

KATHY'S KREATIONS  
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JANUARY 2007



Dear Knitters,

Ahh, winter! Is there any better season for curling up with your knitting or crocheting? The weather outside may be frightful, but we know how to be content inside -- with our favorite new project!

As Brett Bara tells us in her *Crochet Today* December 06/January 07 editorial: "Not only is winter perfect for working on projects, it's also our best time to really show off our handiwork. After all, we wait all year to break out our sweaters, scarves, hats and mittens, and curl up under the afghans that have just been sitting there looking pretty all summer".

We hope you'll find us a source of inspiration for those times when you have the luxury of a few hours to spend with your needles and hooks. We've got the latest yarns, accessories and patterns to keep you happily stitching away all winter long. Why not challenge yourself to learn something new? Make it your New Year's resolution to take a felting class, master sock making, demystify cables or learn Fair Isle color techniques -- we'll help you to take advantage of all the creative opportunities the great indoors has to offer, for

**"IT'S SWEATER WEATHER! "**

**All regularly-priced bulky weight\* yarns in stock  
are 10% off during January 2007  
(\*stitch gauge of 3.5 stitches or less on the label)**

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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please visit our website [www.kathys-kreations.com](http://www.kathys-kreations.com)



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Knitter's Magazine

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

Need a post-holidays antidote for the dreary, gloomy days of winter? Pick a pattern, sip some cocoa, and get stitchin'. It's sweater weather, and we couldn't be happier. Here are our favorite cozy pick-me-ups to brighten up your days and ward off January's chill...

*Knitter's Magazine* Winter 2007 (\$5.95) is "Just Chillin'" and what a cheerful crop of winter warmers this is! In *Knitter's* words: "Winter is *cold*, and for that reason, give color a chance to spark up the season". If the thought of colorwork overwhelms you, relax! This collection will enlighten you about everything from the basics to principles and even a little theory. There are helpful hints and how-to's for interpreting charts, color changes, easy horizontal stripes, stranded 2-color knitting, and intarsia. More advanced methods combine these techniques in folkloric blocks, mosaics and mitered modules. All of these projects will help you add pizzazz to your knitting, whether you are a beginner or a seasoned expert.

We are pleased that two of Kathy's designs are included in this issue. About "Ribbed Bands" (shown upper left), *Knitter's* says, "Simple shapes can be so versatile. We make sure that this little number will garner interest by picking variegated mohair and choosing a trim, ribbed silhouette. The simple two-button closure keeps it in place no matter how active your day". This garment was knit from SKACEL COLLECTION/ ZITRON "Prisma" (\$12.50, 50 grams, 165 yards, 82% mohair / 18% polyester), in stock...

And, about "Mix It Up" (shown lower right): "This tweedy pullover makes the best of a contrast color band by placing it in the body rather than at the borders. We also stagger the ribs within the contrast for added interest. Finish the mock turtleneck in another contrast for added polish". Kathy used TAHKI / STACY CHARLES "Donegal Tweed" (\$10.25, 100 grams, 183 yards, 100% wool) and "Shannon" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 92 yards, 100% wool), in stock...

Be creative your way with December 06 / January 07 *Crochet Today!* (\$4.99 introductory price). This new magazine from the publishers of VOGUE KNITTING is devoted to crocheters who know that making something personal is as rewarding as it is fashionable. Cozy up to 25 winter projects including hats, socks (yes, crocheted socks), mittens (yes, crocheted mittens), snuggly afghans, fashions, toys, home accents (rugs and baskets) and baby keepsakes. The tutorial on socks is a must-read. This issue also features a wonderful pattern that produces self-patterning socks thin enough to wear under shoes or winter boots. With the step-by-step instructions, you'll be a pro in practically no time. And, if cabin fever sets in with your kids, there is an article for how to help kids learn to crochet, plus super-easy "first" projects for them to try. As if all this wasn't enough, there is a featured article on crochet cables with a stunning sampler afghan to showcase your skills...

