



An interview with Margaret Nock Author of Knit 1 For The Road

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Hello and welcome to 10 Quick Questions with Dave, I'm your host Dave Tallman and today I am chatting with Margaret Nock author of Knit 1 for the Road.

KNIT 1 for THE ROAD

Margaret Nock



First let me say welcome Margaret and thanks for doing the interview with me. I enjoy interviewing writers of “how to” books because it is an educational resource for me as well as my readers, and who knows if I stay at this long enough I may actually be able to say that I now know everything (Haha).

Ok let's get started:

Me:

How long have you been involved with knitting? And how did you get started?

MN:

Thanks for inviting me to talk about knitting, Dave.

I picked up my first pair of size 8 knitting needles when I was eight. My sister, Lea, was kind and patient enough to take time to get me started on the basics of casting on and off the needles, knit, and purl. From there, I went on to learn how to add and decrease stitches and make small simple patterns like pot holders.

As I grew older, I began to make more complicated patterns and started creating my own, basically by looking at shapes of garments that I already owned, and remaking them in a knitted version.

You can actually start at any age, and men are knitting more now and forming their own groups. Skateboarder dudes/ dudettes, and roller derby babes began making knitted hats and wrist warmers, and other gear that was edgy and fun. It's a great way to enjoy community and relieve stress.

Me:

When you decided to create your book, did you have an exact image in your mind as to how you wanted it to turn out, and is Knit 1 for the Road that book or did it take on a life all it's own and grow into something new?

MN:

I knew what I wanted to accomplish, and had a clear concept. I wanted to create a portable pattern book with basic and fun patterns that a knitter could take along anywhere. I used size 8 knitting needles for all of the patterns. I knew what I needed and looked for in portable knitting because I take mine everywhere.

When I started my first knitting blog, margknittinaround, I encouraged my readers to dare to knit in public. So the concept was key, but I definitely had to come up with an outline, patterns, resources, etc. to stay on track just like any other author.

I also had to consider the look and feel of the book. I included

color photos, larger print, and a flexible book spine that could open and be flexible, and a small booksize, 5 1/2" x 8" (about the size of a DVD case).

Another goal that I had, was to include other indie artists. I was lucky enough to include Rachel-Marie Kanter of KnittyDirtyGirl.com "<http://www.knittydirtygirl.com/>"><http://www.knittydirtygirl.com/> and Jennifer Perkins of NaughtySecretaryClub.com.

"<http://naughtysecretaryclub.com/shop/>"><http://naughtysecretaryclub.com/shop/> in the book. Rachel-Marie's yarn can be found in the pattern Babies, Bobbles and More and Jennifer's Black Onyx Ring is featured and worn in the picture of the Wowza Wrist Warmers. I discuss all of this in more detail with Angel Lesa on the OddMind BlogTalkRadio interview "<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/angellesa/2008/10/02/author-margaret-nock-of-knit-1-for-the-road>"><http://www.blogtalkradio.com/angellesa/2008/10/02/author-margaret-n...>

Basically, I had been friends online with these artists and developed a good rapport with and respect for them. I encourage your readers to try to do build relationships as much as possible.

Me:

How long did you work on your book, and is the process similar to writing a novel where you had multiple revisions before the final product was ready for publication?

MN:

I started in January with the patterns. I created the patterns, knit them, wrote out the patterns for publication (noting where the photos should go) and organized them. Later, I added the resources, glossary, dedication, table of contents and tips, all of which I wrote myself. The color photographs came next and took the longest to complete.

I worked with Booksurge to create a cover, press release, and marketing material. I did a lot of editing along the way, and of course, I had a few chances to edit the project before it went to print with the guidance of the publisher. The book was published in May and went on Amazon, Barnes & Nobles and Target.com. After publication, it took on a life of it's own and I found it popping up everywhere. Booksurge sent out a massive PR for me and I received requests for review copies. My first review was in Knitting UK, Fall 08 Issue. It landed in the center of the page – prime reading position- so needless to say, I was thrilled and did a happy dance. I receive Google updates daily and that helps me keep track of where it's popping up online. I also have added the book myself to Goodreads, LibraryThing, Ravelry (online knitting community), Etsy and of course, Review A Book, Author's Society, and CAW. It will be interesting to see what happens next.

