



Handknit Holidays: Knitting Year-Round for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Winter Solstice

Melanie Falick , Betty Christiansen , Susan Pittard (Photographer)

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For many people, the best part of the winter holidays is the anticipation: planning the perfect gifts, decorating the house, looking forward to seeing family and friends. Holidays can be particularly special for knitters, whose preparations often start months in advance and involve their own creations. In *Handknit Holidays* best-selling knitting author Melanie Falick presents an eclectic collection of more than 50 original gifts, decorations, and clothing pieces for Christmas, Hanukkah, and the winter solstice, providing year-round inspiration for knitters of all levels.

Created by top knitwear designers, the projects include colorful ornaments; funky and classic Christmas stockings; a wire-and-bead menorah; sparkly ribbon scarves; a poncho and matching dog sweater; and a range of super-quick projects for that last-minute holiday rush, from a Santa hat, to elf caps, to flower pins. Rounding out the volume are a few grand projects-an Aran tree skirt, a patchwork afghan, a lace shawl-destined to become family heirlooms, plus features on such topics as the origin of the Christmas stocking, the meaning of the winter solstice, knitting for charities, strategies for finishing holiday knitting (on schedule!), and even a delicious recipe for festive crescent cookies.

Beautifully photographed by Susan Pittard, *Handknit Holidays* is a creative celebration of the holiday season and a treasure for all knitters who seek to bring more of their own handwork-and artistry-into their daily lives and their holiday festivities.

Handknit Holidays: Knitting Year-Round for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Winter Solstice Details

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From Reader Review Handknit Holidays: Knitting Year-Round for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Winter Solstice for online ebook

Mary says

Beautiful patterns and some unusual ones too. There is a cute Santa hat pattern in four sizes from baby to adult. I need to make some of those.

mia says

this is knitting porn. The chances I'll make anything in this book are slim but dear lord is it pretty. (it also has a tree skirt pattern that suggests nearly \$500 in yarn)

Laura says

There were some cute patterns in this book. I'm glad I looked at it, but it's not one that I would buy.

I found that, for myself, the ideas were inspirational, but I could do the same thing without the patterns just by seeing the photos. And I already knit for Christmas year-round, so that's not a new idea for me.

Ifurita says

This strikes me as something of a hit-and-miss pattern book. There are some genuinely lovely designs interspersed with things that just make me shake my head. Personally I just can't imagine spending hours knitting pink and lime-green I-cord for a garland when there are much prettier and less tedious ways of making one. And why are so many knitted dolls downright disturbing? However, it does have some great patterns in it. (just not enough for me to buy it.)

Pamela D says

Open Road Integrated Media generously donated this book for review.

First Impressions: This book is so pretty! I want to live in each of the pictures in this book. Seriously, everything is so shiny, romantic, and holiday-like. I want to knit everything in this book.

The Details: This book has over 50 patterns! Patterns include ornaments, pillows, hats, scarves, mittens and

gloves, socks, sweaters, shawls, and bags. It is important to note that although the book has several patterns for the home, children, and women, the patterns for men are lacking. There are no men-only patterns. Some of the clothing patterns are large enough for men, but this book is definitely more skewed towards women's patterns.

Although I love this book so much (I bought the hardcover edition years ago), I have reservations about the e-book. First, my galley copy was a bit "funny." Specifically, knitting charts were cut off. This may be a problem with the galley copy; however, if you purchase the book, check to make sure that you can see all the charts. Second, all of the yarns listed are those that were listed in the original printing. Some of these yarns may not be available anymore. This isn't a huge issue to me; however, because it is hard to keep the yarns in book up-to-date. Finally, the galley copy of the e-book that I received had errors in it that were corrected by the 3rd printing of the book. This is unacceptable. If you purchase this e-book, please look for errata online before knitting any of the patterns. In fact, I would rate the e-book version of this book as 2/5 stars.

Final Impressions: This is a beautiful book. The patterns are clever, fun, and amazing. This book also does a decent job of showcasing patterns for Christmas, Hanukkah, and the Winter Solstice. At the same, the e-book has some serious problems.

Jen says

After checking this book out from the library far too many times I finally added it to my bookshelf. I love that this book covers many holidays so I have a place to go for a gift for any of my friends. The pictures are inspiring and the patterns are all must knits! Great gift ideas for the whole year.

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

I didn't expect to like this book because I really don't like the patterns on the front or the back much. But I was pleasantly surprised. There are a number of interesting patterns for holiday decorations for not just Christmas but Hannukah and Solstice as well. I particularly like a lace mat for inside a picture frame, a Hershey's kiss hatt, a pattern that uses lace to connect linen napkins into a large holiday table covering, and a fir-tree covered gift bag.

