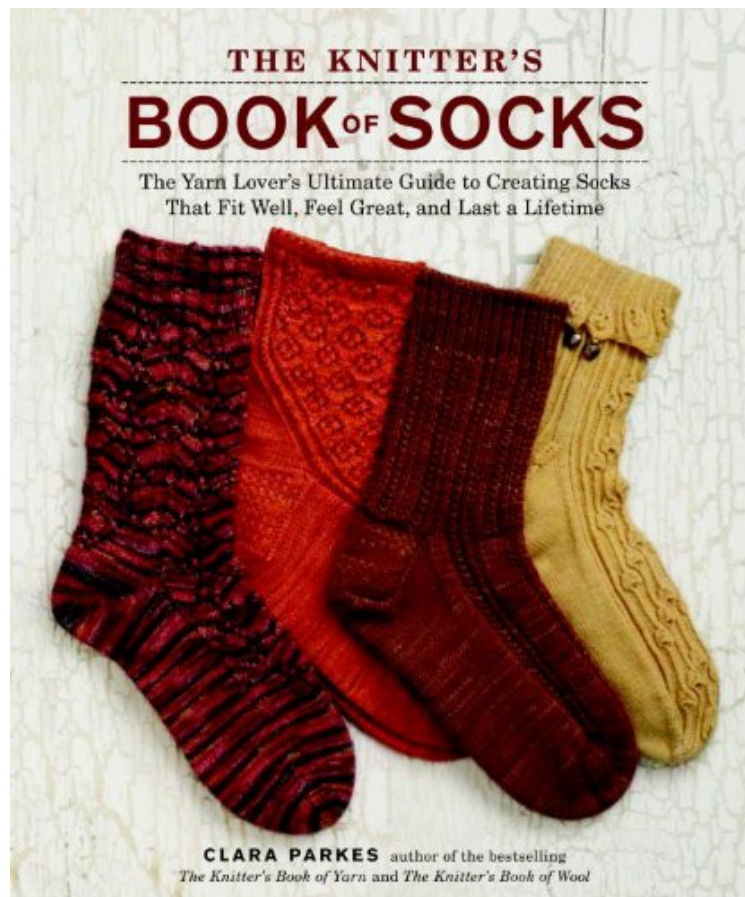


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Clara Parkes

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Clara Parkes : The Knitter's Book of Socks: The Yarn Lover's Ultimate Guide to Creating Socks That Fit Well, Feel Great, and Last a Lifetime before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Knitter's Book of Socks: The Yarn Lover's Ultimate Guide to Creating Socks That Fit Well, Feel Great, and Last a Lifetime:

39 of 41 people found the following review helpful. A Grand Book - One Every Sock Knitter Should Own By Fairbanks Reader - Bonnie Brody I love to knit socks and I just love a good sock knitting book. I can't think of anyone who could do a better job with this book than Clara Parkes. Her past two books are winners and I look forward to her blog, Knitter's Review, regularly. The book is a bible for anyone who knits socks or has wanted to try knitting them. It starts out with what a sock needs - lasting elasticity, brute strength, and moisture management. It then goes into Fiber Foundations - the language of sock fibers, protein fibers, silk, plant fibers, regenerated cellulose, and synthetic fibers. Then we come to the Yarns - Getting the right twist, singles, two plies, three plies, four and more plies, s-on-s cables,

