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## Stashbuster Knits: Tips, Tricks, and 21 Beautiful Projects for Using Your Favorite Leftover Yarn

*Melissa Leapman*

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#941206 in Books Potter Craft 2011-11-15 2011-11-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.63 x .45 x 8.741, 2.98 #File Name: 0307586634144 pages Potter Craft | File size: 16.Mb

**Melissa Leapman : Stashbuster Knits: Tips, Tricks, and 21 Beautiful Projects for Using Your Favorite Leftover Yarn** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stashbuster Knits: Tips, Tricks, and 21 Beautiful Projects for Using Your Favorite Leftover Yarn:

52 of 53 people found the following review helpful. A Stash Eradicator By Fairbanks Reader - Bonnie Brody Melissa Leapman has put together another good book with some very refreshing and good ways to deal with your left-over stash. The book contains 21 patterns and the patterns are divided by type of yarn - lightweight, worsted, and thick. Ms. Leapman reconstructs what we think about our 'stash' - "It's not just a stash, it's a personalized yarn collection". I agree with her. It's just that I often don't know what to do with my stash or exactly what's in it. Her book addresses these concerns and gives me lots of ideas. The first section discusses the need to get your yarn together and know what you have in your stash. You can't really make good use of it until you're familiar with what you have. She suggests separating the yarn by weight and if the yarn has no label, then use wraps per inch. She suggests 4 piles: super fine, light, medium, bulky and super bulky. She offers wonderful tips. For instance, multi-stranded yarn can be separated for a lighter weight yarn. Finer weight yarns can be combined for a bulkier weight yarn. She suggests cataloguing the yarn and recommends that knitters all utilize ravelry.com, a wonderful website that has a feature to help with

cataloguing. She also suggests using a yarn notebook to list every yarn you own. Personally, I'd need several notebooks! Also, it's very important to store the yarn carefully so that it doesn't get ruined. There is a nice section on color combinations. She explains the theory of color and provides different color combinations that go together. She discusses the Magic Ball Technique to get random color patterns. One cuts random lengths of yarn from one ball and a different length from a second ball. Then continue adding lengths from different yarns and wind them all together. Attach the lengths with knots. There is a section on ways to use science and math to make use of your stash. She discusses the Golden Mean and the Fibonacci Sequence. I love that this is included. Take a chance, she says. Use dice and "choose twelve colors you'd like to use in a project, and number each one." Use the dice to determine how many rows for each color. Random and mathematical - how can a knitter go wrong? Ms. Leapman states that we should be sure "that each yarn used within a project has the same laundering and care specifications." Weight of yarn should also be consistent so that gauge can be achieved. Gauge and yarn type are listed for each of the patterns and we should be sure to have enough yarn to complete the project. The patterns are very varied in type, from sweaters and shawls, to bracelets and purses. My favorites are the Greenmarket Bag in a lace pattern in fine/sportweight yarn; Mona's Little Bias Scarf in fine/sportweight yarn; Keiki Baby Kimono in fine/sportweight yarn; Sporty Stripes Sweater in Light/DK weight; Puzzle Play Blanket in medium/worsted yarn; Sausalito Purse in medium/worsted yarn; Tamara's Wrap in Medium/Worsted yarn (my favorite pattern in the book); Urban Knitster Slouch Hat in bulky weight yarn; and Bravissimo Throw in bulky weight yarn (my second favorite pattern). That's nine patterns that really called out to me. The book is an EXCELLENT resource and has enough lovely and different patterns all clearly written for me to rate it a '5'. Thank you Ms. Leapman.

35 of 35 people found the following review helpful. No One Will Know You Used Leftovers! By Lynne E. Partial skeins and balls, left over from larger projects, are the bane of every knitter's existence. The yarn is too good to throw out, but there's not enough to actually make anything. However, this book solves the problem, with its many patterns for projects so well designed that, as author Melissa Leapman says, "no one will ever know these projects were made from leftovers!" The attractive projects include (1) a charted "jigsaw puzzle piece" baby blanket; (2) geometrically-patterned bangle bracelets; (3) striped mittens, scarves, shawls, throws, and sweaters; (4) striped and patterned shopping, sample, and tote bags; (5) a Fair Isle yoked sweater and a Fair Isle vest; and (6) many single-color hats. The projects are grouped in the book according to the yarn weights used: fine, lightweight, worsted, or chunky. What I really like about this book is the lengthy introduction that discusses sorting yarns leftovers by weight and color, to ensure the best possible combinations for successful knitted fabrics. Several pages, illustrated with color wheels, explain the scientific theory of color--including how to get good results from monochromatic color combinations, and from combinations of 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 colors. The book also includes explanations of how to join yarns together using standard knitting techniques, or using the "Russian join" (which uses a tapestry needle). There is a nice discussion of how to put together a "Magic Ball" of short lengths of leftover yarns of different colors and textures (the ball is knitted up like regular yarn); as well as some discussion of yarn storage. Nearly all of the projects are fairly easy to knit. (The Fair Isle garments, the intarsia sample bag, and the charted puzzle-piece blanket will require moderate knitting experience). Note, though, that whether you will have enough yarn already on hand to knit many of the larger projects will depend entirely on the actual size and makeup of your personal yarn stash! For me, this book rates an unqualified 5 stars.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Stashaholics unite! By rikI checked this out of the library three times before I decided to buy it. I have a room full of yarn that I need to get under control. This book works you thru sorting your stash, storing it, and then how to use it to make room for (what else!) more yarn. There are even several interesting patterns to help use up the onsies twosies in your stash. Very helpful, from a fellow stash-aholic!

There's no such thing as too much yarn. As renowned knitwear designer Melissa Leapman knows all too well, every knitter has a stash of yarn that they just can't bear to part with: the one or two extra balls of yarn bought just in case, or the bits and pieces leftover from completed projects. *Stashbuster Knits* gives you the absolute best way to use and enjoy your treasured yarn collection guilt free. Leapman offers valuable step-by-step guidance on organizing and shopping your stash to inspire creative new knitting ideas and color combinations. Then she gives you 21 ingenious projects for men, women, children, and home that are designed so no one will ever guess they were made from odds and ends. Included are projects both large and small, from a glorious Fair Isle sweater for your favorite guy to a chic little scarf made with a Magic Ball. Each yarn weight has its own chapter, from super fine to super bulky, ensuring that knitters will find a way to use every piece of stored-up yarn. Filled with tips and hints on customizing projects and ideas to use even the tiniest bits of yarn, Leapman's *Stashbuster Knits* will help transform your beloved stash into projects you'll love even more. So dive into your closets, dig into your bins, rifle through your drawers, and bring your precious yarn out of hiding. Let's begin putting that stash to good use!

"With 11 published books, Melissa is a very well-known and respected designer in the knitting world." --Love of Knitting Magazine

About the Author: Melissa Leapman is a widely published sweater designer whose patterns have appeared in *Vogue Knitting*, *Knitters*, *McCalls*, *Family Circle*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Knit It!*, and *Interweave*

Knits magazines. Leapman has worked as a freelance designer for many leading ready-to-wear manufacturers, noted design houses, and major yarn companies. In addition, her knitting, crochet, and design workshops are extremely popular with crafters at all skill levels. She lives in New York City.