

KATHY'S KREATIONS
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724~238~9320
MAY 2008 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

In the latest installment of "Knitting Daily", the online website for INTERWEAVE PRESS, *Interweave Knits* editor Eunny Jang says, "Color can make a big impact, or act as a flattering backdrop. It can change the look and feel of a knitted project more completely than any other alteration; it truly can make a garment yours".

This season, fashion publications, magazines and yarn companies are re-visiting summer knits with an emphasis on color. As Eunny elaborates, this can (and does) mean a lot of things: stranded colorwork accents, allover slip-stitch knitting, intarsia motifs, color blocking, even single solid colors can be inspiring. Spark your creativity this season by choosing a brilliant splash or two of fabulous colors -- we've got plenty of shades for your own personal stitching self-expression, whether it be home dec or fashion forward.

Each of us tends to gravitate toward certain colors. We invite you "mix it up" and work with a color you normally wouldn't choose. For example, if you are a "navy and gold person" who likes a splash of red, pair your faves with a tangerine shade instead of the red. Step back, and look at the combination from across the room. You may be delightfully surprised with the end result. With a challenge of "try something new", we invite you to:

"MIX IT UP!"

**Purchase 2000 yards or more
of any regularly-priced yarns in stock (all weights)
and receive a 10% discount during May 2008**

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

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

Spring is the time for everything new. Let the vibrant colors in bloom and the emerging leaves on the trees inspire you with a lively, uplifting energy for your creative spirit...

KNITTER'S MAGAZINE Spring 2008 (\$5.95) brings out the inner child in all of us by urging us to "Color Outside The Lines". This fun issue is dedicated to colorwork techniques -- intarsia, stranding, and stripes with attitude (simple and textured). Knitter's says, "Who doesn't love color? It's an important part of getting dressed each morning. The perfect color can add a spark of sophistication to an outfit. High contrast can add drama or excitement. We make conscious decisions in what we wear and knit. The result can get you noticed".

And, this spring, Knitter's has you covered, no matter what your knitting style. There are designs for curvy feminine garments shaped with short rows and increases & decreases. There are wedges and stripes worked with variegated yarns, modular squares and rectangles for guys' sweaters, simple knit and purl combinations, asymmetric patterning -- all of which guarantee unique, special knit options. Like to learn a stitch? The crown stitch technique on page 35 is much easier to do than it looks, and more variations are coming in the summer issue.

Two of Kathy's designs are featured in this installment. About "Sea Grass" (shown upper left), KNITTER'S says, "Tailored yet feminine, the monochromatic palette of blue and green blends together beautifully in textured stripes. The striping cadence changes from the bottom band to the body, adding interest to your knitting. The armhole treatment gives a bit of a layered look". The alternating ridged stripes create soft vertical columns as well as texture across the rows. The clever lower portion makes great use of elongated stitches. Knit in ROWAN Cashcotton DK (\$9.50, 50 grams, 142 yards, 35% cotton / 25% polyamide / 18% angora / 13% viscose / 9% cashmere)...

And, about "Tween Lines (shown lower right), "Things are not always as they seem. This sweater is not stranded work, is not slip stitches. Simple stripes evolve into a decorative stripe sweater for the 8 - 12 year-old set. A dip-stitch manipulation turns the background colored stripes into three-dimensional dots of color peeking between each color stripe". Knit from NASHUA "Cilantro" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 136 yards, 70% cotton / 30% polyester)...

We are pleased to introduce CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS "Merino 5" (\$7.50, 50 grams, 110 yards, 100% merino wool). This lovely yarn is spun from super-soft Australian merino and is machine washable, which makes it ideal for children garments and quick-knitting socks. We recommend this yarn for chemo hats and baby mittens -- free patterns are available with purchase of "Merino 5" to knit the project. Vanilla Dream and Rose Musk shades of "Kid Merino" (\$6.95, 25 grams, 240 yards, 28% kid mohair / 28% merino wool / 44% nylon) are here for lightweight spring / summer wraps and shawls, as well as pastel solid shades of "Panda Silk" (\$9.25, 50 grams, 204 yards, 52% bamboo / 43% superwash merino wool / 5% combed silk) for socks, scarves and beautiful accessories...

