



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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FEBRUARY 2011 UPDATE



Dear Knitters & Crocheters,

February calls for wooly sweaters, cozy hats, Super Bowl scarves and extra-chunky neck warmers. Accessories can be a wardrobe's workhorse, the perfect winter pick-me-up. They not only brighten the day, show your team colors and beat the cold, but they add color, style, and, as winter turns more wintry, welcome warmth.

However, as our knitting friend Linda Rawlins recently reminded us: "Even in the depth of winter, there lives the invincible promise of spring". OK, Linda, we're with you on this. The weather outside can be frightful, but, inside Kathy's Kreations, a delightful transition occurs every year just about this time. Before you know it, the spring fashion season is upon us. We are pleased to present to you the best the fiber world has to offer in new products for warmer weather knitting ahead. Clever concepts, extension products, and the best in basics and novelty yarns with something for everyone. We'll help you chase the chill. Don't you feel just a tiny bit warmer already?

No matter the season, great style, quality and value remain constants here at Kathy's Kreations. That's how we've determined our standards throughout all our years with you. You supply the creativity, we'll supply everything else!

"FEBRUARY IS SOCK MONTH "
All regularly-priced sock yarns
in our sock station are
10% off throughout February 2011

WINTER HOURS

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, drop spindle and rug punch
instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services available
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 ***

One of the most effective ways of dealing with a long, hard winter is to find a healthy coping mechanism. Knitting and crocheting can provide a creative outlet to channel your pent-up energy and counteract boredom. Needlearts are proven stress reducers and mood boosters. Stitch on -- it's good for you!

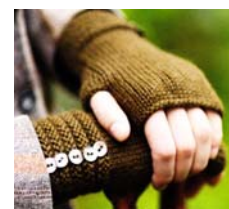
In addition to winter wrap-ups, we've gathered yarns and patterns to help you update your wardrobe to transition into spring...

INTERWEAVE Special Issue *Knitscene Winter /Spring 2011* (\$7.99) is stylish, spirited, and effortlessly cool. There are tees, hoodies and layers to get you ready for spring (Belvedere Cardigan, shown upper left). This simple-yet-clever magazine will now be published quarterly for your knitting enjoyment. There are Fair Isle projects (without steeks!) and 11 quick accessory projects (purses, shawls, cowls and socks). There is an excellent article on how to modify length and width in a raglan-sleeved top-down sweater. There are also four "belted" sweater projects that explore closures. Kate Sonnick's feature on mini & maxi style is informative and fascinating. The Spring 2011 runways focus on the New Minimalism: streamlined shapes, neutral palettes, and pared-down accessories. In the midst of all this restraint, some designers chose to mix materials, textures and details for a New Maximalism. We enjoyed Kate's approach to creating both looks -- be sure to check out how she styled the cover sweater for minimal and maximal effect...

Simply, spring is about feeling refreshed. It's time to introduce the BERROCO Spring / Summer 2011 collection! Summer staples like cotton and linen look cool and classy in the intriguing self-striping colorways and co-ordinating solids of "Linsey" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 114 yards, 64% cotton / 36% linen, CYCA #4). "Linsey" has its own dedicated pattern collection, booklet #307 (\$8.95), with an emphasis on chic, comfortable garments. These yarns are located in the tiered baskets across from our checkout counter -- one peek at the gorgeous shades, and you'll know spring is nearly a glimmer on the horizon...

Can it be possible that TRENDSETTER "Dune" yarn (\$15.50, 50 grams, 87 yards, 45% mohair / 25% acrylic / 20% viscose/ 6% new wool/ 4% polyester, CYCA#4) has been around for over 20 years? With gorgeous new shades on our shelves, it continues to be one of our "must-have" favorites, and one of yours as well. Ask to see our Ruffle scarf in progress worked in the classy, sophisticated blueberry harbor colorway (free pattern for you on page six). Many of the "Dune" shades coordinate with worsted weight "Merino 8 Shadow" (\$9.95, 50 grams, 100 yards, 100% merino extrafine, CYCA #4). This yarn is dyed in such a way that the colors shadow from one color to the next. This yarn is incredibly soft, and the colors are dyed to match "Dune"...

