



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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APRIL 2012 UPDATE

Dear Stitches,

What makes spring stitching so special? Spring brings more hours of daylight, warmer temperatures and the return of buds, blooms, and green leaves. These signs of spring buoy our spirits and inspire us to be creative. It's time to choose plant-based fibers like cotton, linen and bamboo with shine, crispness and drape for stunning spring knit and crochet fashions.

In *Knitter's Magazine* K106, editor Rick Mondragon tells us: "Fancy stitch work, great silhouettes, or even exciting colors -- something special happens when we pick up needles and yarn". Whether your stitching passion is for sweaters, shawls, scarves, socks, home decor or kid's stuff, we'll help you enhance your knitting and crocheting life with exciting new yarns, project ideas, and the latest tools & gadgets for your stitching pleasure. From slip stitch to lace to color work, beads or intarsia, our warm weather collection has something of interest for every knitter or crocheter. And wait until you see our newest bags and totes to help you get organized! To celebrate the glory of spring, we're offering a fabulous promotion:

APRIL IS "GOT YARN?" MONTH
All regularly-priced PLYMOUTH YARNS
in stock are 10% off throughout April 2012

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX
Private knitting, crochet, spinning, and drop spindle
instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services & gift certificates available
Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier

COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON

e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations
please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Spring is in the air! Lace, beads, ruffles, scarves, socks, gifts, basics -- what will you be knitting and crocheting this season? Now, more than ever, there are so many wonderful product and project choices packing our shelves. We're here to help you find just the right one for you. A trip to Kathy's should be on your "to-do" list for spring! Here's what's new...

Knitter's Magazine K106 is here (\$6.95)! This issue is all about special effects. In his column, editor Rick Mondragon tells us: "Knitting is personal. We all have a level of comfort and a place where we want to push ourselves. The excitement of a new idea or project can keep us interested and eager to consider new and fun techniques and yarns." There are a lot of cool ideas in this issue. There are snazzy mitered square socks, pedicure socks, martini mitts, yarn cake covers to keep your center-pull balls of yarn in check, I-cord edges and accents, "float" stitches, slip stitches, mosaic knitting and some great summer tops. One of Kathy's jacket designs, "Wasabi Ripple" (shown upper left) plays with ripple stitch and textured rib designs and would make a great layering piece for office wear. About this sweater, *Knitter's* says: "Waves of blue border this bright cardigan for graphic impact. The high contrast and single button closure make it modern yet elegant." This issue also includes an excellent tutorial with how-to's for picking up stitches and will help you become a master "pick-up artist"...

Stay in the loop with *Interweave Crochet Spring 2012* (\$6.99). There are 26 refreshing spring styles including shawls, shrugs, dresses, even a bicycle basket! Six flirty skirts in sassy designs gives us a preview of one of the hottest upcoming trends. This edition takes a new spin on the treasured technique of hairpin lace. Other features include a toe-up sock recipe, clones lace, and a new column by Vickie Howell...

Knit Simple Spring / Summer 2012 (\$6.99) is all about quick & easy projects -- cool scarves in bright colors, airy drop stitches in soft naturals, sweet dresses for little girls, and casual beach coverups for summer days. There is also a vest worked in Tunisian crochet with a knit garter stitch border (a great way to learn Tunisian simple stitch in a way knitters can grasp), plus five easy flowers to make in a variety of techniques...

Welcome to the fourth edition of *PieceWork's Knitting Traditions* (\$14.99)! The focus this time is on Useful Articles, Adornments, and Vintage. Enjoy creating your own knitting traditions...

What do you think of when you think about knitted lace? *Interweave Knits* editor Eunny Jang says: "I've seen lots of metaphors for knitted lace -- a butterfly emerging from a cocoon; a flower blooming -- but to my mind, there is enough romance in the simple reality of lace knitting: execute a few easy, repetitive maneuvers with two sticks, and a length of string transforms into delicate, airy fabric traced with pleasingly intricate patterning." Our own Kathy has interpreted knitted lace into a beautiful unique V-shaped wrap, "Eleanor's Shawl" (\$5.00, shown right), for her new self-published pattern collection. Kathy's Patterns are available to purchase in pdf format by e-mail and also at <http://www.craftsy.com> (visit Kathy Zimmerman's Designs Shop) and at "Kathy Zimmerman Designs" at <http://www.ravelry.com/stores/kathy-zimmerman-designs>.