Latest arrivals from CLASSIC ELITE YARNS are the solids and print shades of "Four Seasons" (\$5.95, 50 grams, 103 yards, 70% cotton / 30% wool) with a soft hand and excellent stitch definition...



***** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF**

Two new patterns have arrived from LISA KNITS (\$4.00 each). "Butterfly Lace" (shown right) is a classic openwork pullover, knit with DK weight yarn in your choice of long or short sleeve, scoop or V-neck. The lower garment edge features an easy lace rib edging with K1, P1 ribbed neckband with openwork at the neck edge. The short-sleeved blue sweater was worked with ROWAN "Cashsoft DK" (\$8.95, 50 grams, 142 yards, 50% extra fine merino / 40% acrylic microfiber / 10% cashmere) and the long-sleeved yellow sweater was worked with ROWAN "Purelife" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 131 yards, 100% organic cotton).



"Dad's Vest" (shown lower left) is a basic, simple stockinette stitch V-neck vest worked in DK or worsted weight yarn. Worked in five sizes ranging from 40" - 56", this is the classic style of vest that appeals to a variety of men. Choose one of our cotton blend yarns for a summer vest that's perfect for golfing / summer sports or to layer under a jacket on cool evenings. Designer Lisa Carnahan plans to add more family-minded basic vest styles to her collection -- for moms, sons and daughters...

It's time to launder your summer sweaters for warmer days ahead. Our customers have come to know COT'N WASH not only for its superior cleaning properties, but for keeping handknits feeling soft and looking new, while being gentle on the skin. COT'N WASH 4X concentrated liquid is now available in new packaging -- 32 oz. bottles (\$14.50) and "Dropps" dissolving liquid pacs (\$10.95, 20 pacs). "Dropps" are convenient, pre-measured pacs which dissolve in your automatic washer or laundry tub with no mess, and no waste. Its deep-cleaning formula saves water, plastic, trees and fuel -- phosphate-free, NPE-free, biodegradable and safe for septic tanks. COT'N WASH contains no fiber altering enzymes and eliminates the need for fabric softeners by fluffing up the fibers in our clothes from the inside out. Its low-sudsing formula means that it is safe for use in High-Efficiency (HE) automatic washers and is safe for all fabrics -- all washers, all temperatures, all colors, all clothes...

For calm, cool and collected stitching, get organized with new zippered mesh project bags. These see-through handy pouches are the perfect sizes for projects on the go. Bags are now available in convenient 9" X 12" (\$3.95) or 11" X 14" (\$4.95) sizes...

Have you seen our needle felting display, near the punchneedle embroidery and rug punch area? You'll find a large selection of felting needles, tools, and roving wool packets. The newest addition to needle felting are CLOVER Needle Felting Applique Molds (\$6.95 each), for creating appliques and designing 3-Dimensional textures. Simply insert wool roving into the mold and then gently punch with the Pen Style Needle Felting Tool (sold separately). All eight mold designs are now in stock: choose from butterfly, daisy, rose, pansy, snowflake, clover & rabbit, hedgehog & mushrooms, and floret & berries...

Also new for needle felting are HEART TO HAND patterns (\$7.50 each) for embellishing clothing and purses:

- #241 "Purses & Posies" two handbags with needle felted pockets
- #251 "Psoy Purses II" two needle-felted wool purses
- #260 "It Must Bee Summer" Tote bag with optional rug-hooked accents
- #261 "Autumn Star" needle-felted blazer and matching purse





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

Nicky Epstein applies her unique designer's touch to *Nicky Epstein's Signature Scarves* (coming soon, shown left). More than 30 designs, all with Nicky's special style, will delight and inspire you -- everything from a lovely tweedy wrap with appliques leaves to scarves comprised of interlocking bright circles and interwoven cut felted strips. Ideal as gifts and portable knitting projects, scarves never lose their appeal; when Nicky designs them, they are show-stoppers. No knitter, beginner or advanced, will want to be without this book. Also, coming later this season, is Nicky Epstein's *Crocheting On The Edge...*

Twinkle's Weekend Knits by Wenlan Chia (\$24.95) includes chunky chic, stark shade striping, exaggerated silhouettes that finish in the twinkling of an eye. Every knit and purl is coaxed from a fat fiber strand with purpose -- sometimes to highlight an undulating line (as in the zebra-lace Riverbed Shawl), other times to support a design element of even greater proportions (the massive criss-cross yoke lacing of the Oceania sweater) or the extravagant fringing of the latticed Wisteria scarf. This is a carefree workout for your size 19 needles...

