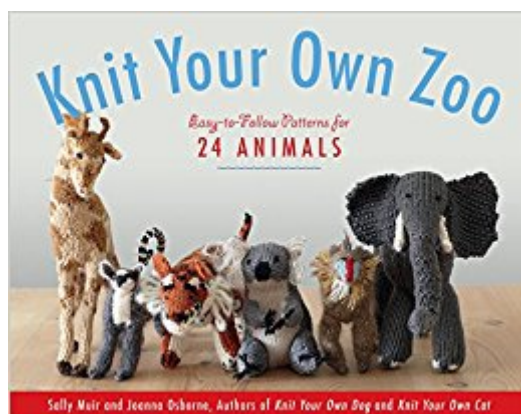


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Knit Your Own Zoo: Easy-to-Follow Patterns For 24 Animals



Synopsis

From the authors of the beloved and best-selling *Knit Your Own Dog*, *Knit Your Own Cat*, and *Knit Your Own Dog: The Second Litter* comes *Knit Your Own Zoo!* With easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions for 24 animals, it's an irresistible guide to knitting a single exotic pet or an entire stuffed menagerie. What could be better than a cuddly koala or a long-necked giraffe to call your own? *Knit Your Own Zoo* includes patterns for both, as well as a tiger, crocodile, penguin, meerkat, elephant, armadillo, panda, a kangaroo and her joey, and 14 other delightful creatures. The animals are surprisingly easy to make; with a few evenings of work, you can have a covetable companion for life. Given a week, you could be charging admission to your own nature park! Along with the knitting patterns, Sally and Joanna also include brief descriptions of the various species and offer tips and advice on sewing up and embellishing the animals. And, of course, these knitted animals are much easier to look after than the real things?they don't eat, won't make a mess, and are legal to keep in your home.

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Customer Reviews

KNIT YOUR OWN ZOO is another fine collection of patterns for small knitted display animals (not really suitable for knitted toys) from the authors of Â *Knit Your Own Dog* Â and Â *Knit Your Own Cat*. These patterns are well-written, with clear instructions, but probably require advanced intermediate knitting skills (or beyond), because each animal is constructed from many small, shaped parts. For example, the wonderful giraffe is assembled from (1) a right back leg, (2) a left back leg, (3) a right

front leg, (4) a left front leg, (5) a right side of body, (6) a left side of body, (7) a head, (8) a tummy, (9) ears, (10) tail, and (11) mane. The parts for the legs are held on stitch holders until it's time to add the body; some body stitches are also held on stitch holders until it's time to add the head; and so on. The giraffe's "spots" are knitted in using Fair Isle and Intarsia methods. The mane is crocheted; the eyes are embroidered; the tail uses buttonhole stitch; the "horns" are pipe cleaners. To finish, pipe cleaners are added for support when the animal is stuffed. The patterns are written out with row-by-row instructions. The animals are knit with fine yarn on US 2 and US 3 needles. It amazes me, how well the authors replicate the animals' essential characteristics, so that each finished animal is immediately recognizable as the zoo animal it is intended to be. I really love the giraffe, the mandrill, the bat, the armadillo, the koala, the leopard, and the crocodile! Patterns are included for the following animals: giant anteater, armadillo, fruit bat, ring-tailed lemur, brown bear, wolf, gray seal and pup, polar bear, penguin, crocodile, koala, chimpanzee, lion, leopard, tiger, zebra, mandrill, camel, meerkat, elephant, giraffe, panda, orangutan, and kangaroo and joey.

I am an expert knitter and I have to say these patterns are not easy, require full concentration for counting stitches and rows. I knit the panda and he literally is not written to match the picture. He has a white pattern on his chest where it is a solid black band in the photo. His over complication of stitches leaves a few messy looking spots even while knitted correctly. He is knit in all one piece. Also a bit of a surprise, this panda was much larger than I expected. I appreciate the quality of the paper and that the book will lie open. I have knit 6 of the dogs now and had to revise several rows. As I knit more of the zoo animals I expect to find the same problems. But if you are an expert, these patterns are a great starting point for creating your own animals and a great exercise in improving given directions. The print is small and there is lots of white space on each page for you to write your notes. As I knit more animals, I will update my review. Ok now I have knitted the Koala and again I was disappointed. The tummy piece is not as shown in the picture and it turns out that to look like that tummy piece really needs more shape. The pattern for the tummy literally has you knit a rectangle. It would work for a squirrel though. The body knitted nicely and I found no errors but you really have to keep close count on the wrap and turns. I suggest writing in at the end of each row how many stitches should be left on the needle because the author neglected to do that for us. Since this body has no apparent errors, I think you could turn it into a number of woodland animals by changing the ears, tails, and claws. I just read in someone's review that there are many many errors in the patterns and that the author corrects them on her website, so perhaps my best advice is to check their website before beginning your project. I know I will before knitting another.

The dog patterns are far less disappointing than the zoo animals have been for me. If you are going to substitute yarns, pick a lightweight with at least a little wool in it for stretch. If you are going to make many animals you can keep your yarn expense down by using Lion brand Wool ease, found here on at a very nice price in very nice colors. I have not found a substitute yet for the Kidsilk. I've now knit the elephant, which knitted up nicely and looks like the picture in the book without editing any of the pattern. I did however, sew the tummy in before it was fully knitted and then knit it to fit. I have also knitted the polar bear who was easiest and looks good, albeit a little long and skinny. I am about to start the tiger. He's quite complicated so I'll let you all know how that goes.

present for my daughter who thought the book was full of excellent patterns. she has already knitted several patterns for Christmas presents

Very good patterns. a little confusing to follow at times but worth the time. very interesting and realistic little sculptures. Have not started one of these yet. I have the other book in this series-"Knit your own cat" . just finishing up one of the cats and its really cute. Not for little kids to play with necessarily. More of an" up on a shelf "sculpture. Perfect gift for the teenage girl who loves animals but doesn't sleep with stuffed ones anymore!

This is fun to look at but the patterns are very exacting--every row is different and you have to count rows and stitches. I think easy to follow is a misnomer.

The patterns are unique and charming. The knitting directions are pretty straight forward, although I did find a couple of errors in the pattern. However, the assembly of the pieces parts of the pattern is poorly explained making it quite a challenge to figure out how the origami-like pieces fit together to create the final product. Luckily, I've been knitting for 45 years and have lots of experience, so I was able to create a wonderful mandrill ape - but basically this was despite the pattern in the book. I'd love to make more little animals, since they are quite dear and difference, but I have to recover from my mandrill experience!

I already own Knit Your Own Dog so I am familiar with the series written by Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne. This particular series is not for beginners. Some of the instructions are a little vague and may require you experiment a little to get it right. I will say this, the patterns do take a bit more patience and time. Knitting the small body parts can get tedious. When I finished knitting all the

pieces, I had my doubts. When the pieces come together, that's when the magic begins. The people I gave these to were quite impressed with the detail. The patience does pay off.

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