

KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
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MARCH 2007 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

Need a break from the last dreags of winter? After a potpourri of roller-coaster weather this past season, spring is at last on the horizon. In fact, it's already here at Kathy's Kreations. Our new yarns, pattern booklets, needles, fun accesories and the shape of things to come are sure to spark a "spring" state of mind and help you shed those winter blahs.

March is a good month to knit or crochet for the times in your life -- spare time, vacation time, spring time, summer time, leisure time, holiday time or special times. Remember, time flies! Whether you like to unwind from your hectic times with rhythmic cables, one-skein wonders, simple projects, blooming colors, or feel-good fibers, we've got plenty of inspiration to help you get in the springtime spirit.

If you'd like to start with a smaller project that's do-able for everyone in your family, try sock knitting. Socks are enjoying renewed popularity with new bamboo (yes, we really mean bamboo) and cotton blends, so we're having our very own "sock hop" of sorts this month. Let's fling into spring with string!

"Knit it, Knit It"
All regularly-priced sock yarns
in stock at our Sock Station
are 10% off during March 2007

Stash Buster Pattern Sale held over for another month!
All patterns on our pegboard wall at the back of the shop
are 50% off during March 2007
Find the perfect pattern to use up your "inventory"!

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

One sure sign of spring here at Kathy's Kreations are the magazines and pattern collections with warmer weather knits. Lace is hot, and knitters & crocheters are embracing the trend. Crispy textures, luscious colors and innovative fibers are fresh picks for spring. Here's what's new...

INTERWEAVE KNITS Spring 2007 (\$6.99) invites you to make it quick or make it classic, with a variety of projects to welcome spring. KNITS tells us, "Whether you dash it off this weekend or work on it for weeks, every knitting project has its own rewards". This issue of KNITS has a brand-new look, grouping projects by knitting themes -- technique, fiber, color, and other design elements -- drawing attention to the myriad ways the simple stitches of knitting can be put to wonderful effect. There are more instructions at the back of the book to allow more projects and the new layout, colored boxes, and narrower columns will make it easier to use the patterns. There are easy-going sweaters, entrelac knitting, lingerie (uh-huh), and simple textures in plant fibers (there's that bamboo again)...

CLASSIC ELITE YARNS invite you to jump into spring with its latest yarns and patterns. Let vibrant colors awe your imagination while the fabulous fibers satisfy your fingers as you knit. "Summertime Knits" (\$14.95) has handknit instructions for 16 garments, including the Trellis & Rib pullover (shown upper left) and the cover sweater, Premiere Lace & Cabled Pullover (shown lower right), both of which were designed by Kathy. Another design by Kathy with "Provence" yarn is a cabled V-neck pullover (shown on page 8), found in the "City Park" booklet (\$14.95). Kathy is thrilled to be involved with these collections of classic sweaters and timeless styles. Be sure to check out the yarns to make these and other designs in these booklets, available now or arriving soon...

We got the point! Knitters have asked, and SKACEL has once again delivered. With its distinct red cord and clear-coated bronze tips, the *addi Lace* line of circular hand knitting needles is now in production and ready to claim the spotlight on our shelves. These amazing tapered circular needles feature tips pointed enough for a variety of intricate projects, while the clear coating provides the needle with an added "bite", allowing for more control of your stitches. The lace line is available in 24" or 32" lengths, in sizes US 1 through US 6. Sizes US 1 and US 2 sell for \$13.95, while the US 3 through 6 is \$16.50. There is a difference, and the difference is named Addi. The 47" length is also available by special order...

Our regular customers know that we have a weakness for gadgets and fiber-related goodies. We are proud to introduce these items from EVERYTHING BUT YARN:

- Post-it Notes (\$3.25, pink) which say: I love to knit; I love to crochet; knitting rocks; gauge is not a four-letter word; and our personal favorite, "I'm on this row" to help you keep track of your pattern
- Notepads (\$3.50, white) with yarn & knitting needles; "swatch, swatch, swatch"; "crocheters are happy hookers"
- Emery boards for your nails with yarn and knitting (\$1.99)
- Magnetic "bumper stickers" (\$5.95): ssk, K1P1; K2tog
- Handcrafted Earrings: "fiber lovers" pewter charms with sterling wires (sheep; work in progress sweater on needles; yarn balls with knitting needles)



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

KNIT SIMPLE Spring / Summer 2007 (\$5.99) will have you daydreaming about sunny escapes when the weather's warm, but the knitting is cool. There are pretty tanks, saucy stripes, and kicky cover-ups for you; cottony crispness for him; booties and animal cuties for babe. Our favorite pick is the "bootie academy" tiny treasures quick and easy baby shoes.



