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Knitter's Handy Book Of Top-Down Sweaters: Basic Designs In Multiple Sizes And Gauges



Synopsis

Fiber and yarn enthusiasts nationwide will celebrate Ann Budd's latest addition to The Knitter's Handy Book series. Answering to a growing interest in knitting sweaters from the top down and knitting seamless sweaters that require little finishing, this handy book offers instructions for knitting five basic sweater types: circular yoke, raglan, modified-drop shoulder, set-in sleeve, and saddle shoulder. Patterns are offered in multiple sizes and yarn gauges and for a broad age group. Following the basics for each of the five sweater types are three diverse patterns from top designers that illustrate some of the many ways that instructions can be used as springboards for creative expression, including color, texture, and shaping variations. Also included for intermediate to advanced knitters are personal design touches, detailed charts, clear instruction, and quick tips to expand knitting possibilities and maintain creative originality. A key reference for knitters of all skill levels, this is the new essential knitting resource on your bookshelf.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wow is my first response to Ann Budd's new book of top down sweater patterns. I own Ann Budd's Handy Book of Sweater Patterns, so I was familiar with the amount and type of information in these guides but I was still impressed. Budd reviews four basic types of top down sweater construction: Seamless Yoke, Raglan, Saddle Shoulder and Set-In Sleeve. Each style has several patterns made in this style and all of the patterns are attractive. The only possible criticism here is that there are no patterns for men or children, even though the book includes metrics for both children's and men's garments for each style. The book then includes proportions and metrics for each style of sweater in

a range of sizes for men, women and children based on gauge and stitches per inch. This makes things very easy for the prospective designer or knitter. Want to make a sweater out of those ten skeins that have been in your stash for years? Make a gauge swatch and find your stitches per inch - the charts will then provide how many stitches to cast on and how, when and where to increase with a stitch count for every step in every gauge in yarns from fingering weight to super bulky. Sweater proportions are also reviewed for each style and each size. How long are sleeves? How long is the body of the sweater? The neck hole? The armhole and arm skyce? It is all here for every size and every gauge in every style. Nor are these metrics and proportions limited to just plain colors or styles. Lace and color work have been addressed not only in the patterns provided as part of this lovely book but in theory as well.

Top-Down Sweaters is my third (and clearly my favorite) of Ann Budd's "knitter's handy" books. My first, purchased years ago, showed me clearly how easy it is to design or adjust a sweater design for any person, any type and gauge of yarn. Hooray! But this book explains even more. Here's my take on "Top-Down Sweaters:"PROS:1. When I use one of my Ann Budd "handy" books, I know I'll have a book that lays flat, so I don't have to weigh down the pages. I wish more publishers would print their books with spiral bound pages and a hard-back cover.2. There are many lovely designs in this book with plenty of ways to change them to make the garment you've been dreaming of.3. Techniques abound. But this is more of a "learn by doing" book than a strictly technique book. I've been wondering how to work the caps of sleeves on a sweater I'm now knitting. I want to have the sleeves knitted in but wasn't quite sure if I could do this with a set-in sleeve. Now I know how! (HINT: Think short rows.)4. I'm in love with the coral cardigan on the cover, but I'm not fond of raglan sweaters because that style makes my shoulders look narrow. Using her easy instructions, I can adapt the color and stitch to make myself a cardigan with saddle sleeves rather than the raglan I do not like.5. Tips are offered throughout the book. As a new spinner, I was pleased to learn that knitting in the round is perfect for hand spun yarn because the imperfections are spread throughout the garment rather than appearing in ugly clumps.6. Paper is nice and heavy. Photographs are clear, bright, and colorful. I couldn't ask for a better prepared book!CONS:None. This is a terrific addition to my knitting library.

I am a knitter who knits in the round more often than not, and I was truly anxious for this book to come out. It did not disappoint, In fact this book is even BETTER than I had imagined! Why??? Because with all the numbers in this book of sweaters , one can knit sweaters

from from a toddler/ child size to a mans size 54! Additionally,,what is included in this book are quite a few really pretty patterns for women that were designed outside the numbers box, that are so darn cute that I want to make most of them (this is NOT a usual thing in pattern books for me)These designs are good for any age women,, as a side note, I am on the light side of my 50's but my DIL's saw them and liked them also, I think that the difference may come down to fit b/c I do not like negative ease whereas they do~My personal preferences is 2 inches of ease,not much more than that.These garments are NOT negative ease garments BTW, but can easily be knit that way if desired~and I will do just that for any design and yarn they happen to pick out for Christmas gifts for them.There are 300 patterns in this book that are top down knit in the round,,THEN,(quote) " add in the cardigan options and you've got 600 possibilities, without counting neckline, edging ,color and stitch pattern variations". (!!) How great is that for those of us that like well fit top down knitting??I am not kdding you,,this book makes me VERY happy as a knitter! This means I can knit for EVERY member of the family in any style from seamless yoke, raglan, set in sleeves or saddle shoulder sweaters! Additionally there are some directions for those of us who do like to steek our cardigans .

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