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Idiot's Guides: Crochet



Synopsis

Tailored for the complete crocheting novice, *Idiot's Guides: Crochet* is a fun, charming guide to learning the basic stitches and techniques. Photographed in a film-strip style, the dozens of full-color photographs and instructions allow the reader to clearly see how each stitch is executed. Every lesson is accompanied by a practice project, so the beginner can try out a newly learned crochet skill. More than a dozen unique projects are included, as well as galleries of crochet stitch patterns.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been a fan of June's blog for several years. Her instructions are always clear and concise, and illustrated very well. This book brings all the best of her blog and website, and adds to it, making it the GO-TO book for learning crochet. I only wish it had been available earlier! June gives excellent directions, and doesn't assume any prior knowledge. She gives detailed instructions for each stitch, and explains in clear language how to work each type of stitch, with each step illustrated with clear, color photos. And not small photos, either, where you have to squint to see what she is doing. She also includes vital information that you can't ever seem to find in other instructions: Just exactly what does it mean to "weave in ends?" How do you join yarn, when you need to use more than one ball? What the heck is blocking, and how do you do it? How do you join pieces or blocks together? As you move through the book, she has multiple projects you can use to try out the techniques she has been demonstrating. Simpler at the beginning, increasing in complexity as you move through and she teaches you more. She goes beyond the simplest stitches into some nice fabric designs, using combinations of stitches. She shows how to read stitch diagrams and charts

and includes both the written instructions and charts for the projects she includes. The projects look fun and interesting enough for an experienced crocheter, but not so complicated that they will scare off a beginner. I can't recommend this book strongly enough, for anyone interested in learning crochet, or wanting to increase their skills.

A great book from June Gilbank. If you haven't discovered PlanetJune or June Gilbank this is a great introduction. This book is designed for the beginner to intermediate crocheter. I consider myself in the intermediate category and there are several topics in here that I will refer to so I can improve my skills. The book starts with the basics of yarn and hooks. Then to making chains and all the basic stitches all the way to the more complex stitches. Each chapter builds on the one before. There are projects with each chapter that allow you to practice what you have learn. June always has excellent photos of what she is showing. This is true with any of her patterns. June writes some of the clearest and easiest to understand patterns out there. There are 17 new patterns. (actually more as some of the patterns have 2-3 options.) In addition to just crochet stitches and patterns June provides instructions on blocking and care of your finished product. I wish I could say more about this book, but I really need to go and crochet a project from June now!

I am a knitter~, a knitter who had been working very hard at designing my own garments, knitting fair isle, lace and had set before myself,,(and reached!) all sort of challenges in 12 yrs of knitting~ Why do I include this in my review?? It is because I am a self taught knitter~, one that had to read books to teach myself~ There are not a lot of yarn shops in this area, the closest being about 40 miles away, so I am pretty much on my own here. One day I had a book on the counter which was a gift from a friend on the crocheted art of amigurumi., and my 4 yr old grand daughter here,~ I was going to give this to the library or another friend,,(,because I don't know how to crochet.) I do know some basics, I know the crab stitch (most knitters do) and the SC (again same reason) I told my grand daughter that Nana (me) doesn't know how to crochet, so I couldn't make her the darling tiny animals and tea set she wanted from that book~. I wished I could but I didn't know how~. She came up to me w/ that book opened and said,,,,,"look Nana, it TELLS you how to do this right in here" This melted my heart. I was determined to learn how to do this. I began to search crochet teaching books and not being new to the teach it to yourself process, I wanted to order the best book I could,,,,, go thru it and learn,,, and I mean,REALLY learn. I spent a small fortune on books thru the years learning to knit in all manners, all styles and still have much to learn but I wanted to avoid crochet book overload, Just wanted to get the best book available on the subject and begin to

crochet so I could eventually make her little turtle or tea set. I tend to avoid the whole "dummy" name in books, bc I am NOT a dummy,, and do not like to even be referenced as one,,,,,even in a teaching book. I went to Barnes and Nobel and sat for hours, reading, taking notes, looking at pictures and came home and read reviews. It came down to 2 learning books,,,,,,and this book was THE top book on the list for teaching myself the lovely art of crochet. What was the difference between this one and the other beginner book?? It was the layout. and the way the whole practice pattern selections worked~ this book could take me step by step from , the chain stitch to creating quite a lovely shawl~ going at a rate that was nice and easy..., learning how to crochet those lovely lovely shells I had seen so often, or how to crochet in the round or the humble granny square ~ This was done in such a way that one could realistically go thru this book chapter by chapter, and then practice a square or a round on what was just taught. The granny square caught my eye also b/c of the possibilities. There are SO many beginning crochet books that are not organized in thought and process which would have the new crochet person confused, and frustrated, (been there,, done that before in knitting) This book ought to win Beginner Crochet Book Award of The Year (if there was one!) for the thought, the layout and all that went into writing this book! I can * think* crochet a whole lot more clearly now, the pictures are fabulous which was never a real strong point w/ the dummy book system,,,,,but not so in this case! There are plenty of color pictures to guide the novice into making this craft a reality for them. I am super excited about crochet now! While I may always be a knitter first, I find myself thinking,,,,,isn't the so and so pattern for the crochet linen stitch scarf on Ravelry easy?? And doesn't it produce a really nice fabric using leftover sock yarn? I am at a point where I am looking for projects to use up some of my stash, and crochet seems to be helpful to me in that area in a good way. While hanging around on Ravelry I see a pattern for a full size granny square throw, and it interests me bc it looks SO retro and colorful,,,,,,I think to myself what a GREAT way to use up leftover colorful stash yarns! (so now, I am way beyond, just thinking amigurumi at this point ,) , but the point is,,,,,I know how to make that granny square! I plan to have this book spiral bound so I can lay it flat and write my own notes as I progress. That is the only complaint I have,,,,,I wish this could be spiral bound, but they do not do this often in teaching books or recipe books either. I hope to crochet that cute lace shawl that is a pattern in this boo someday soon~ I would be willing to bet that from now on,,,,,when I look at yarn , I will wonder,,,,,, Would it be better to be knit into a particular fabric?? ,,OR,,,,,a crocheted fabric? I can see lots of things before me,,,,,,pillows, shawls, scarves knit lengthwise in the linen stitch and so forth. Love love love this book and can say w/ all certainty that my 4 yr old grand daughter will have her crocheted turtle and tea set and I will have learned a new skill.

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