



Last-Minute Knitted Gifts

Joelle Hoverson , Anna Williams (Photographer)

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Today's knitters are chic, smart-and busy. Although they love to knit and enjoy making gifts for family and friends, they're constantly faced with the challenge of finding enough time to actually finish what they've started. *Last-Minute Knitted Gifts* solves this problem. Joelle Hoverson, owner of Purl, the hip knitting supply store in downtown Manhattan, has designed more than 30 fun, fresh, beautiful patterns, most of which can be made in less than ten hours-some in as little as two!

Known for her keen sense of color, Hoverson includes instructions for classic gifts like baby booties and bonnets, sweaters, and scarves, plus imaginative options like a cashmere tea cozy, a felted yoga mat bag, floor cushions, and a poncho-surely something for everyone on the gift list. And to make each present extra-special, Hoverson offers easy tips on how to incorporate knitting and other yarn embellishments into the gift wrap.

Last-Minute Knitted Gifts Details

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From Reader Review Last-Minute Knitted Gifts for online ebook

Jessica says

I picked this book up at the library specifically for the floor cushions pattern I saw when flipping through it. Other than the cushions, I like the men's scarves, they are simple patterns that you can find many places but I liked the rustic colors. I also liked the circle of friends blanket because I would like to start a knitting/crochet circle. Instead of for a baby I think it might be nice to modify it to make it larger for bigger children or adults.

I don't think that any of these projects can be completed in the time frame listed, except maybe the items in the under two hour section, but I guess that depends on the person. I wouldn't want to rush a nice hand knitted gift.

I enjoyed the exploring color section of the book. As an artist/painter I feel that it is good for others to know the terms and complexity of color. There is also some nice break downs of tools you will need, types of fibers and pattern abbreviations that you may like if you are a beginning knitter. Pattern wise, an average book, but like I said, I picked up for one pattern. Lay out and pictures above average.

Heather says

I was initially attracted to this book by the concept of chapters broken down by the hours needed to complete a knitted gift: "Less-Than-Two-Hour Gifts", "Two-To-Four-Hour Gifts", "Four-To-Six-Hour Gifts", etc. Fabulous last minute gifts in just a few hours? Just what I needed. I was curious to see what wonders this book held.

Well ... I have to take issue with most of the "Less-Than-Two-Hour Gifts". Pom-poms and tassels are not gifts. Can you imagine Christmas Day opening a package and finding a single pom-pom? Really. As for the hours required, the hourage might be accurate for an expert knitter, but I (an average knitter) found the projects to reliably take double the indicated time. So far I have made the "Airy Scarf", "Wrist/Hand Warmers" (men's version), and "Men's Rustic Scarf" and they all took twice as long as specified. I would completely avoid the last chapter "More-Than-Eight-Hour Gifts". Sweaters and blankets aren't quick last-minute gifts.

The projects I knitted all produced lovely, quality items extremely suitable for gifting. The patterns are simple, but the finished items are nice with broad appeal. I loved that there are two patterns for classic men's scarves. It's hard to find men's knits that guys will actually wear but these two are definite winners.

I would recommend that if the yarn specified in the pattern is not used, that something as close as possible be substituted. The author has a sublime sense of yarn and to get the true loveliness of these designs, the yarn choice is a huge factor.

The book also contains informative chapters on color, natural fibers, and wrapping handknits. The whole book is written in a friendly, conversational tone. All of the projects are gorgeously photographed.

The writer of this book also wrote a sequel, "More Last-Minute Knitted Gifts" and has a website, "The Purl Bee" (<http://www.purlbee.com>), both of which have many more similar knitted gift patterns.

Celeste Miller says

I suppose it depends on how fast a knitter you are whether or not these gifts are truly last-minute, but this is a nice collection of quicker knits that you won't likely be embarrassed to give as a present. Not surprisingly, several of the patterns are for babies and small children.

Every pattern book has a few that are just filler, like the patterns for tassels and pompoms, and as it was published a couple of years ago, it fell victim to the unfortunate poncho fad that gripped the nation. Most of the suggested yarns are quite pricey, but they're not so unusual that you won't be able to find a decent substitute.