Me:

Where do you find the patterns that you use? And did you personally test the projects in your book?

MN:

I created, knitted and wear the patterns in the book. The resources and tips were information I had picked up in various groups, and through experience.

Me:

Is your Knit 1 for the Road designed to be for the beginner, intermediate or expert skill level crafter.

MN:

I always encourage anyone who wants to learn to knit to visit their local yarn store for classes or free groups that meet to knit so that they can get hands on help with the basics.

There is no substitute for that.

You need to know the basics of casting on and off needles, knit, purl and be open to trying other basic knitting. There are many videos and How To books out there and I have some that I really like on knit1fortheroad.com. "http://knit1fortheroad.com/book_it">http://knit1fortheroad.com/book_it

The patterns were designed to help the beginner hone their skills, the intermediate and advanced have basic knitting patterns which they can use easily anywhere and embellish. The size 8 bamboo needles were chosen, not only to keep things simple and portable, but because that is the recommended size to start with for all ages. The large plastic and colorful needles are fun but sometimes hard to handle for a new knitter. I tried to include something for everyone. I also use and wear the patterns myself.

Me:

If I had come across an interesting pattern, how would I go about finding a way to broadcast that to others interested in the craft? Are there web sites dedicated to Knitting that share patterns and styles, and could you let us in on any links that you are aware of?

MN:

If you find a pattern that you would like to share, than you would post the link. Even free patterns now have a copyright. The best way is to send the reader to it is by posting only the link.

You can find patterns on most online shops and knitting sites. I refer my readers to places like LionBrand.com, and e-Patterns Central. There are more posted on my Knit1fortheroad.com site in the Fabulous and Fun section.

"http://knit1fortheroad.com/fabulous_and_fun">http://knit1fortheroad.com/fabulous_and_fun

Me:

I have seen some very intricate knitting work, I have a wonderful snowflake that my grandmother made for me when I was a child that I still put out every Christmas. It boggles my mind every time I try to figure out how she made it. What is the most time consuming or difficult project you have undertaken?

MN:

The snowflake is definitely an heirloom and a wonderful treasure to pass down. Making knit or crochet coats and sweaters is time consuming, sometimes intricate, but always worthwhile.

Any time there is intarsia (combining colors) and an intricate pattern, you are going to have to slow down a bit. Once you get the pattern in your head, it moves more quickly. Tatting or crocheting snowflakes does take awhile to learn and it's still a popular item to make.

Me:

Conversely, how many easy projects do you know of? And would they be something that I could teach my kids, or that they could learn on their own?

MN:

There are many basic, easy patterns to choose from. Always look at

the skill rating and descriptions on the pattern to be sure it's one you want to do.

Children definitely enjoy knitting. It's great for their math skills teaching dexterity, coordination and concentration. It's okay to make mistakes and learn. There are many books on the subject. Knitting is taught to both boys and girls in some schools and knitted items are in kid movies too, like The Golden Compass and the recent Coraline. The well known miniature knitting artists, Althea Crome created the prototypes for the 3D movie. I can't wait to see it! I have a blog with the info and link for the trailer if anyone is interested.

"<http://knit1fortheroad.blogspot.com/search/label/Coraline>"><http://knit1fortheroad.blogspot.com/search/label/Coraline>.

I have also snagged an interview with Althea and it will appear on the blog soon. She is currently in Oregon for the premier of the movie.

Two books I can whole heartedly recommend and have added to my site are Kids Knitting: Projects for Kids of all Ages: "http://www.amazon.com/Kids-Knitting-Projects-all-Ages/dp/1579652417/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1233781879&sr=8-1"><http://www.amazon.com/Kids-Knitting-Projects-all-Ages/dp/1579652417...>

And

Knitting (Kids Can Do It) "http://www.amazon.com/Knitting-Kids-Can-Judy-Sadler/dp/1553370511/ref=pd_bbs_sr_2?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1233781879&sr=8-2"><http://www.amazon.com/Knitting-Kids-Can-Judy-Sadler/dp/1553370511/r...>

Knitting is a wonderful gift to pass down. It's always there for you, no matter what else is going on in your life. I recently taught my stepdaughter to knit over the holiday. That was the greatest gift she could have given me. Her desire and determination to learn was thrilling for me. I have come full circle.

