

The Copyright FAQ for Knitters

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The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

This document was last updated on 22 May 2009 with minor editorial changes following its transfer to this website. The FAQ itself was last updated on 18 December 2001.

As a somewhat long-time member of several knitting email lists where this topic has repeatedly generated heated discussion and occasionally misinformation, it is clear that knitters need access to user-friendly information on copyright and how it relates to our day-to-day knitting activities.

In the interest of accuracy, completeness and ease-of-understanding, this document was reviewed by a panel of reviewers from various fields including designers, publishers, yarn shop owners, lawyers, librarians and, of course, knitters. Thank you all for your help.

I would like to especially acknowledge the advice and contributions of the following people in the development of this FAQ: Margo Lynn Hablutzel, Carolyn D'Agostino, Helen Pope, Dawn Brocco, Joan Hamer, Diane Piwko, Mary Hunt, Ruth Schooley, Colleen Hansen, Barbara Breiter and Esther Bozak.



Disclaimer

This Copyright FAQ is intended as a basic informational guide only and does not cover every possible situation under copyright law. The information presented in this FAQ is based on United States copyright law and, to the best of my knowledge, is correct as of December 2000.

However, be aware that the United States has entered into a number of international treaties with other countries that grant mutual recognition of copyright laws, including the Berne Convention and the Universal Copyright Convention. Under these agreements, the countries honor each other's copyrights and laws.¹

I am not a copyright lawyer. While being on these email lists has been a great educational experience (and thank you to all those people who have shared of their knowledge on this topic over the years), this "education" still doesn't make me a copyright lawyer. Please *do not write me with specific questions on copyright law*, as I cannot advise you on legal matters. Only a copyright lawyer can assist you.

If you are a copyright lawyer and find inaccuracies on this page, please use the contact form [here](#) to send me a message so that I can make corrections in the interest of providing accurate information.

What is meant by copyright in this specific knitting context?

Copyright is the body of law that protects a designer's hard work in its tangible form as a written pattern, whether in hard print or on the Internet. Unless it says otherwise in the copyright notice, this includes the written words, photographs, charts, diagrams and any audio or video reproduction of the instructions.

The copyright notice generally contains the following three elements: the word "copyright" or the copyright symbol, the year and a name. The use of "Copyright" or "©" indicates that the pattern as written is the original work of the copyright holder, whose name appears next to it. The year represents the year the work was created and the beginning date or renewal date of its copyright protection. The copyright notice usually is found either at the beginning of a book or in the masthead of a magazine, or at the beginning or end of a document.

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

Most importantly, under current U. S. copyright law, anything given expression in a tangible form, as described above, and published after March 1, 1989 is protected by copyright law whether the copyright holder has included a copyright notice or not.

What is covered in this Copyright FAQ?



The Photocopying Issue

Q: I just found this great pattern in a book, but I don't want to buy the entire book. Can I photocopy just the pattern I want?

Q: Can the yarn shop photocopy the pattern from their "Store Copy"?

Q: The pattern I want appears in a book that is "out-of-print." Can it be photocopied?

Q: What about magazines, newsletters, designer-published leaflets and the like? Can I photocopy patterns from them?

Q: Under what circumstance can I photocopy a pattern?

The Internet

Q: I found a free knitting pattern on So-and-so's website and I want to print it out or save it. Can I?

Q: I don't see a copyright notice on the pattern. What do I do now?

Q: Can I share patterns I saved to my hard disk with others by email or by printing them?

Q: So-and-so sent a copy of an original pattern s/he designed to our email/Usenet group without including a copyright notice. Can I forward it to someone else or post it elsewhere on the Internet or print it out and share it with others?

Knitting Items For Sale or Donation

Q: So-and-so really likes the (insert-the-project-of-your-choice-here) I made from a copyrighted pattern and s/he wants me to knit her/him this item as a gift. Can I?

Q: So-and-so really likes the (insert-the-project-of-your-choice-here) I made from a copyrighted pattern and s/he wants me to sell her/him this item. Can I?

