



Kathy's Kreations

KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
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JANUARY 2012 UPDATE

Dear Stitches,

As the holidays come to an end, now it's time for your own quiet celebration of winter -- curl up with a lapful of yarn! Pick your favorite -- you know, the one that has caught your eye on our shelves, the one you've been waiting to knit or crochet. Immerse yourself in its soft texture and captivating colors, and transform it into something beautiful. Whether you keep it for yourself or give it as a gift, you will find the perfect yarn and the perfect project here at Kathy's to ward off the January chill.

And now for a New Year's prediction! Capes, neck cozies and shawls are still very trendy as winter warm-ups. But, according to Interweave Knitting Daily's website, it's the winter of the knitted hat. We've seen an upsurge in knitted hat projects with our customers, and we've got enough happy headwear ideas to make your head spin! Our clever designs will have enthusiastic knitters and crocheters rejoicing in year-round hat style. Hats, caps and berets are on-trend and easy to make. Embrace the hottest head-turning accessory, combining function with fashion in a way only knitters and crocheters can.

Color trends for 2012 have been announced -- a perfect excuse to grab your needles and hooks to start something new. Stitching season is in full swing!

JANUARY IS "CHASE THE CHILL" MONTH
All regularly-priced bulky weight yarns (CYCA 5 & 6)
in stock are 10% off throughout January 2012

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

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

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



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

No matter what tickles your fancy, Kathy's Kreations has great yarns, patterns, and accessories suited to your style and skill level, from classic to contemporary, from beginner to advanced. Whether you love to make sweaters, crave accessories, are obsessed with socks, or adore home decor, we have plenty of projects you are sure to love. And projects are merely the beginning. We got the know-how, how-to's and expert support to guide you along your way. Here's what's new, what's now...

We are thrilled to ring in 2012 with an exciting new artisan yarn line, THE FIBRE COMPANY. Carrying on the tradition that gave New England its enchanting legacy of textile craftsmanship and design, THE FIBRE COMPANY offers a collection of hand knitting yarns made from unique blends of natural fibers including alpaca, cashmere, cotton, linen, merino, silk and soy. Expect sumptuously soft yarn in a gorgeous custom designed palette of kettle-dyed colors and beautifully handcrafted patterns with attention to detail, classic inspiration and modern style by distributors Kelbourne Woolens, owned by Courtney Kelly and Kate Gagnon Osborn.

New yarns now on our shelves are:

- "Acadia" \$13.50, shown upper left, 50 grams, 149 yards; 40% merino wool / 20% baby alpaca / 20% silk; CYCA #3, knits at 21 - 24 sts = 4"; a lovely, completely original and custom designed 2-ply yarn with a rustic look and soft hand. A subtle tweed effect created by the silk noil is combined with a heathered base and then overdyed in the duotones THE FIBRE COMPANY is known for, creating incredible depth of color...
- "Terra" \$16.50, 50 grams, 98 yards; 40% baby alpaca / 40% merino wool / 20% silk; CYCA #4 medium weight, knits at 18 - 20 sts = 4"; an absolutely beautiful worsted weight single-ply yarn. The blend of alpaca, merino and silk is spun and then kettle dyed into a wide array of gorgeous duotone tweed colors, resulting in yarn with exquisite depth of tone...
- "Savannah" \$15.50, 50 grams, 160 yards; 50% wool / 20% cotton / 15% linen, 15% soya; CYCA #3 light weight, knits at 22 - 25 sts = 4"; this 2-ply yarn with a crisp, yet soft hand. The unique blend of fibers are spun, then kettle dyed, with the fibers absorbing the dye differently for subtle heathered tones. Additionally, "Savannah" is spun and dyed in Pennsylvania, and we are proud to play a small role in supporting local textile mills here in our home state...

