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From the
Author of
PONCHOS TO KNIT
and
THE CABLE
KNITTER'S
GUIDE



DENISE SAMSON

LACE KNITTING

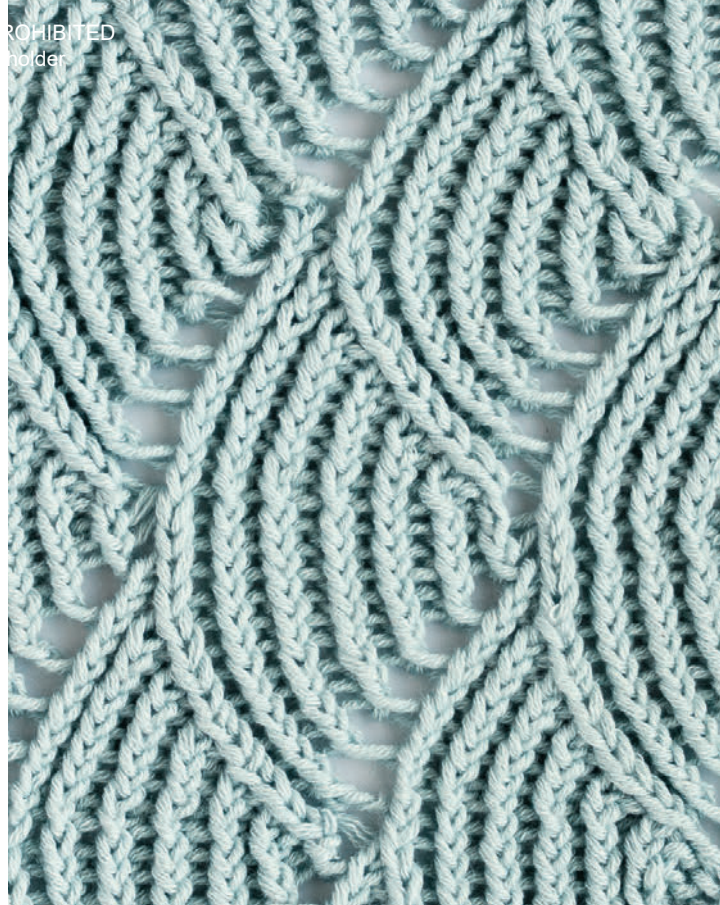
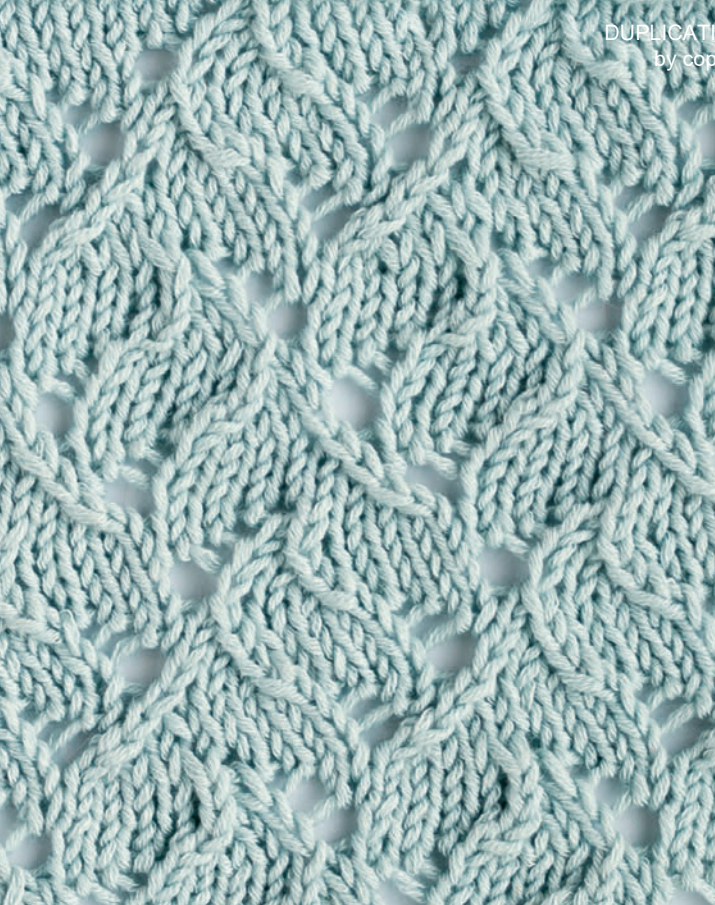
40 Openwork Patterns, 30 Lovely Projects,
Countless Ideas and Inspiration



