



FASHION FRAMEWORK SERIES

Tam Lesson by Mary Forte

In the "Fashion Framework Series" we help you explore basic elements of pattern make-up and things to know before you knit. Each article in this series provides a lesson for a basic type of garment. The lesson describes in detail aspects of the garment, provides a basic pattern, and suggests ways to alter the pattern to customize the garment. This lesson is for Tams and Berets.

ABOUT TAMS AND BERETS

What's the difference between a tam and a beret? Look up the terms on the internet and you will find plenty of overlapping definitions. Fairchild's Dictionary of Fashion describes the beret as "1. a flat tam made of wool."

The beret/tam has romantic and literary roots. A Basque beret is a "round, flat, soft woolen cap worn by Basque peasants who inhabit the western Pyrenees region of France and Spain." A pancake beret is worn tilted to the side to indicate that the wearer is an artist. The Scottish tam o'shanter takes its name from the title of the 1791 poem by Burns.

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