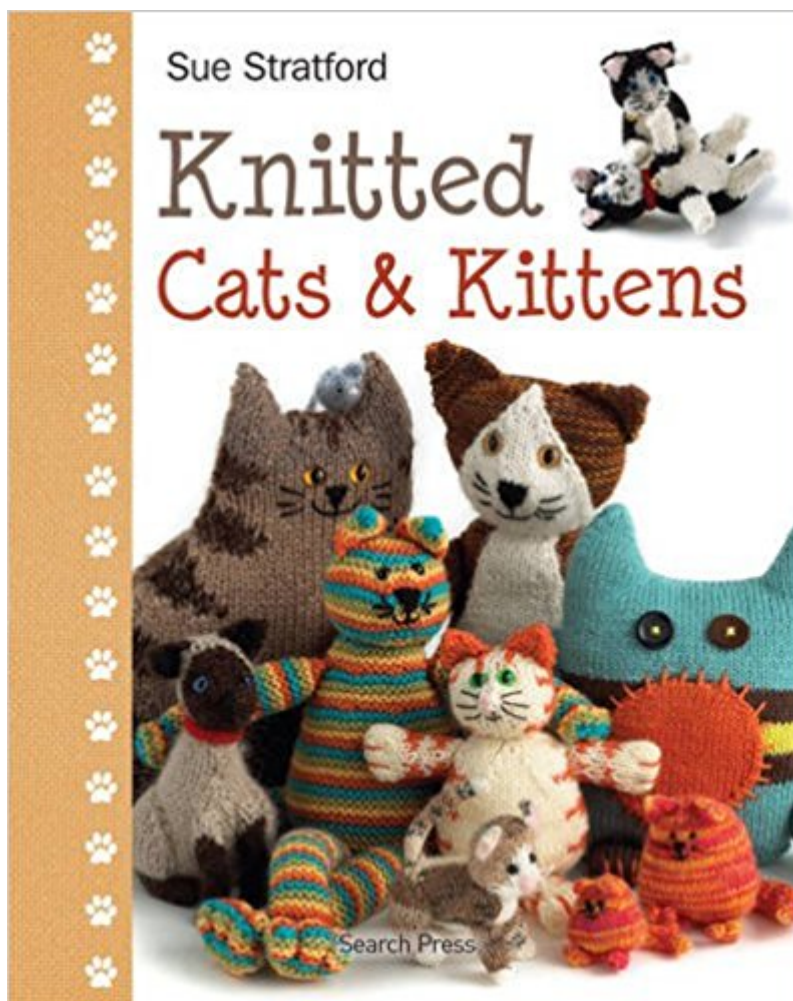


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Knitted Cats & Kittens



Synopsis

Cats are popular pets all over the world, so it seemed only natural to create a knitting book especially for all the cat lovers out there. This book contains a wide variety of cats and kittens to knit – from fun and quirky, to cute and cuddly - and you don't have to clean up after these ones! Each cat has its own look and personality, and they come in a range of characters, styles, shapes and sizes to suit knitters of all tastes and abilities. There are also a number of feline projects to make – including a hot water bottle cover and a doorstep, so (unlike real cats!) they can make themselves useful around the house. And of course, all cats need a few accessories, so the author has included a knitted scratching post (complete with dangly bird to play with), a cat basket and some colourful knitted balls - not forgetting an entire family of tiny knitted mice! Each pattern comes with a comprehensive list of the yarns, needles and embellishments you need, and there are general notes too on basic techniques, materials and equipment. Filled with fun from cover to cover, you will love these adorable knitted cats and kittens - and so will anyone you choose to knit them for!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Aug 13 Cats come in all varieties and Sue Stratford has knitted a good assortment of felines in her latest book "Knitted Cats & Kittens". There are 20 purrfectly sweet kitty's from pure bred to strays for you to knit. Sue has also written knitting books on meerkats and mini Christmas items to knit and crochet. Cats and kittens enjoy their playtime. So, included are patterns for balls, mice, a scratching post and a bed for the pet in your life to take enjoyment and comfort in. Sue starts the book with