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Lace is the word! From runways to the mall, lace is everywhere and knitters are picking up their needles to chase the trend. Lisa Carnahan takes a fresh approach to a classic theme by combining openwork lace ribs with bands of reverse stockinette / stockinette in LISA KNITS "Hyacinth" shawl pattern (\$5.00, shown right). Knit with KRAEMER YARNS lace weight "Sterling Silk & Silver" (\$21.50, 100 grams, 420 yards; 63% superwash merino / 20% silk / 2% silver, CYCA #1), this elegant shawl design is ideal for proms, weddings or some enchanted evening...



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LISA KNITS

We believe that just as a woman's purse goes everywhere with her, so should her knitting and crocheting. Carry both your project and your daily necessities in the new JORDANA PAIGE "Rio" and "L.J. Kaelms" bags (\$89.00 each). L.J. Kaelms is a north-south tote, tall enough to fit hooks/needles & magazines, your latest project, supplies and purse items. The straps are the perfect length for carrying on your shoulder, which you can do comfortably because the bag starts out very lightweight. Inside you'll be happy to find all the great pockets that JORDANA PAIGE is known for, plus a new one. Gather your latest project, tools, work papers and the day's purse essentials into "Rio". The side drawstrings can be cinched or expanded to expand the tote as your project grows. The vegan croc leather is finished with nickel hardware and two outside pockets forming an indispensable carryall...

Self-ruffling yarns continue to enjoy a major moment, creating ripples throughout the yarn industry. Joining BERROCO "Lacey", TRENDSETTER "Cha-Ca", CRYSTAL PALACE "TuTu", FILATURA DI CROSA "Operadarte" and ROWAN "Kidsilk Creation" on our shelves is PLYMOUTH YARN's latest, "Joy Metallic" (\$12.50, 100 grams, 33 yards, 95% acrylic / 5% polyester). Exhibiting the unmistakable sheen of high-quality acrylic, its popularity is undoubtedly due to the saturated, variegated palette and reasonable price point...

The HiyaHiya puppy snips (\$5.95, shown page 8 upper left) are sure to become your best friend. Available in 8 colors, these tiny snips that look like a cute puppy fit easily into the smallest accessory case, or can even hang from your knitting bag strap...

New from BERROCO YARNS is "Versa" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 81 yards, 50% cotton / 50% acrylic, CYCA#5). Versa's painterly color transitions and unusual construction make it instantly appealing. Twin ribbons of this machine washable cotton blend are dyed separately then joined, creating alluring color combinations. Support pattern booklet #316 (\$8.50) and model garment "Dalyan" are now in stock...



Collage is an art form that uses images, souvenirs and other materials to express the artist's personal memories and reflections. Knitting is also a means of personal expression that shows the world who we are by what we wear. TAHKI YARNS "Collage" booklet (\$17.99, shown left) inspires the knitter with a wide variety of relaxed and comfortable styles in a collection of 19 classic knit designs that are fashionable without being trendy. The patterns highlight the colors and textures of perennial favorites like "Cotton Classic" and "Cotton Classic Lite" in this assortment of all-season tops, tunics, vests and cardigans...

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HiyaHiya NA



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELF ***

New from XRX Books comes *Betsy Beads* (\$24.95, softcover, shown left). Beads are a huge embellishment trend, and this book will help you to knit with polish and pizzazz. Creatively design belts, bracelets, necklaces, earrings and more with designer Betsy Hershberger. Help find the creativity you didn't know you had...

It's amazing that a simple hook and yarn can yield such diverse results, from thick, cozy afghans to delicate lace doilies. *Crochet: The Complete Guide* (\$29.99, spiral bound) by Jane Davis contains everything you need to get started or take your projects to the next level -- from advice on selecting the best yarn types and colors for your projects, to easy-to-follow instructions for creating sophisticated edgings, 3-D textures and lacework, to multi-color effects, ruffles, flowers and much more! A must-have guide for crocheters of all skill levels (and the perfect size to stash in your bag as you crochet on the go!), this little book is a one-stop reference for happy crocheting and will satisfy your itch to stitch...

