



BEADED LACE KNITTING by Anniken Allis

During her talk to our Guild in September, Anniken was generous with advice and tips on using the patterns in her book and on knitting lace in general ...

- The book had to specify US yarns but Anniken tried to ensure that as many as possible were also available in the UK.
- It is straightforward to substitute yarns, especially for shawls where tension gauge is not vital. Look at the fibre content of the specified yarn ... why was it chosen? Drape, stitch definition, warmth?
- When substituting one yarn for another (whether it is a commercial or hand spun yarn) the most important criterion is to use a yarn with similar metres/100g as the original.
- Beading can be done by threading the required number of beads onto the yarn before starting the project but Anniken recommends adding beads with a crochet hook as you go. She advises that this is easier and causes less damage to the yarn.
- Beads can be added to or omitted from a design – choose whatever pleases you most.
- Favourite bead sources: [The Bead Room](#) (Totnes)
[Debbie Abrahams](#)
[Frampton Beads](#) (for Miracle beads)
- Mistakes – these can add to the learning process and “ripping back simply provides more hours of knitting for your money!”
- Blocking transforms all knitted projects but especially lace knitting ... “it turns an ugly duckling into a swan”. A little bit of tension can also smooth out uneven knitting and/or yarn and Anniken urged us to block before making a decision about an ‘iffy’ project. Anniken’s routine is:
 1. Soak the article in lukewarm water for about ten minutes. Fabric conditioner, shampoo or hair conditioner can all be added to the water but Anniken likes “Soak Wash” because a) you don’t have to rinse it out, b) it comes in lovely scents and c) the bottles are pretty!
 2. Roll and squash in a thick towel to remove excess water (a Guild member commented that a salad spinner also works well).
 3. Use a large flat area and blocking mats/play mats (available from Trago Mills).
 4. Stretch the shawl out and pin into shape. Blocking wires are very useful and are available from KnitPro stockists. Thread the blocking wires through points and/or eyelets and use pins to achieve the desired shape.
 5. Leave till completely dry.