At the Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival, Kathy's Kreations will be one of 15 vendors at the "Sample It!" Friday evening fashion show and preview. Kathy has designed a seed stitch cowl using MUENCH YARNS "Campano" (\$8.95, 50 grams, 82 yards, 50% new wool / 50% acrylic, CYCA #3) or ROWAN "Renew" (\$10.25, 50 grams, 82 yards, 93% recycled wool / 7% polyamide, CYCA #3). The cowl design will be sold as a kit at "Sample It", but pattern & yarn are now available in the shop, sold separately...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Intarsia patchwork is one of the hottest trends for Spring and Summer 2011 home decor. Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS presents AC-024 Patchwork (\$5.00), coming later this month. With a nod to vintage inspiration, you can create a pillow with one square, or knit several and sew them together for a lovely patchwork afghan. With three sizes and styles to choose from -- 12" (14" - 16") squares, they are worked in worsted weight yarn. Pillow back instructions are included...



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Lisa Knits

Despite the appeal of a neat zippered opening in a handknitted cardigan or jacket, mixing knitting and zippers can be tricky. Several of our customers have asked about the knit picker tool tutorial in "Beyond the Basics -- The X, Y, & Z of Zippers" article in the winter 2011 *Interweave Knits*. Instead of sewing in the zipper by hand or machine, this method uses the knitting yarn itself for pucker-free installation that makes the zipper a permanent, organic part of the sweater. The DRITZ "Knit Picker" (\$2.50) is a small latch-hook that can be used to pull yarn loops through the fabric tape of the zipper -- perfectly spaced loops than can be picked up and knit as easily as stitches along a neckline or seam. Ingenious idea...

Get ready to cast on! Check your e-mail inbox on February 15, 2011 for exciting news in Knitting Daily or go to www.knittingdaily.com to see how you can enter Tahki Yarns' COLORPLAY COTTON CLASSIC CHALLENGE. Print a valuable coupon for a 10% discount here at Kathy's Kreations on any regularly-priced Cotton Classic or Cotton Classic Lite in stock during February 15 - March 25, 2011. Get in on the excitement...

We think that BERGERE DE FRANCE has the best babies collection available. This unique selection of natural and blended yarns is made in France. "Caline" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 196 yards, 60% acrylic / 20% wool / 20% nylon, CYCA# 2) and "Ciboulette" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 253 yards, 75% acrylic / 25% wool, CYCA #2) are both very soft machine-washable blends. Pattern support includes "Tricot Baby 151" (\$15.95), with extra small sizes for preemies, to make the perfect layette to welcome home the new arrival, as well as toddler vests, pullovers and cardies up to size 4. "Bergere Mag Knit Layette" (\$15.95) features an impressive assortment of outfits to have baby ready for every occasion -- wrap your new angel in gentleness and love!

New from MARI are two men's cardigans with shawl collars (\$5.95 each). Choose MS106, a bulky weight stockinette with ribbed accent, or MS126 worsted weight with a trio of staggered cables. Both are classic styles that guys will love to wear about town or in the country...

We are pleased to introduce CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS accessory patterns (\$5.50 each), beautifully printed on sturdy card stock and illustrated with photos by Jared Flood of Brooklyn Tweed. These tried-and-true patterns have a great "knitter-friendly" track record. Each calls for just 1-3 skeins of yarn, so they are quick to sample. Choose from the Ruffles Scarf (shown at left); Annabella's Cowl; Pressed Rib Cap & Muffler (perfect for guys), welted fingerless gloves (previous page lower right), or the Linen Stitch Scarf. Our shop model "Ruffles Scarf" was knit from MOUNTAIN COLORS "Crazyfoot" sock yarn in the daybreak colorway (this yarn's definitely not just for socks!) and will be on display at the Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival...



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Churchmouse Classics



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Don't be a square! Break out of the box with fun and creative *150 Knit & Crochet Motifs* (\$24.95, soft cover, shown left). Heather Lodinsky brings geometric, circular, and irregular shapes to life for the at-home knitter or crocheter with this delightful mix of conventional and unconventional motifs. Each section is organized by a general shape, such as diamonds, and includes patterns for both knitting and crocheting. With 150 designs to choose from, you are sure to find many new favorites. Discover clever ways to mix and match these charming motifs together, as well as functional ideas for incorporating the motifs into scarves, bags and afghans. There is also practical advice on planning and executing your own designs, and much more...

