

KATHY'S KREATIONS  
141 East Main Street  
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AUGUST 2006 UPDATE

Dear Knitters,

Summer knitting's a breeze! Knitting and crocheting are perfect summer mini-getaways, a "great escape" to the comfort of your own back yard or any cool, shady spot of your choosing.

Transitional summer styles are bursting with exciting trend-right seasonal colors to take you right into fall. Although there is some carry-forward of the essentials, our fall/winter collections are arriving with the latest silhouettes and fiber combinations. Interesting textures and attention to little details are the latest form of creative expression. Unexpected fashion pieces and fashion accessories can add a wow factor to your wardrobe. Place them side by side with your favorite classics for a look that's uniquely yours.

We've got hundreds of projects for every body, with knits for now and later. So, before cooler winds blow and the leaves begin to change, enjoy the last few weeks of summer and cozy up to your needles with our special promotion,

**"KNIT AND RELAX"**

**All regularly-priced CLASSIC ELITE YARNS in stock  
are 10% off during August 2006**

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/Novus, AX

Private knitting and crochet instructions are available by appointment  
Finishing services available  
Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier  
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Telephone 724-238-9320  
e-mail [kathy@kathys-kreations.com](mailto:kathy@kathys-kreations.com)  
please visit our website [www.kathys-kreations.com](http://www.kathys-kreations.com)



\*\*\*\*\* GREAT NEW STUFF \*\*\*\*\*

Summer will be around for a few more weeks, but it's getting to look alot like fall here at Kathy's Kreations. We're excited to introduce wonderful new products and project ideas for your knitting and crocheting pleasure. Let us be your style guide for the all-new, all-important knitwear looks for the upcoming season...

KNIT SIMPLE Fall 2006 (\$5.99) features textured sweaters for work or play, a plush pile of pillows and a cozy canine-loving coverlet -- what better way to usher in the knitting season? Two of Kathy's designs are included in this collection: the woman's pullover (shown below, knit with REYNOLDS Blizzard) has a large diamond cable -- surrounded by smaller spirals, also on both sleeves -- travels down the center front and back of this reverse stockinette crewneck. The ladies' V-neck cardigan (shown above left, knit with COLINETTE Skye wool) has slight side-seam shaping to gently outline your curves and set-in sleeves, worked in a simple staggered rib pattern. The cardigan is part of a collection of plus-size styles. There is an excellent article on de-stressing the holidays (hasn't Tracey been telling us this all year??) with an easy ribbed hat. Check out the color workshop for shaded slip-stitch stripe ideas, as stripes are making an impressive statement (slip stitch makes it easy and we've got a free hat pattern on page 7 for you to try this fun technique). Dog lovers will find this a "must-have issue" -- the cute dog afghan may be customized and there is a wonderful cabled dog sweater, too. There is a chunky cabled hat and scarf set for guys that's worth the look. This issue is selling fast -- you'll want to check it out...

What's new from LISA KNITS? "Basic Gloves in 3 sizes" (\$4.00) to work in solid or self-striping fingering weight. This is an ideal take-along project when travelling...

LANTERN MOON says that its knitting needles are the finest and fastest wooden needles available. The handcrafted *Destiny* ebony circulars with their "liquid silk" finish have arrived (\$24.50). The brass connection is machined, honed and polished with the needle to create a virtually seamless connection. The specialized connection cord uncoils easily, stays relaxed and is tinted for visibility. We also have a limited supply of LANTERN MOON black sheep tape measures (\$9.00) for ewe lovers...

Light up your life with the world's first lighted knitting needles! CLOVER NEEDLECRAFT introduces "The Knit Lite" needles (\$16.50 / pair), in sizes US 6, 8, 9, 10, 10.5, 11, 13 & 15 in assorted colors. Knit Lite battery replacement available. We invite you to try our sample pair at the checkout counter. Knit anywhere -- even in the dark...