ANNIE'S ATTIC Crochet #877531 (\$8.95) "Quick-to-Stitch Prayer Shawls" features 8 inspirational shawls and sample gift tags. Present the finished Prayer Shawl to friends and loved ones with a hug and your sincere best wishes for the person's health and happiness...

LEISURE ARTS "Our Best Baby Afghans" ((\$15.95, softcover) is a precious collections of afghans for the perfect "birth-day" present. Gathered from favorite LA leaflets over the years, this is a darling array of fanciful wraps for little girls and playful throws for little boys. And there are plenty of ideas suitable for either him or her! These afghans work up quickly, so you'll have time to make one (or two) for each of the special babies in your life...

Knitting Bones (\$23.95, hardback) is the latest in the Monica Ferris series of needlecraft mysteries. You need not be a stitcher to enjoy this tale...

***** NEW PUNCHNEEDLE KITS *****

JEREMIAH JUNCTION punchneedle kits (\$17.95 each) include floss, pre-printed fabric and full color charts. Latest arrivals include Summer Flower Basket, Crow & Sunflower, Kitty Friends, Crow & Pumpkin, and Kitty In The Ivy. We are happy to let you know that not only are these made in the USA, as are most of our punchneedle patterns, but they are **proudly made in Pennsylvania**. Also new from LIZZIE KATE is "Tall Pumpkins" pattern (\$14.50), one of our PN instructor Helen's favorites...

***** DID YOU KNOW? *****

Knitting and crocheting are one of the hippest Gen-X hobbies? Today, 15% of knitters and crocheters are under 35, up from 3% in 2003, says the Yarn Craft Council of America. At Kathy's Creations, we're finding that stitching transcends all generations -- please ask about summer classes for everyone from kids, 'tweens, teens, Gen-Xers, baby boomers, to refreshers for returning knitters & crocheters...

***** DESIGN A SCARF CONTEST *****

It's time to get started with your projects for the August 2008 Westmoreland County Fair. Kathy's Creations will once again be sponsoring a "Design A Scarf" contest. Entries must be a scarf of original design, knitted or crocheted with CLASSIC ELITE YARNS. The pattern design must be submitted with the completed project, along with yarn label. Prizes include gift certificates for Kathy's Creations (1st place \$40; 2nd place \$30; 3rd place \$20). County Fair registrations forms are published in the Laurel Group newspapers during the first week in July and are also available at the Westmoreland County Extension Office and Agway stores. We're looking forward to see your creative entries this year!

***** DIAGONAL WASH CLOTH AND BABY BLANKET *****

Our thanks to Ginny T for inspiring Kathy's designs for a washcloth and baby blanket knit with an easy diagonal pattern.

DIAGONAL WASHCLOTH (finished measurement 8" X 8" approx.)

MATERIALS: One ball NEEDFUL YARNS "Cotton Joy" (100% cotton, 50 grams, 151 yards, 100% cotton); US size 6 knitting needles; stitch markers; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 6 sts = 1" in pattern with US 6 knitting needles

NOTES: Slip markers every row.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 3 sts. K next 3 rows, inc 1 st at beg of each row: 6 sts.

Row 1 (right side): K3, place marker; yarn over (yo), K to end.

Row 2: K3, place marker, yo, P to marker, K3.

Rows 3 & 4: repeat rows 1 & 2.

Row 5: K3, yo, K to end.

Row 6: K3, yo, K to end.

Rows 7 & 8: repeat rows 5 & 6.

Repeat increase rows 1 through 8 four times. If a larger wash cloth is desired, work one more repeat. Begin decreases:

Row 1 (right side): K3, place marker; knit 2 sts together (K2tog), K to end.

Row 2: K3, place marker, ssk (slip, slip, knit), P to marker, K3.

Rows 3 & 4: repeat rows 1 & 2.

Row 5: K3, k2tog, K to end.

Row 6: K3, ssk, K to end.

Rows 7 & 8: repeat rows 5 & 6.

Repeat decrease rows 1 - 8 until 6 sts remain. Dec 1 st at beg next 3 rows: 3 sts remain. BO remaining 3 sts.