Me:

I must admit that I have a severely limited familiarity of the subject matter here, other than the time my Mom and I had to take a neighbor to the ER because she sat on her knitting needles (ouch) and ended up with one stuck into her thigh and one through her hand. Do you have any Knitting horror stories to share with us?

MN:

I'm really careful with the needles because I have two small yorkies that like to supervise my knitting. They now have knitting needle protectors that you place on the ends that keep your knitting from sliding off the needle and keep the points covered.

My advice is to keep your knitting in a safe place if you have pets, children and visiting neighbors! There are needles out there, like bamboo, that are not as sharp as metal.

Me:

I'll end with my standard final question, what's next for you? Where do you see yourself a year from now, five years, and beyond?

MN:

I will continue with my blogs, community and charity knitting and crochet, and am currently working on another book.

I have learned so much in the past year about writing patterns and what I would like to communicate. The blogging helps readers see me as a person with challenges, goals and dreams.

Blogging 4-5 days a week and having the Etsy and Café Press shops

has definitely helped me stay focused. I find that my readers are gold. They email with questions, suggestions, and insightful thoughts about what they would like to see next. I encourage any one who writes to have a blog, blog often, and always respond to your readers.

I recently received the trademark for my company knit1fortheroad.com and wake up every day thinking – what’s next? And, this is so much fun! It really is all up to you to be the author of your life.

I take a little time off and try to enjoy the creative process as well, otherwise, what’s the point?

I’m looking forward to checking book sales (heehee), some day having my own eco-friendly yarn or needles or notions, continue to build more relationships in the knit/crochet and charity communities, attend and report on more knit and crochet events and interviewing all the interesting people I meet.

I would also like to continue writing articles for magazines like Mix Tape, a hip, trendy and eco-friendly craft publication. The biggest dream of all is an all knitting, crochet and indie authors network with all my favorite knit/crochet/author peeps with their own shows! No network suites – just me and a few other well chosen crafties calling the shots. I’ve already thought about the lineup. Hey, you might as well dream big, look at Ted Turner, another Georgia native. Although, I never dreamed that I would be an author, I always felt that my art background, education, and work experience, as well as a few creative writing courses along the way, prepared me for this adventure and I hope to continue sharing, growing, and exploring new ways to communicate. The ups and downs are all grist for the mill as they say...I like to think of it as the roller coaster of life.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to share with your readers and I hope something in the interview inspires and helps them achieve their goals. Dare to dream and knit-share-go!

Knit 1 for the Road on Amazon "http://www.amazon.com/Knit-1-Road-Margaret-Nock/dp/1419693654/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1233787322&sr=1-1">

<http://www.amazon.com/Knit-1-Road-Margaret-Nock/dp/1419693654/ref=s...>

Visit knit1fortheroad.com "<http://www.knit1fortheroad.com>"><http://www.knit1fortheroad.com>

for resources, tips, video links and more. Roadside assistance for knitting!

Visit margknittinaround on Etsy "http://www.etsy.com/shop.php?user_id=5511659">http://www.etsy.com/shop.php?user_id=5511659

for Knit 1 for the Road patterns, book, and kits

Visit Knit1fortheroad Blog "<http://knit1fortheroad.blogspot.com/>"><http://knit1fortheroad.blogspot.com/>

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[Permalink](#) Reply by [Margaret Nock](#) on February 17, 2009 at 3:57pm

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Thanks for the interview Dave. I really enjoyed the experience and I urge all of you out there sitting on the fence about being interviewed - just go for it!

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[Permalink](#) Reply by [Linda Nelson](#) on March 2, 2009 at 7:39am

Thanks for the Interview with Margaret Nock. I am a knitter and a crocheter, and I am always looking for more books and patterns. Thanks for the knitting links too.