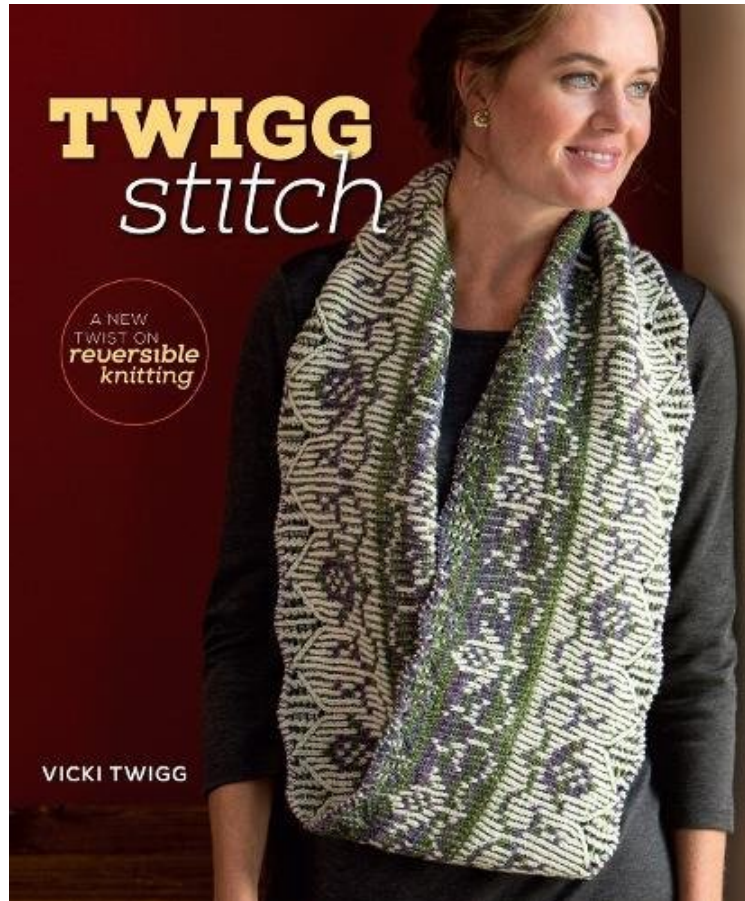


Twigg Stitch: A New Twist on Reversible Knitting

Vicki Twigg

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#607105 in Books FW MediaModel: IP-88223 2014-11-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.27 x .50 x 8.65l, 1.83 #File Name: 159668822X168 pagesAdd elegance and grace to your knitting projects with Interweaves FavoritesThese designs are modern and sophisticatedMade in United States | File size: 78.Mb

Vicki Twigg : Twigg Stitch: A New Twist on Reversible Knitting before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Twigg Stitch: A New Twist on Reversible Knitting:

119 of 122 people found the following review helpful. Not a new techniqueBy MaryThe back cover of Vicki Twigg's book, Twigg Stitch (Interweave Press, Nov. 2014), advertises a "brand-new" technique "invented" by the author. Twigg says,"I haven't found this technique anywhere in the literature, so I've named it Twigg stitch" (p. 7). On her website, it's listed as patent pending.Unfortunately, "Twigg stitch" is not a new technique, but a very old, specialized form of double knitting. For a clear explanation of this technique, which June Hemmons Hiatt calls a "Double-Faced" technique, see Hiatt's The Principles of Knitting (revised edition, February 2012widely available on library and bookstore shelves, and easy to find since it's 2 inches thick), pp. 341-43 and 441-52. Hiatt explains that "Double-Faced Fabrics" are made with the "Interwoven Pattern" technique: "On any pass across the needle, a yarn is used for all stitches of the same color in both sets of interspersed stitches. Because the yarns travel back and forth between the two sides of the fabric, they are interwoven throughout their length and width and are no longer separable . . ." (p. 341).

