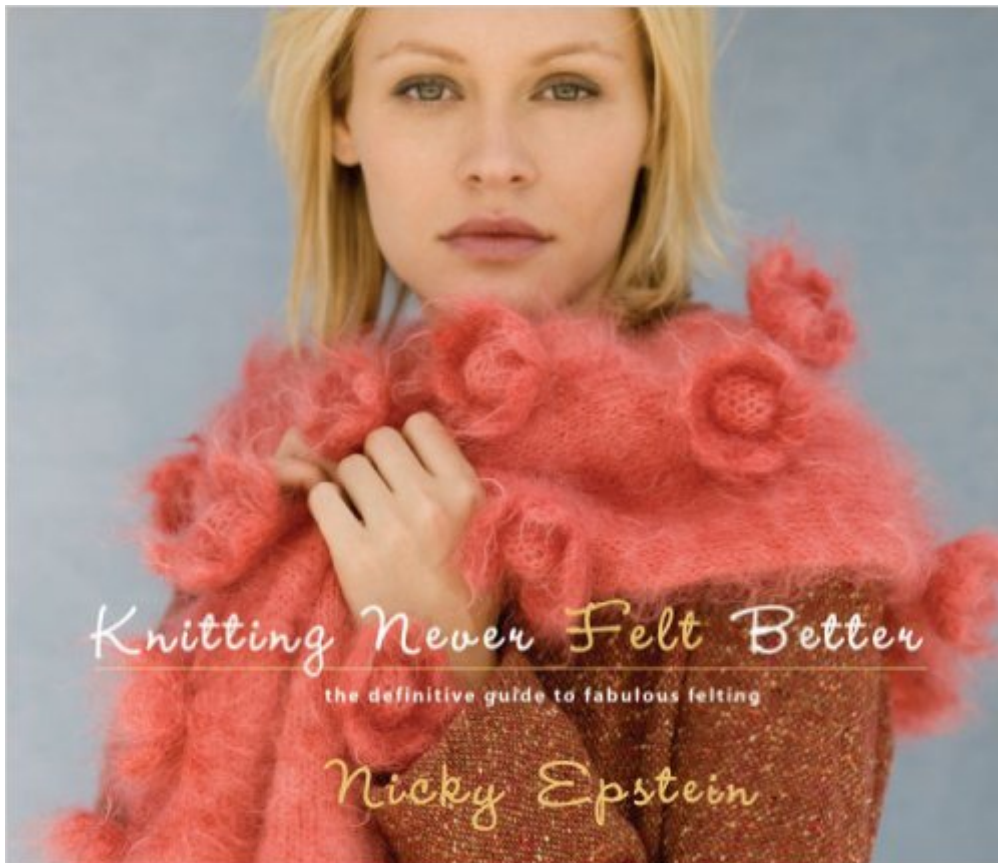


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# Knitting Never Felt Better: The Definitive Guide To Fabulous Felting



## Synopsis

With her signature style, the bestselling and beloved needlework author Nicky Epstein offers the best guide to felting. Using ten chic garments and more than 150 stunning sample swatches as examples, she covers the top techniques for turning wool yarn into vibrant and dense textures. Before and after shots show how different fabrics react to the process, and there are patterns, stitches, and techniques for lace, mosaics, cables, plaids, checks, and quilting. Create bobbles, appliqués, and ruffles; combine yarns; and use clamps, marbles, cords, braids, and more to form three-dimensional shapes in the felt. Epstein also presents her unique ideas for transforming old clothes and accessories, using one sweater to demonstrate many design possibilities. An array of attractive home décor projects completes the collection beautifully. A Selection of the Crafter's Choice Book Club.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Following in the footsteps of her bestselling series on edge treatments, Nicky Epstein now lends her signature style to felting. In *Knitting Never Felt Better: the definitive guide to fabulous felting*, Epstein, a self-professed "felting freak," provides more than 150 before and after swatches and a variety of patterns using felting techniques and fabrics. The first twenty swatches show how various fibers (wool, alpaca, cashmere) and fiber blends react to the felting process. Epstein then illustrates how lace, cables, various colorwork methods can be incorporated into felting to produce unique results. As with her previous guides, the swatches are large and the photographs show details

clearly. Each group of swatches is knit in the same color, enabling the reader to focus on the stitches rather than having their eyes distracted by the yarn color. What raises this to the level of an exceptional guide are her trademark touches. An entire section is devoted to dimensional felting described by her as: "performing a magic trick: A piece of plain, flat stockinette stitch takes on a three-dimensional quality. You perform this sleight of hand by inserting a shrink-resistant object into the piece before felting." Epstein then takes this technique and uses beads, embroidery and felted leaves to create grape clusters and 3-D flowers, as shown on the cover of the book. The final third of *Knitting Never Felt Better* is dedicated to the special touches knitters associate with Epstein's work: appliques and embellishments, as well as templates for decorative items that can be cut from felted wool (a great way to use up swatches and felting mistakes!) and tips on transforming old clothes into felted toys, baby items and accessories. Throughout the volume, Epstein incorporates helpful tips from her readers and she even polled sixty yarn shop owners to create a top ten list of favorite yarns for felting. *Armchair Interviews* says: If you've ever contemplated felting, this volume will quickly indoctrinate you into the addictive realm of felting.

Here's the dish about the book. 1. There are great before and after felting photos in many different stitch patterns including lace. Even if you do not want to felt the pattern you can see what it looks like without felting. 2. There are before and after pictures of simple stockinette stitches in a variety of yarn. 3. You are told how many times to wash the wool to get to the felted look you want. 4. Dimensional felting is one of the major sections of this book and the author suggests several options for tools to use for dimensional felting. To me this was the most innovative and inspirational portion of the book. 5. The book is beautiful just to look at over and over again. Caution-If you are a beginner many of the patterns will require the guidance of a more experienced knitter. Like her previous books, it is an inspirational book to help you design; not a pattern book. Another reason it may not be for the beginner knitter.

As an experienced knitter/felter, I looked over this book uncertain that it would have much to teach me. Boy, was I wrong. Like her "Edge" series, this book is mostly about techniques and applications in the form of swatches and stitch patterns. This book has sections on basic felting and different fiber types, shibori style and dimensional felting, cables and mosaic patterns, all with swatches that show before and after felting. She has some patterns for garments and other felted items, and while I'm not sure all are for me, all are creative and beautiful examples of the techniques described in the book. If you're just looking for a book of patterns for felted knits, this is probably not the one for you.

If you are looking for one to spark ideas and demonstrate stitch patterns you might not have thought to use on felted items, this book would make a great addition to any knitting library.

Nicky is all about the details! I thoroughly love how she swatches - she takes various patterns and designs and shows them both knitted and knitted & felted. Felting is more art than science - and I think that there are more basic books available out there to get you started - but as always, Nicky "kicks it up a notch" with her inventiveness and vision. She is the best at creating definitive guides - regardless of the technique. The photos are lovely. There are several good patterns. Epstein inspires creativity and fearlessness. This is a great book to add to the knitting library.

I've loved Nicky's previous books, both for their ideas and production value. This book is also beautiful to look at--I bought it just for the scarf on the cover. But then I was very disappointed to see that there really isn't that much inside this book. The idea of dimensional felting is interesting, but just how many pages of scarves with nuts and marbles wrapped inside them prior to felting does one need for inspiration? There are some beautiful stitch patterns shown here, that are then ruined by felting. If you are a dedicated felter in need of something a bit different and lack confidence in creating your own designs, this book is for you.

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