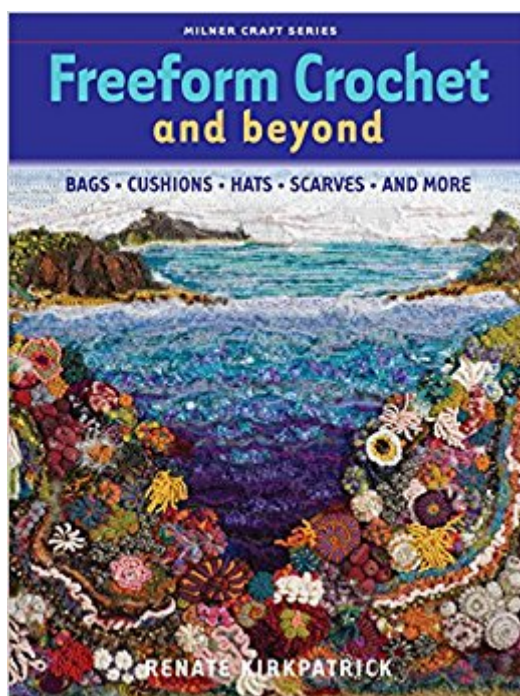


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# Freeform Crochet And Beyond: Bags, Cushions, Hats, Scarves And More (Milner Craft Series)



## Synopsis

Most crochet books have you follow a pattern, make so-many stitches of such-and-such a kind, and arrive at a predictable result. In freeform (also known as scrambling), it's anything goes: mix different stitches and yarns, trust your own creativity, and produce original works of amazing art! Freeform Crochet and Beyond shows how to make various stitches and use them with simple templates, then add novelty patches, floral designs, stars, tassels, and other decorations. It also explains how to achieve special effects with felting, beading, and other techniques. For inspiration, a beautifully illustrated gallery section showcases spectacular bags, hats, scarves, shawls, and other items. Beginners and experienced crocheters alike will welcome this irresistible introduction to the fascinating possibilities of freeform.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Issue 2 Start your freedom journey with this brilliant book, full of friendly advice, inspiration and patterns for motifs. Your personal creativity is encouraged at every step and even beginners will be inspired to make hats, bags, scarves, cushions and much more. Simply Crochet

Born in Germany in 1951, Renata Kirkpatrick grew up in windy Wollongong and in 1974 settled on the Sunshine Coast with her husband Glenn where they operate a small commercial Signwriting and Screenprinting business. Renate can't remember a time when she wasn't exploring the fibre arts. She has experimented with pottery, exhibited and conducted workshops in papermaking, and has won a Fibre Art Award in rag rugging. From 2002, as crochet made its huge resurgence,

Renate's extensive knowledge in Traditional Tunisian (Tricot), Jacquard, Crochenit (double-ended hook) and more recently Freeform techniques has led to her conducting monthly workshops and weekly classes.

I want to make one thing very clear, this is not a book of crochet patterns. If you're looking for a book of patterns, move along, nothing to see here. What this IS is a book of inspiration. Inspiration to move beyond pattern following, and create your own, fantabulous confections of yarn, texture and color. It gives you: Great directions on how to create motifs, using crochet, both regular and tunisian, knitting and felting. Clear instructions on how to join them together. Instructions for how to assemble a garment, hat or bag using a commercial dressmaking pattern or a pattern / form that you created. Suggestions for beading and embellishment. Tons of gorgeous photos of the author's own beautiful creations. But what it doesn't give you is clear, concise project instructions, that is not what this book, or freeform crochet is about. I don't even put this book away any more. I'm constantly referring to it, trying new motifs and patterns, and sometimes just gazing in awe at the pictures. Since purchasing Freeform Crochet, I've completed 2 freeform handbags, and 3/4ths of the way through a third, and have the beginnings of another 3 or 4 projects in my head. I'm constantly seeing color combinations that I want to explore in another project! If you're ready to move beyond patterns and let your creativity and imagination run wild, buy this book. Buy it now! Have you bought it yet? What are you waiting for? UPDATE 7/5/2013: It's now been over 4 years since I bought this book, and I still absolutely love it, and freeform crochet. I hadn't done freeform in a couple years, but I recently learned to knit, and it inspired me to explore how I could add it to my projects. My obsession has now ramped up to full-bore. Here are a few things I've learned in my freeform adventures: \* Keep Going! I'd find myself not being happy with how something was going, and I'd just stop because I was "doing it wrong". I finally realized there is no way to do it wrong, and even if I'm not totally happy with the finished project, the process was fun, and the next one will be even better. Plus, I have ALL THE YARN, so I need to stop hoarding it. \* One thing that I felt wasn't fully covered in the book was joining. I tend to make motifs rather than big patches, and don't join as I go. What I've found works for me is to weave in (or crochet over) all ends as I go. Then I take the nice, neat motifs and pin them to my template. When I have enough to cover my template in a configuration I like, I flip them all over, re-pin, and sew them together with a long piece of yarn - preferably a rough & grippy wool. Then I fill in any gaps with popcorns, domes and surface crochet as she describes in the book. \* If you're on Ravelry, there are some great freeform groups that provide amazing inspiration. They're doing some amazing freeform stuff in Russia! \* This one is

more of a personal taste issue, but I've found that with novelty yarns, less is more. A little accent here and there does the trick.\* Keep Going! Totally bears repeating. Now let's get ready to scruuuuuumbly!

