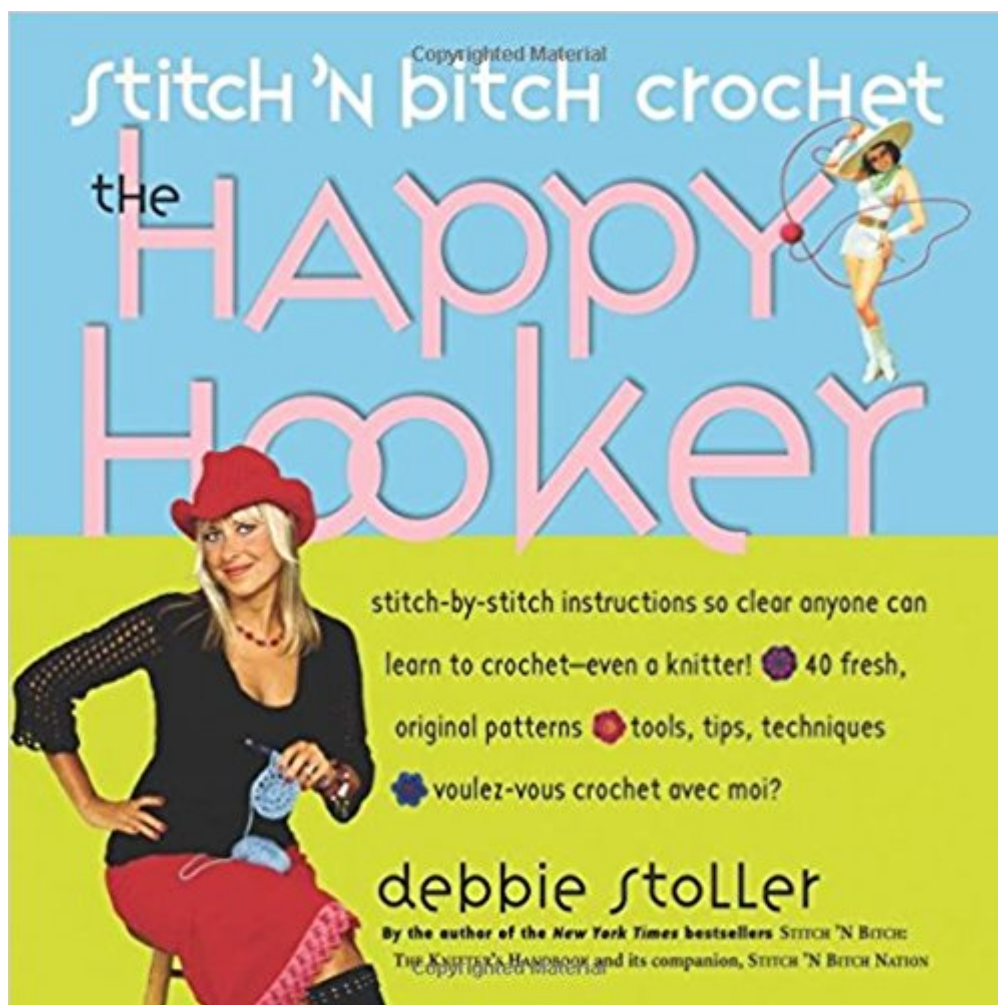


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Stitch 'N Bitch Crochet: The Happy Hooker



Synopsis

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 Bitch* and its follow-up, *Stitch 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 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 Bitch* rule—for crocheters: Pom Pom Capelet, Retro Clutch Purse, Anarchy Irony Hat, Ms. Pac Man Change Purses, Doris Daymat, Va-Va-Va Voom Bikini, Animal I-Pod Cozies, Kid’s Sock Monkey Poncho. No, these aren’t your grandma’s doilies.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Workman Publishing Company; Later Printing edition (March 15, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761139850

ISBN-13: 978-0761139850

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #165,441 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #204 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Crocheting](#) #3038