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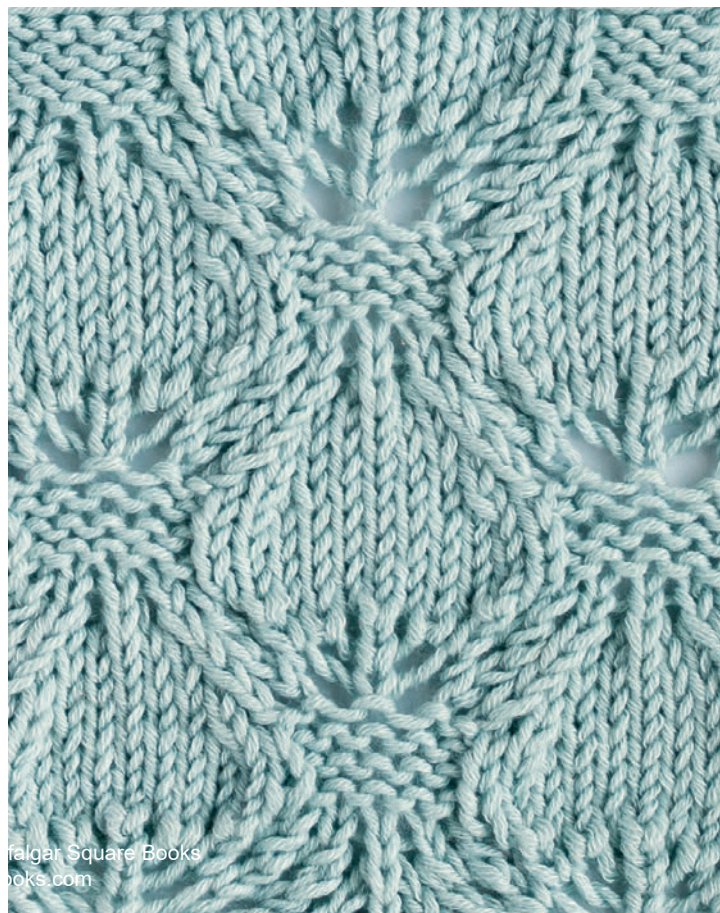
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PREFACE

Lace knitting (known as *hullstrikk* or *blondestrikk* in Norwegian) has always fascinated me. When I was little, my mother knitted one shawl after the other, usually in very simple lace designs. She taught me the technique when I was school-age, and I remember when we advanced from shawls to bed jackets (a type of bolero, also called a soul warmer). They were knitted in one piece from sleeve to sleeve. The pattern consisted of four rows of garter stitch, a lace row with white yarn, and then a change to a new color, usually a pastel. (That pattern reminds me a little of the lace rows on the bed coverlet, *The Sacred Tree*, which you'll find on page 137.) Every single morning, my mother ate her breakfast in bed with the newspaper, wearing her bed jacket. She was never an expert knitter, but she gladdened many friends with shawls and soul warmers. This book would never have existed without her.

Writing a book is a time-consuming process, and it often happens that some of the yarns or colors used have gone out of production during the time between the making of the design and the printing of the book. With all the pretty yarns available in both yarn shops and on the internet, you shouldn't have trouble finding another yarn you like to use as a substitute. Check the ball band of the yarn you want to substitute, and make sure you

achieve the correct gauge. (Read more about gauge on page 6.)

In the first part of this book, you'll find 40 different lace patterns—edgings, panels, and motif and cable patterns.

Each pattern has a name. Some are well-known and have been knitted many times over the years, such as *Sea Foam* and *Falling Leaves*, while others are brand-new patterns of my own design. I've named these after whatever it is I thought they most resembled. In the second section, I'll show you how you can use these different patterns—either alone, or in combination, as for the *Dress with Lupine Pattern* on page 107 and the *Lace Bonanza Tunic* on page 145. If you've never knitted lace before, I recommend you begin by knitting some of the smaller, simpler pieces in the book before you throw yourself at the larger garments or bed coverings. First of all, though, you should learn what the chart symbols mean. That's explained for you on page 13.

