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Knitting Fresh Brioche: Creating Two-Color Twists & Turns



Synopsis

World-renowned brioche knitting expert Nancy Marchant takes this versatile European stitch—which creates a luxurious, reversible ribbed fabric—to a new level! In her groundbreaking collection, Marchant works brioche in two colors, forming graceful, undulating textures with increases and decreases. She explains everything from how to hold the yarn and cast on (offering multiple options) to creating the basic fabric and reading two-color charts. The stitch library presents 75 all-new patterns, and there are an additional 12 in luscious shawl and scarf projects.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Throughout the book, Marchant does a wonderful job of breaking two-color brioche into its component parts, reducing its complexity and making it accessible. . . . Marchant is widely recognized as the expert on brioche stitch, and her continued explorations of such knitting will appeal to experienced knitters looking for the next big trend." —Library Journal

Born in Indiana, Nancy Marchant first encountered brioche when she moved to the Netherlands in 1976. She has written articles about and designed knitwear featuring brioche stitch for Vogue Knitting and many other knitting magazines, and is also the author of the bestselling *Knitting Brioche* (North Light). She maintains a website at briocheknitting.com and teaches the technique at

consumer and trade shows across the US as well as in an online class on [craftsy.com](https://www.craftsy.com) called “Explorations in Brioche Knitting.” Nancy lives in Amsterdam.

Yes, there are projects in this book. But it’s so much more than that! Nancy not only gives you beautiful patterns to knit, she also gives you a fabulous foundation for brioche knitting that will allow you to completely understand the way that brioche fabric is made so that you can create your own brioche patterns. I love this book and would recommend it to anyone who wants to either learn basic brioche knitting or master it. As an added benefit, Nancy Marchant and Mercedes Tarasovich-Clark both teach Craftsy classes on brioche knitting. So if you buy this book (or any other brioche knitting tome) and find yourself baffled, head over and take a class on it! Start with Nancy’s class if you knit English or Mercedes’s class if you knit continental. I found that Nancy’s brioche knitting is much more intricate and masterful, but that some people had a hard time understanding her techniques because she throws instead of picks. Good luck!

Years ago, I paid for a private lesson to learn how to knit basic two color brioche and walked away with empty pockets with no results. I took Nancy’s brioche knitting class on Craftsy and made two scarves in a month. I loved it so much that I had to get this book to keep myself in practice. Brioche knitting is fun and addictive. The stitch patterns shown in this book are stunning and I found myself saying to my husband that Nancy Marchant is the Alice Starmore of Brioche knitting. He said, "That is high praise." He loves the book too and everyone has made requests already.. There is not one thing in this book that I do not want to do. The patterns and stitch designs are so nice. You can’t help but be inspired. This one is a keeper!

KNITTING FRESH BRIOCHE is another wonderful Nancy Marchant book that all serious knitters will want for their reference library shelf. I’ve never cared much for brioche stitch, because it creates a very stretchy fabric, requires extra time and effort (one completed row requires knitting across and purling back again), and uses about twice as much yarn as stockinette. But Nancy’s new book, which explores using brioche stitch to create beautiful two-color, reversible, twisting patterns on the knitted fabric surface, really inspires me to grab my needles and knit some of her shawls or scarves, or maybe some panels for a cardigan sweater of my own design! Nancy clearly explains the basic brioche stitch, as used in two-color knitting, both in words and in step-by-step photos. As Nancy says: "Brioche knitting creates a cushy, reversible ribbed fabric that comes about by working one stitch and slipping the next. In brioche knitting, instead of carrying the working yarn in front or in

back of the slipped stitch, you bring the yarn over the stitch, giving the stitch a little shawl over its shoulders. In the following row, this shawled stitch will be either 'barked' or 'burped' . . . "Barking and burping are much easier than they sound when described in words: Barking means bringing the yarn to the front over a slipped stitch, then knitting the next stitch together with its little shawl from the previous row. Burping means bringing the yarn around a slipped stitch and back to the front, then purling the next stitch together with its little shawl. That's all the technique there is! These beautiful stitch patterns should be easy for knitters with intermediate skills to execute. The 50-page technique section includes instructions for creating the basic fabric, casting on, creating a selvedge edge, binding off, working increases and decreases, weaving in ends, blocking, repairing mistakes (thanks!), reading charts, and understanding the oddball brioche knitting symbols. All knitters will want to consult these pages, to get the two-color slipped-stitch fabric set up correctly. Following the Techniques section, there is an amazing 110-page dictionary of two-color brioche stitch patterns. The variety of "twists and turns", and large and small repeated designs, will delight all serious knitters, especially those who love knitting techniques or designing their own knitted garments. Because the two-color stitch patterns are reversible, each stitch pattern is illustrated with a photo of both the front and the back of the fabric. In my opinion, the cover photo with the lovely "Willow" shawl doesn't show the most interesting of the included stitch patterns--but "Willow" gives you a good idea of how the surface designs show up on the knitted fabric. My favorites among the stitch patterns are Feathery and Fanny (sort of like a wavy Feather and Fan), Undulating Hourglass, Wavy Palm Leaves, and Sound Waves (sort of an op-art effect). Finally there are 60 pages with complete instructions (both written-out and charted) for 12 different shawl and cowl projects knitted on circular needles. The patterns, with needle sizes, are: Ring of Fire (US 4), Willow (US 7), Reptilian Cowl (US 9), Icicle (US 5), Stegosaurus (US 6), Veda's Peacock (US 5), Sister Janie (US 4), Cathedral (US 4), Miss B (US 7), Nan's Other Cowl (US 3), Gretchen's Zigzag (US 6), and Bart & Francis (US 2 or 3). Nancy gives excellent instructions for substituting yarns, so you aren't limited to the yarns used in the photographed models. My favorite project patterns are Icicle (sort of wavy geometric triangles) and Bart & Francis (sort of a leafy, growing plant). This book is a great reference book for two-color brioche knitting. If you enjoy brioche knitting generally, you may want to consider Nancy's earlier reference book on all kinds of brioche knitting (not just two-color), *Knitting Brioche: The Essential Guide to the Brioche Stitch*; or another good, recent pattern book using brioche knitting, *Brioche Chic: 22 Fresh Knits for Women & Men*.

Very happy with this book. NM's patterns are so interesting and creative that they always motivate

me to actually make swatches of as many as I can, just to try them all as soon as possible (I'm a delinquent knitter and never swatch)! I've been addicted to brioche knitting, especially 2-color patterns, after trying some of NM's individual patterns for sale on Ravelry as well as some of the stitch patterns from Knitting Brioche: The Essential Guide. Like KB: TEG, KFB is composed of three general sections: the first part offers tutorials on technique; the second, many, many different patterns, which include terrific photos of stitch pattern swatches and both written and charted guides on plain backgrounds (as much as I love KB: TEG, I dislike its pastel-colored pages); and then finally, twelve patterns for scarfs or wraps - which, as far as I can tell, introduce even more stitch patterns. These are also accompanied by gorgeous photographs of the projects. I was thrilled, also, to find that the last pages include directions for converting patterns for knitting in the round or for one color. A great companion to KB: TEG, and another great resource on knitting brioche.

Brioche knitting at its best. Marchant is the "go to" authority on this technique. The patterns are fabulous but not easy. The charts require a great deal of study to knit the patterns properly. An excellent resource but not for the faint of heart.

Wow! I fell in love with brioche when working a shawl that had one section of it. This book is totally comprehensive. Clear and concise. Unique patterns and tips for choosing yarn. I have started one shawl and I'm just amazed at watching it work up. I totally tip my hat to Nancy on this technique. Thank you!

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