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Learn how to crochet from one of the field's most talented, trusted crocheters

Getting Started Crochet **Judith L. Swartz**

Loveland, Colo.: Popular knit and crochet designer Judith Swartz, author of *Hip to Crochet* and editor of the new *Interweave Crochet* magazine, has created a reference book that is the ultimate primer for crafters wanting to explore the hook for the first time. **GETTING STARTED CROCHET** (Interweave Press, July 2006) demystifies the technique, the jargon, the process, and easily brings the novice “into the loop” about the hip craft of crochet.

This heavily illustrated book, featuring more than 160 color photographs and 75 color instructional illustrations, begins with a trip to the yarn shop or yarn section of a local craft store, which can be an intimidating place for the beginning needleworker. Swartz clearly leads newbies through the yarn shopping experience as she teaches about yarn weights, hook sizes, reading a yarn label, selecting which cool new yarns work best for crochet, and calculating how much yarn is needed for a specific project. Swartz, being a shop owner herself and used to helping the first-time customer, doesn't gloss over any of the essential building blocks, demonstrating that she truly understands the beginning crocheter. Swartz is encouraging, warm, and enthusiastic—she's the new crocheter's cheerleader and coach at the same time.

After purchasing the correct materials, it's on to learning the basic single crochet stitch technique through seven fabulous, funky beginner projects: simple scarf, striped pillow, tie belt, a D-ring belt, cell-phone bag, iPod case, and sassy cosmetic bag. **GETTING STARTED CROCHET** lets beginners work slowly—instructions are written out without abbreviations—allowing the new crocheter to focus on handling the stitches correctly and getting into a rhythm of the crochet hook and yarn.

Once new crocheters master the single crochet stitch, Swartz teaches several stitch patterns, including the chain stitch, half double crochet, double crochet, treble crochet, and chevron and V-stitch variations. Readers also tackle more challenging projects that advance their skills and techniques like shaping, changing yarns, and working in rounds and motifs. Challenging projects include a glamorous evening bag, fun and funky toys, cute little caps, a messenger-style bag, flip-flops, a retro clutch bag, fingerless mittens, and more.

Edges are the last major topic addressed by Swartz. From traditional shell stitches to funky fringe, Swartz teaches how the look of an item can be changed by creating trims on existing items or by creating edge variations on new projects.

Readers who work their way through **GETTING STARTED CROCHET** will end up with a wide assortment of crochet skills that can be put to use on more advanced projects in the future. Crochet is a versatile craft, and new enthusiasts will soon see the possibilities are endless.

GETTING STARTED CROCHET

By Judith L. Swartz

Interweave Press • July 2006 • \$16.95

8 x 8 • Paper over board • 128 pages

160 photographs • 75 illustrations • 20 charts

ISBN 1-59668-006-7

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About the author: Judith L. Swartz is the author of the popular *Hip to Crochet* (Interweave Press, 2004), *Hip to Knit* and *Dogs in Knits* (both Interweave Press, 2002), and editor of *Interweave Crochet* magazine. She is a designer for yarn companies, publishers, and private clients. Her credits include a specially commissioned sweater for the late Fred (Mr.) Rogers. Judith teaches classes and workshops in knitting and crochet, from beginning techniques to creative expression. She lives in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

About Interweave Press: In business since 1975, Interweave Press publishes magazines and books related to fiber, thread, needlework, and beads. Throughout Interweave's evolution, its publications have focused on natural materials and processes, a respect for doing, and an appreciation of the fine, simple things in life. Interweave publishes six magazines including *Beadwork*, *Handwoven*, *Interweave Knits*, *PieceWork*, *Spin-Off*, and *Fiberarts*. Interweave is dedicated to creating a resource for its readers to find the best information in the field of interest, the latest news, the best products, the newest techniques, and the history behind the techniques.

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