

(Free and download) Knook Expanded Beginner Kit

Knook Expanded Beginner Kit

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From LEISURE ARTS : Knook Expanded Beginner Kit before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Knook Expanded Beginner Kit:

230 of 232 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant concept! Not-so-thrilling execution
By Rian Shadowhorse I'll say this again and again: the Knook is a brilliant concept! I've been knitting and crocheting for around twenty-six years, and for a long time I've thought of Tunisian crochet as sort of bridging the gap between the needles and the hook. And now, the Knook actually *does* bridge the gap; I can easily flow from a knit fabric to crochet and back again without ever having to change the basic tool with which I'm working; I can even throw in some Tunisian entrelac crochet for good measure if I feel like it. Crochet edging around a knit project? A snap! The Knook concept is so simple that it's brilliant. If you're already familiar with Tunisian crochet, then you will most likely be able to pick up the Knook rather quickly. A few weeks ago I bought The Knook Kit at Walmart, and it was cheaper than on (nothing

against ; I just happened to walk past the display in the store and picked it up on impulse). Inside the blister pack, you get three Knooks, in sizes G (6/4mm), H (8/5mm), and I (9/5.5mm), three different colours of cord (which serve as your "lifeline," and hold your working fabric), and a 32-page instruction booklet. The booklet contains patterns for a simple infinity scarf (to practise the garter stitch), a spa cloth (which allows you to practise purling on the Knook), a baby blanket (which is composed of a dozen squares that allow you to switch back and forth from knitting to purling), and a diamond lap throw (which is worked in three long strips). All patterns are designed for beginners and are worked with worsted weight yarns. There are more Knook patterns on-line; there is even a sampler scarf pattern that is worked in both knit and crochet -- it's actually pretty cool. TIP: before you get started with the Knook, I recommend watching the free video tutorials online; there are quite a few of them, and you can see how the Knook can be used to make cables, work in the round, etc. Do a search for them or check the manufacturer's Web site; you'll find them. ANOTHER TIP: the Knooks are made of bamboo; one or all of them may feel a little rough. If this is the case for you, then simply put a drop or two of oil (grapeseed, olive, coconut, or another vegetable oil) on your hands, and give the Knooks a little polish. Leave the Knooks alone overnight to allow the oil to be absorbed into the fibres. This smoothed out the rough spots on my Knooks; it may do the same for yours. For an experienced knitter/crocheter, I wouldn't say that there's too great of a learning curve for the Knook; rather, it's more of an "adjustment curve." It took me a little bit of time to adjust to knitting with a hook and a cord, especially because I can knit faster with two needles -- and I'm not even an exceptionally fast knitter. The main frustration that I occasionally have with the Knook is that the loops of my working fabric sometimes get smaller and tighten around the lifeline cord. This happens because I might hold the working fabric a bit too tightly, or I accidentally pull on the fabric when turning, or what-have-you. The resulting effect is that it slows me down because I have to manually tug on the next loop slightly to allow the Knook to pass through it. Multiply this minor inconvenience by the number of loops I have to manually expand, and the time does add up. For the sake of a brilliantly conceived product, I'm going to chalk this up to my adjustment curve. As far as doing cables: maybe it's just me, but I'd rather have two knitting needles and a cable needle. While one *can* do cables on the Knook, it's just faster the traditional way. Really strong positives for the Knook: it's great for crocheters who don't know how to knit with two needles and want to create knitted fabrics; for projects on the road, the Knook is totally portable (no fears of losing the second knitting needle or a broken cable on circulars!); and it's good for simple stitches like stockinette or garter. An added bonus is that once you learn how to use the Knook, you're just one step away from learning to do Tunisian crochet. Things that made the execution less-than-thrilling for me: it takes longer to knit with the Knook than with two needles; while you're learning (or in the adjustment curve phase), your knitted fabrics may turn out a bit lacier than you'd expect, or uneven in tension (as other reviewers have commented); and the lifeline cord is a bit awkward to work with. On one occasion, I was working on a piece that was kind of wide, and I accidentally pulled out the wrong end of the lifeline. Sadness. It wasn't *too* grim, though, because picking up the stitches is fairly easy ... it's also frustrating. Would I still keep working with the Knook? Yes. Would I recommend the Knook to someone else, or buy it as a gift for someone? Yes. Its potential as a tool is exciting; I'd like to see this product do well and see more kits with larger sizes of Knooks, too. If I were recommending this or giving it to someone, I'd also want to spend some good old-fashioned, in-person, stitch-n-bitch time with her/him to provide positive reinforcement and encouragement through the awkward adjustment curve phase. A product like this really benefits from the social learning aspect of knitting groups, because when you're having fun while learning, you're teaching yourself to love the process, and that's vital. Video tutorials are one thing, but it's tough to replace the interaction and laughter when learning with others. The real kicker for me is this: Would I use the Knook every day, or at least on a regular basis? At this point, no. Because I'm faster and more comfortable with my needles and hooks, I'll stick with those for most of my projects; and I'll turn to the Knook every once in a while to mix things up. Try it out; if you don't like it or get frustrated, then put the Knook away for a few days or weeks, and then go back to it again and give it another shot. Better yet, if you have a friend who's also interested in the Knook, then get one set and learn together. At the very least, you'll then be able to say you gave it a fair shot and made an informed decision about whether or not the Knook works for you. Happy stitching!

