



Knitter's handbook

Montse Stanley

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The ultimate reference for knitters at every level -- step-by-step directions and detailed instructional illustrations cover every aspect of knitting know-how. Includes a special help! section for the inevitable mishaps, and shows how to correct errors.

Knitter's handbook Details

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MJ says

Actually, its Montse Stanley a woman, not Stanley Montse. This is a pretty big error that SOMEONE SHOULD CORRECT!!!!

I read the hard copy done by Readers Digest in 1993.

The writer is Spanish and so, I imagine, brings a hmm...more organic approach to instructions that American writers. Stanley includes lots of useful aside about her topic that I haven't seen in American knitting how-to books.

I'll buy my own copy if I can find one...the library wants this one back.

Ginger says

This book is an absolutely essential reference in any knitter's library. I had no idea there were so many ways to cast on or bind off! It's now out of print, but if you can find it used, then grab it!

Nicolette says

A must have for any knitting library. Great references and diagrams!

Phemme0112 says

This is a handy book to have about if one is a knitter. It's very easy to use, cross-referenced out the wazoo, and well-organized. Need a cast-on? Take your pick. Time to bind-off? Well, which one? It'll tell you which bind-off is best for your needs and illustrate it clearly with step-by-step line drawings. I find it a fairly encyclopedic reference for nearly all my knitting needs. Between this and Elizabeth Zimmermann, I feel pretty well-covered on all the basics.

Deodand says

There's a reason this book is still in print after all this time - it's very relevant and useful to the experienced knitter. I love that section that explains how to fix mistakes without frogging.

I wouldn't want to learn from it, though. The drawings aren't always clear, which is not the fault of the illustrator. Learning to knit from drawings can be confusing.

Renoah says

A fabulous reference book for knitters. Gives instructions for many kinds of bind-offs, cast-ons, colorwork, buttonholes, and other design features. Indispensable for the pattern-liberated knitter.

Ciaobella says

This detailed compendium is an essential knit garment tool. The techniques are numerous. While I wouldn't recommend this book to a beginning knitter, Montse is my idol for dedicating so much energy to this. It's unfortunate that the book is no longer available in hard cover, but heading to the copy shop to laminate the cover and create a spiral binding is always an option for this essential addition to a knitter's library.

Lil' Grogan says

I've been looking for this book for years. The best reference book I've found to date.

Heather says

You won't believe it until you see it! Twenty different ways to cast on and off and the pro's and con's of each. Not for the earliest beginners but this book is a would be good investment for anyone who wants to make their own patterns.

Jo Bennie says

This book, first published in 1986, is a good resource of knitting covering everything from basics right through to advanced techniques. It comes in four parts:

- One: Basics - covering holding your work, how knitting works to hold the wool into a fabric and equipment
- Two: Get Clicking - casting on and off, all types of stitches including turning, increases, decreases, slip stitches, cabling, buttonholes, beads, fair isle (stranding), intarsias, edges and hems.
- Three: Final touches - making up, blocking, joining, fastenings, embroidery and cords
- Four: Pattern instructions - how to read a commercial pattern
- Five: Help! - coping with mishaps such as dropping stitches, and recycling

It is generally very good but a little dated and overly complicated, I couldn't for instance find an instruction for how to do a basic increase 1 stitch (make 1) and some things are a little difficult to find. Also, I found the tone of the book quite firm, as if you have to do it this exact way or your work will not work out well. For me, the best way forward is to try out a number of techniques and see which works best. All in all, an excellent resource, I never knew there were so many ways to cast on!

penny shima glanz says

I taught myself to knit from this book. I don't recommend **THAT** but it is a great reference that you will keep turning to time and time again.

Barb says

Comprehensive is exactly what this book is. Breaking away from the book of knitted projects, this book discusses technique, technique, technique. For years, I would read a section or two, browse the beautiful photographs and dream about knitting. To list all the topics covered by this book would use all the space in this review. You will not find any instructions for stitch patterns or knitted projects. But if you are looking to figure out which cast on is right for the project you want to do, what kind of selvedge can spice up your scarf, how to match your decreases and increases, this is the book you will want.

Karl says

This is hands-down the best and most indispensable book on knitting that I've seen. Exhaustive coverage of knitting techniques, clear instructions and diagrams, and background information to put everything in context. Highly recommended for beginners and experienced knitters alike. Buy it.

Claudine says

This book has a very comprehensive catalog of knitting techniques, from cast-on and bind-off methods, to finishing techniques such as hems, button holes, seaming and grafting methods. Most of the techniques are illustrated with pictures. The writing style is a bit dry, but the wealth of contents still makes it a good reference book. I still pull this book out of the shelf from time to time.

Brenda Ritter metcalfe fish says

many valuable techniques and wonderful technical illustrations.
