

August 2008 Cablegram book review, by Karen Jo Gustafson

Knits for Men: 20 Sweaters, Vests, and Accessories
by Margaret Hubert

Knits for Men contains several classic and unfussy sweaters that appeal to me. The construction is also unfussy with modified-drop shoulders and slip-stitch for colorwork where used, plus the spiral binding lies nice and flat. This one I bought.

As usual, I'd probably make some small changes in the patterns I'd choose to knit from this book. Instead of the contrasting inset around the zipper for the Alpine Zip-Neck Pullover, I'd use the contrast color on the inside of the double-layer collar. The contrast sleeves with their body-colored cuff and slip-stitch pattern at the shoulder I'd knit as is. For the basket-weave Toggle Collar Pullover I'd leave off the toggle and add an edge stitch to the neck and collar opening.

The accessories section contains only a few patterns, all of which use slip-stitch colorwork. If you knit for a young man who's partial to the ethnic, ear-flapped ski hat style, the two-color version with matching scarf here shouldn't take too long to knit up in bulky yarn. The extra thickness of the slip stitches will make this, the roll-brim hat and its matching scarf, and the slipper socks cozy and warm.

Though the chart of body measurements from the Craft Yarn Council of America in the Tips and Tricks section lists size small through XXL, the patterns actually just run to an XL. Finished measurements start at 44 inches for a small to 50 inches for an extra large, except for the sand-stitch V-neck cardigan sized 46 inches through 52 inches and the pullover with the entrelac front and back in two sizes of 46 and 50 inches. That's eight to ten inches of ease in the small but only two to four in the XL so you may need to interpret sizes to suit your guy's preferences.