



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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JANUARY 2011 UPDATE



Dear Knitters & Crocheters,

Happy 2011! It's not just a New Year -- it's a new decade! We begin the calendar with a wish that the year ahead is filled with health, happiness and prosperity for you and your families. Knitting and crocheting are more to us than a hobby or a way to pass time -- they are art forms, and sharing this passion with you is a joy.

Something that author Vicki Square wrote for *Knitting Daily* in October 2008 about her book, *Knit Kimono*, has been on our minds. Vicki listed three things significant to her as an artist and knitter: creativity, competence, and community. This comment started us thinking that this seems to be an appropriate time to reflect upon our goals for 2011. We value creativity and knowledge. We will continue cultivating a creative environment, a place where you as a stitcher can find inspiration and know-how, as well as the latest products, tools, and accessories. We want to help you expand your horizons, to become better knitters and crocheters by challenging yourself to learn something new with every project and to develop excellence in your skills. We plan to keep fostering the stitching community by drawing people together through our classes, in-shop demos, workshops, special events and social gatherings such as Fun Fridays, and Knit Nights.

Together, let's look at the fiberart possibilities in a new way by experimenting with shapes, details, color, texture, and stitches. You supply the creativity -- we'll supply everything else!

"IT'S SWEATER WEATHER! "

**All regularly-priced bulky & super-bulky weight
yarns (CYCA #5 & CYCA #6) in stock are
10% off throughout January 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 and rug punch
instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services available
Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier

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e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations

please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Can you believe it? It's time to review your favorite patterns and best-selling products from 2010. It's been an exciting year and we can't wait to share our knitting and crocheting with you in 2011. Looking ahead to the start of a brand new decade, we feel renewed and ready to forge ahead with another batch of innovative products for your stitching pleasure. Some things are always different, but always the same: Kathy loves that red is the hot color this season and actually is knitting one of her own designs for herself (not in red); Betty Lou and Linda are knitting fun hats and mitts, Marilee is into cozy cowls, Joyce is still crazy about cardies and Tracey is doing a wonderful "snow business" window display for Ice Fest. We soon will be debuting spring yarns but for now, think big, and stitch big, with chunky yarns to keep you warm in the great outdoors...

The winter knitting season is in full swing! *Vogue Knitting Winter 2010/11* (\$6.99, cover shown upper left) will keep you forever cozy with 34 classic knits you'll wear again and again. From town to country to ski slope and back, *Vogue Knitting* celebrates high knitting season with the cream of winter-wardrobe knit couture. With knits snug and sublime, there's no need to hibernate. Get outside and enjoy the big chill with "chalet chic" sweaters. Few designs have withstood the test of time quite as beautifully as the ever-versatile, always-appropriate cardigan -- ruffled, collared, roomy, wrapped, or hooded -- the cardi's core basics haven't changed in years. Layers are a runaway hit on the runway -- *Vogue Knitting* gives us their take on the quick knit, in easy shapes, stitches and style. Everything old is new again, and this issue is chock full of fresh takes on retro revivals, vintage modern and designs from their 50s archives. And don't forget to check out the knee scrapers, fancy knee-high socks...

Interweave Crochet Winter 2010 (\$6.99) features 24 bold designs for winter. With colorplay, make a statement with a single pop of color or combine two or three of your favorite hues. Learn how to work crochet cables with the "Beyond The Basics" tutorial and 8 projects from basic to complex. Deliciously textured "anywear" sweaters are at ease on the town or by the fireside. One quote in an article on charity knitting caught our eye as we thumbed the pages of this issue: "Choice starts with small things, which is why crafting is so important for women. It is a sphere in which we choose / control everything". This issue includes a pattern for "comfort slippers", a great project for crafting for others. "Our stitches empower us in ways we usually take for granted, as each item we make represents an act of strength. It is important to remember what your work can symbolize to others, not just in the colors or design, but also through its very existence"...

