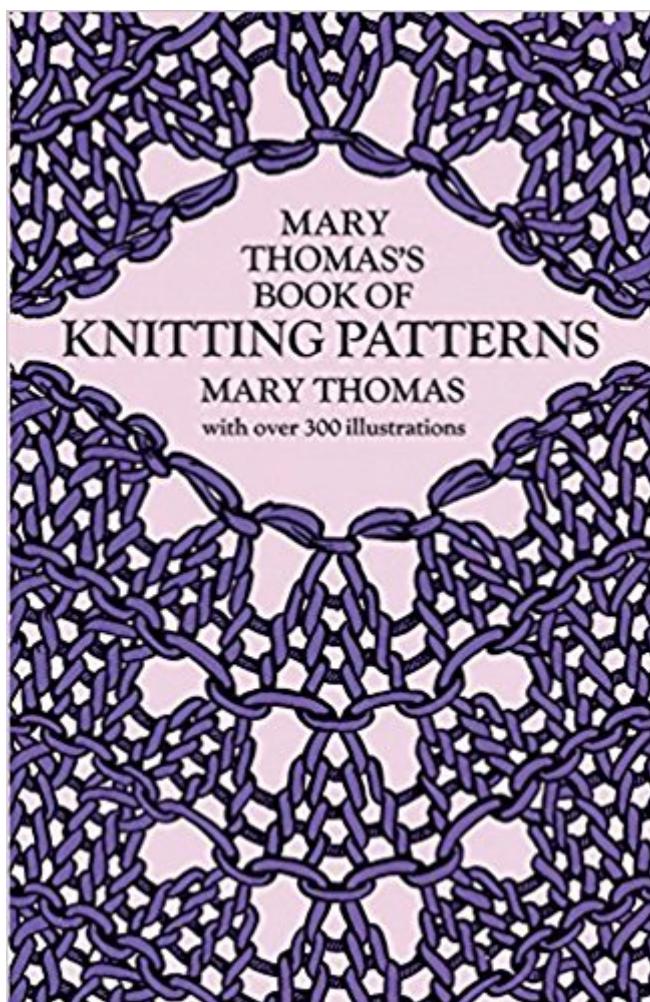


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# Mary Thomas's Book Of Knitting Patterns (Dover Knitting, Crochet, Tatting, Lace)



## Synopsis

This book contains the fruits of centuries of experience and invention in knitting and is quite possibly the best single manual of knitting patterns ever written. Turning its pages, you will see the patterns grow from simple to more elaborate. You will find this to be the best arrangement for instructional purposes as well as a demonstrations of the orderly and scientific methods on which knitting patterns are based. You will be astonished at the great beauty and variety of these patterns, and you will come to realize the potential of knitting, in practiced hands, as one of the finest of crafts. The author begins with basics, with the distinction between knit and purl sides of the fabric and the use of simple black-and-white charts to present patterns. She then introduces a new motif or design in each chapter. Charts, diagrams, and photographs are used liberally along with the text to illustrate each pattern and steps in the creation of each, with special symbols to indicate critical points, so that you can guard against going astray. The patterns range from cross and cross-over motifs through slip-stitch patterns, eyelet patterns, faggot and lace faggot stitch, bias fabrics, lace knitting, embossed motifs and patterns, medallion knitting, picot point knitting, and filet lace. Concluding chapters are devoted to seamless garments and accessories, modern garments, and ornamental uses of increasing and decreasing. There are lists of French and German knitting terms and an index of textures. Special attention is given throughout to explaining the how and why of each pattern, and the properties of each in terms of horizontal and vertical stretching so that selection of patterns can be made practically as well as aesthetically. The beginner will find this book an excellent guide and instruction manual, and the experienced knitter will find it an almost inexhaustible encyclopedia of patterns, methods, and suggestions.

