



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
NOVEMBER 2008 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

Planning your next sweater project? BERROCO tells us that the hands-down (or hands-on, as stitchers like to say) most popular silhouettes for fall & winter 2008-09 are cardigans and jackets. They are fantastic for layering, especially during this season of changeable weather. According to the *Farmer's Almanac* and the woolly worm caterpillars, we're in for a colder than normal winter. With the upward trend of energy costs, let's think about conservation and practicality. Cardigans are fall's smartest garment, the wardrobe equivalent of a security blanket.

Upcoming winter holiday celebrations inspire us to pick up our needles and hooks to create beautiful things with our hands. Now is the time to get "clicking". We've got the yarns, ideas, and how-to's to spark your imagination to create the kinds of cozy, wonderful feel-good gifts that people love to receive and you'll enjoy making. Whether your gift list is filled with one-skein wonders, accessories, or sweaters for everyone, we hope that you will enjoy this time of friends, family and giving thanks. Knit, crochet, stitch and punch to your heart's content, and add a little sparkle to the season with our latest promotion:

"STITCH WITH GLITZ"
All regularly-priced TRENDSETTER YARNS in stock
are 10% off during November 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

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON
Telephone 724-238-9320
e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

If you are like our staff, your holiday gift list always includes some handmade treasures for the special people in your life. Wondering what to make for the sibling, spouse, grandparent, grandkid, neighbor, (fill in the blank) on your list? We here at Kathy's Kreations would like to help, at least with the knitspirations and ideas -- the stitching is all up to you.

Gear up for holiday giving with *Vogue Knitting Holiday 2008* (\$6.99). This issue is filled with terrific ideas you might want to try -- and give -- to appreciative recipients. There are beautiful handknit bracelet bangles to brighten the season, glitzy sweaters, ribbed knits, and little luxuries. Hats, cloches and berets --whether felted, cabled, or ribbed -- are the coolest addition you can make to your outfits right now (gorgeous angora floppy toque, shown upper left). Hats are not only practical, functional and timeless, but a great budget-friendly way to add some pizzazz to your wardrobe...

INTERWEAVE KNITS Holiday Gifts 2008 (\$7.99) is a special issue devoted to everything you need to make gift giving a breeze for family and friends, other knitters and even yourself. In her editorial, Eunny Jang encourages us to "Keep making, knitting, creating -- you might knit your way through the gift list, or make something for your own closet, or just enjoy the quiet hours that go into making something lovely. Make it part of your own holiday traditions and enjoy the season even more". This issue has a spectrum of projects for maximizing the impact of easy garments with wonderful materials and embellishments, quick simple ideas (like the cozy Aran slippers shown lower right), and knits sized for every member of the family...

INTERWEAVE PRESS presents *The Harmony Guides 101 Stitches to Knit* (\$19.95, gift box). There are 101 cards featuring color stitch photography on one side and charts & instructions on the other. Stitches were selected from the long-standing reference Harmony Guides collection. Cards are color-coded by subject, providing user-friendly organization...

As cozy as its name suggests, ROWAN "Cocoon" (\$15.50, 100 grams, 126 yards, 80% merino wool / 20% kid mohair, CYCA yarn classification 5) is a bulky weight yarn beauty that is ideal for winter knits and accessories. Ask to see our ribbed ski hat -- remember it won't be too long until the area resorts will open for winter sports!

FILATURA DI CROSA Fancy "Aliseo" (\$11.95, 50 grams, 87 yards, 75% wool / 15% alpaca / 10% acrylic, CYCA yarn classification 4) is a stunning monochromatic single-ply yarn. The range of muted brights makes this a great choice for sweaters, accessories and felted projects. We love this yarn and are featuring a fingerless mitts pattern on page six...