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. I love the Knook! It's really easy! By CatIf you struggle with knitting, prefer loom knitting versus needles, or you can crochet and have not successfully learned knitting, buy this! I personally am much more comfortable with a hook and the knook allows me to have my cake and eat it too. First and foremost this type of knitting has a wonderful drape to it that you will not find in traditional knitting methods and it works in a way that is very comfortable for weavers and crocheters. What you are basically doing is casting on as if you were about to start Tunisian Crochet. Then you simply knit each stitch individually along the cord attached to the hook in much the same way as traditional knitting. The only differences being that you are using a crochet hook instead of a knitting needle, and that your stitches will be picked up along the crochet hook and the attached cord. At the end of each row you push the knitting down off the hook and onto the cord - there should now be two rows of cord in your knitting. The next step is to pull the bottom portion of the cord out of the knitting and not move the top portion of the cord or else you will lose the stitches you just knit hence unraveling your work. Turn your work over and start your next row as if you were going to crochet with the cord in front of your yarn. This way you are knitting and not purling. If you have had your stitches fall off the cord then your

cord is too short and you need a longer piece of it. Preferably I like to have 12 inches of cord hang along the left side of my work (I'm right handed). I found out the hard way that if I don't give myself 12 inches that I will run out of cord before I finish my row and lose my stitches. When I couldn't see my stitches it was because they were too tight, and I wasn't using a big enough crochet hook. (I'm really lucky that I have relatives who knit and crochet that straightened me out on this.) They told me to pull the cord straight and then dig my hook into the loop going directly over the cord, complete that row and then switch to a bigger hook. Don't worry about dropping stitches. It's much easier to fix your mistakes with this than with traditional knitting. If you drop a stitch you just pick it back up on the next row. If you decide to take your work off the cord and rip out the mistake, when you're done you just thread the cord into a needle and run it back through the loops. -- This product is a big plus for klutzy knitters. I love it. 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Product with Potential By AndyFirst, I would have to say Rian Shadowhorse gave an excellent review of this product, and I questioned whether I even needed to bother with one, but then I decided that sometimes it is good to have a seconded opinion when trying to decide on a product. I have been crocheting for longer than I would care to admit on most days, and as I have mentioned in past reviews, my knitted stuff usually ends in tragedy...I just can't get the knack, Knook or not! I too think this is a brilliant concept, which is why I purchased it. As a person who does crochet an awful lot, I would have to say it's actually not slower for me than knitting with two hooks...I can use the knook quicker. However, I think my tension problems are actually worse with the knook, which I would not have expected. The stitches do tend to tighten down on the cord quite a lot. But I think perhaps with practice that would probably improve. I felt that the instructions and the pictures were not as user friendly as I would have liked, so I would agree that finding a video is an excellent idea. While the swatch I've produced so far is destined to become yet another relatively unattractive knitted washrag, I really do think this is a product with a lot of potential for crocheters who want to produce knitted fabrics but don't want to mess with any of the crochet techniques for imitating knits, and that my inability to produce an attractive fabric with it on the first try shouldn't sway anybody. If anything, I feel like I have a better chance of ultimately succeeding with this than I do with the knitting needles, but I still do personally prefer the crochet techniques because I'm definitely better at them. I think this is an interesting product that is worth a try for any crocheter who is trying to find a way to relate to knitting without the needles.

The Knook Expanded Beginner Set lets you use light, medium, and bulky weight yarns to make small, medium, and large projects--including full-size afghans! Replacing traditional knitting needles, these unique crochet hooks have a hole in one end for a cord to hold your stitches as you create true knitted fabric. Each set contains 5 bamboo Knooks in sizes E-3.5 mm, G-4.0 mm, H-5.0 mm, I-5.5 mm, and J-6.0 mm; 5 cords in two 36 lengths, two 72, and one 120; 3 cord clips; 3 yarn needles; and a complete how-to book with 24 pages of step-by-step beginner instructions for both right- and left-handed users! The book also includes three easy projects--a cowl, baby blanket, and lap robe. Free how-to videos and more patterns are at www.LisureArts.com.

About the Author One of the most trusted names in instructional publishing, Leisure Arts is a leading publisher worldwide of lifestyle how-to books, DVDs, and on-line content (www.LisureArts.com). Primary skill categories are knitting, crochet, quilting, sewing, scrapbooking and papercrafts, cooking and entertaining, cross stitch, embroidery and other needlework, plastic canvas, decorative painting, home decor, holiday celebrations, and all kinds of crafts.