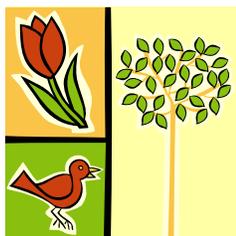
EASY DIAGONAL SQUARE BABY BLANKET (size will vary)

MATERIALS: 4 skeins PLYMOUTH Encore Worsted Weight (receiving blanket) or 6 skeins for larger blanket: US size 8 circular knitting needles 29" length for receiving blanket and 32"-36" length for larger blanket.

GAUGE: 5 sts = 1"

DIRECTIONS: CO 3 sts. Follow instructions for wash cloth, continuing to work increase rows until half of yarn is gone, ending on row 8 of increase pattern repeat. Work decrease rows with remainder of yarn, ending with row 8 of decrease pattern repeat. BO all sts.

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***** KNITTING TIPS *****

From KnitNet: a small plastic waste paper basket with open sides or a ventilated swing top works well as a knitting or crochet project basket. Thread the working yarn through one of the openings -- this will keep it from falling onto the floor, safe from curious pets...



From KnitNet: when knitting a baby sweater, consider picking up the stitches around the armhole and working the sleeve out from the body. This results in fewer ends and less bulk. The sleeve can also be lengthened as the child grows...

Our thanks to Nancy Shroyer of Nancy's Knit Knacks for sharing her remedies for avoiding loose edge sts when working cables and ribs:

"When you transition from a knit stitch to a purl stitch, the yarn has to come to the front of the needle, then wraps counterclockwise around the needle for the purl. When you transition from a purl stitch to a knit stitch, the yarn goes back and wraps around the needle counterclockwise. The purl wrap actually uses a tiny bit more yarn and, for some reason, the knit stitch likes to take up that slack, resulting in a loose edge. It happens on the left edge of cables and columns of stitches. It even happens on K2, P2 rib if you look close enough.

To fix this, on the right side, wrap the purl stitch the wrong way, clockwise. On the wrong side (now it is a knit stitch), knit it in the back, keeping this as a twisted stitch. Wrapping it in the wrong way uses less yarn and making it a twisted stitch keeps it tight. It doesn't show on the front and makes crisp edges along that knit edge.

Twisting the stitch gives less stretch and can change the gauge if there are a lot of columns or cables, so make sure to incorporate this twisted stitch in your swatch. On cables with looser spun yarn, or fuzzy yarn, I like to use twisted stitches on both sides of the cable to give real crisp edges. This twisted purl sort of tucks itself under the knit stitch and pushes it forward. Make sure that you swatch because doing this twice does change the gauge".

***** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW *****

Marcella S asks, "How do you work a picot bind-off?" Here's an easy method for a picot bind-off resulting in pretty little picots (tiny points), each with a small hole underneath for a delicate edging:

Starting at the beginning of the bind-off row, *In first stitch on left needle and with the knitted cast-on technique, cast on two new stitches. Bind off 4 sts. Transfer remaining stitch on right needle back to left needle. Repeat from * across. This results in picots which are two stitches apart. If you wish to space them out more, bind off 6 or even 8 before transferring the leftover stitch back to the left needle and casting on the next set of extra stitches.

Susan T asks, "What is the best cast on for a cotton pullover sweater"? We recommend the cable cast-on method. Here's how: Cast on one stitch onto the left needle (slipknot). Insert the right needle into the slipknot from the front. Wrap yarn over right needle as if to knit. Bring yarn through the slipknot, forming a loop. Insert left needle into loop and slip loop off right needle (2 sts now on left needle). Insert right needle between the last 2 stitches on left needle. From this position, knit a stitch into the space between the 2 sts on left needle and place it on the end of the left needle (now 3 sts). Continue in this manner for the desired number of stitches. This provides a stable firm foundation for cotton garments, and is also useful when adding stitches within the work (for wing sleeves, etc.).

***** TRY SOMETHING NEW *****

One of the newest trends in the needlework industry is "cross-crafting". The idea is to build upon your skills to learn something new. For example, most knitters and crocheters are yarn collectors. You can use your yarn stash for fulled knitting or crochet, needle felting, and rug punch...



Introduction to RUG PUNCH with instructor Tracey Earhart; Saturdays, June 7, June 14, & June 21, 2008 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm \$40.00 (3 hr. class, limited to 8 students)

Learn more about this newest addition to Kathy's Creations! The 3-hour class includes a kit and instruction using the Oxford Punch Needle to create a "Child's Sunflower" Chair Pad designed by our own Tracey Earhart of HALFMOON HOLLOW (upper right). You can personalize your chair pad by choosing a red or blue background. Because each kit is a custom order, students MUST be registered at least 7 days ahead of time, and no cancellations will be taken after one week prior to class date. Classes without a minimum of 4 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Frames and Oxford Needles will be available for use during class and may be purchased afterwards. Monk's cloth in 1-yard cuts is available and we will custom cut to size and finish edges (ask for special order details). We will also custom build frames for your projects. Intermediate to advanced rug punch classes, in which students may design their own projects, are being planned for August and September...

"Punching With Luxurious Yarns", A Rug Punch Retreat with Amy Oxford, inventor of the OXFORD RUG PUNCH NEEDLE

Saturday and Sunday, October 25 and 26, 2008; Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier, PA

When we introduce a new needleart at Kathy's Creations, we do it in a big way! Kathy's Creations and the Woolley Fox will proudly host Amy Oxford, an internationally recognized instructor and artisan in the field of rug hooking. The Retreat, "Punching With Luxurious Yarns", is limited to 15 students and is designed for both beginner and experienced rug hookers wishing to add dimension, richness and a variety of subtle and striking features to their work (Sheep Flower Rug, shown lower left). By adding new fibers and combining finer materials, rug hookers will open new doors to reveal a wealth of possibilities. No previous experience with the Rug Punch Needle is necessary. Attention, knitters and crocheters -- here is a chance to use your stash in a new way. Don't miss out on this very special opportunity to work with Amy Oxford, an accomplished artisan who has authored several books on rug hooking topics.

Treat yourself to a wonderful, autumn weekend of fellowship and needleart in the colorful Laurel Highlands. Overnight accommodations are available at the Ramada. For further details and a brochure, please contact Kathy's Creations at (724) 238-9320.

***** VICTORIAN KNITTED LACE WORKSHOP *****



The Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild will host a spring workshop, "Victorian Knitted Lace" with instructor Jean Wise on Sunday, May 18, 2008, 9 am - 4 pm at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier. Ms. Wise will present a study of vintage knitted stitches, lace knitting techniques and helpful hints for working lace. Student will work on a sampler of stitches. Registration fee is \$40 for the day (lunch included). Please call Kathy at (724) 238-9320 for details.

***** **READER'S KNIT CLUB** *****

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, May 12, 2008, and June 2, 2008, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. New knitting books will be featured...



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

Tuesday evening, May 13, 2008, 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 to come, sit & knit!

***** **FUN FRIDAY with instructor Joyce Bischoff: May 9, 2008, 10 am - 2 pm** *****

You'll find we do much more than than just knit and crochet on Fun Friday (the 2nd Friday of each month)-- you'll share many wonderful things, from conversation to ideas, and favorite patterns to tricks learned along the way. It's fun! It's free! All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce is available for help with your questions, skill-building and how-to's. 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.

***** **UPCOMING CLASSES** *****

**"Fantastic Finishes" with instructor Nancy Premoshis; Saturday, May 17, 2008
9:00 am - 12 noon \$15* registration fee plus class materials as needed**

Finishing is all about the details. Nancy has the "how-to's" for working invisible seams, neat joins, weaving in ends, blocking, "finishing from the beginning" and a wealth of knitting tips for professional-looking finishing touches.

**"Introduction to Punch Needle Embroidery" with instructor Helen Stetina; Saturday,
May 24, 2008, 10 am - 12 noon OR 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (2 hr. class, limited to 6 students)
\$25.00* includes kit with fabric, floss & instructions**

Discover how easy it is to learn the art of punch needle. Our expert, Helen, will help you get started with basic tips and techniques to create your own little masterpiece. Hoops and needles will be provided for the class, and may be purchased separately. *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 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

**Private knitting, crochet, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.
Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 28 years!**

As spring drifts into summer, you'll want to have your warm weather projects well in hand before the temperatures heat up. We hope you'll find us one of your favorite getaway destinations this season. **KEEP KNITTING!** Kathy