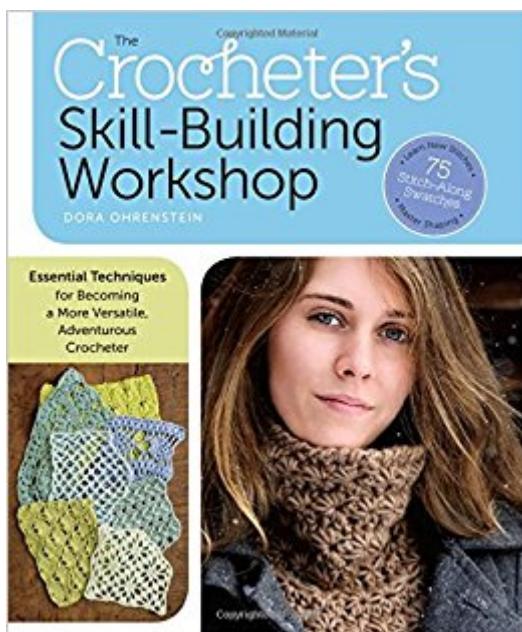


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# The Crocheter's Skill-Building Workshop: Essential Techniques For Becoming A More Versatile, Adventurous Crocheter



## Synopsis

From choosing yarns, shapes, and styles to finishing off your project with flair, Dora Ohrenstein shows you how to take your crocheted creations to the next level. This fun guide includes more than 70 stitch-along swatches that teach specific crochet techniques and five projects — a hat, shawl, neck warmer, bag, and scarf — that put your new skills to use. With a variety of stitch patterns and shaping types explained, you'll be inspired to build upon Ohrenstein's creations and develop your own sophisticated designs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Practical Lessons for Inspired StitchersJoin the creative revolution in crochet! Dora Ohrenstein, a master of innovative crochet strategies, presents patterns for more than 75 swatches, each one designed to delve into the nitty-gritty of crochet. As you advance through the project lessons, you'll gain a solid understanding of counting stitches, changing tension, working in the round, and increasing and decreasing in complicated patterns. You'll hone your technical skills and gain the confidence to tackle sophisticated projects and reach new creative heights with your own designs.

Dora Ohrenstein is a leading crochet designer, author, and teacher. She is the author of *Top-Down Crochet Sweaters* and *The Crocheter's Skill-Building Workshop*, which is being

hailed as a must-have resource by the crochet community. Ohrenstein's chic and innovative designs appear regularly in Interweave Crochet, Crochet!, Crochet World, Vogue Knitting Crochet, and many other print and online magazines. She is the co-editor of Crochet World's "Talking Crochet" column, and she has written for various other publications about crochet history, international traditions, and techniques.

The Crocheter's Skill-Building Workshop is a fairly comprehensive book aimed at beginners, advanced beginners and intermediate crocheters, as well as crocheters that have worked off written patterns and are ready to start designing or adapting patterns to fit their own style. Full color photos with step by step instructions that are well written make it easy to follow, and the stitch patterns are in both international crochet graphs and American style text patterns. It starts with a review of the absolute basics, but also shows variations on those basics. For example, most beginning crochet books don't cover using a long chain instead of a turning chain to start a row for example. This one does, and shows how it works and explains the pros and cons of each method for starting a row. It also covers extended stitches and how to join in colors. Then it gets into various stitches, including specialty stitches like loop and knot stitches. Again the photographs and instructions are very clear. I've always had an issue with knot stitches, and these instructions taught me how to do them. A chapter on shaping and construction shows how stitches build and how to increase and decrease neatly. It also covers how to check gauge and why that's so important. Another chapter covers crocheting in the round using finished rounds, spirals and how to taper a spiral done with taller stitches. Advanced shaping covers all those edges- to create sharp darts, smooth sleeves and other details found in well-crafted clothing. It explains how to shape with textured or openwork stitch patterns. It covers internal shaping as well in pattern. Textured stitches are where crochet gets really awesome for me. It's the difference between boring and interesting for projects I make for my monochrome loving husband. A full chapter covers things like popcorn, cables, crocodile stitch and crocheted ribbing. Color crochet has the standards like stranded crochet and color checks, but it also has some pretty spike stitch techniques and an easy 2-color diamond that's a lot of fun to stitch. Finishing techniques include seams, blocking and everything you need to do to put it all together and finish it. After that, there are a few projects so you can practice the skills learned. Textured stitches, internal shaping and ribbing are used in projects like a slouchy hat or a star stitch cowl. Complimentary copy received for review on my craft blog. This is my honest opinion.

This is an excellent book for new and seasoned crocheters. I have been crocheting for more than

thirty years and I found many interesting suggestions and exercises for changing my methods so that my finished pieces come out looking great. I have bought many crochet books over the years and this ranks in the top ten. The book goes into detail about a number of subjects - it discusses yarn, how it is made, what it is made of, and what it is best suited for in terms of finished crochet pieces. The author then goes on to talk about tension, hooks, and each type of stitch and how a crocheter can improve themselves. The examples were interesting as were the projects. I received this temporary digital advance reader book from the publisher through Netgalley.

Incredibly Complete! This book is indeed a skill-building workshop contained within the covers. Well written with lots of colorful photos. Clear, concise pictures and diagrams are included. There is some "assumed" skill in the level of the reader. The only unfortunate part of the book is that pattern reading appears 200 pages after it has been used. If the reader needed help with that skill and indeed patterns appear at the beginning of the book shortly after yarn selection, why make them wait 200 pages to explain how to read the patterns? this skill should have appeared close to the front of the book. There are little tidbits of historical facts tossed into the mix and that makes for great reading. Treat yourself or someone you love to a wonderful workshop and improve your skills! Enjoy! NetGalley and Storey Publishing provided an advanced review copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

Easy directions. Great photos.

This is the book I wish I had when I started crocheting! Dora Ohrenstein really dives into the gritty, technical details that most other "how to crochet" literature glosses over. Some of the topics Ohrenstein covers I had painstakingly figured out on my own over time, but most of the subjects were a pleasant foray into new territory. This book reads like a textbook, which is a GOOD thing. She goes into the how AND the why of each and every topic she covers, which gives you the tools you need to make adjustments to an existing pattern (something I'm all too familiar with), or to create your own patterns. She also has several pages devoted to the math that's needed for measuring gauge and shaping, and makes it easy to understand for the "math phobic". I view crochet as math with yarn, and I loved that Ohrenstein stressed how important math is to beautiful crochet. I bought the book because I was interested in the "Advanced Shaping" section, but even the "Fundamental Techniques" chapter was full of new and useful information. I would highly suggest

this book to anyone who crochets, whether they're just starting or have years of experience.

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