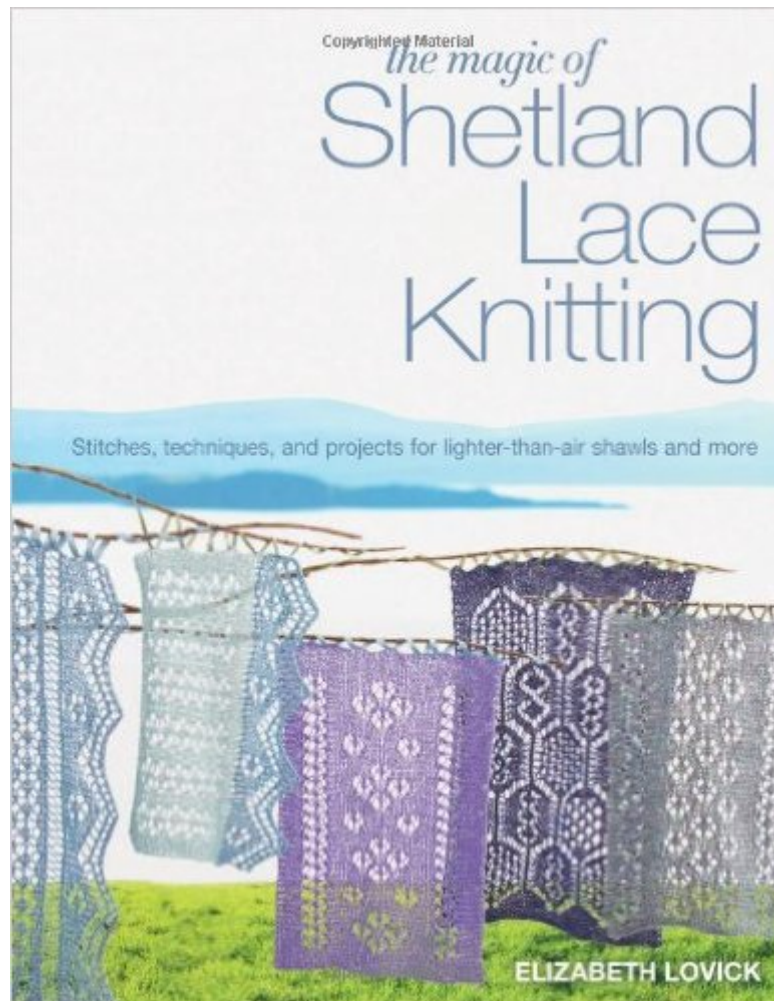


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The Magic Of Shetland Lace Knitting: Stitches, Techniques, And Projects For Lighter-than-Air Shawls & More



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.

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Customer Reviews

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.

I debated for a good while whether or not to buy this book. I have over a dozen stitch dictionaries, and thought the stitches in here were probably covered in the books I already own. There are a few, however, I don't think I have seen before. Aside from that, there is a wealth of information in this book that makes it worth every penny, even if you are familiar with the stitch patterns. There is information on different types of yarn, their pros/cons and items made from that yarn are best suited for. There is a chart with yarn weights and the recommended needle sizes and what items to use those combinations for (for example, worsted/dk yanr on sizes 10-11 needles is good for baby blankets, pillow covers, etc.). Of course the book also covers basic stitches and materials for knitting. There is also information on edges and seams, working from charts, attaching a lace border, fixing mistakes, blocking, designing, and putting motifs together. Instructions for the stitch patterns are both written and charted - and the charts are larger than you will find in many other books. The projects in the book are a cobweb shawl, hat and scarf set, shoulder shawl, baby set, fingerless mitts, socks, and a crescent shawl. Some may be disappointed at the small number of patterns, but for me I don't mind. I actually prefer books full of techniques, rather than patterns, because I like to take the techniques from books and design my own items. I am glad I bought this book, and would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a lace book for their library.

I hate to give this book 3 stars because it is very well done. However, it was not what I expected. I am new to lace knitting and I was so excited about this book that I pre-ordered it under the assumption that this would be a book of Shetland lace patterns. While there are a few patterns in the back of the book, the main part of the book is dedicated to showing different motifs and edgings, etc to use in designing your own lace patterns. While it does try to take you step by step in designing a lace pattern, I still feel this is way above and beyond my lace knitting and math abilities. I am not interested in designing my own lace. I am very disappointed that there are not more patterns in the book. Again, this book was well done and would be great for someone who wants to make their own designs, but that is not what I had in mind when I ordered this book.

I'll stay away from the discussion of whether this book is appropriate for beginners except to ask this: "Were you intending to be a beginner forever?" Because this is not an expensive book, but it will be ten years from now if (Heaven forbid) it goes out of print, and then you will wish you had it. The photographs alone make it worth purchase; they make pattern selection a joy rather than a puzzle. Other books have photos of tightly clumped stitches in dark colours that make the patterns indistinguishable from each other, but this book has beautifully worked swatches, beautifully photographed. It's one of the books I'll keep for years, long after the books with patterns for water bottle holders and felted wrist warmers have gone to the thrift shop.

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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