Your Pre-Tech Editing Check List

Before sending your pattern to your tech editor, you want to make sure you have done all you can to make it as good as possible. This will make the process not only go smoother, but it will also mean it takes your tech editor less time to edit your pattern making it cheaper for you!

Working through this list is also a great way to see if your pattern is ready if you are a new designer. If any of these points are unclear to you, your tech editor will be happy to work through them with you!

For my tech editing services and other professional services, see:
www.sycamorestudio.co.uk

Pattern Information

Check all this information is included at the start of the pattern:

- **Construction method/brief description of how the item is made** (not always relevant for very simple accessories)
- **Sizes/measurements**
  - This includes ease/"to-fit" as well as actual measurements for garments.
  - Are your sizes inclusive of different body types?
  - Have you used an appropriate sizing standard?
- **Schematic**
- **Yarn information**
  - Yarn required: meterage and yardage per weight, colloquial type (e.g. double knit, fingering), total amount used per yarn type
  - Yarn used for photographed sample: yarn manufacturer, yarn name, colourway, meterage and yardage per weight, fibre content, total amount used per type
- **Needles/hooks** in US and metric sizes
- **Gauge** in all relevant stitch patterns, typically stated blocked and which size needle/hook was used to achieve this gauge
- **Notions**, such as darning needle, stitch markers, etc

Stitches and Techniques

This information should be included at either the start or the end of the pattern.

- **Abbreviations**
  - Ensure list is complete, include abbreviations used in text surrounding the pattern. Nothing is too "obvious".
  - Ensure each abbreviation has a name listed to it (e.g. k – knit).
  - Ensure those abbreviations that require it also have a full explanation (e.g. M1R – Make 1 Right – With left hand needle lift loop between stitches from back, knit through front loop)
  - Ensure no abbreviations are listed that are not used
- **Non-standard stitch patterns**
  - Provide either explicit instructions or a link to a source
  - Videos are always useful but not compulsory
  - Credit outside sources clearly
- **Techniques**
  - Provide either explicit instructions or a link to a source
  - Videos are always helpful but not compulsory
  - Credit outside sources clearly

Pattern Instructions

- **Is the pattern complete?**
  - Are all relevant sections included? For example, a mitten might requires the cuff, gusset, hand *and* thumb.
  - Are all sections clearly labelled?
- **Is the pattern in a logical order?**
  - Are sections in the correct order? For example, on a top-up sweater, the sleeves are usually knit first, so the instructions should be included first.
- **Row/Round labelling**
  - Are rows and rounds labelled correctly?
  - Are rows/rounds numbered consistently?
- **Stitch Counts**
  - Include stitch counts every row/round there is a change
  - Check stitch counts are correct
- **Finishing Instructions**
  - Make sure finishing, blocking and other relevant instructions are included, such as sewing up.

Charts

If you are including charts, for example for lace or cable patterns, check the following:

- **Chart headings/labels** need to be clear so that they can be referred to in the pattern, for example: "Chart A", "Chart A, Sizes 1-4".
- **Key**
  - On at least each page with a chart
  - Includes all relevant symbols
  - Large enough to read
- **Written instructions**
  - Included for each chart
  - Match each chart
- **Row/round labelling**
  - Row/round numbers need to be consistent. They can either match the pattern when the chart is only repeated once, or have separate row/round numbers that can be referred to in the pattern.
  - Are rows and rounds labelled according to the direction of knitting?
- **Visually clear**
  - Check size/scale on 100% resolution or even better try printing it to check legibility
  - Good contrast between icons and colours, for best results check on greyscale and it should still be legible
  - Check colours are colourblind friendly

Layout and Formatting

- **Matches Style Sheet**
- **Footer/header information**
  - Included on each page
  - Page numbers present and correct
- **Formatting consistent for the following**
  - Headings and subheadings
  - Row/Round labelling
  - Image descriptions
  - Abbreviations consistently used the same way
- **Visual details**
  - Is the pattern easy to read? This includes visually being able to find relevant information, for example by easily finding the right heading
  - Are photos clear, in-focus and relevant?
- **Spelling,** ideally using a good spell checker like Microsoft Word or Google Docs or Grammarly

Last, but not least:
Let your editor know which areas you want them to pay extra attention to, or if you are unsure about anything!