Alana says

I don't often review knitting books, but Open Road put this up on NetGalley and one should always try to review what one requests. A pretty little book, *Last-Minute Knitted Gifts* by Joelle Hoverson delivers exactly what it promises -- a collection of patterns that take less time than you might otherwise think. The gifts that are truly short on time aren't necessarily something that serious knitters will be tempted by (and, let's face it, the "linen tassel" for a bookmark is a bit of a joke and doesn't quite belong here), but for those knitters who are just starting to stretch their legs, this might be a nice book to consult when you're looking to find something that knits up "quickly." Note that "quickly" is a somewhat relative term, as there are patterns for blankets and sweaters in here... they just happen to be somewhat simple ones. The book itself doesn't seem concerned that "last-minute" usually implies that most of these patterns should be for quickly knit items... not perhaps one-skein things, but at least things you could conceivably finish within a few days (where the entirety of that time isn't spent furiously knitting). Some of these are definitely "Oh dear, so-and-so's birthday is a month and a half away, what do I do?" kind of things, so take "last-minute" with a grain of salt. There are some particularly pleasing scarf patterns that provide some nice inspiration and there's a pretty set of hand/wrist warmers. I, for one, will be making ample use of the angora bootie pattern as I struggle to keep up with knitting some tiny-yet-heartfelt presents for pregnant co-workers.

Inder says

I am such a sucker for pretty photos and simple, old-fashioned styles.

I have now used this book for several projects. I made the baby bonnet, and the pattern was clear and easy,

and if it didn't turn out exactly like the one in the picture, that was my fault, and not the book's.

I also finished one wristwarmer - there, I found the directions impossible (it calls for one circular needle but you clearly need DPNs) and confusing, and pretty much ended up figuring out my own pattern with some help from a friend (thanks Andrea!).

Overall, this book is very inspirational and pretty but not written with beginners in mind.

Jennifer says

This is a good knitting book with some nice patterns. There are a couple that I have made over and over again. However, there are some that are ridiculously expensive and impractical if you make them with the materials they suggest. For example, the yoga mat bag which would cost \$75 to make using the yarn they suggest in the quantity that is needed. For real? On the other hand, I love the knitted gift bags that can be made out of virtually any yarn in dk/sport weight or worsted weight. Pretty photographs, neat stuff.

Frances Sawaya says

I can't really say that I have finished this book because it is one that should be leafed through and used when searching for patterns for handmade gifts/projects. The section on color was not useful in that pictures or color charts would have provided a better idea of the author's goals. The projects themselves are quite nice although I bet that the times given would apply to more experienced knitters than I am.

Hope says

This is a pleasant collection of patterns with good instruction. I would have preferred more pictures, but the ones included were clear and helpful. The book lost a star for claiming that leg warmers that stretch to 15" diameter would fit "all". My 24" calves disagree.

Margaret Closs says

Great Resource

As a knitter for over 30 years this is one of the most refreshing knitting books I've seen in a while. Thank you!

Laura says

This book is what it says it is, but I was kind of disappointed. The "gifts" are the sort of thing my mother in law used to buy me for holidays when she had no idea what I liked. Little pouch. Washcloth. Spa set.

Then, the time frames are silly, the categories are split by time "2-4 hours" etc then they timed an EXPERT knitter. Why not time a few people and give the average? Or not give specific times... cute category names like "WAIT IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY???", "Hm, that's coming up", and "Early Holiday Stockpiling" would have worked just as well without giving unrealistic expectations. I don't care how quickly an expert who designed the pattern can make this. How quickly can I make this?

Jen says

Cute projects but I wish the author was more clear about the weight of the yarn she used. Hard to tell for some projects.

Lisa B. says

My Thoughts:

I love nothing better than giving or getting a homemade gift. I thought this book had some very cute ideas. What I liked most is how the author organized the book. There was a lot of information that I thought a first time knitter (me) would find helpful. It started with a chapter about color selection, then on to knitting basics. Next came chapters on knitting projects categorized by how long it should take to complete each. Finally, and I liked this touch, there was a chapter with suggestions on how to wrap the item for gift giving.

As God is my witness, I am going to make several of the items from this book - especially the Ombre Alpaca Blanket!

Thanks to Open Road and Netgalley for allowing me to read this book in exchange for an unbiased review.

Chryse says

Overall, I like this book, but as others have mentioned, some of the projects, like pom poms and tassels aren't really "gifts", and many other projects require far more lead time than "last minute" allows. The Chevron Scarf, for example, is a great scarf, I love mine, but there is nothing last minute about knitting a scarf out of 800 yards of sock yarn. I worked on this fairly diligently and it still took a long, long time.

Jill says

I had to renew this from the library as I actually found it useful and practically organized. Projects are divided into the numbers of hours you have to dedicate to knitting them. These are sensible gifts and the knitting short-hand is easy to understand. Will be transcribing some of these projects into my knitters journal and trying them out in the future. Beautiful photographs accompany this hard-bound book. A great library find, my first knitting book that I actually think would be useful to own.

Donna Hutt Stapfer Bell says

A good, simple reference

Good for any experience level, and all of the projects look solid, attractive and useful - nothing for the sake of making a thing by hand. Good for the library!