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Customer Reviews

Stoller's *Stitch 'N Bitch* and *Stitch 'N Bitch Nation* have become icons of the knitting craze: every hip young needleworker has at least one of them next to the yarn stash. Now, she uses the same approach that made her knitting books so successful in this entrÃ¢Ã¢e to sexed-up hookwork that takes pains to show crocheting isn't for grandma anymore. Stoller provides everything short of the hook and yarn a crafter will need to learn how to crochet. From a history of the craft to mind-bogglingly complete instructions and dozens of charted and explained patterns (the majority of which are for women's clothing and accessories-there are no afghans here), it's all presented in Stoller's bright, witty style and accompanied by cheery color photographs. Beginners will like the easy construction of the "Stripes (and Stripes) Forever Scarf," and intermediate crocheters will enjoy whipping up a "Cupcake," a purple sweater confection. Experienced crocheters have patterns here too, such as the astonishing lace "Go For Baroque" sweater. This latest entry into the *Stitch 'N Bitch* canon is sure to be another bestseller. Copyright ÃÂ© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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I ordered this book to use as an instructional manual instead of for the projects it contains. The title is catchy and made me smile but I have to admit, the amount of "schtick" contained throughout makes it difficult to follow after a while. It's a shame because the instructional information is presented in a way that is easy to follow and understand but the jokes are a distraction. For someone like me who is an occasional "hooker" and has to brush up on a stitch guide each and

every time before I begin a project, it takes too much time to wade through it all. But all is not lost! My sister, who crochets much better than me and can retain stitch info in her brain, loves this book and a couple of the projects in it so I am giving it to her. I think I'll look for a boring, basic stitch guide instead.

I really enjoy crocheting and I have tried numerous crochet books but by far, this is the best one I have purchased. It has easy instructions on a number of stitches that are useful in everyday crochet as well as tougher, more complex projects. I found the patterns to be easily understandable and easily adaptable to my needs. This book also includes short bios about the creators of different patterns. I found it both interesting and a really good source of patterns.

I thought this would just be a cute coffee table book to start conversations; but this is an excellent book to learn from. I love how all options, as well as pros and cons, are presented for different techniques. Other books/tutorials seem to present one option that the writer believes is best without giving options. As we all know, not all methods work for all people in all situations! This book also had well written instructions for the patterns; I just wish I had more time to make more items from it!

I've been knitting for 47 years. I am good at following written instructions and learning new crafts from books. In the last 47 years I've tried to teach myself crochet at least 10 times. I could always do the individual stitches, and I even finished a couple of small projects. But when it came to putting the whole thing together I was lost. I always ended up with a different number of stitches than I started with and I could never figure out how to measure for gauge. Whenever I tried to follow a pattern I always felt like I was guessing. This book has changed all that. I'm only a few chapters in, but for the first time I can make a swatch that has the same number of stitches on the last row as the first without fudging. I can accurately count stitches and rows. This book has clear pictures and takes the mystery out of why sometimes you crochet into the turning chain and sometimes you don't. Although Debbie Stoller is known as a knitter, you don't have to be a knitter to use this book. There are occasional references to knitting, but only in context. This book is for anyone who wants to learn to crochet, or new crocheters who want to build their confidence through knowledge.

I've been knitting for more than 50 years and about two years ago I decided I needed to learn to crochet. I got several "how to crochet" books and started on my merry way. However, as I moved on from potholders, towels, etc, I found instructions in patterns that I didn't know how to do and that

none of my books explained. I had to set aside projects when I got stuck. I resisted this book mainly because of the title. I thought it would be frivolous and not much help to a beginner. I'm happy to report that it is not and now wish I had gotten it in the first place and saved money spent on all those other books. The first part of the book has instructions on how to crochet with VERY CLEAR illustrations and text that explains just how and where to insert a hook for whatever you need to do. The language is very easy to understand but the illustrations are the icing on the cake. For instance, when the pattern calls for placing a stitch in the top of the beginning chain of the last row which one is it? This book not only tells you how but shows you exactly where. Many, many years ago Coats & Clark published a little booklet on learning to knit with very easy to see illustrations. I've been looking for something similar for crocheting and now I've found it in 'The Happy Hooker.' I love this book and haven't even started on the patterns, some of which I am looking forward to making. I highly recommend it to all who want to learn crocheting or need to improve their technique.

I'm an advanced crocheter and I've worked up several of the patterns in this book. While I love the hip designs and great explanations of the various stitches, the errata in the patterns leave me banging my head against the wall and spending lots of money on yarn for projects that have to be re-worked to get the desired end result. Debbie Stoller doesn't post the pattern errata online (maybe because she didn't write the patterns herself? I don't know), so obtaining corrected patterns is not an option. I'm rating this book low on the star scale as the purpose of this book is to successfully work the patterns and be proud with the end result, is not easily achieved with the errors.

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