Q: What about things I want to knit from a copyrighted pattern and donate to charity or to an auction? Is this OK?

Q: What if I change the elements of the design to make it different from the original?

Q: I want to design an item using a popular character. Can I?

Resale of Patterns

Q: I have some patterns that I don't want any longer. Can I resell them?

Why do I have to be concerned with this rigmarole in the first place!?

Musings on what it means to be a Knit Designer

Bibliography

Notations found throughout this document

Appendix: Copyright Issues and Knitting Design by Carolyn D'Agostino

A repeat of Carolyn's excellent copyright post

Further Reading

Additional resources found online

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

So, how does copyright affect me in my day-to-day knitting?

Let's start with a series of questions and answers.

Things in print, or The Photocopying Issue:



I just found this great pattern in a book, but I don't want to buy the entire book. Can I photocopy just the pattern I want?



No. With the exception of the specific circumstances listed below, photocopying individual patterns from a book is not allowed under copyright law. Only the copyright holder, be it the publisher or the designer, can give you the right to copy his or her work. You need to contact that publication or person first.

However, if the book was checked out of the public library, you may make a photocopy for your own personal use. Under copyright law, public libraries and their patrons are allowed to make a limited number of photocopies per year.² Libraries pay for this prerogative. If you are not sure, ask the librarian, who can give you specific information regarding that library's policy.

What is meant by "your own personal use" is that you, personally, may use the photocopy as long as you do not earn, make or otherwise receive any profit from using it. This includes not knitting up the pattern for subsequent sale of the finished item. (See section below on "Knitting Items for Sale or Donation".)



Can the yarn shop photocopy the pattern from their "Store Copy"?



No. Yarn shops may not photocopy copyrighted materials for the same reason as given above. Even if they do not charge their customers for this "service," they would receive profit from the sale of related items, such as yarn or knitting equipment, that they would not have sold to begin with without that unauthorized photocopy.³ The only exception here is if the yarn shop has the prior consent of the copyright holder to do so.



The pattern I want appears in a book that is "out-of-print." Can it be photocopied?



Because a book is no longer in print does not mean that it is no longer protected under copyright law. According to the current law, works published after January 1, 1978 are protected by copyright for the lifetime of the author plus 70 years.⁴

For works published before that time, it is possible that the copyright was not renewed (under the old law). However, you will have to determine this through the Copyright Office at the Library of Congress. The safe rule is that anything published in 1923 or before is in the public domain and safe to copy; anything after that should be presumed under protection unless you can prove otherwise.⁵

Though you will have to search harder to find the out-of-print book, you may still be able

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

to purchase a copy through second-hand booksellers, auctions or through a trade.

Here, too, you may make a photocopy from out-of-print books from your public library's collection, under the same restrictions and limitations as indicated above.⁶



What about magazines, newsletters, designer-published leaflets and the like? Can I photocopy patterns from them?



No. Copyright protection is the same for these as for books. Everything that appears above for books applies to these items as well.



Under what circumstance can I photocopy a pattern?



Beyond the library exception, as noted above, if you are the owner of the book or magazine you may make a copy for your own personal use. (See above definition of personal use.)

If you need to make multiple copies of copyrighted material for the purpose of distributing at group events, such as guild meetings, workshops, conventions and the like, you must get the written permission of the copyright holder.⁷ This is true regardless of whether the group is a for-profit or not-for-profit organization.⁸

Here, too, you are bound by the limitation that the copyright holder sets on this use. If you receive permission to copy and distribute multiple copies of certain material at a guild meeting, then you cannot use that same permission to copy and distribute that material or different material by the same copyright holder at a different function.⁹

And, of course, if the copyright owner states on the pattern that you may make copies, and you adhere to the conditions and limitations that the copyright holder gives, such as keeping the pattern intact with the copyright notice, then it is all right to make the copies.¹⁰

Let's move on to the newest resource for knitting patterns,

The Internet:



I found a free knitting pattern on So-and-so's website and I want to print it out or save it. Can I?



