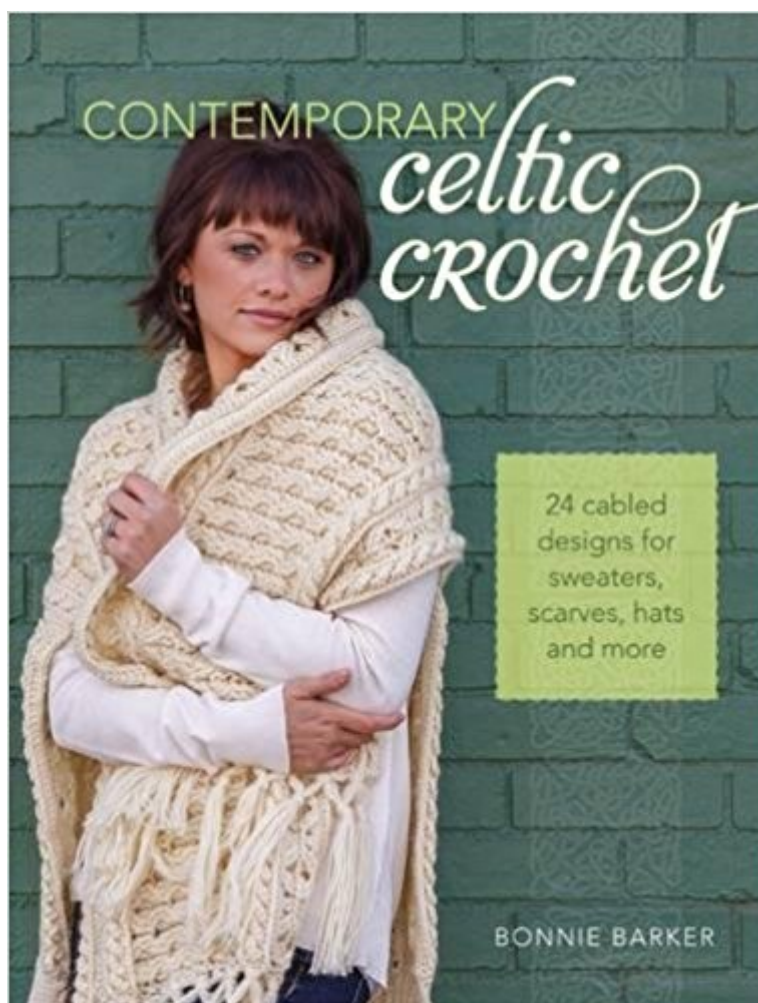


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# F&W Media Fons And Porter Books, Contemporary Celtic Crochet



## Synopsis

Learn to crochet cables! Have you ever wanted to create a sweater with beautiful cables, but you didn't know how to knit? Now, in "Contemporary Celtic Crochet," you can learn how to use basic crochet stitches to create the same stunning effect on sweater wraps, stoles, cardigans, and more. This book features easy projects, such as hats, scarves and device covers, and more difficult projects, including sweaters, wraps and blankets. Make the Hialeah Honey Baby Blanket to swaddle a newborn or create the Inisheer Sweater Wrap to stay cozy in cool weather. The Cables Meet Lace Cape is perfect for evenings out, and the Pennywhistler's Pack will let you carry your essentials on any day trip. These Celtic-inspired stitches and projects are the perfect addition to your crochet repertoire.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bonnie Barker's designs have been published by Leisure Arts, Coats & Clark, Caron and Crochet World. Her Leisure Arts publications, Noggins & Necks and Aran Afghans have sold 41,363 and 15,006 copies, respectively, and one of her designs is featured in Donna Kooler's Encyclopedia of Crochet. [www.bonniebaycrochet.com](http://www.bonniebaycrochet.com)

This book was given a bad review by someone who did NOT even own it! What a shame they could not put their money where their mouth was and purchase it first. IF they even crochet they would NOT be disappointed whatsoever! I pre-ordered this book without knowing what might be in it as for patterns if any as it did not give a great description for sure. To say that I am beyond excited with the book is an understatement ~ probably the best crochet book I have ever purchased!!! There are so many beautiful patterns, with my being partial to the wraps I plan on making all of them first then will turn to the bags, hats, scarves and blankets. The designer is most willing to help anyone out that might get stuck with a pattern, not like some designers out there. Really don't see that happening though as the front section walks you through every single st used (written instruction & in-dept photos) and Bonnie has a website that has videos of all sts she uses within her patterns. Most of the patterns are listed as intermediate, but I would say with my 50+ yrs of crocheting experience and at least 10 yrs of testing for various designers all over the world, as well as yarn companies that most of these patterns could be done by anyone with a strong knowledge of basic crocheting skills and the willingness to try new sts with the assistance of either written/photo walk-throughs or the videos!

