



Stitch 'n Bitch Nation

Debbie Stoller

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Join the movement! Four million strong and counting, hip, young chicks with sticks are putting a whole new spin on knitting--while turning last fall's *Stitch 'n Bitch: The Knitter's Handbook* into a surprise national bestseller (from *The New York Times* to the *L.A. Times* to BookSense) with 215,000 copies in print. So influential is the book that the number of Stitch 'n Bitch knitting groups tripled in the past six months--spawning a *Stitch 'n Bitch Nation*.

Written by *Stitch 'n Bitch* author Debbie Stoller, *Stitch 'n Bitch Nation* features 50 hip, new, even funkier and more fabulous patterns by Stitch 'n Bitch designers, who come from San Francisco to Brooklyn, Chicago to Cambridge to St. Paul, Minnesota. The Om Yoga Mat Bag. Felted Monster Slippers. The London Calling Union Jack Sweater, because even punks get cold in winter. A Double-Duty Shrug. Polka Dot Tankini. That '70s Poncho. The Boob Tube. Spiderweb Capelet, Cabled Newsboy Cap, Chunky Baby Booties and Baby Bunny Hat. And the most ingenious project, a Knit-Your-Own Rock Star doll--with a choice of Joey Ramone or Henry Rollins. All designs are complete with full-color photographs and step-by-step instructions, and are made from sexy, contemporary yarns, including multicolored angora, alpaca, lace, and mohair. Includes the best tips, shortcuts, and techniques from *Stitch 'n Bitchers*, profiles of knitters and their groups, and a how-to refresher on all the stitches used in the book.

Stitch 'n Bitch Nation Details

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Joanie says

Okay, I really haven't "read" this-perused it more like it.

After many years of wheedling, I finally agreed to let my mother teach me to knit. Two days after my crash course (where I started with 42 stitches that have somehow grown to 58) my mother gave me this book. The back has an overview of basic techniques and stitches which my mother thought would be helpful to me. While I can't quite see myself making things like a knitted tankini, a tank top with a mudflap girl, or my own fishnet tights it is fun to read about how each person learned to knit, developed the pattern etc.

There are a pair of red knit pants with a devil tail hanging from the back that I think would be too funny for my 17 month old but in reality he'll probably be 20 before I actually manage to get them done. Maybe I'll start with a scarf.

Lain says

After falling in love with "Stitch and Bitch," I automatically ordered "Nation." Unfortunately, I returned it soon after I got it. I looked through it and realized there wasn't a single pattern that I would wear.

I am a thirty-something Californian, so I'm not stuffy or ultra-conservative. But this book definitely fell on the other side of the "hip" line from me. I would imagine it would appeal to a certain audience, but I wasn't in it.

The first book had a much wider appeal. I'll be sticking with that one.

angrykitty says

another fun knitting book. i like the cat toys, and have made a few of the mice for my cat. liked this one better than the first due to the fact that there are more colored pics, and i just kind of liked the projects better. truth be told though, i'm way more into crocet than knitting at this point. gotta get the snb crochet book i guess.

Peggy says

The book's title is already indicative that it tries to completely change the public perception that knitting is for grannies. As we know now (this book was published in 2004 - now 10 years ago) - it worked. Or at least I think it did. Knitting is hip again.

My favourite part of the book was the first section where it explains the sizing and how to convert different yarns - basically an idiots guide and the second step once you know the basics of knitting. I also liked the

fresh patterns.

I would not recommend the book for a complete beginner. Though the basics are explained at the end, I think it would be good to get a 'Complete Beginners' book first. But this book is ideal if you have trouble understanding changing the size, the yarn, the style. Also, if you want fresh patterns which are still easy - I did not knit all of them of course, but I think they all don't look too difficult. I think you will also enjoy the little bit of gossip from 'real knitters' dotted around the book.

As this is an US publication, the yarn brands / yarn stores will be all US based, and there were quite a few I didn't know and struggled to convert to UK brands. I suppose you can put your yarn converting skills learned in Part 1 to good use straight away.

More on my blog:

<http://thepegsterreads.blogspot.co.uk...>

Jenny G says

not the most substantial knitting book in the world. it does transcend the granny patterns that we used to be stuck with before knitting became all the rage, but there are a lot of other books that can do that. You put your heart and soul into what you knit. Why make something that is going to date itself within months of it's completion?

