

# INTARSIA DEMYSTIFIED IN 13 EASY LESSONS

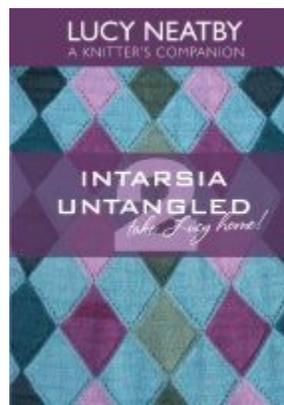
Copyright 2008 © Margaret K.K. Radcliffe  
www.maggiesrags.com

A review of:

*Intarsia Untangled 1* (DVD, time 2:27, 978-0-9782898-3-6 K)

*Intarsia Untangled 2* (DVD, time 2:22, 978-0-9782898-5-0 L)

by Lucy Neatby



Available from [www.lucyneatby.com](http://www.lucyneatby.com)  
and from knitting stores

Intarsia strikes fear into the hearts of many knitters, afraid of losing themselves in tangled thickets of yarn and becoming immobilized by a straightjacket of charts. In the first of these two DVDs, Lucy takes your hand and leads you gently along the smooth path of intarsia essentials from start to finish. In the second, she escorts you on an insider's tour of special techniques and tricks she's learned and developed in a lifetime of knitting. Lucy does offer the advice that intarsia is not a quick technique—it requires attention to detail and a lot of time spent on finishing. She counsels that it's best done in small chunks, when you're not in a hurry. If you're having trouble concentrating or you become frustrated, stop knitting, untangle your yarn to prepare for your next knitting session, and move on to another project for a while.

The first DVD begins with an introduction to intarsia, so you'll understand what you're trying to accomplish before you begin, then goes on to preparing your chart, yarn and tools to make the knitting go more smoothly, and getting started with the knitting. Once the knitting is underway, Lucy thoroughly analyzes details of color changes, working on the wrong side, holes (usually they're not a problem), dealing with ends, and what she calls "rescue techniques." All-in-all, this DVD serves as an introduction, explanation and toolbox of techniques—everything you need to know to successfully work intarsia.

What, then, is possibly left that she could include in *Intarsia Untangled 2*? All the little tips for special situations that an experienced, thoughtful, inventive knitter will share with you, if you happen to be sitting next to them while you're working on a project, or that you'd develop yourself after 20 or 30 years of knitting. For example, how to analyze a chart to determine just how difficult it will be to work as intarsia, something I've never seen anyone discuss before. Particularly useful are her examples of ways to jump a color over a long horizontal without cutting the yarn, working single stitch lines and working outlines. And just in case you're bored with plain stockinette, she demonstrates adding textured patterns like garter stitch and reverse stockinette. Add to this her notes on combining stranded knitting with intarsia and smoothing the edges of diagonal color changes using "sculpted" intarsia. All this, and Lucy still manages to squeeze in tips, finishing techniques and adjustments useful in special situations, without appearing rushed in the least.

What sets these DVDs apart is Lucy's personal approach to teaching, to knitting, and to intarsia in particular. She brings superb analytical skills to her work, shows her passion for knitting and joy in its possibilities, and expresses herself using an articulate, encouraging and humorous voice. Lucy has the rare ability to stick to the point and convey the essentials of whatever technique she's teaching, clearly, calmly, and succinctly.

Each DVD can be watched from start to finish, but for convenient use as an ongoing reference, Lucy has included chapter indexes that make it easy to skip to a specific section, plus a glossary of knitting terms in a separate "Small Print" section. The audio is distinct and the video is sharp, with the camera consistently focused on what the knitter actually needs to see. The knitted examples are worked in a thick, smooth yarn with good contrast between the colors, making the details Lucy discusses plainly visible.

I highly recommend these DVDs as an excellent addition to any knitter's library, especially if you're a visual learner. They're the next best thing to taking a class from Lucy in person.