Websites that offer free knitting patterns know that you are going to print out the pattern and put it in your knitting patterns folder or save it to your hard disk. It's what you do with that pattern afterwards that comes under scrutiny. Take a close look at the copyright notice that came on the pattern. What does it say?



I don't see a copyright notice on the pattern. What do I do now?

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters



Even if there is no actual copyright notice appearing on the pattern, that work is still protected by copyright just as though a copyright notice were there and must be treated as such.¹¹



Can I share patterns I saved to my hard disk with others by email or by printing them?



If the copyright holder doesn't specifically say in the copyright notice that it can be distributed to others, or if no copyright notice is present, then no. You must contact the copyright holder first to get his or her permission before it can be redistributed.

If the copyright holder has included a copyright notice in which it says that the pattern can be redistributed, and, again, if you adhere to the conditions and limitations that the copyright holder has given under which it can be done, then yes.



So-and-so sent a copy of an original pattern s/he designed to our email/Usenet group without including a copyright notice. Can I forward it to someone else or post it elsewhere on the Internet or print it out and share it with others?



Again, even though there is no actual copyright notice on that pattern, by law it must be treated as though there were a notice included. In the early days of the Internet, it was safe to assume that just by sending it to an Internet email/Usenet group the original sender expressed a desire to share it with others (Public Domain), and you could go ahead and forward it or print it. This is no longer the case.¹²

The only way to be sure that the copyright holder has released something into the public domain is if they say so on the pattern.¹³

This principle also applies to anything written, including, but not limited to texts, instructions, explanations, tips, charts and tables.

Under no circumstance can any written material be stripped of its header and/or copyright notice for redistribution or use elsewhere in any format.

Now that you have your "for personal use" photocopy of the pattern from your book or magazine or from the library or printed from the Internet, we can address:

Knitting Items For Sale or Donation:



So-and-so really likes the (insert-the-project-of-your-choice-here) I made from a copyrighted pattern and s/he wants me to knit her/him this item as a gift. Can I?



You are free to knit and give away as many of the (insert-the-project-of-your-choice-here) as you would like without seeking additional permission from the copyright holder, as long as you do not earn, make or otherwise receive any profit from doing so.¹⁴

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters



So-and-so really likes the (insert-the-project-of-your-choice-here) I made from a copyrighted pattern and s/he wants me to sell her/him this item. Can I?



Here is the subtle difference. When money is exchanged, even among friends, you need to make sure that the designer allows this as indicated in the copyright notice of the pattern.

Many patterns include a statement similar to "this item may not be made for sale" or "may only be made for your own personal use." Even if such a statement is not actually included in the copyright notice, you need to treat it as though it were included. You need to receive permission from the copyright holder before you can offer this item for sale.

As a general rule, if So-and-so is asking or hiring you to knit an item for them while they purchase the copyrighted pattern and yarn, then this is OK. However, if you yourself first knit up an item from a copyrighted pattern and then offer it for sale, this is not OK.



What about things I want to knit from a copyrighted pattern and donate to charity or to an auction? Is this OK?



Again, the subtle difference between a gift and a sale comes into play. If the charity to which you want to give the item uses the item itself, and does not sell it, you are free to give the knitted item away. If, however, the charity sells the item to gain proceeds, or auctions the item for its proceeds, your gift would effectively be the money and not the item itself. For this, you must have the permission of the copyright holder.¹⁵



What if I change the elements of the design to make it different from the original?



While copyright law protects the design as it was originally written, it also gives the designer the exclusive right to create a new design based on the original one.¹⁶ Please read the appendix: Copyright Issues and Knitting Design, by Carolyn D'Agostino, for further discussion of this complicated, but important, topic. The appendix appears at the end of this document.



I want to design an item using a popular character. Can I?



Please be aware that characters, such as Mickey Mouse, Bugs Bunny, Barney and so on, may be protected not only by the copyright on their image, but also by trademark registration. Use of a registered character can lead to problems, because the owner of the character has the right to control all use of that character, including reproduction on knitted garments and especially in patterns.

