



Annetarsia Knits: a New Link to Intarsia

By Anne Berk

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Annetarsia Knits: a New Link to Intarsia By Anne Berk

Annetarsia Knits is a reference book for learning to knit intarsia flat or in the round, in stockinette or garter stitch. The book includes workshops, a motif library, and 28 patterns for using the new techniques. Content is designed for knitters of all skill levels. Knitters have traditionally shied away from intarsia due to the annoyance of dealing with multiple yarn supplies on the needle, and weaving all of the ends. Annetarsia gives knitters easy options to manage those issues, so that they can get to the fun stuff; painting pictures on their knitting without stranding. Intarsia creates a flexible, lightweight fabric, wonderful for garments. The book begins with extensive instruction on technique, tools to make it easier, and intuitive ways to deal with problems that may occur. Photography illustrates each step. Then, there are 2 workshops with fun and useful projects to practice skills. In the Kitchen has patterns for a potholders worked in stockinette and garter stitch intarsia, and an oven mitt worked in the round (ITR). Worsted weight wool is recommended for ease of knitting, and feltability. In the Loo patterns for stockinette and garter stitch intarsia are washcloths, and the ITR project is a soap bag. Worsted weight cotton is recommended. Yarn gauge is introduced here, a new technique which enables knitters to measure how much yardage is needed for each intarsia section. Now that the knitter has intarsia skills, they are fully prepared to knit projects. Easy, fun to knit designs for hats, mitts, socks, pillows, scarves, and garments are presented with detailed photos and complete instruction. At the top of each pattern, a table lists skills needed for the pattern, and where to find those pages in the book. Charts are detailed with yarn supplies needed, where new ones are added, and how much yardage is required for each section. Anne's students contributed to the workshop projects, and their work is photographed in the book. Students test knit several projects, and 3 variations became original designs, that are included. Their success and enthusiasm attests to the enjoyment of intarsia when done the Annetarsia way. Anne Berk lives in Portland, Oregon, and the photography reflects the beauty of this Northwest state. Projects are named for local places and landmarks that inspired their design.

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Editorial Review

Review

My favorite kind of people are the ones who think outside of the ~ usual norm ~ box that most of us operate in everyday. Anne Berk is one of those kinds of people. Instead of keeping with the status quo and saying no to the question, Can we knit Intarsia in the round? Anne took a leap, and a loop! She took that leap of faith that the brave, creative and curious do that open doors to new ways of thinking, seeing and doing. Thanks to Anne's fabulous brain, persistence, and hard work, the answer to the question -Can we knit Intarsia in the round?- is now a resounding yes! Annetarsia Knits is a wonderful, well thought, written and knit book. A definite must for any knitters library. --Tina Newton

Anne's elegant technique for intarsia in the round transforms something we knitters have struggled with into a nimble, even joyful, process. Her solution is so beautiful that you will wonder why it hasn't always been done this way; from now on it will be. --Cat Bordhi

It's a word that tends to produce strong reactions in knitters: Intarsia. Everyone, it seems, has her own story: the baby blanket now bitterly known as "the 'Rosemary's Baby' blanket" that made the knitter cry more than the infant, the speechless awe that Kaffe Fassett designs produce, the glory of a project that turns out perfectly, and the cursing of (and at) bobbins/weaving/whathaveyou when disaster strikes. Everyone has an intarsia story. And Portland knitter, designer and teacher Anne Berk has a new technique that aims to give those stories -- every last one of them -- happy endings. What Cat Bordhi did for sock knitting, Anne Berk just may do for intarsia. With a new book, "Annetarsia Knits," that showcases a revolutionary technique, she takes a design element that's simultaneously admired and feared and makes it accessible and downright inspiring. --Mary Mooney, The Oregonian newspaper

Here I am holding your amazing book! Thank you so very much! Anne, you have included everything and your directions are so complete and the projects so inspiring and fun. The pictures are gorgeous. I know you will have people creating their own using all they learn from you. It's a revolution that will take off! You are so sweet to mention Madrona with such kind words. It is all I dreamt that we could be -- a sharing community that nurtures creativity. You and your book are very special! --Suzanne Pedersen

Add a Little Color to Your Life At last! A reference book dedicated exclusively to intarsia. For an aficionado of this color knitting technique, Anne Berk offers an expansive supplement to traditional ways of working, and also an easily accessible way of working intarsia In The Round (ITR), something many of us have eschewed for ourselves, and also our students, saying it's possible, but not worth it. Annetarsia Knits dispels this myth with comprehensive overall instructions, including problem-solving skills and a host of details to help unravel much of the mystery of intarsia in general as well as ITR. Clear photographs, and a wide range of projects designed to show novices and more experienced knitters the way into newly charted territory, are most helpful. Annetarsia Knits is suitable for all knitters wishing to add a little color to their life. Each project includes helpful specific guidance to make the knitting manageable, enjoyable and beautiful. Additionally, Anne introduces us to her large knitting community who share their stories, and color or pattern variations on many of her designs, giving the book a warmth unexpected in a work devoted primarily to one knitting technique. I'm sure that all of us whose designs were included are delighted to have been part of this very attractive work, which should have a place on every knitter's bookshelf for years to come. -- Nancy Powell Thompson

Here I am holding your amazing book! Thank you so very much! Anne, you have included everything and your directions are so complete and the projects so inspiring and fun. The pictures are gorgeous. I know you

will have people creating their own using all they learn from you. It's a revolution that will take off! You are so sweet to mention Madrona with such kind words. It is all I dreamt that we could be -- a sharing community that nurtures creativity. You and your book are very special! --Suzanne Pedersen

About the Author

Anne Berk was certified by TKGGA as a Master Knitter in 2003. DVDs on intarsia technique - Inside Intarsia and Intarsia InDepth, are published by Interweave. She has written patterns and articles for many publications, including Piecework, Sockupied, ColorKnit and Twist Collective. She has taught classes nationally on subjects ranging from Argyle socks to Zipper insertion into hand-knits. Anne is also an optometrist in private practice in Portland, OR, and a Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeremy Scott:

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Eleanor Sotomayor:

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