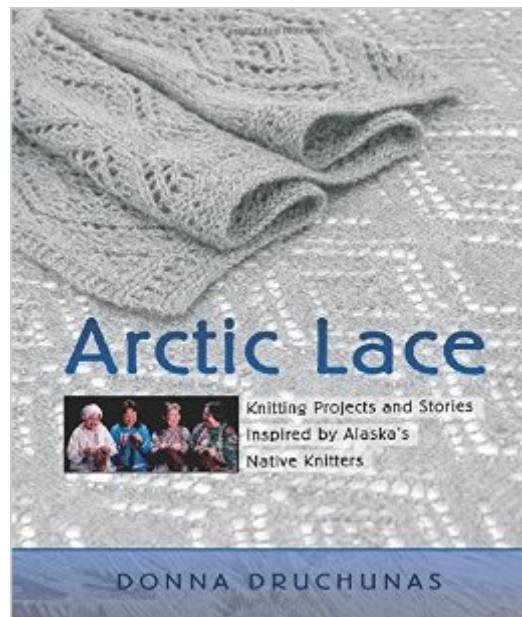


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Arctic Lace: Knitting Projects And Stories Inspired By Alaska's Native Knitters



Synopsis

Qiviut, or musk ox down, is a world-class fiber—luxurious, warm, and lightweight. People who experience it become obsessed. Qiviut makes perfect hand-knitted lace, as demonstrated by the Alaskan artisans of Oomingmak Musk Ox Producers' Co-op. This book presents how-tos for knitting and designing lace, projects suited to new as well as experienced lace knitters, yarn sources, and comprehensive cultural background.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoy this book. It is a unique and fascinating look at handwork in a part of the world I know little about. The lace patterns are sweet but VERY basic so if you were thinking that you would advance in your lacework, you won't get that from this book. I also felt that some color photos would have punched up the book an awful lot. The north star tam is a unique pattern and if you are a hat knitter, this book is worth it for that alone. I was quite impressed that the author bothered to show the hat in both a conventional wool and qiviut. Nice touch! Don't be put off by the qiviut discussion...the author handles this well and these designs can be worked up in fingering or laceweight yarns easily.

ARCTIC LACE is not your typical knitting book. Not only does it provide an array of native Alaskan designs for every knitting level, it also offers easy to follow tutorials with templates for designing your own unique lace projects. This beautiful book is brimming with photos and stories that depict the rich history and traditions which give insight into the unusual world of Alaskan knitters. The author provides interesting information about the history and use of qiviut, the exquisitely soft,

lightweight, but warm fiber from a most unusual source, musk oxen. I highly recommend this book for all knitters who are interested in the diverse and rich historical aspects of this craft.

Donna Druchunas is an expert knitwear designer whose work has been showcased in Family Circle, Easy Knitting, Interweave Knits, PieceWork, Knitter's, INKnitter's, and Fiber Focus magazines. In "Arctic Lace: Knitted Projects And Stories Inspired By Alaska's Native Knitters", Donna has created a 192-page, single-volume workshop on knitting and designing lace with an Inuit flair. In addition to the fifteen individual "user friendly" projects provided with careful step-by-step instructions, "Arctic Lace" is enhanced with 171 b/w photographs, 91 b/w illustrations, 28 tables, 11 sidebars, an extensive bibliography, and a comprehensive index. These projects are adaptable to any yarn and demonstrate to even the most novice needlecrafter just how to make the most of luxury fibers. There is even extensive background information on the natural history of musk oxen, conservation efforts, and the fiber quality and use of their fur which is the source of Qiviut (or musk ox down), felt by many to be the world's warmest, lightest-weight fiber and a mainstay of Alaska's native knitters. "Arctic Lace" is a unique and enthusiastically recommended addition to any dedicated needlecrafter's reference collection.

Arctic Lace is a well-crafted, informative book. Far more than a knitting book it is a book of discovery. In it we are introduced not only to working in lace but to the rich northern culture. Traveling "north" is a treat that due to the expenses incurred not all may enjoy. Yet while reading Arctic Lace I felt I was there. Donna takes us with her to Alaska. You meet the people, hear their stories, experience their culture. One of the stories Donna shares is of the Oomingmak Musk Ox Producer's Co-operative. As a rural woman I know how hard it can be to make a living. The story of the co-op speaks of ingenuity, perseverance, and dedication. Donna also introduces us to the gentle creatures whose luxurious fibre every knitter longs to knit. Then in the final chapters Donna's thoughts turn to lace. A knitter inexperienced with working in lace may be apprehensive Donna addresses your concerns and puts them to rest. She outlines steps to ensure your experience is rewarding. Her lace-knitting workshop in words and pictures is clear and concise. The patterns included offer hours of knitting enjoyment for knitters of all skill levels. I highly recommend Arctic Lace to both those who dream of arctic travel and to those who like to or long to knit lace.

Donna's book is fun to read and contains very straightforward lace patterns. It is a true tribute to Alaska's native knitters! Most projects are suitable for even the beginning lace knitter. If you enjoy

the folk knitting books published by Interweave Press, you should enjoy this book, too.

Don't be afraid to try lace! Even if you've never picked up a pair of needles before, you can start knitting lace with just this book alone. It includes clear, complete instructions with pictures of how to cast on and off, work even the most basic stitches, backgrounds, and borders. There is a very helpful discussion of pros and cons of yarns suitable for knitting lace, then a lace knitting "workshop" discusses straight and circular needle materials and size, yarn weight, full chart reading instructions, and leads you through 3 progressively harder lace swatches. All patterns are charted which is very combination knitter friendly. This wonderful book is full of tips to practically ensure your success in learning to knit lace even if you've never knit before. One of the best features is that it includes full instructions for making your own lace patterns with a library of lace stitches to use and tips on making your own charts. A variety of easy projects will get you started if you're not feeling adventurous enough to try designing your own yet. There is a lot of interesting information about the native Alaskan co-op and musk oxen where the luxurious qiviut yarn comes from, as well as pictures (but not patterns) for each village's signature lace pattern. Although the pictures are black and white, it really doesn't detract from the book and the high contrast makes the lace patterns are very visible. This is one of my most treasured knitting books.

I was lucky enough to read the galley of this book and in a word, it's superb. It's fascinating to read about the native knitters in Alaska and the Oomingmak co-op. There are patterns, too, for the new knitter and those with more advanced skills, calling for the use of qiviut yarn. This is a luxury fiber from the muskox. Every knitter should add this book to their knitting library.

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