

August 2008 Cablegram book review, by Karen Jo Gustafson

Guy Knits: Sweaters & Vests
Best of Knitter's Magazine series

My first reaction on flipping through *Guy Knits: Sweaters & Vests (Best of Knitter's Magazine series)*, March '08, was the same as I have to the magazine - Ho-hum. I'm not sure what it is about Knitter's Magazine, but I don't get excited about their designs. Maybe it's just the photograph. I passed on this.

Still, this book could be very useful to some knitters. If the men you knit for like vests, this book has twelve patterns, including an absolutely basic vest in sizes small through 3x. I did like the look of a pattern nicknamed the Travel Vest by the designer. It used a simple four-stitch, two-row pattern to create an interesting rib variation in a v-neck style. A crew-neck, zip-front vest done in a two-color box-stitch pattern also appealed to me.

This book will also come in handy for those who knit for larger men. Most of the patterns run up to a 2x or 3x and feature a dropped or modified-dropped sleeve. On the other end, not everything includes instructions for size small, or even medium, and the smalls vary from a finished size of 37 to 42 inches. One pattern that I might contemplate knitting as a comfy thing for myself, the Cypress Twig Sweater with a K15 P1 pattern and seed stitch hem, cuff, and neck bands, unfortunately runs size large through 3x. Too bad as it would work well for a tweed or variegated yarn without the duplicate stitch colorwork cedar twigs across the chest.

Accessories here include a bulky turtleneck dickey with matching gloves and a variety of neckties as well as the usual scarves and hats. The dickey reputedly eliminates the hazard of flapping scarf ends on a motorcycle or bike, but I have a feeling young men of the model's age will find it more dorky than useful.