PLYMOUTH YARNS "Happy Choices" (\$24.95, 100 grams, 384 yards, 90% superwash merino / 10% nylon sock yarn, CYCA yarn classification 2) is a fabric panel which can be worn as a scarf or, unravelled one row at a time, and knit into accessories... your choice! We'd call that the ultimate last-minute gift idea...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

We are pleased to introduce KNITTING AT KNOON designs:

- SnoBuddy Family (\$8.50, shown right): adorable little snow-people , all playing dress-up for the cold. Five versions to knit in Aran weight yarns. Sno Buddies range in height from 3" (baby) to 7" (large). Thanks to Madelon Sheedy for knitting our shop buddies in BERROCO "Peruvia"
- 18" Doll Sweaters Collection One & Two (\$8.50 each): four mini- sweaters in DK weight, all sized for 18" girl dolls (like American Girl dolls)
- Prehistoric Pals (\$10.50): whimsical, adorable, little dinosaurs, just the right size for little hands to hug. Four versions to knit with Aran weight yarns: Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Brachiosaurus, and Tyrannosaurus Rex. Pals range in height from 6" - 10", seated.
- Wee-one Welcome Set (\$6.50): this raglan jacket with matching cap and booties makes a wonderfully traditional baby gift. Choose a bright and vibrant color (like COLINETTE "Cadenza" DK weight washable merino wool) to update this standard oldie, or stick with a traditional baby color (like KRAEMER YARNS "Little Lehigh" or "Pebbles"). Sleeves can be turned down when baby grows.
- Jersey Shore (\$6.50): Oversized fit (for comfort and growing room) with a handsome, all-over, checked textured pattern. This classic raglan crew, a great pack-along, is equally comfortable in the classroom and on the playground. DK weight in four sizes XS (3T-4T), S (5-6), M (7-8), and L (10).
- Little Jersey (\$6.50): the same great styling as our Jersey Shore sweater for older children, sized for little Bro or Sis in S (6-12 mo), M (12 - 18 mo), and L (24 mo).
- Jersey Shore Weekender (\$8.50): a comfy, casual, raglan crew for women and men with an easy, all-over checked textured pattern to match the childrens' versions. Loose-fitting, to work in DK weight yarn in 10 sizes (30" - 52" chest).



Familiar names with something new:

- BERROCO "Ultra Alpaca Light" (\$5.95, 50 grams, 144 yards, 50% super fine alpaca / 50% Peruvian wool, CYCA yarn classification 3) , the DK version of our popular worsted weight yarn
- FILATURA DI CROSA "Zara Chine" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 136 yards, 100% extrafine merino superwash, CYCA yarn classification 3), wonderful "hand" with subtle marling
- PLYMOUTH "Cotton Kisses" (\$14.50, 200 grams, 396 yards, 51% cotton / 42% acrylic / 7% nylon, CYCA yarn classification 4); machine wash gentle, includes 2 patterns with 3 buttons & sufficient yarn to complete one of the included sweater designs
- ADDI TURBO Lace 24" & 32" length circular knitting needles in larger sizes US 10, 10.5, 10.75, and 11

VERMONT FIBER DESIGNS feature easy, contemporary pattern designs in a wide range of sizes from XS - 6X (\$5.50 each):

#502 It's A Scarf, It's A Sweater: a great transition project for moving from scarves to sweaters. Knit three scarves, sew or crochet them together into a sweater.

#503 It's A Scarf, It's A Sweater 2 (shown left): a perfect opportunity to experiment with novelty yarns or use up stash. Mix and match different yarns for interesting effects.

#505 Striped Ridged Eyelet Shawl: very easy to knit, with gorgeous results! Make two different versions -- one for everyday, another for dressy occasions.





***** OUR BOOKSHELVES ARE BULGING *****

Knitters will revel in *Classic Elite Knits* (\$24.95, paperback), an exciting new compilation of 100 of the best designs from the studios of CLASSIC ELITE YARNS, long a well-loved and well-respected leader in the hand-knitting industry. We are pleased that seven of Kathy's designs are included: kimono coat (shown at left), mosaic cable pullover, awry cardigan, brioche rib & cable sweater, alpaca cable turtleneck, rope cable crewneck, and cabled purse. You'll find a dazzling array of intriguing designs and multiple patterns for every skill level. And, no matter what your skill, you'll fall in love with the many patterns here, sure to provide many hours of fulfilling knitting and many compliments on the results...

