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Refined Knits: Sophisticated Lace, Cable, And Aran Lace Knitwear



Synopsis

Elegance at the tip of your needles! Cables and lace are special enough by themselves, but there is something graceful, even magical, about combining the two. Refined Knits concentrates on these two techniques, along with incredibly unique Aran Lace which combines the two, and the results are sure to impress. Enduring Cables: discover cable-work with interesting structure in its details Graceful Lace: explore the delicate sophistication of open-work Elegant Aran Lace: combine lace and cables in unexpected and stunning ways Knitwear designer Jennifer guides you through knitting these timeless, classic techniques, resulting in finished garments and accessories with a decidedly modern feel you'll treasure for years to come.

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Customer Reviews

My wife got this book recently, and as an avid knitter she reads absolutely every knitting book that is published. She's admired Jennifer Wood for a LONG time and this book is exciting to see. The patterns here are simply amazing and she's now working on her first project from the book. What follows is a review based largely on what she thinks of this book, but I've added a few points as I also really admire the book. First, a bit of background on Jennifer Wood who runs Wood House Knits. She has been designing since 2011 -- many of her patterns are on Ravelry. (Note that there is a group on Ravelry for the book. I love this as it tends to be a good place to get help. You can even see pictures of the objects in this book on Ravelry, which is great. I'm guessing that as time goes on, many will post variations of these patterns.) She's also published patterns in Interweave, so she has a good name for herself. [What's Unique Here?](#) The most interesting thing about this

book is that she combines cables and lace. You typically see textured stitching and lace as separate things, but she does a great job of bringing those two domains together in some really elegant objects. Elegant is the word here, as these are very beautiful patterns. The nice thing about combining lace and cables is that you get more structure (from the cables) and yet still have drape (from the lace).

” Inspiration? ” A cool part of this book is that Wood mentions that some of her ideas and innovations here actually come from Japanese stitch guides/dictionaries that she modifies. We don’t know much about this knitting heritage, but the combo of cables and lace is certainly unique (in term of look and structure), so this origin is nice to have Wood acknowledge.

” Books Sections? ” The book is broken into three main sections: 1) cables, 2) lace, and 3) the combo of the two -- she calls this "Aran Lace." Overall, we’d classify this knit book as a pattern book. However, there is a stitch glossary in the back and you can learn a lot from reading this book (and her pattern logic).

” Knitting Level? ” With many advanced techniques such as short rows, cabling, set-in sleeves, compound raglan construction, and lace work, we’d say this is a book for moderate to advanced knitters. The sweaters are top-down. With that said, there are a few things here for beginners. Even if you’re a beginner cabler or new to lace knitting, there are projects in this book that allow you to get into this kind of hybrid knitting. For instance, the "Elodie" and "Louisa" designs are more for beginners.

” Book Quality Itself? ” This book is from Interweave press, and is a really nice object (as a book itself). The pictures are well lit, the pages feel good, and the printing is high-quality. This is not a cheapo on-demand book or anything like that. It’s really pretty to hold and flip through.

” Pattern Legibility? ” This is a book with charted patterns. This means that you need to be able to read charts to get through the patterns. The cables and lace sections are not written out, so you have to follow the charts. As for pattern legibility, we’d say that that these patterns are easy to follow and accurate. We mention this because it’s a pet peeve of mine when knit books.

” Sizes? ” She also includes really clear diagrams with measurements, which is something I like: in her patterns she goes from 33" bust to 54-and-1/4" bust circumference. We’re sure experienced could go beyond her sizes and modify these patterns. She covers cardigans and pullovers, shawls, and other accessories (cowls, mittens, a hat). As I said, the sweaters are all top-down.

” Any Critiques? ” The photos and/or modeling of the objects looks a little bit dated. We’re not saying the actual knit wear is dated, just the photos and modeling. It almost looks like it could be from the 1980s at some times. This is not a critique of the knits, just some of the art direction.

Overall, we’d say that this is one of the more exciting recent knitting books. Mixing lace and cable in this book is really beautiful, and Wood really takes that up a notch in this pattern.

I don't think I've ever left a review before. I'm a 20 year knitter with a bookcase full of knitting books. When I purchase a knitting book, I hope to find 3 patterns that I'll knit. I love EVERY pattern in this book. I want to sell my stash so I can buy the perfect yarn for each pattern and spend the next year knitting each one. While each pattern has a large sizing range, these patterns make me want to lose weight so the finished items will be even more flattering! Obviously, I highly recommend this book - there are lots of pictures of each item from different angles and the patterns and charts are well thought out - Bravo!

A must-have for the serious knitter. This glossy, handsomely photographed collection offers 18 patterns, including 10 cardigans & pullovers as well as cowls, shawls, etc. I wouldn't recommend it for beginners (except as inspiration), & you need to know how to read a chart - which is to be expected when cables & lace are involved - but there's a helpful glossary as well as lots of tips & diagrams illustrating the knitting techniques. I was especially pleased to see that almost all of the designs - even the pullovers - are sized for real women, with bust measurements ranging from a petite 29 1/2" up to a magnificent 63". Wood draws on resources from the familiar Celtic cables & "frost flower" lace pattern, to Japanese stitch dictionaries, which were new to me. The photographs include plenty of close-ups of front, back & side views. Even if your shelves are already sagging under the weight of your knitting books, trust me - you'll want this one.

The book is beautifully photographed and laid out. Care has been taken in the production and it shows up as quality always does. I am knitting the pattern called Victoria and it's complicated and simple at the same time. Her explanations are very clear and that helps. The designs are outstanding. Not too far out, but they are definitely stand outs, if that makes sense. Her section on knitting techniques is one of the best short courses I have seen in a pattern book. In short, well worth the money. (and I am tough on knitting books....see my reviews of other knitting books).

I don't buy hard copies of knitting books very often because I can usually find what I want in a download. I came across this book and had to have it. I wanted to make all but 1 item in this book. The patterns are exquisite, but not hard. I already have the yarn for my first sweater from this book on the spinning wheel. These are also patterns that will stand the test of time as they are elegant, classic pieces that will not go out of fashion. Beautiful book.

This book has so many beautiful garments that I can't wait to knit! The layout is also beautiful and is a pleasure to look through. Knitting sweaters as seamlessly as possible is my preference and this book fits that bill perfectly.

I buy both "paper" and e-books as well as download from sites such as Ravelry. This has been a great addition to my "paper" library. Just started working on Idril--pattern is very clearly written with an excellent glossary in back with some of the best illustrations of technique that I have seen.

I had knit one of Jennifer's other patterns (Evelyn Swing Jacket) prior to receiving this book, it turned out beautifully and I plan on making another one! Everyone that has seen me wearing it immediately wants to know what the pattern is and complements me. I am so impressed both with her pattern writing and with her style. I don't buy pattern books unless I know I will knit at least 50% of the patterns and I will probably make every item in this one at some point. In fact, I already have the yarn to knit 3 of them. I also have to note that Jennifer's pattern support on Ravelry is top-notch. She answers questions within a day or two, sometimes in the same day!

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