What's new from LISA KNITS? Lisa Carnahan tells us that she has been hard at work developing new patterns for guys. She is putting the finishing touches on her new sock, sweater and vest patterns for men. Check with us in the shop next month or stop by our booth at the Third Annual Pittsburgh Knit and Crochet Festival (see page 7 for details) for the latest in LISA KNITS patterns...



photo © XRX  
Knitter's  
Magazine

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

Our color cravings continue with clever patterns and yarns which are brightening up our shelves. Worked from cuff to cuff with asymmetrical front and I-cord borders, FIBER TRENDS FT-459 "Color On The Side" (\$5.75, shown right) easy-to-knit jacket is a natural for self-striping yarns. This gorgeous garment is made from NATURALLY's "Vero" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 87 yards, 100% wool), which is also suitable for felted items. We carry shawl pins similar to the one used as a closure for this jacket. More new FIBER TRENDS patterns include: AC-81 (\$5.75) -- Alpine Boot Slippers comes in adult sizes, knit with two strands of worsted weight yarn and trimmed with thick, fur-like synthetic yarn cuffs and accents. Designed to be felted to a very thick, firm fabric, these boot slippers will keep feet warm and cozy. They feature double soles for extra comfort and longer wear.



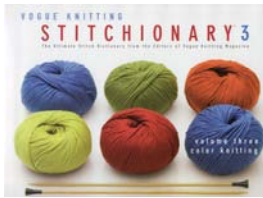
S2017 (\$6.00) -- Spinner's Lace Shawl is a reversible garter stitch lace shawl which celebrates Arachne from Greek mythology and Spider Woman from Hopi and Navajo legends. These are ancient symbols embraced by spinners, as well as weavers, lace makers and needle artists. The shawl is knit from the center back neck down, and the simple Spider lace flows into a Spider-in-a-web border and edging. The spider lace repeats over 10 rows, so it is easy to memorize, and the border can be started after any multiple of the 10-row repeat, making it easy to customize size. This shawl looks great in a wide variety of sizes and weights of yarns, and beads can be added to the last edging row if desired...

DENISE Interchangeable Knitting Needles is joining in the fight against breast cancer. Their newest component set is pink (\$54.95), with \$5.00 from the purchase of the pink kit going directly to breast cancer research through the S. D. Ireland fund. The kit features 10 pairs of needle points in US sizes 5 - 15, with six cords & 2 extenders to customize circular needle length, as well as 4 end buttons for use as "flex" needles. These are wonderful for knitters on the go, ideal for travel, plus a great way to help support research for this disease, estimated to affect 1 out of 5 women in the US...

VOGUE KNITTING presents *Knit Simple* Winter 2006/07 (\$5.99), with a "bright stuff" theme. There are 30 wonderful winter looks with cozy knits for the home, a baby blanket bonanza, vests for the whole family and a sock hop (every yarn, every size, so you can sock it to everyone). There are Knit-Year resolutions, including "Get the Blues", featuring anywhere, anytime blue sweaters. One of Kathy's designs, "Windowpane Jacket" is included in this feature (shown lower left), described as: "A 1-2-3 knit-and-purl combo creates the windowpane box stitch of this pocketed button-down, slightly shaped at the sides to skim the hips". It was knit on size 15 needles with PLYMOUTH YARNS "Hand Paint Wool" (\$13.50, 100 grams, 60 yards, 100% hand-dyed wool). This



issue also takes the lead with tweed -- there is a "meow mix" textured block and intarsia cat afghan (catghan??), featuring a couple of feline faces complete with embroidered whiskers and beaded eyes. There are also pillows sporting rows of intarsia doggies and "fetching fido" sweaters for the kids. Mix and match quick-and-easy textured throw pillows embellished with buttons round out the list of projects suited for your own unique personal space...



\*\*\*\*\* NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES \*\*\*\*\*

VOGUE KNITTING *Stitchionary 3* (\$29.95, hard cover, shown left) is the inspiring third volume in the series. It features more than 200 gorgeous colorwork patterns culled from the pages of *Vogue Knitting* magazine. Inside, you'll find five comprehensive chapters arranged thematically -- Two-Color Knitting, Intarsia and Motifs, Fair Isle/Multicolor Knitting, Adding Texture, and Slip Stitches -- with each pattern accompanied by a sample swatch, detailed chart and easy-to-follow instructions. Whether you're a novice or an old hand, this book is all you'll need to add an eye-opening dimension of color to your knitting...