I hope you'll find as much happiness in lace knitting as I have. One thing's for sure—you'll have earned yourself my heartfelt congratulations when you finish your first knitted piece with lace.





Needles U. S. size 1.5/
2.5 mm

Needles U. S. size 2.5/
3 mm

Needles U. S. size 4/
3.5 mm

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4 mm

Needles U. S. size 7/
4.5 mm

Needles U. S. size 8/
5 mm

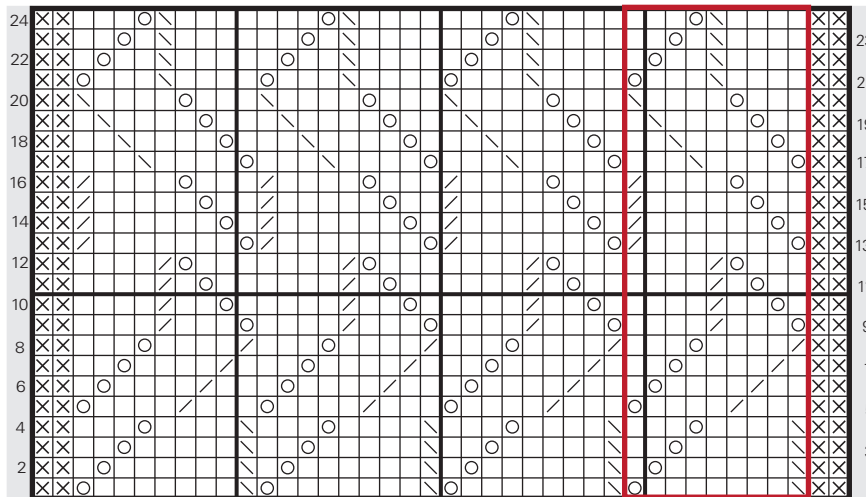
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HOW TO READ CHARTS

When reading a book or other text in English, you usually begin at the top left and read to the right and down. Charts are read in the opposite way: you begin at the bottom right and progress towards the left. When knitting back and forth, you read the second line from left to right. If you're working in the round, you always read from right to left. Every square on the chart has a symbol with an explanation (see

next page). This can look very confusing if you aren't familiar with knitting charts, but you can learn to read them just as easily as paragraphs with some practice. Here you see an example of how a chart with symbols and explanations can look. The area outlined with red shows a complete repeat on the chart. On this chart, four repeats are shown, one after the other.



- Knit on RS, purl on WS
- Purl on RS, knit on WS
- RS: sl 1, k1, pssso; WS: p2tog tbl
- RS: k2tog; WS: p2tog
- Yarnover

If this chart were written out, it would look like this:

Row 1: P2 (sl 1, k1, pssso, k7, yo) 4 times, p2.

Row 2: K2, (p1, yo, p6, p2tog tbl) 4 times, k2.

Row 3: P2, (sl 1, k1, pssso, k5, yo, k2) 4 times, p2.

Row 4: K2, (p3, yo, 4, p2tog tbl) 4 times, k2.

Row 5: P2, (k3, k2tog, k4, yo) 4 times, p2.

Row 6: K2, (p1, yo, p4, p2tog, p2) 4 times, k2.

Row 7: P2, (k1, k2tog, k4, yo, k2) 4 times, p2.

Row 8: K2, (p3, yo, p4, k2tog) 4 times, k2.

Row 9: P2, (yo, k3, k2tog, k4) 4 times, p2.

Row 10: K2, (p4, p2tog, p2, yo, p1) 4 times, k2.

Row 11: P2, (k2, yo, k1, k2tog, k4) 4 times, p2.

Row 12: K2, (p4, p2tog, yo, p3) 4 times, k2.

Row 13: P2, (yo, k7, k2tog) 4 times, p2.

Row 14: K2, (p2tog, p6, yo, p1) 4 times, k2.

Row 15: P2, (k2, yo, k5, k2tog) 4 times, p2.

Row 16: K2, (p2tog, p4, yo, p3), 4 times, k2.

Row 17: P2, (yo, k4, sl 1, k1, pssso, k3) 4 times, p2.

