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Publication: September 2007

## ***Knit Kimono: 18 Designs with Simple Shapes*** **By Vicki Square**

Kimonos could be the next must-knit project on knitters' needles this year—they fit a variety of body sizes and types, are deceptively easy to knit, and were widely popular in designer collections at the spring New York Fashion Week. Paired with leggings and ballet flats or with loose khakis for the spa-weekend look, kimonos are versatile, stylish, and fun to knit. In **KNIT KIMONO**, Vicki Square has created 18 unique designs, each illustrating a knitted interpretation of a style or feature of traditional kimono.

Although the projects may look difficult, they are based on simple rectangular shapes that require very little shaping on the knitter's part. These are ideal first-garment projects for knitters wanting to venture beyond scarves. These are also ideal projects for experienced knitters wanting classic, wearable works of art. Knitters will be challenged and inspired by the clever details in construction, color work, stitch patterns, edgings, and closures that add sophistication and elegance to the simple silhouettes.

The styles and shapes of the garments in **KNIT KIMONO** run the gamut from short to long, rectangular sleeves to shaped, straight to overlapping front opening, with sleeves or without, casual to dressy. The knitted fabric matches traditional kimono design as much as possible—yarns are composed of natural fibers like silk, cotton, linen, bamboo, and wool, and stitch patterns are chosen that drape and move much as their woven counterparts.

In addition to 18 kimono projects, **KNIT KIMONO** offers a brief history of the traditional kimono shape and how it has endured through centuries of political and social change. From casual to formal, the kimono shape has endured for centuries as a staple form of dress for peasantry and nobility alike. The classic boxy shape is recognized worldwide as an icon of Japanese life and culture and is used as a canvas for color, pattern, and design.

**KNIT KIMONO: 18 DESIGNS WITH SIMPLE SHAPES**

**by Vicki Square**

Interweave Press • September 2007 • \$24.95

Paperbound 8½ x 9 • 128 pages

80 photographs, 50 illustrations, 30 charts

ISBN 978-1-931499-89-7

Distributed to the book trade by Independent Publishers Group

**About the Author: Vicki Square** is the author of *Folk Bags*, *Folk Hats*, and the best-selling *The Knitter's Companion*. Her designs have been both self-published and featured in *Spin-Off* and *Fashion Knitting* magazines. She won the 1990 National Knitting Contest, sponsored by *Fashion Knitting* and has shown her pieces in juried art shows in Colorado, Oregon, and Illinois. Vicki has taught knitting for more than ten years, as well as painting and drawing at Colorado State University. She lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

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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 [www.interweave.com](http://www.interweave.com) or call (970) 669-7672.

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