If you want to produce a chart of a character, you should contact the owner of that

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

character first to be sure you may do so. If you are doing a one-time sweater for a beloved child, then you are probably in the clear. But, if you post the pattern on a website or sell copies, then you need to get permission or you can be in trouble for using the character's image without a license.¹⁷



A note especially for designers:

If you self-publish your patterns and don't already do so, consider making it easy for knitters to contact you with problems or requests by including a mailing address and/or email address in your pattern.

For those designers who freely share their original patterns with their email or Usenet groups: make sure you know the policy regarding the ownership of content sent to the list to which you post. Unless you signed your rights away, copyright law covers the content of your post. Make yourself clear by adding a copyright notice to your pattern and don't leave it open to interpretation by others.

For everyone: Educate yourself on copyright. It's in your own best interest to know the basics of copyright law and how it affects your work not only in print but on the Internet as well. There are further resources listed at the end of this document.

Resale of Patterns



I have some patterns that I don't want any longer. Can I resell them?



Once you buy a pattern, you own the physical pattern and can do as you please with it. You can give or sell it to someone else - but only if you do not keep a copy for yourself, or make copies for anybody else. Owning the physical copy of that pattern only gives you the right to use or dispose of that copy, not make other copies.¹⁸

Why do I have to be concerned with this rigmarole in the first place!?

Beyond the good feeling you get when "doing what's right," or "giving credit where credit is due", there are legal repercussions of copyright infringement. In the United States it is a Federal offense.

If you're thinking, "But one copy won't make a difference, will it?" Consider this: When you see a pattern selling for \$5 for only one design, you may think the price is outrageous. However, that \$5 doesn't go very far.

First, the yarn store owner takes half--and uses it to pay rent, heat, electricity, phone, advertising, credit card surcharges, employees and maybe the owner. Now the designer might get \$2.50, which he or she uses to pay for getting the pattern out to the shop in the first place. If the designer goes through an agent or a distribution company, that middleman takes a cut. On top of that, there are the actual production costs of publishing a pattern. Many people are unaware of the costs of putting a pattern out into the world; they include the costs of the yarn used to make the models and swatches, the paper for the umpteen printouts until the pattern was right, any test knitters, the electricity for the computer on which was typed the pattern, film and developing of the picture to go on the front of the pattern, copying, and those page protectors that the pattern goes in or the

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

equally expensive heavy high gloss paper. (Until you make thousands of them, one page of color copying generally costs over \$1.00 U.S.) If there's anything left, the designer gets paid so he or she can pay rent, heat, light, etc.

The upshot of all this is that to actually earn a profit on a pattern, a designer has to sell a huge number of them; to make a living, the designer has to work very hard, come up with many patterns every year, and sell huge numbers of all of them. The income from each pattern is important!¹⁹

When knitters infringe on copyright law by abusing the rights of the copyright holder, whether innocently or intentionally, this diminishes a designer's incentive to develop patterns for sale or their desire to share with others. As a result, some designers may decide to stop designing and publishing their patterns. This has already happened in other needle arts. (See the links to the online articles in the "Further Reading" section.)

Truly, where would we knitters be without this talented group of special people? Think about this before you decide to make an unauthorized copy.

Bibliography:

¹Contributed by Margo Lynn Hablutzal.

²"Copyright Law of the United States of America and Related Laws Contained in Title 17 of the United States Code," Chapter 1, section 108, U.S. Copyright Office. <http://www.loc.gov/copyright/title17/> -Source contributed by Colleen Hansen

³Contributed by Helen Pope.

⁴Copyright Basics, Circular 1, U.S. Copyright Office <http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright/circs/circ1.html>

⁵Contributed by Margo Lynn Hablutzal.

⁶Contributed by Helen Pope.

