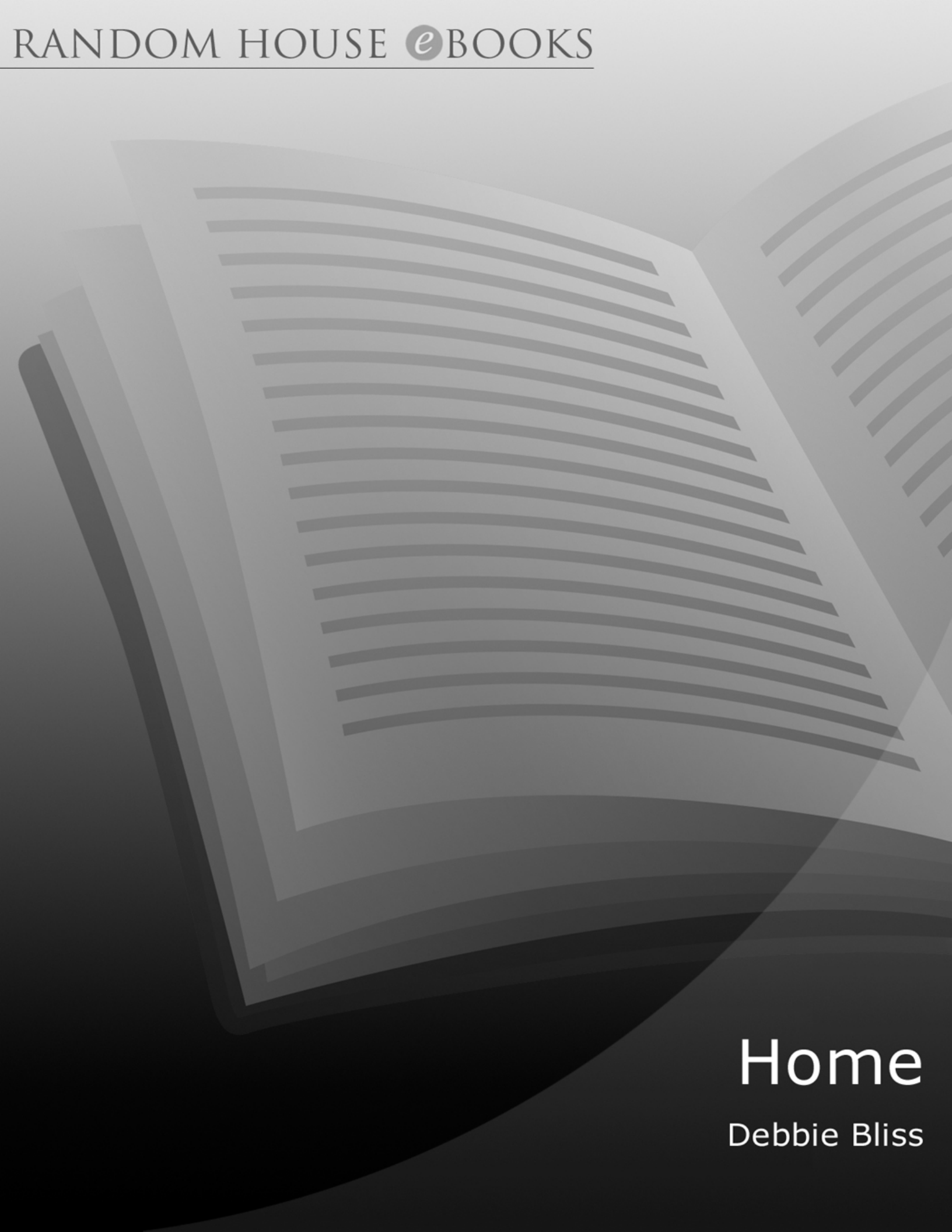


RANDOM HOUSE *e*BOOKS



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About the Book

From Debbie Bliss, the UK's foremost knitwear designer, comes this fabulous new collection of 27 contemporary designs for your home. Inspired by three themes – seaside, modern country and urban – Debbie has created beautiful accessories and garments to suit every mood and occasion.

Evoking the pleasures of a sunny weekend by the sea, there are cable cushions for lazing on the sand, a moss stitch rug for the beach hut, and a practical duffel bag for collecting treasures from the shoreline. Debbie's modern country designs conjure up the delights of a snug farmhouse kitchen, with slippers, tea cosy and kettle holder, plus a luxurious throw to warm up the cold winter nights. Then for urban living, there's a chic and funky handbag, a colourful plaited scarf and a cool polkadot cushion that will add style to any living room.