The book assumes basic knitting skills and the ability to read a pattern and chart. It doesn't waste time explaining how to do techniques other than those a little unusual. So it would be best for an advanced beginner or above knitter.

Cayenne says

There are some really wonderful patterns in this book. The Swedish Heart-Warmer shawl is stunning and I adore Hannah's Tablecloth. What an awesome use for my collection of linen hankerchiefs. I can't wait to make it. There were some other really wonderful patterns as well from some great designers. Excellent book. I really relate to the theme of knitting for Christmas all year long. =)

Beth666ann says

Sinful pleasure. I add my name to all before who have called it "knitting porn." Beautiful people in beautiful knitted projects living in what appear to be beautiful houses. It'd be sick if I weren't, sadly, in the middle of the bourgeois target audience and can't step far enough way to be disdainful. The majority of these projects are way beyond my capability as a knitter, but I want to try the legwarmers someday.

Sarah says

This is definatly knitters porn, The book is gorgeous, the patterns amazing. The problem... They are either way too ambitious in terms of both, time and money, or are just Way to hard. Still it's lovely to look at. The over the knee socks in white with cables up the back are my favorite page to look at and dream!

Sarah says

I am in love with the patterns in this book. I just need to make sure my stash of yarn is up to all the lovely projects listed. The pictures are lovely and the charts are so easy to read. If you are looking for a winter holiday project book for knitting check this one out.

Received copy to review from NetGalley
<http://felelith.blogspot.com/2013/08/...>

Julie Barrett says

Handknit Holidays Knitting Year-Round for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Winter Solstice by Melanie Falick
30 different artists have contributed to this book. The book sounds like one I am hoping will lead me to this upcoming season of cold weather. Starts out with tree ornaments, then stockings which some are charted and written out in rows as they have designs built in.

Household items are most exquisite! My favorite is the Aran designs, Love doing cable work. There is also the history of stockings included.

Table runners offer a lot of different designs that could also be used in a full size afghan.

Second best would be the stained glass scarf-I have done this method before and the right colors give this a striking effect.

There are so many treasures in this book to make and give away as gifts or keep for yourself. As an added bonus there is a recipe for Norwegian rich nut cookies.

Patterns for everybody in the family, the house and even the dog. Also charity work is mentioned with information. Packaging ideas that help you adorn a gift.

Love this book because there is such a large selection of things to make and in plenty of time before the holidays. Index, explanation of abbreviations and terms used in the book and methods are included.

I received this book from Net Galley via Open Road in exchange for my honest review.

Shelley says

One reviewer called this knitting porn and it really kind of is. Krissy gave this to me for my birthday and all I can really make from it so far are the sachets, but maybe someday it will prove more useful. (The likelihood that it will be the \$500 Aran wool tree skirt is exceedingly unlikely, but hey, there's a really cute shirt in there.) Meanwhile, the pictures are fantastic and a girl can dream. And take classes to make the dreams a reality. *g*

Back to the practical knit dishcloths.

Frances says

Many of these patterns are lovely! I wish I had the time/energy/room/money to make quite a few of the items in here. I think if I had more room to decorate for Winter holidays and if I weren't so busy with 20,000 other projects, I would definitely add these to my list of things to do in the near future. *grin* Luckily, it is already in our library catalog if I decide I really do need that beautiful Aran tree skirt or stocking :-)

Angela says

3.5 stars

This book features projects by 30 different well-known designers, each bringing their unique style to the different holiday-themed projects (mostly centered around Christmas and Winter Solstice). Along with the 50+ patterns, there are also stories about the origin of some holiday traditions from around the world, recipes, tips to help organize your holiday knitting, and even a list of charitable knitting opportunities.

Although all of the patterns have clear instructions, there are mistakes in some of the patterns and I would have liked to have seen more pictures of the items in the book. No problem though, since this book was first released in 2005 and therefore most of the problems have been worked out and all the pictures I need of the projects are available on Ravelry: [click here to see projects](#).

Most of the projects in this book are for the intermediate knitter, but advanced beginners should do fine since there are so many projects to look through on Ravelry to help you through. There are schematics and charts where appropriate and as I mentioned earlier, the instructions are clear, but be sure to check on Ravelry for any known pattern errors. Many of the projects are big and will require some time, so plan ahead. This will be a go-to book for me when I need some gift-giving inspiration.

Review copy courtesy of Open Road Integrated Media, provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!