A word-of-mouth phenomenon since its original publication, with a passionate and loyal following, *The Principles of Knitting* (\$45.00) has served as a treasured resource for an entire generation of knitters. Now completely revised and updated, this long-awaited new edition contains indispensable information for every knitter, from the beginner to the most experienced, on all aspects of the craft.

This book is like having a knitting mentor by your side, ready to answer any question in a comprehensive, reasoned, informed manner. Author June Hemmons Hiatt includes instructions for all facets of knitting and offers suggestions for best practices as well as alternatives and innovations...

*** FIFTEEN REASONS TO BUY YARN ***

(The following listing appeared in the March 2002 Windy City Knitting Guild newsletter – and they revised it recently.)

If you need an excuse.....Reasons to Buy Yarn
(Submitted by Susan Barrett-Kelly)

1. It insulates closets where it is kept
2. It helps the economy
3. It is less expensive and more fun than therapy
4. Because it is on SALE
5. A sudden increase in boll weevils might wipe out the cotton crop in ten years
6. Yarn needs no refrigeration
7. You don't need to feed it, change it, or wipe its nose
8. You don't need to cook to enjoy it
9. It's good for protecting previously empty surfaces
10. When the big earthquake, fire, flood, etc. comes, all yarn shops might be destroyed
11. It's not immoral, illegal, fattening and still makes me feel good
12. It's our patriotic duty to support the cotton farmers, sheep farmers and textile mills.
13. Buy now, before your husband decides to go shopping with you
14. A skein a day is all the yarn shops of America ask
15. The one who dies with the biggest yarn stash wins

*** MOBIUS OR COWL? ***

This article was reprinted from The *Country Register* March-April 2012 issue, written by Sharon Greve in her column, *The Dropped Stitch*. Sharon has graciously granted us permission to re-print this information to share with you. Thank you, Sharon! "Marilee's Infinity Cowl" (\$5.00), shown at upper right, was designed by Kathy Zimmerman and it is an example of a true cowl. Which style will you choose?



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Tracey Earhart photo

Mobius or Cowl by Sharon Greve

"Decisions, decisions: to knit or crochet a mobius (aka smoke ring) or a cowl. Both are popular and fashionable. However, it's important to know how the two differ in construction to make the decision.

The mobius strip was discovered independently by German mathematicians August Ferdinand Mobius and Johann Benedict Listing in 1858. It is a magically twisted circular ring or cylinder. Simply stated, it is a beautiful turning loop with no apparent inside or outside, beginning or end. For a visual aid, cut a strip of paper, twist it, and tape the ends together.

Knitters have two methods to form a mobius band for scarves or neck gaiters/warmers. (1) The simple method is to knit a strip of desired length and width. Sew the opposite end points together in a seam, creating a twist in the work. Or, fold the strip giving one end a 180 degree turn, join the short ends. (2) After casting on, break the rule you've been told not to do -- twist the stitches one-quarter turn. Continue to knit normally as the pattern directs. No seaming needed. Refer to your local yarn shop or the internet for helpful tutorials on the mobius cast on and the first round of knitting details.

A crocheted mobius is less complicated, establishing a twist by working in the back and front loops only. Example: Chain a row in desired length of circumference. Form a ring with one slip stitch in the first chain. Round 1: Chain 3 (=1 double crochet), slip 1st chain, continue to work 1 double crochet in back loop only of every chain for entire round. Round 2: Work 1 double crochet in every front loop only of every chain. There will be a "cross" in the transition. Round 3: Insert marker at beginning of round. Work 1 double crochet in 3rd chain from beginning of previous round. Continue to work 1 double crochet in every double crochet normally for the entire round. Continue in the round with desired pattern stitch.

A loop with a twist will rest comfortably folded flat against a neckline and upper chest for warmth. It can also be pulled over the head to keep the ears warm.

A true cowl has no twisted stitches. It is knitted/crocheted in the round with the desired pattern to the desired length. A cowl may be added to sweaters and dresses as a large loose collar or hood to be a warm or decorative neck gaiter/circular scarf of any length or width.

A cowl with a full twist is not a mobius but has an interesting result. Example: Cast on 80 stitches. Knit one row. Arrange stitches so they spin around the needle one time, creating a twist. Place a marker and join to work in the round. Purl one round. Knit one round being sure the twist still exists. Magically, it will move around the needles as you knit.

