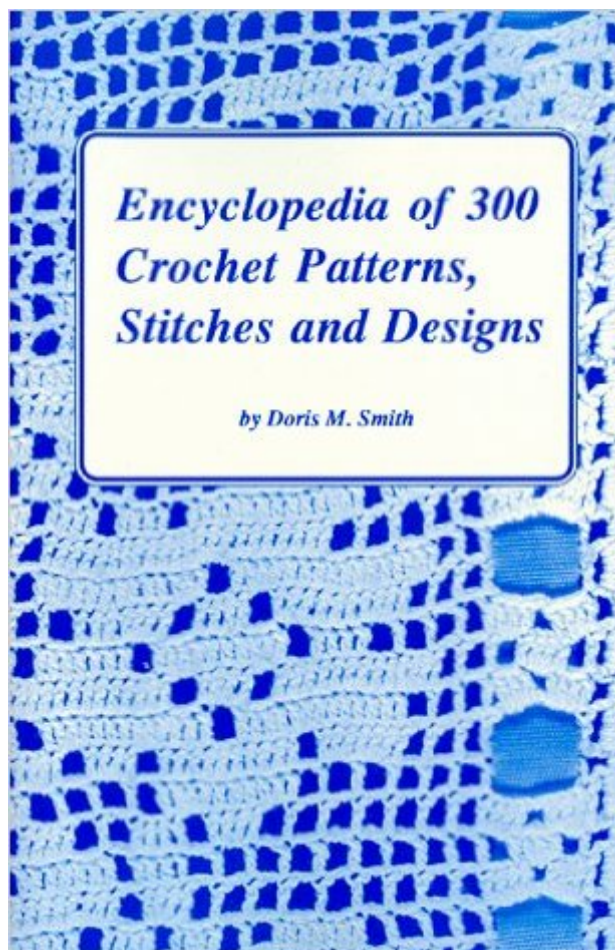


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Encyclopedia Of 300 Crochet Patterns, Stitches, And Designs



Synopsis

Book by Smith, Doris M.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: FC&A Publishing; 3rd edition (December 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 091509973X

ISBN-13: 978-0915099733

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 5.3 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #823,483 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #154 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Lace & Tatting](#) #1416 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Crocheting](#) #199175 in [Books > Reference](#)

Customer Reviews

It's a good book to carry along with you at 8" x 5 1/4" in size with 240 pages full of patterns and information. Directions are given in both diagram and written form with pattern repeats making them easy to follow. Each pattern has a close up picture showing the detail of the stitches. The author also gives a lesson on how to read diagrams and multiply your pattern repeats so that you can work the patterns into your own designs. There is a list of symbols, abbreviations and definitions along with an excellent chapter of instructions for the basic crochet stitches included. Good size print makes the book easy to read and follow.

Each section shows the different kinds of stitches (sc, hdc, dc, cluster, popcorn, puff, relief, motifs, edgings, etc.), its variations, and two or more patterns using previously discussed type of stitches. Good points: Each stitch is identified by the required multiples of chain, so that you'd know how many to use when designing your own pattern. Particularly good are the stitches shown in the puff, popcorn, relief, edgings, and some of the shell and v-stitch sections. Complete instructions and full illustration using International symbols are also provided per stitch. The patterns featured at the end of each section show good usage of stitches discussed. Font used is of a good, eye-friendly type and size. The book size in itself also makes for a handy reference tool. Not-so-good points:

First, there are quite a number of almost-similar stitches with almost no or very little distinction. Second, the photos are not consistently presented too; some are blurred and hazy. Too, the photos could've been shot at a better angle for better appreciation of the stitches. In fact it took me some effort to realize how pretty some of the stitches really are. Finally (this can be good or bad depending on your needs) most of the stitches are of the lacy type.

I was looking for a small book "that had it all" persay, and I came across this little books sitting in a used bookstore. I think this is a great book for someone looking to start crocheting, without too much heavy, overbearing history to bog down what your looking to do...Crochet. It has beautiful old patterns, that I haven't seen in new books, the whole feel gives you the idea and feel that Grandma has sat down and taught you to crochet. It's a smaller book (my copy is 8 inches by 5 inches) so it's great to throw in a bag with some small balls of yard to take with you anywhere. Lots of folks have said different things about this book, good bad and indifferent, but I found it easy to follow, great to learn from, and for used copies being only 2.95 cents you can't really go wrong. Happy Crocheting!

The Encyclopedia of Crochet has been very helpful and most interesting. I've crocheted for many years, and I'm always intrigued by the new designs and stitches that someone has originated. I've really enjoyed trying the Afghan patterns. These are my favorites. The designs are beautiful, with easy-to-understand instructions.

I remember checking a previous edition of this book out of the library. This is a reprint in a smaller format. I am happy that I have been able to buy a copy since I like making many of the motifs in crochet thread. I think the the photos are very good. Remember they date back to the 1980s at the latest. These are not 21st century designs or photos. Unfortunately, they never made corrections. I had no trouble with the grape cluster or rose motif. However, the 'Daisy' pattern (p.167-169) is horrible. I do not recommend it to any but experts. The written instruction, diagram and photo do NOT match. The first error is in round 3 which tells one to make 3 joined puff sts. It should be 2 joined puff sts. It gets worse from there. Forget round 7 and just space picots in a regular manner around the edge. The 'Daisy' pattern must have been invented by a different person that the other patterns which worked.

This isn't as bad as all THAT, folks! It's a nice little book that fits well into most project bags and gives all sorts of variations of basic stitches. Ok, the handdrawn charts are a little low-rent, but I, for

one, am simply happy that the author thought to include them at all, especially in 1988 when most people didn't even know that crochet HAD international symbols at all. To this day, I defy anyone to find crochet charts that are NOT filed at Annie's Attic or any of the other 'popular' American needlework places. Since the demise of Magic Crochet Magazine and its companion publication, Decorative Crochet (formerly Danbury Publishing via France) the only charted crochet available has been either on Spanish or Japanese websites and/or books. I was thrilled to find this little book even if it isn't all spiffy since written crochet instructions are, for me, like trying to make sense of Jabberwocky, IMHO. Sure, I also ordered the eminently professional Encyclopedia of Crochet Stitches and the Encyclopedia of Crochet Edgings as well, but both those books are heavy and big. This is a great little volume for the project bag and works just as well.

I have no idea why they call this book an Encyclopaedia, I can only suppose it's a marketing scam. For the life of me, I couldn't find the supposed 300 pattern & stitches. The photographs are terrible and in B&W. I did not find anything new under the sun and oh, the charts looked like they were made by an 8 yr old! In general the layout of the book is very unfriendly and hard to read. Extremely dissappointing.

As Happy mentioned, it's good to see the different styles of stitches laid out in detail. However, I will shortly be spending a lot of time away from home, and find the recent travel crochet book by Nancy Bush a lot more pertinent to my own particular requirements. Happy Crocheting everyone !

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