With over 300 contemporary and traditional patterns, *Knitting Stitches* (\$24.95, hard cover) is the only reference you will ever need to create innovative and exciting knits. Each section (knit & purl, cable, rib, twist, lace and bobble) is tri-sected into easy, medium and difficult options, geared to individual skill levels. This stitch pattern pantheon is a remarkable source of inspiration at your fingertips. Detailed color photographs and instructions for every stitch to help you get the most out of your knitting...

Knitting is fun, therapeutic, and produces fabulous results. But, while previous generations might have learned at their grandmother's knee, today's would-be knitters rarely have access to this kind of "word-of-mouth" knowledge. *Knitting Basics* (\$23.95, hard cover) fills this gap. It takes the beginner step-by-step through every stage of the process, and progresses from elementary techniques through a variety of stitches and more advanced skills, ending with some deceptively simple but stylish knitted items. Here are the tools for a lifetime of knitting, with directions for adapting the techniques, finishing off a piece, and reading charts and knitting instructions...

An otherwise finely crafted piece of hand-knitting can be spoiled by improper finishing details. Now, you can learn the shortcuts -- and, even more important, where not to cut corners. Starting with reading patterns and instructions, *Finishing Techniques for Hand Knitters: Giving Your Knitting that Professional Look* (\$24.95, hardcover) explains different ways of casting on and binding off, and the importance of shaping and sizing. It shows how to sew a variety of seams, provides methods for each type of stitch, and explains how to create perfect buttonholes, button bands, and necklines. Finally, a section on decorative detail shows how to add beads and other embellishments, while the trouble-shooting pages tackle those problems that occur when things have gone wrong. This book is an invaluable addition to any knitter's library...

Going loopy over your latest crochet project? *The Crochet Answer Book* (\$12.95, softcover) is here to answer all your hooking dilemmas. From selecting the right hook and yarn for the project, to getting started in the round or flat, working around corners and other tricky spots, and venturing into more complex patterns, this little handbook is your constant companion. Author Edie Eckman has anticipated every situation you may encounter and offers clear, complete answers, along with easy-to-follow diagrams. Day or night, *The Crochet Answer Book* is always open and ready to answer your questions. With this book in your project bag, the chain never stops...

\*\*\*\*\* SIDEWAYS SCARF \*\*\*\*\*

From the November 2006 Greater St. Louis Knitters' Guild:  
Have you ever knit a lengthwise scarf only to have it hang skewed? This occurs because the cast on tension usually does not match the bind-off tension. Try using a provisional



(temporary) cast on. When the scarf is finished and the last row is bound off, undo the provisional cast on, place the "Live" stitches onto the needles. Then, bind off in the same manner and the two long sides will match. Here's a pattern from Kathy using a self-striping yarn that uses this method:

SIDEWAYS SEED STITCH SCARF (stitch detail shown upper right, shade #51 jungle green)

APPROXIMATE SIZE: 6" long X 60" wide

MATERIALS: NASHUA HANDKNITS "Wooly Stripes" three balls (88 yards each); 29" circular knitting needle US size 9; crochet hook size I; 10 yards smooth mercerized cotton (waste yarn); stitch markers (optional)

GAUGE: With US size 9 needles, 4.25 sts = 1" in seed stitch pattern

SEED STITCH (over odd number of sts)

All rows: K1; \*P1, K1; repeat from \* across.

DIRECTIONS: With waste yarn and crochet hook, loosely chain 258 sts. Cut yarn. Attach Wooly Stripes by knotting onto cut end. With US size 9 circular needle and Wooly Stripes, pick up and knit 1 st into the back of each "purl bump" of the first chain. Continue knitting 1 stitch into each chain until you have 255 sts on needle. Do not work into remaining chains.

HELPFUL HINT: It may be helpful to place stitch markers every 20 stitches to keep track of the number of stitches when counting as you cast on.

Work in seed stitch until a few yards of yarn remain. Bind off all stitches in pattern.

Untie knot at provisional cast on edge. Remove waste yarn one stitch at a time by unraveling chain and placing each bottom loop onto the circular needle. Bind off all sts in pattern. Add fringe to side edge, if desired.

VARIATIONS: This can be a wonderful stash buster. Work each row in a different coordinating color, leaving a 8" tail at the beginning and end for fringe "as you go". Scarf length may be adjusted by varying the amount of cast-on stitches (remember to keep an odd number) and scarf width by working less rows.