VOGUE KNITTING Winter 2011/12 (\$6.99, shown lower right) features knits you'll love to live in. Chase the chill in the luxurious comfort of wool, alpaca, mohair and angora. Sweater weather and the knitting season are in full swing. VOGUE presents capes and ponchos (as trendy as they were last fall), as well as knitted skirts (seen all over the fashion runways, whether short and flirty, or a more modest length). If you're too busy for a big project, try some of the snappy accessories (hats, gloves, socks, and the "urban turban"). They are just large enough to keep you interested, yet small enough that you can try a new stitch or two without being overwhelmed. The stitchwork and detail ingenuity make them unique and special. This issue of VOGUE encourages us to be: "At home in your knits. At home in your space. At home in the world. Relax, life is good"...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

New from CLAUDIA HANDPAINTED YARNS comes one texting mitts pattern with two spectacular-looking stitches, "Crossroads & Roundabout Fingerless Gloves" (\$6.50). The palm is worked in 2X2 rib for a perfect fit. Mitts are worked with just one hank of CLAUDIA's "Single Ply Wool" (\$14.50, 100% wool, 110 grams, 139 yards, CYCA #4), a soft chunky-weight yarn that is just right for cold weather wear and provides excellent stitch definition. In "Crossroads", the cables meet at the point and separate just so they can meet again, reminiscent of intersections. "Roundabout" (shown at right) features an interesting weave of cables that will keep your attention as you knit them. After you knit one style, you'll probably make the other as it's hard to choose a favorite...



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KNIT PICKS needle and accessories are arriving every week: interchangeable sets in nickel-plated, Harmony wood and acrylic; blocking mats; wooden yarn swifts; wool winders; cable connectors; extra needle tips / cables and more. Why shop online and pay expensive shipping & handling charges?

Looking for a do-able, fun project for winter? Try the CHURCHMOUSE cozy (\$5.50), of which they say "It's quick! Two movies and the news." In our shop and shops across America, a growing fan base is knitting the Shoulder Cozy and absolutely loving it. It knits up so effortlessly and yet the results are quite dramatic. Plus, you get to strand luxurious lace weight mohair together with slubby "Summer Tweed" -- or some equally dreamy combination (our shop model combines Summer Tweed with FILATURA DI CROSA Golden Line "Superior" cashmere and silk blend). The Cozy is versatile, and gives you the perfect touch of warmth for all seasons. Just scrunch it up under your coat (page 8, upper left) and then slip it over your shoulders when you get there (lower left this page). Or pleat the neck with a pretty pin. This flattering, barely shaped piece adds a splash of style however it's worn. For a gift, it's pretty much a sure thing, bound to please every body...

New shades of FIESTA's luxurious "La Boheme" yarn are here (\$30.50, 4 oz., 165 yards, 50% rayon / 32% brushed kid mohair / 14% wool / 4% nylon, CYCA #4). This elegant yarn is wonderful for scarves and shawls (ask to see LISA KNITS "On The Square" and KEEP IT SIMPLE "Ruffled Shawl", worked in this yarn). Check out "Color Cruise" shades La Serena and San Juan del Sur in a limited-time availability of select FIESTA yarns...

The sixth annual historical knitting issue of *Piecework* magazine is in! Discover finely knitted caps from the men of Peru, a classic baby cardigan, a re-creation of a 19th century edging for a 21st century shawl, a miser's purse, and a Victorian knitting challenge. Despite the barriers of language and time, "the knitting endures". This is true not only of the knitted items but also of the work of all the knitters featured in this issue and of the art of knitting itself. Enjoy!



INTERWEAVE *Crochet* Winter 2011 (\$6.99) is filled with 22 designs to cheer you. Brew a cup of tea, settle in your favorite chair, and peruse the winter lace projects -- fine shawls and big, bold garments. Good news -- there is finally a basic crochet sock recipe for socks that you can tuck into your shoes and heavier ones for hiking, as well as cabled mittens...



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Vintage Modern Knits (\$24.95, soft cover, shown left) is your ticket to a dream knitwear wardrobe. Inspired by traditional knits, young up-and-coming designers Courtney Kelley and Kate Gagnon Osborn bring you classic pieces with their own contemporary twist.

Divided into three sections (Vintage Feminine, Rustic Weekend, and Winter Harbor), *Vintage Modern Knits* uses our latest addition, THE FIBRE COMPANY yarns. The book highlights patterns that evoke feelings of a long country weekend, a chic outing in town, or a cozy day in front of the fire. You'll fall in love with knitwear combining modern colors and embellishments with traditional techniques, including cables, Fair Isle, lace, and colorwork. From stylish and cozy tops to pretty hats and versatile wraps, the 22 irresistible patterns range from quick accessories to elaborate garments and are a perfect for knitters of all skill levels.