Did you know that celebrated knitwear designer Nicky Epstein is the featured guest teacher at the 7th annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival this coming February 11 - 13, 2011? Now you can own Nicky's latest book, *Knitting Block by Block* (\$29.99, hard cover). Create gorgeous sweaters, bags, afghans, and toys just by knitting the simplest of shapes -- a block! No one forgets the sweet victory of completing that first swatch, but most of us quickly move on to more complex constructions. In this comprehensive volume, Nicky Epstein reimagines the humble block with 150 new patterns and masterfully demonstrates how to mix, match, and easily combine them into stunning one-of-a-kind garments and accessories. Blocks are quick to knit, portable pieces perfect for group and charity projects, and now not just limited to afghans! This book gives you the tools to unlock a world of creative possibilities and confidently build your own design "blockbusters" one block at a time...

Learn from the master -- knit for the whole family! In *Jil Eaton's Knitting School* (\$22.99, soft cover), Jil Eaton guides you through the wonderfully varied world of knitting from proper gauging to creating lace, helping you investigate the possibilities and discover what works best for you. A true master of the craft, Jil provides 19 lessons and corresponding charming QuickKnit projects, revealing the marvels you can create with just two sticks and some yarn...

Take your knitting to the next level! With *Stitch 'n Bitch Superstar Knitting* (\$17.95, soft cover), learn intarsia knitting in a single sitting. Work Fair Isle with a smile. Knit lace with grace, and don't freak when it's time to steek. Cable, double knitting, beading, embroidery, how to work short rows, useful cast-ons, bind-offs, increases and decreases -- Debbie Stoller's easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions will lead you through these techniques. You'll discover how to create your very own patterns for different kinds of sweaters, including drop shoulder, raglan sleeve, circular yoke, and even the notorious set-in-sleeve....

In the exquisite volume, *Knit. Sock. Love.* (\$26.95, soft cover), Cookie A chronicles her love affair with sock knitting and explores different methods to pattern socks by examining their underlying structure. This revolutionary compilation is sure to elevate sock knitting to new levels of sophistication. Nineteen patterns ranging from simply chic to astonishingly intricate are arranged into three sections -- columns, tessellations, and diagonals. These rich and seemingly complex patterns are broken down step by step into bite-size components that are easy to digest, an invaluable guide for visual knitters. Enjoy, it's sock month...

*** SOCK KNITTING TIPS ***

While looking through our archives, we discovered these tips from the July 1996 Old Pueblo Knitters newsletter, which are as applicable today as they were 15 years ago. Never tried knitting socks? Tracey Earhart will be teaching a "Basic Socks" class on February 5th. Let's all celebrate "Sock Month"...

- Although there are many sock yarns on the market, bear in mind that the best socks are made from wool or wool blends. Wool is warmer, which is the whole purpose of wearing socks!
- When knitting socks, use a smaller gauge than you would for knitting a sweater in the same yarn. Loosely knitted socks tend to fall down around the ankle and do not wear as well as firmly knitted fabric.
- When you are knitting the heel flap, always slip the first stitch of every row. You will leave one loop for every two rows, which is exactly what you will need when picking up stitches for the gusset. When picking up stitches for the gusset, pick up and knit into the back of the stitch, thus twisting it. This prevents an unsightly gappy ridge. When picking up stitches, pick up an extra stitch on either side of the instep and decrease it away on the first complete round. This is the area where you are most likely to have a hole.
- Make sure your cast-on edge is loose enough to fit over your foot. If you cast on tightly, use a larger needle.
- If your sock is done in ribbing, begin the round with a knit stitch and end with a purl stitch. It's harder to purl the first stitch -- this prevents a hole where you change needles.
- Keep a notebook listing yarns used, needles, measurements, and notes to knit another sock exactly the same (avoid the dreaded "second sock syndrome"!)

*** SAID THE LADY TO THE SWEATER: DRY UP! ***

Here are short cuts and shape-ups for drying hand washable knits:

Mittens & Gloves: Pull them over bottoms of small jars and stand them in front of a fan

Bulky Sweaters: Insert a bath towel between layers and dry flat. This also blocks the garment and may prevent pattern colors from running.

Cowls/turtle necklines: Roll collar into shape and put crushed white tissue paper under it. This helps to reshape the neckline, too.

