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# Knitting In Plain English



## Synopsis

The first edition of this indispensable classic gave knitters easy-to-follow (and fun-to-read) advice on producing the knits of their dreams. Drawing on decades of experience as a knitting instructor and designer, Maggie Righetti offered step-by-step directions on avoiding common mistakes and getting out of tricky spots. Now, in this completely updated and revised version, Righetti gives readers what they've asked for: advice on making all different garments, working with new patterns and different kinds of yarn, and even an introduction to her own legendary history. Neither aggressively hip nor bafflingly encyclopedic, *Knitting in Plain English* offers basic principles that will make any project--from a basic blanket to an intricate sweater--rewarding. Having *Knitting in Plain English* on the shelf is like having your own knitting teacher available to help at all times with any thorny problem.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Perhaps more outspoken than plain, Righetti flavors her advice with starchy humor, especially when commenting on impractical details in designs ("the dumb baby sweater

Righetti, well known in the knitting world, has produced a wonderfully down-to-earth, humorous, practical, and realistic book for the beginner and intermediate knitter. From selecting a pattern and equipment to completing a project, the directions are clear and unintimidating while good line drawings add to the "plain English" explanations. The author's years of experience have provided her with new and refreshing tips and solutions to problems faced at any knitting level. Although concentrating on the basics, she has included chapters on advanced techniques. Recommended for

craft collections of all sizes, particularly the smaller library in need of a useful how-to-knit volume. Sue Black, Charlotte Hobbs Lib., Lovell, Me. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a great read. I taught myself to knit almost 30 years ago and had a good deal of success. I was pretty ambitious. I knitted a couple of sweaters, sweater vests and the like. They turned out pretty good considering I didn't really know what I was doing. But then life happened and I put down the needles for about 30 years. I've decided to start again, but this time, I'm taking the craft a little more seriously. I still consider myself a novice to novice-intermediate knitter. Knitting in Plain English is just what I need for this stretch of my knitting career. The title definitely fits. The language is down to earth and there's not a lot of jargon. I'm learning a lot and after reading the first few chapters, I feel much more knowledgeable and confident in making decisions about my yarn and pattern decisions. I'm glad I bought the book and would definitely recommend it to others.

Use it all the time as a reference. She writes as though she were speaking to you - and she's amusing. The parts where she teaches you how to read a pattern in the many ways that a pattern may be written were VERY informative. Bit of a slog, though. I refer back to it often.

Lost my original copy of Maggie's book somewhere and when I got back into knitting really needed help. It was lovely to see that the book had been updated. I also own the crochet book, purchased years ago. All I can say is, thank you Maggie Righetti, for being willing to write down common sense advice about knitting (and crocheting!). I laughed when I read the book, then when I read the instructions in the booklet I found and purchased for the pictures for left handed knitting. Sure enough, there were some of the silly edicts that only make learning harder. Was delighted to recognize them and progress quickly to a review sweater project. Have already been back into the book for advice on increases when my pattern book was inadequate (and that pattern book is one that is recommended by Ms. Righetti). Can't wait to learn more. I highly recommend this reference. I will likely purchase the updated book on crochet, as well as the one on sweater design. While I do not agree with everything in each book, the vast majority of advise is spot-on, and the techniques clearly explained. My only regret? Wish Ms. Righetti was left handed, so I could get all that translate for a dominant leftie, instead of having to reverse things. Happy knitting!

Maggie teaches you the basics of knitting, from how to make that first stitch and projects that will

give you the knowledge and confidence to knit from any pattern that you may want to knit. She has a way with words and a way of explaining the complex in very simple terms, as if you are a student sitting in her classroom. She includes different patterns of knit stitches and offers advice as to when and how to use them. She also instructs the reader about learning to read a pattern whether it is written out or written with symbols in a diagram format. She also instructs with stories of other knitters that she has taught in her class, thus making the reader feel comfortable learning the art of knitting from the beginning, building one's skills and confidence to tackle the lessons that she is teaching. She also informs the reader about the best yarns to use, the best methods to cast on, cast off, make buttonholes, make increases and decreases to form the sweater to fit you or someone you are knitting the garment for. Even though you may be an experienced knitter, she has lessons to teach you, with tips and tricks to make your garment fit and look professional. This book belongs in every knitter's library as a reference book that will be used over and over again.

As someone new to knitting--and as someone without a mentor to help me--it was imperative that I find a good book. The first book I found targeted 9 to 14 year olds; I'm in my 30s. However, it was instant gratification: I could get needles, yarn and a how-to book all at once, and start knitting that afternoon. After using the little booklet I got in the local crafts store, I was able to make the basic knit/purl stitch, but I had no idea how to keep track of where I was in a pattern. I had no idea how to look at a stitch and tell whether it had been knit or purled. And although my stitches were quite even and attractive, I was getting extremely discouraged in trying to keep various patterns straight in my head: was that the sixth stitch after the yarn-over, or the seventh? Is this a purl row or a knit row? And when I tried to do a seed stitch, I often ended up making a rib by accident, simply because my eyes weren't educated; I didn't know how to look at the stitches I had just made. How happy was I to get my copy of */Knitting in Plain English/* by Maggie Righetti! If you're a beginning knitter who has mastered the simple art of knit and purl stitches, but you need common sense advice on how to keep track of your knitting... if you want a clear illustration of the visual difference between knit and purl stiches as they lay on the needle... if you want a great reference for various simple techniques like I-cord... and if you need a troubleshooting guide with a wonderful index (a well-organized and thorough index is a key difference, I might add, between a good book and a great one) then this is the book for you. I can't recommend it highly enough. What's more, it's well-written and a fun read. In fact, if you know any beginning knitters, you couldn't do any better than to make a gift of this book to them.

This book is a disappointment. Not enough pictures. Too much time guessing.

Lots of really good information here, but the actual directions for how to do stuff (even as simple as making a knit or purl stitch) are impossible to follow. It needs more illustrations.

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