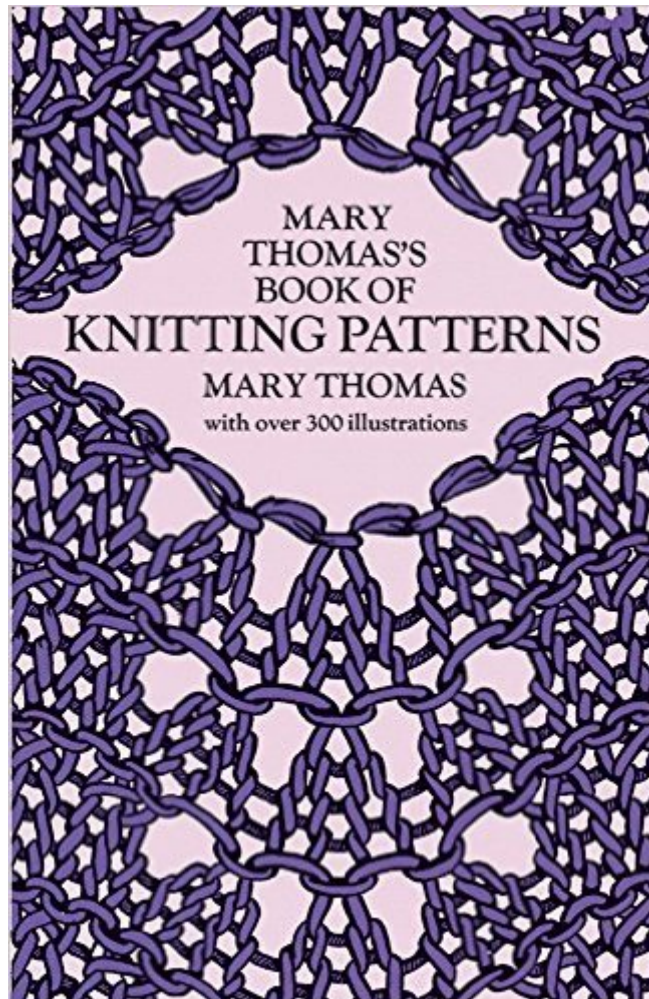


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# Mary Thomas's Book Of Knitting Patterns (Dover Knitting, Crochet, Tatting, Lace)



## Synopsis

This book contains the fruits of centuries of experience and invention in knitting and is quite possibly the best single manual of knitting patterns ever written. Turning its pages, you will see the patterns grow from simple to more elaborate. You will find this to be the best arrangement for instructional purposes as well as a demonstration of the orderly and scientific methods on which knitting patterns are based. You will be astonished at the great beauty and variety of these patterns, and you will come to realize the potential of knitting, in practiced hands, as one of the finest of crafts. The author begins with basics, with the distinction between knit and purl sides of the fabric and the use of simple black-and-white charts to present patterns. She then introduces a new motif or design in each chapter. Charts, diagrams, and photographs are used liberally along with the text to illustrate each pattern and steps in the creation of each, with special symbols to indicate critical points, so that you can guard against going astray. The patterns range from cross and cross-over motifs through slip-stitch patterns, eyelet patterns, faggot and lace faggot stitch, bias fabrics, lace knitting, embossed motifs and patterns, medallion knitting, picot point knitting, and filet lace. Concluding chapters are devoted to seamless garments and accessories, modern garments, and ornamental uses of increasing and decreasing. There are lists of French and German knitting terms and an index of textures. Special attention is given throughout to explaining the how and why of each pattern, and the properties of each in terms of horizontal and vertical stretching so that selection of patterns can be made practically as well as aesthetically. The beginner will find this book an excellent guide and instruction manual, and the experienced knitter will find it an almost inexhaustible encyclopedia of patterns, methods, and suggestions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mary Thomas is one of the best all around knitting references there is. Her first book, Mary Thomas' Knitting Book, approaches every angle of knitting from a practical and sensible point of view. She doesn't raise knitting to an art form, as so many of today's popular knitting mavens try to do, but approaches it from the practical level of a craft, as it should be, in my opinion. In this, her second book, the reader is given loads of stitch patterns and suggestions on how to use many of them. Practically everything Nicky Epstein put in her books is an adaptation of something in Mary Thomas' in one form or another. Just goes to show you, there's nothing new under the sun! Certainly, this book isn't as all encompassing as Barbara Walker's Treasury volumes, but for such a small book, the reader is given a most far reaching and complete treatment of nearly every kind of knitted fabric from solid fabrics to lace, motifs to medallions, and practical and amazingly complete instruction on designing your own garments and other projects. The "By The Way" chapter at the end gives a lot of the signature Mary Thomas historical information on knitting tools, knitting humor, transcribing a pattern, and caring for your wools. The book is sprinkled throughout with factual historical gems and trivia that make Mary Thomas so readable and enjoyable. Because I learned to read charts from Mary Thomas' books, I think they are easy to follow, but the symbols are different than most knitting books on the market today. The key provided for the symbols is self explanatory and simple enough that even a beginner can catch on quickly with a little work and attention. If I had only two knitting books in my library, they would both be by Mary Thomas.

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