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## **DomiKNITrix: Whip Your Knitting Into Shape**

*Jennifer Stafford*

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**Jennifer Stafford : DomiKNITrix: Whip Your Knitting Into Shape** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised DomiKNITrix: Whip Your Knitting Into Shape:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Surprise!By RosyI would never have touched this if I hadn't been able to thumb through it in a bookstore first, but I did--and hey! It's FUN. It's also a GOOD BOOK. The whole Goth theme of the layout and the haunted, shadowy models is clever, even if it's not to your taste. The author is clearly very talented; her grasp of design is stunning, way over my head.The real surprise for me was the technique section: I was bowled over by the instruction segments and the clever way they were incorporated into the projects as sequential "lessons." My one whine would be that there weren't enough sequential pictures of the gnarliest techniques--damned Kitchener grafting!--and there is an occasional leap forward that leaves the reader in the dust. This is the curse of any technical writer, who already knows what she means and forgets that we are puddling along in her wake, bewildered.

It was infrequent, however, and as jaded and crabby as I am, I learned things. I'd have to agree with some of the previous reviews concerning the usual percentage of thuds--ye gods, another knitted necklace! Do they haunt me? And the star pillow, and yes, the mohawk hat, and the totally uninspired droopy handbag. However, to tell the truth, I loved the little "Bite Me" Valentine hearts--they carried the day. The Red Riding Hoodie is the jewel of the book, worth the price of admission on its own--a beautiful design. The Lone Wolf sweater is very handsome, with or without wolf--interesting cuffs, for example, which is nice. The zipper vest and the City Coat are also very attractive although the City Coat would rival a Burberry in cost for those of us who are not yarn-subsidized. Another thing that makes this book likeable is that most of these things are not limited to the nubile, elfin or wraithlike, either by size or by design. A few, yes. But the creativity backed with solid design is a very pleasant combination. In my opinion, this woman is actually what another loopy designer only thinks she is. I've actually leafed through it a few times just to enjoy the whole presentation, and I'm stacking up Bite Me pillows for Valentine's Day. Put it this way: if she writes another book, I'll probably buy it sight unseen.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I've been whipped into shape!

By Rosaflava This is not your typical knitting book, in which you often feel as if your grandmother or some friendly older woman is teaching you how to knit. This is your friend, telling you not to screw it up (in the most loving terms, of course). I love the book's attitude and approach to knitting. It's attitude has definitely challenged me to try techniques and projects that I would have shied away from before. There are complete instructions with good illustrations for all the techniques used in the book. You can use this book as a novice or expert knitter and the projects are graded according to skill level. So far, I've made a flower pin, which turned out great, and in which I got to practice a bunch of shaping techniques. I'm currently working on the Fall City Coat which is going really well and I hope to finish for this fall. I love this knitting book! And I want to make almost every project in it. I am definitely making a few of the candy heart throw pillows for my sister-in-law's dorm room next.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book has many wonderful patterns and many tips

By Miranda This book has many wonderful patterns and many tips, guidelines, and pertinent information for beginning or experienced knitters but some of the patterns are little unclear and knitters who aren't afraid to troubleshoot on the fly will do best with these patterns. This is not my first choice for anyone's first knitting experience but those who have had some under the belt may benefit better from all the little bits of experience and tricks scattered through out.

Whip Your Knitting into Shapedomiknitrix \ da-mi-'ni-triks \ n, pl -trices [US, var. of dominatrix, re: knitting] (2005): a woman who dominates her knitting; broadly: a badass knitter You have knitted your last bad piece. Let the DomiKNITrix show you the ropes. Yes, it may be painful to take the time to knit a gauge swatch, count stitches and fix mistakes. But just think of the pleasure you'll get when you knit a gorgeous, perfect sweater with no holes and no uneven stitches. Learn the rules or else. Inside you'll find a no-nonsense, comprehensive guide to essential knitting operations and finishing techniques, including step-by-step instructions for all the basic stitches used in the patterns in the book. Get your hands dirty. The book features over 20 spicy projects to satisfy any knitting appetite. For a Knitting Quickie, choose from one of the smaller projects, such as the Mohawk hat or the popular Snow Devil cap. If you want more of a challenge, try the L'il Red Riding Hoodie or the Big Bad Wolf icon sweater, The Slink or City Coat.

From Booklist \*Starred \* Mastering knitting skills requires discipline, attitude, and wit to transform a ho-hum stitcher into a badass knitter--a domiknitrix. Stafford uses the dominatrix language well and with humor in this entertaining, beautifully designed, and instructive book. A stern but encouraging teacher, she approaches knitting and designing knitwear in a way best described as punishing, but she does not expect her readers to do the same. She does expect them to take her advice and discipline their knitting. If you do, she promises results. Rip if you must. Knit a gauge or two or three until you get it right. Her advice is universally good, and she shares many useful tips. Obviously a serious knitwear designer, Stafford favors structured pieces and has included funky, form-fitting projects with broad appeal. She is a strong advocate of continental style, and some of her techniques are different from the standard instructions. This may be a difficult book to learn to knit from, since some steps are glossed over, such as how to make a slip knot; and some techniques, such as provisional cast on, could use an extra step or two for clarification. Knitters with the basics (cast on, knit, and purl) will find this a fun and highly instructional book to take them from scarf to structured clothing. Stafford's unique voice and style are the heart of the book. Unlike with many instruction books that might be flipped through, knitters will find themselves reading Stafford's entertaining prose cover to vinyl cover. Jennifer Palmer Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Jennifer Stafford runs the popular Web site and blog domiKNITrix.com, filled with knitting techniques, projects, inspiration, and attitude--knitwear for the chic and the freak.