sweater for Unraveling

1 -- Make sure the seams are NOT serged! The vast majority of sweaters are sewn up with a chain stitch or perhaps a running stitch. If a sweater seam is serged you will end up with many, many short yarns instead of one long one.

2 -- The best choice for unraveling is any unembellished pullover. Round necks are best. Vee-necks are also good. A basic pullover sweater will yield 4 large balls of yarn: front, back and 2 sleeves worth. Even cardigans are fine but know that you will end up with 5 balls of yarn not 4.

3 -- As much as possible avoid embellishments. Depending on how they are applied/removed you may end up with yarn breakage.

4 -- Don't forget to check the men's section. Sweaters there tend to be simpler and BIGGER! It's also a good place to find nice tweedy yarns.

5 -- Beware of 'felting', especially with wool. Other fibers will also felt. Check for clearly defined yarn that is not matted together.

6 -- If you find a sweater with a really cool novelty yarn, metallic yarns, plied yarn, silk or a color you can't live without, ignore all of the above except #1! Ultimately you are weighing the coolness of the yarn against the ease of unraveling and unbrokenness of the final yarn yield.

7 -- Wash it! I put all the sweaters I get in a sink and run the hottest water I can on them and then dry them in the dryer. If you are a 'wool' person (I am not) and washing a wool sweater, I suggest you use the most extreme measures you would ever expect your weaving to experience. The goal is that there not be any surprises after you use your yarn in a weaving.

### To complete this project you will need:

Sweater of your choice to unravel  
Scissors (the sharper the points the better)  
Small crochet hook or seam ripper  
Reading glasses if you use them  
Ball winder if you have one