Sometimes, a little luxury is all you need. With *Luxury Yarn One-Skein Wonders: 101 Small Indulgences* (\$18.95, paperback), you can discover small treasures to knit or crochet from single skeins of the high-end yarns you dream about. There are gorgeous possibilities designed especially for creamy cashmere, lustrous alpaca, seductive silk, exotic soy, organic linen and eco-friendly bamboo. Projects are organized by weight of yarn, organized according to the Craft Yarn Council's classification standards...

Avid sock knitters will be inspired by *The Eclectic Sole: Socks for Adventurous Knitters* (\$23.95, paperback). Designs include colorwork, sideways socks, illusion knitting, toe-up, toe-down, lace, textured stitches, fancy ribs, delicate motifs, even holes! Almost all the sock patterns are written at the same gauge, and include helpful references for choosing an appropriate colorway for each pattern...

It Itches (\$12.95, hardcover) is a collection of cartoons and essays about the knitting life and an expression of love of yarn and needles. Artist and writer Franklin Habit has the affectinate eye, the knowledgeable ear, and the slightly twisted mind of one who knows the innermost yearning of a yarn junkie's soul -- because he's one, too. His wit, keen observations, and slightly outrageous humor will have you laughing out loud on subjects from the delightful mania of fiber to the siren song of the handknitted sock...

Expand your knowledge of ethnic knitting with *Knitted Lace of Estonia* (\$24.95, paperback). Knitting authority Nancy Bush has researched traditional lace-making techniques and offers modern adaptations of the classic ways to construct shawls and scarves. There is also a stitch dictionary that gives more than 20 additional lace patterns. Learn to make a beautiful heirloom quality piece with Nancy's tips to design your own...

Boutique Knits (\$21.95, paperback) is meant to "outfit women with an eye on fashion in a collection of stylish and curiously assembled accessories and layers". The uncommon techniques like turning knitting on its side and working in a new direction, using ribbing to shape garments, mixing felted and unfelted knits, and unique embellishments will inspire you to improvise on your own...

Never before has a major designer created such a large and comprehensive collection of new patterns. Drawing her inspiration from knitting traditions around the world, Nicky Epstein presents *Knitting On Top Of The World* (\$34.95, hardback), more than 50 gorgeous patterns in her signature style...

*** HOT PROJECT IDEA ***

Our ROWAN sales rep Les Farber gave us a great suggestion for super-warm mittens. Knit a luxurious mitten "liner" from ROWAN "Kidsilk Haze" lace weight mohair and silk yarn. After your mitten of choice project is completed, turn the mitten inside out and pick up stitches for a second mitten with Kidsilk Haze along the ribbed cuff. Complete the liner as for the original mitten, turn inside out and enjoy some very warm mittens...

*** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW ***

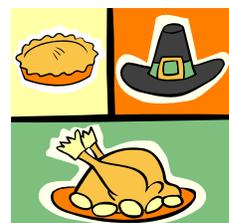
Laura M asked: "I plan to knit Kathy's Brick Pullover from INTERWEAVE KNITS Summer 2008 for my husband. How do I know what size to make?" Fit is a very subjective matter. Some of us feel comfortable with a close-fitting style while others like a more relaxed fit. The term for this is "ease" and it refers to the amount of roominess in the garment. Kathy suggests that you take the measurements from your husband's favorite sweater that fits him just the way he wants the new sweater to fit. This will be your target finished measurement for the chest, sleeves, shoulders, etc.

The knitting pattern will provide you with a wonderful tool, the schematic (it's there for a very good reason). This is the little drawing with all the measurements for all the sizes. Remember that this is a custom-knit sweater -- you are investing your time and effort into getting it just the way you (and your hubby) want. It's OK to make changes to the sleeve and body length to get just the perfect fit. Measure each of the key dimensions on the laid-out-flat-favorite sweater and compare it to the corresponding measurement on the schematic. If necessary, measure two sweaters, if one fits up top and one over the tummy.

On "Knitting Daily", the Interweave Knits website (knittingdaily.com), editor Sandi Wiseheart lists 10 key measurements to determine the best fit (if any of these is too big or too small, the sweater will be ill-fitting):

1. Finished bust / chest
2. Finished hip
3. Finished waist
4. Neckline width
5. Neckline depth
6. Neckline to shoulder seam
7. Shoulder seam to shoulder seam across the back (perhaps the most crucial)
8. Underbust to waist height
9. Waist to hem height
10. Sleeve length

Accurate gauge is important to insure the best outcome. If you can't achieve the correct gauge after trying a different size needle with your chosen yarn and pattern, consider working a smaller or larger size. If your gauge is too big, choose the pattern stitch count instructions for a size smaller. If the gauge is too small, choose the pattern stitch count instructions for a size larger. Test for fit by first dividing the number of stitches cast on for the back by your actual stitches per inch. The number should equal the width you need for the lower body. If the pattern instructions specify rows-to-knit rather than length-to-work for pattern pieces, divide the number of rows specified by your rows per inch. The number should equal the length you need for the side seam, raglan armhole, sleeve, etc. If it doesn't you must add or subtract rows as necessary. When altering the body length, do so before the armhole shaping. Also, remember to check your gauge often during the knitting process, as it may change.



*** HIT THE SLOPES QUICK KNIT HAT ***

Thick, ribbed hats are quite popular, as well as practical. This winter warmer was inspired by our new multi-color super chunky yarn, NATURALLY NZ "Aspire" (\$28.95, 200 grams, 145 yards, 70% NZ wool / 30% alpaca).

SIZES: Ladies' small (medium - large in parentheses)

FINISHED HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE: 19" (20.75" - 22.5")

MATERIALS: NATURALLY NZ "Aspire" approx. 60 (75 - 80) yards; US size 15 knitting needles in 16" length and double-pointed (dpns) OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 10 sts /12 rows = 4" over K1, P1 rib, slightly stretched with US 15 needle

TAKE TIME TO SAVE TIME, CHECK YOUR GAUGE

DIRECTIONS: With circular needle, cast on 48 (52 - 56) sts. Work in rounds of K1, P1 for 6.5" (7" - 7.5"). Change to dpns.

Shape crown:

Round 1: *K1, K2tog (knit two stitches together); repeat from * around.

Round 2: Knit.

Round 3: K2tog around.

Round 4: Knit.

Round 5: K2tog around.

Cut yarn, leaving an 8" tail. Draw through remaining sts and pull tightly. Secure & weave in ends.

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*** ALISEO FINGERLESS RIBBED MITTS ***

SIZE: Adult's One Size Fits All

MATERIALS: FILATURA DI CROSA "Aliseo" two balls; set of five US size 7 double-pointed needles OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE; stitch marker; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: approx. 5 sts / 7 rows in stockinette stitch

2X2 Ribbing

All rounds: "K2, P2; repeat from * around.

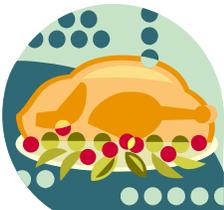
DIRECTIONS(make 2): Cast on 44 sts. Divide onto four needles (11 sts per needle); place marker & join, being careful not to twist sts. Work in rounds of 2X2 ribbing until piece measures 7" or desired length to thumb opening, end at marker.

Next Round: Bind off the first 8 sts in ribbing, continue around in rib pattern as established.

Next Round: Cast on 8 sts over the bound-off sts. Continue in ribbing as established.

Work in rib pattern until total length is 10" or desired length. Bind off loosely in ribbing. Weave in all ends with tapestry needle.

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*** SHADES OF THE SEASON ***

What's this season's "must-have" colors? Rich shades of purple, dusty plum and gray tones...

*** WHAT'S UP WITH RUG PUNCH? ***

When you see Tracey Earhart around the shop, please congratulate her! Tracey is officially a Certified Oxford Rug Punch instructor. Tracey was the first of Amy's July students to successfully complete the certification program. And, Tracey's bear rug project, "The Anniversary Bears" will be displayed in the Shelburne, VT Museum Rug Show November 8 - 16, 2008, and will be published in "Hooked Rugs Today 4" by Amy Oxford. Congratulations, Tracey -- we're so proud of you! Also, a big thank you for coordinating the very successful Amy Oxford Rug Punch Retreat October 25 & 26. More rug punch classes and special events are in the planning stages -- ask for details! **"Rug Punch Christmas Ornaments" with instructor Tracey Earhart; Saturday, November 22, 2008 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm; \$55.00 registration fee***

For students who have taken Tracey's Introductory Class, learn to make fantastic Christmas ornaments to brighten the holiday season. The class fee includes a "fine" Oxford Rug Punchneedle and monks cloth, with yarns to be purchased separately. Students are requested to bring their frames from the previous class.

