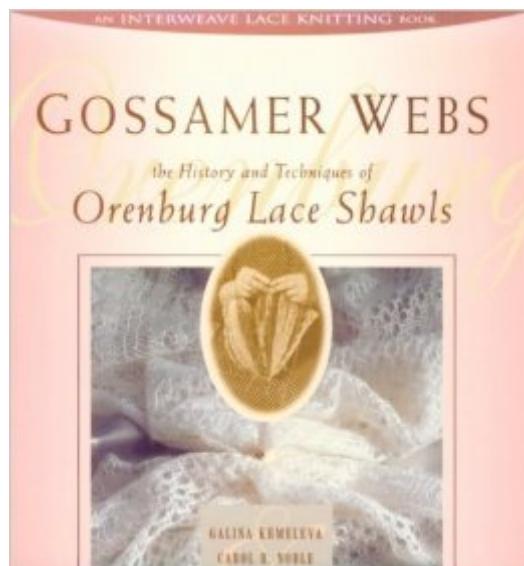


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Gossamer Webs: The History And Techniques Of Orenburg Lace Shawls



Synopsis

Readers are led step-by-step through the history and techniques of creating beautiful and rare Russian heirloom shawls with this detailed guide.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (16 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

While all lace knitters are familiar with Shetland lace, this book will take you to less familiar territory and introduce you to women who have been carrying on the tradition of glorious lace for a few hundred years. While as much an introduction to the microculture of Orenburg knitters than a "how-to", the authors nevertheless succeed in stirring the creative juices with page after page of pictures of absolutely gorgeous shawls. Some directions are written out, some are in chart form. Recommended for the experienced lace knitter.

My problem with the book is pretty small. For the most part I think it is a very beautiful and special book. The shawls are beautiful and the text is interesting. My only problem is that the instructions for the full-size shawl are a little iffy in points, like telling you to knit in the "corner stitch" without once ever explaining this maneuver. Mostly a beautiful book, though

There are directions here to knit Orenburg-style shawls, but unless you are an experienced knitter, you may find that the instructions are a bit frustrating. Orenburg shawls look a lot like Shetland cobweb lace shawls (but which came first? Orenburg shawls are mentioned in writing at least back to the beginning of the 18th Century.) The technique starts with an edging, then corners are turned and the body of the lace shawl is knitted together with the side edging. The best part of this book is

the history and story of the life of the Orenburg knitters, who even today support their families by knitting gorgeous works of art out of handspun silky mohair yarn. This book is a must if you are a lace knitter.

This book is extremely detailed in the art of knitting Orenburg Shawls. There are charts for basic patterns used in the traditional shawls and at the back a full shawl is charted for practice knitting Orenburg Lace. There is even a small sampler shawl you can knit to learn the techniques of the full sized ones. A great book, necessary for any lace knitter.

First, as an inspiration, this book rocks. Just opening the pages makes me want to knit amazing lace. The problem comes when one tries to actually use the book as a set of instructions. There are few if any coherent patterns and the instructions are very tough to follow. I am a very experienced knitter and feel tremendously disappointed that such a beautiful book holds so little substance and useful advice for actually producing the garments it showcases. If you want some really great patterns check out the ravelry website for cobweb lace. There is lots there.

This book explains a lot about the history which is why I purchased the book. I have the newer smaller book - with the patterns and sample - I am so happy to have this book in my collection.

I loved being able to read the history of Orenburg shawls and I am looking forward to knitting something from this lovely book. A must buy for a serious experienced knitter.

This is a great work on the history and techniques used in the Orenburg region. It is not a pattern book though it has the traditional lace components shown in it. If you wish to learn history and techniques here they are. If you want to learn to knit Orenburg Lace get Galina's DVD on Orenburg Knitting, if you want to process and spin your own fine Gossamer Thread, get her DVD on Spinning A Gossamer Thread. There is also a pattern guide available to help you create a triangle, square or rectangular scarf/shawl, prior knowledge of Orenburg Knitting(see DVD) a plus!

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