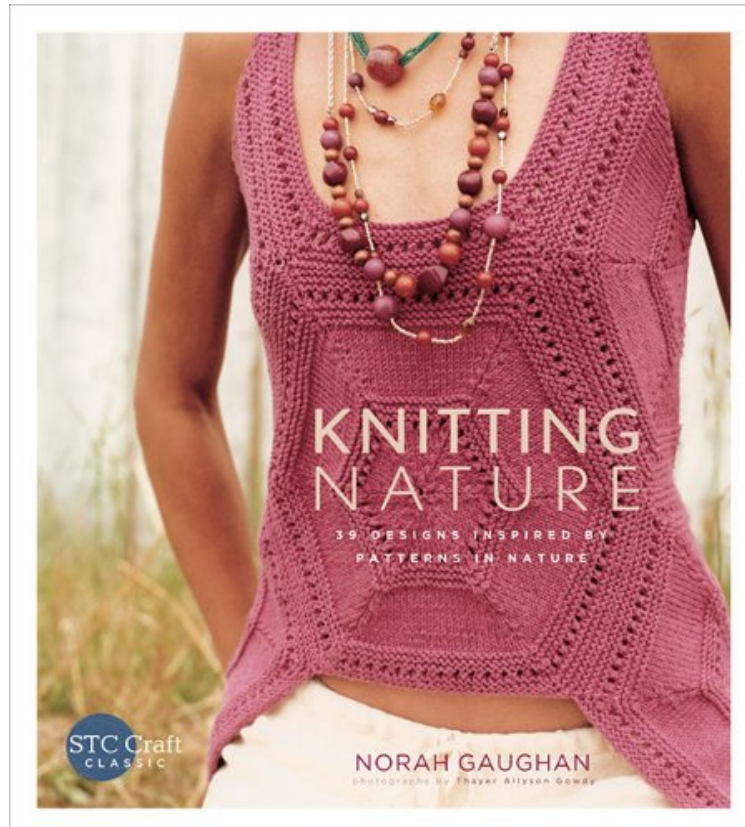


## Knitting Nature: 39 Designs Inspired by Patterns in Nature

Norah Gaughan

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**Norah Gaughan : Knitting Nature: 39 Designs Inspired by Patterns in Nature** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Knitting Nature: 39 Designs Inspired by Patterns in Nature:

28 of 30 people found the following review helpful. Knitting and Nature MeldBy Fairbanks Reader - Bonnie Brody This interesting knitting book has chapters titled Hexagons, Pentagons, Spirals, Phyllotaxis, Fractals and Waves. All of the patterns are inspired by natural forms found in nature. The author, Norah Gaughan, in the introduction, states that she has "always been torn between simultaneous desires to study art and science". This book is a good example of how she combines the two and creates beauty. As Norah's life progressed, she realized that what she truly loved was knitting and wanted to make a career as a knitting designer. "The work in this book feels like the melding of my science - and art-loving selves...". "Some of the designs in this book are structurally similar to nature's example." This can be seen by the chapter headings themselves. "In some cases, the structure of the natural phenomenon dictated the structure of the garment (the garments made from hexagonal and pentagonal pieces, for instance). In others, the pattern from nature become a surface decoration imposed on the grid of knitting...". "In all cases, working within the framework of six categories of patterns found in nature freed my mind to look at things differently and allowed me to rethink the structure of garment-making." Many of the patterns are eye-catching and lovely. In Hexagons, the

Asymmetrical Cardigan in a lovely light blue hue is definitely a pattern I want to try. It is knit in cashmere. The stitch in this cardigan is modeled after the woven pattern of cane chair seats. The Hex Afghan is stunning. Knit in a rich brownish-red, half alpaca and half wool, it contains rows of elongated hexagons. The Swirled Pentagon Pullover is luscious. Knit in an angora and wool blend, it is an almost turquoise colorway. The top of the pullover has swirled pentagons and the bottom of the sweater is knit in a classic stockinette stitch. The Bubble Pullover is knit in a lovely violet color out of baby alpaca. It has large pentagons as its motif. The Spiral Scarf is very 'now'. Its contemporary feel is obvious to the knitter. It is knit with Mongolian Cashmere in a golden and blue hue and is comprised of spirals attached together. The Cabled Spiral Pullover is knit in a light blue colorway from extra fine merino DK. There is a spiral motif on the top and the bottom two thirds of the sweater is knit in stockinette stitch. The Roundabout Leaf Tank is knit in an ivory hue with silk yarn. "The seater is made out of a spiraling strip, in the same way that leaves grow on a stem." The Phyllotaxis Scarf is perfect for a man or woman. Knit in a brown colorway with a wool, mohair and silk combination yarn, it is reversible. The scarf is knit in a tube to make its reversibility possible. "There are five spirals slanting to the right and eight spirals slanting to the left so the pair from the Fibonacci sequence is 5-8." I love the Sunflower Tam. There are two examples in the photograph. One is green and the other yellow. They are knit with Icelandic wool. "For this tam, I wanted to make a disk with two opposing spirals, like the phyllotaxis of a sunflower, daisy, or coneflower." The Fractal section has several nice patterns. I really like the Branching Aran Guernsey knit with wool. "I purposefully incorporated some traditional elements of the British guernsey into this design - the drop-shoulder shaping and the simple ladder pattern between the columns of the cables - and like the way they play against the naturalistic, very modern, branching cables." The Serpentin Coat, knit in browns and blues with merino wool, is perfect for an autumn day. "The sinuous motif used on the yoke of this coat is a Dragon Curve, another mathematical fractal." The Triangle Scarf is in a dark beige and knit with a combination of nylon and rayon yarn. It features triangles based on a mathematical fractal called the Sierpinski Triangle. The Wave section of the book has several lovely patterns. I really like the Vortex Street Pullover in a green/brown blend knit with cotton. "A phenomenon of fluid dynamics, a vortex street is an organized pattern of spirals formed in the wake of fluid flowing past a solid object." The center of this pullover has a wave section with stockinette surrounding it. The Reflection Aran Pullover is knit in a deep wine color out of wool. "Inspired by the rule of wave reflection, the cables in this pullover 'reflect' off of the edges of the center panel." The Droplet Hat is another Aran pattern knit in a green colorway with wool yarn. "This design is based upon a photo showing a droplet of water speeding downward propelled by gravity, spewing off little droplets as well as a narrow trail of water. My interpretation is rendered in bobbles and embossed leaves." Overall, this book is a real winner with clear photographs of the projects and easy-to-read pattern instructions. Some of the photos are a bit sexist for my taste but I can overlook that. They just seem silly. The book itself is a very welcome addition to my knitting library.<sup>3</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. Stunning and fabulous with two little 'buts' By Annal will start with the 'buts'. The lack of metric measurements is a torture for a continental European. I also gather from the reviews that there are some mistakes in the patterns, which would be bad enough in another book, but in this one it's a real shame. Luckily enough, both problems can be easily solved with the use of a calculator and the Internet. Having said that: I love this book and a few of the designs are so beautiful they made me speechless. Some of them far too eccentric for me to wear, but the Vortex pullover alone would be worth the money. The book is beautifully designed and I find the patterns clear. Some may argue the photos are strange - some of them are indeed - but they are one of the things that makes the book different. Each project is preceded with a short explanation on how it refers to nature and the explanations make great reading. One more thing: the book is for advanced knitters. The patterns are extremely challenging. Even so, less experienced knitters may want to consider buying this book to encourage them to learn more.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. I'm not disappointed. The photography in this book is wonderful. By Bette Berlo Not for the new knitter and not for the "faint of heart", but the designs in this book are breathtaking. I saw this book at the home of a fellow knitter and ordered it as soon as I got home. I'm not disappointed. The photography in this book is wonderful.

Written by Norah Gaughan, one of the most innovative and respected knitwear designers working today, *Knitting Nature* was an instant classic when it was released in hardcover in 2006, and it is now available at a must-have paperback price. In *Knitting Nature*, Gaughan blends together the natural and artistic world with 39 stunning, fun-to-knit designs for women, men, and children. Among them are a skirt patterned after the hexagonal scales nature has used to cover a domed turtle's shell, a jacket whose collar grows in a spiral much the same way a ram's horn does, and a tank top with leaves that grow the same way they do on a stem. Also available from Norah Gaughan: *Norah Gaughan's Knitted Cable Sourcebook*, *Comfort Knitting Crochet: Babies Toddlers*, and *Comfort Knitting Crochet: Afghans*.

About the Author Norah Gaughan is the design director at Berroco Yarns. Her work has been published in all of the major knitting magazines, online, and in many books, including *Reversible Knitting*, *Weekend Knitting*, and *Handknit Holidays* from STC Craft. She is a coauthor of the STC Craft book *Comfort Knitting Crochet: Afghans*.