*** NATIONAL SWEATER DAY ***

The World Wild Life Fund has declared Thursday, February 17, 2011, as National Sweater Day. The Fund is basically asking everyone to turn down their thermostats a little and wear a sweater. Keep warm while keeping the planet cool -- get "sweatered"...

*** SPRING COLOR FORECAST ***

Honeysuckle pink is the new color for spring 2011 according to the Wall Street Journal report on Pantone colors. It's an intense pink and replaces the turquoise of 2010. It's a brighter, cheerier color which will be frequently paired with a hint of red or orange accents. Other featured colors are:
FIRECRACKER (all shades of tangerine; cheerful, dynamic, tuned in)
BEESWAX (medium yellow gold; warm, optimistic, enlightened)
REGATTA (medium blue; trustworthy, cool, confident)
LAVENDER (medium purple; insightful, intuitive, spiritual)



*** CRAZY FOR CARDIES ***

Here at Kathy's Kreations and on our Ravelry groups ("We Love Kathy's" and "Kathy Zimmerman Group"), we keep a close eye on fashion trends, especially those that are popular with our customers. We are constantly surveying what is happening in the fashion and knitting worlds, and which of our patterns are getting the most love and attention. With no surprise to us, the most beloved designs are CARDIGANS! Although cardigans are slightly more labor-intensive to knit, our customers seem up to the challenge (and we are always here to help). The wardrobe versatility, flattering look, and layering potential of cardigans are pretty enticing. Ask about Kathy's designs for Kollage Yarns ("Shore Thing", "Indigo Cardigan", shown upper right, and "Kollage Kimono") or LISA KNITS "Heather Fields" or "Seed Collar Cardigan", some of our best-sellers. Our knitting friend Julie Matthews is starting a Ravelry knitalong for the Waltham Cardigan designed by Kathy in the soon-to-be-published Interweave Press book, *Knitting Plus* by Lisa Shroyer. To join in on the fun, please contact Julie Matthews at blog.knittingatlarge.com, for adventures in plus-size knitting...



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Kollage Yarns

*** RUFFLED SCARF ***

FINISHED MEASUREMENT: approximately 5" wide by 50" or desired length

MATERIALS: 200 yards mohair worsted weight yarn (our shop model uses Trendsetter "Dune" in new shade blueberry harbor); US #11 needles

GAUGE: 4.5 sts / 7 rows = 1" (not critical)

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 20 stitches.

Row 1: Knit 8, turn.

Row 2: Knit 8, turn.

Row 3: Knit 6, turn.

Row 4: Knit 6, turn.

Row 5: Knit 4, turn.

Row 6: Knit 4, turn.

Row 7: Knit 20.

Repeat rows 1 - 7 until scarf measures 50" or desired length.

NOTES: Try using larger needles for interesting effects, or carry a thin novelty add-along yarn like eyelash or sequins. The ruffled twist will become more evident after working about 4". This scarf can also be lengthened for extra wraps and work like a cowl.

Thanks to Linda Cable who shared the original pattern, also known as the "potato chip" scarf -- bet'cha can't make just one!

*** WHERE'S KATHY??? ***

--- Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival (Market Vendor and Friday Sample It); February 11-13, 2011; Four Points Sheraton North; Mars, PA (for info call 412-963-7030 or e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com)

--- Stitches West; February 17-20, 2011, Santa Clara, California; teaching classes including Knit To Fit, Create-A-Cable, Slip Stitch Sampler, Intro to Combining Lace & Cable Patterns

--- Deep Creek Knitting Retreat; teaching classes and Market Vendor; March 18 -20, 2011; (for info call 412-963-7030 or e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com)

--- Stitches South; April 14 -17, 2011, Atlanta, Georgia; teaching classes including Knit To Fit, Create-A-Cable, Slip Stitch Sampler, Intro to Combining Lace & Cable

*** ONE-SKEIN BURLY SPUN REVERSIBLE HAT & COWL ***

Our thanks to Lois Walker, who shared this quick-knitting pattern with us. Lois advises that you knit the hat first, to make sure that you have enough yarn to complete both projects.