Sleet, freezing fog, snowmageddon, or blizzard, you'll stay warm and toasty when wrapped up in accessories with our newest yarns. We've just received a colorful shipment of MOUNTAIN COLORS "Moguls", perfect for chunky scarves and mittens. There are also new pattern leaflets (\$5.50 each) featuring knitted "Winter Headbands" (shown right) made with one single skein of any Mountain Colors yarn, Twizzle beanie, child's aviator-style ski hats in knit and crochet, adult ski hats, and crocheted ladies' hats to enjoy making and wearing...



*** LISA KNITS TOP TEN ***

Lisa Carnahan is currently hard at work in her studio, designing her upcoming spring pattern collection. We asked Lisa for her top ten best-selling patterns for 2010 across the USA & Canada. Here's her list, and her entire pattern collection can be found on our shelves:

10. AC-016 Fingerless Gloves 5 sts /1"
9. AC-001 Mittens, Mittens, Mittens
8. AC-014 Fingerless Gloves 8 sts /1"
7. AC-019 Deck The Halls
6. HT-007 Multi-Sized Rolled Brim Hat
5. HT-026 Ribbons
4. HT-025 Blustery Days
3. AC-018 Quick and Cozy
2. AC-015 Six Simple Scarves
1. AC-010 Reader's Wrap



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Berroco Yarns

Bulky yarns practically scream cozy warmth and, for knitters or crocheters, almost instant gratification. Let's also mention that they are all on sale this month, too. Check out the scrunch factor of our Luxe ribbed cowl made with ROWAN superbulky "Drift" (\$15.50, 50 grams, 87 yards, 100% merino wool, CYCA #6), a lovely heathered marl single-ply beauty. Whether you are crazy for cowls, nutty for neck warmers, silly for scarves, happy for hats, or mad for mitts, check out BERROCO "Borealis" (\$14.50, 100 grams, 108 yards, 60% acrylic / 40% wool, CYCA #5). This beautiful, drapery yarn flies off the shelves almost as soon as it arrives. We now have new shades in stock and will give you our "recipe" for an easy cowl with the purchase of this yarn. CLASSIC ELITE "Arioso" is soft to touch, lightweight and quick to knit (\$11.95, 50 grams, 87 yards, 90% extrafine merino / 10% cashmere, CYCA #5). Ask to see our braided cowl work-in-progress from the cover of *Knit Simple Winter 2010*...

COLINETTE YARNS "Hullabaloo" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 82 yards, 66% wool/ 33% welsh black wool, CYCA #4) is our latest Aran weight yarn. The twist of black wool with multi-colored wool strands makes for an interesting ragg-type marl. Our favorite colorway is shades of gold in combination with the black -- perfect for all Pittsburgh sports teams!

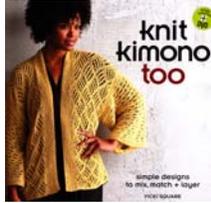
At the other end of the yarn weight spectrum is SKACEL / ZITRON "Filigran" (\$26.95, 100 grams, 660 yards, 100% merino wool, CYCA#1 lace). This is our best-selling superwash lace yarn, available in solids or self-striping colorways. Also new from SKACEL is SCHOPPEL WOLLE "Flying Saucer" (\$22.95, 100 grams, 480 yards, 75% virgin wool/ 25% nylon, CYCA #2). This yarn is injection-dyed in a double ply yarn in order to yield an identical pair of socks in a galaxy-inspired colorway. Simply unreel the "saucer" and re-wind into two balls -- available in six out-of-this-world shades!

Crocheters, indulge your hands! New from ADDI TURBO are "Swing" crochet hooks (\$13.95) with a unique color-coded curved handle for an easy, comfort grip...



Now that we've told you all about winter, can spring be far behind? Two new spring BERROCO booklets are already here (\$8.95 each) -- #307 Linsey (shown upper right) & #305 Origami (shown at left). Those of you with cabin fever will want to see this preview of coming attractions...

