



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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NOVEMBER 2016 UPDATE

Dear Stitchers,

It's that time of year again -- the time when we knitters and crocheters realize that the holiday season is upon us and we need more yarn to finish the projects we have planned (or plan to make very soon). It's also that time of year when the shelves at Kathy's Kreations are brimming with new yarns for gift items, home decor, cozy accessories, and the sweater season ahead -- the possibilities are limited only by your imagination!

More cooler weather on the way is the perfect reason to pick up your needles and hooks. Knitting and crocheting add texture (and welcome snuggliness) to your home and wardrobe. There's nothing cozier than cuddling up in a brand new knitted sweater or crocheted afghan when the weather gets cold. Relaxing on the couch with a new project in hand when it's blustery outside is pretty great, too! Projects can take a couple of hours or keep you busy all winter -- you decide! It's easy to find a project at Kathy's Kreations that suits your style, regardless of your schedule or skill level.

Hot trend: Let it flow. Keep it loose -- loose layers, long cardigans, hooded scarves for grown-ups, hooded cowls for kids, off-the-shoulder sweaters, super bulky yarns, large knitting needles, big crochet hooks, and braid & cable patterns. If you aren't sure what all of this means, ask us!

According to one online source: "From the powerful combination of black and white, to giant, chunky sweaters, to the no-holds-barred flowing fringe look, it's all about standing out. As yarn takes center stage, we seem to be in love with the look of it all and with the stitches themselves. Whether it's cables, stockinette or woven stitches, we want to see them, and the bigger, longer and more dramatic, the better!" Knitting and crocheting take time -- they are an artform, a passion, and a labor of love. Doesn't it make sense to love the yarn you're using? And here's something else that makes sense...

"NOVEMBER IS MADE-IN-AMERICA MATTERS MONTH!"
10% off all purchases of in-stock,
regularly-priced yarns with the "Made In The USA" label
during November 2016
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday through Saturday

Holiday Open House Friday November 25, 2016
SHOP SMALL Saturday November 26, 2016
Please join us -- we're the Black Friday / Cyber Monday "in person" alternative!

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX
Private knitting and crocheting lessons
Instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services & gift certificates available
Mail orders available -- no order too small!
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*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Colorful red and gold leaves are swirling around outside the new door of our shop, and it won't be long until the first flakes fly. Time to hunker down, have a cup of tea, finish up the holiday knitting and plan your next project. Care to join us? We have quite a collection of new items to inspire you and spark your creativity like these wonderful products...

In the fall 2016 issue of *Knitter's Magazine*, editor Rick Mondragon encourages us to: "Grab your needles and yarn, and set aside some time to knit, and to create! Fall is a great time for knitwear... and knitting... and color! The trees have almost bared their leaves and we tend to dress warmer, covering our bodies with longer sleeves, pants instead of shorts, and even added layers. Let's borrow hues from the landscape and from the harvest of the season."

This issue of *Knitter's* (\$6.95) has the theme "Strata", with levels of texture and creative stitches resulting in colorful layers of stripes and striated yarns (lots of layers!). This is a fun issue with some great garments and spectacular colorwork.

Two of Kathy's vest designs were included in this collection, and we couldn't be happier with the projects! Vests offer plenty of styling options, and boxy shapes offer opportunities to work graceful stitch patterns with stacking color yarns. "Black Hills" (shown upper left) forms striations of color in a subtly striped wave pattern. It's an opportunity to practice working multiple stitch increases and both right-and left-leaning decreases within a single row. Old Shale never looked so good, thanks to the timeless appeal of BERROCO "Millefiori" yarn (\$15.50, 100 grams, 186 yards, 50% wool / 50% acrylic, CYCA #4). About this design, *Knitter's* says: "The boxy silhouette offers plenty of styling options, but even more importantly, it allows a long-repeat yarn to stack gracefully into bands of color. We warp the stripes into rhythmic hills and valleys by working an Old Shale pattern". The gorgeous color palette is sure to be a crowd pleaser. "Sand Mesa" (shown lower right) marks the return of the poncho, but with versatility and refined proportions. About this design, *Knitter's* says: "Rectangular garments make the best of a multicolor yarn because there is little to no shaping. This tabard is a stunning example. Leave the sides open for a poncho, or button them up for a pullover (try cufflink buttons)-- and don't overlook the opportunity to belt it, should the occasion arise." Kathy designed this garment with TAHKI YARNS "Mesa" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 98 yards, 100% superwash merino wool, CYCA #4). This roving style yarn has a slight thick-and-thin texture and is a wonder in gradient self-stripping colorways...

