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The Complete Book Of Crochet Stitch Designs: 500 Classic & Original Patterns



Synopsis

This stitchwork classic features 500 designs ranging from traditional patterns to original motifs--crocheters of every level will find essential information and inspiration on every page. Each design features a close-up color photograph, a diagram showing each stitch and its placement, and easy to follow instructions. A pictorial index displays a thumbnail view of every design for easy selection and navigation. No wonder The Complete Book of Crochet Stitch Designs is considered a must-have reference for crocheters!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book features many stitch patterns and their variations. It doesn't delve too deeply into post stitches or textured stitches, although there are enough I think for most readers of this book. However, it does thoroughly cover everything else. It's a very large & thick book and has been proving itself a very good reference. I find it helpful to see the variations on a basic pattern, as I most often like those better and it's interesting to see how changing just one stitch in a pattern can alter the whole look. I'm grateful the editors decided to use one color yarn for all the swatches & a similar color layout for all the pages. I find even the color of yarn can change the appearance of a swatch, so having all the swatches in the same yarn/color provides the brain an easy comparison with all the patterns. Recently there seems to be this push to make the stitch reference books colorful and happy, with this abject fear that if any two pages are uniform in appearance, we're all going to get soooo bored we'll fall asleep reading it. That's great for kids or if you need to be inspired by pretty things, but I'm choosing a pattern for a design and I want my stitch reference to be

my workhorse in that endeavor & not a distraction. And I'm really happy there are written instructions AND charts. My only problem (and reason for giving 4 stars, not 5) is the yarn used to stitch up the samples. It's a fuzzy kind of yarn. In the pictures you can make out the stitch textures a bit, but the fuzz factor obscures those details and almost makes the photo look out of focus. I can only assume that a person not familiar with photography decided on the yarn and thought it looked pretty or gave the swatches a softer appearance.

I collect stitch pattern books and was delighted to stumble across this title and to add to my collection. I've been consulting it for a few months now and have some thoughts. I love the fact that every stitch is accompanied by both written instructions and a good chart. The book presents the charts directly underneath the photo, a simple layout decision that shows real understanding of how crocheters use stitch instructions. This makes it easy to compare a chart to its crocheted sample and clarify what's going on. Other dictionaries present the chart elsewhere on the page, usually after the written instructions, which frustrates me because it makes comparison difficult. The majority of the stitches are original -- I've not seen them elsewhere and found them quite pleasing. You should be aware that most are small scale stitches suitable that create textured fabrics rather than large lace panels. Think lacy cardigan not tablecloths or curtains. (Since I crochet garments, this is a delight for me!) I do agree with the other reviewers who felt that a portion of the stitches were made up just to fill out the number to 500. However, I feel the "good" stitches far outweigh the "bad" stitches, and I don't think it affects the book's overall quality. The organization of the chapters was a bit puzzling. I wasn't quite sure why the author chose to clump certain stitches together. They don't follow "traditional" stitch categorizations (e.g. there's a chapter on "simple shells" followed by "shells filet", "shells symmetrical" and "shells overall patterns". I didn't really see the distinctions.) However, honestly, I am rarely satisfied with the organization of any stitch dictionary. I usually just browse photos until I find something promising.

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