Tweed and autumn are made for each other. Embrace the trend with CRYSTAL PALACE "Aran Marl" (\$7.25, 50 grams, 102 yards, 100% wool), which knits at 4.5 sts/inch on US size 8 needles. Other new 100% wool arrivals from CRYSTAL PALACE are "Aran" (\$6.00, 50 grams, 102 yards) and "Aran Print" (\$7.25, 50 grams, 102 yards), and "Taos" (\$8.25, 50 grams, 128 yards), all of which are excellent for felted projects. "Taos" is a self-striping single ply yarn and is ideal for easy knit felted or non-felted totes and bags. We've had many inquiries about "Bunny Hop" angora blend. CRYSTAL PALACE tells us that we can expect it on our shelves by the end of this month...



photo  
© Knit Simple

\*\*\*\*\* MORE GREAT NEW STUFF \*\*\*\*\*

LEAH OAKLEY ORIGINALS "Tumbling Blocks" (\$5.00, sock cuff detail shown right, worked in Regia Silk Color yarn) is an optical illusion sock pattern with an anatomically-correct, or not pointy, toe. This clever pattern uses the stitches to create movement in the pattern, and looks great with either self-stripping jacquard or solid yarns. This design features Leah's special diamond heel flap for added comfort and wear...



photo by Paula Rewa  
© Leah Oakley Originals

The newest member of the BERROCO family of fine yarns is "Pure Merino" (\$7.50, 50 grams, 92 yards, 100% extra fine merino wool), an exquisite yet affordable basic yarn that knits to 4.5 stitches per inch on US size 9 needles. It is shrink resistant, so you can wash finished knit or crocheted items gently by machine and be confident that, with proper care, your beautiful gift will last and become a family heirloom. The color range consists of 40 popular shades including a soft baby range, clear primaries and a sophisticated autumnal palette. For the frugal yarn gourmet who chooses to feast on the finest fibers and consumes yarn like the richest chocolate, Pure Merino will satisfy his or her sophisticated sense of touch while respecting the budget (it's a great value for merino). And, for those finicky sweater lovers who find many yarns to itchy to wear next to their skin, "Pure Merino" is spun of the finest quality 19 micron extra fine merino. Add to that the superlative stitch definition at a reasonably "quick gauge" and BERROCO's new "pure Merino" is a gem...

Welcome back to our "amazing" Steelers, in training camp in nearby Latrobe! We've got a special display of black and gold yarns suitable for hats, scarves, sweaters, socks and accessories. "Steeler stuff" includes LISA KNITS "Team Colors" pattern (\$4.00) featuring a hat and scarf with an easy reversible cable; FIBER TRENDS "School Colors" hat (\$5.50) in adult and child sizes, worsted and chunky gauges; CABIN FEVER "Sheepstrings Big Bag #708" (\$5.50) and LISA KNITS "Touchdown" (\$4.00). Betty Lou Glasso's big black bag features gold designer eyelash novelty yarn stripes. Betty Bennett interpreted Lisa's "Touchdown" design in a gold background with black garter stripes complete with mini-footballs. Our thanks to these ladies for sharing their work with us...

INTERWEAVE KNITS FALL 2006 (\$6.99) greets the upcoming season with its usual elegance, style and grace. Kathy has designed her first-ever cabled blanket for this issue, shown left, about which KNITS says, "Kathy Zimmerman scales her striking arrangement of cable crossings to the generous proportions of this cozy afghan. Ropelike strands weave in and out on a background of reverse stockinette stitch, and seed stitch forms a deep border around the edges. A cushy blend of wool and alpaca will keep you warm on chilly mornings, and the color, an enticing tangerine, will brighten your day". Our thanks to Eleanor Swogger for test knitting this piece.



photo  
© Interweave Knits

From classy weekend pullovers, a Santa Fe satchel, a delicate lace shawl, a child's colorful sweater, a preppy cardigan hoodie, and a Breton jacket perfect for tea time, the 25 projects in this issue range in skill levels and fit many personalities. These knits will tempt you with their luscious yarns and glowing colors. Also, KNITS gets up close and personal with favorite knitwear designer and heretic Annie Modesitt, showcasing her original Western Point Skirt...

