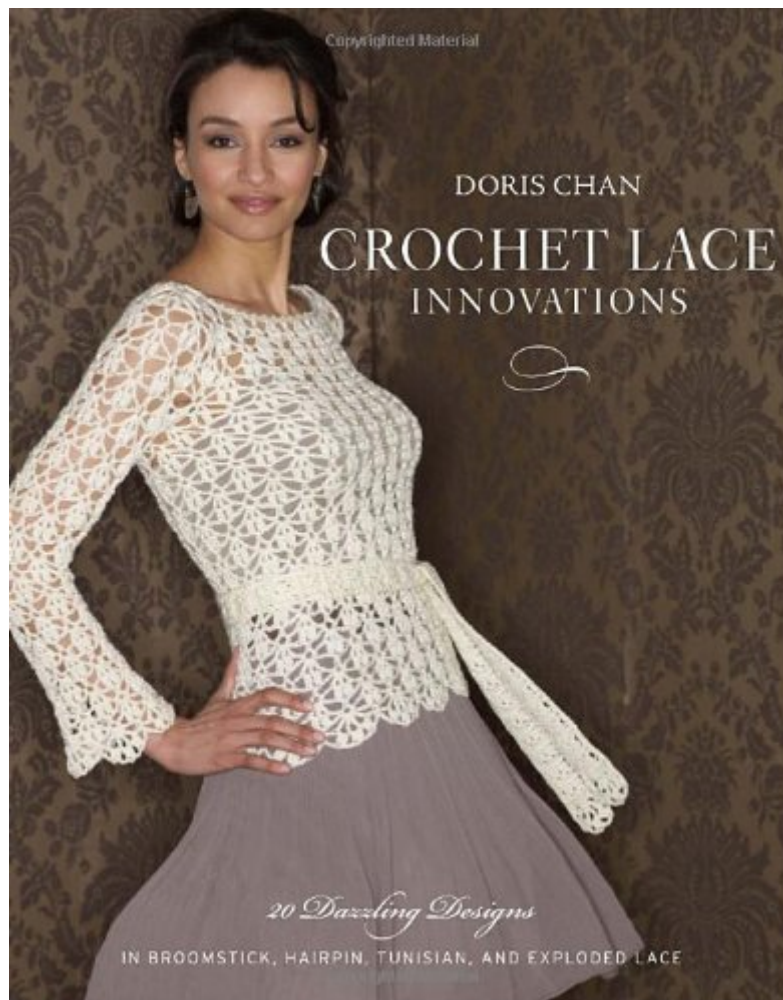




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Crochet Lace Innovations: 20 Dazzling Designs In Broomstick, Hairpin, Tunisian, And Exploded Lace



Customer Reviews

I love to crochet (and knit) lace. This book has many crochet lace patterns that I really like and I've made a couple of them so far; the Tunisian Scarfaroo and the Exploded Lace Toshiko Popover (basically a poncho that I've received many compliments on). There are other patterns I would like to try (scarf, cape, wrap). There are some dresses and skirt patterns that I wouldn't touch; don't have the body for those; lol. Most of the patterns in this book are not for the beginner crocheter; I'd say intermediate to advanced. I've only been crocheting a few years, but I was able to follow the patterns and make something that actually looked like the picture in the book. :-) Some patterns also include a chart which is pretty neat once you figure out how to it works. This book also has patterns in Broomstick lace, Hairpin lace and Tunisian crochet with basic instructions on how to do each. Most books I find may have one or two patterns in it that I like; I'd say in this book of 20 patterns I'd like to make over half (mainly because I don't care for the dresses and skirts). Love this book! I'm adding a photo of the Toshiko Popover.

The seller is great--would do business with them again, the book arrived on time, safely packed in a padded envelop, and in the condition described in the listing (excellent used). So 5 Stars for the seller! The 3 star rating is for the book itself, as I find it to be rather "meh"--possibly inspirational (in a "thinking" way) on the overall topic it covers, but nothing that can't be found on the internet except maybe the actual patterns, provided you like the look. I am an experienced crocheter, including decades of lace crochet (using fine threads) for projects such as doilies/ornaments etc., as well as using heavier yarns for items such as sweaters/scarfs/afghans etc. Only recently have I begun exploring hairpin lace, however (and have an interest in exploring broomstick lace as well)--but do not find much available on these two niche areas of the craft. I bought this book hoping for something more/different/unusual on those two subjects, but although there are a few patterns for each (and nothing I would make, except possibly one of the broomstick-based items), the book only introduces the most basic mechanics of either. Ditto Tunisian, which I've already learned and own much more in-depth books in my personal library. So...I rather wish I'd been able to find this title in my local public library, as then I would have known that it is already redundant for my specific needs/interests, and the patterns not to my taste (which isn't to say they are bad patterns--just not "me"). Note: for those looking for hairpin patterns/ideas beyond the most basic, try Pinterest--so far that has been my best resource. Really hoping a good (as in, substantial!) book someday shows up on --this one wasn't it. To sum up, it's not a bad book. But it's just a book with an interesting concept, very beginner-level instruction of the specialty stitches (hairpin etc.), and some patterns that may or

may not be of interest. If your book budget is generous and you have space on your shelf, by all means buy it! But if you are picky or frugal and/or looking for specific and in-depth treatment of hairpin/broomstick/tunisian lace, skip it.

I was looking forward for this book, and was not disappointed. The patterns are beautiful, the explanations (at least those I've gone through) are detailed and clear, and yes - you can learn some new techniques. While the book has mostly advanced patterns, there are a few simpler patterns, that even beginners can make, and from which you can learn a new technique. There is a gorgeous and rather simple broomstick lace belt (which I made in 2 days - and I certainly do not crochet all day long), some scarves and a lovely exploded lace collar. There are very few tops - but there are several jackets, and if tops are what you are after then her former book "everyday crochet" is full of them. Also, unlike "everyday crochet" the jackets here have shaping at the waist, and the "nip" technique shown may be applied to other garments Ms. Chan designed. I'd also like to mention the fact that the publisher did a great job with the styling, photography and graphics. Every garment is shown from several angles, which makes it easier to understand how it is constructed, and the book is generally very pleasant to look at. All in all - a wonderful book which I highly recommend.

Let me start off by saying that this book has a lot of beautiful patterns in it, many of which I fully intend to do. I've only done one item out of the book so far, so bear that in mind through my critique. I still like the patterns, but could wish they had formatted the book a little differently. The pattern I worked on was the relatively simple and small Ling Collar. Throughout this book, Ms. Chan tends to settle on a motif and repeat it, with slight modifications, in several other patterns. So, the Ling Collar is connected to the Ping skirt and Ming jacket. Rather than writing out full instructions for each pattern they would send me to one of the others to get more information. But it was always "follow instructions from such-and-such, except..." So to accomplish the Ling collar, the smallest and simplest of the three, I was sent to the Ping skirt, which sent me back to the Ming jacket. It was awkward to be balancing the book in my lap, flipping pages between three patterns, all the while trying to hold my crochet hook and yarn. My other difficulty with this book may simply be a matter of my own learning style not meshing with Ms. Chan's teaching style. While I liked her sense of humor evident in the introductions, I found her written instructions not as easy to follow. I had to rely heavily on the stitch diagrams that were included. I also had to look some information up online to get a better idea of what she was wanting me to do. A note on gauge: I read an article by Ms. Chan in a magazine that said she tends to crochet quite loosely. That was very helpful in making gauge.

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