⁷"Copyright Law of the United States of America and Related Laws Contained in Title 17 of the United States Code," Chapter 1, section 107, U.S. Copyright Office. <http://www.loc.gov/copyright/title17/>

The section on "Fair Use" as pertaining to educators and librarians is further explained in the Adobe Acrobat Reader PDF document "Reproduction of Copyrighted Works by Educators and Librarians," Circular 21, U.S. Copyright Office, at <http://www.loc.gov/copyright/circs/circ21.pdf>

⁸Contributed by Margo Lynn Hablutzal.

⁹Ibid., "Patterns and Copyright - a quickie," KnitU Digest Archives, Thursday, February 25 1999, Digest Number 121

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹ 10 Big Myths About Copyright Explained, <http://www.templetons.com/brad/copymyths.html>

¹²Ibid.

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

¹³Contributed by Margo Lynn Hablutzel.

¹⁴Contributed by Helen Pope.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶ 10 Big Myths About Copyright Explained.

¹⁷Contributed by Margo Lynn Hablutzel.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹Contributed by Helen Pope.

Appendix: Copyright Issues and Knitting Design

-by Carolyn D'Agostino

Carolyn D'Agostino is a practicing attorney, weaver, spinner, knitter and mother of three. Her post on copyright has appeared at various times on several knitting and spinning email lists on the Internet. The following material was written by Carolyn and graciously provided by her for inclusion in this document. This is not legal advice. Should you require legal assistance, please contact an attorney in your community.

What is copyright?

Section 106 of the Copyright Law of 1976 provides the owner of a copyright with the following exclusive rights:

1. to reproduce the copyrighted work;
2. to prepare derivative works based upon the copyrighted work (a derivative work is a work which is based upon one or more preexisting works, more about these below);
3. to distribute copies. . .of the copyrighted work to the public by sale, lease, rental;
4. to perform the work (not really relevant here);
5. to display the work publicly.

It should be noted further that the owner of a copyright is presumed to have retained all of the above rights, unless they have been expressly waived. This means that I need not spell out the above in my copyright notice or in any agreements I may make with others. However, if the copyright holder specifically spells out such rights, it may later help her prove that the infringement was willful. This may result in more punitive penalties, and perhaps even criminal prosecution to the offender.

The above rights, however, are not without limitation and lead us to the next question:

What is protected by copyright?

Courts have always recognized that there will be new forms of expression that will be within the purview of the copyright laws even though they may not have been contemplated in the legislation. Accordingly, the question of what is copyrightable seeks to address certain characteristics of the work, which may or may not place it within the realm of the statute. Courts generally draw distinctions between "ideas," which cannot be owned, and "expression" which can. Thus, if I have the "idea" of a knitted, felted dinosaur,

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

I cannot prevent others from similarly having that idea. If I express my idea in a particular fashion, I can obtain copyright protection of that expression --purple, eight inches high, with yellow spots, etc.-- but I cannot prevent others from making their own knitted dinosaurs using their own expression. Thus, to be copyrightable, the idea must be original to me and expressed in a tangible form (i.e. it is not just in my head, but I have made the thing, or written down the instructions).

Derivative Works:

Okay, so I have made a purple dinosaur with yellow spots, which resembles a brontosaurus. My friend decides that knitted dinosaurs are a great idea, and she goes ahead and knits and fuls a dinosaur, based on my dinosaur, but hers is a different color and size. Has she infringed upon my copyright in the expressed work? Her dinosaur, if it was based on mine and did not occur independently from mine, would be regarded as a "derivative" work. A copyright owner does not have protection in a derivative work if it contains a "substantial, not merely trivial, originality." (See, Latman, *The Copyright Law*, p.25). As with most everything in the law, this is a question of fact and degree. How much has she deviated from my dinosaur? You can see that derivative works are a fertile source of litigation.

The variation must be significant. Reproducing the work in another medium (My friend paints an exact likeness of my knitted, fulled dinosaur and plans to sell them as greeting cards, she crochets hers rather than knits an identical replica, etc., she makes a more technically proficient dinosaur than mine) will generally not be enough to get her independent protection.

If, however, the differences in her dinosaur are significant --perceptible to the casual observer, as one court put it-- then she would obtain protection, for her variation only.