All the patterns are easy to knit and have clear, step-by-step instructions. And with Pia Tryde's stunning photography throughout, this is the ultimate book both for Debbie's fans everywhere and for today's generation of young knitters.

About the Author

Debbie Bliss is the foremost knitwear designer for children. With a string of bestselling titles to her name, she regularly tours the US, Canada and other countries, giving lectures and doing workshops and has her own Debbie Bliss branded yarn range which is sold worldwide. Debbie lives in London with her husband and two children. Her website is <http://www.debbieblissonline.com>.

home

debbie bliss

27 knitted designs for living



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DEDICATION

To the memory of Tommie

introduction

Home is a celebration of the art of homemaking. Whether you spend time in a stylish loft apartment, a country cottage or a seaside beach hut, making decorative or practical handknits creates an individual and personal touch that makes your house a home.

To reflect our different lifestyles, the projects are divided into three sections: *Urban*, *Modern Country* and *Seaside*.

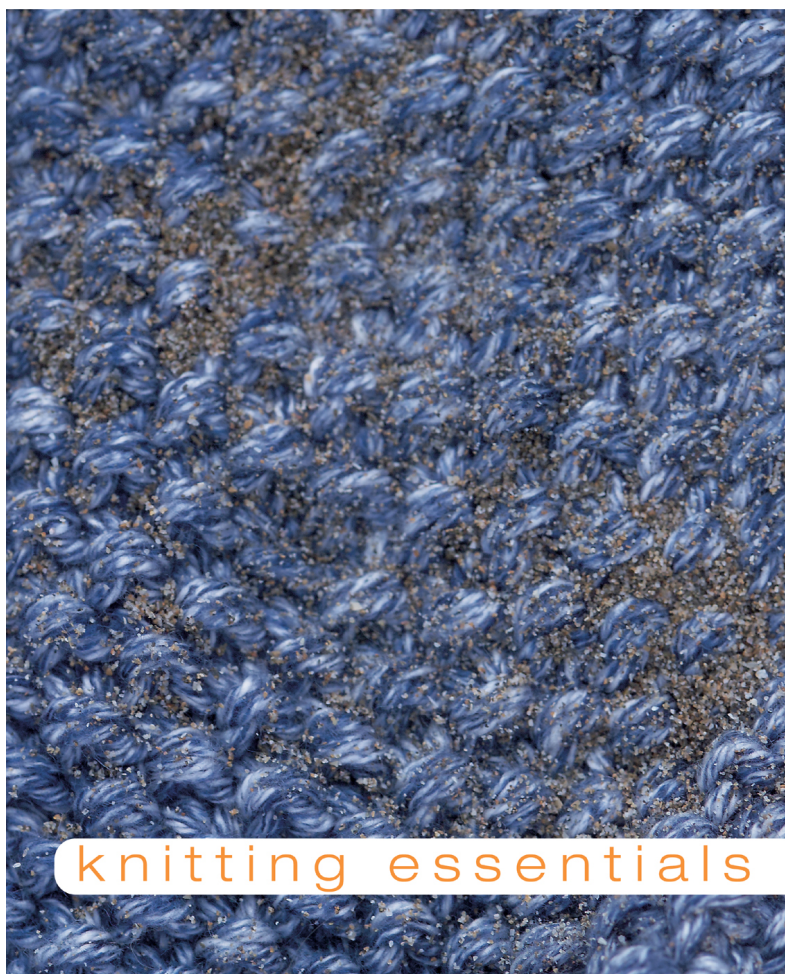
The projects in *Urban* are worked in strong, graphic colours and with geometric shapes and spot patterns that sing out against the pared-down shapes and style of the contemporary house. A spotted bedspread or cushions in clashing shades will add a vibrant note to any room and a lime felted bag and colourful gloves are the perfect accessories to enliven a drab day in town.

Modern Country reflects the rural landscape with contemporary knits worked in natural yarns in russets, taupes and browns, including a soft moss stitch wrap to snuggle into and a cosy jacket. For new or basic knitters, there are easy starter projects, such as a garter stitch washcloth and moss stitch pan holder.

In *Seaside*, the knits take on a nautical theme with floor cushions and throws for picnics on the beach or deck, worked in crisp cottons and using stitch patterns that evoke the classic fisherman's Guernseys. A ribbed, casual jacket and a simple sweater for a child are ideal for a relaxed holiday wardrobe.

The *Home* collection includes knits that cover a range of knitting skills, from very easy to projects for the more advanced knitter. Happy homemaking.





knitting essentials



following pattern instructions

Figures for larger sizes are given in round () brackets. Where only one figure appears, this applies to all sizes. Work the figures given in square [] brackets the number of times stated afterwards. Where 0 appears, no stitches or rows are worked for this size. As you follow the pattern, make sure that you are consistently using the right stitches for your size – it is only too easy to switch sizes inside the brackets. One way to avoid this is to photocopy the instructions first and mark off the figures for the size you are knitting with a coloured marker or highlighter.

The quantities of yarn quoted in the instructions are based on the yarn used by the knitter for the original garment and amounts should therefore be considered approximate. A slight variation in tension can make the difference between using less or more yarn than that stated in the pattern. Before buying the yarn, look at the measurements in the knitting patterns to be sure which size you want to knit. My patterns quote the actual finished size of the garment, not the chest size of the wearer. The length of the garment is taken from the shoulder shaping to the cast-on edge.

tension

Each pattern in the book states a tension or gauge – the number of stitches and rows per centimetre or inch that should be obtained with the given needles, yarn and stitch pattern. Check your tension carefully before starting work. A slight variation in tension can spoil the look of a garment and alter the proportions that the designer wanted. A too loose tension will produce uneven knitting and an unstable fabric that can droop or lose its shape after washing, while too tight a tension can create a hard, unforgiving fabric.

To make a tension square, use the same needles, yarn and stitch pattern quoted in the tension note in the pattern.

Knit a sample at least 12.5cm/5in square. Smooth out the finished sample on a flat surface but do not stretch it. To check the stitch tension, place a tape measure horizontally on the sample and mark 10cm/4in with pins. Count the number of stitches between pins. To check the row tension, place the tape measure vertically on the sample and mark 10cm/4in. Count the number of rows between the pins. If the number of stitches and rows is greater than that stated in the pattern, try again using larger needles. If the number of stitches and rows is less, use smaller needles. If you are only able to obtain either the stitch or the row tension, it is the stitch tension that is the most important to get right, as the length of many patterns are calculated by measurement rather than the number of rows you need to work to achieve it.

garment care

Taking care of your handknits is important. If you have invested all that time and labour into knitting them, you want them to look good for as long as possible.

Check the yarn label for washing instructions. Most yarns can now be machine washed on a delicate wool cycle. Prior to washing, make a note of the measurements of the garment or accessory, such as the width and length. After washing, lay the knitting flat and check the measurements again to see if they are the same. If not, smooth and pat it back into shape.

Some knitters prefer to hand wash their knits. Use soap flakes specially created for hand knits, and warm rather than hot water. Handle the knits gently in the water – do not rub or wring, as this can felt the fabric. Rinse well to get rid of any soap, and squeeze out excess water. You may need to get rid of more water by rolling the knitting in a towel, or use the delicate spin cycle of the washing machine. To dry the knitting, lay it out flat on a towel to

absorb moisture, and smooth and pat it into shape. Do not dry knits near direct heat, such as a radiator. Store your knits loosely folded to allow the air to circulate.

needle conversion chart

This needle conversion chart covers all the knitting needle sizes used for the patterns in this book.

UK metric	US sizes
2 ³ / ₄ mm	size 2
3mm	size 2-3
3 ¹ / ₄ mm	size 3
3 ³ / ₄ mm	size 5
4mm	size 6
4 ¹ / ₂ mm	size 7
5mm	size 8
5 ¹ / ₂ mm	size 9
6 ¹ / ₂ -7mm	size 10 ¹ / ₂
7 ¹ / ₂ -8mm	size 11

standard abbreviations

alt = alternate

beg = beginning

cm = centimetres

cont = continue

dec = decreas(e)ing

foll = following

in = inches

inc = increas(e)ing

k = knit

kfb = k into front and back of st

kfpb = knit into front and purl into back of next st to make one st

m1 = make one by picking up loop lying between st just worked and next st and working into the back of it

p = purl

patt = pattern

pfb = purl into front and back of next st

pfkb = purl into front and knit into back of next st to make one st

rem = remain(ing)

rep = repeat

skpo = slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over

sl = slip

st st = stocking stitch

st(s) = stitch(es)

tbl = through back of loop

tog = together

yf = yarn to front of work