



The Principles of Knitting: Methods and Techniques of Hand Knitting

June Hemmons Hiatt

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Now featuring new instructions, new illustrations, and new information, *The Principles of Knitting*—beloved by knitters everywhere and one of the most requested out-of-print books for years—finally gets the revision that fans have been clamoring for!

A treasured guide beloved by knitters everywhere, the classic book *The Principles of Knitting* is finally available again in a fully revised and updated edition. This is the definitive book on knitting techniques, with valuable information for everyone from beginners to experienced knitters. June Hiatt presents not only a thorough, thoughtful approach to the craft, but also a passion for carrying on the art of knitting to future generations. She has repeatedly tested the various techniques and presents them with clear, easy-to-follow instructions—as well as an explanation of what each one can contribute to your knitting. Informed by decades of experience and thousands of hours of practice, this comprehensive resource offers a variety of ways to approach every skill and technique and offers solutions that can help solve the most challenging aspects of any knitting project.

The Principles of Knitting has been totally rewritten—new instructions, new illustrations, and new information. While the basics of knitting have not changed much, June's understanding of the material has deepened over the last twenty-five years, and she's eager to share what she has learned with the knitting world. In addition, the book has been reorganized to make it easier to use and has a gorgeous new design.

Reading *The Principles of Knitting* is like having a knitting mentor by your side who can answer any knitting question you have in an honest, intelligent, informed manner.

The Principles of Knitting: Methods and Techniques of Hand Knitting Details

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Amanda says

A great reference for anything knitting and I am glad to have it in my library. It is not without it's flaws, however. Good Luck trying to find a specific cast-on or bind-off you are familiar with because she has re-named everything. I understand her reason for doing so, wanting to have the name reflect what the stitch consists of instead of "Judy's Magic Cast On." The only downside is that most of the names have the word "hitch" in them which makes it hard to remember or distinguish them. I would have liked to have seen the commonly known names listed under her new name.

I also read the chapter on Gauge and was sufficiently overwhelmed and confused. I got on board with gauges after my first failed attempt at a sweater, but now I need to do a gauge for the gauge? And what if I am not in the mood to design my own sweater and just want to follow a pattern? Do I still do test swatches, then follow it up with an 8X8 gauge? And even if I do that, I will have a gauge down to the 10th of an inch which will certainly not match up to the gauge in the pattern. All that information is good to have if you want to design a pattern for yourself and then never put it into written instruction for others to follow. How could you ask someone to get a 5.5/7.6 gauge?

RK says

This is the oddest knitting book because there are pretty stitch samples scattered throughout the book but no accompanying stitch patterns... I searched through the book a few times but could not find the patterns. I ended up searching on the internet for the patterns using the stitch names instead.

It's definitely a comprehensive book but is a bit hard to follow since there are not enough photographs of the techniques. All in all, it's a good way to know that such a technique exists and the solutions the technique may offer, but there are better tutorials online.

Christine says

The only problem is it's physical size. I need to sit at a table to read it.

Anne says

I wanted to mark this both "Read" and "Currently Reading", because this is a go-to knitting reference. No matter the question, I can find an answer here. I probably will never sit down and read the whole book, but I never want to be without this!

Anne says

This book threw me back to my college days. It is as big as my biology textbooks, but without the colorful graphics (and the three digit prices!). I did not read the whole book, any more than I read the entire volume of any of my college textbooks. I do consider it to be an excellent addition to the reference of any serious knitter, but not the one source of all wisdom. As a beginning knitter, I read several chapters, then looked up specific problems I was having (increases, decreases, casting on). In every case I was able to easily find the information I wanted (and more). I would give it four stars except the illustrations were not as detailed as I needed to clearly work my way through the descriptions of how to accomplish the task I was trying to understand. I am sure that is because I am so inexperienced as a knitter. As I get better and try new techniques I will probably want to add this book to my library. For now, I need to get the basic understandings elsewhere.

Two Readers in Love says

The first knitting book I've read that focuses not just on the how-to but the WHY of various stitch and selvedge techniques. If you can't resist customizing patterns to your own liking, this book plus a few swatches will greatly increase your chances of a successful outcome.

Great to just browse through, and of course excellent as a reference. The ebook is worth the price for the repair section alone; it's so handy to have reliable, comprehensive, expert guidance on how to fix mistakes even when I'm on the road for work.

Jan Bedol says

It's no exaggeration to say this book is a life-changer. As a self-taught left-handed knitter, I struggled for years to translate patterns into 180-degree reversals for lefty knitting. Finally I put down my needles, until now... As a new retiree, I needed to acquire hobbies that can last me the next 20-30 years, and knitting again was high on the list. Hiatt makes a convincing case that lefties can knit the same way as righties, as knitting is fundamentally ambidextrous. She is correct!!! One of the brilliant strokes of this book is Hiatt's presentation of several different ways to hold the needles and form the stitches --- she encourages the reader to try out several, because everyone's hands are unique. So I tried, and practiced --- and now I can do it righty!! In fact, her mantra throughout the book, no matter the subject, might be "There are several different ways to do this; see what works for you."