\*\*\*\*\* NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELF \*\*\*\*\*

Discover the allure of alpaca and the timeless beauty of pre-Columbian textiles with "Andean Inspired Knits"(\$24.95, softcover). Helen Hamann, a native of Peru, draws inspiration from historic fabrics and motifs to create this modern collection of wearables, all in soft alpaca, a fiber that boasts unique luster, warmth and durability. Helen's fresh approach to form and fit is largely based on short rows, a no-sew shaping technique for creating non-traditional silhouettes. Other techniques include mitered corners, duplicate stitch and embroidery, offering interesting and challenging alternatives to conventional patterns. Gorgeous photographs, clear step-by-step instructions, and illustrations ensure dazzling results with every project...

\*\*\*\*\* KNITTING HUMOR FROM THE 'NET \*\*\*\*\*

A chaplain at the County senior citizens' home saw a 96-year-old lady knitting a sweater for her granddaughter. "What kind of yarn are you using?" asked the chaplain. She said, "Virgin wool". "Where do you get that?" asked the chaplain. "Ugly sheep", she smiled.

\*\*\*\*\* CLASSIC ELITE PATTERN COLLECTION \*\*\*\*\*

As you may know by now, our own Kathy is the guest designer for CLASSIC ELITE's Fall 2006 Collection. Kathy's "kreations" are found in four of the five new fall booklets, all of which are now in stock (\$12.95 each).

#9074 Essentials (13 designs for men, women, and children in Bazic, Montera, Renaissance & Desert) Kathy's designs include a cabled Montera jacket which looks great with a belt and a very stylish "girly-girl" purse. In addition, there are two simple uni-sex ribbed pullovers, a child's striped pullover, a cabled bolero, wrap cardigan, a seed stitch pullover and wide yoke turtleneck

#9075 Luxe (featuring LaGran mohair, Lush, Miracle, Bravo and Wool Bamboo) The "perfect" cardigan in LaGran has instructions for a cropped or more traditional length. There is also a fabulous mohair coat with beading, and a notched-collar shapely cardigan. In "Lush", one of our favorite yarns, there is a simple cropped cardigan, a beautiful V-neck pullover with ruffles and a deep V-neck pullover with twisted rib detail. Kathy has designed a contemporary cabled pullover in Wool Bamboo for this booklet.

#9076 Second Edition (cover design below, with Princess, Countess, Inca Alpaca and Duchess yarns). There are three Kathy designs -- a pretty cabled pullover in Princess (see page 8 for information on a class for the cabled featured in this design), an asymmetrical, multi-stitch cardigan, and a beautiful uni-sex T-neck pullover with an allover wavy cable pattern.

#9077 Simple Pleasures -- Some great accessories, as well as sweaters, are found in this booklet (Cover photo on page 5), using 10 of CLASSIC ELITE's fabulous fall yarns

#9078 Tweed Four (14 designs in Beatrice, Skye Tweed, Waterlily, and Inca Marl) Kathy created a beautiful cable/rib turtleneck in Skye Tweed for guys and gals (photo on page 6). There is something for everyone in this booklet -- a child's cardigan with bramble stitch edging, a seamless T-neck with eyelet details, cozy accessories, simple cardigans, vests and pullovers, as well as more challenging sweaters...



photo  
© Classic Elite Yarns

\*\*\*\*\* FALL/WINTER 06/07 TRENDS \*\*\*\*\*

KNITTER'S MAGAZINE tells us, "The primary statement made in Fall/Winter 06/07 is 'push the edge', take risks in the way fashion is put together. Moving away from the 'less is more' approach, we can expect to see interesting, edgy, and decorative design. The interior industry is already there, with rich velvets, tassels, and color, so fashion is now playing catch-up.



photo  
© Classic Elite Yarns  
"Simple Pleasures"

Colors for Fall/Winter 06/07 will be taking their lead from stoneware and pottery. Yarns and stitch patterns include: luxury yarns with sheen and surface, to simulate velvet; hair yarns such as chenille and eyelash; linen and hemp yarns mixed with synthetics; yarns with a soft fuzzy surface; slightly felted yarns; cables, textured stitch patterns, and ribs; and tweed yarns.

The overall statement in fabric is 'break the rule'. Do the unexpected. Take the folk wear look but use monochromatic colors instead of the typical rich tones. Striped woven fabrics will be a major statement in fashion apparel this winter and we will see their influence continuing into the next few fashion seasons. Prepare yourself for a season chocked full of colorful knitting and creative opportunity". More striped samples and trends will be in KNITTER's Fall issue, expected later this month.

What about the shape of things to come? Adina Klein, Design Editor of VOGUE KNITTING, predicts big, easy sweaters to be an important fashion trend. At the TNNA TAHKI breakfast, she outlined six major runway themes:

- Volume: bigger & better with extra-large sizing. Go bulky with supersized ribbing, and humongous cables knit with chunky luxury yarns. Strut your knitting know-how with fully-fashioned details and finishing finesse.
- Baby doll: flirty & feminine girlie details. Nothing says retro-60's like black and white with long & lean layering. Flatter those baby faces with big collars and scooped necks. After all, a girl can never have too many sweaters, right?
- Urban folklore: hipster, not hippie. Add ethnic flair to tunics with multiple stitch patterns. Get crafty with embellishments -- crochet and embroidery have never been more current. Other trends include military styling and floral intarsia.
- '50s allure: cheeky classics and tailored ensembles suitable for breakfast at Tiffany's. Dressmaker details like knit-in pockets and full-fashioning abound. Cinch waists by adding a belt. Be on the prowl for cowls.
- Period piece: old-fashioned charm. Get nostalgic with feminine looks and couture details like leg-of-mutton sleeves, peplums and empire waists for past-perfect silhouettes. Pleats and ruching add pleasing, soft volume. Create airy romance with lacy cardigans.
- French resistance: borrow sportswear looks from the boys and create irresistible looks for layering. Pile on the hardware -- buckles, zips, and buttons. Menswear shapes like Henleys and grandpa cardigans make big better.

\*\*\*\*\* UPCOMING TRUNK SHOWS AND DISPLAYS \*\*\*\*\*

August 2006: FIBER TRENDS patterns (projects made with BROWN SHEEP YARNS) and a collection of "summer and beyond" knits from CLASSIC ELITE YARNS. Our thanks to Madelon Sheedy for displaying her collection of colorful felted fish from "Knitter's Stash" (\$19.95, softcover) and cuddly Hairy Harry, the felted hedgehog, made from FIBER TRENDS "Huggable Hedgehogs" pattern 228X (\$5.25). Learn the how-to's of felting in one of Kelly Gradischek's classes (see page 8). Tracey Earhart's seaside window is truly inspired. Tracey explores the comforting power of blue from an aqua-influenced spa shade to electrifying cobalt. Catch the waves!



\*\*\*\*\* INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW \*\*\*\*\*

Elaine from cyberspace e-mailed us, "Could someone please explain the following: 'pick up and knit the following number of stitches'. Does this mean to pick up one stitch at a time and knit, or pick up the number of stitches called for and then knit one row, then continue in the pattern?"

Neckbands, borders and edges are created by picking up stitches. Stitches are picked up one at a time. Pick up stitches with the right side facing using a separate ball of yarn and needles two sizes smaller than used for working the garment (this is usually the size used for the ribbing). Beginning at the right corner of the "pick up" edge, insert the needle into the center of the first stitch, wrap the yarn around the needle, work a stitch as if to knit and leave it on the needle. *The Knitter's Handbook* (\$19.95, spiral bound) recommends inserting the needle into the space between the first and second stitches for a firmer vertical edge. Continue in this manner, working from right to left. When all stitches are on the needle, turn the work if you are working flat (back & forth) and purl the next row for a neat transition. If working circularly, place a stitch marker at the beginning of the round to keep track of the starting point.

