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The Lacy Knitting Of Mary Schiffmann



Synopsis

An eclectic collection of lace patterns and short stories about knitting, this book reveals the tales told by Mary Schiffmann to Nancy Nehring. Schiffmann was one of the founding members of the Lacy Knitters, a national guild for lace knitting, and she made collecting lace patterns her life's work. The book begins with Schiffmann developing her knitting skills as the daughter of missionaries in Japan, then continues with further anecdotes and memories from a life of knitting. Each interesting episode is accompanied by a lace pattern that Schiffmann collected during her fascinating life. The patterns are presented with both row-by-row instruction and in charted form. Projects include towels, handkerchiefs, a sweater, and a christening gown.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I highly recommend this book as either a first lace knitting book or to add to a collection because it is both helpful and beautiful. I have purchased other lace knitting books but because of their complexity I had never used them to produce a piece of lace. The author of this book, Mary Schiffmann, taught lace knitting and includes in the book a list of projects designed to help novice lace knitters develop their skills. I was able to pick up this book and without other help teach myself to knit lace. Also helpful is that all the patterns are charted. The book is an interesting mix of the author's personal history, discussions about lace, and lessons. It also contains an excellent variety of patterns (from easy to complex), projects and suggestions. I plan on working my way through many of the patterns. The book has an artful approach that shows the beauty of hand knitted lace.

The cover is deceptive in that it shows several lace doilies, but what you see on the cover is what you get in the book. Most of the stitch patterns are found in most pattern books. The only part of the book that is truly unique for the experienced lace knitter is the few lace edging patterns. Not worth 17.95 for those few patterns.

This book is very well put together. I have been knitting for 20 years and love the patterns in this book. There are a number of advanced patterns for more experienced knitters, something difficult to find these days, and a number of simpler patterns for novice knitters. I only wish it had more patterns and hope that they will come out with a second book.

Obviously if you are interested in the topic, you will love the patterns and inspiration these informative chapters. The writing by Nancy Nehring brings the book to life with clear and concise instructions and writing skills. Worth the purchase price just to view the beautiful lacework that Mary Schiffmann does with knitting needles. I see the impossible but a skilled knitter could probably be able to read the instructions and make the same scarves and doilies. Beautiful work.

Most of this volume seemed to be filled with doilies, which I personally do not use that much -- dust catchers! However, this is valuable if only for the historical aspect and beautiful lace patterns.

While this book was not exactly what I was expecting (Ohrenberg shawls, etc.), it was indeed highly useful. Mary Schiffman provides many different types of lace for knitted lace, including edging or borders, samplers, shawls, and a skirt. Her style is relatively straight-forward yet not for the faint of knitting heart. There is much to be learned in this book and it has many useful yet beautiful applications. I would recommend this book for the more advance knitter who is looking to explore the possibilities of knitted lace and design garments using lace techniques.

I was not impressed with this book. The opening paragraph states that Mary had collected lace patterns all of her life. Surely she had collected somethings that were prettier than the plain, boring and very 'solid' (Meaning, very little actual lace in the patterns) doilies exemplified in this book. Of the entire book there were only two doilies with which I would consider bothering.

I can't say enough about the book! The lace techniques are outstanding! Mary Schiffmann's knitting

is a work of art. If you are interested in perfecting your lace knitting and making heirloom quality items...this is the book for you!

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