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The Magic Of Shetland Lace Knitting: Stitches, Techniques, And Projects For Lighter-than-Air Shawls & More



Synopsis

The ethereal beauty and intricacy of Shetland lace knitting might seem beyond the powers of the everyday knitter, but the skills needed are within the reach of everyone who can knit, purl, cast on, and bind off. *The Magic of Shetland Lace Knitting* is designed to take the novice knitter from their first "yarn over" through the steps needed to master the more complex patterns. The techniques are introduced with clear step-by-step instructions, charts, and detailed photographs of knitted samples. Aimed primarily at beginners, more experienced knitters will also appreciate the way the book organizes the stitches, allowing for easy substitution of patterns. Those interested in different lace traditions will be excited by the collection of specifically-Shetland stitches. And as more knitters want to stretch themselves and learn new techniques, this book will be a useful guide aimed at helping these knitters take their first steps in making a Shetland lace project. Included are all the traditional Shetland motifs, patterns, and insertions including Cat's Paw, Candlelight, Horse Shoe, and many more. With suggestions for how to work the different stitches into elegant and traditional Shetland Lace accessories such as scarves, hats, and shawls. Atmospheric photographs taken in the wild Scottish landscape and historical information about the development of Shetland lace are sure to delight all knitters and textile lovers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

ELIZABETH LOVICK has spent many years researching and knitting Shetland lace. A teacher by nature, she enjoys giving knitters the help they need to expand their horizons. She regularly contributes patterns and articles to knitting and spinning magazines in the US and UK. Elizabeth

lives in the United Kingdom and frequently travels to the Shetland Isles.

This is a book for the intermediate or experienced lace knitter. It is primarily a book of techniques and stitch patterns with some projects at the end. The projects are lovely but require a great deal of experience with lace knitting. The beginning of the book is 'Essential Techniques': Tools and Equipment, Yarn, The Basics, How to Read a Chart, Edges and Seams, Picking Up stitches, Dealing with Mistakes, Dressing Lace, Designing Shetland Lace, and Putting Motifs Together. As is obvious from the titles of the sections, this part of the book focuses on design as well as practical information for the lace knitter. It is not a 'how-to' book of lace knitting. Rather, it assumes that the reader already has quite a bit of experience knitting lace. The second part of the book is a Stitch Directory which is about 70 pages long. It contains a myriad of different lace stitches and borders as well as steeks. Not all of the stitches are complicated but they do require a knowledge of lace knitting. Some of the projects are lovely. The cobweb shawl is a project for a master lace knitter but would make anyone proud if they were to knit this pattern. The Hat and Scarf Set is much easier than the shawl but is nothing spectacular. Personally, I would not choose to knit it. The Baby Set is lovely and the pattern offers alternative lace stitches that can be incorporated into the project rather than the one that is demonstrated. This would take a bit of knowledge and math skills. The Crescent Shawl is beautiful but this too requires that one be an experienced lace knitter. I was disappointed that there were not more projects in the book but am happy that there are so many motifs. I have knit lace before and consider myself an high intermediate knitter. However, I would be very nervous about taking on one of these projects. I wish that more instruction had been included in this book.

Pictures are nice and clear but no line numbers on charts. One chart is even upside down! Some written instructions for pattern stitches do not match charts so the user needs to fill in the blanks. Not for a novice. Construction technique for cobweb shawl is like none I have ever come across and difficult to follow. Really needed to be PROOFED! Yes, sometimes books have mistakes, but this just has too many and carelessly put together.

I hesitated on buying this book for a long time. The cost of international postage cost makes me think twice or three times. Digital editions are more cost effective for international readers. At first glance, it was all I'd hoped for. A little history, many technique tips, some patterns to try my new skills. The Stitch Selector followed by enlarged photos is amazing. Then I looked closer. The font used appears to be about 6 points and either very light or grey. My glasses are within a year old and I have no

trouble reading other books. Took the book to my craft group where my friends had similar problems. The lighting used for some of the photographs leaches the colour out of the yarn reducing stitch definition. I emailed about my concerns hoping a later edition could correct these problems. The publisher advises me the extra pages required to use a slightly larger font are cost prohibitive. One of the photos I remarked on will be addressed. My astonishment at no digital edition was ignored. Please note: My concerns are strictly with the printing. The little I've read using a Daylight Lamp and a magnifying glass indicate the content is great. Had there been a digital edition available, I wouldn't have a worry. As it is, I have no intention of straining my eyes by trying to refer to a knitting book through a magnifying glass then back to my knitting, back to the magnifying glass etc. The book will remain on the shelf as a reminder to be careful about buying books I can't peruse in person or buy a digital copy which can be zoomed on a PC screen.. If you have perfect vision and plan on keeping it for the years of knitting ahead of you, go right ahead, I'm sure you'll love the book.

Not what I expected. I was hoping for several shawl patterns (like those on the cover), but the book is mostly individual stitch patterns that can be incorporated into shawl designs with a few projects at the end. I'm an experienced lace knitter, and already have numerous stitch dictionaries. Although the information on technique is great, I wish the description had better indicated the content.

i usually get a book from the library and then decide whether or not to purchase; i was so excited about this book i purchased it sight unseen. this is a comprehensive and beautiful book about shetland lace knitting which includes both written and charted directions. there is a section on how to read charts... this section has row numbers printed. BUT the actual lace charts in the book do NOT have row numbers. this is the first time i have ever seen a lace book which has charts without row numbers. if you use the charts in this book you will need to number the rows yourself!!!

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