

BUTTON BANDS, DEMYSTIFIED

Button bands are specified a little differently in CustomFit, to allow for maximum design flexibility. Here's the low-down on allowance vs. trim height, and how to get the sweater you want.

Button Band Allowance: The distance between the *unfinished* front edges, before adding any trim



Button Band Trim Height: The length of trim after picking up stitches, before binding off



COMBINING THE TWO

Vary trim height & allowance to create different cardigan styles:

- **Traditional Buttoned Cardigans:** Trim height equals allowance.
 - Typical: 1½" (4 cm)
 - Wide: 2 - 2½" (5 - 6.5 cm)
 - Narrow: 1" (2.5 cm)
- **Worn-Open Cardigans:** Trim height less than or equal to half of the allowance.
 - Typical: 3" (7.5 cm) allowance, 1½" (4 cm) trim height
 - Wide: 6" (15 cm) allowance, 3" (7.5 cm) trim height
 - Narrow: 1" allowance, ½" (1.5 cm) trim height
- **Double-Breasted Cardigans:** Negative allowance and/or the trim height more than the allowance.
 - Typical: -1½" (-4 cm) allowance, 1 - 2" (2.5 - 5 cm) trim height
 - Wide: -3" (-7.5 cm) allowance, 1 - 2" (2.5 - 5 cm) trim height
 - Narrow: 0" (0 cm) allowance, 3" (7.5 cm) trim height

Things to keep in mind:

- Allowance cannot exceed width of neckline
- Aim for a "worn open" style to exactly meet in the middle. (That is, the trim height should be equal to half of the allowance.) The gap will widen as the knitter moves and wears her sweater.