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Berroco Yarns



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Knit Kimono Too by Vicki Square (\$26.95, shown left, soft cover) features simple designs to mix, match and layer. From the best-selling author of *Knit Kimono* comes a brand-new book of kimono and Asian-inspired tops with simple yet innovative shapes and unique details. In 20 new designs, Vicki Square has created a pattern collection that focuses on lightweight knits for layering, blending traditional Japanese style with unique stitch patterns, colorwork, and openwork designs that knitters can't resist.

On the included bonus instructional DVD, you can learn all the tips and techniques needed to make these beautiful garments. Vicki demonstrates the special techniques that make each piece so elegantly wearable, including surface embroidery, stranded colorwork, short-rows, attached knitting cord, and more.

With *Knit Kimono Too* you will discover how to transform simple knitted fabric with minimal shaping into stylish, polished apparel...

Adorn your knitting with heavenly and beautiful details. Learn from best-selling author and knitwear designer Louisa Harding a variety of unique and creative ways to bring big appeal to your knitting using only the tiniest of elements. The 24 projects in *Knitting In The Details* (\$22.95, softcover) showcase small, quick-to-knit patterns in Louisa's romantic, feminine, and cherished signature style.

From a beret with ribbon embroidery or a beaded scarf to a simple knitted vest with eyelets or a tank top with applique hearts, this book explores embellishment methods that are sure to liven up any knit pattern. Add your own personality by customizing projects and find fresh inspiration to create a unique piece of knitwear with additional design tips and ideas.

Filled with inspiring images and photographs from the coast of France, *Knitting In The Details* evokes femininity and enchantment and showcases projects transformed by creative and well-placed embellishment...

Cathy Carron's popular book, *Cowl Girls* (\$19.95, soft cover) is back in stock. Get thrown for a loop with more than 40 dazzling designs for cowls, gaiters, snoods, bandannas, collars, necklaces, and more. *Cowl Girls* takes the hottest new accessory from the runway to your knitting needles...

Back-to-basics books are back in stock! Looking for straightforward, expert instruction on the fundamentals of knitting? *Basic Knitting* (\$19.95, spiral bound) is a complete guide to equipment and materials with each step fully illustrated with color photos. This book provides all the skill and tools you need to get started, and contains patterns for ten different projects, too.

If you are looking for creative techniques to take your skills to the next level, master more advanced knitting techniques with *Beyond Basic Knitting* (\$19.95, spiral bound). Learn how to knit on the bias, create flawless necklines, incorporate beads and more. These techniques and contemporary projects will help you to expand your horizons.

Our favorite finishing techniques book is *The 'I Hate to Finish Sweaters' Guide to Finishing Sweaters* by Janet Szabo (2nd edition, \$13.95, spiral bound). Most knitters don't like finishing because they don't know how to do it properly. There is so much more than sewing pieces together to finishing and this book will help you create garments that look "handmade, not homemade"...

*** ONE-SKEIN SNOW BLOWER'S HAT ***

Our thanks to Lois Walker, who designed this balaklava and shared it with us. Lois tells us that the pattern is reversible and looks good on either side. The textured pattern stitch gives thermal protection.

Finished head circumference: 21.5" (adult medium)

Materials: BROWN SHEEP "Burly Spun" one skein (100% wool, 226 grams / 8 oz., 132 yards, CYCA #6 superbulky); US size 13 circ needle 16" length; US size 13 dpns (double-pointed needles); 1 stitch marker; yarn needle for finishing

Gauge; 2.5 stitches = 1"

Pattern Stitch (worked circularly)

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

Round 4: Purl.

Repeat rounds 1 - 4 for pattern.

Directions: With circular needle, cast on 54 stitches. Place marker and join, being careful not to twist stitches. Beginning with round 1 of pattern stitch, work 24 rounds .

Face opening: Knit 21 stitches in pattern, bind off 12 stitches, knit remaining 21 stitches in pattern.

Next Row (right side): Work 21 sts in pattern stitch until you reach bound-off stitches, turn.

Next Row (wrong side): *P2, K1; repeat from * until reaching bound-off stitches, turn.

Next Row (right side) Work 42 stitches in pattern, cast on 12 stitches, continue in pattern until reaching marker.

Work 8 rounds in pattern.

Next 2 Rounds: *P8, K1; rep from * around.

Crown Shaping:

Round 1: *P7, K2tog (knit 2 together); repeat from * around.

Round 2: *P7, K1; repeat from * around.

Round 3: *P6, K2tog; rep from * around.

Round 4: *P6, K1; rep from * around.

Continue decreasing in this manner every other round until 25 stitches remain.

Transfer to dpns and decrease every round until 6 stitches remain. Cut yarn, leaving a 15" tail. Thread tail through yarn needle and draw through remaining loops. Pull yarn through top opening and weave in ends on reverse side.

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

- Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival (Market Vendor); 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





*** KNITTING-RELATED NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS ***

Here are some of our favorite New Year's knitting resolutions, pledges and advice from friends of our shop. We think these are really good "fiber for thought"...

Eleanor Swogger, Merchandise Manager Kraemer Yarns, suggests:

- Document your work; it can help you feel better about how much you get done
- Set a weekly goal for a project that is going nowhere
- Knit something just for fun
- Inventory your stash when you find a pattern that you like, so you'll know if you need to purchase more yarn or needed supplies
- Don't feel guilty about your knitting
- Don't give up when one method doesn't work -- be inventive and try another plan. If one thing doesn't work, try something else
- Reward yourself -- a trip to Kathy's is in order!
- Knit with a friend

Julie Matthews, Julie and Company, Knitting At Large blog pledges with a wry smile to:

- Make a buttonhole that actually holds a button. One that doesn't gape, gap, stretch, or sag. Wishful thinking, I know, but a girl can dream (Editor's Note: ask Kathy about her three-row buttonhole when you take the "Fearless Knitting" class)
- Refrain from knitting gifts for those (ungrateful idiots) who prefer to receive American Express gift cards
- Finish the mittens I didn't complete this year. This year, I knitted two mittens -- in completely different patterns! It's time to finish the pairs -- and refrain from starting any others, too.

Michelle Hoke, Kathy's Kreations shoppal, resolves to:

- Finish some of my many UFO's. I can't say I won't start anything new until I finish my UFOs because I know that won't happen. I just need to pay more attention to the UFOs instead of "ignoring" them and not working on them. Maybe one night a week, I will spend time on one UFO until it becomes a FO!!!
- Learn something new or work on something that I've wanted to try (i.e, more charts, colorwork, detailed cables)
- Work on decreasing my stash. I have some beautiful yarns and sometimes I don't feel like I want to use them. I want to "save" them. I purchased them for an intended project and I need to use them. I can get more use out of a finished knitted item than I can with the yarn sitting in a basket in my family room!!!

*** ICE FEST ***

Please join us as the Ligonier Diamond is transformed into a winter wonderland / ice palace on Saturday and Sunday, January 22 - 23, 2011. In addition to our annual Open House, special activities include merchant sales, ice carvings, kettle corn, buggy rides and other fun stuff...

*** KNITTING ENJOYMENT ***

When someone asks you if making sweaters saves you money, you can answer "Absolutely!". Whether you are using our sale-table yarn or handpainted luxury fiber, you enjoy an entertainment bargain in dozens of hours of pleasure and creativity. Not to mention the stress reduction factor. Compare the cost of your new sweater project to what you'd spend for as many hours in the gym, yoga classes, or spa treatments. That sweater looks like a real smart bargain now, doesn't it?

*** TOP TEN SMALL PROJECTS OF 2010 ***

Here are our best-selling small projects of 2010!

