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Knitting Fresh Brioche: Creating Two-Color Twists & Turns



Synopsis

World-renowned brioche knitting expert Nancy Marchant takes this versatile European stitch "which creates a luxurious, reversible ribbed fabric" to a new level! In her groundbreaking collection, Marchant works brioche in two colors, forming graceful, undulating textures with increases and decreases. She explains everything from how to hold the yarn and cast on (offering multiple options) to creating the basic fabric and reading two-color charts. The stitch library presents 75 all-new patterns, and there are an additional 12 in luscious shawl and scarf projects.

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Customer Reviews

Years ago, I paid for a private lesson to learn how to knit basic two color brioche and walked away with empty pockets with no results. I took Nancy's brioche knitting class on Craftsy and made two scarves in a month. I loved it so much that I had to get this book to keep myself in practice. Brioche knitting is fun and addictive. The stitch patterns shown in this book are stunning and I found myself saying to my husband that Nancy Marchant is the Alice Starmore of Brioche knitting. He said, "That is high praise." He loves the book too and everyone has made requests already.. There is not one thing in this book that I do not want to do. The patterns and stitch designs are so nice. You can't help but be inspired. This one is a keeper!

Brioche stitch is a form of slipped stitch knitting (you slip the stitch from the row beneath and make a slipped stitch-yarnover unit.) As with other slipped stitch fabrics, like mosaic knitting, it lends itself to

two color work with ease and it's reversible. You can do circular knitting but because you need a right and a wrong side, you do a row 1 and a row 2 (like making garter stitch in circular knitting.) You can make swaths of intricate fabric that looks a bit like k1 p1 rib. The fabrics created in "Fresh Brioche" are not like any I've seen before. In particular, there is a "cathedral" stitch I've never laid eyes on before. A lot of stitches look like waves, others like vines and leaves. The patterns created from the stitch variations are mostly shawls and cowls. Some of the patterns use light mohair, showing you that brioche stitch does not have to be made from smooth, heavier yarns, and that it can even create a lacy effect. If you love to collect knitting stitch patterns, and if you love brioche stitch, this book has unusual and new ways to use brioche. It is somewhat limited in the pattern item selections, but this book is more a stitch book than a knitting pattern book. The stitches are eye-catching.

Yes, there are projects in this book. But it's so much more than that! Nancy not only gives you beautiful patterns to knit, she also gives you a fabulous foundation for brioche knitting that will allow you to completely understand the way that brioche fabric is made so that you can create your own brioche patterns. I love this book and would recommend it to anyone who wants to either learn basic brioche knitting or master it. As an added benefit, Nancy Marchant and Mercedes Tarasovich-Clark both teach Craftsy classes on brioche knitting. So if you buy this book (or any other brioche knitting tome) and find yourself baffled, head over and take a class on it! Start with Nancy's class if you knit English or Mercedes's class if you knit continental. I found that Nancy's brioche knitting is much more intricate and masterful, but that some people had a hard time understanding her techniques because she throws instead of picks. Good luck!

First off, I should probably say that I consider myself an advanced beginner when it comes to knitting. I have tried many types of knitting with success, so when I saw this book I thought..."I can handle that!" I had never heard of brioche knitting, but when I saw the picture on the cover of this book I knew this was the book I had to buy. Now that I have this book and have read it and tried some stitches, I realize that I probably should have started with Nancy Marchant's first book, *Knitting Brioche: The Essential Guide to the Brioche Stitch*. That being said, I was still able to learn everything I needed from this book. Things you ought to know: Brioche is different from "normal" knitting, but you will need to have mastered the standard knitting stitches to understand the more complex brioche knitting. This book consists of 3 major parts. Part one is how to brioche knit. It includes the special cast on, the new types of stitches, increases, decreases, fixing errors, special

cast off methods, and how to read brioche charts. Part 2 is a dictionary of brioche stitches. Part 3 is a small collection of scarf patterns. It also includes some information on how to modify patterns for things like one color brioche and circular brioche. This book barely touches on one color brioche, so if that is where you want to start I would definitely get her other book instead. Each pattern includes both line by line directions and charts. The last thing you ought to know is that gauge and yarn weight are unimportant for most of these patterns, which I love!

Pros of the book:The stitch patterns in this book are very complex, but expertly explained. The pictures show every aspect of the stitches without leaving you guessing how she got from one step to another. Each stitch that is demonstrated is pictured in both American and continental style (which I find helpful since my teenage daughter knits in a different style than I do). The stitch dictionary is filled with stitches that you can't find anywhere else. I also found the knowledge imparted in this book clear enough to assist anyone that wanted to make up their own stitch patterns. The pictures and examples are gorgeous. She always lets you know what type of yarn she used, what sized needles, what size her projects are, how many she cast on in her sample pieces, etc. She also does not try to convince you that her yarns are the only ones that will work for her projects. Last but not least, brioche is pretty cool and there aren't many other places out there to learn it.

Cons:Even though I gave this book a 5 star rating, there are a couple of minor problems which I hope they will fix in the next edition to book. First of all, I really wish the binding on this book were different. The patterns are complex enough that I am referring back to it often and I really wish it were bound in a way where it would stay open (like a spiral binding.) Second. I wish the charts were a little more contrasting so they would turn out more crisp when I copy them. This wouldn't really be an issue if they resolved issue number one. I don't consider either of these enough of a problem to knock it down a star. I could easily take it to a print shop and have them spiral bind it for me. There only other issue to mention is the lack of an errata. I am guessing that will come later. It isn't unusual for such a new book to have some errors and I have already found one. In the pattern "Icicle" they forgot to print the instructions for the set up rows in the line by line instructions. This wasn't a big deal since it was in the chart and set up rows are pretty much the same anyway, but I will admit I was a little confused at first... wondering if for some reason this pattern was able to skip those otherwise essential rows. Once again, I will not take a star off for this since it is most likely just a matter of time until the errata becomes available.

All in all, this book was excellent. After some practice and a few sample swatches, I have been able to get the hang of brioche knitting and am ready to start making the gorgeous shall on the cover.

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