You probably will have more spaces to pick up into than stitches required for your pattern. The ratio of "pick-up" is based upon pattern gauge. Try working a sample of your gauge swatch (another important reason to work a swatch). The usual ratio for sport or worsted weight yarns is to pick up 3 out of 4 stitches along a vertical edge, 5 out of 6 along a diagonal edge (V-neck) and 1 for 1 along a horizontal bound-off edge (front neck, back neck).

Some slippery yarns such as mercerized cotton or rayon can cause holes along the pick up edge, particularly along curved edges. Our expert finishing instructor, Joyce Bischoff, recommends picking up one stitch in every space and then decreasing to the stitch count on the following row. Be careful that the stitches are evenly spaced, using markers to divide the front neck left edge, front edge and front right edge. The left and right front necks must have the same number of stitches for a balanced appearance.

Another tip is to use a crochet hook to pick up the stitches, and then transfer them to the knitting needle every few stitches. This is handy when working with yarns which split easily. For more information or illustrations, refer to the revised edition of *The Knitter's Companion* (\$19.95, spiral bound)...

"What is the best way to care for my cotton sweater?"

The cotton sweater -- wonderfully soft, lightweight and comfortable in all seasons. Here are a few tips to prevent fading, stretching or shrinking:

- Turn the garment inside out whenever washing to reduce abrasion. If washing by machine, first put in a mesh "delicates" laundry bag. We recommend Cot ' n Wash which is specially formulated for cottons (avoid Woolite which can yellow some cotton fibers). Hand washing causes less shrinkage than machine.
- Drying in dryer helps sweater return to its original shape. Remove while damp; lay flat to finish drying. If not using dryer, remove excess moisture by rolling in towels. Then lay flat on dry towel or mesh rack until completely dry. Store flat -- do not hang.
- If knitting a multi-color cotton sweater, test wash a swatch made of all colors to be used. Wash swatch as directed by manufacturer, then press between paper towels for 20 minutes to check for colorfastness. When knitting a garment from more than one yarn, be sure all care requirements are compatible.

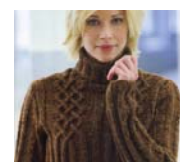


photo  
© Classic Elite  
Yarns

\*\*\*\*\* JANE'S SLIP-STITCH HAT \*\*\*\*\*

Slip-stitch stripes are an easy way to do impressive colorwork, adding a woven look to your knitting without a lot of fuss. Our thanks to Jane Armstrong for sharing her original hat pattern, shown at right. This is a great stash-reducing project -- experiment with a variety of colors! Change the colors one row at a time, to see how different the fabric looks just by rearranging your color choices. Stitch and color combinations are endless once you master the technique. For more information, see KNIT SIMPLE Fall 2006 for a great color workshop with illustrations, sure to spark your imagination...



SIZES: child's small (large in parentheses)

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn in at least 3 colors, approx. 75 yards main color (A), 50 yards each in two contrasting colors (B & C); 16" circular knitting needles in US sizes 6 and 9; double-pointed knitting needles (dpns) US size 9

GAUGE: 5 sts = 1" in stockinette stitch

With color A and smaller circular needles, cast on 80 (88) stitches. Work in K2, P2 rib for 1" to 4" as desired (1" - 2" for single rib band, or 3" - 4" for a fold-over cuff). Change to larger circular needles. K 2 rounds with color A, increasing 4 (8) sts on the first round: 84 (96) sts.

Begin slip-stitch pattern:

Rounds 1- 3: with color B, \*K3, sl 1 (slip 1); rep from \* around.

Rounds 4 -6: with color C, K1, \* Sl 1, K3 \* repeat between \*s, end K 2.

Repeat rounds 1 through 6, keeping color sequence (row one on next repeat will be color A). Continue for 5" (6") to start of crown shaping. Cut B & C.

