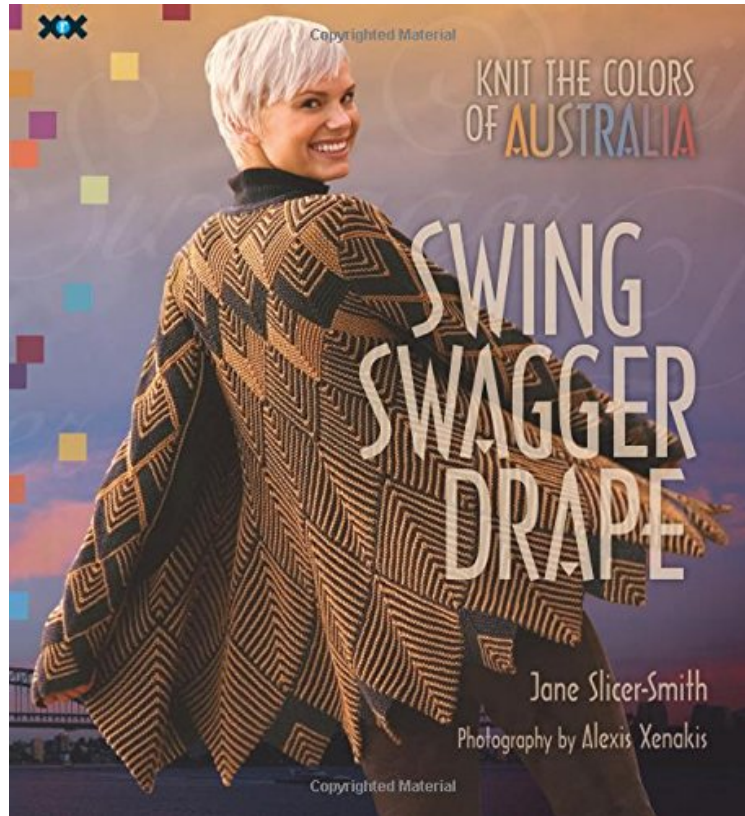


Swing, Swagger, Drape: Knit the Colors of Australia

Jane Slicer-Smith

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Jane Slicer-Smith : Swing, Swagger, Drape: Knit the Colors of Australia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Swing, Swagger, Drape: Knit the Colors of Australia:

31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Innovative designs, imaginative use of color By E. Gorwin I bought this book mainly for the gorgeous cardigan on the cover, but that was just the tip of the iceberg! This book is full of stylish, innovative designs that are not too far out for the average person to wear. What impresses me most, however, is the creative, imaginative use of color. Several garments are shown as a basic design in various colorways, all of them stunning. This designer is a true artist. The photography is outstanding as well. You won't be disappointed with this book. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. BEST miter patterns ever. Gorgeous colors, amazing book! By Eve Starr This book is loaded with inspiration. Whenever Alexis is set loose on location, you know you're in for a treat. There are patterns made and shown in multiple colorways and variations in length. The intarsia patterns alone are worth the very reasonable price of the book. But my favorites by far are the mitered vests, capes, shawls, vests and jackets. Jane's sense of rich, saturated, unexpected color combinations is exciting and inspiring. There are lessons in the back of the book, complete with small projects to get you familiar with the specific techniques that the large projects use. Jane is an excellent teacher, and if I had the opportunity to attend a workshop I would jump at the chance! She elevates the use of the mitered square and triangle to high art. ("Domino Knitting" and "Knit to be Square" by Vivian Hoxbro are excellent primers on the subject, but the projects in those books are more utilitarian

than they are objects of wearable art.) I have way too many knitting books, but this one is a must-have. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful designs, awkward physical format
By Christine E. Peterson
I made the Harlequin Jacket - a variation on the cover design for Swing Swagger Drape - when it was published a couple years ago in Knitter's Magazine. It was a joy to create, and it never fails to generate compliments when I wear it. There is not a design in this book that I wouldn't consider doing -- I might skip the "drape" silhouette, but that's just a personal thing. Other reviewers mention the wide range of sizes, and that is definitely a good thing. I'm fairly small -- my daughter is taller and bigger -- and the designs work for both of us. So here's my nitpick. I am just starting the Greta design in a silk/linen blend. I almost always make a working photocopy -- totally acceptable under book's copyright policy. That way I don't have to add weight to my already overloaded commuter gear, and I don't have to mess up the pretty book. I stick the copies back-to-back in sheet protectors to avoid making hole punches through text. This book was a real challenge to copy. It's sized 20 x 11 inches, so the only way to get a full page is to copy onto 11 x 17 inch paper, one page at a time, and crop the second page -- AND trim the margins afterward to make it fit in a sheet protector -- AND hand write chart notes that extend all the way to the page's edge. Not exactly a 'green' process. It also takes some serious studying to figure out the flow of patterns that are presented in three silhouettes. Despite the minor complaints, the book deserves at least five stars. I believe the designs are do-able by determined advanced beginners who enjoy a challenge. My advice: buy it now. Even the most wonderful knitting books don't always stay in print.