Destiny Dawn Long says

As with the first Stitch n Bitch volume, when I purchased this I found it quite helpful, but I feel as though I've outgrown it. Once in a while I will reference it if I need to clarify something in a pattern I'm working. But I also have found better resources now. Some of the patterns in the book are nice, although others seem a bit dated. Many of them also had to have post-publication corrections posted to the book's website, because of errors. I hadn't realized this the first time I tried to work one of the patterns and ended up rather frustrated.

Sydney-Michelle says

This is one of my favourite knitting---wait, no, one of my favourite CRAFT books of all time. The patterns are fresh and current and fun, and rather simple to follow. I loved the layout of the book, and the colour pictures are gorgeous. I highly recommend it, even just for the awesome tips you'll pick up through out.

Tonileg says

This book really needs a better directory with photos of the possible knitting patterns, because no one actually reads every page and then memorizes the where each pattern is. I love how Rowan has a photo of each project in the back of the magazine so you can easily find your project when you come back with your yarn.

Beginner book for starting out knitters with a wide range of projects for men, women, children and animals with different sized yarns (mostly Aran and DK).

3 stars

Kate says

I love it's funky premise and enjoyed all the out of the box designs. Now, I just need to make some of them!

Katharyn says

A great guide to basic alterations, filled with fun patterns. Like Stitch'n Bitch, the first half of the book should be read from cover to cover, with scrap yarn and needles at hand for conceptual practice.

Increase and decrease formula should have been written as a mathematical formula and not (or in addition to) a verbal explanation. As one has to understand basic algebra to understand the formula regardless, why not given the algebraic equation?

Sarah says

I bought Stitch n' Bitch Nation after loving the first book so much - there's not much to add in the way of basic knitting information, but it's a great reference for knitters who are ready to get a little more advanced. There are chapters on designing your own projects, and substituting yarn; there are also several more patterns that look less like "I made this myself" and more like "where did you get that?"

Anna says

i am a bad knitter because i try to teach myself how to do things as i go along, but i like this book, and currently trying to knit up the baby bunny hat for my new lil niece. the directions are difficult to understand being that i am a novice, so i often have to look up how to do things on youtube. but it's coming along quite well.

Antoinette says

This year during winter break I decided to make an effort to actually sit down and read through this book. I have had it since it first came out, as the original served as my introduction to knitting. I feel as though I have learned a lot, and I am ready to take on some more advanced projects. That isn't really saying much, because I mostly crochet, but at least I am slightly more interested in taking on some knitting.

Using my handy Ravelry membership, I was able to scout out a bunch of errors in patterns. I find this very

disappointing, because SnB is supposed to be a leader in the knitting revolution. Grandma may have had boring taste, but she never would have messed up a pattern! I find myself flipping through my mom's old knitting books more and more, to find possible solutions to the errors in some of the patterns. More than being full of errors, a lot of times I just found the patterns silly. Why go through so much work when it could be so much easier?

Also, a lot of the patterns were too juvenile for me. I may be 21, but I will not be wearing a deconstructed sweater with silhouettes of naked women anytime soon. I could see the appeal of such patterns, and I am glad such things exist, but it seemed like a bit much. I am still looking for more "solid" patterns. The beginning chapters were very interesting. It is also nice to read different methods of getting things done, and I appreciate the brief tales of knitting in the past.

Overall, I am very glad I actually sat through and read this. It gave me endless ideas, but unfortunately those ideas were mostly about how I could make the patterns better. I enjoyed reading the biographies of designers, the happy models, and the yarn porn. Other than that, I am not sure many of these patterns will make my to-do list.

Allison says

I usually don't put knitting books on the list of books I've read (because does reading K1,P1,*,K2tog,YO,ssk etc. really count as reading?) but this one had lots of other things to read. Each of the 50 patterns included a little bio of the knit designer as well as how the pattern came about. Interspersed throughout are tips like knitting on the airplane, recycling yarn from thrift store sweaters, making needles from chopsticks, splicing yarn, etc. There is also a full section on the many ways you can change a pattern in many various ways to suit yourself.

Candace says

bless you, debbie stoller, for giving me the confidence to tear a pattern apart and knit a sweater. *and* for making bust magazine. in all seriousness, the 'stich n' bitch books gave me the itch to pick up my needles and remember what my mom taught me when i was twelve. the patterns aren't my favorite (thus the 4 stars), but as far as knitting books go, the writing is great -- very fun and easy to understand.
