



Knitting and Crochet Books

A Whole Lot of Great Information Available

"The only reference book you'll ever need." How many times have you seen this designation on a book cover? I think this is definitely a misnomer. I would prefer seeing the words "an excellent reference resource".

I have a fair number of knitting and crochet books, from reference resource books to pattern books. I refer to them quite often, bookmark pages, and enjoy all points of view as I do my perusing. I keep an open mind when I study pages of needlework techniques and patterns to find information to enhance my knowledge.

There are many talented, published knitting designers and instructors in the needlework world. They express their studied opinions, applying personal spins on the how-tos as they write instructional pages. I most always find one or more places in a new-to-me book that I mark for reference. As a designer and teacher, I participate in these writing efforts myself, and I like thinking that needle workers might dog-ear my pages as well when they feel I have expressed a technique or how-to in a unique fashion, so-much-so that they will want to reference it again and again!

Knitting and crochet professionals work to tweak these processes, adding to the abundance of material presented in interesting and well-expressed ways. Sometimes words used to describe contents of new books will include "new" and "original". These words are sometimes misused. Regarding the fine art of knitting, in 1905 the *Fleisher Knitting Manual* told us that "... there is really nothing new." Rather, it is the continued reinvention of the binary system and its applications of the knit stitch and purl stitch.

I always respect others' opinions, disagreements, and the like – all toward a healthy promotion of these historical, wonderful, fine arts of knitting and crochet. I continue to look at new books and dog-ear a lot of pages. But I think I am going to need to get a wheelbarrow to keep in the corner of my library so that if the house catches on fire I can throw my favorite "excellent reference resource" books into it for evacuation along with my other valuables.

Susan D. Kerin
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Susan Kerin

I've been knitting and crocheting since the age of eight. These fine arts and other genres of needlework have always been part of my life. I won a Singer Sewing contest when I was 12 years old. Previous background also includes commercial business ownership, management and writing and editing.

I am the recipient of multiple national awards for my afghan design work in both knit and crochet. My work has appeared with Mary Maxim, Herrschners and Caron. Afghanes I designed have been featured on publication front covers. As well, my 'Floral Spray' was featured on the front cover of a Mary Maxim 'Best Of' book and my 'Shoots & Ladders' afghan appeared on the inside front cover of Herrschners 'Best Of' Book.

As to knitting and crochet, I am devoted to:
teaching (individual, group, institutional) general and custom knit and crochet lessons at all levels and topics,
researching and study (4,000 books and publications library),
designing,
writing and editing designs to final publication status, focusing on clearly written, comprehensive patterns,
preparing new lessons and tutorials,
lecture and presentations to interested groups



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