Kathy's "Blue Crush" design (shown right) is in this issue, about which the editors say, "This sweater gets its texture from a staggered-rib panel flanked by ribbing on either side. Garter stitch edges the V-neckline. This standard-fitting is unisex, so swipe it for yourself when he's not looking". The garment is knit from NASHUA HANDKNITS "Cilantro" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 136 yards, 70% cotton/30%polyester)...

It's Sock Month here at Kathy's Kreations, so let's hop to it with a Sock Hop! "Not Just Socks For Kids" (\$18.95, softcover) features 16 fun patterns to knit for your favorite kids with self-striping sock yarn. The playful yarn combinations and lively stripe styles make charming children's garments. This book uses both basic and more advanced techniques to make the most of the color changes in self-striping yarns. Bring your little ones to Kathy's Kreations and have them choose their favorite color...

"Peruvia" (\$7.95, 100 grams, 174 yards, 100% Peruvian Highland wool) is our newest South American import from BERROCO, available in a range of heathers and solid shades. This yarn is ideal for felting, as well as making garments and accessories. It knits at 4.25 sts per inch on US #10 needles. This single-ply is destined to become a natural fiber classic, just like BERROCO's "Ultra Alpaca"...

Knit or crochet anywhere -- even in the dark! Last summer, we introduced CLOVER Knit Lite 13" straight knitting needles to rave customer reviews. Now, make way for 9" shorter length straight needles in US sizes 6 - 15 (\$15.50 per pair) AND Crochet Lite in US sizes D - K (\$8.50 each). These are quite handy when working in poorly lit areas, at night, at the movies, or when working with dark or hard-to-see yarns. Light up your life...

And while you are treating yourself, try the new Laurel Hill Forest Palmwood crochet hooks, now available in sizes US D - K (\$7.50) and L - M (\$8.50)...

Have you heard about TWINKLE HANDKNITS yarn which will be distributed by CLASSIC ELITE? The first yarn which will be arriving from this exciting new line is sport weight "Cruise" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 120 yards, 70% silk / 30% cotton). Silk is one of the fibers that is making big fashion news for spring and summer...

Kid knits are always popular with our customers. FILATURA DI CROSA BABY from TAHKI STACY CHARLES "Zarella" (\$7.50, 50 grams, 121 yards, 52% new wool / 48% acrylic) and "Zara Plus" (\$9.95, 50 grams, 77 yards, 100% superwash wool) are wonderful choices for kids garments and blankets (and for adults, too!). CLASSIC ELITE YARNS introduces "Puddle Jumpers" (\$14.95, shown left). This collection of classic designs for children 6 months - 4 years is the inspiration for our current window theme of frogs and ducks. You'll find everything from blankies to toys, socks to sweaters...



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

Lace --it's always in style! No matter what the occasion, you can't go wrong with lace. INTERWEAVE PRESS presents *Lace Style* (\$24.95, soft cover), a collection from 18 designers, including our own Kathy. This book takes a fresh approach to openwork with innovative designs for socks, shawls, hats, sweaters, dresses, shrugs, and more. This contemporary collection showcases a wide variety of styles inspiring new ways to think about lace knitting. 21 stunning projects are featured, illustrating diverse and nontraditional ways to use lace. It includes a design notebook that demystifies the elements of knitted lace so that you can incorporate openwork patterns in your own designs, plus pointers on how to correct and avoid mistakes.

