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# NORDIC KNITS

with Birger Berge



Traditional Patterns, Exciting New Looks

First published in the United States of America  
in 2020 by  
Trafalgar Square Books  
North Pomfret, Vermont 05053

Originally published in Norwegian as *Moderne Tradisjonsstrikk*.

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ISBN: 978-1-64601-034-9  
Library of Congress Control Number: 2020943910

**Photographer:** Tove Lise Mossestad  
**Cover Design:** RM Didier  
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**Translation:** Carol Huebscher Rhoades

Printed in China  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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# PREFACE

When I launched my Instagram account in 2016, I never thought it would become such a large and important part of my life. When I had to decide on a name for my account, my first thought was something knitting-related, but I decided against that; I was afraid it would be too pretentious. Besides, I wasn't sure whether my account would end up dedicated solely to knitting, and I definitely didn't expect it would become as big as it has.

The solution was to use my own name. My parents had astutely given me a short and alliterative name, easy to remember and certainly good enough for Instagram. And my parents also probably deserve the biggest thanks for the existence of this book. I was always different from my brothers, and from most of the other boys I knew growing up, and they accepted that fact early on. It was never a problem for them that I liked dolls, or that I liked to wear skirts, or that one of the finest things I owned was a little apron with small hearts on it.

When I was old enough for it, I was allowed to learn to sew and knit, activities I loved the moment I tried them. At school, this became a problem; I was outed and was often bullied. It wasn't exactly "cool" to be able to pull up the bobbin thread on the sewing machine, and I'd probably have had an easier time of it if I'd been good at soccer and sports instead. But I continued on my own path, and the love and acceptance of my parents and my brothers made me confident enough to be comfortable being myself. For example, the most popular elective in my final year of junior high school was moped repair, but I chose to crochet a tablecloth instead. Looking back, I'm very proud that I made that

choice, because I can remember vividly how nervous I was about it and how much flak I got for it.

So my interest in exploring creativity and handcrafting techniques was well-established at an early age. It became even more important to me going forward, during and after university—much of what I studied and my work in later jobs has been theoretical and data-based. It isn't just about creating lovely, warm, practical clothing; there's a tactile beauty to knitting, and being able to create something with my own two hands. The tradition of handcrafting matters to me in more than one way. Not only is it important to me to know that I'm part of Norway's knitting history and culture, it's also a deeply personal presence in my life. I've always loved to create, whether on paper, with fabric, or with yarn.

Although my Instagram account is mostly knitting aesthetics and projects, I hope that many knitters have gotten to know me better through it. But there's something special about the process of creating a book, knowing people will buy it and hold it in their hands. I've been working on it for a long time, and the patterns are, in a way, a part of me.

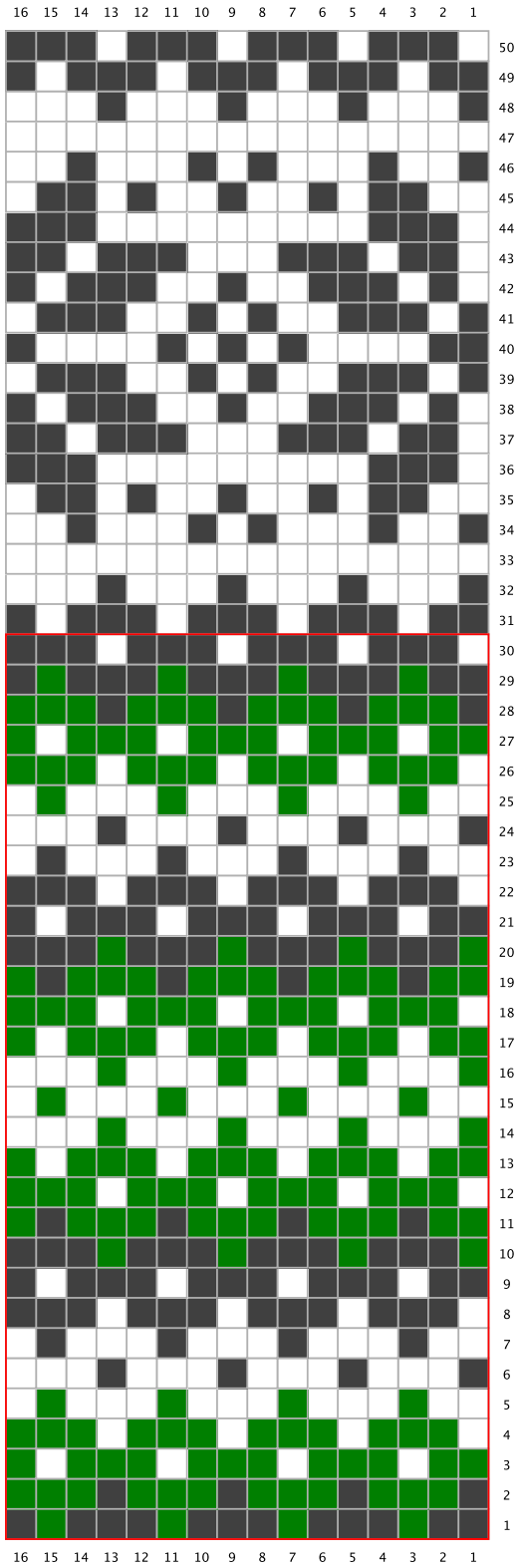
I can only hope that as you look through the book, you'll like the patterns and be inspired to knit some of them. The best thing about designing patterns is the opportunity to encourage others to knit them and bring them to life in their own way.





Bergen, April 2019  
*Birger Berge*









-  Light Gray-Yellow 402
-  Dark Brown 422
-  Olive 476
-  Repeat for body/sleeves

























## TRADITIONAL NORWEGIAN PATTERNING Meets Modern Knitting Design

**Birger Berge** is a study in apparent contradictions: He's both a trained historian and an Instagram star—a trend-setting contemporary designer, and at the same time deeply passionate about traditional patterns and their origins. Berge was taught to knit as a child by his mother and grandmother, and for him, handcrafts have become a source of comfort and creative energy, and a well of endless inspiration. Now, he blends his own distinctly modern style, a love of contrasts and dynamic color combinations, and the classic beauty of Norwegian patterning in this collection of stunning knitwear designs.

### Inside, you'll find:

- ✦ Eye-catching and varied knitting projects, including sweaters, cardigans, scarves, hats, mittens, and home décor and accessories.
- ✦ Striking, wearable garments for everyone, featuring timeless motifs in vivid colors and compelling combinations.
- ✦ Beautiful full-color photographs, easy-to-read charts—and Birger Berge's characteristic attention to detail and flair for composition, indulged to the fullest.

\$24.95 USD  
ISBN: 9781646010349



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