

## BOOK REVIEW

by Kathleen Poole

### New Vintage Lace by Andrea Jurgrau Interweave Press



Marguerite Shimmons

In early 2012 I opened my issue of the Lacy Knitters Newsletter to the second page and broke the tenth commandment, the one about not coveting my neighbor's . . .lace shawl. I have wanted Marguerite Shimmons' small shawl ever since and have returned to that picture of her many times over the past two years. Now, with the release of Andrea Jurgrau's *New Vintage Lace* published by Interweave Press, my dream has the possibility of coming true.

Ms. Jargrau has taken vintage lace doilies and re-fashioned them into practical apparel such as hats, scarves and shawls. Am I the only one who belongs to LKG just to get the newsletters, drool over the intricate pieces and read lace charts over breakfast? Even though I do have lace knitting experience, the large circular items are more than I want to tackle.

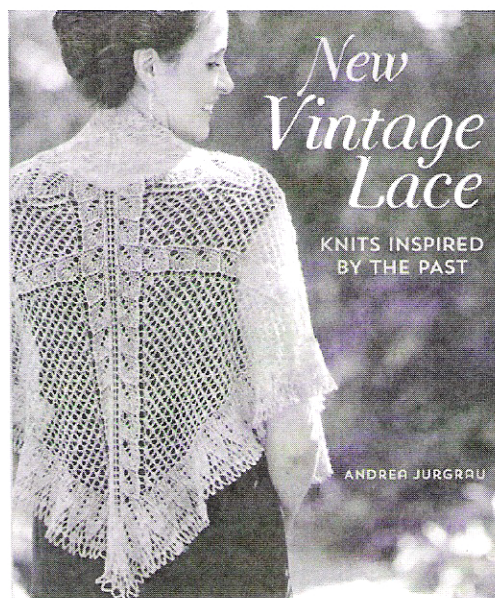
However, reading this book is like having your hand held as you begin with small, simple projects. The first group can be completed with one skein of yarn. You experience how a vintage doily pattern can be translated into a contemporary hat or scarf.

The remaining projects are divided into small shawls, triangles, squares and larger projects that progress in size and time commitment. You can work the projects in any order but if you progress in the order presented, you will build on skills you acquire as you go.

Experienced lace knitters will find large projects inspired by Herbert Niebling and other European sources. Many of these would make a magnificent Wedding Shawl for a family bride.

The basics of fiber and techniques are covered. Beads are applied to many projects with a crochet hook or by pre-stringing them, using a large eye needle or dental floss threader. The added weight and sparkle take the projects up a notch to stunning apparel.

Several small doilies go along with projects so the knitter can become familiar with the pattern and take gauge measurements. If you run out of yarn, you can frog the gauge swatch and use the yarn in the shawl. The "swatching" doilies, if you don't need the yarn for larger projects, could be used for coasters or hostess gifts.

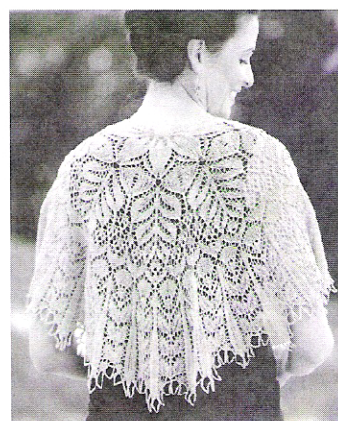


Finally, there is a tutorial on how to take a doily pattern and turn it into a small shawl. Ms. Jargrau takes a ten wedge doily and turns it into an eight wedge doily, then converts it into a shawl. A table explains increases based on various doily configurations. Next is a discussion on modifying the motifs to pleasing dimensions and the math that goes with it.

The thing that is so exciting to me, as I go through the book, is all the possibilities for shawls from the doily charts in our Lacy Knitters Newsletter. For example, the Silberaster by Herbert Niebling from Set 88 would be stunning. In set 87, A Lace Doily [D-1396] would be lovely as a shawl with a lace ground rather than the solid st-st ground.

All projects are knit in lace weight yarn and small needles. The charts are easy to read and large enough that you don't need to scan and enlarge them.

This book is an opportunity for "lurkers" and "readers only", to jump in and knit intricate lace. It's a chance for advanced lace knitters to make an apparel item that is truly lovely. There is a 1,000 yard ball of dusty pink, lace weight yarn in my inventory that will be perfect for the Kodama shawl. I can hardly wait and will send a picture in when it's complete.



Kathleen Poole