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# Knitting With Icelandic Wool



## Synopsis

One of the best known types of yarn, Icelandic wool or Lopi is used to make sweaters that have a long-lasting and classic appeal. This 100% pure wool yarn is lighter, warmer, and more water-resistant than yarns from elsewhere, as the long-coated native Icelandic sheep have developed over time to ensure as much protection as possible from the harsh northern climate, giving the wool its special properties. With over sixty-five gorgeous designs, there are patterns for a range of garments for the whole familyâ•from variations on the traditional Icelandic yoked sweaters to smaller projects such as wooly hats, socks, and scarves, to stunning lacy garments and other more contemporary designsâ•all knit in different weights of Icelandic wool. For all of the patterns complete step-by-step instructions are paired with easy-to-follow lace and color knitting charts, and all the stitches, techniques, and abbreviations you needâ•including how to work two-color knittingâ•and more are in the back. Beautifully photographed in Iceland and created in collaboration with Iceland's largest wool manufacturer, Ástex, the book includes a brief history on the emergence of the Icelandic Lopi sweater and the Icelandic wool industry. Knitting with Icelandic Wool is an exceptional resource for all knitters looking for new designs or traditional styles with a modern twist to make in this uniquely lightweight bulky yarn known as Lopi.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Knitting with Icelandic Wool is a classic book of Icelandic patterns utilizing Lopi yarn. The Lopi Sweater is a classic and one that almost every knitter has made at one time or another. One of the greatest things about a Lopi sweater is that it only has two small seams. Another great thing about it is its warmth. The book opens with the origins of Icelandic knitting and the wool industry in Iceland.

Thereafter, follow patterns, all fairly familiar to me from previous Lopi books. Some of the more special patterns in this book are Aftur, a typical Lopi pullover, Alafoss, another classic Lopi Pullover, and Ar Tresins, a classic Lopi Pullover. All of these are knit with different types of Lopi yarn. There are knits for men, women, children and babies. While most of the patterns are classic, there are several that are more modern. One of these is Endureisn, designed in 2009. It is multicolored throughout and not just on the yoke and the bottom like most Lopi sweaters. It is quite beautiful. Fadmur is a lace shawl-swater, also quite different from classic Lopi patterns, knit all in white. The book also contains patterns for hats, mittens, socks, dresses and leggings. While many of the patterns in this book are so similar to Lopi patterns that there is not really a need to have both sets of patterns, this is a wonderful book in its own right. I love having knitting books so that I have a lot of patterns to choose from. I suggest that the knitter look at The Best of Lopi and this book and decide of which one of the two better fits their needs. Both are wonderful knitting books.

I got to learn a lot about the local wool by handling six days a week. I was around for the author's company's rebuild. This woman's designs I believe are a part of that successful process. I have noticed they have a new designer the past couple years. In my opinion Vedis is sorely missed as she was able to blend the old ways with the new ways seamlessly and without struggle. Pro 1) Well known, admired and superb author in this field 2) Gives an old time look in a contemporary world and the blending of the two is fantastic 3) The selections with the main focus on sweaters is smart 4) Some of the best designs and features in the dresses 5) Showcases Icelandic wool in a way that will appeal to non-Icelandics 6) Vedis' work has always been easy to follow and this is no exception Cons 1) Binding -- All craftbooks should be made to lay open

Knitting with Icelandic Wool is the English translation of *PrjÃ naÃfÃ Ãr Ã-slenskri ull*, an Icelandic pattern book published in cooperation with *Ãstex*. The book opens with two historical essays, "The Origins of Icelandic Knitting" and "The Wool Industry in Iceland." Both are interesting for those of us who are needlecrafts history nerds. After the essays, the book dives into the pattern collection, which includes 25 garment designs for women (mostly sweaters, with two dresses, two vests, a skirt, and a slip), seven sweaters for men, seven unisex sweaters, 10 children's sweaters, and 19 "miscellaneous" patterns (mostly accessories for women and children, along with a dog coat and a girl's dress). Each pattern is presented with a full page photo, often in a beautiful outdoor environment, an introductory paragraph, a detailed materials list and sizing information, and a note about construction. Pattern instructions then follow. In most cases, a flat picture of the item with

measurements is presented (instead of a schematic) along with one or more color charts. The book ends with a short Information section, that provides brief instruction on stranding, swatching for gauge, care of Icelandic garments, and finishing/detailing techniques. In general, the photography is wonderful, the patterns are beautiful, and the instructions are written clearly. The book is a hardcover, and feels and looks like a classic that you will return to time and again for wardrobe staples. I would have liked to read more about the unique properties of the Icelandic wool, or about the process used for felting (since it is mentioned that Icelandic sweaters are sometimes felted). The book is clearly marketed towards intermediate knitters and there is no skill level listed on any pattern. Back in January, I had a chance to get my copy autographed by Vedis Jonsdottir at Vogue Knitting Live. I shared with her my concern (fear?) about making one of these beautiful designs, and she reminded me that Icelandic sweaters are simpler to make than they appear. Most of the instructions for these patterns are only 1 page long. Many are constructed in the round in stockinette stitch with minimal shaping. While most of the patterns feature exquisite colorwork, it is typically confined to the yoke or trim. I think it would have been helpful if the translated version included a page of tips for working in the round and colorwork prior to the introduction of the patterns. While I agree with Vedis that the projects are straightforward in terms of construction, I think that the apparent complexity might scare away some knitters who could be easily converted with just a page or two of information. All of the patterns are quite striking, but I was particularly drawn to Bláklukka, Dropar, Fjara and Vormorgunn, Keðja, Klukka, Kria, and Tjófarnir. There was even a sweater that my boyfriend could appreciate, Strax, because of its masculine simplicity. (Ravelry members can view most the patterns on the book's source page.) Most of the patterns in this book are available elsewhere, as they are part of the large Istex pattern collection. As I mentioned, though, there is something wonderful about having these patterns collected into a sturdy hardcover book, that can lay flat while you are working on one of the classic projects. I recommend this book for knitters who like the classic Icelandic sweater look, who enjoy (or who want to venture into) stranded colorwork, and for those looking for a pattern book that will outlast the latest trends in knitwear. Full disclosure: A free review copy of Knitting with Icelandic Wool was provided by St. Martin's Griffin. Although I accept free products for review, I do not accept additional compensation, nor do I guarantee a positive review. My reviews are based entirely on my honest opinions.

I owned the European version of this book for over a year and it is fabulous! A friend brought it to me from Iceland and I joke with him, next time bring an entire suitcase full, we'll make a fortune selling it stateside. I've already made five of the patterns and wish my fingers moved faster so I

could make them all!! I highly recommend getting your knitting fingers on this book. Even if you don't knit, it is informative or just lovely on the coffee table.

I was very excited to see this book come out. I do not have a pile of Lopi issues, and this collects many of the best designs in one book. I am very happy with it, and I'll finally be able to return the Riddari pattern to my friend since I don't need the loan anymore!

I bought several books on Icelandic Knitting prior to my recent trip to Iceland. This was my second favorite. Icelandic Handknits by Helene Magnusson is my favorite. I left on my trip with several patterns from this book that I wanted to buy yarn for while i was there. I have knitted several of the patterns since my return and have not been disappointed.

This is a stunning book: the first part introduces you to the history of knitting in Iceland, showing it as a part of life and national imagination. The wealth of patterns that follows show you how Icelandic knitting can be a part of your life and your imagination.

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