materials and techniques you will use. Yarns vary from sock yarn and eyelash to fur and angora. The photographs are cute vignettes. 'Cosy Toes' is a cat hot water bottle cover. Worked on size 6 and 13 knitting needles with fur yarn. A warm comforting kitty to snuggle up in bed with. There are cartoon cats like 'Super Cat' and dress-up 'Kitty Kat' along with her outfits and even a 'Doorstop Cat'. 'Clematis' is a decorative cat with petals, leaves and stems adorning her. If funny, colorful or playful cats and kittens are more your type... you will find those here also. None of the patterns have a skill level but if you can knit the basics you should be on your way. Remember to give a few of the finished ones away. You don't want the reputation as the cat lady. Examiner.com April 2013 'Knitted Cats & Kittens' by Sue Stratford is a funny alternative to the usual knitted animal books based around bears or bunnies. There are 20 cats and kittens of all shapes, sizes and colours and even a pattern for mice and a scratching post thrown in for good measure. The alley cat is my favourite in the entire book. There are two pages on materials, advice on yarn, filling, safety eyes and threads. There are also two pages on techniques such as i-cord, mattress stitch (all the cats and kittens are based on flat knitting with two knitting needles), wrap and turn, three-needle cast off, fair isle technique, intarsia technique and chain stitch. The diagrams are very clear and easy to follow. The author has the usual abbreviations at the back of the book but she has not specified what yarns she has used throughout the book. At the beginning of each pattern she just writes 'DK' which is fine but personally I would have liked to be told which yarn was in the picture of the cat to try and make it look as good. There are a huge array of different 'DK' yarns which could look completely different when knitted up as a cat. She does not specify how much yarn you will need either - just one ball or two balls and in some of the larger projects this may leave you to run out of yarn when you are almost at the end. She does tell you how big the cats will come out and the tension so if you made sure your yarn will knit up to the same tension you would not have any problems, but beginner knitters may not understand this. She says at the beginning of the book that 'In all cases, unless the pattern states how many balls are needed, just one ball or less has been used. Quantities are only provided for projects that require more than one ball.' Apart from this the book is super cute and has a whimsical air about it. The cats are well constructed and the book would be a lovely addition to any toy knitter's bookcase. sewingisforgirls.blogspot.com May 13 Aside from knitting, owning a cat has to be one of the most enjoyable hobbies around. Celebrate your love of these furry creatures by bringing them to life in knitted stitches. In Sue's latest book there are cats with all sorts of personalities to create, in a range of styles and sizes. You can even make a mini scratching post and tiny knitted mice for your feline friend to play with! You'll also find a pattern for a snuggly cat hot water bottle cover and a doorstep that we just love. Knit Today May 2013 Filled with fun from cover

to cover, you'll love these adorable knitted cats and kittens in all shapes and sizes. It's suitable for hand knitters of all abilities. There are also feline projects to make including a hot water bottle cover and a doorstop, plus a knitted scratching post, colourful knitted balls and a family of mice. Machine Knitting Monthly June 13 Cats are such popular pets that a book on making cat toys is bound to be a hit. There is a cat in here for every moggie lover, twenty in total from a tiny puss to Supercat, stripy creation to outlandish monster, and many in between. I love the fact that they are not all just soft toys, but a hot water bottle cover and doorstop as well, plus a Christmas cat in a stocking that would make a great ornament. There are accessories too, tiny mice, a basket, scratching post and balls to chase--which are sure to make any toy more fun to play with--along with clothes to dress them in. At the beginning the author has several pages where she describes the yarns and some techniques, but this is not a beginner's book so you must learn the basics of knitting elsewhere. This book is aimed at improvers and intermediate knitters, those who can read a pattern and know how to make up a toy without staged diagrams. In short, it is a book of projects not a how-to book. Each pattern has a large photograph of the finished item plus a list of everything you need to buy, tension and the size of the toy. Patterns are in written form (no charts) and use a variety of different yarns, including variegated and fluffy for different effects. This is a lovely book for all those who enjoy knitting, and will yield up enough toys and ornaments for many gift-giving occasions and charity fetes for years. Myshelf.com

Sue Stratford owns and operates the Knitting Hut, a retail store in suburban London, and teaches knitting and crochet workshops. She is the author of "Knitted Meerkats" and "Mini Christmas Knits" and the coauthor of "Little Christmas Decorations to Knit & Crochet."

I have to give it five stars, even though the reviewers who point out that fuzzy yarn is harder to knit with are right. I judge knitted toy patterns by A.) how adorable they are to both kids and parents, (and the knitter of course) and B.) the directions. Did I mention THE DIRECTIONS? So many toy patterns are confusing or incomplete. The ones Stratford writes have material lists and places to procure them, clear worded directions that include every step, and pictures so you know what the toy is supposed to look like at the end. The range of designs and clever details of these is very satisfying. Knitters will thoroughly enjoy the process (except for that thing about the sticky yarn; but all fuzzy yarn is harder to work with, so let's not blame the book.) Cat lovers will adore the finished products, which are both beautiful and sturdy in construction. The kitties will bring many giggles and pats and they will survive long, hard play. The biggest problem I had was deciding which to knit first.

