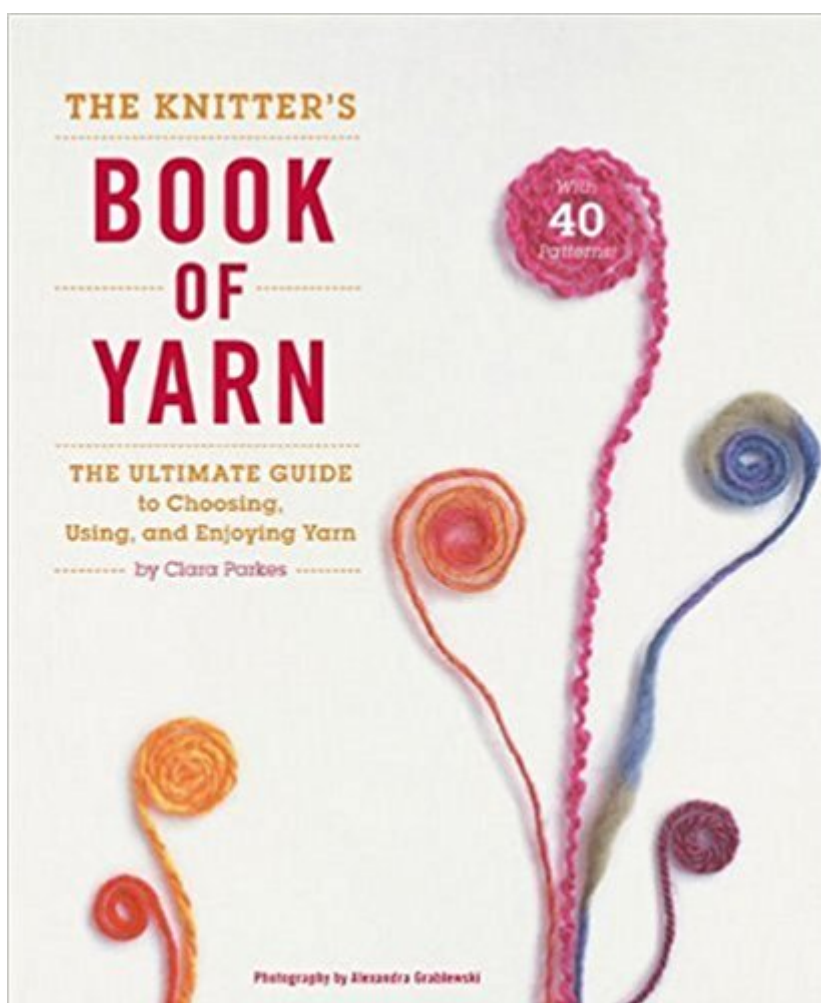


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# The Knitter's Book Of Yarn: The Ultimate Guide To Choosing, Using, And Enjoying Yarn



## Synopsis

Not all yarns are alike. Some make our hearts and hands sing, some get the job done without much fanfare, and some cause nothing but frustration and disappointment. The gorgeous pair of socks that emerged from their first bath twice as long as when they went in. The delicate baby sweater that started pilling before it even came off the needles. The stunning colorwork scarf that you can't wear because the yarn feels like sandpaper against your neck. If only there were a way to read a skein and know how it would behave and what it wanted to become before you invested your time, energy, and money in it. Now there is! With *The Knitter's Book of Yarn*, you'll learn how to unleash your inner yarn whisperer. In these pages, Clara Parkes provides in-depth insight into a vast selection of yarns, giving you the inside stories behind the most common fiber types, preparations, spins, and ply combinations used by large-scale manufacturers and importers, medium-sized companies, boutique dye shops, community spinneries, and old-fashioned sheep farms. And, because we learn best by doing, Parkes went to some of the most creative and inquisitive design minds of the knitting world to provide a wide assortment of patterns created to highlight the qualities (and minimize the drawbacks) of specific types of yarns. *The Knitter's Book of Yarn* will teach you everything you need to know about yarn: How it's made, who makes it, how it gets to you, and what it longs to become. The next time you pick up a skein, you won't have to wonder what to do with it. You'll just know the way any yarn whisperer would.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Un. Real. There is no other way to describe...well, that’s a lie because I’ll come up with more. But my first impression of The Knitter’s Book of Yarn? Un. Real. I open the hardcover to reveal a fiber family tree. Smitten. Smitten on the spot. This book is, without a doubt, everything you ever wanted to know not just about fiber but were afraid to ask. This is absolutely a MUST HAVE book, and I don’t say that often.” •MelissaKnits, blog

CLARA PARKES left her career in the booming high-tech industry to pursue her love of knitting. She lives on the coast of Maine in a farm house full of yarn. She is the publisher of KnittersReview.com and a contributing editor to Interweave Knits.