Row 18: K2, (p2, p2tog tbl, p4, yo, p1) 4 times, k2.

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LACE PATTERNS

PART 1

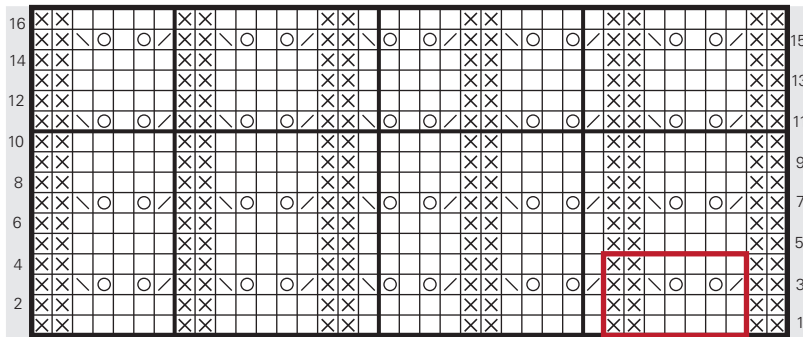
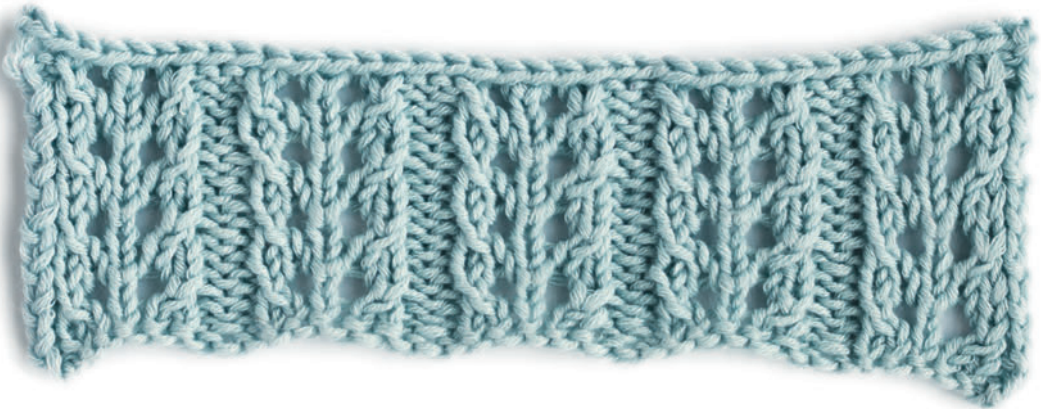
For the most part, lace knitting consists of making yarnovers and corresponding k2tog decreases, so the stitch count remains consistent throughout even as the pattern made by the stitches shifts and changes. Sometimes, however, we need more yarnovers to shape the piece—for example, on edges with waves or points—and other times, we need to knit three stitches together and put a yarnover on each side.

In this section, I've collected 40 different lace designs, explained with symbols, short descriptions, and charts. Some of the patterns occur in ribbing, others in edgings, but most can cover an entire surface. You'll find these patterns used in Part 2, and you'll be able to see how varied these lace patterns look, whether they're knitted over a large surface or only a decorative detail in a piece.