Packed with perfect weekend wear, *Vintage Modern Knits* is your must-have resource for knitting a charming custom wardrobe...

A sock is a work of wonder. No other knitted garment has as many structural demands or endures as much wear and tear. The humble sock must defy gravity, suffer the confines of our shoes, and endure being trampled on all day long.

All too often, the root cause of a sock's triumph or failure is the yarn itself. In *The Knitter's Book of Socks* (\$30.00, hardcover), Clara Parkes shows you how to knit socks from yarn up, following the sock life cycle from its foundations to its final moments on a proud foot. By understanding a sock's basic needs -- elasticity, strength, and moisture management -- you'll learn how to play with these tools like building blocks, confidently combining fiber, twist, ply, pattern, and clever stitch tricks to construct your perfect pair of socks.

To help put these principles into practice, *The Knitter's Book of Socks* also offers 20 fresh, original patterns from today's sock-design luminaries, including Cookie A, Cat Bordhi, Ann Budd, Nancy Bush, Anne Hanson, and Melissa Morgan-Oakes. The socks presented here run the gamut from simple knit-and-purl combinations suitable for beginners to innovative designs with lush colorwork, swirling cables, and delicate lace.

Understanding the elements of yarn is the first step on every successful sock-knitting journey. With this book as your guide, you'll learn how to make any sock yarn shine and love every pair of socks you knit...

Get your hands on a little bit of Norwegian knitting history with *Norwegian Mittens and Gloves* (\$24.95, hard cover) by Annemor Sundbo. Inside, you'll find a delightful collection of over 25 traditional Norwegian mitten and glove patterns for warm fingers and stylish hands, including animal motifs, figure and border patterns, and easy ways to translate them into designs for hats, sweaters, and pillow covers...

In the course of her career as an internationally recognized authority on knitting design and instruction, Alice Starmore has collected and created a remarkable compilation of charted designs for color knitting. The treasury, *Charts for Color Knitting* (\$19.95, soft cover) features a choice selection of her source materials, in a new and expanded U.S. version of the original publication. This book explains how to incorporate color into your work and features color photographs of knitted swatches created expressly for this updated edition...

*** PREDICTING COLOR TRENDS FOR 2012 ***

OK, winter has barely arrived, but the fashion forecast from last fall's NY Fashion Week brings you the most important color trends for spring / summer 2012. Color is where even the least adventurous knitters and crocheters can explore with confidence. Besides, don't you want to get a head start on spring stitching while introducing some fashion-forward shades into your work?

For spring 2012, designers are inspired by diverse influences, showcasing a range of styles and lifestyles -- from free and playful to light and breezy, and contemporary classics. Colors likewise reflect these differing moods, encapsulating vivid brights, soft muted tones and fun-loving pastels.

"Consumers look to spring for renewed energy, optimism and the promise of a brighter day," said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. "They have learned how color can help them alter a mood, while providing the vitality and enthusiasm that enables them to experiment with new looks and color combinations."

Pantone's choice for color of the year is provocative **tangerine tango**, an enticing juicy orange. This vivacious, appealing and refreshing shade will enliven anyone's outlook this spring. Providing a jolt of energy, **solar power** radiates warmth and cheer. "70s Appliances" includes gold, almond, avocado green, and muted mustard (aka **starfish**). Layered neutrals include oatmeals, browns, tans and grays (think **driftwood**, an adaptable blend of beige and gray with a slightly weathered feel)-- these natural, versatile shades add practicality to the season's brights. Pastels include blush pink, robin's egg blue, and mint green. Graphic black and white combos are being used in geometric, bold applications for added drama.

Rounding out Pantone's top 10 are **bellflower**, a distinct ornamental purple, which exudes uniqueness and creativity. Scintillating **cabaret** is a sensual, intense rosy-red -- an excellent choice for summer clothing and cosmetics. **Sodalite blue**, a classic maritime hue, brings order and calmness to mind. Like an anchor to a ship, this dependable shade works well with every color in the palette. **Cockatoo**, a tactile blue-green, is sure to make your spirits soar. This unusual hue adds a whimsical touch to the palette and will make a statement this spring. **Margarita**, a piquant yellow-green, lifts spirits with its refreshing and stimulating glow. Reminiscent of a blossoming garden on an early spring morning, **sweet lilac** evokes the fresh scents of summer. This delicate pinkish lilac adds a touch of romance to any wardrobe.

