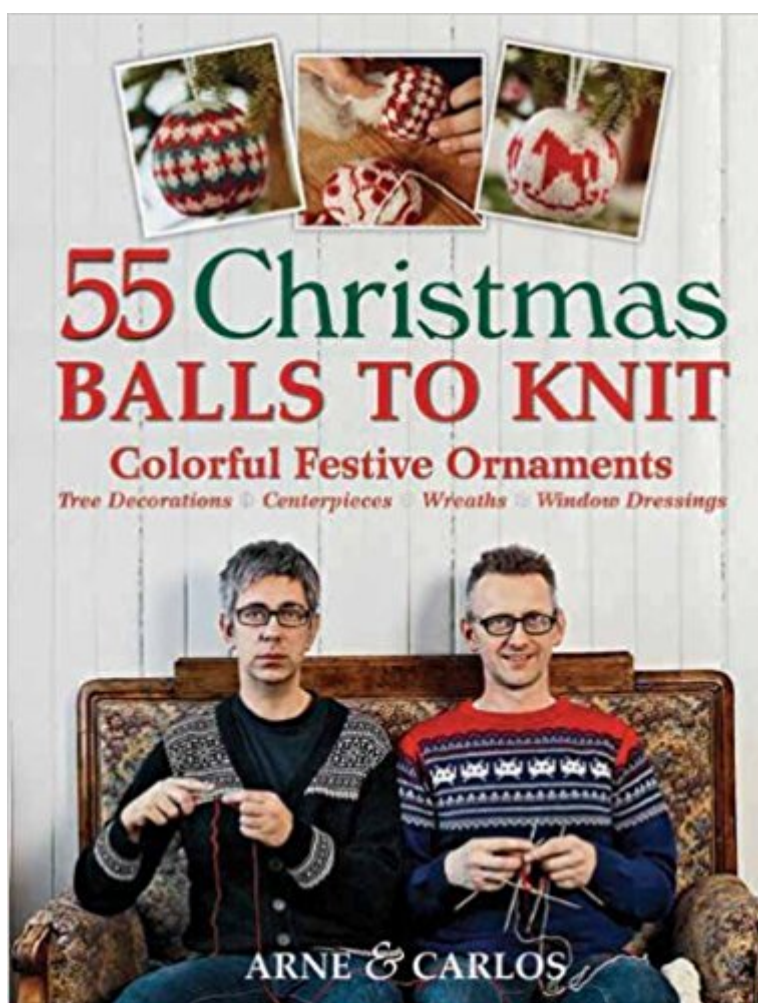


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# 55 Christmas Balls To Knit: Colorful Festive Ornaments, Tree Decorations, Centerpieces, Wreaths, Window Dressings



## Synopsis

Since 2002, Scandinavian knitting sensations Arne and Carlos have used their unique style sense to translate traditional Scandinavian knitwear designs into individual patterns perfect for holiday décor. Here they share 55 hand-stitched knits on a super-small scale, with knitting that's fast and fun, whatever your skill level. You'll find step-by-step instructions, how-to tips, and full-color photos for inspiration.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Arne and Carlos love Christmas and decorating their Norwegian home. The Christmas balls they designed are in the Scandinavian tradition. These are perfect to knit for gifts as they are fast and require small amounts of yarn. A quirky and enjoyable book that works as a coffee table book." •Examiner.com "I'd never heard of them before, but I'm kind of in love with Arne & Carlos. This book is worth a look just to see their amazing inspiration books, which clearly illustrate where the ideas for different motifs came from. [These range] from religious-themed ornaments to hearts, reindeer, Christmas trees, skiers, sledders, even a witch." #151;About.com "Knitting holiday ornaments is a lot like eating potato chips: Betcha can't stop at just one! Arne & Carlos, well-known Scandinavian designers, have incorporated berries, snowflakes, animals, traditional motifs, and original patterns into Christmas ornaments that are sure to become cherished heirlooms." #151;Knit 'n Style "The charted patterns for the motifs could easily be adapted to other projects such as mittens. Recommended for advanced beginners comfortable

with Fair Isle up to expert knitters, especially those curious about holiday traditions in other countries."#151;Library Journal"Arne & Carlos have drawn on traditional Scandinavian influences to come up with Christmas balls incorporating classic holiday graphics such as snowflakes, berries, and angels as well as more ornate patterns found in Nordic knitwear. A delightful book to look through."#151;Debbie Bliss Knitting Magazine"Speaking of gifts, you'll want to knit a few hundred of these ornaments for the holidays designed by Arne & Carlos. Use them to mark place settings, delight hostesses, create centerpieces, festoon wreaths or adorn your tree – or all of the above."#151;Vogue Knitting"In addition to the step-by-step instructions for making the Christmas ball and the 55 different designs, in this book you'll find many photographs of vintage ornaments and other sources of inspiration shared by the designers."#151;Living Crafts"Featuring the unique designs of Scandinavian duo Arne and Carlos, this book features one basic pattern, instructions on how to knit a ball shape, and then 55 variations or designs pulled from traditional Scandinavian sweaters based on holiday themes. This book would make an excellent gift for a knitter, and the aesthetic fits perfectly into the current DIY trends."#151;Portland Book Review