This may also apply to designs from other sources. I take a design from Barbara Walker for a knitted castle. I place it within a larger overall design -- a baby blanket with a number of different squares arranged in a particular manner. Barbara may still have copyright protection for her castle, but my variation is also protected, to the extent that it departs from the original. I can't prevent others from making their own variations on the original castle in the book.

Other Non-copyrightable Material:

Systems or Processes:

These may be patentable (way beyond the scope of discussion here) but they are not copyrightable. Recipes, for example, are not copyrightable. I do not have ownership of my pasta fagioli recipe, no matter how good it is, no matter how original it is. If I put it into a cookbook, and arrange the ingredients on the page, and write the directions in a certain manner, with a touching story of how it came to me from my grandmother, those aspects of the recipe may be protected, but the actual process itself cannot.

Similarly, the process of shaping a neckline, turning a heel, sewing in a set in sleeve, cannot be protected. I can write out detailed instructions for any of the above, and my written expression, as it appears in its tangible form can be protected. But, even if my method for turning a heel is completely unique in the world of knitting, and has never before been seen by anyone, I can't prevent others from using it, teaching it, writing their own instructions out for how to do it, etc.

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

Short Phrases, Titles or Slogans

Slogans may be trademark protected (also way outside the scope of this discussion) but a title is generally thought to represent too small a portion of the overall work to be protected in its own right. I believe there are two "Enchanted Forest" sweaters out there, neither is guilty of infringement, solely because the title is the same.

Utilitarian items

This is by far the thorniest issue facing knitters and other craftspeople. Designers must realize that garments such as hats, mittens, sweaters, coats, even when exquisitely made, of the finest, most unique materials, are not copyrightable. However, law states that such utilitarian items shall be entitled to protection "if, and to the extent that, such design incorporates a pictorial, graphic, or sculptural features that can be identified separately from, and are capable of existing independently of, the utilitarian aspects of the article." What does this mean in the knitting context? It may mean that much of what people regard as copyright protected, may enjoy limited protection. Clothing is almost never considered anything but a utilitarian article.

My knitted dinosaur, however, is not a utilitarian article, as it could be regarded as a soft sculpture. There may be aspects of the clothing, which, if they could be separately identified (i.e. I put my purple dinosaur on a sweater done in intarsia) and can exist independently of the garment (I can take a representation of that dinosaur and put it on a hat, a poster, a t-shirt, etc.), the representation of the dinosaur, not the dinosaur sweater itself, is copyrightable. In similar fashion, if I take a number of traditional Aran or Guernsey motifs and arrange them in a certain fashion in a sweater or other garment, and also add other aspects of design to the garment (neckline, button details, overall shape etc.), these modifications clearly serve to separately identify the work.

But, you say, what about the pattern for the dinosaur sweater? Does this mean that I can reproduce it, word for word, leaving out the dinosaur chart, but otherwise replicating the written instructions. Probably not. The written instructions, arranged according to my own original expression, can be protected, in the same manner as my recipe for pasta fagirole, when it is expressed and arranged in a cookbook. This is why many companies can offer patterns for basic stockinette stitch sweaters, all of which may be very similar in appearance. One cannot own the exclusive right to make or display or even sell a stockinette stitch sweater, but if I express the idea in a written pattern, I own the pattern, as written and can protect, not necessarily the sweater -- but the written expression, and any other severable design elements capable of existing in their own right (the purple dinosaur).

For example, I wish to design a mitten. I open up the book "Homespun, Handknit" and see a mitten, for an adult, done in honeycomb stitch. Honeycomb stitch, by itself, is not copyright protected as it appears in many stitch dictionaries. It's probably going to be regarded as something in the public domain, or perhaps a process. I can use this stitch in my own design, even in another mitten, notwithstanding the fact that another knitter has published a mitten pattern, in honeycomb stitch, and has a copyright interest in that pattern. No one owns the right to put a stitch into a mitten or sweater, no one owns the right to make a red mitten or a blue one, etc.

