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***Shibori Knitted Felt:
20 Plus Designs to Knit, Bead, and Felt***
Alison Crowther-Smith

Take your felt to the next level with ***Shibori Knitted Felt: 20 Plus Designs to Knit, Bead, and Felt*** (Interweave Press, April 2008, \$24.95). Knitters already love knitted felt for the incredibly soft yet durable fabric it creates. Shibori, the Japanese term for manipulating fabric to create unusual textural and color effects, adds extra dimension to this winning combination for one-of-a-kind quality in every project.

Most felters know that if they embroider or embellish their knits before felting, it will shrink into the surface and become part of the fabric. Yet by knitting-in raised "bumps," bobbles, pleats, it is still possible to achieve textural effects before the felting process.

Alison Crowther-Smith, an English knitwear designer who has worked as a consultant for Rowan, offers this inspirational look at shibori knitted felt. "By combining your practical knitting skills with the alchemy of felting in your washing machine, you can literally transform your knitting and add an entirely new dimension to it," she says. "The results are not the clumpy, bulky felts that one so often thinks of in relation to hand knitted felts. These are stylish, simple, soft fabrics that you can make with easy techniques—combining practicality with artistry."

Shibori Knitted Felt begins with the felting basics: yarns and equipment needed for getting started, including charts of washing temperatures so knitters can obtain exact shrinkage results, plus techniques necessary for achieving success.

Twenty patterns are offered in the book for garments, bags, scarves, and homeware items galore using combinations of textural stitches, beads, and embroidery to embellish and enhance the felted knits.

Projects include:

- **Sheer scarf and wrap:** Very delicate and beautifully simple, this sheer scarf and wrap are knitted in Rowan Scottish Tweed 4-Ply and Kidsilk Haze. The silk provides a resist to the felting process and the tweed felts gently, so the felted effect is subdued, with a resulting fabric that is sheer and subtly striped.
- **Bobble cushion:** Large, classic, and very comforting, this cushion is knitted in Rowan Scottish Tweed Aran, which felts beautifully to produce a soft, deep fabric. The knitted-in bobbles, which are inspired by Shibori textures, are totally transformed by the felting process, which makes them soft but surprisingly effective.
- **“Bump” striped bag:** This unusual felted bag is ideal as a knitting or craft-project bag. Worked in Rowan Scottish Tweed Aran and then washed in the machine to felt, the resulting fabric is very stable and durable so the bag doesn’t need a fabric lining.
- **Rosebud scarf:** Bobbles in a toning color are knitted into this scarf, which is then hand-pleated over the bobbles before felting to give a soft but uniform texture. This design would easily be adapted into a bigger throw or lap blanket.
- And much more!

Beautiful photographs, step-by-step instructions, full-color illustrations, and sidebars of tips and techniques make the projects easy to understand and create. Knitters will never look at felt the same way again!

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Alison Crowther Smith**

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100 photographs • 10 illustrations

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About the author: Alison Crowther-Smith has worked as one of Rowan's design consultants and teaches highly successful workshops in knitting and felting. She lives in the West of England with her family.

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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.