Here's the deal -If you have a yen to be inspired, and already have significant experience and ability with crochet, you'll most likely find this book to be a good buy. You could also use the motifs for one of the most beautiful afghans or scarves you've ever done. That might help an moderately-experienced crocheter just to get into the idea of the form. If you have training in color theory, a particular photo might remind you about color combinations you haven't used in a while. But the teaching section on color won't add to what you already know. I suspected that before purchasing it, so it was no problem for me. Now, for the creative part of it: this just won't be to the taste of someone who prefers technique to design or the notion that it's your springboard to work on your own. Don't expect patterns for sweaters; instead, you'll make and design a pattern yourself. Start with a vest instead of a coat, for instance. And if you're not comfortable with abstract expression in paintings, you likely won't care for this book. If you want to let loose after working a lot of standard patterns, this book is quite good for that. A lot really depends on your own personality and approach to your work. There's nothing wrong with being someone who wants and needs strong guidance; it's just that this won't give you that. Moreover, it's not for using up odds and ends the way a granny pattern does. It's for crocheters who are willing to buy new yarns specifically to play with. I usually don't buy \$20 - \$35 skeins of yarn, but I do have several single skeins of fibers such as eyelash yarn, lots of chenille in different colors, mohair, angora, fuzzy, extra-bulky, metallic, and so forth. Normally speaking, I won't go near a non-natural yarn, but you have to give up that thinking if you really want to go a little nuts with free-form crochet. Of course you can always make huge piles and ruffles out of regular DK, sock yarn, four-ply strand natural fibers, etc. But you won't be doing your imagination justice that way. Hunt eBay, second-hand stores, classified newspaper ads, Craigslist, sales at your local shop or on line, and what not. Often yarns are being discontinued and there are only one or two skeins left. You'll regularly find deep discounts at online stores in particular. Looking at all these places, I found \$40 yarns for \$5 - \$8 bucks or less. Often what's left are weird colors; that's really to the better. You aren't going to use all your nutty yarn stash in one garment, wall-hanging, or afghan. You might well be judicious about such a design because it makes the stranger ones more eye-catching. I believe that those who call children "creative" are wrong. Kids are very imaginative, but they don't have the experience to be creative. Being creative in an art form means breaking the rules, and you must know the rules and have followed them to

break them. It would be very hard for a person without a strong imagination to get pleasure out of this book's ideas. If you can't get back to your early imagination - your old "child - mind" - don't bother with this book. But if you're willing to crochet with abandon, and have the skill-set to do it, I think you'll like this. There are other free-form crochet books on , and you really should continue your learning by studying a bunch of them. A terrific source of ideas can be found in studying old crazy quilts, which were designed the same way. Rock piles, flower gardens, row houses, scrap yards, and all sorts of things can give you ideas for textures, shapes, color pathways, and anything else within eyeshot will work. I also recommend books which aren't billed as "free-form crochet," too. Jan Beaney's books for embroidery are great for inspiring texture and color design. Look at "New Dimensions: Book 9;" "No Stone Unturned;" "Embellish and Enrich: Book 20," and others she's done with Jean Littlejohn. Another good embroidery book that inspired me is "The Art of Embroidered Flowers," by Gilda Baron. When looking inside it, be sure to click on the "Surprise" button to see more pages. I've gone on long enough, I fear. Hope this review is helpful. Good luck using your imagination!

There are hundreds of tips in the technique of Freeform Crochet. The illustrations are fantastic. They are clear and the instructions are easy to follow. From this book, my very first woman's vest was completed in record time. It is beautiful; and, unlike any designer vest I've found yet. I recommend this book to my friends, and to anyone who has the desire to create beautiful crochet garments from scratch.

I love this book. My friend let me borrow it a couple of weeks ago and I decided that I must have my own copy and just ordered one. I was DROOLING looking at the amazing creations of art depicted in this book and couldn't wait to start creating something of my own. I've done lots of crocheting before, but had never done anything with crocheted flowers, spiral and other motives and this book has wonderful instructions on those. AND it has diagrams, which are a MUST for me since I am a visual person and find it a lot easier to follow a diagram than written instructions. I have now finished two freeform hats and a purse - thanks to the inspirations in this book. I agree with other reviewers though - this is not a step-by-step pattern book, so if you are looking for that, you may not like this book.

When I found this book, I sort of sighed and went, "Ah, THIS is what I wanted..." I like to crochet. but I hate patterns. I recently started making and selling finger puppets I made without patterns but I

never thought to take that freeform crocheting into something BIGGER and more complex so this book just makes me happy. And now I'm spinning my own supply of yarn, I know I can use all my sample spins and one-offs all together in a unique and wonderful creation that is all my own. Freeform crochet will liberate your inner-artist and make your hook fly.

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