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Double Stitch:
Designs for the Crochet Fashionista
Erika and Monika Simmons

From the well-known Chicago designers of Double Stitch crocheted clothing comes a crocheted pattern book of sexy proportions. Erika and Monika Simmons' ***Double Stitch: Designs for the Crochet Fashionista*** (Interweave Press, \$21.95, May 2008) takes crochet to new levels with edgy, body-shaping designs, beautiful photographs, and step-by-step instructions for creating their one-of-a-kind pieces. Whether crocheters live in the big city or just want to look like they do, the designers behind ***Double Stitch*** show how easy it is to make crochet fashionably modern, flirtatious, and fun!

Double Stitch includes 23 fashion-forward patterns inspired by the Simmons' retail clothing line using simple crochet techniques mixed with innovative construction, form-fitting designs, playful color combinations, and unique detailing.

The Simmons describe their unique design sensibility in the book's introduction: "As twin sisters, we find ourselves constantly looking for new ways to put our own personal stamp on an outfit so that our individual personalities and sense of style come through in our clothing. As women we are committed to flattering the female body and accentuating feminine silhouettes of all shapes and sizes. You will find that many of the garments featured in this book are adjustable through lacing. Others feature an easy fit and airy, open structure without becoming shapeless or—heaven forbid—boring! Details like fringe, ruffles, and loops along with unique color combinations make these projects a perfect way to inject a little fun into your wardrobe. The construction also happens to be deceptively simple, due to our unique methods such as crocheting in the round, which often eliminates the need for seams. Whether you just want a crochet accessory to add to an outfit, or you want to jump in with both feet and wear crochet from head to toe, we've covered it all!"

Double Stitch projects are divided into two sections: "Out and About" and "Paint the Town." "Out and About" features daytime crochet wear perfect for layering over T-shirts or wearing with jeans, taking crafters from their downtown coffeehouses to the beach with ease. "This section is full of flattering, feminine silhouettes that are chic alternatives to what everyone else is wearing," say the Simmons. Projects include a webbed halter dress, hooded poncho with matching boot covers, a salsa belt, a remix T-shirt using a store purchased shirt and adding crocheted sleeves, a tube-style apron, and more.

“Paint the Town” highlights evening looks with fun detailing and glamorous accessories and ideas for dressing up your crochet with unexpected details like vivid feathers, exotic shells, or sleek satin ribbon. “Crochet is incredibly versatile and you can easily use it to create fabulous evening wear. Whether you want something dramatic, romantic, or sleek and sexy, you’ll find fabulous pieces that will make a statement,” say the Simmons. Projects include a gothic shawl, feather choker with matching cocktail bag, peek-a-boo floor-length dress, slinky fitted shrug, corset with satin ribbon lace, shrunken jacket, and more.

Direct from the runway and available now for the first time for the crochet enthusiast, **Double Stitch** patterns are unlike anything else available today. Crocheters will rock crochet with **Double Stitch**—be prepared to turn heads and stop traffic.

Double Stitch: Designs for the Crochet Fashionista

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70 photographs • 50 illustrations

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About the authors: Erika and Monika Simmons have been crocheting since they were in fourth grade. The thirty-something twins and Chicago natives started their Double Stitch clothing and accessories line in 2002 after a number of post-college jobs, including modeling and dancing. Their work is carried at the Mai Rees Boutique in Chicago. They were recently awarded the Style Makers and Rule Breakers award by Fashion Group International, and their collection was recently selected by Macy’s on State Street in Chicago as part of their Chicago Indie Designer Shop.

Their work has garnered a lot of press coverage including *Women’s Wear Daily*, *New York Times*, *Chicago Magazine*, *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, *Chicago Fashion Magazine*, *Fashionista.com*, *Time Out Chicago*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Sun Times*. They have also done numerous TV appearances on local affiliates in Chicago including WGN-TV, WMAQ-TV NBC 5 Chicago, and WLS-TV ABC 7 Chicago.

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Linda Ligon founded the company in the 1970s when she began publishing *Handwoven* and *Spin-Off* magazines. Since then, the company has grown to employ more than 100 people throughout the country, with corporate headquarters located in Loveland, Colo. For more information on Interweave Press, please visit interweave.com or call (970) 669-7672.