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New Lace Knitting: Designs For Wide Open Spaces



Synopsis

A fresh, modern take on classic lace knitting! When it comes to stunning lace knitting, there are few names more synonymous with the craft than Romi Hill. Her designs have made by thousands of knitters and her latest creations in *New Lace Knitting* will have you racing for your needles and skeins of yarn to cast on beautiful, artful, sophisticated pieces. These 19 garment and accessory designs will reawaken your love of traditional lace knitting by using classic stitch patterns in fresh ways--whether you're creating shawls, cardigans, pullovers, or wraps. Through these pieces, you'll be treated to the incredible versatility of lace: how stitch patterns change in different weights of yarn, how you can use that stitch pattern sparingly or for your whole project, and how little knitterly details make a lace project truly elegant, whether it is for every day or special occasion. You may be familiar with knitting lace, but this is *New Lace Knitting*!

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Customer Reviews

Rome Hill is one of those designers that whenever there is a new publication available I have to have it! Her designs are complex yet approachable, whimsical and unlike any other designer I have seen out there and this book is no exception. The book is gorgeous, both to look at and to read. The stories behind the patterns make them seem even more vibrant and the photos complement the knitting, not the model. This has always been a sticking point with me with knitting books, if the pictures don't show the knitting as a focal point - favoring the scenery or model instead - then it immediately loses its appeal. This book shows the knitting first and then the models and scenery second, although the scenery and the model are also beautifully photographed. It also provides

a great guide of reference if you are knitting the pattern and need a visual queue to make sure you are on the right track. The patterns are all very well written, providing fluid charts that make it very easy to read your knitting. While this is not a beginners knitting book the instructions and patterns are written in a way that makes them approachable. I honestly believe that if it was someone besides Romi Hill writing these patterns I would be lost, because lace can be quite complicated. The Crystal Bay Shawl is a great example. The lace work is done differently than any other lace I've ever worked, but with her instructions it makes it far less daunting. If you are looking to expand your knitting abilities then this is a book to look into. There is also a great vibe to this book. The author describes the ideas and inspirations behind the designs in a way that turns this knitting book into a bit of a story. I love a good story to tell when I am making gifts for other people (or hoarding them for myself) because it brings non-knitters into a conversation about something you've poured your heart into. The layout of the book is visually appealing and the way the photos are laid out, overlapping the stories, makes them even more enjoyable. I would go as far as to say that this would even make a beautiful coffee table book! I highly recommend this book, even if you haven't tried a book/pattern/design from Rosemary Hill I think you will find yourself thoroughly enchanted by her work.

I am actually in the process of culling all of my craft books, so when I pre-ordered Romi's much-anticipated new book, I had very high expectations. I'm not disappointed! In fact, I'm really amazed by how many of the projects I want to jump right in to! I appreciate the originality of the designs, because as we all know, nearly every new design is based on the stitches developed over centuries past. Barbara Walker has gathered most of them, and too many designers merely lift one of these old stitch patterns and throw on a border and call it original. Romi has definitely avoided that trap. There is original thought throughout the book, and new ways of utilizing classic stitch patterns. I personally responded right away to the Talus cardigan, which cleverly morphs a traditional Hap shawl into a lightweight top-down sweater. There is almost a slight peplum feel here, as is also the case with the Bright Moment cardi, cleverly finished with the clean, slightly weighted I-cord edge. The Williwaw Cardigan starts with a sideways lace panel that almost looks cabled, thanks to easy twisted stitches. I like the tips throughout, like using a good sized lace swatch from the shawl and sweater patterns for a small cowl! That's a simple way to make an evening of swatching fun and purposeful. I also love the idea of knitting the same yarn at two different gauges, a smaller one for a hat (Virginia City Cloche) and a looser gauge for a cowl. The sweet, clean sweaters are very tempting as well, especially the cover design, the Manzanita Tee. Details like a picot hem and the

smooth T-shirt-like neckband make this an unfussy yet feminine design. I have discovered that the longer I knit, the finer-gauge project I prefer. Fortunately, these designs have come into my life at just the right time. This is not even close to the total number of projects that Romi has crammed into this book. Scarves, tams, shawls, all with a special twist, really makes this lace "new". One caveat: I'm a chart knitter all the way, and while I love everything else about Interweave Press, their charts are small and difficult to use as-is. I end up getting out the graph paper and recopying them larger so I can glance at them. And I really believe that this book is ambitious enough to deserve a hard cover with a spiral binding. Just saying. Still, this one gets five stars from this knitter. I look forward to a happy winter knitting these projects.

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