



Great reads

Our favourite books offer inspiration for modern sweaters, cosy wraps and shawls, and traditional Norwegian colourwork

URBAN KNIT COLLECTION
by Kyle Kunnecke (Interweave Press, £16.99)

Inspired by architectural motifs in his home city of San Francisco, Kyle Kunnecke has created a collection of 18 modern, wearable designs for men and women. Sweaters include 'Brandt', a men's pullover with a smart colourwork pattern, a saddle-shoulder cardigan for women with a brickwork-effect fabric, a lacy, lightweight jumper, and a handsome vest for men with bold, intersecting cables. We love the elaborate, swirling colourwork on the 'Savoy' cardigan, and the intarsia panels on the unisex 'Deco' cardigan. Garments are typically sized to fit 32-48in busts for women, and 34-46in chests for men. The book contains a range of accessories, such as the dramatic 'Apollo' wrap with its geometric bands of intarsia garter stitch, and the show-stopping 'D'Amour' colourwork wrap. There's also a classic cabled scarf, a beaded half-circle shawl, and a scarf with a Greek Key motif. Smaller projects include hats, cowls and mittens in both colourwork and textured stitch patterns.



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Classic book

NORWEGIAN KNITTING DESIGNS
by Annichen Sibbern Bøhn (Spinningwheel LLC, 2011)

Annichen Sibbern Bøhn travelled around the Norwegian countryside in the early 20th century, collecting folk knitting patterns which she published in a small yet beautiful book in 1929. This reprint from 2011 opens a window on the past, ensuring traditional folk motifs are not forgotten and enabling modern knitters to incorporate them in their projects. The book is filled with charted, black and white patterns typically used in stranded colourwork projects such as mittens, stockings, hats and sweaters. Motifs range from the familiar Selbu star and roses to geometric flower patterns, checks and crosses, leaves and diamonds, and even dancing male and female figures. There are also complete patterns to make a traditional hat, a *lusekofte* sweater and a jumper with a pretty colourwork yoke.



WEEKEND WRAPS
by Cecily Glowik MacDonald and Melissa LaBarre (Interweave Press, £16.99)

As the weather turns cooler, we look for ideas for cosy accessories - and this lovely collection has 18 ideas that can be knitted up quickly - many in just a single weekend. Working with a range of designers including Leila Raabe, Kristen TenDyke and Carrie Bostick Hoge, and yarn weights from worsted to chunky, the team has put together some attractive knits that would make a lovely treat for yourself or as Christmas gifts. Small projects include a twisted stitch cowl that can be worn as a capelet, and a brioche stitch neckwarmer. The range of warm shawls features lace stitches, gansey-style knit and purl patterns, and architectural ribbing. Strikingly large cables appear on Tanis Gray's 'Caeruleus Wrap', while Bristol Ivy uses a beautiful lacy wave pattern on her generous 'Nonotuck Wrap'. Simple garments include a cowl-neck poncho, a relaxed, textured cardigan with an unusual construction, and a neat bolero and a lace and cable shrug (sized to fit up to 54in busts).



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