10. NONI DESIGN Petit Four Purse, made with Tilli Tomas "Flurries" beaded yarn
9. KNITTING AT KNOON SnoBuddy Family -- little snow-people all dressed up for the cold
8. LISA KNITS Quick & Cozy Neck Warmers AC-018, made with a variety of bulky yarns
7. LISA KNITS Fingerless Mitts AC-014; 8 sts/inch, made with a variety of sock yarns
6. KNITTING AT KNOON Li'l Sunhats, made with Tahki "Cotton Classic"
5. TAHKI / STACY CHARLES Beret & Neckwarmer Set, made with "Presto" yarn
4. LISA KNITS Chill Chasers AC-023, made with NASHUA "Isabella" yarn
3. BERROCO "Borealis" cowl, easy knit bulky neckwarmer made with BERROCO "Borealis" yarn
2. SCHOPPEL WOLLE / SKACEL COLLECTION "What's Your Point?" Scarf, made with "Crazy Zauberball" yarn
1. CLASSIC ELITE "Molly" Scarf, made with CLASSIC ELITE "Liberty Wool" Print

*** TOP TEN SWEATER PROJECTS OF 2010 ***

10. MOUNTAIN COLORS "Back-To-Basics Cardigan", made with MOUNTAIN COLORS "Twizzle"
9. ROWAN "Cyclamen" from Purelife Autumn Book, made with "Renew" yarn
8. KOLLAGE YARNS "Indigo Cardigan" designed by Kathy Zimmerman, made with Kollage Yarns "Glisten"
7. LISA KNITS "Honey" cardigan SW-047, made with SKACEL "Loft Classic"
6. KNITTER'S MAGAZINE K-100 "What's Your Angle?" cardigan with paired buttons, made with KOLLAGE YARNS "Solace"
5. CLASSIC ELITE "Classic Silk" cardie, knit with "Classic Silk", from "New Harbor" booklet
4. LISA KNITS "My First Top-Down Cardigan", knit with a variety of worsted weight yarns
3. LISA KNITS "Seed Collar Cardigan" SW-019, knit with a variety of worsted weight yarns
2. ROWAN "Shallot", knit with "Revive", from Purelife Recycled Collection booklet
1. CLASSIC ELITE "Elizabeth" Cardigan, a sideways knit jacket knit with CLASSIC ELITE "Liberty Wool" Print (this also was our best-selling yarn of 2010), from "Liberty Wool" booklet, shown lower right

*** TOP TEN ACCESSORIES OF 2010 ***

Tools that serious stitchers gotta have!

10. Kollage square crochet hooks and double-pointed knitting needles
9. Clover cable stitch holders
8. Clover Chibi tapestry needles
7. KNIT HAPPY idea notebook
6. KNIT HAPPY sticky-notes organizer
5. LEE Highlighter Tape
4. CLOVER triangular stitch markers (all 4 sizes -- Kathy's favorite!)
3. CLOVER bamboo knitting needles
2. ADDI Turbo circular knitting needles
1. SUSAN BATES repair needle "cool tool " (all colors -- Tracey's favorite!)





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, January 10, 2011, (2nd Monday because of holiday) and February 7, 2011, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.** Come knit!

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, January 11, 2011 and February 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. We are planning an after-hours pizza party for our January gathering. 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, January 21, 2011 and February 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...

***** "FEARLESS KNITTING WORKSHOP" Saturday January 15, 2011, 1 pm - 4 pm with instructor Kathy Zimmerman; \$20.00 registration fee* *****

Are you intimidated by that project you've been longing to knit but are afraid to attempt because it looks too hard, you don't know how to make it fit your body, you've never knit a cardigan, etc. Kathy will share her professional designer expertise with you to help you master new skills and confidently tackle that challenge.

***** "FANTASTIC FAIR ISLE HAT" Saturday January 29, 2011, 1 - 4 pm with instructor Kathy Zimmerman; \$25.00 registration fee (includes pattern)* *****

Fair Isle style colorwork is a time-honored knitting technique. showcase your favorite colors in the patterning of this simple hat (shown upper left). The pattern is offered in 4 sizes -- make hats for the entire family! A colorful slip stitch border frames the Fair Isle pattern. The crown is worked in only one color, so there is no need to decrease in pattern. Student supplies include US size 7 & 8 circ needles 16", US 7 dpns; 100 yards worsted weight knitting yarn in 3 contrasting colors.

*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 !

Thank you for making Kathy's Kreations your destination yarn shop. It is good friends, knitters, crocheters -- customers like you, that make our business possible. Wishing you a twenty eleven full of good things... KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING! Kathy