Show your project some love with adorable heart-shaped locking stitch markers from ADDI! The AddiLove stitch marker hearts make knitting easier. You can use them to mark sections of a complicated pattern or to indicate the beginning of a round. However you use them, you are sure to LOVE them! For use with needles up to US 10, each package contains 6 markers (\$10.50). Our first shipment sold out in a week, but more are expected soon...

In the fall/winter 2016 edition of *knit.wear* (\$14.99), the editors have gathered designs inspired by Japanese aesthetics, interpreted as a chic, sophisticated, minimalist sense of style. These designs focus on the details, finishing work, and precise construction necessary to produce an impeccable garment that remains a pleasure to knit. Simplicity is key with clean lines, and impactful details, feminine but austere. Look refined and feel cozy with the 22 new modern knitting projects of this issue. In addition, the Street Style story is full of urban, hip women's garments and accessories...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

If oversized knit scarves don't make you excited about fall and winter, we're not sure what will. Ankle-gracing, super-sized scarves are perfect for layering. Wear them long and trendy, or bundle once or twice for optimal warmth. The Craft Yarn Council has dubbed them "Super Scarves", and cites them as the season's hottest trend. One new arrival to our shelves is BERROCO YARNS "Macro" (\$20.50, 250 grams, 112 yards; 50% wool/40% acrylic/10% alpaca, CYCA #6). "Macro" is instant-knitting gratification -- a super bulky blend of wool, acrylic, and alpaca in bold colors. This single-ply yarn works up quickly on big needles and hooks, now in stock. It is also perfect for arm knitting. For more ideas, see support booklet #378 for projects like the "Keiko" scarf (shown upper right)...



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Berroco Yarns

- A new selection of patterns from top designers has arrived from DEEP SOUTH FIBERS:
- "Ponchetta" by The Brown Stitch (\$6.50): a woman's small poncho featuring a cowl neck and seamless construction with simple garter rib accents
 - "Little Miss Margo" by The Brown Stitch (\$7.50): a child/tween -sized buttoned poncho, knit seamlessly with bulky weight yarn, a smaller version of the very popular woman's sized "Margo Poncho" (\$7.50)
 - "Concetta Cardigan" by The Brown Stitch (\$7.50): a woman's seamless raglan cardigan using worsted-weight yarn with simple ribbed bands and a single button closure
 - "Lilac Trail" by The Brown Stitch (\$7.50): a woman's seamless vest, worked from the bottom-up using DK weight yarn and featuring easy lace panels. This is a class layering piece, perfect for office or casual wear
 - "Woods Road Vest" by the Brown Stitch (\$7.50): a woman's classic seamless buttoned vest, using aran or bulky weight yarn with a simple textured pattern stitch
 - "Syncopation Adoration Cowl" by West Knits (\$6.50): Gather a colorful selection of DK weight yarns for this two-color broiche cowl knit in the round. When you're ready for something new, the ribbed columns syncopate so the knits are purled and the purls are knit. The large circumference wraps easily around the neck for extra warmth.
 - "Wetted Slouch" by West Knits (\$6.50): Choose a beautiful yarn and knit a textural slouchy hat. The body of the hat is knit sideways with shaping at each edge to form a bias. Garter stitch, seed stitch, and stokinette stitch welts add interesting texture and the brim features a folded hem.
 - "Bits & Bob in Brioché" by West Knits (\$6.50): Collect a colorful array of DK weight leftovers and knit this stripey brioché stitch hat. Work 2 rounds in 1X1 rib and then syncopate the knits and purls to create a reversible moss stitch fabric. The simple construction begins with an I-cord cast-on. The hat is a slouchy style and you can fold the brim for a cozy double layer.
 - "Pure Joy" by Joji Locatelli (\$8.50): The combination of garter stitch, short rows and eyelet rows can create the most varied results, but it always guarantees that you'll have a good time knitting this stunning crescent-shaped shawl!

We introduced you to "Top This" hat kits by DMC last year. Each ball of snuggly yarn has the pattern printed inside the label. Instead of a pompom, each kit comes with a whimsical stuffed animal topper. The bright and colorful yarn is made up of three textures, making it easy to knit or crochet. Are you ready for a whole new batch? Our newest arrivals include the Lamb (shown left, \$9.95); three glow in the dark characters (zebra, mouse, and frog, \$10.50 each) and four metallic (fish, butterfly, ladybug, and black & gold 'Burgh bumblebee, \$10.50 each). We have snowflakes, Santa, elves, penguins and snowmen, too (\$9.95 each)...



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*** NOVEMBER KNIT ALONG ***

Several of us are still working on October's Progressive Needles Knit-Along project, "Cablesip" by Michelle Hunter. These socks-in-progress projects will continue throughout November, but we are also starting the "Changing Light" shawl designed by Jennifer Weissman (shown left).

"Changing Light" is a fully reversible scarf or wrap featuring stripes, lace and elegant pointed tips. This knit begins with a diamond-shaped center, knitted in the round from the center out. A phototutorial for an easy and beautiful cast-on is included in the pattern. Next, two sides of the diamond are worked flat to form one half of the piece, held stitches from the other two sides are then slipped back onto the needles and worked in the same way. As you knit, you will travel through playful sections of stripes, lace mesh and garter stitch and have the fun of watching your colors drift into one another. Choose three of your favorite shades and cast on for this entertaining and dramatic knit! Our sample shawl was test knitted for Jennifer in fingering merino by Shawn Sweeney (a big, warm thank you for letting us borrow this for the KAL, Shawn!). Several of our knitters will be working with HIKOO "Sueno" sport weight yarn. The pattern is available for purchase on Ravelry or through Kathy's Kreations (a Ravelry Pro shop).

We hope that you will join us every Friday in November here at Kathy's Kreations from 10 am - 2 pm for this group project, the continuation of previous KALs, or any other works in progress purchased here. If you can't join us in person, please follow us on the November shop thread at "We Love Kathy's" on Ravelry...

*** NEW BOOKS FROM DEBORAH NEWTON ***

Don't dread finishing, embrace it! *Finishing School* (\$29.95, hardback) by Deborah Newton gives you all the techniques and advice you need to create beautifully finished knits. From blocking to embellishments to edgings and more, this book has you covered from start to finish! But, no matter how well you knit, if a sweater doesn't fit perfectly, you won't see it as a success. In *Good Measure* (\$29.95, hardback), Deborah follows up her definitive book on finishing with the definitive resource on knitting garments that fit. She shares what she's learned in decades of knitwear design, from taking -- and understanding -- your own measurements, to demystifying schematic drawings, to altering patterns to create the perfect silhouette with the perfect amount of ease. Whether you're knitting for yourself or for others, *Good Measure* will give you the skills and confidence to make garments that are as wonderful to wear as they are to knit!

*** KNITTING AND ART BY DREAM IN COLOR ***

We have a soft spot for DREAM IN COLOR yarns -- how can any knitter or crocheter resist fibers so beautiful and amazing to stitch? We are pleased to be among the first shops to introduce colorful new kits developed by designing color combinations from owner Veronica Van's favorite modern artists (inspiration from Georgia O'Keefe shown lower right). The perfect pattern to pair with these color combinations is the "Phosphoro" shawl pattern by Hillary Smith Callis. You will love this easy-to-knit simple garter stitch pattern. This collection is being hand-dyed in small batches, in "Smoochy Cashmere" and "Smoochy with Cashmere Sparkle" (yes, that's right, we have a LIMITED quantity of the sparkle coming in). Wow, this will look spectacular for holiday parties and enchanted evenings! Each kit contains two full 400 yard skeins and two 150 yard skeins and will sell for \$89.95 per kit (pattern sold separately on Ravelry or through Kathy's Kreations as a Ravelry Pro shop). First come, first served...



*** WHAT DO YOU 'TINK'? ***

Knitters throw the word "tink" around like yarn overs. But the insider verb "to tink", which means to unknit (it is, after all, "knit" spelled backwards), has made it into one of the lexicons of record, www.oxforddictionaries.com. Announced in a blog post in July, the Oxford Dictionaries described the addition as an example of the "linguistic inventiveness of knitting." Unlike the Oxford English Dictionary, which focuses on how words have changed over time, the Oxford Dictionaries focus on contemporary usage.

-- from *Yarn Market News*, October 2016

*** YARN FORWARD ***

Affordable, all-purpose, basic yarns are the bedrocks, the blockbusters, and the workhorses of the yarn industry. Here are our shop's best sellers and favorites:

PLYMOUTH YARN "Encore": This flagship yarn comes in a family of weights and styles -- including chunky, tweed, and a variety of variegateds. Encore Worsted is said to be America's best-selling yarn. Affordable and washer-and-dryer-friendly, this bouncy 3-ply incorporates just enough wool for a fleecy feel. Think babies, afghans or beginners -- anywhere easy care deserves a special touch. The palette and crisp definition produce stunning crochet colorwork.

TAHKI YARNS "Cotton Classic": Just as Cotton Classic stands tall in the industry, the yarn itself holds up beautifully to repeated washings. The secret is its cable-spun construction, which lends resilience and elasticity to the cotton fiber. The array of colors is simply dazzling. The firm, tubular twist also makes this a wonderful crochet cotton. Affordable enough for blankets and market bags, it holds its shape in cardies and camis.

HIKOO / SKACEL COLLECTION "Simplicity": This is a wonderful, soft, washable yarn with an amazing twist and is available in some of today's most popular colorways. The blend of wool, acrylic and nylon make it a great choice for warmth, softness and machine washing. This yarn is wonderful for afghans, children's wear, and anything else that gets daily use!

BERROCO YARNS "Comfort": This yarn is Berroco's "new and improved" classic American worsted weight yarn. Comfort is an ultra-soft blend of acrylic and fine nylon that makes for a beautifully draped garment with memory. No stretching out or baginess will mar your detailed stitchery, shown to the best advantage with this smooth, lofty fiber. And the best part? Machine wash and dry, and a huge array of colors.

BROWN SHEEP COMPANY "Lamb's Pride Worsted": Most think of USA-made Lamb's Pride as a workhorse -- and it is. But a closer look reveals a handsome, glossy single that shimmers with strands of mohair. Firm yet bouncy, it etches crisp stitches with a distinctive hairy halo. Famous for felting and great for home decor and warm, sturdy garments, Lamb's Pride, like any single, also loves crochet.

KRAEMER YARNS "Perfection": Perfection is a worsted weight blend of US merino and acrylic. It is a soft, easy care, wool blend that won't break the bank. Perfection is, well, perfect! The merino wool makes this blend one of the softest around. It is very comfortable against the skin. Whether you are knitting a sweater for a newborn infant, an afghan for a friend, or something special for yourself, you will find this to be a great all-purpose yarn. Perfection is available in a wide range of colors with more expected in the near future. It is proudly made in Nazareth, PA.

JAMES BRETT "Marble Chunky": Marble Chunky is a bulky weight, 100% acrylic yarn that contains an impressive 341 yards per skein! It's composed of 2 contrasting strands plied together to create subtle color changes with a tweedy appearance. Machine washable and available in a wide range of color options, this yarn is a great choice for accessories, garments like jackets and pullovers, and for prayer/comfort shawls.



*** SATURDAY NIGHT DIALOGUE ***

Kathy was delighted to receive this heart-warming e-mail from Ellen C. If anyone has anything else to add to their cable conversation, please e-mail Kathy any tips or hints in response to Ellen's inquiry. We will be glad to share them!



Hi Kathy,

Found you on my Knitting Daily newsletter as the Queen of Cables.

I am elderly and have knitted for 65 years-even owned a yarn shop. I have always struggled to make both edges of my cables smooth and even. The stitches on the left always seem bigger and looser. This has frustrated me for all my years. I would like them to be perfect stitches and symmetrical. I have searched for years for the solution.

Any advice? I am never too old to improve or learn new techniques because knitting is still my passion. Am housebound on O2 so knitting is my tranquilizer, my joy, my life. Thanks for taking time to read and will be grateful for any help. Ellen

Hi, Ellen

It is not your knitting! When cables cross to the left, they need to travel a longer distance. There is no perfect solution but maybe a couple of things you can do.

--- Work with a twisted yarn rather than a single ply. Singles tend to exaggerate the problem. Twisted yarn gives better stitch definition. Swatching helps you know this before you commit to the project.

--- Work as a double stitch cable. For example, a six stitch cable: place 3 sts onto cn & hold in back, K2, K1 & slip this stitch back onto left hand needle and knit it again. FROM CN: K2, K1 & slip this st back to left hand needle and knit it again. It sounds weird, but makes a neat crossing because it adds a little extra room to the crossing.

--- Fix the errant stitches afterwards by tweaking with a tapestry needle.

--- I do not work my cable stitches from the cable needle. I transfer them back onto the left hand needle and work them. This ensures all stitches will be worked using the same needle rather than a small size cable needle.

May I please have permission to reprint your inquiry and my answers in a future shop newsletter? Other knitters who have been knitting far less than you have would probably be interested in this exchange.

Also, if you have a knitting tip that you would like to share with me from all of your years at your craft, I would be grateful!

Happy knitting

Kathy Zimmerman

Hi, Kathy

What a reward it is to hear from you! I will try your suggestions. And, yes, you may use our correspondence for your newsletter.

I think a lot of knitting is between the ears. Believing in yourself. This summer I had a 14 yr old student with a traumatic brain injury -a VERY special girl who won 2nd place at our county fair for her afghan - a patchwork of 30 blocks, 30 designs. Knitting has brought her friends and acceptance by her peers. Now kids are asking her to teach! To me, knitting is creating fabric which then must be pieced together in a beautiful way. Each aspect has great importance. Finishing can make or break a project. Another is using quality fibers. I'll write again later as my tricks come to mind. Thanks for answering me.

Ellen



*** SAVE THE DATES ***

- KNITTREAT at OMNI Bedford Springs November 10 - 13, 2017
- Kathy's Kreations Holiday Open House Friday, November 25, 2017
- It's Small Business Saturday November 26, 2017-- support your LYS!
- PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL March 24-26, 2017; save the date NOW. Kathy will be in Market booths 401 & 402 in Hall C, 2nd floor, David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh.
- Spring Break with instructor Mary Lee Clark April 21-23, 2017 (Enchantment Shawl & Colorwork Techniques) -- registration now open!

