

Introduction to Crochet

Crochet is such a wonderful craft. There are so many facets and variations to explore with a hook and some yarn. The creative possibilities are endless.

Crocheters do not just use yarn; they crochet with every imaginable form of fiber. I have seen items made with kite string, fishing line, wire, rag strips, and paper strips. I'm sure there are some fibers used for crocheting that I have yet to see.

In this book, I have included an extensive collection of stitches, from the very basic to more intricate techniques. Delicate lacy openwork to heavier textures like bobbles, bullions, limpets, basket weave, and double-sided crochet, edgings, and motifs are all included.

Detailed, step-by-step instructions, charts, and photographs accompany each stitch. Every stitch is ranked by level of difficulty to help you try your hand at progressively complex stitches, and there are sample projects throughout the book that showcase at least one of the stitches used in each group.

In addition to the stitch section, there is a specialty crochet methods section. In this section, I have included methods such as freeform crochet, intermeshing crochet, and crocheting raglans from the top down.

I have asked fellow designers, who are experts in their fields, to contribute a project in their area of expertise to the specialty crochet methods section. Contributors and their projects include: Pauline Turner, Polish Star; Melody MacDuffee, Overlay Crochet; Julia Bryant, Tapestry Tunisian; Jennifer Hansen, Hairpin Lace and Broomstick Lace; and Tatyana Mirer, Bruges Lace. Fellow freeform crocheters Prudence Mapstone, Myra Wood, and Pam Shore have graciously allowed me to show photographs of some of their garments in the Freeform Crochet chapter.

Nancy Nehring explores the history of crochet, and her article is accompanied by an exquisite example of antique crochet.

Jules Kliot, who along with his wife, Kaethe, founded the Laxis Museum of Lace and Textiles in Berkeley, California, has allowed us to use photographs depicting special pieces from the museum.

I have tried to include something for everyone, so please enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Hubert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.