About the "Katharine Hepburn Cardigan" (shown upper left), editors Pam Allen and Ann Budd write, "Lace and cables. Cables and lace. However you pair the two, you're bound to come up with a winning combination. Kathy Zimmerman interpreted this classic combo in two lengths -- cropped and hip-- in this year-round cardigan. For both versions, Kathy followed typical 1950s styling, including a narrow fit, high round neckline, and three-quarter length sleeves with set-in shoulders. Lots of buttons keep the fronts closed without gaps. Both versions shown here are knitted in a soft merino yarn in rich jewel tones. Choose softer shades for a more subdued look". Kathy is very pleased to be included with this talented group of designers in this very special work...

No Sheep For You (\$22.95, paperbound) goes beyond the world of wool, a primer on the secrets of knitting with luxurious non-wool fibers. Author Amy Singer, who is allergic to wool, shares her knowledge about cotton, rayon, linen, silk soy, bamboo, Tencel, and rayon. Learn why each fiber behaves the way it does, how to substitute these fibers for wool, and why not to skip swatching. This wild world of fibers is accompanied by 21 classic and wearable patterns -- all created with fibers that never had four legs...

Tracey Ullman has been known for almost 20 years as an award-winning comedian, actress, writer, and producer. She is well-loved for her eccentric and iconoclastic sense of humor. Did you know she is also an avid knitter? She brings the same dynamic spirit to her most recent production, a book she created with knitwear designer and yarn-shop owner Mel Clark. *Knit 2 Together* (\$27.50, hard cover), which includes lively lessons for beginners and more than 30 original designs for knitters of all abilities-- everything from witches britches and house slippers to a saucy apron and table skirt. This one-of-a-kind brainchild of two perfectly matched creators-- one a master of knitting, one a master of wit-- is sure to delight veteran and novice knitters alike...

If you can knit it, then you can *felt* it! That's the title of a new book (\$18.95, softcover) that can help you become a felting artist in practically no time. Pick up your knitting needles, grab some warm fuzzy wool, and let designer Maggie Pace guide you through one of 20 creative patterns for fun accessories. Patterns range from simple scarves to challenging bags and hats, all of them fun and fabulous...

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***** EVEN MORE SPRING PATTERN COLLECTIONS *****

Be sure to check out these 5 beautiful booklets from NASHUA HANDKNITS North American Lifestyles Series (\$14.95 each):

- "The North American Designer Collection No. 4" NASHUA presents knitting and crochet designs from "artists on the pulse of the North American knitting scene". Lace designs, a perennial favorite theme of spring and summer knitting, are shown to their best advantage with lace pattern samplers, simple openwork cardigans, and stylish, time-spanning tops. We are pleased that Kathy's updated classic cable with sporty square neck worked with "Cilantro" is included in this collection (see lower right)...
- "Seashore" There is an almost magnetic-like pull that draws us to the seashore. As the waves roll the sea into sand, we are transported to a calmer place, where we can take time to reflect on our lives. This is a beautifully photographed collection of eclectic, classy knits for those precious days of summer by the sea...
- "Family" Cables and textures abound in these patterns, with something to appeal to every member of your family, and sweaters that will never go out of style...
- "Bloom" Upon receiving news of an upcoming birth of a child, knitters will immediately start planning a knitted present. It should be timeless, artful, practical, whimsical, and probably washable. NASHUA would like to offer you a classic book of patterns for the next millennium. This collection is filled with fourteen patterns, perfect for newborns and small babies. We're convinced you'll find them a treasure for babies to come, classics with dog-eared patterns you will use many times over and pencil marks in the margins...
- "Zoo" NASHUA "Creative Focus Cotton" and "Cilantro" are the fibers used for this charming children's booklet. Again, the looks are cables, textures, colors, fun to knit, and even more fun for the children in your life to wear...