Clara Parkes’s book covers characteristics of yarns and yarn blends of the huge and ever-growing selections that entice us where yarns are sold. I wish I had this book long ago, before I wasted a great deal of money and precious time knitting items that I wore once and never again. Yarns look so beautiful and so similar on the shelves and in the baskets and bins that urge us to buy them. We had to use them and wear or use the items made from them in order to learn their characteristics that too often were unpleasant surprises. I recall not fondly my experience with a sweater that I knit from expensive 100% bamboo yarn that was wondrously soft to the touch and comfortable for summer wear. I wore it on a trip, as a versatile piece that I could pair with pants and skirts and thus reduce to a minimum my travel wardrobe. The sweater fit perfectly the first time I wore it, but to my dismay it grew larger and larger with each wearing. It did not shrink back when laundered. If bamboo yarn had been in common use before Parkes wrote this book, I’m sure she would have steered me away from my selection of the yarn. Parkes tells us what to expect from the yarns available in 2006 or 2007, when the book was published. It stands as an excellent guide, but I hope that Parkes plans to publish an updated edition.

I love Clara Parkes writing style, as well as how informative she is. For myself, I learned to knit when I was 5. I left knitting at the age of 11, and returned many, MANY years later. I fell in love with all types of yarn, the soft smooshy kind, the colorful, you name it - fiber. I think I’m actually in love with fiber. But not all fiber is the same, and not all yarn is produced in the same manner from the same breed of sheep, or other animal, or plant. It’s important to know their properties, and their best use. That pilly yarn? Yes, that can be frustrating, but once you understand... you understand! and can make better buying decisions. I still read yarn reviews on Ravelry. Now I have more information

with which to make buying and use decisions. I direct reviewers to Clara's book, and other online resources. Now my yarn stash is better aligned with what I like to knit. Thank you, Clara!

This book far, far surpassed my expectations. I've long been a fan of the author's Knitters Review website, and I pre-ordered this book merely because of that. When it arrived, I expected a slightly dry, dull, but factual book on fibers. Instead, it turns out to be not only packed full of more fiber information that I could have imagined, but that information is well written and enjoyable to read. Suddenly the light bulb has gone on, and I understand the connection between fiber content, spin and ply and my finished product. Instead of merely "going for the gauge" and expecting a sweater to work out, I can now make a far better decision about what yarn will work with what pattern and, more importantly, what yarn will not work and why. Honestly, this may be the only reference book that qualifies as a bona fide page-turner! And the happiest surprise - there are a bunch of fabulous patterns included. This book, more than any other I own, has made me a better, more competent, confident knitter. I highly recommend it as a must-have for every knitter's bookshelf.

Let's be honest. There comes a time in all knitters' lives when they realize they simply have enough knitting books. They have all the sweater, hat, purse, scarf, shawl, sock, whatever patterns they will ever need, and they don't want to hear about another little yarn store or another group of knitters who did some inspiring thing. But now, there's a book that even a booked-out knitter will want to buy. I ended up reading the thing from cover to cover. Learn about the foundation of all textile arts: the yarn itself. Did you know that rayon and Tencel start their lives as plant material, which is why you can make yarn out of milk without making string cheese? Do you know why it's sometimes called "virgin wool"? Do you know why knitters should be grateful to mulberry leaves? Do you know the difference between worsted weight yarn and worsted spun? But my favorite thing about the book is that after it talks about the particular properties of a yarn, it offers a pattern or two that exploits that property -- and what fabulous patterns, too! I recommend this for beginning and advanced knitters alike. A real gem.

THIS BOOK DESERVES 10 STARS !!! All the mystery of which yarn would best suit a project, by explaining everything you wished to know about a particular type of yarn are all clear in this detailed book on yarns. All types of yarns are covered including animal, plant fibers, and synthetics, and blends of each. And the patterns are a wonderful bonus. I LOVE THIS BOOK; this is money well spent if you are in the dark about what yarn would work for, and accomplish the results you desire,

in any given project.

Outstanding reference book with added perk of several patterns included. I love this book.

Wonderful book. Came in the condition promised. Great patterns. Useful information.

Since I wanted a resource for finding good yarns when I knit for wool-sensitive friends, the first book I looked at was no-wool centered. That book's section on yarn properties was terribly short, and didn't provide enough of the information I really wanted: how do I wisely substitute the yarn that a pattern calls for and still get the garment I want? The Knitter's Book of Yarn does just that. The explanations of different kind of fibers are fantastic (I finally learned where qiviut comes from, and I think I might try soy silk for my always chilly but wool-sensitive friend), and include information on how its made, what to look for, and what the fibers properties and drawbacks would be. The sections on yarn construction is a real standout, and come with sample patterns for everything from single ply, multi-ply, and textured yarns to boucle (which I've never figured out what to do with) and chenille. This is a fantastic reference book for every knitter.

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