Since 2002, Scandinavian knitting sensations Arne and Carlos have used their unique style sense to translate traditional Scandinavian knitwear designs into individual patterns perfect for holiday décor. Here they share 55 hand-stitched knits on a super-small scale#151;projects that take little time to make and minimal effort to make well. The result? Knitting that's fast and fun, whatever your skill level. You'll find bold ornament designs in red, white, green, black, blue, and multiple colors, some with a touch of silver or novelty yarn for visual texture. The array of knitted decorations feature classic holiday graphics such as snowflakes, berries, bows, angels, and animals, as well as more ornate patterns often found in Scandinavian sweaters, hats, and mittens. Whether giving hand-made gifts or adding a touch of holiday cheer to your home or business, you'll find the step-by-step instructions and fascinating mix of contemporary and vintage color photographs in 55 Christmas Balls to Knit the ideal learning tools#151;clear, descriptive, and quirky-cool. With techniques, patterns, and sources of inspiration fondly shared by the designers, you'll be outright charmed by Arne and Carlos. Their knitting antics are the perfect recipe for holiday décor that is colorful, festive, and delightful. | HAVE a BALL with ARNE & CARLOS – 55 unique, hand-knit holiday ornaments – Step-by-step instructions, how-to tips, and recommended techniques – Full-color photos, charts, and illustrations – Ideas for using festive motifs in other knitting projects

The book is charming! Lovely photography and cute little stories along with the designs. A nice variety of motifs. Overall a well done presentation of the theme, which is Christmas Ornaments! There is one basic ball pattern, and 55 patterned charts. I've been knitting similar ornaments for several years, and was about to begin adapting the same type of motifs to my pattern, but Arne & Carlos beat me to it! No sense in re-inventing the wheel. The other reviewer is correct, there is very little technical instruction, but that is not the focus of the book. There are many well written books already in print on the subject of stranded knitting. I recommend Alice Starmore's "Fair Isle Knitting" or Ann Feitleson's book, or the Philosopher Wool book; they all have excellent technical advice. The other reviewer is also correct that there are no patterns for anything other than the balls. I think something got lost in translation. My guess is "window dressings, centerpieces," etc was meant to describe ways to display the ornaments. Anywho, I'm glad to add this delightful book to my collection and can't wait to start my Christmas knitting :)

This book is amazing! The patterns are well-written and easy even for a colorwork n00b like myself to understand. The the designs are gorgeous, drawing from all sorts of (presumably, I've never been there) Scandinavian traditional motifs. Plus, they include a blank template in the back of the book, so you can design your own Star Wars set and 8-bit Mario set and traditional yuletide creeping cyclopien horrors set. And if that wasn't enough to sell you, did you see those guys on the front? They're so awesome it's painful. They've filled the book with little anecdotes about their holiday traditions and sweet suggestions like "Maybe you could hang all your reindeer balls on an antler above your table..." (Only their translated prose is infinitely better than this vapid drivel.) Hell, if it hadn't been for this book, I would never have learned either about the Christmas Pig, who gets his own spoon, or the Christmas Witch, who comes flying through on the 13th night. It's interesting, fun, AND educational. Seriously, this book is so excellent, I've started carrying it around with me as a conversation piece. What am I knitting? Some Christmas Balls. What are Christmas Balls, you ask? Let me show you this badass book. BAM. Instant cool. And by the way, I'm not being even remotely sarcastic about any of this. The book really is that great.

Arne and Carlos have written a great book. The history of different patterns is enlightening. Their enthusiasm for Christmas jumps off the pages. The pattern is easy to follow. Each pattern is charted out. Two versions of design are suggested - knit in the pattern or embroidery after the ball is knitted. One thing for sure, once you start you will have a difficult time stopping.

This is a nice pattern book, but the "colorful festive ornaments" subtitle is a bit misleading. With few exceptions, the photos show Christmas balls that are knitted in just two "colors": red & white, red & silver, or black & white. Some photos show balls that have colored sequins attached. The authors explain that they use red & white because that combination looks best against a green Christmas tree. Of course, knitters can knit the balls in multiple colors, but there is only one example: "Tricolor", shown on the book jacket cover at the top. There is one basic, easy-to-knit pattern for the balls. You knit a tube, starting with a few stitches, then increase and decrease to get the ball shape, and end once again with only a few stitches. The ball is stuffed, the tube is sewn closed, and the yarn ends are crocheted into a hanging loop. Detailed instructions are given for crocheting the hanging loops, but non-crocheters could certainly use wire hangers. The ball designs are added by "knitting in", using Fair Isle technique; or by embroidering, using duplicate stitch technique. The duplicate stitch method is clearly illustrated. However, the "knitting in" method is only vaguely discussed. Knitters who are unfamiliar with color knitting will need to consult something else (to learn about charts, floats, tension, and handling two yarns) if they want to "knit in" the designs. The book has clear, easy-to-read charts for a wide variety of simple motifs: geometric patterns, snowflakes, Norwegian roses, stick-figure skiers and dancers, hearts, anchors, reindeer, flowers, birds. Many of the motifs are taken from, or inspired by, traditional Norwegian knitted sweaters, hats, and mittens. There are many photos of ornate traditional Norwegian Christmas ornaments (handmade from wood or glass), printed holiday books and cards, and holiday decorations (including a miniature dollhouse). However, there are no instructions for knitted centerpieces, wreaths, or window dressings (as I expected from the subtitle). Because of the excellent charts, but lack of examples of multi-colored Christmas balls, I rate this book at 4 stars ("I like it" on the official scale).

I LOVE this book! It is an interesting book to read, but more to the point it is a great pattern book. The instructions are clear, enabling even a beginner to knit the ornaments. The graphs are large and easy to follow, but the basic pattern is also written for those who prefer. This book is great for people wanting to learn to knit in the round, knit with double points, or follow a chart. Experienced knitters will enjoy the variety of motifs and how quickly you can complete an ornament. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to sample colorwork or any of the above techniques. I am so glad I purchased this book. I have used it everyday since it arrived!

Lovely christmas ideas and knitted christmas ornaments . Glad I bought this. Projects in this book would make great christmas gifts.

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