New arrivals from ROWAN CLASSIC include these books by Martin Storey (\$17.50 each):

- "Coast: Book 17" This book features 15 designs in Natural Silk Aran & Cotton Jeans yarns, and conjures up images of a traditional seaside town and memories of beach combing along the rugged English coastline. The mornings can be chilly, so make sure you wrap up in a cabled wrap coat or belted cardigan. The new yarn, Cotton Jeans, gives tops and neat short jackets a wonderful denim look. To take the edge off the evening breeze, try a hooded sweater or traditionally cabled hat. Explore simpler, longer shapes with asymmetric details and interesting, sporty textures in a nautically-inspired range of colors...
- "Nature: Book 18" Untamed wild flower meadows, hay fields and rolling landscapes that reach out to the horizon are the inspirations for Classic Nature. This is high summer in all its lazy, ripening glory, so relax in pretty feminine waistcoats and short sleeved cardigans. Cover up in the shade in cardigans with intricate texture and watch as evening approaches in a belted tunic or shawl. The sophisticated and lustrous color palette of Bamboo Soft and Luxury Cotton DK yarns give the 16 designs of this book an exquisite drape...
- "Mother & Baby: Book 19" Martin Storey celebrates both pregnancy and the early years of baby's life with these lovely designs. Wrap yourself in delicately patterned shawls and cardigans that flatter your figure. Snuggle your baby in beautiful blankets and warm slipovers. Watch as they grow into cute ballet wraps and Fair Isle cardigans...



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***** AUNT MARY'S EASY TO KNIT BABY BONNET *****

Kathy's Aunt Mary taught her to knit. A hand-written copy of this vintage baby bonnet pattern was found in Aunt Mary's stash. A photo is unavailable and the original source is unknown, but Kathy remembers that Aunt Mary made one of these for every new baby in the family. We're happy to share this found treasure with all of you...

SIZES: newborn (3 months, 6 months in parentheses)

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn 150 yards (CYCA yarn classification 4); US size 7 knitting needles; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 5 sts / 10 rows in garter stitch

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 53 (63 - 69) sts.

Row 1 (wrong side): K.

Row 2: P.

Row 3: K.

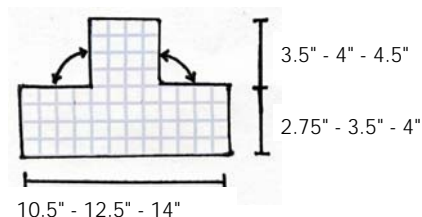
Repeat these 3 rows three more times for a total of 12 rows.

Work in garter stitch (knit every row) until piece measures 2.75" (3.5" - 4") from beginning.

Shape top: Bind off 19 (21 - 23) sts at beginning of next 2 rows: 15 (21 - 23) sts. Work even for 3.5" (4" - 4.5") above bind-off row.

Finishing: Sew back seams (see arrows on diagram upper right). With right side facing, pick up and knit 45 (55 - 61) sts along lower edge and knit 4 rows. Bind off.

Aunt Mary's version called for ribbon ties. This is no longer recommended because of safety concerns. If desired, a short crocheted strap with velcro closure could be added and securely attached at one side.



***** KNITTING TPS AND TRICKS *****

Linda Sanner passes along this suggestion: if not sure you will have enough yarn, work the back and one sleeve first. If 1/2 of the original amount of yarn remains, you are OK -- if not, you will need to purchase more yarn. Make a note of the yarn type, name, shade and dyelot number **before** starting your project so that you'll be able to try to match the yarn you have. If the yarn is not available, then you will need to come up with "Plan B" (un-knit, re-knit, add trims, creative color blocking, accent yarn, shorten sleeves, shorten the body length, etc.) To alter length, make all changes by adjusting the number of rows worked **before** starting the armhole shaping.

When working sleeves increases, place a marker at each end of the row with the original stitch count between the markers. Compare the number of stitches before and after the marker as you work your increases. Both sides should be the same. You can keep track of how many increases have been worked as well.

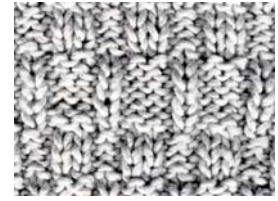
For a better fit, always taper the shoulder on drop-shoulders, modified drop shoulders, and vests (even if your pattern doesn't specify this). Bind off the remaining shoulder stitches in three steps (one-third of the stitches in each step).



When shaping armholes and neck, work directional decreases for a neater look. Work ssk for a left-slanting decrease at one edge and use its counterpart, K2tog, at the opposite side for a right-slanting decrease.