"Learn To Rug Punch for Kids" with instructor Tracey Earhart; Saturday, December 6, 2008 9:30 am - 12:30 pm: \$50.00 registration fee*

Tracey has come up with a fun way to introduce children to rug punch techniques using cookie cutters! Students will need a size #9 or #10 Oxford Punch Needle tool and corresponding yarn to be purchased separately. The frame and monks cloth fabric are included in the cost of the 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 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 Kreaions at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to kathy@kathys-kreaions.com

*** WHAT'S UP WITH PUNCHNEEDLE EMBROIDERY? ***

Helen Stetina of HELEN'S TREASURES has designed a punchneedle of the Ligonier Diamond (available later this month). Advance orders for this pattern are being take. We are now carrying VALDANI Designer Collection Threads: three-strand hand-overdyed, colorfast floss (\$3.50 each) and Perle Cotton #5 (\$4.50 each). Holiday collections of VALDANI and WEEKS DYE WORKS 3-strand spools (\$5.50) are now in stock.

New seasonal patterns include: PINE MOUNTAIN DESIGNS "P43 Cold Wind Snowman" \$10.50, shown lower left; TERESA KOGUT "PN035 Snow Bird" \$13.50; BUTTERMILK BASIN "PN152 Snowmen On A Limb" \$8.50 and "PN154 S*N*O*W" \$8.50; LIZZIE KATE "Toy Santa '07" and "Santa '06" \$14.50 each

"Make-It, Take-It Punchneedle Christmas ornament Class" with instructor Helen Stetins Saturday, November 15, 2008, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



"Punchneedle with Helen" Tuesday evening, November 11, 2008, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm -- stay tuned for details or contact Helen Stetina via e-mail: guppy0613@comcast.net

In this season of gratitude, we give sincere thanks for the cordial relationship we enjoy with our customers. We value your friendship and support. Please join us for our Open House November 28 & 29, 2008.

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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Monday, November 3, 2008, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. We will not be meeting in December because of B&N holiday special events...



*** **"KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, November 11, 2008, and December 9, 2008, from 7 - 9 pm** ***

Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting and lots of fun conversation with experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit!

*** **"RUGGERS" RUG PUNCH HOOK-IN with Tracey Earhart Saturday evening, November 1, 2008; 6 pm - 8 pm; rsvp (next punch hook-in will be in January 2009)**

Love to rug punch? Since we introduced Tracey's rug punch classes this spring, many students are asking for more, more, more! Tracey's introductory rug punch class is a prerequisite...

*** **FUN FRIDAYS, November 14, 2008, and December 12, 2008, 10 am - 2 pm with instructor Joyce Bischoff; rsvp (limited registration)**

Join us for Fun Friday (the 2nd Friday in November and December) . All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce is available for help with your questions, skill-building and how-to's. 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.

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

"Intermediate Knitting" with instructor Tracey Earhart; Saturday, November 22, 2008; a 3-hour class 9:30 am - 12:30 pm; registration fee \$25.00*

Students may choose a simple project such as a patterned scarf, mittens, gloves, fingerless mitts, hats, socks, purse, vest, a simple basic sweater or a simple felted item. Students must have a knowledge of basic knitting skills such as cast on, bind off, knit & purl. Instructor will assist students in choosing yarns and needles appropriate for project. We will review project directions, learn needed skills, and cover any special techniques. Pattern, yarn, and needle purchases are the responsibility of the student. "The Knitter's Companion" book is highly recommended as a resource. Additional class supplies include notebook, pen / pencil and small sharp scissors.

*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!

Please join us for our annual Holiday Open House Weekend Friday and Saturday, November 28 & 29, 2008, 9 am - 5 pm...

We were recently inspired by Barbara Childs, who shared with us her sister-in-law Sally's favorite stitching motto: "Knit and Purr". We wish you all the very best-- inspiration, fantastic projects, fibers and colors that you love, and contentment with every stitch. Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!

KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy