

# LOOM KNITTING PRIMER by ISELA PHELPS

## **Part 1:**

A beginner's guide to knitting on a loom, with over 30 fun projects, is what the cover of the book tells you. Don't fool yourself there is more to this book than just being a beginner book and we are going to explore the inside pages of this little beginner's guide to show you why.

In part one here we are going to cover the beginning of the book then jump to the back of the book. We will explore the middle sections in other parts.

One wonderful thing to start this book is a great Contents section. It has always been my belief that a good content section is a great start to any book that is meant to be a teaching guide. You're in the store and you have very little time to look through all the wonderful books available to help you decide just what you want to buy. Open the book and there is the content section or not. No content section means you really do have to take that time to browse the book, but a good content section will show you right away that here is something you need. It is the window to the pages inside and its curtains are wide open for you to view inside. This primer has a very large window to show you the entire world inside it. Take your first stop here. It has a wonderful view.

The beginning pages start with a wonderful Introduction to loom knitting written by Isela. If you are not already a loom knitter, Isela would have you convinced to give it a try and quickly. You will discover through her little introduction that you really are missing out on a wonderful new to you craft, not new, just new to you.

Isela continues in the next section with some introduction to the history of loom knitting and more discussion on the looms themselves. She will teach you more than just a little history. She will help guide you in knowing more about looms in size, shapes, and gauges.

A Glossary is included with terms that you will soon become familiar with. Her listing of the terms includes what they are and what abbreviations you might see in written patterns. Included are names of stitches, type of looms, and much more. You will want to take your time in this section to be sure to catch it all, but don't worry the book is yours; go ahead explore a little more. You can come back any time you need to, it won't disappear, I promise. My section has still been there no matter how many times I have gone to other sections and I am still finding something I missed before. So go on turn the pages to see more.

Next we get to meet the Family of Looms and Buying a Loom are the next two sections. I put these two together in this little review because they belong to each other. First there are a lot of different types of looms available and here in this section Isela gives you a better introduction to those types of looms. She will guide you in their use and then in the buying of looms section she will help you choose the type of loom for the type of yarn you want to use.

She will tell you the difference between a rake, a board, a round, and the double or single sided looms and then continue on to give you a chart for yarn weights, and a quick reference guide to choosing a loom for its gauge. These sections are a must have for the serious or not so serious loomer trying to choose what loom can be used with what yarn and give you a wonderful introduction into choosing the gauge of your looms.

Looms are not the only thing needed to do this type of knitting. We have other tools that we need. There are not many and some you may never need but Isela tells you of some you may not have thought of and this handy little section includes many different tools that can be used along with your looms to create some wonderful projects. You may never need to use any of the extra tools listed in this section but it wonderful to know that Isela thought of you when she added this area. You will never have to do guess work on the many tools that can be use after Isela's introduction to them.

What do you know about yarns or what do you think you know about yarns? As a beginner you might not know anything at all about the different types of yarn in today's market. Oh please don't worry, Isela has thought of this also. She has a little section that will have you on your way to being an expert in the art of choosing your yarn. A must read in this big little book.

So you think that there cannot be more. Ah so wrong. Here we jump to the back of the book. No, no the middle section, nope that's for later. Sure there are all those middle pages to explore but you have to wait. Yes I said wait. Now don't get upset, there is still good to come.

The Useful Information section is just as its name sounds, information for you that will be useful. I am going to give you a little hint into this section with the titles: Reading charts, Washing your knits, Head Size Chart, Poncho Conversion Chart, Common Abbreviations Found in Loom Knitting, and Resources. Ah, I thought that would get your attention. See the back of the book doesn't mean the end of the book.

The Index section is a work of art all by itself. Are you in a hurry but cannot remember the exact page you saw that special something you want to try. Well, the index is your guide to the inside pages. You won't have to guess or go through the book page by page wasting that wonderful knitting time. Just look at the index and jump back into your knitting. This is a very comprehensive index.

## **Part 2:**

We have looked at the beginning and the end of the book, but what about the middle. What is there for me in this section of the book? What more in goodies are there for me to explore? Well it is time to look further into the many things in store for you.

Our part two starts with Part 1 Round Loom Knitting in this little big book made just for you. The beginning of this section takes you into the building blocks of loom knitting. Just what are building blocks, well that we are going to talk about.

To each craft there are the beginning steps you need to get started. In this building block section you are taken from the beginning slip knot to wrapping the loom in different directions, and naming the parts of your loom. Each new step is illustrated in beautiful color on drawings of the a loom so that following along is oh so easy.