CONTEMPORARY CELTIC CROCHET is an amazing collection of crochet designs, many of which replicate the look and feel of knitted Aran cables. There are 24 pretty patterns (ranging from cardigans to head coverings, wraps, baby blankets, and more), each marked with the necessary skill level (beginner, easy, intermediate, experienced). The patterns call for worsted weight or DK weight yarns, and for standard crochet hooks in the sizes appropriate for these thicker yarns. My favorite design is the "Aran Diamonds Cardigan" (which can also be made as a vest by leaving off the sleeves), intended for experienced crocheters. The photograph shows a seated model, so it's a little hard to tell what the sleeves look like in motion. However, it appears that designer Bonnie Barker knows how to create good-looking crocheted sleeves that are more than simple tubes!! I also love the Gaithersburg Stole, the Inisheer Sweater Wrap (shown on the book cover), and the Busking Beauty Sweater Wrap, all for intermediate crocheters. The "sweater wraps" are stoles with a back panel attached, a style of garment that Barker first encountered when visiting the west coast of Ireland. However, I would be willing to make and/or wear all of the garments and blankets included in this book. To get the Celtic crochet cable effects, you need to use some advanced stitches, but these are all explained in words, with step-by-step photos, in a 36-page "Crochet Stitch Guide" found at the front of the book. The Guide discusses these stitches, motifs, and techniques: Arrow; Baby Feet Popcorn (for big toes and little toes); Back Post Double Crochet; Back Post Treble

Crochet; Basketweave; Braided Cable; Beginning Chain; Buttonholes; Cable; Celtic Cross; Celtic Weave; Crochet in the Round; Diamond; Double Crochet; Front Post Double Crochet; Front Post Treble Crochet; Honeycomb; Knotted Fringe; Knurl (reverse single crochet); Low Back Ridge; Low Front Ridge; Popcorn; Ribbing Using Front Post & Back Post; Shadow Box; Shell with Picot; Single Crochet; Single Crochet Ribbing; Slip Knot; Slip Stitch; Treble Crochet; Wheat; and Woven. The included patterns are: Liffy in a Jiffy; Burren Braids Hat & Scarf; Pennywhistler's Purse & Pack; Jig Infinity Scarf & Headband; Blarney Blanket; Tipperary Sweater & Vest; Hialeah Honey Baby Blanket; Cables Meet Lace Cape; Celtic Carryall; Gaithersburg Stole; Inisheer Sweater Wrap; Sailboats Baby Blanket; Knockardakin Wrap; Gavotte Gigs; Aran Diamonds Cardigan & Vest; Busking Beauty Sweater Wrap; Doolin Delight Sweater Wrap; Baby Feet Baby Blanket; Kells Cabled Sweater; and Celtic Cross Afghan & Pillow. Sad to say, photos of these attractive designs are not readily available on the Internet (except for the book cover photo). I was unable to locate images with Google, by visiting the designer's profile on Ravelry, or by looking up the book on the web sites of some crafts book sellers.

I have long loved the beauty of Aran knitting and lamented the fact that I am not a knitter. I've crocheted for over 40 years and it's what I'm comfortable doing. Bonnie Barker shares in the introduction to this fabulous book that her love for these stitches led her to put together these spectacularly beautiful patterns. I am so happy she did, because I love this book. So much in fact, that I'm buying another copy to give to my sister for Christmas. Right away Bonnie reassures the reader not to "run away screaming in fear from any perceived difficulty in any of these projects." The Aran stitches all use the basic chain, single, half-double, double, and treble crochet. We are taught, in step-by-step photographs, how to combine these fundamental stitches to create the Arrow, Baby Feet Toe Popcorn, Basket Weave, Big Toe Popcorn, Braided Cable, Cable, Celtic Cross, Celtic Weave, Diamond, Honeycomb, Knurl (Reverse Single Crochet), Shadow Box, Shell With Picot, Wheat, and Woven stitches. The photographed instructions also include all the basic stitches and how to make fringe. If we get stuck, we can access Bonnie's website for step-by-step instructional videos. Each project is given a degree of difficulty, starting with Easy and increasing up to Experienced, the difficulty rating is determined by the amount of specialized stitches used in the project, the more stitches, the more difficult the rating. Bonnie recommends starting with the easier patterns, such as a scarf, and then moving on to the more advanced as we become more confident. Practice, practice, practice. I particularly liked how we are given the exact yarns used in each project. A lot of the time, I really love the color or texture of a particular yarn used in the model, and

am frustrated because I don't know what it is. Of course, we don't have to use the exact yarn shown in the projects, we can substitute another brand, by weight, and making certain it meets the gauge requirements. Some of the projects use #4 Fine, DK #3, #4 Worsted, and Bulky #5. While the cover photo shows the use of the typical Aran color, other projects, throughout the book are done in a variety of colors. In the Resources Guide, at the back of the book, the websites are given for each of the yarn companies that supplied yarn used in the book. Of the projects there are shawls, baby blankets, purse, backpack, carryall bag, afghans, scarves, headband, sweaters, vests, covers for MP3, iPad, cell phone, and even a pillow cover. Sprinkled throughout the book are a half dozen, or so, photos of the drop-dead gorgeous Irish landscape. I'd love to see Ireland in person, but for now I'll look at the photos and dream, while I'm crocheting the patterns in this book. If Bonnie Barker puts out any future Aran crochet pattern designs...I'll be all over it! I highly recommend this masterpiece. Happy stitching!

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