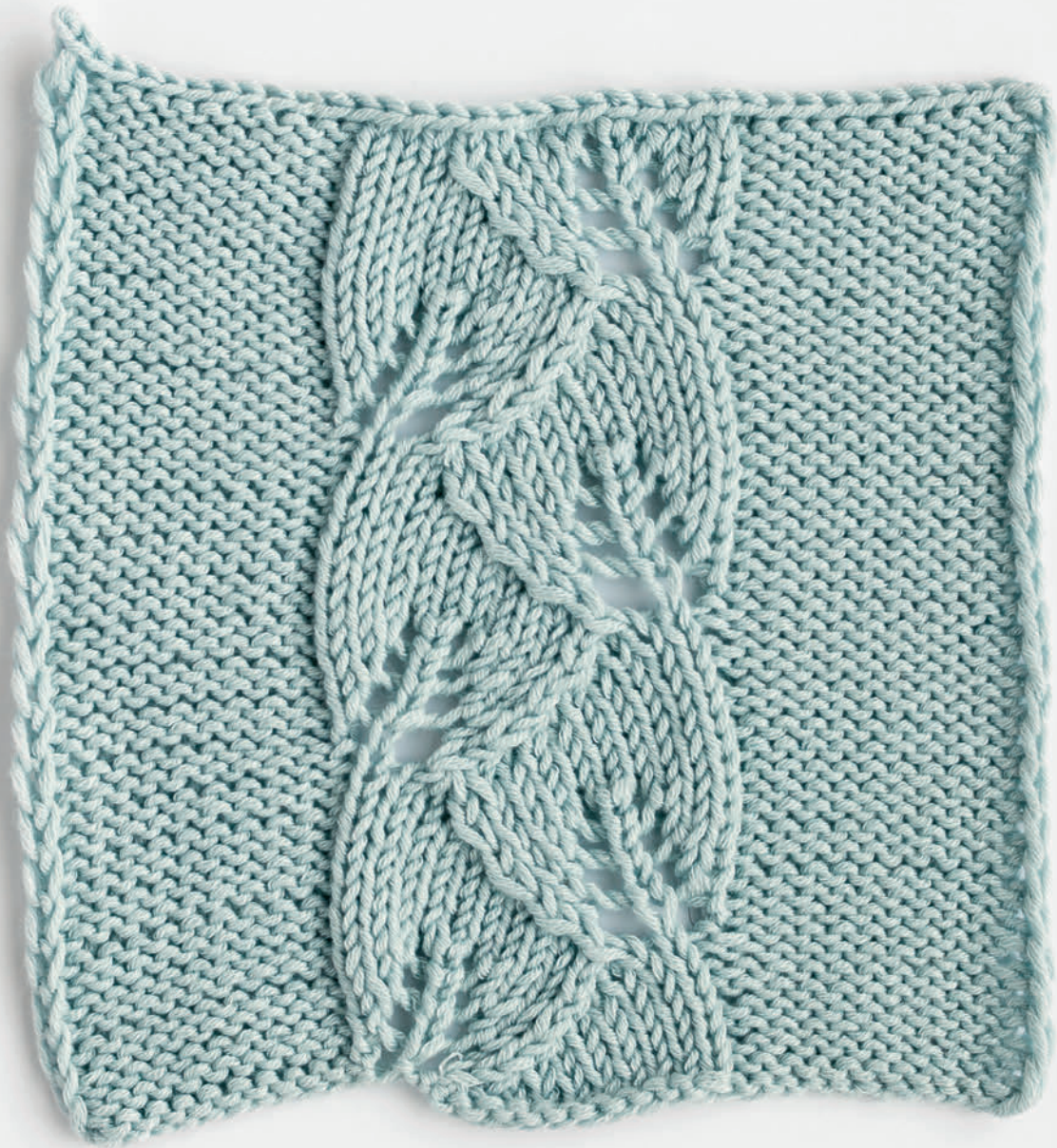
My hope is that you'll be inspired to make your own designs, and that you can create lovely new pieces with the help of the different patterns you'll find in this book, composed from several charts or simply rearranged to suit your taste.

NO. 1 FLOWER BUDS

I cast on 37 stitches for this sample. The chart shows 5 repeats across and 4 repeats in length. One repeat consists of 7 stitches and 4 rows. On page 15, you can see how this design looks before and after blocking.



- Knit on RS, purl on WS
- Purl on RS, knit on WS
- S1, k1, pss0
- K2tog
- Y0



NO. 16 THE SACRED TREE

I cast on 3 stitches and then gradually increased to 63 stitches before decreasing back to 3 stitches. Because this pattern is so large, I divided the patterning over Charts 1 and 2. **NOTE:** The decreases/reductions in stitch count occur on the wrong side on Chart 2. One stitch repeat varies from 3-63 stitches; there are 120 rows per repeat. This pattern is used for the Sacred Tree Coverlet (see page 137). The charts are on the next two pages.











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YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO OPENWORK

- Dive into the history behind eye-catching lace knitting techniques.
- Review the fundamentals of chart-reading, blocking, and choosing your tools and materials.
- Explore 40 exquisite sample patterns to help you get started, with clearly photographed swatches and easy-to-read charts that make lace knitting a snap.
- Exercise your newfound mastery with 30 gorgeous designs for garments, accessories, and furnishings—from socks, scarves, and hats to napkins, pillows, and curtains.