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\*\*\*\*\* A POTPOURRI OF KNITTING HINTS \*\*\*\*\*

Another great reason to make a gauge swatch: take your swatch along when button shopping to help you find the perfect finishing touch for your jacket or cardigan. Did you know that Kathy's Kreations has a large selection of buttons especially selected for handknits?

When knitting toys intended for children under the age of three, embroider eyes and features. Button eyes can be pulled off and present a choking hazard if swallowed...

Add a little color to your knitting or crocheting even if the pattern doesn't call for it. Work with two complimentary colors when working scarves, hats or afghans, changing colors every two rows and carrying the unused color up the side of the work when not in use.

\*\*\*\*\* KNITTING TRENDS \*\*\*\*\*

What's on your knitting agenda this winter? If you're looking for fast knits, luxury yarns, or gift ideas, we are "idea central". With our large selection of yarns and patterns, we can help you to find projects that are suitable for your lifestyle and that will work for the climate where you live. Here are some trendy ideas:

--- Make an "in-vest-ment"! This year, vests are in fashion for the entire family. U-shape necklines and vest with short sleeves are popular. If you work in a chilly office, layer them over shirts and tops for added warmth. Vests are easy and quick (no sleeves!), so you may want to make several.

--- Cardigans are always a good choice, even if you live in a warm climate. You can wear them buttoned up "pullover-style" for chilly days, or open with a blouse for warmer ones. Knit cardigans are ideal alternatives to jacket for working girls and corporate types.

--- When making open vest and cardigans, buttons are a finishing touch that can change the personality of your garments, from casual to dressy.

\*\*\*\*\* MARY'S STRIPED HAT \*\*\*\*\*

This hat was inspired by one of our favorite customers, Mary Shonk. Mary graciously consented to let us borrow her striping sequence from a holiday gift hat she knit for her son. Kathy adapted her colorway idea into this hat for you to try. Thanks, Mary!

SIZES: Child's small (child's med - child's large - adult med - adult's large in parentheses)  
FINISHED HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE: 16" (18" - 20" - 22" - 24")

MATERIALS: NASHUA HANDKNITS "Julia" one ball each colors A and B; US sizes 5 & 7 16" circular knitting needle; US size 7 double-pointed knitting needles (dpns); tapestry needle for weaving in ends; combination circular stitch marker /row counter

GAUGE: 5 sts / 7 rows = 1" in stockinette stitch

DIRECTIONS: With smaller circular knitting needle & B, cast on 80 (90 - 100 - 110 - 120) sts. Join, place marker, being careful not to twist sts. Work in rounds of K1, P1 ribbing for .75" (1" - 1.25" - 1.5" - 1.75"). Join A. Work in stockinette stitch (K every round) in color sequence as follows: 4 rows color A; 4 rows color B; 3 rows color A; 3 rows color B; 2 rows color A; 2 rows color B; 1 row color A; 1 row color B. Cut B. Cont in color A until piece measures 3.75" (4" - 4.5" - 5" - 5.5") from beginning.

Shape crown (change to dpns when there are too few sts to work comfortably):

Round 1: \*K8, K2tog (knit 2 sts together); repeat from \* around.

Rounds 2, 4, 6, 8, & 10: K.

Round 3: \*K7, K2tog; repeat from \* around.

Round 5: \*K6, K2tog; repeat from \* around.

Round 7: \*K5, K2tog; repeat from \* around.

Round 9: \*K4, K2tog; repeat from \* around.

Round 9: \*K3, K2tog; repeat from \* around.

Round 11: \*K2, K2tog; repeat from \* around.

Round 12: \*K1, K2tog; repeat from \* around.

Round 13: \*K2tog; rep from \* around: 7 (8 - 9) sts.

Cut yarn, leaving a 6" tail. Draw yarn through remaining sts. Pull up tightly to secure. Weave in ends.

VARIATION: Add more color stripes or use variegated yarn for color B.

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\*\*\*\*\* PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL \*\*\*\*\*



The 3rd Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival will be held at the Crowne Plaza, Pittsburgh South, on **Saturday, February 10, 2007, 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday, February 11, 2007, 9 am - 4 pm.** This hotel is directly across the road from South Hills Village.

