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# Icelandic Handknits: 25 Heirloom Techniques And Projects



## Synopsis

Icelandic Handknits: 25 Heirloom Techniques and Projects is a rich and varied collection of patterns for folk mittens, socks, scarves, hats, wrist warmers, sweaters, shoe inserts, and more, all inspired by traditional handknitted artifacts from the Textile Museum in Bláfundið, Iceland. Iceland boasts a rich heritage of knitting; thanks in equal parts to the island's special wool, the harsh climate, and the need to battle the elements, Icelandic knitters have developed unique traditions of needlework techniques and handknit styles. In the pages of this book, renowned Icelandic knitwear designer Hafliðine Magnússon delivers an array of beautiful patterns that reflect the depth of the country's knitting traditions. You'll appreciate the fully illustrated techniques section, the ample color photographs, and the detailed list of resources for Icelandic and Scandinavian knitting. More than just a book of knitting, this book is infused with bits of Icelandic folklore and culture, vintage photographs, and classic Icelandic recipes. Magnússon believes that the best way to preserve traditions is to continue using them, giving them new life. And with this definitive collection of patterns, she has done just that.

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## Customer Reviews

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its harsh climate, and the need to battle the elements, Icelandic knitters have developed unique traditions of needlework techniques and handknit styles. On the pages of this book, renowned Icelandic knitwear designer Hafðiðne Magnússon delivers an array of beautiful patterns that reflect the depth of Iceland's knitting traditions. You'll appreciate the fully illustrated techniques section, ample color photographs, and detailed list of resources for Icelandic and Scandinavian knitting. More than just a book of knitting, this book is infused with bits of Icelandic folklore and culture, vintage photographs, and classic Icelandic recipes.

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Hafðiðne Magnússon is a knit designer in Iceland, the author of many publications about traditional Icelandic knitting and the editor of *The Icelandic Knitter* ([icelandicknitter.com](http://icelandicknitter.com)), an online publication with knitting patterns inspired by tradition with a modern twist. She began her professional life as a lawyer in Paris before she made a complete life change and moved to Iceland, where she studied textile and fashion at Iceland Academy of the Arts and worked as a hired girl in a sheep farm and a mountain guide. The varied skills she learned in those early years richly inform the amazing hiking and knitting tours she passionately guides in Iceland. More info on: [icelandicknitter.com](http://icelandicknitter.com)

Icelandic Handknits is a treat for the eyes. Hardbound, with beautiful photography, this is a book to enjoy as well as a book that will be easy for knitters to use. Heavy paper means that the book stays open at the page you've selected. There's something in this book to delight any knitter: mittens, wristlets, hats, tote bag, sweaters, a skirt, socks, shoes (we'd probably call these slippers), and a beautiful shawl shown on the cover. The modern designs are complemented by the photographs of the antique Icelandic pieces, many of which would still be a perfect complement for today's clothing. Included in this book and in her other newer book, *Icelandic Knitting*, are shoe inserts. Although I've never before seen shoe inserts, they serve a very useful function for cold climates. Worn between the shoe and a heavy woolen sock, I'm sure these would help keep feet warm in a very cold environment. I'll probably never make a pair since we seldom have such cold weather in Texas, but I may adapt some of the graphic patterns for other uses. Where to start? The broken rose blanket is gorgeous and would be a fabulous gift for a special someone. The cardigan is lovely and well suited to spring or fall weather. The socks are appealing and unusual with their ties at the top of the socks. In a few more reads, I'll make up my mind. Overall, this book is a great delight for those of

us who enjoy looking at historical knit pieces and those of us who can't wait to pick up our needles. I'm so happy to have it!Five Stars!

This is a wonderful book, full of beautiful pictures and historical references. It's as much a reference book as it is a knitting pattern book and it has great knitting patterns as well. The charts are oversized and very easy to read and done with helpful colors as well. The instructions are easy to follow but are not necessarily for beginners as some experience is helpful with some of the details. She explains things about the actual Icelandic sheep and the whys and how's of the wool and adds in some tasty looking recipes as well. Every time I look at the book, I get sidetracked by one of the fascinating stories. There are many practical patterns- socks, mittens, sweaters; beautiful patterns- a lace hood, a throw blanket with a Broken Rose pattern on it, a lacy shawl or two, and I must make this. Now patterns- an elbow length capelet with a traditional pattern knitted into it and some traditional soft shoes with inserts for them. Can't wait, must gather my wool and start knitting.

I really like this book because I enjoy Icelandic knitting! This is a thoughtful look at Icelandic knitting designs and techniques through the last hundred years or so. The author takes you on a journey through time when knitting was not just a pastime but also a necessity. There is extreme beauty in the shawl patterns included in this book which are whisper-thin and look like something from the faerie-world. Also of note are recipes for Icelandic sweets and other treats.

Very well written, great photography and the patterns are clear. I am so looking forward to make some of these lovely items. The history behind the different patterns and about Iceland itself is terrific as well. A very well balanced book.

This is a nicely written book inspired by Icelandic knits, many in the Bluondos museum. I'm sorry if some readers didn't see that part in the title, but it's an accurate description. Well described instructions as well.

This book blends a history of knitting in Iceland with patterns old and new, newer styles updated versions of the old designs. I am looking forward especially to attempting the cover shawl.

Arrived in perfect shape. A beautiful book. Great patterns. Gorgeous photos.

ICELANDIC HANDKNITS provides American knitters with great historic information and photographs that has been long unknown to many. Some of the projects were a bit disappointing---too simplified for my tastes. Meanwhile, I can hardly wait for the English version of THE ICELANDIC LACE DRESSES OF ADALBJORG JONSDOTTIR later this year. For too long we have had too little information for the historic knitting from Icelandic knitters---sweater designs and the proper yarn have been available which is not enough to satisfy me. ICELANDIC HANDKNITS should be on the shelf of any serious knitter.(P.S. I have long been a student of ethnic knitting, having written several books on this topic. Although I am now retired from active work in the field, I am always excited by more in depth books on this topic. Very little is known in this country about the Icelandic techniques nor the design of the Icelandic dresses; at last, we are getting it from the best source---Icelandic knitters!)

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