Your next step is to the basic cast on, the first stitches and finishing on round looms. In the section for the basic cast on you will be shown how to start your project. In first stitches there are four stitches discussed with pictures of each and a little on how to keep your loops from being too loose or too tight. The finishing section includes how to do a gather, basic bind off, and yarn over bind off, plus how to work your brim. All of these are complete with pictures to guide you on your way, and tips to work your project.

In yarn work, be it crochet, needle knitted or loom knitted there is always the talk of gauge. What is gauge, why do we need to worry about it and how do we determine what the gauge is. Isela has included a two page section to get you started learning about gauge. It is not a large section but for the purpose of your learning this is an excellent guide for you to get you started.

After these sections there is a basic hat pattern to get you started using your loom, and a section on more cast ons for you to continue your learning. Here you are introduced to two new ways to do a cast on. Then we are off to another section to teach you to do a couple more stitches. The basic stitch you know by now, the one that needle knitters call the twisted knit stitch, but to continue many of us have gone on to learn the knit and purl stitches. After this section you again have a practice project to help you learn to better use the two new stitches and for the practice you will need to help you flow through doing these stitches.

Now we need to learn more about how to bind off our pieces. In this section you have a choice in the type of bind off that will be used in these projects. Three different bind offs are demonstrated for your use,

again with great pictures to guide you in the learning.

Some of the looms we start with are small, therefore, we do piece work. Piece work is making of smaller pieces that must then be linked together to form one large piece. Here in this section you will learn how to do a three needle link or an on the loom linking of pieces. This was a section where I learned something all brand new to me and enjoyed reading about how to do this linking of pieces on the loom or by needle.

Now I am going to quickly lead you through the next few sections otherwise this will become a book of it's own.

We have sections to teach you I-cords, fixing mistakes, creating the flat panel along with turning peg options, shaping, how to increase and decrease, working with color, painting with yarn, and sock knitting on a loom. Each section comes with practice pieces for you to learn on.

When we jump to Part III of the book we have come to the section that gives you some guides into board knitting. Some simple stitches are here for you to start learning how to work the double rake loom and to do finishing on it. As with the round loom section there are practice pieces for you to learn with, and the pictures are so easy to follow.

This board section is not a large section but is a great way to get you started if you haven't thought yet about doing knitting on the double rake loom. As with the other sections there are tips to help you along the way to learning this new loom knitting process.

### **Part 3:**

This book is a beginner's guide to Knitting on a loom and as such we have explored the things inside that will teach you how to use your looms. Along with each of the sections to learn you find some beginner patterns to help you with the section you are learning, but there is more. The pattern sections.

The largest section is for the single rake knitting looms and starts you out with Circular Patterns. In this first section you are given patterns to learn several projects including a mock cable piece, how to make ear flaps for a hat, a cowl, and ribbed leg warmers. With each piece you are given the type of yarn used, the loom used for the pictured item, gauge of the project and much more. You have all you need to jump right in and start your project, well as soon as you have the yarn and colors you want.

There is then a section of sock patterns. You have two sock patterns with a stitch pattern chart, and a chart to doing short rows for the first pattern which is done on an extra fine gauged loom. The second pattern is for a knifty knitter loom. So you have a choice in looms and patterns you can use.

In the flat panel section you have a variety of different patterns to choose from. You have baby to adult items each with easy to follow instructions. You must check out the Waves Shrug pattern. Oh such a lovely stitch it will teach you.

In the board knitting pattern section there are only a couple of patterns for scarves but they are ones that will help you learn ribbing and a start into color works on the double rake looms.

The next section is a little talk about how to felt your wool knitted items. Then a section that follows gives you some patterns to take you into the world of felting. Check this section out as there are some patterns for felted items that I have not seen mentioned on groups before. Oh yes there is the standard felted purse but there is more to felted items then just purses.

I know I haven't told you much about the actual patterns. I do not want to take all the fun of going through this book from you. As you explore the insides you will find the book is very well put together, with wonderful illustrated helps, patterns, complete with color pictures.

With the addition of the content section and a very nice index you will be able to locate the section of the book you want without that having to skim the whole book. If you are a beginner you will find yourself soon knowing more than you expected from this one book. If you are more advanced there are also things to help you expand your knowledge of loom knitting.

My final words about this book is to express my surprise when I first received it. I really expected something a lot less than what this book actually gives you. I have many of the loom knitting books that are available but most of them are just pattern books. This one not only gives you patterns to learn from but teaches you how to loom. You will not be given a pattern and expected to know what to do, or to have to search out and ask how to do the different techniques presented in the book. It is all there for you, from beginning to finished project you will have the help you need in this must have guide to learning how to loom knit.

To Isela, wonderful job. No wonder you were so tensed up during your time of putting this together. You are leading the world of loom knitting to new levels. You have done an excellent job in this knitting primer. The loom world is lucky to have you.