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Knitting Block By Block: 150 Blocks For Sweaters, Scarves, Bags, Toys, Afghans, And More



Synopsis

Create gorgeous sweaters, bags, afghans, and toys just by knitting the simplest of shapes – a square! No one forgets the sweet victory of completing their first knitted block, but most of us quickly move on to more complex constructions, only making swatches for gauge. In this comprehensive volume, celebrated designer and innovator Nicky Epstein reimagines the humble block with 150 new patterns and masterfully demonstrates how to mix, match, and easily combine them into stunning one-of-a-kind garments and accessories. Inside you will find: 150 original block patterns, from simple textures to embossed pictorials, intricate lace to cables, colorwork, double knit, and more, all with Nicky's signature wit, verve, and style. More than ten exclusive project designs that will make you say "I can't believe that is made out of blocks!" Detailed guidance for creating exciting pieces out of block knitting, without using increases or decreases. Exclusive cut-and-paste project design pages. Simply cut out the printed blocks and arrange them to help create your own masterpieces. Blocks are quick to knit, portable pieces perfect for group and charity projects, and now not limited to just afghans! Knitting Block by Block gives you the tools to unlock a world of creative possibilities and confidently build your own design "blockbusters," one block at a time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In previous tutorials, the popular designer Epstein has covered edgings, flowers, and felting, among

many other topics. Here she discusses a very practical skill and provides some fine patterns for a very simple shape—squares. Knitters most often use squares, or blocks, as Epstein calls them, for gauge swatches. But, actually, they are the most versatile of constructions and can be used for sweaters, toys, and, of course, afghans. Although she begins by showing simple squares done in seed and garter stitches, Epstein quickly moves on to embossed, cabled, colored, and appliquéd squares, all of which will get knitters' hands twitchy. Then come instructions, in words and charts, for the patterns, some involved, like an afghan, and others, like a hat and scarf, fairly quick to make. A bag looks particularly enticing. Back matter includes information about edgings, a detailed glossary, and a list of charities on which to bestow finished projects. More than 180 color illustrations add to the pleasure of this appealing book. --Ilene Cooper

"We bet you've never seen blocks quite like these. Use the 150 patterns to fashion your own custom projects, or follow designer Nicky Epstein's simple steps to create intricate, sophisticated accessories." --Good Housekeeping

This was a clever idea for a book, using the basic idea of piecing squares together to make something other than what squares are traditionally used for, ie. afghans. I thought I read through the book pretty carefully so I could be wrong but I don't think she ever said what the size of each finished square should be to make the patterns. Usually in books like this they give a gauge and tell you what the finished size of each block should be but I wasn't finding that in the book. This kind of made me feel like something hugely important was left out of the book, to be learned later by the instructor in classes you might need to take with her. If someone can clear this up for me as some kind of misunderstanding, I'd really appreciate it. She has a gorgeous poncho pattern using this technique in her "knitting reimagined" book that I'd love to make one day. At this point the only thing I felt confident in making was an afghan using the same square throughout the entire afghan. I'm not up to making each square myself to see if the finished size is equivalent to the finished size of other blocks in the book. The best use of this book for me is to enjoy the very unique afghan block patterns and be inspired by what is possible that I haven't seen before. A lot more technical information is needed before I would feel confident to actually use these blocks to make a garment or to use them interchangeably to make an afghan.

I was torn reviewing this book, as it is beautifully done, on quality paper with a lovely cover, but there is nothing new here. It is a compilation of patterns that can be found in many other books. The

author takes traditional patterns, and presents them to you in a block form; she then may add ruffles, balls, pearls or strips or rolls of knitting to the surface. You are to sew these elements atop your knitted swatch. There are many blocks with a snake coil wrapped in various ways and sewn to the surface, the idea being apparent after one. The "picture" blocks are nothing out of the ordinary. I personally like a more contemporary approach and did appreciate a few of the more contemporary blocks at the end of the book, but even these were very simplistic arrangements of what has already been done. I suppose if you need this kind of "kick in the pants" to jumpstart your own ideas, this book can be of some value. The cover photo though, is all you require. Take all of the techniques you already know and stitch them to a 5X5 block of knitted fabric.

Beautiful book, beautiful designs, and horrible editing. There are many errors in this book. I am knitting the afghan on page 216. The yarn suggested is Cascade 220, not superwash. The colors listed do not match Cascade's color list at all. The colors given are NOT for the sample afghan shown; I loved the colors in the sample knitted afghan and I am not getting it. Blocks knitted as directed created different sized blocks. After a lot of reworking and reediting, I am able to create same sized blocks. They are many great ideas, but beware of the patterns.

There is so much good stuff in this book that I don't know where to start. Her blocks are so original and delightful. There are very few projects in the volume though but it is easy to come up with stunning projects. The instructions are clear and well written. When I say however, that it is confusing I refer to the fact that so many of the blocks have different cast on numbers, so when I finished my first three blocks for the afghan project in the book, they came out in different sizes using the same needles and yarn. I ended up adding garter stitch borders to some to make them come out even. I am left feeling that I am not executing my blocks in some way, though since they specify different numbers it makes sense for them to end up different sizes.

I am so delighted with this book..Once again Ms. Epstein shows the imagination and inventiveness that makes her my personal favorite knitwear designer. Her last 2 books had REALLY disappointed me because they really were a rehash of her old ideas. Knitting on Top of the World and Knitting a Kiss in Every Stitch just didn't make it for me. I want Ms. Epstein's imagination...not a travel guide to Tuscany... There are many many blocks in this book...my favorites happen to be the ones with i-cord and ideas of how one might use them...directions call for knitting with Cascade 220 ..a lovely yarn that is not only beautiful, comes in many colors, but is quite affordable. There are directions for

all the blocks as well as for the patterns of garments made using the blocks... WELCOME BACK, Ms. Epstein....and thank you...

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