A mogul is a heavily textured wide knitted cowl made with bulky yarn, large needles, and a stitch pattern of cables, or the like, which usually results in raised stitches. It can be worn pulled down over the shoulders or piled up around the neck for stylish warmth. Because of its bulky volume, it may overwhelm the wearer.

NOW it's decision time!

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*** A QUICK & EASY BABY HAT ***

Our thanks to Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS for sharing this cute and easy-to-knit Baby hat. Model is knit with Bernat's Baby Jacquards Florals Color #06420 Rosebud. We carry Lisa's complete pattern collection -- ask to see her other wonderful patterns!

Sizes: Preemie (0-3 mo, 3-6mo., 6-9 mo.)

10.5 (11.5, 12.75, 14)" circumference measures around head

Hat Materials: DK weight yarn, approx. 60 (70, 90, 110) yds.

Needles: US#6 dpn

Or size needed to achieve gauge.

Gauge: 24 sts = 4" in stockinette stitch with larger needles

Instructions

Cast on 63 (70, 77, 84) sts. Divide sts evenly on dpn. Join, being careful to not twist. Work even in rounds of Stockinette Stitch (knit every round) until piece measures 4.5 (5, 5.5, 6)".

Shape Crown

Rnd 1: *K5, k2tog; rep from * to end.

54 (60, 66, 72) sts

Rnd 2 and all even rounds: Knit.

Rnd 3: *K4, k2tog; rep from * to end.

45 (50, 55, 60) sts

Rnd 5: *K3, k2tog; rep from * to end.

36 (40, 44, 48) sts

Rnd 7: *K2, k2tog; rep from * to end.

27 (30, 33, 36) sts

Rnd 9: *K1, k2tog; rep from * to end.

18 (20, 22, 24) sts

Rnd 11: *K2tog; rep from * to end.

9 (10, 11, 12) sts

Rnd 13: K1 (0, 1, 0), *k2tog; rep from * to end. 5 (5, 6, 6) sts

Work top knot i-cord as follows:

Place all sts onto one dpn. Do not turn work. Slide sts to end of needle to begin with a right side row, knit across all 5 (5, 6, 6) sts, pulling yarn snugly from opposite edge of knitting.

Do not turn. Slide stitches back to other end of needle to work a right side row and pulling yarn snugly, knit the stitches again.

Continue as established, knitting all sts until cord measures 2.5". Pull gently on the cord as you are knitting to allow knitting to form into the cord.

Cut yarn and draw through rem sts. Fasten off. Tie cord into knot.

Stitches and Abbreviations

st(s) stitch(es); **ndl** needle; **dpn** double pointed needle; **rnd** round; **rem** remaining; **rep** repeat; **k2tog** knit 2 sts together.

*** SPECIAL EVENT ***

Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS will be the guest teacher at a knitting workshop sponsored by The Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild on Sunday, May 20, 2012, 9 am - 4 pm at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA. The morning session class topic is "Short Rows" including traditional, Japanese and German techniques. In the afternoon session, Lisa will present tips, techniques and problem-solving (students are invited to bring projects in need of help). For more information, call Kathy at 724-238-9320.





*** ASK AN EXPERT ***

Eleanor Swogger, Merchandise Manager for KRAEMER YARNS, will be visiting our shop on Fun Friday, July 20, 2012 for a yarn tasting and preview of KRAEMER's fall yarns. We hear that "Perfection" will be available in a glitz version and there will be a new suri alpaca / merino blend in the line-up, so save the date to try out these "Made in the USA" yarns from a Pennsylvania company. Eleanor will also be our guest teacher for the Fall Knitting Workshop at the Ramada Inn September 22 - 23 weekend. Classes will include Bead Knitting (Getting Started and Introduction to Lace & Beads) and Playing with Mitered Knitting. More details to follow in next month's newsletter...

Eleanor has graciously shared this item which appeared in KRAEMER's March 2012 newsletter. Thanks, Eleanor!

Q. How do I prepare my yarn before I knit or crochet?

A. Yarn is available in balls and hanks from most yarn companies. For center pull balls like Tatamy, Saucon Sock, and Alpaca Handknitting yarn, it is intended that the knitter reaches into the center of the ball, finds the center end, pulls it out and knits from the center of the ball. If the knitter uses the yarn from the center, the ball will remain stationary and not roll. The center end can be found with less effort if the knitter removes the label from the yarn. This opens up the ball and can prevent a large clump of yarn from being pulled out.