## Book Information

Series: Dover Knitting, Crochet, Tatting, Lace

Paperback: 329 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; Later Edition Used edition (June 1, 1972)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486228185

ISBN-13: 978-0486228181

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #739,241 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #125 in Books > Crafts,

Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Lace & Tatting #897  
inÃ  Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts >  
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Textile Crafts > Knitting

## Customer Reviews

Mary Thomas is one of the best all around knitting references there is. Her first book, Mary Thomas' Knitting Book, approaches every angle of knitting from a practical and sensible point of view. She doesn't raise knitting to an art form, as so many of today's popular knitting mavens try to do, but approaches it from the practical level of a craft, as it should be, in my opinion. In this, her second book, the reader is given loads of stitch patterns and suggestions on how to use many of them. Practically everything Nicky Epstein put in her books is an adaptation of something in Mary Thomas' in one form or another. Just goes to show you, there's nothing new under the sun! Certainly, this book isn't as all encompassing as Barbara Walker's Treasury volumes, but for such a small book, the reader is given a most far reaching and complete treatment of nearly every kind of knitted fabric from solid fabrics to lace, motifs to medallions, and practical and amazingly complete instruction on designing your own garments and other projects. The "By The Way" chapter at the end gives a lot of the signature Mary Thomas historical information on knitting tools, knitting humor, transcribing a pattern, and caring for your woolens. The book is sprinkled throughout with factual historical gems and trivia that make Mary Thomas so readable and enjoyable. Because I learned to read charts from Mary Thomas' books, I think they are easy to follow, but the symbols are different than most knitting books on the market today. The key provided for the symbols is self explanatory and simple enough that even a beginner can catch on quickly with a little work and attention. If I had only two knitting books in my library, they would both be by Mary Thomas. Under her instruction, I learned to knit socks, gloves, mittens, and made my first original (or so I thought at the time) sweater pattern. I recently had to buy a new copy to replace my mother's worn and falling apart copy. I keep both of this author's books close at hand. I own a lot of knitting books, many of them very expensive, but very few are as helpful and complete as the Mary Thomas books.

This is a great explanation book for making cloth that really takes on the form you are after and why. Every stitch is explained in detail and well drawn. The fashion ideas are drawings and not excellent in any way. This is a how-to book, rather than a pattern book. It shows patterns of knit fabric, not patterns of finished pieces. If that is what you are after, you will not get it here. I am always on the

outlook for stitch dictionaries. What I don't get in one book, may be crystal in another and not many people have tons of stitch patterns in their brains. Beginning charts, almost unheard of then, and good, understandable instructions with black and white photos that show off the stitch patterns well. I really am happy to have this book and it works well on my Kindle, because I can break the page down and really read the information, I don't need the page as a whole all the time.

This small black and white book from the World War II era is a reminder of a time when most women had a higher literacy in the skills of knitting, sewing, and clothing alterations. It lacks a lot of handholding, has no color plates, but makes up for it in the intelligent approach to knitting stitch presentation. It may be great for some beginners who are familiar with textile arts if not knitting, yet other beginners will be confused with the brevity of the instructions and the lack of color photos and projects to replicate. It is my absolute favorite knitting book, because it explains the techniques for developing stitches systematically. Every time I learn something new from this small and unassuming book. If you understand the most basic stitch, then you can see the steps that lead to creating new stitches, or more elaborate laces from the lowly yarn over. The small drawings of stitch samples are accurate and detailed. Both charts and word instructions are given for many stitches. Recommended for intermediate or better knitters as a learning expanding reference with few words, or a historic artifact to look through for students of knitting.

A must have for your knitting library collection. 320 fully packed pages of fully illustrated knitting patterns. As per description, " Special attention is given throughout to explaining the how and why of each pattern...." , and yes, by descriptions of why and how, you have a reason to pick out specific patterns for your project. "The illustrations in this book are arranged to present a progressive, pictorial story of knitted patterns, to be first enjoyed by turning the pages and watching the designs grow from simple to greater elaboration." This is a wonderful, soft cover, easy to leaf through book, has excellent pictures, black and white, and great explanations of charting. In Mary Thomas' words, There is no work more ingenious than Knitting and that is why it has lasted so many centuries. So go for it, and enjoy this book.

My favorite book on knitting stitch patterns. Mary Thomas didn't just give the instructions for a comprehensive list of stitch patterns, she explained the engineering of each stitch, the type of fabric it creates, and the best uses for the pattern. This is the book I recommend the most frequently to new and experience knitters. (And the illustrations are charming!)

I was hoping for more lace knitting instructions, but am not disappointed as the knowledge in this small book will be very helpful. Reading patterns from symbols is very easy, once you know their meaning. Cables and some basic lace techniques are offered, but not in depth. It is still a very useful book to have in a knitter's collection

Another great reference book for learning more advanced stitches to aid in making various garments and caps.

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