***** RIBBED CHECK SCARF AND HAT *****

This easy to knit textured pattern stitch is versatile enough to use in small knitted items or garments. Kathy has designed a unisex scarf and hat set that looks great on both guys and gals...



FINISHED SIZE: 7.5" X 60"

GAUGE: 5 sts / 7 rows = 1"

MATERIALS: BROWN SHEEP COMPANY "Lambs' Pride Worsted Weight" yarn two skeins (CYCA yarn classification 4); US size 7 needles

RIBBED CHECK PATTERN STITCH (shown upper right, multiple of 5 + 2)

Rows 1, 3 & 5 (RS): P3; *K1, P4; rep from * across to last 4 sts, end K1, P3.

Rows 2, 4 & 6: K3; *P1, K4; rep from * across to last 4 sts, end P1, K3.

Rows 7 & 9: K2; *P3, K2; repeat from * across row.

Row 8 & 10: P2; *K3, P2; repeat from * across row.

Repeat rows 1- 10 for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 37 sts. Work in ribbed check stitch until piece measures 60" or desired length. Bind off all sts in pattern. Fringe, if desired.

RIBBED CHECK HAT

SIZES: Child's small (child's med - child's large - adult med - adult's large in parentheses)

FINISHED HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE: 16.5" (18.5" - 20.5" - 22.5" - 24.5")

MATERIALS: BROWN SHEEP YARNS "Lambs Pride Worsted Weight" one skein; US size 7 circular needle 16" length & 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 circular knitting needle, cast on 82 (92 - 102 - 112 - 122) sts. Join, place marker, being careful not to twist sts. *Work 6 rounds repeating row 1 of ribbed check pattern. Work 4 rounds repeating row 7 of ribbed check pattern. Repeat from *, alternating 6 rounds row 1 with 4 rounds row 7 until piece measures 3.75" (4" - 4.5" - 5" - 5.5") from beginning. Knit next round, decreasing 2 sts evenly spaced: 80 (90 - 100 - 110 - 120) sts.

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

SKILL BUILDING:

--- Try working a different number of rows for each pattern change(for example, repeat pattern rows for a total of 10 rows each rib sequence instead of 6 and 4).

--- Try working this pattern in more than one color. Always remember to knit one right-side row when changing colors to avoid a purl "bump".

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

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, March 5, 2007, and April 2, 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 in a cozy setting...

***** **"KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS*******

Tuesday evenings, March 13, 2007, and April 10, 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** *****

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

"FUN FRIDAY" with instructor Joyce Bischoff: March 16, 2007, 10 am - 2 pm

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. For all knitters and crocheters wearing green, there will be a 10% discount on regularly-priced yarns in honor of St. Paddy's Day. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

***** **FAIR ISLE WORKSHOP** *****

Have you always wanted to learn colorwork, but thought it was too challenging? Now is the time to master this technique. The Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild is hosting a Fair Isle Workshop with instructor Eleanor Swogger on **Sunday, April 15, 2007, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm** at the Ramada Inn in Historic Ligonier. The workshop will feature the CABIN FEVER stranded colorwork jeans purse worked in 5 colors. Cost for the workshop is \$35, which includes lunch. Class size is limited, and only a few spaces remain.. For more details, contact Kathy Zimmerman at Kathy's Kreations, 724-238-9320.

***** **SHEEP TO SHAWL EVENT** *****

The Ligonier Valley Historical Society is planning a Sheep To Shawl Event for Saturday and Sunday, July 21 - 22, 2007, in association with the Loyalhanna Spinners and Weavers. Planned activities will feature rug weaving outdoors between the trees, an auction of shawls, spinning, weaving and other fiber-related fun. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming newsletters...

We hope that this sampling of what's new and knittable has inspired you with thoughts of lightweight sweaters, lacework, sleeveless tops and feminine wraps for the season ahead. This promises to be an exciting spring for knitters and crocheters, with more products than ever to choose from. Although they aren't exactly new upon the scene, bamboo and bamboo/cotton blend yarns are coming into vogue, along with silk blends and organic cottons. These fibers all have a soft hand and beautiful drape. We encourage you to give them a try, if only in a small project (like our project of the month, SOCKS!).

KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy