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# A Gathering Of Lace



## Synopsis

Collected from knitting designers all over the world, the patterns in this guide will be a joy to create for any knitter. The lavish full-color illustrations and easy-to-follow instruction charts will make these traditional patterns an exciting addition to a lace knitter's repertoire. From beginner to advanced, the 34 projects contained include designs for sweaters, vests, shawls, scarves, gloves, and socks. With beautiful photographs of these unique patterns, this knitting book is perfect for those who love to knit lace and those who would love to learn.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Summer 06 Where others focus on history and tradition, Meg Swansen pulls us into the present with [this book]. Here she has assembled the work of thirty-four lace knitters. Some of the patterns are clearly traditional, while others utilize more contemporary forms and silhouettes. You'll find everything from shawls and sweaters to pillows and hats, as well as vests, gloves, socks and more - but all with a lace element. Interweave Knits Nov 06 The art of lace knitting is very much like bread making; the more air you get into the mixture the better! Many knitters are put off by its intricacy but those who have discovered the technique become quickly addicted. This sensational collection of lace knitting projects has been compiled by Meg Swansen and will satisfy even the most prolific of lace knitters. There are 42 projects embracing the art of lace knitting from 34 knitters who share their patterns and secrets. Choose from an array of items that encompass all requirements. For traditionalists there are Shetland lace shawls and others that are breathtaking and as fine as cobwebs. For smaller knits there are dolls' clothes, socks and gloves as well as an amazing hat. As for garments you will be hard pressed to decide between the collection of pullovers, cardigans,

jackets and waistcoats. Enthusiastic beginners are also well catered for with simple lace patterns that are the perfect springboard to the dozens of other designs. For the uninitiated, these lace patterns are presented as charts that give a visual representation of the final piece. There are helpful hints, explanations and diagrams for all the techniques and introductory notes. The book is wonderfully presented and makes an inspirational read. It is the perfect 'coffee-table' book and is irresistible for dipping into, if only to wonder at the effects that can be achieved. Knit Today Mar 06 ..The patterns are gathered from various countries and knitters, covering items from socks, hats, doll's dresses, shawls to throws. Instructions are in chart form with helpful notes to each pattern...I had a good chuckle reading the personal comments by the contributors; they are very helpful giving many useful tips, dodges and downright cheats! 'Purists who demand that patterns fit exactly within the boundaries should be marooned.' Nevertheless the finished articles are exquisite using some simple and many intricate designs. Beautifully photographed, it is worth the price if you are a knitter, or borrowing just to look at if not a knitter - you may be tempted to take up the needles again. The Lace Guild

Meg Swansen is the daughter of designer Elizabeth Zimmermann, a leading figure in handknitting since the mid-1950s. She is the owner of Schoolhouse Press, writes the semi-annual Wool Gathering, has produced nearly 20 instructional videos, and presides over Knitting Camp. She lives in Pittsville, Wisconsin.

I purchased A Gathering of Lace years ago at the local yarn shop. When I scanned through it at the shop, I thought that it was a book that I just had to have. That copy has been packed away in temporary storage for almost two years, so I borrowed a copy from the library for the purpose of trying one of the patterns. Now that I'm going through the book with a fine-toothed comb, I'm disappointed. A few of the patterns are gorgeous; the majority are mundane at best. The directions seem skimpy, in my opinion. I've been knitting for years, but I feel like these directions should contain more information and detail. I borrowed the book after seeing a beautiful Spanish lace shawl on Ravelry, the directions for which are supposed to be in the book. I was extremely disappointed to find that these "directions" consist essentially of a photograph of the finished shawl, a few very short comments from Meg Swansen, and a chart for the edging that she attributes to Barbara Abbey's Knitting Lace. There are no written row-by-row directions or charts for the shawl. I have the impression that this was done on purpose. If Meg wants to keep the pattern for the shawl a secret, then she should have selected something else for the book that she doesn't mind sharing. If I had it

to do over again, I would not have purchased the book but would have borrowed it from the library in order to scan the couple of patterns that I like.

I decided to purchase this book after taking it out from the library and thoroughly enjoying it. The book is both a joy to read and a joy to knit from. The book has 6 sections: Simplicity, traditions, points of departure, garments, little laces and gallery. The first section presents some easy patterns for the beginning lace knitter, including the so-called "Beginner's Triangle." While this book is not for a pure beginner, anyone with a little experience would be able to make it through these easiest patterns (perhaps with a few mishaps.) The "Traditions" and "Points of Departure" sections contain many beautiful but more advance designs. While I don't care for ALL of the designs, I'd be willing to knit most of them, and some are truly spectacular. Personally, I love the lace christening robe. The section of garments is a little disappointing. Some of the patterns are nice, but some are simply weird, and with one possible exception, I don't think they're worth the necessary investment of time to make. "Little Laces" includes smaller pieces such as gloves, hats and socks. Many are beautiful, and I think the hat or the gloves would make a very nice Christmas present. The Gallery section shows some beautiful pieces but with limited instructions on how to reproduce them. Still, it's nice browsing. The charts are computer-generated and readable, though generally a bit small. I wish more space had been devoted to larger charts. However, photocopying and blowing them up is obviously always an option. There are apparently many errors in the patterns. Errata can be found here: [...] However, from my review of the errata, it seems like most of the errors have been corrected in the 7th printing of the book, which is the version I have. In summary, this book has patterns for the person looking how to learn to knit with lace or for the experienced lace knitter looking for a new project, and it is fun to browse through as well. I described it as one of the two best lace knitting books. The other, in my opinion, is "Knitted Lace of Estonia." This book, however, I think would be a slightly better option for a beginner.

Excellent book for knitting lace and sent in perfect condition. Love all the patterns in this book. Highly recommend it.

As shown.

I've been knitting for nearly 50 years but this book made me convert to lace knitting. What a gorgeous collection! Not only are the designs beautiful but the techniques you learn while working

on them are valuable. I particularly appreciate that the designs are charted as I am horrible at following written instructions. Of course my very favorite designs are the most intricate ones, Frost Flowers and Mediterranean Lace but I also appreciate the beautiful lacy tunics and gloves. This isn't for the faint of heart but even if you are a beginner there is much to learn and dream over. I take this book out a lot and always find inspiration. I'm not good at making other people's designs exactly as they are presented but I've learned a lot about lace-knitting and have incorporated the techniques here into many other projects. This book is a valuable reference as well as a source of inspiration.

More than one knitter has been bitten by the lace bug. With a few basic stitches and proper techniques, you can go from a plain looking thin yarn to a garment that is a work of art, with lace leaves, flowers, insects, and waves of edgings like ocean foam. This book not only has patterns for shawls and scarves (typical lace projects) but also gloves and socks! Best of all, it teaches all-important techniques such as choosing the right yarn, the right sized needles for the yarn and blocking--stretching the lace project when completed. When you are initiated into these secrets, you will be able to make lace knits that are the stuff of legends.

Great book. I like it.

If you like to knit lace by hand or by machine, this is a fabulous book to have. The designs are awesome! Besides the written instructions, all designs are also charted. As a machine knitter, I use charts extensively as they have a more visual appeal to me and are easier to follow when I machine knit. Originally, I borrowed this book from our public library. I loved it so much that I had to purchase a copy for my knitting library.

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