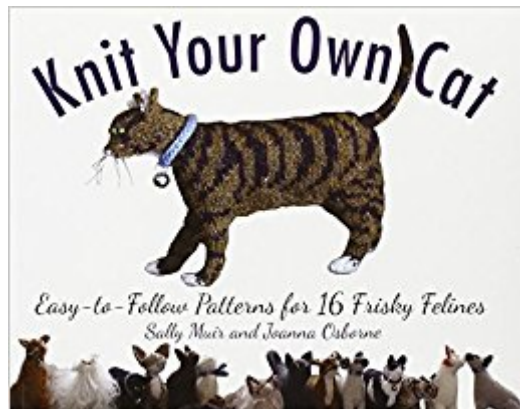




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Knit Your Own Cat: Easy-to-Follow Patterns For 16 Frisky Felines



Synopsis

Cat lovers, rejoice! It's the highly anticipated follow-up book to *Knit Your Own Dog*. With easy-to-follow instructions for 16 distinct felines, *Knit Your Own Cat* is the irresistible guide to knitting the pet you've always wanted. Cats and knitters are perfect companions. What's better together than a kitten curled up in a basket of wool or a frisky feline chasing a skein of yarn down a hallway? Since the instant success of *Knit Your Own Dog*, cat lovers have been clamoring for a book of their own. That time has come. *Knit Your Own Cat* is packed with knitting patterns for 16 different fanciful felines, from a pretty Persian to a sleek Siamese, from a cuddly kitten to a traditional tabby. The cats are surprisingly easy to make: With a few evenings of work, you can have a covetable companion for life. Each cat includes clear, step-by-step instructions for both knitting and assembling the parts. The cats can be knit into various positions such as standing, sitting, crouching, and curled up for a nap. You can add details like collars, bells, and bows. Photographs throughout show the finished cat from various angles, and each cat is accompanied by a description of its real-life temperament and physical characteristics. Cats include: Abyssinian, Bengal, Black Cat, Black & White, British Shorthair, Burmese, Devon Rex, Kitten, Maine Coon, Orange, Persian, Ragdoll, Siamese, Tabby, Tortoiseshell, and Turkish Van.

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Customer Reviews

Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne run their own knitwear business, Muir and Osborne (www.muirandosborne.co.uk). They have a shop in London and export their knitwear to stores in the

U.S., Japan, and Europe, including Barneys New York, Saks Fifth Avenue, Liberty, and The Cross. They won the U.K. Fashion Export Small Business Award in 2002, and several pieces of their knitwear are in the permanent collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Their previous books include *Knit Your Own Dog*, *Knit Your Own Cat*, *Knit Your Own Dog: The Second Litter*, and *Knit Your Own Zoo*. Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne run their own knitwear business, Muir and Osborne (www.muirandosborne.co.uk). They have a shop in London and export their knitwear to stores in the U.S., Japan, and Europe, including Barneys New York, Saks Fifth Avenue, Liberty, and The Cross. They won the U.K. Fashion Export Small Business Award in 2002, and several pieces of their knitwear are in the permanent collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Their previous books include *Knit Your Own Dog*, *Knit Your Own Cat*, *Knit Your Own Dog: The Second Litter*, and *Knit Your Own Zoo*.

I sent this to my Mother as a gift. She has not yet made one of the knitted kitties but will be working on it this winter. One thing to mention to future buyers: the knitted animals from both this book and the "Knit Your Own Dog" counterpart are really rather small in size. I guess I was expecting they would be more 'life size,' but they are not. I suspect my Mother will try to bump up the knitting specs to try and create a larger cat. The other thing she mentioned was that the eyes on all the animals are kind of lame. Too small and not 'cute' or life-like. So she will be working to improve that as well. Other than that, I think it's a great craft idea for knitters and pet lovers!

Until they start breeding micro-cats I will have to satisfy myself with tiny knitted kitties. There are benefits to owning a knitted cat like no litter box, owning indoor plants with no teeth marks, the ability to place breakable items on shelves around the house, and easily eating in front of them. The designs are acceptable and instructions look easy to follow. Great for people who love to knit and love cats.

I love dogs and cats (especially cats), and wanted to love this book as much as *Knit Your Own Dog: Easy-to-Follow Patterns for 25 Pedigree Pooches* by the same talented authors. But I can't, because most of the cats don't look like cats. Some have pointy snouts (more like rats); some have overlarge ears; many have heads too small for their bodies. Like the small figures in *Knit Your Own Dog*, the cat figures represent many different breeds: Persian, Ragdoll, Maine Coon, Turkish Van, British Shorthair, Devon Rex, Abyssinian, Burmese, Siamese, and Housecat (orange, black and white, tabby, black, and tortoiseshell). There are also some kittens, curled up cats, and a Bengal tiger.

Some of the cats are sitting, some standing. But unlike the figures in *Â Dog*, I cannot identify the cats' individual breeds by simply looking at the figures. The Persian's loopy mohair coat doesn't resemble fur (and the figure reminds me of a Pekingese). The Turkish Van's loopy mohair tail doesn't look like a cat's big, fluffy tail. The short-haired Siamese is white with brown face, ears, paws, and tail, but somehow the figure doesn't evoke the exotic appearance of a Siamese. For me, the most successful figure is the stripey Orange Cat (a seated cat). However, if I were to make it, I would change the colors and try to blend the stripes to make the coat look more realistic. Perhaps the small scale of the figures makes it impossible to represent the individual characteristics of the various cat breeds in fabric knitted from fine yarn on US 2 needles. Like the dog figures, the cat figures have many parts and are somewhat complicated to knit and assemble. I rate this book at 3 stars ("it's okay" on the scale), because none of the cats appeal to me enough to make me want to knit them, especially given the complicated construction.

I have not knitted in 50 years. I am having to learn all over again. My daughter has been knitting since she was seven. (35 now.) She has had some trouble following the directions-says there are is something wrong. She has tried two or three of the patterns. Her first attempt not too bad- even tho the front legs are too far back and the hind legs stick out to the sides. I think the photos are so cute, and am hoping to knit at least one cat. I would not recommend this to a beginner.

Since my cat died last year I've been feeling deprived. My partner hasn't been ready to extend the family and suggested I knit a new companion. Hence the book. I eagerly knit the British shorthair. Imagine my disappointment in the little pygmy with the stubby face. Of course I realized when I read the dimensions I wasn't going to get a very satisfying cat experience, but I didn't realize that when I ordered the book. Worse was the black cat. I got all four legs knitted and started up the right side and realized the pattern did not match the picture. I may have made a mistake, but I'm pretty sure the pattern is wrong (decrease on neck instead of tail end). I'm feeling pretty discouraged. May have to make trip to pound after all.

I am a reasonably professional knitter for several years, but found the instructions rather complicated in this book. I finally worked them out and the end result is beautiful.

Cats, cats, cats! Love the patterns and they are pretty simple to knit up. Only sewing up directions need a bit more detail as its a bit confusing. Otherwise a great companion to the other books by this

author.

Love this book. May not ever knit a cat but it's fun to look through.

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