Another brilliant stroke is Hiatt's careful attention to terminology: right, left, inside, outside, nearside, farside: each has a single specific meaning and is always used in the same way, and terms are never interchanged. This sounds trivial until you realize that many authors use "right" to mean the side of the garment that is worn on the outside, as well as the part toward the knitter's right hand. This causes no end of distress for people like me who depend on verbal directions. "Hold the yarn to the right side" will give completely different results, depending on the meaning of "right"!

After exhaustively presenting the fundamentals, with thorough discussions of whys and wherefores, Hiatt proceeds through an encyclopedic review of knitting knowledge --- from source and structure of various fibers used to form yarn, through every conceivable technique of specialty knitting, to care of knitted

garments. She also gets into pattern design, calculating how much yarn will be needed, and thorough discussions of determining gauge.

This is a book that will always be nearby when I'm knitting, and it is a great read even when not knitting.

Carol says

This is the master reference book in knitting. The first edition soared to hundreds of dollars in value before she finally produced the second edition. The second edition is such a re-work, that many knitters are holding onto their first editions. The combined two books are probably the most complete compendium of technical information in all of knitting that is available - certainly in two books.

Totally dry, filled with Ms. Hemmons-Hiatt's opinions, and utterly devoid of any sort of read-ability, this is NOT a book you open up and start reading. Instead, it is a book that you keep handy on your bookshelf, and make frequent trips there for technical advice and direction.

Chris says

I read the forward, introduction, and first chapter, but this one's definitely primarily for reference.

Thea says

While this knitting reference is terrific for looking up anything in knitting, I also like to read it for the fascinating detail. Every serious knitter needs this. Yes, it is a big book and we need books.

Liz says

Having checked this book out three times & as it is now overdue, I have to say this may be on my Christmas list.

I rarely give 5 stars, reserving that accolade for classics, past, present & future. This is a classic. No kidding. A one-volume (albeit a hefty one) knitting reference that lives up to the classification.

The only caveat I have is the tendency to use English terminology, although the really excellent and copious illustrations make this a minor objection, and I can see clearly what is meant.

Wonderful book. I mean to check it out regularly until next Christmas.

Catherine says

Just arrived today and I am so excited to dig in. It looks and feels like a textbook, which I love, because I'm enamored with the notion of delving deep into the world of knitting technique. Very impressed by both the new introduction and the original. I can tell I will learn so much from Ms. Hiatt. Looking forward to exploring new methods for the colorwork project I'm currently working on. Hooray! I didn't think it was

possible, but Principles of Knitting is living up to my expectations.

Laura says

This is a book designed to show knitters the utmost directions for completing knit and purl stitches. Many ways of getting the stitches done are shown for right and left-handed knitters.

The book is divided into sections and the author suggests the reader read these sections out of order. June Hemmons Hiatt must be assuming the first, most important chapter for the knitter to read is about "making a swatch" for the gauge.

The history of knitting, descriptive yarn section, and a garment design section are parts of this books explanations. The sections do not need to be read in any specific order. Switch to the sections you need or are most interested in reading.

This book is heavy and large, too large for your knitting bag. There are descriptive explanations, and pictures to help the knitter make the stitches. This is a helpful book to have at your side as you knit. Just read along and knit as the steps suggest.

Sara says

I think I am the first person to not give this book 5 stars. But this really is a phenomenal book and the research is incredible. I think it covers every single thing that any knitter would ever need to know. However, it is very dry, very encyclopedic! The photography is boring - ok, it gets the job done, but with all the gorgeous yarns out there, couldn't they use color photography? Sadly, if I bought this book, I think I'd probably never go to it for a question, but I'd google whatever I need - and watch a video demonstration. I am really glad my library has purchased this book and I have access to it. If I ever go for my Master's Knitter Certification, this would be a must-have.

Carolyn Amundson says

This is definitely the best knitting reference book I have. I think everything is in here, somewhere.

The book is not without flaws. It's a big reference book. That means it is dry and boring. More pictures would be helpful. It uses terms that aren't commonly used for knitting in the US -- if you're looking for a specific term, it's probably got a different name in this book. But, she's right when she says that the same thing is often called a number of different things in the knitting world. For example, unknot, tink, frog, and rip out. Although the writer says any level can use the book, I'm betting it's too daunting for a beginner. And, it may not be for people who prefer youtube learning.

It's dense. I just looked up something about short rows, increasing and decreasing. It took me a few reads to realize that they're just mirror images -- if you'd do a decreasing short row on the right front, you'd do an increasing short row on the left front of a garment.

