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Vogue® Knitting The Ultimate Hat Book: History * Technique * Design



Synopsis

Vogue® Knitting presents a comprehensive overview of an enduring knitters' favorite and essential fashion accessory: hats. It covers everything from global traditions and classic styles to key techniques, blocking to achieve the best shape, design advice, and 50 remarkable patterns from some of today's top knitwear designers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For 30 years, Vogue® Knitting magazine has set the standard for excellence in knitting, featuring the biggest and most talented names in knitwear design and fashion today. Led by Editor-in-Chief Trisha Malcolm, Vogue® Knitting is published six times per year.

THE ULTIMATE HAT BOOK is another collection of patterns that were mostly published previously in Vogue Knitting magazine: this time the focus is hats. Perhaps to justify the "ultimate" title, the editors have added 10 pages of "Hat Basics" at the beginning of the book. The "Basics" topics are: History of Knitted Hats (interesting, but only 2 pages); Anatomy of a Hat (definitions of "visor", "band", etc.); Types of Hats (cloche, chullo, etc.); and Basic Techniques (knitting in the round, knitting back and forth, yarn selection, etc.). The "Hats Off to Knitting" introduction states that the editors culled the magazine archives for "favorite and most enduring" designs, and also asked current designers to submit new designs for "their perfect hat". Unfortunately, there's no way to tell

which designs are new, and which are reprinted (short of pulling out your old magazines). Some of the reprinted patterns were originally written for now-discontinued yarns, so the editors have substituted available yarns. To the editors' credit, the discontinued yarns are fully described in the "Helpful Information" at the back of the book. When the VK magazine patterns were originally published, the hat designs were fresh and fashionable. However, as collected in this book, the reprinted patterns seem dated and somewhat dull, and the new patterns don't stand out from the rest. The book's layout doesn't help. A colored band on each right-hand page lets you fan the book pages to find the pattern categories (Basic Shapes, Cables, Lace, Color, Embellishments), but this restricts the full-page model photos to the left-hand pages, resulting in a predictable, boring presentation. The patterns have clear, written-out instructions supplemented by charts as necessary. There aren't any patterns for very simple, basic hats (which I think should be part of any "ultimate" hat book). I like some of the hat designs very much--for example, "Brioche Swirl Hat", "Plaid Tam", "Cabled Pillbox", "Hood" (but my goodness, all that moss stitch!), "Beanie", and "Bowler". Nevertheless, because I simply can't get excited about this collection, I rate THE ULTIMATE HAT BOOK at 3 stars ("it's okay" on the official scale).

I loved this book. It is a collection of every hat style you could possibly want to knit, including bowlers and cloche hats. I've already knitted the cover hat, with adaptations, as it was too big for me, but this was no problem. I'll certainly be knitting some of the other hats. It gives clear instructions, the yarn they were knitted in (with info on whether this yarn is still available.) The yarn instructions are mainly helpful for American readers of course, as these yarns are not necessarily available in Europe where I live. This in fact may be the only negative point, that alternative European yarn is not given. Recommended.

The book is lovely and grand child picked out the cover hat which I have started. The instructions are pretty good in the construction part, but I had awful trouble at the start. Book is good, details in construction are what I have had trouble with. See Below: I have just begun one hat (cover) and it was slow going as I started. I began with 4 needles and it kept coming out wrong. My very experienced knitting daughter realized that you needed a 5th needle and corrected it but my time to knit has been sparse lately so I have only progressed to the 2nd stage part. Listing that a 5th needle is required in materials required would have helped me. I hope that the other hats I want to make are described more clearly for a medium skilled knitter. Perhaps the 4 dot notation should have warned me.

I have already found two patterns that leave out critical information. One left out instructions for the hat band (one of the watch hats) which I caught right away, and the beaded bucket hat where you need to use two yarns held together. I learned that the hard way. I've had moderate to great success with other patterns in the book.

I saw this in the bookstore and got to peruse it....ordered it from for something like \$10 cheaper than the store, and have been knitting hats from it ever since. I really like it and have been looking for a book like it for a while now. I am also just using it for for general hat techniques and mixing and matching some of the designs. But for those who don't like to tweak there seems to be a hat style in here for everyone that likes hats.

The "Ultimate Hat Book" title is a great example of truth in advertising. It starts with a very brief history of knitted hats, goes on to another short description of the different types of hats you can knit (berets, hoods, beanies, watch caps, stocking caps, hats with earflaps, etc.) & then provides patterns for almost 40 different knitted hats, including cable, colorwork, lace knitting & a variety of trims & embroidery. Of course, this being a Vogue Knitting book, the suggested yarns are upscale & expensive - but as long as you can find a yarn that will work to the stitch gauge, you can use whatever you want. The book encourages creative knitters to try different stitches/patterns for different hat shapes. I can't wait to make some of these cute hats for my daughter-in-law!

I like this book because it has patterns that can challenge me without being a huge project. It is not for everyone, though. This book covers the history of knitting, and the design of hats throughout the ages (that includes items that are not in vogue right now) that have been reworked. I realize that not everyone may find that as fascinating as I did but it gives some really valuable information. If you want to know knitting top to bottom (and not just enough to do the patterns you want) than this is a great book to get.

Hat patterns are good looking but most are advanced and this wasn't listed in description. Because of this I'm getting a bit frustrated. The instructions and some of the wording was a little different. The book originated in Australia (I think).

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