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# Viking Patterns For Knitting: Inspiration And Projects For Today's Knitter



## Synopsis

In *Viking Patterns for Knitting*, ancient Nordic ornamentation has been translated into an exquisite array of designs for knitters. Featuring 14 projects, clear instructions and charts, inspiring color photos, and 60 Viking motifs.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Trafalgar Square Books (March 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 157076137X

ISBN-13: 978-1570761379

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Lavold is a Swedish knitwear designer who combines her interest in archaeology of the Viking period with her delight in patterned, structured knitting to produce the 14 projects in this book, including jackets, cardigans, pullovers, caps, socks, and mittens. More than simply a pattern book, this work provides valuable insight into the mind and methods of a master designer as she analyzes Viking artifacts and adapts their essence to knitting. For each pattern, photographs and charts of knitted motifs are shown adjacent to line drawings and photos of the Viking designs that inspired them. This is a "high-end" knitting-pattern book of classic garments that will appeal to experienced knitters looking for projects at once challenging and fascinating. Highly recommended for large public libraries and academic textile collections. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

“The patterns in this book use an old technique in an entirely new way. If you enjoy the twists and turns of knitted cables, you are about to be inspired.”  
—Examiner.com  
--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Eslebeth Lavold has done extensive research on Viking designs and it shows in this book. The patterns in the book look much more complicated than they really are. Her technique for increasing and decreasing for cabled designs are simple and give excellent results. I consider myself to be an intermediate skilled knitter and found the patterns quick and easy to execute. I strongly recommend this book to any knitter looking to expand their skills, or to anyone who likes cabled designs. Some of the yarns used for the sweaters in the book may be hard to locate, but substitute yarns are readily available. Eslebeth Lavold's designs rival the work of Alice Starmore although they are much easier to knit. This book belongs in your knitting library.

I love this book, and have made several projects using the patterns. But it is not a book for every knitter, and certainly not for the new or casual knitter. For one thing, much of the book is taken up with archaeological discussion -- interesting, but those who buy the book just for the patterns may not feel they're getting their money's worth. Second, you really have to learn new skills to use it. I am a very experienced knitter, and can use both charts and traditionally-written directions, but it took me a while to grasp this new system (I wrote the code for the charts onto the page of each chart I used, and that helped). And, third, the sweaters themselves are not adaptable, simple, sized for everyone, or even necessarily suited for daily wear. All are very special, unusual designs -- the ball gowns of the sweater world -- and friends will say "Oh, you're wearing your Viking sweater!" every time you do. That said, let me also say that I submerged myself in Viking knitting for months after buying this book. The stitch patterns are like Aran cables, but they do not go from the top to the bottom in the usual way. Lavold has figured out how to get cables to twine all over the place -- even into medallion-ish closed shapes. I practiced the techniques and designs on slippers and hats and other small projects before attempting a sweater, and found them very usable for all kinds of projects. If you knit enough to adapt patterns, you will find that the Viking designs will add interest to many other projects and patterns. And if you are a medium-sized person with dramatic tastes, you will love the sweaters, too. There are more than 14 projects altogether, including a cushion and afghan, one child's sweater, some coats, unisex and women's sweaters, and a number of smaller things like hats, socks, and mittens. All are beautiful and unusual.

One pattern is more beautiful than the next. I took this book out at my local library to see if it was worth the price. Even better than I hoped. If you love Aran designs, you will be thrilled with this book. Quick ship, great condition. Reasonable price. Very happy with this purchase.

The Viking patterns for knitting and its sister book are beautiful, full of history and detailed knitting patterns for those who love the twists and turns of cables and bobbles

Wanted this book for a long time and even borrowed it from the library twice before I found it at an affordable price. Nobody can beat Elsebeth Lavold when it comes to cable design work. She is the Master!

I bought this pattern book not knowing the level of knitting skill I would need. And when I received it, it was a bit daunting, as I had only been knitting for 6 months! But I was so excited about the patterns, I was persistent and victorious! The patterns are so unique! I have made a scarf and hat so far, but look forward to attempting a sweater next. If you like Celtic knotwork, then this book is for you.

This book contains far more than I expected in terms of creating knit stitch patterns and knitting projects incorporating these patterns ... it demonstrates clearly how Viking/Celtic designs can be "translated" into knitted stitches. Not only does it inspire the creative process, it satisfies the production process by demonstrating the integration of these stitches into garment patterns. It is a welcome addition to my collection of books relative to Aran sweater designing.

Fabulous if difficult patterns but looking forward to the challenges. The sweaters are beautiful and unique.

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