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Nicky Epstein Knits For Dolls: 25 Fun, Fabulous Outfits For 18-Inch Dolls



Synopsis

Designer, author, teacher, and knitting celebrity Nicky Epstein has created a stylish delight: 25 playful, fashion-forward patterns for 18-inch dolls. The enchanting pieces range from classic to chic and include everything from tops and pants to dresses skirts, and coats— even a lacy princess gown! Adorable accessories (hats, headbands, scarves, purses, mitts, and socks) complete this cutest-ever wardrobe of Nicky Epstein originals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nicky Epstein is a prolific knitwear designer, the author of numerous bestselling books on knitting, and a popular teacher who travels nationally and internationally to lecture and give workshops on knitting technique. She has created designs for many yarn manufacturers, and her work is frequently published in knitting magazines, including *Vogue® Knitting* and *Knit Simple*. In 2005 she received a prestigious award from The National NeedleArts Association, and in 2006 her work was featured in a retrospective fashion show at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City.

The photos and ideas for the projects are great but I was disappointed with this book. The most popular 18" doll is American Girl but the doll used for the book was a Madame Alexander doll. This doll is 1" smaller in the hips and shoulders so if you knit the patterns as is some of the clothes do NOT fit the American Girl doll. Five women in my knitting group bought the book and we've started knitting some of the outfits. We've discovered errors in some of the patterns. Don't know how many more we'll discover as we work our way through the book. Went to the publisher's website and discovered some of the errors had been posted. I emailed them about another error and that has been posted as well. Visiting the publisher's website is an eye opener. Their page of corrections to patterns in their books is incredible. Can't believe they publish books without testing the patterns from the "proof" or whatever it is called before publication. Another comment from my knitting group is about the yarns used in some of the outfits. We would prefer a yarn type or weight be listed as opposed to a specific yarn especially if it is a specialty yarn. It would be easier to substitute if you wanted to as some of the yarns are quite expensive. Fine if you are knitting a project for yourself but not exactly suitable to make for a child to play with.

I love the original, stylish designs in this book, and I would buy it again, BUT...I'm glad I'm an experienced knitter. I've made three projects and started a fourth. All four have had serious gauge problems. I know it says to check gauge, but I'm a very accurate knitter, and the gauges don't even match the yarns' manufacturers' recommendations. We're talking at least two needle sizes difference. One pattern had to be seriously modified to get it small enough. Some of the yarns are difficult to come by. I finally found a place online to get two specific yarns, and after waiting six weeks for a backorder I cancelled the order and bought generics locally. The yarn for the "Glitters" project costs \$89 online, plus shipping -- for a doll dress! I don't think I'll make that one!!!! The "Skulduggery" project shows the sleeves with two different stripe patterns (a different one on each sleeve in the photos), and the chart shows yet a third variation. Take your pick! The publisher's website doesn't show a correction. But even with all these problems, I've pre-ordered her crochet book for dolls, due out this fall. I hope I'll manage. My crochet skills aren't nearly as advanced as my knitting ones :-). One more thing: The photo props are really cute. I wish there were a resources list so we knew where to get them. I did find the black chain boots online. Very cool.

My wife is the knitter for whom this book was purchased and here are her comments: "So far I have finished 3 items from the book and look forward to making several more. This is my first Nicky Epstein book and all the outfits look very nice, but I wish that more space had been devoted to back

views of all the outfits, not just the five on the back cover. I would also have found exploded drawings of the project to be helpful, especially if length and width of the completed piece is included, so that needed changes can be made more easily. In addition, it would be helpful if the difficulty level of the project and the weight designation number of the suggested yarn were included in the directions. (Quite often a yarn is discontinued by the time one goes to knit a particular pattern.) "

These designs are imaginative...but SO MANY ERRORS IN DIRECTIONS...and NO ONE cares...not the designer, not the publisher...when I buy a knitting or crochet book, I am paying for directions...and accuracy so I can make them. First of all, these are made to fit Madame Alexander dolls...NOT American Girl..which no one tells you. If I only want to look at pictures of the designs, I can go to Ravelry...if I buy the book, I want to know how to make it...and so sadly, this same problem exists with all Epstein's books... :-((

This book has the CUTEST patterns! I am a beginning knitter, and I thought this book might give me a chance to learn different techniques on smaller pieces - e.g. less frustration; quicker results. The patterns run from simple to advanced and offer good tips and instruction on doing the different stitches, so it's sort of like taking a course. My more advanced knitting friends were enchanted, and we all picked the skater outfit as our favorite! However, few of us knew how to do charts, so while the book is good for beginners, it's also good to stretch more experienced knitters. However, BE WARNED...if you buy this book, it will eventually be very costly!! Here's why: I thought I would just learn to knit using this book. Then I realized I would want to try the clothes on a doll - DUH! I haven't had a doll in 50 years! So, of course, I had to have a doll. I'd known about the American Girl Dolls, and I thought I'd get one of them. When I started googling dolls, I remembered the Sasha dolls from the 60's. They were gorgeous. That led me to the German Gotz dolls. They were even better than Sasha or AG dolls. So, I bought one - it was a little more expensive than the AG dolls, but now, she needs shoes, other clothes, maybe furniture, etc. See what I mean? In my "research" on dolls, I've learned about the AG size and the "slim body" dolls. Mine is a slim body, so these clothes should fit, since I usually crochet and knit tighter, but be forewarned about the size differences. It would be nice if this info were given in this book, but you can Google "doll clothes patterns" to find a blog that shows how to measure dolls to get the best fit for each body type. Then you'll be all set to knit away. Enjoy!

I am an experienced knitter, so I was able to adjust the sizes needed to make these outfits for an American Girl doll. I think a new knitter may have a few problems. But the designs are really cute. I wish Nicky would put out a book with correct sizing for AG dolls.

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