After, I finished that adorable little basket filled with fuzzy mice, that is.

KNITTED CATS & KITTENS has patterns for some reasonably cute knitted toys, but most don't look much like cats or kittens to me. My favorites are: "Fluffy Cat" (a fairly realistic kitten, knit in white angora yarn); "Floppy Moggy" (a fairly realistic "longhair" kitten, knit in black fur yarn); "Doorstop Cat" (a brown knitted doorstop); "Monster Cat" (a turquoise alien cat with wide-open red mouth); and "Cosy Toes" (a cat-shaped hot water bottle cover, knit in fur wool yarn). A cute twist is the inclusion of patterns for "accessories" for the cat toys: a scratching post, a cat bed, balls for batting around, and tiny mice. There is also a kitten in a Christmas stocking with a mouse on the toe, to be used as a tree decoration. As knitted toy patterns go, these patterns don't look particularly difficult. However, they do require knitting a lot of small, shaped pieces that must be seamed up, stuffed, and sewn together. Because I don't like any of the designs well enough to want to knit them, I rate KNITTED CATS & KITTENS at 3 stars ("It's okay" on the official scale). The "Look Inside This Book" feature shows all of the included designs as a gallery in the Table of Contents. Cats seem to be difficult to translate into knitted toys, but if you're looking for patterns for knitted cats, you might want to consider *Knit Your Own Cat: Easy-to-Follow Patterns for 16 Frisky Felines*, a book of patterns for small "pedigreed" cats to display.

It's a cute book but there are problems with how the patterns are written. She doesn't write her patterns as row one, row two and it is very difficult to follow them. The cats are knitted flat and then sewn together, which is great if you do not know how to use dpn's but I find making stuffed toys on dpn's much easier and for some of the smaller cats it is much easier to make the legs and tails on them. I am currently working on the grey cat with the flowers on it and it's coming out pretty well, and I have made the Siamese cats. All the patterns I have done have been completely marked up with row numbers to make them easier to follow. Also it should be noted that she starts a lot of her patterns in the info paragraphs before the work starts. The cats are very cute and work making, but you will need to read the pattern and make lots of notes to be able to work them. I do not recommend this book for beginning knitters at all, you will also need a fairly good basis in sewing and how to shape things.

Let me start by saying that this is a wonderful book! The kitty patterns are so cute, and the design and layout are fun, playful and witty. It's enjoyable to look at and read, and for that alone I would give it 5 stars. But I had to knock a star off because it would have been great if, when creating these

patterns, the author had thought about how to minimize the sewing and seaming. There's only one pattern knit in the round on DPNs, and I think there should definitely have been more. Also, when knitting flat, were there opportunities to pick up stitches on the body to add the arms and legs? I'll be checking with my more experienced knitter friend (for whom I also bought a copy of this book), but it would have been nice if the author had included a broader variation of patterns from simpler to more fiddly. I also agree that the instructions are not written for beginner knitters; there's a lot of shorthand and gaps that you are expected to figure out (e.g. the body of the one DPN pattern has instructions to repeat the last 3 rounds once more, then says to 'work 6 rounds.' Work in what?? A more experienced knitter who understands the mechanics of knitting in the round will know this means to knit 6 rounds, but a newbie might be tripped up to knit the previous rounds which would add inadvertent increases.) Another reviewer commented that these cats don't look 'real'; I agree but in my opinion that's a plus. These are meant to be cute toys, and that they are. (I also own 'Knit Your Own Cat', and I think the patterns in that book are slightly weird looking.) Nonetheless, though I wish there were more DPN patterns and some that were less fiddly, I think this is an adorable book and would definitely recommend for all cat-loving knitters!

Bought this as a Christmas gift for my sister. She loves knitting and she loves cats so I thought it was a win-win. She indicated she really liked it, and she's not one to go out of her way to mention something specific like that out of all the gifts I got her for Christmas if she doesn't mean it. I can't say if you or your friend or family member will like this book, but if they are a knitter and like cats, or just want something fun to knit, I'd be willing to bet they'd at least get a kick out of it.

Wonderfully written book. Clear instructions and pictures of what the knitting project will look like. I lent it to a knitting friend and she is so enthralled I haven't seen the book for 2 months!! SHE is enjoying it too! I think I'll have to buy another and just gift the other to my friend. Charming book

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