

Preface

This book will **not** teach you how to knit. You need to already know how to cast on, knit, purl, cable, decrease, increase, and bind off. Familiarity with intarsia and stranded colorwork is optional.

What You Will Learn

You'll be led through the process of creating, reading, and working from knitting charts literally one stitch at a time.

You'll start with small swatches using all of the basic knitting stitches. Then you'll learn how to

- 🌀 combine those pieces to create charts for several very small projects from their written-out instructions
- 🌀 combine several stitch patterns to make a larger project
- 🌀 isolate a stitch pattern or motif from written-out instructions
- 🌀 tweak a stitch pattern or project chart to get the exact look you want
- 🌀 position stitch patterns and motifs with mirror-image symmetry in any project
- 🌀 read and construct shaping charts for both bottom-up and top-down garments

If you choose to type up knitting charts in a computer using the book's knitting font, I share lots of tips and tricks to make it easier and quicker, some of which apply even if you chart by hand with pencil and paper.

Why Is the Book So Long?

The book's length does **not** mean that it's hard to learn to use knitting charts! But it's big for several reasons.

- 🌀 The pages are formatted to be printed on both sides of 8.5x11 paper.
- 🌀 Lots of white space gives you room to jot down notes and reminders.
- 🌀 The charts always use the biggest font size possible.
- 🌀 I use a chatty, conversational tone, not a spare or minimal one.
- 🌀 In places I review key concepts in different words.
- 🌀 I was absolutely obsessive about explaining every little detail, every little step, every single trick.
- 🌀 Some of the appendixes are not about charting itself, but they contain information I

discovered during the course of writing and swatching. Since I had run into those issues and had to find solutions, or just figured out some surprising things about charts or knitting itself, I thought that information might benefit other knitters.



So grab a pair of needles, some yarn, and your favorite beverage. Get cozy. Pretend like I'm in the room, because that's exactly how I wrote it.

I imagined myself sitting next to you, saying "OK, first we have to do this" and pointing at one spot, then saying "And now we can do that" and pointing at a different spot.

I tried using *you* in all those places, mainly because "that's the way books are supposed to be written," and it always sounded, well, almost accusatory and even demeaning, as though I were implying "Don't you get this yet???"

In the vast majority of places, I say *we* and *us* and *our*. In places where I do use *you* and *your*, it's almost always because we have options when we chart and/or knit. Saying *you* and *your* makes it clear that we can all choose which way to do something.

When I particularly address mirror-image knitters, sometimes I use *we*, but many times I use *they* or *them* or *their*, since I'm a traditional knitter.

In places with *I* or *me* or *my*, I'm almost always specifically talking about how I chart or knit.