Hiatt notes, "While the Double-Faced technique is rarely seen in contemporary knitting except in its simplest form, it is an old one, and there are beautiful, finely wrought nineteenth-century examples" (p. 342). Hiatt's footnote refers the reader to museum examples in Montse Stanley's book, *Reader's Digest Knitter's Handbook*, 1993 edition, p. 172, which has photos of 18th and 19th century double-faced items, and Stanley's explanation of this old technique: "Spanish double-sided jacquard was sometimes combined with single rib, from which it derives. If not stretched, either side of single rib resembles stockinette stitch. If a contrast yarn is woven in tightly on every row (behind the knit stitches and in front of the purl stitches), the rib becomes permanently compressed and looks like two pieces of stockinette stitch stuck back to back. Patterns are created by repeatedly swapping yarns." Stanley explains that these patterns "may be identical, totally different, mirror images, or colour-reversed" (p. 168). Hiatt gives clear, detailed instructions for both ways to knit this Double-Faced technique: holding two yarns at a time, or just one yarn at a time. Twigg only gives instructions for holding two yarns at a time, which requires the ability to maintain even tension on both yarns throughout the work. To interweave the two sides of a basic Double-Faced fabric, the two contrast-color yarns are crossed after every stitch (as Stanley explains, "behind the knit stitches and in front of the purl stitches"). If the yarns are consistently held in the same positions (for example, the purl yarn over the right index finger and the knit yarn over the right middle finger; or the purl yarn in the right hand and the knit yarn in the left hand), the yarns will automatically cross in alternate directions when both yarns are moved between the needle tips to the farside or nearside of the work, prior to either knitting or purling a stitch with one of the two yarns. Twigg has renamed this same process of interweaving the yarns: Twigg calls it "Twigg-knit" or "Twigg-purl" ("Tk" or "Tp"), even though there is nothing different about the way Twigg makes knit or purl stitches, or the way Twigg crosses the yarns. Hiatt gives instructions for two ways of charting the three different types of Interwoven Patterns for Double-Faced fabrics. Since Twigg only uses the simplest form of the basic Double-Faced technique, her 1x1 or 2x2 rib charts are adequate. Hiatt's charting methods are essential for knitting, as well as developing, the more complex Double-Faced patterns (relatively few patterns are currently available). These are just a few examples of why Hiatt's book is literally worth its weight in gold. For an outstanding collection of Double-Faced and other reversible stitch patterns (tweeds, cables, herringbone patterns, etc.), see Jane Neighbors' book, *Reversible Two-Color Knitting* (1974, 1982). Neighbors' remarkable book is currently out of print, but it's well worth tracking down library or used copies for the 150+ original stitch patterns. Although Twigg and Neighbors have different ways of working (two yarns at a time vs. Neighbors' one yarn at a time), some of the resulting patterns are similar. For example, Twigg's "Color Play" (p. 154) and Neighbors' "Reversed Stripe Variation" (1974 edition, p. 55) both produce the same two-color vertical stripes on one side and two-color horizontal stripes on the other, but "Color Play" requires knitting and purling with both hands, while Neighbors' version is knit with just one yarn at a time. It's easy to translate from one way of working to the other, thanks to Hiatt's detailed comparison of the two methods (pp. 442-48). Twigg's book has 10 projects: 1 pair fingerless mitts, 4 hats, 4 scarves, and 1 shawl. Her stitch dictionary includes simple lace and cable patterns (with a different solid color on each side), and "color-switch" patterns (with contrast-color yarns repeatedly swapping sides to create color reversal patterns). To knit "color-switch" patterns, Twigg alternately adds and omits extra twist "to prevent the yarns from becoming irretrievably tangled" (p. 42). Other swatches include examples of what Twigg calls "mistake stitch": stranding the yarn on the outside (rather than interweaving it between the two fabric faces) to create decorative effects. Hiatt illustrates this same adaptation of twined knit (which she calls Double-Faced Twined Knit) with a stranded diamond pattern, and explains that "the two colors can also be used to make vertical stripes and checkerboard patterns that create lively, optical effects" (p. 343). Twigg's "mistake stitch" swatches illustrate the same 3 twined knit patterns Hiatt describes. Twigg says, "Basic Twigg stitch produces a two-color rib in which each side is a different color. It looks much the same as two-color brioche . . ." (p. 7). They're both based on ribbing, but they produce very different fabrics. "Basic Twigg stitch" is compressed widthwise by the tightly interwoven single rib, and when stretched lengthwise, the interwoven strands are hidden, so both outer faces of the resulting double thickness fabric look like smooth stockinette stitch. This compressed, Double-Faced structure was ideal for knitting color patterns into the garters, braces, and folding wallet shown in Stanley's 18th and 19th century examples, which required strength combined with the elasticity and shape retention of a tightly interwoven single rib. By contrast, two-color brioche rib produces a wider gauge (fewer stitches per inch than usual), with knit below (or yarnover-slip) stitches that create loft and a more open, single-thickness fabric which drapes well. Brioche can be worked with either the "knit below" method, which eliminates the yarnovers and slip stitches, or the yarnover-slip method. Since both brioche methods use only one yarn at a time, there are no problems with maintaining even tension or managing twist to avoid tangled yarns. For an outstanding collection of original brioche stitch patterns, see Nancy Marchant's two books: *Knitting Fresh Brioche* (SixthSpring Books, 2014), with 75+ patterns and 12 projects, and *Knitting Brioche* (North Light Books, 2009), with 60+ patterns and 25 projects. Compare swatches of Twigg's "Mothwing" or "Diamonds" patterns, for example, to any of the extraordinary patterns in Nancy Marchant's *Knitting Fresh Brioche*, and compare Twigg's "Shells" pattern to Marchant's "Half Brioche Stitch Fan" (p. 137 in *Knitting Brioche*). Thanks to Marchant's clear charts and instructions, it's easy to translate her yarnover-slip method to the "knit below" method if you prefer. For more brioche patterns and techniques, see Nancy Marchant's articles in *Vogue Knitting: Holiday 2014* (brioche lace),