Crown Shaping (work with color A, changing to dpns when needed)

Round 1: \*K10, K2tog; rep from \* around.

Round 2 and all even-numbered rounds: K.

Round 3: \*K9, K 2 tog; rep from \* around.

Round 5: \*K8, K2tog; rep from \* around

Continue in this manner to dec 7 (8) sts every round until 49 (48) stitches remain. Work decs **every** round until 7 sts remain. Cut yarn. Thread tail through and fasten off.

Weave in ends.

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\*\*\*\*\* DESIGN A SCARF CONTEST \*\*\*\*\*

Kathy's Kreations is pleased to sponsor its 2nd annual "Design-A-Scarf Contest" for the Westmoreland County Agricultural Fair August 18 - 26 , 2006. Paper entry form is due August 1st with the actual project submission date August 17. Forms are available at Agway or the County Extension Office on Donohoe Road, Greensburg. Entries must be a scarf of original design knitted or crocheted with TAHKI, STACY CHARLES or FILATURA DI CROSA yarns. The pattern and yarn label must be submitted with the completed scarf. All entries will not be eligible for Best of Show Contest. Prizes are gift certificates from KATHY'S KREATIONS: 1st place \$40; 2nd place \$30; and 3rd place \$20. Last year's entries were fabulous and we are looking forward to seeing your lovely "Kreations" again this year...

\*\*\*\*\* **READER'S KNIT NIGHTS** \*\*\*\*\*

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, August 7, 2006 and September 11, 2006, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. These evenings will feature enjoyable knitting-related novels, interesting reads and fun knitting with friends. Volunteers will be on hand to help with knitting questions and how-to's, including instructions for beginners...



\*\*\*\*\* **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** \*\*\*\*\*

**"Knit Knite" at Kathy's Kreations: Tuesday evenings, August 8, 2006, and September 12, 2006, 7 - 9 pm, (knitter's night out)**

Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting, lots of fun conversation and plenty of advice from experienced knitters. All skill levels welcome -- come, sit & knit! It's free!

**"Felting Finesse" with instructor Kelly Gradischek on Saturday, August 19, 2006, 1 - 4 pm \$10 registration fee\*** Felting, the process of washing and shrinking knitted items into felt, is the current rage and with good reason. Not only do felted knits look great, but they're warm, durable and fun to knit. Choose a FIBER TRENDS bag pattern and appropriate materials, and our expert Kelly will help you with the how-to's: how to knit in the round, how to add a novelty, how to felt, how to make the strap, and answer your questions. Learn to felt without fear -- you can do it! Kelly will also teach this class on Saturday, September 16, 2006, from 1-4 pm...

**Catch the CLASSIC ELITE "Magic of Cables" Day on Saturday, August 26, 2006**

**10 am - 1pm** Kathy will be demonstrating the how-to's of reading cable charts in a special class! The "hands on" demo will include the original Princess cable which Kathy created for CLASSIC ELITE's new fall book "Second Edition" (now in stock, garment photo upper right). Class fee is \$10 per student (yarn and cable pattern handout included). Please register early as class size will be limited\*.

**2 - 5 pm** Kathy will be available to autograph posters of her fall 2006 CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Guest Designer Collection" (while supplies last) and to sign fall pattern booklets featuring her designs (booklets must have been purchased at Kathy's Kreations)

We are looking forward to this special day and a couple of surprises are also planned, including a freebie with every CLASSIC ELITE purchase (one per customer)...

\* Registration fee must be pre-paid at the time of registration to reserve a space in class. If you need to cancel, we will refund tuition up to 48 hours prior to the class. After that, we will refund half of the tuition in the form of a store credit. Unless noted, class fees do not include materials. Classes without a minimum of 3 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for inclement weather. Students may pre-register for classes by calling Kathy's Kreations at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to [kathy@kathys-kreations.com](mailto:kathy@kathys-kreations.com)

**Private knitting, crochet and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.**

Each life needs its own quiet place -- discover the creativity within yourself.

KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy