



Stitch 'n Bitch Crochet: The Happy Hooker

Debbie Stoller

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Debbie does crochet! Debbie Stoller, the “knitting superstar,” has been leading an entire movement of hip young knitters with her *New York Times* bestseller *Stitch 'n Bitch* and its follow-up, *Stitch 'n Bitch Nation*, together with over 521,000 copies in print. But guess what? For every one knitter in the world there are three crocheters—which translates into millions of hip, crafty, 18- to 35-year-olds ready to be happy hookers with *Stitch 'n Bitch* attitude, sexiness, ingenuity, and cool.

Written in the author's cheeky chick style, this heavily illustrated book—featuring four-color photographs and instructional illustrations throughout—is chock-full of instruction, inspiration, and to-die-for designs, from a Fishnet Skullcap to a lacy evening wrap. For knitters and new crafters exploring the hook comes the primer: the advantages of crochet and the ways in which knitters (and nonknitters) benefit by learning this sister craft; a discussion of tools; all the cool yarns available, and what the different gauges mean; plus basic techniques and stitch patterns—including the chain stitch, picot, flowers, filet crochet, changing yarns, and finishing. Then come 40 fabulous, funky projects—the kind that make *Stitch 'n Bitch* rule—for crocheters: Pom Pom Capelet, Retro Clutch Purse, Anarchy Irony Hat, Ms. Pac Man Change Purses, Doris Daymat, Va-Va-Voom Bikini, Animal I-Pod Cozies, Kid's Sock Monkey Poncho.

No, these aren't your grandma's doilies.

Stitch 'n Bitch Crochet: The Happy Hooker Details

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Anna Hiller says

A good book for a skinny bitch if you're interested in crocheting clothes. Debbie Stoller's book tends to be a little bit size-ist, but that's pretty standard for pattern books these days. Still, the accessories are *great* and very fun to crochet. I did the "First Aid Purse" for my cousin Alex who's going to nursing school, and it was a huge hit. In general, I'd say it's a book worth owning, at any stage or skill level. Stoller has chosen designs that are attractive and entertaining, some very challenging, and very few are real duds. It definitely belongs in any crochet library.

Endrina says

I got this book yesterday, and cannot put it down. I started crocheting a month ago, confused but determined to learn. The last day I have had more epiphanies regarding crocheting - all thanks to this book. As Debbie Stoller says herself, many books on crocheting are more confusing than helpful, lacking basic information such as the fact that one usually crochets through the *two* top loops (and not one, as I did for my first month of crocheting - believing I was doing it correctly). Debbie has made an awesome book for beginners, explaining the basic stitches in a simple and humoristic manner.

While I have read on amazon that her patterns contains errors (I have not yet tried any of them, but they look cool), the explanations on how to crochet are alone worth buying this book. My best book buy in ages!!

Marley says

I just made the mohair capelet thingie and it's pretty nice but it's a little weird in the back because it's increased all around so the back isn't flat. I get cranky when patterns could be better. But, it's my first finished crochet thing and I used dc, tr, made shells... and it only took 2 days. Go me! The instructions in the front of this book are awesome for reference. My hand hurts now, though. Might make one of the cardigans but I'm wary of patterns that require one to make several pieces and then put them together. And my hand will hurt.

Rikki says

If you are a beginning crocheter this is the perfect book for you. It explains all stitches in detail. In fact, it is the only crochet book I have ever come across that explains where exactly to put your needle and which strand(s) to pick up. It talks about tools, different kinds of yarn and techniques. It shows you how to crochet buttons and button holes, adding tassels, making pompons and how to finish your work with easy to follow instructions and clear illustrations.

The second part is a number of projects and patterns. Scarves, bags, tops, hats and caps, blazers and jackets, it is all there. There is one jacket in particular by Suzanne Kats called FrouFrou which looks absolutely stunning. I'd love to have that (but am probably too impatient to make).

There are patterns for everyone, beginners as well as experienced crocheters. It is such fun browsing through this book or even read it from cover to cover in one go.

Highly recommended!

Tasha says

A good book for someone beginning crochet or someone a little bit advanced. Check the errata before starting any projects. It's riddled with mistakes.

Rebekah says

I learned to crochet from this book. I tried and tried to learn from my mom, but this book taught me all about how to put my nose in the crotch and that it's ok to be a back door betty.

Jodi Geever says

Occasionally, I pretend I am crafty. I am not. Of the crochet books I have tried, I have a particular affinity for this series, just because reading it and trying to learn is amusing in itself in the way this series is written.

Joi says

I adore this book. If you want to learn to crochet, or, if you've already got the basics, or heck, if you're really flippin' good and just want a project to work on, this is the book for you. I've gotten several people "hooked" on crochet via this book. One caveat, if you have an early printing, there may be some errors, but you can go to Debbie Stoller's website, and all edits are posted.

Maha Ayesh says

The title makes the book a little embarrassing to have lying around, but there are a good number of nice patterns that I want to try. Some of the patterns are very odd, too. I haven't tried any yet though, but I have plans to in the near future. The general crochet instructions are clear, too; better than my Jan Eaton book.

Tara says

some of the patterns are fucking awesome, and a lot of them are really crappily written and hard to follow.
some great ideas and a good collection of the basic info. i need to own this book

Asia says

This is an excellent example of what a craft book in general should be; it's clearly written and easy to understand without being patronizing, while still retaining a sense of humor to keep it from degenerating into a droning, textbookish monologue.

The illustrations are an added perk, and make it easier to understand just what the author is trying to say, which is a must when you're trying to figure out that tricky V-stitch, but they don't clutter the page too much.

The patterns are widely varied and aesthetically pleasing, although there could be less garments and more non-wearables, such as household items and accessories, but most people want to start off with a hat and scarf rather than a dishtowel and coaster, I guess.

Overall, if I were going to recommend a book for beginning, or even veteran crocheters, this one would probably be the first on my list.

Cat says

This book has been invaluable to me while I have been learning the basics of crochet and expanding my skills. I bought the book already knowing the basic chain, single and double crochet stitches and the lengthy primer with diagrams and photos helped me put that knowledge into context and build upon it. After a few scarves and a beanie hat I tried making granny squares which led to an afghan.

I'm currently working on the Short 'n Sweet bolero which, while more advanced than anything I have tried before, is well-explained and logical. The pictures are lovely and the gauge sections, yarn recommendations and ideas for notions and alterations are all hugely helpful.

I have encountered people who learn in a far more visual way than me, and for those people I would suggest not giving up on book learning, but instead supplementing it with videos and step-by-step picture tutorials, both of which are readily available online. Personally, I find that if I'm struggling I am best served by turning to a diagram, something this book has in abundance, but others may find that frustrating.

Jessica Armstrong says

This book is amazing. If there were a better word for it, I would use it - but one doesn't exist so I'm going to make one up: Stupendiferous. Debbie Stoller does it again with her instalment on crochet, adding to her numerous knitting books.

As a complete newbie approaching crochet, it was very daunting until my friend lent me a copy of The Happy Hooker. The diagrams and descriptions are just perfect when you're coming into a new craft like this. I needed things lined up plain and simple, and Stoller achieved it. As if that weren't enough, she also includes a plethora of newbie-friendly crochet patterns in the second half of the book. You really won't find a better "how to crochet" book out there. I don't think one exists. This is all you need. Here's a hook and some yarn - now get hooking!

Vivia says

It's radical! Not. Oh, how I love the '90s! Not.

Typical "hip" crochet book that's aimed at beginners, it's extremely basic.

The patterns follow the same aesthetics as the knitting book, very cheap-looking and lacking a fashion sense. It feels all around 1990s. Just buy any other crochet book for better everything, a nicer looking book for one. Anything in the book can be found for free online and YT in much better format, search on Pinterest for some amazing resources.

MonikaG says

The best crochet book there is! The instructions are super clear - I don't know how Debbie Stoller managed to make what is quite a difficult subject to explain easy to understand, plus it's humorous and there are loads of explanations of many of the types of stitches in crochet.

The book is split into two parts - a section on instructions and then a section on patterns. The only downside to me, if there is one, is that the patterns are not all to my taste, but the instructions in the first half are so good that the whole thing is worth having anyway!