So, I decide I like the use of honeycomb stitch in a mitten. I go ahead and make a child's mitten in honeycomb stitch. I make it in different colors, I may use different yarn. I write up my instructions in a different manner than the books, casting on a different number,

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

orienting and arranging it in a different way. I then post my pattern to one of the online knitting lists, or I send it into a magazine and it is published. Is my pattern protected? Yes. Have I violated the original knitter's copyright? No, in all probability. Why? The first mitten, in honeycomb stitch, is a utilitarian item. Yes, it's lovely, it's original, it's well-made. It's a garment! I can't own the exclusive rights to make mittens! What can be severed from the mitten and exist independently? Honeycomb stitch? No. This stitch is in the public domain, or it could be regarded as a process, or at the very least, a "de minimis" (legalese for small and insignificant) aspect of the design which cannot exist independently of the mitten itself.

It is not the original mitten, or my new version, that is capable of copyright protection, because there is no design element in this type of a mitten that can exist independent of the mitten. If I put a unique design on my mittens, that can be taken off the mitten and exist independently, or used in another media, (back to the purple dinosaur) then that design element, and that element alone, is protected. The written instructions for the original "Homespun, Handknit" mittens are protected, however, if I write out my design for the child's mitten, and the only thing that is the same is the stitch, I have, at the most, created a significantly different derivative work, and I have not broken the law. Even if I make another adult mitten, using honeycomb stitch, and write up an entirely different set of directions, I have not broken the law. Unless there is something so unique about the mitten that it can be taken off and exist independently, and it is my opinion that honeycomb stitch alone does not meet this test, I have not infringed on a copyright if I happen to use the same stitch as someone else.

End of Appendix

Further Reading:

Lastly, if you didn't find the answers to your questions in this FAQ, here are links to additional websites that offer more detailed information about copyright:

For more knit-specific information, search the archives of any of the knitting email lists. There has been a prolific amount of email sent to the lists on this topic over the years.

[TechKnit Archives](http://www.fibergypsy.com/TechKnit/digests.shtml) <http://www.fibergypsy.com/TechKnit/digests.shtml>

KnitU Archives (now KnitTalk) on the [XRX website](http://www.knittinguniverse.com/) <http://www.knittinguniverse.com/>

[Copyright for Crafters](http://www.thegirlfromauntie.com/) <http://www.thegirlfromauntie.com/> While dealing mainly with copyright information as it pertains to Canadian law, this is required reading for knitters everywhere.

A very relevant article from Forbes on copyright infringement and shared patterns on the Net: "[So Sew Me Quilting](http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2000/1225/6616090a.html)," <http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2000/1225/6616090a.html>
Chana R. Schoenberger, Forbes Magazine, 12.25.00

In the same vein, "[Online Design Swap a Napster-Like Concern](http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=119607&page=1)," <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=119607&page=1> an Associated Press article at ABCNEWS.com

"[Questions Frequently Asked in the Copyright Office Public Information Section](http://www.copyright.gov/faq.html)," <http://www.copyright.gov/faq.html> U.S. Copyright Office. This FAQ explains copyright law in a nutshell, as well as having links to the most relevant documents regarding U.S. copyright law.

[Friends of Active Copyright Education](http://www.csusa.org/face/) <http://www.csusa.org/face/> or FA©E. This website

The Copyright FAQ For Knitters

has easy to understand information on all aspects of copyright.

[The Copyright Website](http://www.benedict.com/) <http://www.benedict.com/> also has links to international copyright websites.

[What is Copyright?](http://www.whatiscopyright.org/) <http://www.whatiscopyright.org/> - One of the Internet's pioneer copyright websites

Terry Carroll's [Copyright FAQ](http://www.tjc.com/copyright/FAQ/) <http://www.tjc.com/copyright/FAQ/>

Are you new to the Internet? You also might want to learn about "Netiquette":

[The Netiquette Homepage](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/) <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

(Like all things on the Internet, some of the above links may have passed into the ether. If you come across a broken link, please email me. Thanks!)

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