

CreateBy CatkinThe crochet animals in this book are delightful, as are the photos of baby Edward enjoying them. Most instructions are reasonably clear and size charts help determine how different weight yarns will work. Instructions are written as European or UK, but there are explanations to translate to US stitches. There is a 2-page spread with basic body instructions which each animal is based upon and the patterns are sorted into 3 levels of difficulty with Level 1 being the easiest. I think the author worked diligently to make instructions as clear as she was able. However, there are several negatives that kept this from being one of my favorite books. The necessity of flipping back and forth from the basic body to the one you have chosen to work can be very frustrating. You work certain rounds from the basic and certain rounds for a particular animal. You must also realize that a lot of the appeal comes from the yarn used. The author happens to be fortunate enough to have grown up on an Alpaca farm and be an owner of a luxury yarn co. All the animals derive their woolly huggable appearance from the texture of alpaca yarn, which is not available to everyone and is not especially practical for children's toys. Also, there are not really clear instructions as to how to achieve the individual animal faces. For instance the nose directions on p.117. Even with the photos. I was hard put to make the nose as described, and I'm no amateur to crochet or animal-making. A beginner would truly have difficulty. I was very disappointed in the book. I thought I might use the patterns to create my own versions, but it is simply too much frustration and there are many other books and patterns available that are much easier to use. My book is being donated to our local Friends of the Library used book store. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. So cute!

By Shawn TelfordThe animals in this book are adorable! Once you get one under your belt, the others become easier. I have beginner crochet skills, but have knitted for a long time. I found some of the extra directions and tips in this book to be a bit confusing so I ended up consulting the internet for a few things. The yarn recommended for the animals is quite expensive, but I have found some more reasonable substitutes. I look forward to making many more animals in the future.

Get ready to spend some time with a suave high-flying rhino, a lovesick elephant who knows her way around a kitchen and a seriously chivalrous tiger...With just two weeks to go before baby Edward's due date, yarn enthusiast Kerry Lord picked up a crochet hook for the first time and a new obsession began. Over the next 12 months the collection of crochet animals expanded week on week until "Edward's Menagerie" was complete with 40 unique patterns. These cute animals with larger-than-life personalities are made using simple crochet techniques and the step-by-step instructions enable a complete beginner to get hooking straight away. Each animal also has a universal pattern where you can change your hook and yarn to create four different sizes, making 160 different possibilities. Be warned that these unlikely characters made using a supersoft yarn in a sumptuous natural colour palette will become your new best friends as you hook your way through the whole menagerie!

About the AuthorKerry Lord is the designer and founder of the TOFT Alpaca Shop, a modern British knitwear company offering exclusive knitting and crochet patterns, alpaca yarns and workshops. TOFT takes British alpaca fleece from their own Alpaca flock and from elsewhere in the UK. Their fashion-led designs are available as both 'ready to wear' and 'ready to knit'. TOFT studio also hosts a full programme of knitting workshops and other textile courses for people to learn to knit from scratch, but also to develop advanced techniques.

www.thetoftalpacashop.co.uk