true cables, and core-spun. The knitter is then shown *Stitch Tricks - Tricks for Elasticity and Tricks for Strength*. Then come the wonderful patterns that Clara has put together and which I'll share with you a bit later. There is a section on Resources - Caring for Socks, Foot Length Tables, Materials Resources, Standard Yarn Weight System, and Recommended Reading. Last, but not least, is a section on the pattern designers. Common questions for the sock knitter are answered such as Nylon Reinforcement or not, what kind of toes should be knit, how do we get the right fit. Clara goes into tricks for making the best socks. My favorite one is the part on how to use ribbing for elasticity. As she says, "A well-wearing sock will hold snug to your foot, minimizing any slippage in the shoe, so that foot, sock and shoe can move as one." The patterns start out with the easiest and move on to the more advanced. My favorites are the following: *Hickory* designed by Jane Cochran. It looks a bit like a basketweave pattern and is knit in a lovely red out of fingering-weight yarn. *Firefly* is designed by Jennifer Hagan. These are cabled socks, again in a red hue. The cables are separated by columns of purl stitches. *Buddleia*, designed by Marlaina Bird, is the type of sock I'd love to knit but haven't tried as yet. It's knit in classic white using size one needles. The yarn used is Yak, with 15% nylon for protection and strength. *Veil of Roses* is designed by Anne Hansol and are knit in silk and merino in a blue and yellow variegated colorway. The pattern is lace. I immediately fell in love with Jayme Stahl's *Isabella d'Este* orange lace socks with lace cuffs and stockinette feet. They are luscious. *Kensington Socks* are designed by Nancy Bush in a lovely off-white. She utilizes left and right crossing stitches, "the elaborate fine lines of lattice-filled diamonds, zigzagging columns, and overlapping cables - are all optical illusions created much more easily than you'd think by using traveling stitches. *Hummingbird* is designed by Sandi Rosner and is for all the beautiful variegated colored yarn in your stash. It's lacy and self-patterning. Both Ann Budd and Karen Alfke designed 'indestructible' socks which are also aesthetic. The photos in the book are clear and the patterns are easy to read. Most of them utilize charts which are not my favorite way to read patterns but I know I'm in the minority and it's just a matter of time till I'm turned around to a chart-user. This is a grand book, one every sock knitter should own. The resources are great and I know I'll be turning to this book again and again. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ms. Parkes does it again By FreshSharkEggs This is a great informative book, just like all the other books by Ms. Parkes 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful book, bought as a gift for my knitter ... By No name Beautiful book, bought as a gift for my knitter sister. She loves it.

A sock is a work of wonder. No other knitted garment has as many structural demands or endures as much wear and tear. The humble sock must defy gravity, suffer the confines of our shoes, and endure being trampled on all day long. All too often, the root cause of a sock's triumph or failure is the yarn itself. In *The Knitter's Book of Socks*, Clara Parkes shows you how to knit socks from yarn up, following the sock yarn life cycle from its foundations to its final moments on a proud foot. By understanding a sock's basic needs—elasticity, strength, and moisture management—you'll learn how to play with these tools like building blocks, confidently combining fiber, twist, ply, pattern, and clever stitch tricks to construct your perfect pair of socks. To help put these principles into practice, *The Knitter's Book of Socks* also offers 20 fresh, original patterns from today's sock-design luminaries, including Cookie A, Cat Bordhi, Ann Budd, Nancy Bush, Anne Hanson, and Melissa Morgan-Oakes. The socks presented here run the gamut from simple knit-and-purl combinations suitable for beginners to innovative designs with lush colorwork, swirling cables, and delicate lace. Understanding the elements of yarn is the first step on every successful sock knitting journey. With this book as your guide, you'll learn how to make any sock yarn shine and love every pair of socks you knit. From the Hardcover edition.

The Knitter's Book of Wool and *The Knitter's Book of Yarn*, Parkes educates knitters on the ins and outs of fiber and makes minutiae interesting. Here, she describes the qualities that make yarn suitable for sock knitting, explores the different types of fibers that can be used in sock yarn, and analyzes stitches and stitch patterns commonly used in sock knitting. There's also a beautifully curated selection of sock patterns, including new designs by some of the biggest names in the field. Though the instructions are clear, the majority of the patterns are best suited for those with sock-knitting experience. An essential addition. -Library Journal About the Author A lifelong knitter, Clara Parkes has spent more than 10 years immersed in the world of yarn and fiber as the publisher of *Knitters.com*. A frequent contributor to *Interweave Knits* and *Twist Collective*, she is also the author of *The Knitter's Book of Yarn* and *The Knitter's Book of Wool*. She lives on the coast of Maine in a farmhouse full of yarn.