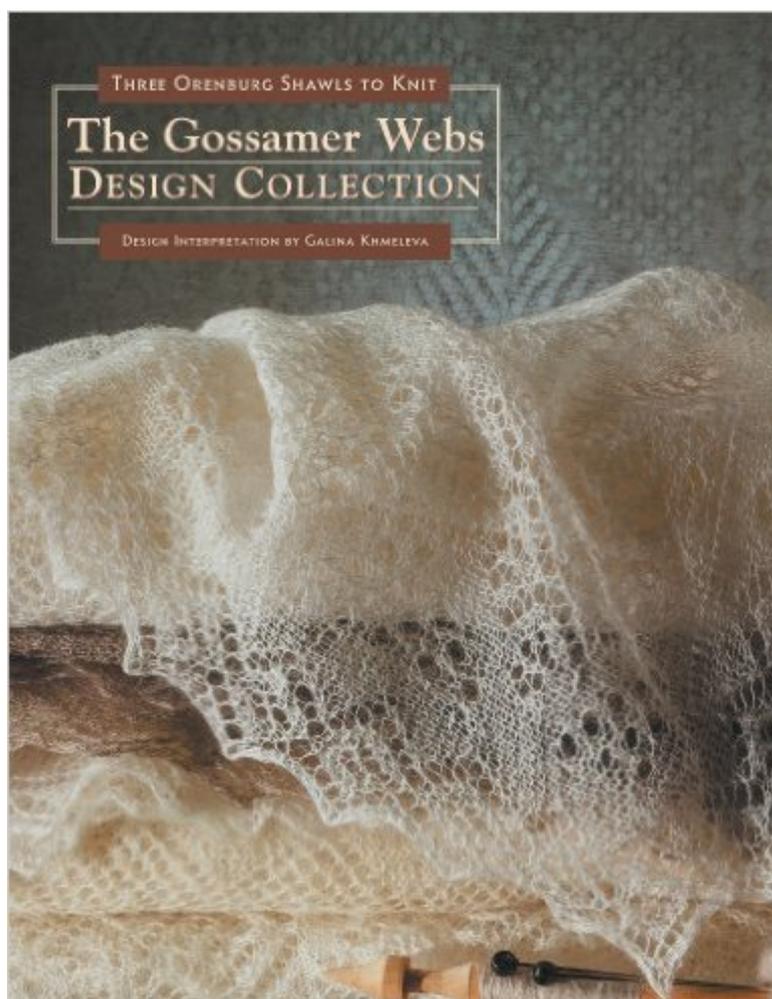


The book was found

The Gossamer Webs Design Collection: Three Orenburg Shawls To Knit



Synopsis

Presenting three classic Orenburg-style lace patterns in written form for the very first time. Created from a series of basic elements and patterns handed down from generation to generation from the Orenburg region of Russia, Galina Khmeleva has worked with these talented craftspeople to bring you these unique knitted masterpieces. Create your own heirloom shawl following step-by-step instructions and charts laid out for ease of knitting from bottom to top.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Despite the title, it can hardly be called a "collection", as there are only three complete patterns in the book, and one of those is only partially charted! However, the basics of the Russian patterns are clearly charted as well as how to make their standard borders, how to turn corners, etc. The lace is beautiful and the basics part of the book would be a good tool for those who want to start knitting this type of lace.

This book was not what I expected after reading its synopsis. The patterns are lovely, but all three are very similar. The instructions are minimal. Supposedly, the reader will understand them after knitting a sampler. I have been knitting for more than 50 years, and I have no desire to knit a sampler I'll never be able to use. I would have preferred more complete instructions.

I was a little bit disappointed when I received this book, having already "Knitted Lace of Estonia" by

Nancy Bush. In the book you find the pattern description for a triangular shawl, a scarf and a square shawl. And a stitch and border dictionary. There are ten basic elements in Orenburg shawls and you can combine these stitches as you please.

This is a book on technique and provides excellent instruction on the basic construction of Orenburg shawls and how to create your own using the techniques. I am particularly partial to knitting the borders as I go rather than going back and adding them! However, if you are looking for a book of shawl patterns you can follow, you probably don't want this book as there are only three complete patterns given.

I'm a little partial to Galina's books. I love the passion she shares for her love of Orenburg Lace. It is her heritage and she knows Orenburg lace like no one else. The patterns are easy to follow and the results outstanding. Each gossamer web would be a family heirloom. (If you get a chance, take one of her classes. She is witty and will share her secrets and love of Orenburg lace.)

I am an experienced lace knitter and have enjoyed it of years. I bought Galina's book on the basis of the beautiful shawls pictured within, but was sad to discover that there were no patterns per se for recreating them. The history contained in the book is very interesting, but the instructions are obscure at best and I would not recommend this as a book to actually knit from.

Book arrived promptly. I am glad I added this book to my knitting book library, but it is not for the faint of heart. It is definitely for advanced knitters, but having said that, I am a believer that to improve our knitting skills we must work outside our comfort zones. My suggestion is that you be comfortable reading charts and that you are comfortable knitting lace, before you tackle projects in this book. There are only about three projects, but they seem to cover a range of skills. If I had one criticism, it is that the charts are not complete. Partial charts are printed and you are expected to reverse, or extend them to complete a project. Considering how complicated the material is to begin with, having to tweak the charts seems overwhelming.

This book is more a history of lace knitting. It doesn't really provide patterns for shawls or scarves. If that is what you are looking for, this is NOT the book for you.

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