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Dream Toys: A Collection Of Knit And Crochet Fantastical Toys



Synopsis

Claire Garland has created a fantastical collection of five knitted dolls and their playtime companions, plus charming accessories to complete the fantasy. Each item is small and easy to make with added trims and some simple embroidered details--each a fairy tale in the making. Beautifully and imaginatively photographed in full color, this fabulously fun and original book appeals to knitters of all ages. Complete step-by-step instructions for each project, with full instructions on all the techniques needed are included. The projects have been designed with both girls and boys in mind, including: Fairy Dream: a fanciful flower fairy floats on her multi color cushion and plays with her magical unicorn. Enchanted Land: a princess with an enchanting wardrobe with her castle and a pony bedecked with jewels. Wild West Trail: a cowboy and his faithful steed "Silver" -Â with a 10-gallon hat and knitted saddle. Magical Waterworld: a dreamy mermaid frolics with her pet dolphin and fishy friend. The original and utterly charming toys in this book offer projects that will delight knitters-- both experienced and novice-- who are looking for creative small projects suitable for gift giving. All items are either knitted or crocheted, and are guaranteed to please any child -or child at heart -on a knitter's gift list.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

CLAIRE GARLAND has spent her career living out her childhood dream: designing toys, dolls, bedding and tapestry for children. She has created tapestry kits for Primavera, which are exported around the world, as well as her own line of knitted dolls, or Dot Pebble Knitted Dolls, distributed in

individual kits at www.dotpebbles.com. She is the author of *Knitted Babes* published in the U.K. and the U.S. in 2005 and *Embroidered Treasures* (Mitchell Beazley, 2005). For more information on Claire visit www.knittedbabes.com.

I'm glad I purchased this book with its whimsical patterns. The toys are wonderful, and not too complicated to be fun to make. I'm an experienced knitter, but I don't enjoy extremely complicated things that give me a headache to make. I was pleased to find that while the knitting can be a bit involved; all the directions are written out line by line. The patterns are easy to follow, as well, as none involve complicated colorways. Mostly, they utilize simple stockinette stitch with increasing and decreasing to add shape and garter stitch to add texture. Some knitters may prefer charts, but the only one to be found is a color chart of the Jolly Roger. One thing I particularly liked is that Garland indicates at the beginning of each row as to whether it's an "increasing", "decreasing" or "shaping" row. (Very helpful). A few simple color choices, and a few felt trims (patterns are in the back for extras like the fairy wings, eyes, nose, cowboy outfit, saddle, etc) and you have a beautiful doll. The toys to create are the archetypical "toys of childhood" - unicorn, horse, mustang; princess, mermaid, fairy; cowboy, pirate, sea creatures, even a dolphin, castle and skip! They are delightful, and one thing I really enjoy is that their details are very pared down, allowing the child's fantasy and imagination to fill in the details. I would recommend some things to those who want to follow the patterns in this book. First, read through the entire pattern to get oriented. Second, photocopy the pattern and go from the copy. Each time you complete a line, highlight it, so you know you've done it and skip to the next line. I also suggest that when you make legs and arms for the dolls, you consider doing I-cording (also known as French knitting, or spool knitting) as an alternative. (I'd like to credit Esmeralda Jones for this I-cord tip, from her review of Garland's other doll book, *Knitted Babes*). Be sure to check your gauge as well. As a final note, despite the title of the book, these are primarily knitting patterns. The "crochet" in the title appears superfluous, and refers only to some embellishments throughout the book. Overall, I would highly recommend this delightful book. Great patterns, and easy to follow directions make for a good knitting book for children's toys.

Very sweet book, I'm looking forward to knitting the little dolls!

I have owned this book for about a year now. I had to learn to knit to use it and am happy to have done so. To give you some reference, I am (now) a novice knitter and a pretty basic crocheter, with little sewing experience. I love to make toys, as best I can. First I will address an issue brought up by

another reviewer: the title is rather deceptive, since the majority of items, primarily and most importantly the dolls, their clothes and the horse/unicorn, are knitted. So if you hope to also crochet toys do not buy this book. I rather like the unique look of these dolls, They look a bit odd, and different from an average doll, but that is the sort of thing I like - though I suppose if you like a traditional doll you would not like these. I am glad not to be making something that I could find anywhere else. However, this is an easy design to alter, say if you do not like the way facial features are rendered it is pretty easy to change. And once you learn to knit following the pattern, you can change up parts, making a different character beyond what is in the book (My son decided he loves Woody from toy story so I made all sewn clothes so the cowboy looks a tiny bit like Woody. I am working on a Knight version of the doll now). What I find very appealing about these dolls is that knitting in general is a bit more soft and "drapey" than crochet (when using the very basic stitches, which I do). The dolls lend themselves to a lot of dragging and flopping and snuggling. My daughter leapt on to her mermaid and hugs her and plays with her hair all the time. There are the boy dolls (Pirate, Cowboy) and girl dolls (Mermaid, Fairy, Princess) so you can make dolls for any taste, as well as a horse/Unicorn pattern which is not too hard (harder than the dolls though) and rather cute.

As far as knitting is concerned, the book is super cute, and I'm sure the patterns are nice. The problem is, the book itself AND the description state the every toy can be EITHER crocheted OR knitted. This is false advertising. This book is almost entirely for knitters. The only things that can be crocheted are a little bandanna and a small part of the horse saddle. I just want people to be aware of this. If you are looking for a crochet pattern, do not purchase this book. IT IS A BOOK FOR KNITTERS!

I originally picked up this book because one of my LYS had an elegant version of the horse on display knit in a luxury yarn. I'm glad they did because I might not have noticed this book otherwise. The toys are a little primitive with long I-cord legs and arms, but the style of them has really grown on me. Even better, along with the actual characters, there are directions for some nice "stage props". What princess wouldn't want to be given along with her very own unicorn and castle? What pirate wouldn't want his own little rowboat for those ship to shore adventures? I'm planning on spending some time making princesses and mermaids, cowboys and pirates..right after I finish my blinged out horse.

This book is full of delightful knitted and crocheted toys, for boys and girls. Every child would love a

fantasy toy from this collection, an inspired creation to encourage creativity, imagination and play. The only problem is where to start... a mermaid, a baby fairy, a cowboy with his horse or perhaps a pirate? The patterns look easy to follow, with lots of accessories to make and can be personalised to suit individual tastes. I can't wait to get out my knitting needles!

I love this book and have made at least 4 of the mustangs. The pattern is genius -- Garland crafted thighs! And joints! And the result is perfection - heirloom quality stuff that my friends have loved receiving. I turn to this book every time I want to make a special baby gift --- the mermaid pattern too, is especially lovely. The book delivers on all counts!

Great book!

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