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Shibori Knits: The Art Of Exquisite Felted Knits



Synopsis

An ancient Japanese art dating to at least the eighth century CE, shibori has many interpretations. Though there is no direct translation of the word to English, shibori essentially denotes a shaped-resist textile, and is commonly associated with weaving and dyeing fiber. The world of shibori knitting is vast and relatively unexplored. *Shibori Knits* highlights the intersection between shibori and knitting, offering 20 patterns that utilize this transformative technique. Internationally acclaimed knitwear designer Gina Wilde guides knitters through three dynamic ways to add shibori to knitting. The first method uses physical resists (marbles or corks) that prevent specific areas of knitting from felting; where there are no resists, the garment does felt, creating unique fabric with bobbles and dimensionality. Another method uses nonfelting fibers as resists—for instance, a silk yarn knit with a wool yarn—to create windowpane effects or even mimic woven strips of fabric when felted. The third method creates ruffles and spirals when the fibers are worked in more than one direction; when felted, the work will shrink differently in the alternate directions. The textures created from each method offer a unique way to redefine felting and bring the beautiful and unexpected world of shibori to the knitter. Knitters of every skill can explore this exciting method of creating art out of knitting. With detailed information on fibers and their shibori potential, a primer on technical felting concepts, and a thorough resource guide, *Shibori Knits* shows knitters how to create colorful, sculptural, and delicate projects, transforming knitting into something new.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“An inspired and thoughtfully assembled collection of projects that redefine our entire notion of

"felt," combining the fluid and firm, sculptural and wearable. The results are, indeed, exquisite." Clara Parkes, author of *The Knitter's Book of Yarn* and Editor of *knittersreview.com* "With *Shibori Knits* Gina has cast her unique creative genius to the exciting and innovative fusion of knitting with the ancient craft of shibori and she has created knitting gold." Erika Knight, author of *Classic Knits at Home* and *Glamour Knits at Home* "The colors of Alchemy's yarns vibrate in their own glory throughout this charming, elegant, and intriguing book that explores new frontiers in knitting." Brandon Mably, Kaffe Fassett studio "At the intersection of knitting and felting lies shibori, and who better to present this technique and the gorgeous, sculptural results it yields than Gina Wilde, fiber artist extraordinaire." Debbie Stoller, author of the *Stitch 'n Bitch* series of books "Anyone who's ever seen a skein of Alchemy Yarns of Transformations knows that Wilde, the company's cofounder and creative force, has an eye for dramatic artistry. She applies it now to the Japanese practice of shibori, the resistance-felting technique that transforms fabric into movable sculpture." Yarn Market News

GINA WILDE is an innovative knitwear designer and the creative director and cofounder of Alchemy Yarns of Transformation (www.alchemyyarns.com), known for its luscious colors and range of fibers. Her work has appeared in *Hand Knit Holidays*, *The Knitter's Book of Yarn*, *Folk Knits*, and *Interweave Knits* magazine.

I'm a person who isn't an expert in knitting or crafts but through osmosis and challenges I've discovered the forever exciting world of cultural crafts. *Shibori Knits* is a great book that shares the basics, background and cultural history of this craft. Loved reading it and trying the designs and patterns. Now I'm looking for the next challenge. Get this book it's worth it.

Fascinating ideas in this book. Opens a whole new world in felting.

A lot of neat patterns, great value. Wonderful transaction

Not many projects of interest. Disappointing

I admire both fiber artist Gina Wilde and Potter books - and a combination of these two make for a wonderful book on shibori technique. I gained a wonderful insight into the shibori process from this book, along w. design ideas. There are very good examples of what yarns to use and the how's to

do it. There's a range of projects presented - not all to my liking but they are wonderful for the techniques you can learn! This book definitely has given me another dimension to my fibery pursuits.

I was disappointed with this book and returned it. I was fascinated by the title, combining "shibori" and "felting" but discovered it was mostly about knitting, and basic knitting at that. I had little to no use for the information contained within.

wonderful projects ~ all patterns are for alchemy yarns which i've found to be hard to find ~ otherwise ~ a great book!

I just purchased this book because I love felting and I love the concepts of shibori art. There is a fair bit of information about the techniques (in fact, the book is noticeably text-heavy), and that is interesting and informative, but ultimately I was disappointed in what this book offers in terms of projects. I feel the patterns are a bit clumsy and the colours are mostly garish. There aren't nearly enough photographs of fibers and no step-by-step images of the techniques she uses. The book itself is quite large to handle and the font used throughout the book is delicate and small, making it hard to read when you're working on complicated patterns. I appreciate that the author is a fiber artist and I can see where the techniques lend themselves to creativity and expression. But the application of them here into more everyday or practical uses is generally a disappointment and I'm still debating whether to keep the book or return it. Having purchased the more expensive hard cover version, I can't help feeling I would have rather spent the money on some exquisite yarn. The only thing holding me back is that I can't seem to find a really good book on shibori techniques and practical patterns... perhaps I should hold onto this one until the right one comes along.

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