A long-awaited collection of 30 designs by Australia's leading knitwear designer is showcased in this instructional knitting handbook utilizing classic yarns, which features on-location photography of the Australian flora and fauna that inspired her work. Small projects with step-by-step instructions introduce the techniques used in the garments, such as intarsia, miters, and textured patterns. Designer notes explain the logic of the shapes and highlight opportunities for customizing the fit. Alternate colorways are also shown for most garments along with distinctive shapes for jackets, coats, and simple wraps that flatter and fit.

A "wow" from start to finish, Swing Swagger Drape is filled with garments that are not only exciting and different, but very wearable and flattering. Each one has both visual complexity and body-friendly shaping. We can happily accept the author's invitation to "step into my world of color". Australia provides the setting for photographer Alexis Xenakis's lush images and is a source of inspiration to the author, whose design skills and eye for detail are evident on each page and in every project. There are plenty of options for each pattern, including a variety of lengths and color combinations. Also packed into the pages are tips for achieving the right fit, mixing and matching textures, making Polyform clay buttons, and more. It's a wonderful mix of techniques, such as intarsia, drop stitch, and miters. Motivated advanced-beginners will be able to tackle most of the projects, but there are plenty of challenges for seasoned knitters. Special favorites include the Metro Coat worked in Intarsia with cables, shown with a choice of three lengths and a trio of panel options (solid, color block, or strips and bobble accents). The way the tree climbs the sleeve of The Deco Drape Jacket and then turns into an abstract graphic is sublime. Go straight to page 55 to see the irresistible Miter Vee, which is a drape that will make you crave winter. A section called "Process Practice" in the back of the book will help you get started. It includes four simple projects as well as basic techniques and yarn specs. Don't miss the colophon on the final pages with more beautiful photos and the author's story.-

www.knittinguniverse.com Wow, transport yourself to Australia with this collection of tremendous knits. I like most of the knits in this book. Jane has gone out there, researched, brought her own style and shape to knitting and it works. She is my number one favourite knitwear designer of the moment. Another thing I love about this book is the design of it, the layout and photography set this book apart from any other I have seen recently. It really is wow! (that's why I've said that twice). The collection includes knits for men, women and children including bags and hats, but the essence is on style, fit and looking great. Patterns include simple stitching for beginners to complex challenging shaping for the experienced. Some of the colourways don't quite work for me, but hey this is almost knitting perfection.-

KarenPlatt.co.uk The subtitle of this remarkable book is "Knit the colors of Australia" and if you still harbor any opinions about knitting being for old ladies in rocking chairs, you need to see it. From the glorious coat on the front to all the garments within, this is a book for the modern knitter. I tend to be suspicious of coffee table books with their large format, glossy photographs and lush colors but this one has all of that with none of the usual minus points. It is simply a book of patterns that looks good. It is actually more awash with instructions, charts, diagrams and patterns than photographs although there are plenty of these to show what the finished article looks like. This is not a beginners' book in any sense, more aimed at intermediate and advanced knitters who want a nice big challenging project that looks impressive and is practical. There are garments for men as well as women in here, and you can find coats, cardigans, sweaters, hats, gilets and wraps. The projects are organised into sections, dealing with intarsia, textures and miters but the best way to find what you want is to look at everything; the headings tend to be more about the author's creative journey which gives the book its unique style. You can also find, at the back of the book instructions on making polymer clay buttons, getting the perfect fit and various other aspects of the earlier patterns too such as understanding intarsia. There is also a lovely section on the author's home city of Sydney and various other

places where the photographs were shot on location. This book has a great Aussie style about it, from the colors and textures used to the exuberant sense of style and general joie de vivre. If I see a lovelier craft book this year I will be very lucky - one for the keeper shelf.-Myshef.comAbout the AuthorJane Slicer-Smith