MATERIALS: BROWN SHEEP "Burlyspun" superbulky wool (132 yards); US #13 circular needle 16" length; US #13 double-pointed needles (dpns); stitch marker; 4 yards bulky waste yarn; "Chibi" jumbo tapestry needle

GAUGE: 2.5 sts = 1"

HAT DIRECTIONS (finished size approx. 20" circumference, will stretch to fit average size adult's head)

With circular needle, cast on 48 stitches. Join, being careful not to twist, place marker.

Abbreviations: K - knit; P - purl

Pattern Stitch:

Rounds 1 - 3: * K2, P1; repeat from * around.

Round 4: P.

Repeat these four rounds three more times.

Next Round: *P7, K 1; repeat from * around.

Decrease Rounds (change to double-pointed needles when necessary):

Round 1: *P6, K2tog (knit 2 together); repeat from * around.

Round 2: *P6, K1; repeat from * around.

Round 3: *P5, K2tog; repeat from * around.

Round 4: *P5, K1; repeat from * around.

Continue decreasing in this manner until 6 stitches remain. Cut yarn, leaving a 6" tail.

Thread yarn through "Chibi" and draw through remaining 6 stitches. Weave in end.

NECK WARMER COWL DIRECTIONS

Using waste yarn, cast on 18 stitches. Working back and forth, K 3 rows, ending with a right side row. Break off waste yarn, leaving a 5" tail. Change to main color and begin pattern:

Row 1: K4, *P1, K2; repeat from * to last 2 stitches, end K2.

Row 2: K2, *P2, K1; repeat from * to last 4 stitches, end P2, K2.

Row 3: Repeat row 1.

Row 4: P.

Repeat rows 1 - 4 twenty times, then work rows 1 & 2 once.

Using one of the dpns, pick up stitches from waste stitches. Lois says "You can either cut off the waste stitches as you go, or unravel by pulling out waste yarn from the 5" tail. Twist the scarf, then join the two ends by using Kitchener technique". (If you don't know how to do Kitchener, learn how at Tracey's "Basic Socks" class on February 5th).

*** SUPER PEP RALLY ***

Please come to the Ligonier Diamond at 12 noon on Friday, February 4, 2011 for a Steelers pep rally! Did you know we have a large selection of black and gold yarn to make accessories and sweaters for your favorite Pittsburgh sports teams? Bring in your terrible towel between now and Super Bowl Sunday to receive a 10% discount on any black or gold yarn in stock (all weights). Please ask to see our lucky "Terrible Cowl"...

*** KNITTING QUIP ***

Q. What kind of trucks do sheep drive?

A. Ewe-Hauls!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Join the "First Mondays" Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate, Greensburg, PA on the first Monday of each month: **Mondays, February 7, 2011, and March 7, 2011; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.** Come knit!



***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, February 8, 2011, and March 8, 2011; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) *****

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

***** FUN FRIDAYS, February 18, 2011, and March 18, 2011; 10 am - 2 pm *****

All knitters & crocheters welcome! An instructor 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 knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor...

***** "BASIC SOCKS" Saturday February 5, 2011, 9:30 am - 12 noon with instructor Tracey Earhart; \$25.00 registration fee (includes pattern)* *****

Are you intimidated by double-pointed needles, turning a heel, or stitching up a sock toe? Tracey will share her expertise with you to help you master new skills and confidently tackle that challenge. Student supplies US #5 or #6 double-pointed knitting needles 5" length and 110 yards worsted or DK weight yarn (available for purchase on class day).

***** "RUG PUNCH" Saturday February 5, 2011, 1 - 4 pm with instructor Tracey Earhart; \$60.00 registration fee plus materials* *****

Learn this fun technique from Tracey Earhart, western Pennsylvania's only certified Oxford Rug Punch instructor! Student supplies (frame, cloth, punch needle tool and yarn for your individual project) available for purchase on class day.

*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 4 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for bad 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

Private knitting, crocheting, felting, Oxford rug punch, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. Group classes in a variety of intermediate knitting skills are being planned, or 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 30 years !

Mix it up with textures! Club FDC (Filatura Di Crosa yarns) tells us in their January newsletter: "Knitting your own garments and accessories is a fool-proof way of recreating the prevailing play of textures on this season's runways. Use a novelty yarn, or a combination of textured and classic yarns to achieve this look in a hat and scarf set"...

Live - laugh - dance - be healthy -- knit, crochet, stitch!

KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!

Kathy