*** KNITTING TIPS AND TRICKS ***

Laura M had trouble keeping track of her double pointed knitting needles during a beginner sock class where other students had the exact same needles. She borrowed an idea that her husband uses to mark his golf balls. She takes a red permanent marker and makes three dots and some slashes to mark her knitting needles. Kathy adds that it would be a good idea to mark them with the same number of dots as the size of the needle (2 dots or slashes for US 2 dpns, 3 for US size 3, etc.). Then, you can always identify your needles and size at a glance...

Some yarn colors can cycle out of production rather quickly. Save a bit of leftover yarn, if needed for repairs later. Put the leftover yarn and label in a small zip-top bag. Write the name of the pattern, and for whom the project was made. If given as a gift, you may wish to give a bit of the yarn to the recipient to have on hand, along with care instructions...



*** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW ***

Paula M asks, "What does it mean when the patterns says 'work even'?" This means to continue working in the pattern you have established, without any increases, decreases, or shaping.

New knitter Meghan J asks, "My stockinette scarf curls. Is there a stitch I can use that won't do this?" The natural tendency of stockinette stitch knitted fabric is to roll up at the cast on edge and curl under at the sides. Think of what happens with a rolled brim hat. Try working garter stitch (knit every row), a ribbed pattern (K1, P1 or K2, P2), or seed stitch. Seed stitch also works well for self-stripping or hand-painted yarns, as it tends to break up any pooling of color or "stacking" that may occur. To work seed stitch:

Odd number of stitches (multiple of 2 + 1)

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

Even number of stitches (multiple of 2)

Row 1: *K1, P1; repeat from * across row.

Row 2: *P1, K1; repeat from * across row.

Repeat these two rows for pattern.

*** WINTER ICE SHAWL COWL ***

Eleanor Swogger created this simple lace cowl with a strand of KRAEMER YARNS "Sterling Silk and Silver" and a strand of "Fountain Hill" held together throughout the pattern. The model was knit with shades Heavenly Blue "Sterling Silk & Silver" and Surf's Up "Fountain Hill". The cowl can be wrapped twice around the neck or hung down for a long draping effect. Our thanks to Eleanor and KRAEMER YARNS for granting us permission to re-print this design in our newsletter. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to learn something new, this is a great way to try a provisional (temporary) cast on, lace knitting, grafting or 3-needle bind-off.

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS: 18 inches by 80 inches

MATERIALS: 2 hanks of Sterling Silk and Silver, 1 hank of Fountain Hill; US #9 24" circular needle, second needle of same size; crochet hook US size H for cast on; smooth cotton waste yarn for temporary cast on

GAUGE: 10.75 sts / 17 rows = 4" in pattern stitch, after blocking

DIRECTIONS:

Temporary Cast on: With US size H crochet hook, crochet a chain of about 55-60 stitches with the waste yarn. Extra stitches are crocheted to make pick up easier. If necessary a stitch can be skipped occasionally when picking up.

With US size 9 circular needle and both yarns held together, pick up 49 stitches through back loops (bumps) of crochet chain.

PATTERN STITCH:

Row 1: K2, *(yo, K2tog, K1) repeat from * to last two stitches, K2.

Repeat row 1 until piece is approximately 78 inches long or desired length. Remove temporary cast-on crochet chain one stitch at a time, placing live stitches on second needle of same size. Complete with three-needle bind off or by grafting beginning and end together.

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*** WE LOVE KATHY'S RAVELRY NEWS ***

In addition to our in-person "meet and greet" on the second Saturday of each month, the "We Love Kathy's" group's holiday KAL (knit-along) is the "Larch" shawlette, a free Ravelry pattern. Ask to see Kathy's finished (ta-da) project, knit from DREAM IN COLOR "Smoochy" in a gorgeous color-trendy shiny moss green shade. This project is do-able for a variety of skill levels from advanced beginner to experienced, and it is not too late to join the KAL.

