



# The Knowledgeable Knitter: From Planning Your Project to Fitting and Finishing, All You Need to Know to Unlock Your Knitting Potential

*Margaret Radcliffe*

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## **The Knowledgeable Knitter: From Planning Your Project to Fitting and Finishing, All You Need to Know to Unlock Your Knitting Potential Margaret Radcliffe**

Knitting is a combination of skill, determination, and adaptability. Whether you're looking for a suitable substitute yarn, trying to modify a pattern, or fixing a mistake, Margaret Radcliffe offers proven advice that will help you solve all of your knitting quandaries. With this definitive guide, you'll not only learn how to adjust armholes and shape collars, but why certain techniques work best in different situations. Radcliffe gives you the confidence and inspiration that will help you become a better, happier, and more confident knitter.

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# **From Reader Review The Knowledgeable Knitter: From Planning Your Project to Fitting and Finishing, All You Need to Know to Unlock Your Knitting Potential for online ebook**

## **Nancy says**

This might be a good pick for the handy reference I'm looking for. It covers just about everything, with beautiful photographed illustrations of all kinds of things--blocking, for example, and samples of the same pattern done in six different yarns. It covers all the contingencies I can think of--and if I can't think of something, I'll never use it later.

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## **Helen says**

A good guide for the experienced knitter. Highly recommend it.

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## **Erica says**

This is one of the best advanced knitting instruction books I've ever seen. It provides clear instructions on advanced techniques and design. It guided me through my first steeks.

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## **Sastrugi7 says**

This is a book for people who love knitting and want to learn more techniques and understand everything about it. As far as I've read of the other review comments, the only ratings below 4 stars were from non-knitters!? Great explanations, great pictures, and I like the way the book is organized. An essential text for serious students of knitting craft.

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## **Shannon says**

The Knowledgeable Knitter is geared for the advanced knitter who wants to start customizing knits, particularly sweaters - although the techniques are transferable to other patterns. This would be an excellence reference book to have on the shelf ready for use when contemplating a new project.

What I like best about this book are the comparison pictures. For example, the author shows samples of what the outcome looks like if you use different casting on techniques, different weights of yarn, or different types of needles.

I do think that experienced knitters will get more out of this resource than beginners. This is not a how-to manual. It is very comprehensive and as a result, slightly dense at times. That said, it is well written, clear,

and very useful.

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## Faith says

I received a free digital ARC of this book from the publisher and I wound up liking it so much that I pre-ordered a paperback of the book (not free). This book will not teach beginning knitters how to knit, but is a very useful book for both beginners and more experienced knitters who want to know how to get the results they are looking for in their knitting.

There are no knitting patterns or projects in this book, it is more of a guide book for making decisions at each step of the process. It describes how you should choose a particular pattern, yarn, needle or size. Included are many useful gems like how to swatch curves, edges and borders, how to do shaping in ribbed and pattern stitches (including lace) and knitting darts, ruffles and pleats.

Most of the pointers deal with conventional bottom-up, seamed patterns for sweaters and vests and show how to use and/ or tweak them at each stage of the process. Frankly, I usually avoid patterns with seams because I hate to sew and never like the way my seams look. I also like to knit top down so I can try on as the knitting progresses. Fortunately this book also includes tips for seamless and top-down sweaters. There are instructions for how to convert a pattern to circular knitting. As far as I'm concerned this alone is worth the price of the book.

There is very useful information on selecting the right size pattern, getting correct fit, and choosing and substituting yarn. The illustrations are excellent. The actual instructions for various techniques and stitches are in an appendix. I have mixed feelings about this. They are easy to find in the appendix but I think that it would be more helpful to place them with their pictures and the descriptions of how they are used. That is just a quibble - I recommend this book.

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## Bunny says

Well, I did learn something reading this book. It's that I will **never ever attempt to knit a sweater**.

I already knew that, but this really did confirm it for me.

The plus side is, this book is crammed full of useful information. Including diagrams and photos that would be perfect for someone who is either learning how to knit a sweater, or knows how and just needs a little assistance.

Unfortunately, though, it's also really dry. Really, really dry. It's not a read-through book. The best use would be for someone who is currently working a project, and needs a reference manual. This is perfect for that.

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## Michele says

As a completely self taught knitter I would have loved this book. Margaret Radcliffe deploys her many years

of teaching experience to guide a novice knitter through casting on, the knit and purl stitches, increasing, decreasing and how to create left and right leaning decreases, and finally binding (casting) off. She teaches the most common style of knitting in the U.S. Where the lead yarn is carried in the right hand and "whipped" around the left needle. Also included is an easy to understand explanation of gauge, its importance and how to achieve correct gauge. This is no easy feat! Her tone is conversational and friendly and there is sufficient technical information to lead beginning knitters to into more difficult techniques. There are also several basic patterns, a helpful appendixes. If I had had this manual in my hot little hands when I began knitting in college 25 years ago I wouldn't have messed up so many projects.

Drops 8/6/14

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### **Brandy says**

A thorough and well written guide to the many questions advancing knitters will have. The photos guiding your path through these discussions are excellent. This guide offers advice on construction, gauge adjustment, evaluating a pattern and choosing the appropriate yarn. There is even an entire chapter just covering pattern modification and another dedicated to converting a flat pattern to circular knitting. My favorite is the chapter on fixing mistakes. This is not a pattern book, there are no projects within. I would say that this is a book for the intermediate knitting; it does not explain knitting and is not a "how-to" book. There are clear explanations on several advanced techniques including: seaming with a ribbing; choosing the correct cast on method, shaping with cable patterns, mitered corners, pleats and charting. The book ends with an extensive glossary of term and techniques. I received my copy from netgalley.com as an e-book in exchange for a honest review. I feel that this is an excellent addition to the knitter's library. There may be other books like this, I don't know, but I feel that this one has all the information an advancing knitter needs in one place.

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### **Liz De Coster says**

Really thorough and detailed, but I wish some of the details had been applicable to more than sweaters.

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### **Laura says**

such a great resource.

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### **Bridgett says**

What a book! I have been knitting for a loooooong time (no, you may not ask for how long, and I have done pretty much everything one can do with the art, but I love having a place to check up on HOW I do these things. One cannot possibly keep everything in one's memory!

Margaret Radcliffe is an incredible enabler!

The knowledgeable knitter is one of those treasure chest books.

It sits on your book shelf, minding it's own business, until you try to do a dart in your next project and come heck or high water, you cannot remember for the life of you, how you did it that last time, 8 years ago....Pull out the book! It's right in there!

So many other techniques and little tricks and tips.

I know I like to fall back on my "favourite" techniques, forgetting that there is so much more out there! I love having books like the knowledgeable knitter around. They tend to remind me, that there is SO MUCH MORE. There is another way, just around the corner. Yes, they may be ways we have wandered a long time ago, but completely forgotten about. there may have to be a bit of dusting off the cobwebs, but that's why the book is here to help!

It's an external memory bank, to put it in 21st century terms.

Not just for knowledgeable knitters however, this book is almost indispensable for new knitters! Jump out of your box and try something aside from a dishcloth! Hey! I LOVE dishcloths, but honestly, knitting is nothing to be afraid of. Try a sweater! I promise, with this book, it will be a success!

Want to go all out and make a cabled sweater? No problem! The book has a section on how to shape while cabling! Daring steeks for the first time? Ok. Let's do it. there is a chapter on that as well! And not only how to cut open your sweater. It gives advice on how to enlarge necklines by cutting off part of the knitting! YES! I love this! I love not being scared of taking your scissors to your knitting! I do it when need be. With this book, you know it is possible and it will tell you exactly how to and you don't have to worry!

And then there were the seams. Well... not everything can be knitted with little to no finishing. However, again Margaret Radcliffe to the rescue! Detailed pictures and intelligent, easy to understand instructions will make this a cinch!

This book will take you from starting the design, to finishing the project. Every step is explained and taught with photos and explanations.

I LOVE helping my students to go beyond patterns and go their own way. just you, your yarn and your ideas! I adore that this book, because it enables you to do just that!

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## **Michelle Rudy says**

I dip into the Knowledgeable Knitter on a regular basis. Found out this month that it may not have every possible cast on, e.g. "The Old Norwegian Cast On." But in general, it provides enough information and illustrations. Well worth obtaining a hard copy

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**Linda says**

This would make a wonderful gift for the intermediate knitter. I learned several techniques that I had previously tried from off YouTube, but found this book explained it in such a clear easy to understand language. Bright color photos help, too.

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**Katharine says**

This book I enjoyed and also learned a fair amount. I may consider a purchase even as a reference book. The internet is filled with how to's etc but this book breaks down fixes and stitches really well.

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