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Unexpected Afghans: Innovative Crochet Designs With Traditional Techniques



Synopsis

Unexpected Afghans presents 29 innovative interpretations of a favorite at-home essential. From best-selling author Robyn Chachula comes an in-depth look into crocheting traditional afghans using contemporary techniques, colors and patterns. Expert designers including Kristin Omdahl, Kathy Merrick, Kimberly McAlindin, and many more, provide an abundance of fresh patterns and projects that are perfect for new and advanced crocheters as they start out beginner-friendly and become more complex, allowing a crocheter to build skills and confidence. Designers at any level will enjoy: A detailed technique's workshop in every chapter including cables, motifs, color, lace, and Tunisian crochet. Helpful tips from designers for working through each afghan project. Easy-to-follow charts and diagrams. Along with tons of beautiful afghan projects for all skill levels, you'll find many of your favorite designer's biographies--giving you an exploration into their inspiration.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a different type of crochet book still with some of the traditional designs, but with some added zing. These designs are all done with attention to detail. These are not just thrown together and are not boring. They are truly artistic works done by top designers. Here are the main contents of the items in the book: CABLESTuxedo Pillow + Cable TipsEloise BabyArtesia ZigzagCroises CableVikaVeledilo CableGRANNY MOTIFSHatsukoi Pillow + Granny Motif TipsDots + Poppies BabyPeacockMod RetroCabine de DentelleKaleidoscopeCOLOREIan Waves Pillow + Color TipsPeerie BabyBehrens Color BlockDesert SunriseMoroccan CirclesBethlehem StarLACEVigne Pillow + Lace TipsAmada BabySunken TreasureDamask LaceExploded PineappleTUNISIANNauha

Pillow + Tunisian Tips Smocked Elegance Baby Mission Cabled Aryanah Sampler Van Gogh Waves Starburst Entrelac Even the names are works of art! And as you can see, each section has specific tips concerning that particular type of crochet work. Each chapter has a mini-workshop to help the crocheter succeed with each pattern. The mixing of lace and single crochet struck me as quite different in Cabine de Dentelle. This would be best used as a decorative piece, not for warmth. One piece I particularly like is Van Gogh Waves; it is just gorgeous and lush looking. I love the colors and the wave design does indeed remind me of Van Gogh's art. Also, I usually don't like cables in crochet, but these are better looking than most and used to full advantage in these afghans. The yarn requirements are clearly stated.

In compiling this collection of traditional but thoroughly modern afghans, crochet designer Robin Chachula asked other well-known designers "to use the afghan as a vehicle to showcase their favorite aspect of crochet." The designers responded with afghans using crochet cables, colorwork, lace, granny motifs, and Tunisian crochet. In purchasing this book, I was hoping for more of the "unexpected". Thus I was somewhat disappointed by the "traditional" look of most of the afghan designs. Two of the most intriguing designs are Vika (Celtic cables and knots) and Bethlehem Star (inspired by the Bethlehem Star quilt pattern). However, Vika's central Celtic knot is accomplished with applied I-cord, and Bethlehem Star's motifs are made from small, individually-crocheted pieces (the rays of the stars) that must be sewn together. Thus I can't see myself making either afghan, although both are quite pretty. However, you can't go wrong with a pattern collection published by Interweave Press! The crochet instructions are given in both written-out and charted form, and the full-color photographs of the afghans (including closeups showing important details) are beautiful. The individual patterns include quotations from the designers, plus tips for making the particular afghan look its best. For example, the Vika tip explains how to avoid catching your stitches on other stitches when you're working post stitches behind stitches already worked; the Cabine de Dentelle tip explains the importance of blocking the squares by carefully ironing them. Many of the designers have contributed short motivational "Beginner Tips" in the book's introduction. The cable designs are by Robyn Chachula, Marty Miller, Drew Emborsky, Annie Modesitt, Jill Wright, and Simona Merchant-Dest.

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