Linda Lash will be co-ordinating another KAL for Kathy's "Cable & Textured Vest" designed for KRAEMER YARNS, starting January 1, 2012. The pattern is available for free at www.kraemeryarns.com, where you can view sizing and yarn requirements. This is the time to get past the holidays, make our DK weight yarn selection, make something for yourself or if you are still in the gifting mode, for someone else. Hope you can join in on the fun. For questions, please contact Linda Lash ("International Girl" on Ravelry).

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

--- 8th Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival; Sheraton North; Mars, PA; Friday, February 10, 2012 1:30 pm - 6:30 pm; Saturday, February 11, 2012; 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sunday, February 12, 2012, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Kathy's large double booth (#2 & #3) will feature yarns, patterns, needles, live technique demos, and Kathy's latest pattern designs which she will gladly autograph. "Meet & Greet" with Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS is scheduled for Saturday in our booth during Market hours. For info, e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com or call 412-963-7030.

--- Save the Date: Kathy Zimmerman and Carol Smith are pleased and excited to host the next Kathy's Kreations Workshop, "Spring Break", to be held in Ligonier, PA, on April 20 - April 22, 2011 at the Ramada Inn of Ligonier. The cost is \$175 per person which includes the "Sideways Cabled Hat" 9-hour workshop with Kathy, breakfast and lunch Saturday and Sunday, Friday night knitting party at Kathy's Kreations, with additional details and activities to be announced. We will allow free time to shop in Ligonier and will give "goodie bags" with discounts/special offers from the local merchants, as well as a weekend shop discount to attendees.

To reserve a space for the workshop, mail your check for \$175 to Kathy's Kreations; 141 East Main Street; Ligonier, PA 15658. For info, questions, and registration details, e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com or call 724-238-9320. Space is limited and reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis as payments are received, so please don't delay.

Rooms may be reserved by calling the Ramada at Historic Ligonier; 216 West Loyalhanna Street; Ligonier, PA (724) 238-9545. Mention that you are attending the workshop to receive a special rate.

*** ICE FEST ***

Please join us as the Ligonier Diamond is transformed into a winter wonderland ice palace on Saturday, January 21, 2012, 9 am - 5 pm and Sunday, January 22, 2012, 12 noon - 4 pm. Special activities includes ice sculptures with artists in action, merchant sales, buggie rides, kettle corn, and other fun stuff. In addition to our Open House, rumor has it that polar bears may be spotted in our window displays...



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*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Join the "First Mondays" Knit Club for an evening of knitting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA. Meeting dates are **January 9, 2012 (second Monday) and February 6, 2012, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.**

*** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, January 10, 2012 and February 14, 2012; 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, January 20, 2012 and February 17, 2012; 10 am - 2 pm ***

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

*** RAVELRY GROUP MEET AND GREET ***

Members of the Ravelry group "We Love Kathy's" will gather for a meet and greet at Kathy's Kreations on Saturday morning, **January 14, 2012, and February 11, 2012; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.** Please bring your knitting and any items to show and share. We meet on the second Saturday of every month. All group members will receive a 10% discount on regularly-priced merchandise purchases on this "Meet and Greet Day". Not a member? Ask us how you can join! For those of you who are going to the Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival, we will be gathering at the Ravelry MeetUp at the close of Friday's Market at 6:30 pm (ask at the registration desk for meeting place).

*** "FEARLESS KNITTING" with instructor Kathy Zimmerman" Saturday, January 21, 2012; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; \$25.00 registration ***

Have you been thinking about casting on for your dream project, but are feeling intimidated by a technique you don't understand, not sure how to adapt the pattern for fit, or some other challenge? No fear! Whatever it is, Kathy will help you conquer your fears and tackle your project with confidence! Bring along your project purchased here, knitting supplies /basics, or Kathy will help you select one before class.

*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 2 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, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. We would be glad to do a specific class for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 31 years !

Knitting and crocheting can be fascinating, frustrating or just plain fun, but there's always a simple pleasure and meditative balance about it. Thank you for choosing Kathy's Kreations as your resource to explore new techniques, improve your skills, and find the perfect project. As you stitch, may joy fill your heart and last all through the New Year. KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!

Kathy