In addition to having a booth, Kathy will be teaching a "Crazy About Cables" class on Saturday morning, 9 am - 12 noon & Sunday afternoon, 1 pm - 4 pm with how-to's for interpreting cable stitch charts and tips for knitting cable stitch patterns. Kathy is the featured guest designer for CLASSIC ELITE YARNS Fall/Winter 2006 pattern collection, and the stitch chart featured in this class is Kathy's original "Princess cable". Kathy will also be signing CLASSIC ELITE posters near her booth on Saturday, 3 - 4 pm, and on Sunday 10 -11 am, while supplies last. Hope to see you there!

There will be a preview fashion show on Saturday, January 20, 2006, 2 pm - 4 pm, at the Galleria, Mount Lebanon. Three of Kathy's original CLASSIC ELITE designs will be featured in the fashion show: the Oriental Ladies' Jacket in "Lush" yarn from *Noble Knits* booklet 9065; Cabled Bazic Ladies' Cardigan in "Bazic" yarn from *Old Mill* booklet 9066; and Cabled Trellis Pullover in "Four Seasons" yarn from the upcoming spring pattern collection. Patterns and yarns for these designs will be available at Kathy's booth, in addition to the new CLASSIC ELITE booklets for spring.

In addition to conventional knitting and crochet classes at the Festival, there will be a market, demos and exhibits. Attendees are invited to participate in an exciting group art project that explores fiber with local teachers and fiber artists, designed to expand your creativity with yarn and wool. This project will culminate in an exhibit at One Mellon Center in Pittsburgh in fall 2007. Event tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. For more details about class schedules & fees, highlights, and registration, please visit the website at [www.pghknitandcrochet.com](http://www.pghknitandcrochet.com)

\*\*\*\*\* RESOLVE TO GET ORGANIZED \*\*\*\*\*

How do you keep track of multiple projects at the same time? It's hard not to start that fabulous new sweater project you just bought at Kathy's Kreations, but what about the 4 or 5 other UFO's (unfinished objects) in your stash? Keeping track of projects will help turn them into fo's (finished objects). The folks at TAHKI / STACY CHARLES have some ideas to help you get organized. If you put something aside, package it neatly, making certain that the pattern and notes are with it. It is not a copyright violation to photocopy a pattern that **you have purchased** for your own use, as a working copy. Circle your size & pertinent information with red ink. Invest in some large clear ziploc bags to make it easier to identify the project and keep everything together. You don't want to pick up something a few months down the road only to find you don't remember the needle size you used for the completed parts. You may find it helpful to keep a journal or notebook to list your projects along with specific details on where to locate them.

It is always a good idea to have both easy and difficult projects at hand. You will then have an easy portable project to take along in the car or to your child's basketball game, and a more detailed project for a quiet, undistracted winter evening at home.

If you get to a point where you know you won't finish a project because you don't enjoy it, it's OK to "re-cycle" it by giving it to a knitting or crochet friend, or passing it along to your local knitting guild for charity knitting or auction.

(tips adapted from TAHKI / STACY CHARLES "Knit Flash" November 2006 newsletter)

\*\*\*\*\* **READER'S KNIT NIGHT** \*\*\*\*\*

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, January 8, 2007, and February 5, 2007, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. The night will feature knitting-related novels, interesting reads and fun knitting with fiber-loving friends.



\*\*\*\*\* **"Knit Knite" at Kathy's Kreations** \*\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday evenings, January 9, 2007, and February 13, 2007, from 7 - 9 pm**

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 are welcome -- come, sit & knit!

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

**"Felting Finesse" with instructor Kelly Gradischek: Saturday, January 27, 2007, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm \$10 registration fee\* plus materials**

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 tote 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!

- \*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, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.**

**"FUN FRIDAY" with instructor Joyce Bischoff: January 19, 2007, 10 am - 2pm**

It's fun, it's free -- join us to knit or crochet! Joyce is available for knitting help with your questions and skill-building. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

**New Year's resolutions:** Always do a gauge swatch. Get organized. Learn new skills. Knit or crochet more, more, more!



Whatever is beautiful ... whatever is meaningful ... whatever brings you happiness... may it be yours throughout the coming year. Best wishes to you and your families for a Happy New Year filled with health, happiness and prosperity.

KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy