



All About Wool : Fabric Dictionary and Swatchbook (Fabric Reference Ser.; Vol. 3)

By Julie Parker

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The third volume in Julie Parker's Fabric Reference Series explains the different fabrics made from wool and similar fibers, using plain English instead of confusing technical jargon. A detailed description of each fabric is illustrated with a real cloth sample, right there on the same page, which clarifies in the simplest way what a boiled wool, crpe, gabardine or whipcord actually looks and feels like.

A comprehensive introduction covers characteristics of the fiber, history of wool, breeds of sheep and other wool-bearing animals (such as camels and goats), types of wool, the main sources of wool, the wool textile industry, industry trends and how to judge quality. The introduction is followed by two-page descriptions of the main fabric types, each illustrated with a 2-1/2" x 4" cloth sample and simple black-and-white drawings. In the back of the book, space is provided for the reader to collect additional samples and record personal notes, followed by a list of mail-order sources, glossary, bibliography and index.

The fabric samples are packaged separately, layered in the same order as they appear in the book. It takes only a few minutes to mount the samples to the book's pages, using double-stick tape or a small spot of glue. Instructions are included. Samples include 30 wool fabrics and 5 specialty hair fibers, in this order: blanket cloth, boiled wool, boucl, cavalry twill, challis, coating, crpe, Donegal tweed, double cloth, double knit, felt, flannel (woolen), flannel (worsted), gabardine, glen plaid, Harris tweed, herringbone, homespun, houndstooth, jacquard, jersey, loden cloth, melton, menswear suiting, novelty suiting, plaid, satin, tropical suiting, tweed, whipcord, alpaca, angora rabbit, camel's hair, cashmere and mohair.

All About Wool is packed with information about the different weaves, yarns and finishes used to make wool fabrics. Terms such as woolen, worsted, merino wool, superfine wool and lamb's wool are clearly explained. A must for anyone who works with or wears wool!

The Fabric Reference Series has been featured in Crafter's Choice, a division of Book-of-the-Month Club. Other books in the series include All About Silk, with

32 silk samples, and All About Cotton, with 42 cotton samples.

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All About Wool : Fabric Dictionary and Swatchbook (Fabric Reference Ser.; Vol. 3) By Julie Parker Bibliography

- Rank: #1416508 in Books
- Brand: Rain City Pub
- Published on: 1996-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.25" h x 9.00" w x 1.25" l, 1.90 pounds
- Binding: Plastic Comb
- 144 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

A comprehensive resource you're sure to want in your home library. All aspects of wool are covered, including its history, characteristics, specialty hair fibers, types of wool, weaves and yarns, and working with wool. -- *Carol Zentgraf, Sew News, January 1997*

Finalist, 1997 Small Press Book Awards. What a wonderful book! Everything anyone could want to know about wool fabrics, from their original 'wearer' to the recommended cleaning process. The book provides sample swatches of good size, as well as hints about handling the vagaries of different fabrics and to what use each is best suited. There is a useful bibliography, an index of sheep breeds as well as the usual index and an extensive glossary of wool terms included in the book. A clear, simple guide in a well-organized form, this is the basic reference for all who work with wool. -- *Paula Frosch, Small Press, July/August 1997*

A set of very readable, useful books. Starting right at the beginning Julie Parker, the author, gives an overview about the fibre its origins and properties, history and manufacture delightfully illustrated by line drawings as appropriate. It was from these fascinating frontispieces that I learnt that slavery was going out of fashion until the lure of cotton profits made it more acceptable and that silkworms are stacked about ten high in a sort of 'high rise' apartment building. Similarly, did you know that a black sheep can contaminate the fleece of an entire flock or that the Black Welsh Mountain sheep has the blackest fleece, which is finer than that from a white Welsh Mountain sheep? OK, you don't need to know this information to knit or sew a garment, but it certainly makes interesting reading. ...These books are not cheap, but ... many not-so-well-written 'trade' manuals run into the three figures if they include samples, so these are certainly being pushed to the front of my birthday 'wish list.' They would make a great buy for a club library and excellent gifts for any textile student. -- *Machine Knitting News, July 1997*

Almost every fiber enthusiast is likely to confess that "Please touch" is her/his favorite directional sign, and Julie Parker's Fabric Reference Series, which also includes volumes on silk and cotton, provides the reader with a carte blanche invitation to do just that. ...The cut samples which accompany this worthwhile text are a colorful bonus. Fiber lovers, enthusiasts, and knowledge seekers of all kinds will find this volume (and the others too) useful as well as fun to read and own. -- *Vicki Gadberry, Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot, Winter 1996/1997*

I can't think of a more pleasant task than pasting in the 35 fabric samples that come with this book. The goal of the book is to acquaint you with all the properties of wool. Each page is laid out with space for the 2-1/2" x 4" sample, a description of that type of wool, variations, a checklist of sewing difficulty, suggested looseness of fit and style, approximate cost per yard, what to expect during construction (e.g., 'cut single layer'), wearability, pressing tips, suggested care, and where to find it. Boxes scattered throughout tell about fabric construction, pressing, preshrinking, and much more. ... This is a near-perfect book, without which I can't imagine sewing. I also love her All About Cotton and All About Silk. -- *Robbie Fanning, Creative Machine Newsletter, Fall 1997*

If you love fabric, you'll love Julie Parker's meticulously researched and prepared Fabric Reference Series. ... Each book is thoroughly cross-referenced, making it easy to find information about a fabric's characteristics, how it's produced, and tips on its use for home sewers. The information is served up in small, easily digested bites, and combined with delicious swatches for each entry to give you a thorough understanding of the

fabric category at hand. -- *Toni Toomey, Threads, March 1997*

Though written primarily for sewers, a weaver's knowledge is much enriched by the contents of these books. ... Julie Parker's background is in editing and she puts her skills to good use in making the text absolutely clear. If you've ever felt a little overwhelmed in a good fabric store, these books are for you. -- *Madelyn van der Hoogt, Weaver's, Spring 1997*

About the Author

Julie Parker is a former newspaper editor turned fabric junkie. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in communications from the University of Washington in Seattle and a second bachelor's degree in apparel design from Western Washington University in Bellingham. She was a newspaper editor for 10 years before returning to school to study clothing design. She is the author of three books and recently was hired by the Wool Bureau in New York to write a guide to wool fabrics that was distributed to members of the garment industry throughout North America. Her most recent book, *All About Wool*, was a finalist in the crafts category of the 1997 Small Press Book Awards. She lives in Seattle.

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You won't find a more valuable textile fiber than wool, one of nature's precious gifts to the human race. Since the dawn of civilization, this remarkable fiber has been unequalled as a source of clothing and textiles. It is intricately woven into our lives in obvious and subtle ways, from the clothes we wear to the fibers we use to stuff baseballs and mattresses.

Wool has survived through the ages because it has an incredibly complex physical structure, which makes it incredibly versatile. It can be spun into thick, fuzzy yarns or thin, smooth ones, and woven into warm, bulky fabrics or light, airy ones. It may be rough and rugged or soft and sensual, fit for both cattle ranches and haute couture. It is equally at home on the ski slopes of Colorado, in the corporate offices of New York and at glitzy parties in Hollywood.

Wool has an amazing repertoire of characteristics that often seem to contradict each other. For example, the fiber absorbs moisture but repels liquid, which means it will keep you as dry on a hot humid day as it will in a rain storm.

Wool is warm on cold days and comfortably cool on warm days. It insulates against extremes at both ends of the thermometer from a frigid Arctic blast to a hot desert wind.

Wool sheds wrinkles but can be pressed to hold sharp pleats and folds. It stretches easily, but won't sag, droop or lose its shape. It can be styled to drape softly against the body or manipulated to hold a shape, such as a perfectly rolled lapel or the curved brim of a hat.

Wool is impressive even when it's not contradicting itself. The fiber dyes beautifully, all the way to the core, and it holds the color forever. Almost any color is possible, from pale, icy blues to fiery reds.

Wool is strong and durable, it resists abrasion and it is difficult to tear. Garments are easy to keep clean because dirt sits on the surface of the fabric, rather than penetrating the fiber. Dirt can be brushed off and spills lift right out.

To top it all off, wool is naturally fire resistant. It is slow to burn and will extinguish itself when the flame is removed. It can literally save your life in a fire.

No other natural fiber has all of these qualities and no synthetic fiber has ever been made to behave exactly like wool, because no one has ever been able to duplicate wool's complicated physical structure, although

many have tried.

Unfortunately for the wool trade, wool is completely misunderstood by many consumers. It is irrevocably linked with cooler seasons and cold climates. It gets blamed for skin allergies that quite simply do not exist. And it gets passed over for high-tech, low-maintenance fabrics because they cost less and have more sex appeal.

That's too bad, because wool is a better investment than most other fibers, in spite of its higher cost. Garments are lined with dividends when you choose to wear wool, you are rewarded with clothing that is comfortable to wear and maintains its good looks for years.

Wool is one of the easiest fibers to cut and sew. Other fibers will put up a fight for control of the cutting table and sewing machine. Wool follows your lead mismatched pieces can be nudged together with no sign of a stretch mark or ripple, stitches can be removed without leaving a hole and unwanted creases can be made to simply disappear.

The greater challenge comes at the ironing board, where the fiber reveals a definite stubborn streak. Wool is more difficult to press than other fibers it demands as much time and effort with an iron as it does with a needle and thread.

But don't let an iron scare you off. Wool gets high marks from tailors, clothing designers and alterations shops, many of whom would rather work with wool than with any other fiber. Experience has taught them to appreciate wool.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elizabeth Parker:

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each book has different aim or goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are really reading whatever they consider because their hobby is definitely reading a book. What about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, man feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will require this All About Wool : Fabric Dictionary and Swatchbook (Fabric Reference Ser.; Vol. 3).

Gayle Meek:

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Marsha Young:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive at this point, people have to do something to make all of them survive, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a publication your ability to survive enhance then having chance to endure than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading the book, we give you this kind of All About Wool : Fabric Dictionary and Swatchbook (Fabric Reference Ser.; Vol. 3) book as beginner and daily reading book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Bernice Smith:

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