Fall 2013 (syncopated brioche), Fall 2011 (brioche cables), Winter 2010/11, and Winter 1992/93. Twigg has focused renewed attention on a specialized form of double knitting, and has developed some new patterns for this very old technique. Hopefully, Hiatt's exceptionally well-written, detailed instructions for two ways to both knit and chart all three types of Double-Faced Interwoven Patterns will encourage more knitters to develop new patterns for this fascinating technique, preventing it from falling back into obscurity. 86 of 90 people found the following review helpful. It's a bit like double knitting By Georgina Toland It's a bit like double knitting, it looks a lot like brioche. It's the Twigg Stitch, a fully reversible new kind of knitting that some hardcore knitters are finding difficult to classify. For the moment I'm placing it in its own category, with cross-references in double knitting and brioche. (I used to work in a library, can you tell?) As new exciting as the stitch may be, most of the projects in the book are less than inspiring: the obligatory beginner scarf that looks like something from Harry Potter, a big bulky infinity scarf that could smother a cat, a few fugly hats, and some shawls that look all kinds of wrong because of the thickness of the material. The only two projects that I'd wear in public are: The tweedy Lake Shore Wrap (p. 54) and the brioche-y looking Double Diamond Beanie (p. 98). And possibly, if it was very cold and someone double-dog dared me: the Snowflake Earflap Hat (p. 104). But this book is not about the projects. It is about increasing your knitting arsenal. One third of the book is dedicated to carefully showing you how to do the basic Twigg stitch, while another third is a detailed stitch dictionary. All in easy to see full color photos. For that, I give it 4 (out of 5) stars. 16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. and easy to follow By L. Martindale I haven't been able to review any of the actual patterns yet, but I did go through the beginning and knit a sample swatch of the twigg stitch. The directions are written well, and easy to follow. The technique is probably not for the novice knitter. You need a good understanding of knitting techniques. The book has a pattern stitch glossary over and above the stitch patterns used in the project patterns, very nice. If you like double knitting and brioche, you will like knitting with this technique, which is similar. My sample swatch with the basic twigg stitch, resembles brioche, but is the same on both sides, and is a more stable fabric. Fun to knit, with lots of possibilities, absolutely worth it.

Reversible knitting like you've never seen before! Learn to create totally reversible projects with Vicki Twigg's technique! Hang on to your knitting needles, what you know about reversible knitting is about to totally change! In the beginning, all knitwear designer Vicki Twigg wanted to do was knit a two-colored ribbing without floats. What she ended up creating was an entirely new type of knitting, worked in two colors, that produces a fully reversible fabric with mirrored or completely different sides. It's truly amazing! This is not brioche stitch: there are no slipped stitches, yarn-overs, or knitting into the stitch below. This is not double-knitting: the work is not slid to the other end of the needle to rework a row, and there are no pockets in the fabric. Vicki's technique, Twigg Stitch, results in a knitted fabric with a different color on each side and allows you to create two completely different fabrics on either side of your project. Unique and fascinating as the technique is, it's not difficult to master; if you have basic knitting skills you'll learn it quickly. Vicki visually walks you through the basics steps in Twigg Stitch: casting on, handling yarns, increasing and decreasing, changing colors, and knitting in the round. Plus, she provides a stitch dictionary of basic to more complex color patterns, textured patterns, and cables, and shows how to manipulate stitches to create a fabric that resembles lace. To demonstrate this amazing technique, Vicki shares 10 great projects that range from simple reversible hats, mitts and scarves to reversible lace shawls. These are projects that will have your knitting friends asking, how did you knit that?! It's Twigg Stitch!

"The knit work in this book is beautiful and I love the idea of reversible knitting. The patterns are beautiful as well, and the instructions are well-written and easy to follow." --Knits Reads and s "...this is so much more than just one stitch, it's more of a new technique for reversible double knitting. I was so impressed with the book--not just the patterns but all the detailed how-to's and the stitch dictionary. A really great output!" --Wendy Knits "The fourth and final chapter of the book is a stitch dictionary, giving you detailed instructions for a wide variety of variations on the Twigg stitch. This section will inspire designers for years to come. In some ways, this is the most valuable part of the book because it opens the door to so many possibilities." --My Central Jersey's "In Stitches" Column "Vicki gives lots of instructions and pictures to explain how to hold everything, how to maneuver your yarn, how to cast-on, etc. The instructions were great! She shows you how to hold your yarns in separate hands, or both colors in your right hand, or both colors in your left hand." --Banana Moon Studio "Knitters searching for a new method of playing with color will want to explore Twigg's patterns, then try their hand at some of the additional stitches shown in the stitch-dictionary section of this action-packed book." --Yarn Market News "Colorwork knitters will appreciate Twigg's creative contribution to knitting literature the most, but those new to colorwork may find the Twigg stitch surprisingly accessible." --Library Journal "Twigg Stitch by Vicki Twigg is a new technique using familiar stitches with terrific results." --Hartford Knitting Examiner