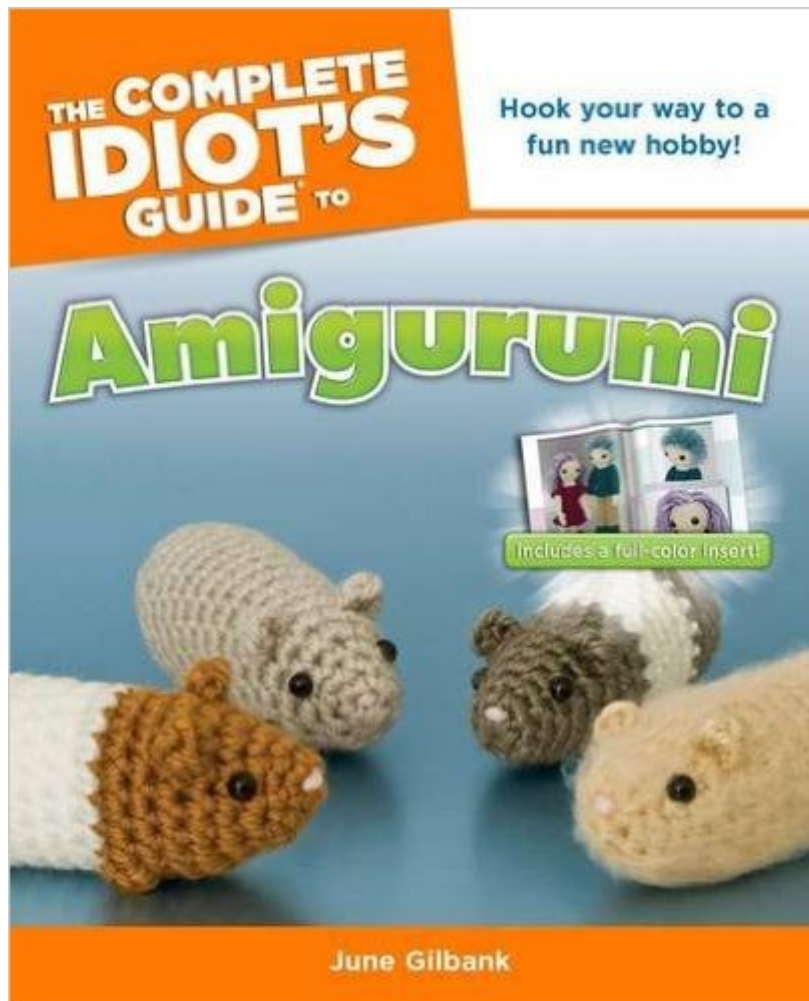


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# The Complete Idiot's Guide To Amigurumi (Complete Idiot's Guides (Lifestyle Paperback))



## Synopsis

Amigurumi (pronounced ah-mee-goo-roo-mee) is Japanese for "crochet (or knit) stuffed toy."

Although the concept originated in Japan, the amigurumi craze is taking over the world in waves of crocheted cuteness! From adorable fuzzy critters, to sweet-looking fruits and vegetables, to quirky comic book and cartoon characters--if you can imagine it, you can crochet it! Whether you're an experienced crocheter or have never taken hook to yarn, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Amigurumi* shows you everything you need to know to hook your own delightful amigurumi. This helpful guide includes: A primer on the yarn, hooks, and stitches best for amigurumi, plus fun embellishments you can use to personalize your ami. Easy-to-follow tutorials for getting started, increasing and decreasing, working in the round, changing colors, and more. Expert advice on adding eyes, hair, jointed limbs, clothes, and other fun accessories to your ami. Tips for following an amigurumi pattern, plus four start-to-finish patterns to give you a head-start on designing your own. A full-color insert with inspirational photos of the finished ami patterns featured in the book--and more!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Generally, I don't buy books that start off with "The Complete Idiot's Guide To..." anything.

Sometimes those books just aren't worth the money. BUT, June Gilbank's\* new book *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Amigurumi* does not fit into that description. I am familiar with M's Gilbank's whimsical work through her blog site, Planet June. I've purchased a few patterns from her and have

found the patterns to be well written and concise. Obviously, she tests these patterns thoroughly so there isn't that thought while you making something that "yeah, it's supposed to look like groundhog but it looks more like a monstrous snake". If the pattern is describing how to make a groundhog, you will achieve a groundhog that you can be proud of and show off. Plus the directions are easy. If it says "start off with a magic ring", that's what you do. And if you don't understand how to make a magic ring, M's Gilbank walks you through the procedure, complete with black and white close-ups so you can understand what is being produced. This is a great help for those of us that needs the visual to go along with the written word. M's Gilbank includes directions to make tubes, cones and circles so you can plan to make your own amigurumi design. Maybe you want to do one of your cat and you can't quite find any suitable pattern. With M's Gilbank's instructions, you will be able to figure out exactly what shape the body parts should be. You'll also be able to figure out, with M's Gilbank's instructions, where and how the color changes should be executed.

I read every single word ... and loved every bit of it. **Starting From Scratch** The book is designed to tell you everything you need to know to get started creating your own amigurumi - even if you've never crocheted before. You can learn everything from the anatomy of a crochet hook to how to make an invisible decrease ... and the magic circle (below). The instructions are clear and are accompanied by helpful photos that June took herself. **Tips And Tricks** After she's armed you with the basic crochet skills you need, she reveals the nitty gritty of designing amigurumi (or ami, for short), which is how to make shapes like flat circles, tubes, cones, and spheres. June offers guidance about whether you want to make your ami-parts as closed shapes or open shapes depending on how you want it to look. And then she gives you several ways to stuff, close, and assemble your ami. Not to mention the details about using different colors and types of yarn, creating expressive eyes, making your ami poseable. There is a whole chapter about all the ways you could make hair. It's clear from the amount of information she's packed into this book, that she's thought about all the ways you could do something and tried them all to see what works. **Pattern Boot Camp** Once you've absorbed all that information, you can hone your skills using the patterns she provides at the end of the book. They are arranged in order of difficulty and incorporate many of the techniques she reveals in the book. I made the mushroom pattern. Easy and cute! The colorful mushroom cap was a perfect way to use up some tiny bits of leftover yarn. I also used her surface crochet idea to make gills under the mushroom.

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