Hanks of yarn need to be wound into a ball. If the knitter has a swift and ball winder (available for purchase here at Kathy's Creations), the hank should be placed on the swift before cutting the ties that hold the yarn. Attach the yarn to the ball winder after cutting the yarn ties. Crank the ball winder in the same direction until all yarn is wound. The ball will look like a flat cake when finished and can be used from the center.

If winding a ball without a swift and yarn winder, the hank can be placed between two chair backs, over a lampshade or large basket, or held by a second person. Cut the ties after the hank is secured and begin winding over several fingers. After 10-15 wraps, turn the ball and wind again. Be sure to keep fingers between ball and newly wound yarn. Continue to repeat process until all yarn from hank is part of the ball. It is important to wind balls loosely so that the yarn remains relaxed. Save your labels for reference in case more yarn is needed and for care instructions.

*** WHERE'S KATHY? ***

April 20-22, 2012: Kathy Zimmerman and Carol Smith are pleased and excited to host "Spring Break", on April 20 - April 22, 2012 at the Ramada Inn of Ligonier. Kathy will be teaching a 9-hour "Sideways Cables Hat" weekend workshop. A few spaces are still be available. Please call Kathy's Creations at 724-238-9320 for information.

August 9 - 12, 2012: Kathy will be teaching once again at Stitches Midwest in Schaumburg, IL. Class schedule is available at www.knittinguniverse.com (Knitter's Magazine website).

September 7 - 8, 2012: Kathy will be teaching for Knitter's Day Out in Mechanicsburg, PA, and Donna Dunlap will be manning Kathy's market booth; details coming soon at www.knittersdayout.org

September 21 - 23, 2012: Kathy and Carol Smith will host the 3rd Annual Fall Workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA with guest teacher Eleanor Swogger

October 4 - 7, 2012: Kathy will be the featured instructor at a "Knitting Superstar" weekend for the Atlanta Knitting Guild; Atlanta, GA



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Join the "First Mondays" Club for an evening of knitting, crochet and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA. Meeting dates are **April 2, 2012, and May 7, 2012, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**. All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!

*** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, April 10, 2012, and May 8, 2012; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) ***

Join Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild members for an evening of stitching & lots of fun conversation. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome to come, sit & stitch! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead to make sure we are meeting...

*** FUN FRIDAYS, April 20, 2012, and May 18, 2012; 10 am - 2 pm ***

All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce Bischoff is available for help with your questions, skill building and how-to's for projects purchased here. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. Please bring your project, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor...

*** RAVELRY GROUP MEET AND GREET ***

Members of the "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry group will be gathering at Kathy's Kreations on Saturday mornings, **April 14, 2012, and May 12, 2012; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. Please bring your knitting, crocheting and any projects to show and share. We meet on the second Saturday of every month. All group members will receive a 10% discount on regularly-priced merchandise purchases on this "Meet and Greet Day". Not a member? Ask us how you can join!

*** SAVE THE DATE ***

We're starting summer off with a bang! You are cordially invited to our three "Open Stitching" long weekends **Thursday May 31, Friday June 1 and Saturday June 2, 2012; Thursday June 7, Friday June 8, and Saturday June 9, 2012; and Thursday June 21, Friday June 22, and Saturday June 23, 2012**. Simply come, sit and knit / crochet to your heart's content from 10 am - 2 pm on these dates. Please bring a chair, a snack to share if you wish, your project purchased here, and call ahead to let us know you are coming. Join in the fellowship of other knitters & crocheters -- it's a great escape!

*** "BEAD BRACELET" CROCHET CLASS with instructor Marilee Roney; Saturday, April 14, 2012; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; \$25.00 registration (includes pattern)***

Bead embellishment is hot, hot, hot, and we've got a wonderful crochet class planned with Marilee. Student supplies include a size E crochet hook. Practice beads and strand to learn technique will be provided. Bracelet kits (shown lower right) may be purchased on the day of class...

Private knitting, crocheting, felting, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. We would be glad to do a specific class for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 32 years !

Did you know that Kathy's Kreations is celebrating 32 years in business this month? Thank you for your support and for making us your favorite "go-to" LYS (local yarn shop)! KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING! Kathy