*** THINGS YOU KNOW IF YOU KNIT ***

This is excerpted (and tips embellished) from an article by George Lindsay-Watson in Metro news from a UK website forwarded to us by Aimee L (thanks, Aimee!):

"Knitting is fun. It's challenging and useful and draws you in to a community of interesting and talented people. It also sometimes makes you want to throw your beautiful, hand-dyed merino yarn into a corner and stab yourself in the eye with your needle. I've learned some things. Cats and small children must be kept away from the knitting basket. It turns out it is perfectly reasonable to take a couple of sharp, pointy metal things on a plane. Although a difficult project can be a love-hate relationship, once you're hooked, there's no turning back."

- You never forget your knitting mentor. Whether it was your mom, grandma, friend or an online tutorial, you'll remember the person who sat with you through those painful first stitches for life.
- Dropping a stitch at the start seems like the worst thing you've ever done. Until you realize messed up stitches are probably just a clever type of knitting you haven't learned yet. Go you!
- You finally finish your first scarf -- and carry it around for three weeks until someone teaches you to bind off. But pretty soon, you can do it with your eyes shut. Until you leave your stitching and come back to realize you haven't got a clue if it's a knit or purl row. Hint: If the side facing you looks like seed pearls, you purl.
- Still, if you have to leave your project in the middle of a row, only the knitting gods know which direction you were going in.
- One more row is always a lie.
- But blocking hides a multitude of sins.
- You've lost count of the number of TV programs you started but didn't finish because you were so busy you forgot it was on.
- You now know what a stash is, and yours is guilty hidden from your partner. You will honestly use that neon pink and yellow flecked chunky alpaca one day.
- Eyelash yarn looks like the most fun when you're not a knitter. Then you realize it's disgusting.
- Knitting on a plane is the perfect way to pass the time, but you know you should always take cheap bamboo needles and a spare piece of wool to transfer your project onto in case airport security nix them.
- The network of stitching friends you've made is your favorite thing about knitting.
- Even if there's too much chatting to actually get anything done.
- So, this year, you promise yourself you're going to start holiday knitting in July. And you're still in a panicked rush at the start of Advent.
- Knitting your boyfriend anything will make you wonder if it wouldn't just be easier to end that relationship. With the time it takes, it really is easier to buy a sweater.
- But nothing will make you prouder than knowing you made the one you're wearing.



***** CALENDAR OF EVENTS *****

Join the "First Mondays" Club for an evening of knitting, crocheting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate in Greensburg, PA. Next meeting dates are Monday evenings **November 7, 2016** and **December 5, 2016**; **6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**. All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!

***** "KNITTING IN THE AFTERNOON" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesdays, November 8, 2016 and December 13, 2016; 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (rsvp please) *****

Join us for stitching & lots of fun conversation. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome! Please call ahead to rsvp in case there has been a scheduling change...

***** SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT November 12, 2016 and December 10, 2016; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; (rsvp please) *****

Come sit 'n knit! We do much more than just knit -- we share conversations, ideas, favorite patterns, and knitting tricks. Join us at Kathy's Kreations for fellowship and stitching for projects purchased here. Open to all skill levels...

***** FUN FRIDAYS, November 21, 2016 and December 16, 2016; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm *****

Come in for the yarn and leave with friendships! Join our "knitting community" for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Whether this is your first project or your hundredth, this is the place for you to learn, grow and enjoy being with other knitters and crocheters just like you. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. All skill levels welcome!

***** NOVEMBER KNIT-ALONG (KAL) *****

Stop by on Fridays in November from **10 am - 2 pm** (rsvp please) to work on our newest KALs with your stitching friends to cheer you on. This month, we feature the "Changing Light" scarf or shawl by Jennifer Weissman -- as well as WIPs from previous KALs. Not working on the KALs? You are still welcome to come -- simply bring any knit or crochet project purchased at Kathy's Kreations and join the group (free!). Follow us on "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry group November 2016 thread...

***** KNITTING CLASS WITH MARIAN LECH *****

Need to sharpen your lace knitting skills? Join instructor Marian Lech on **Saturday, November 5, 2016**, from **1:00 pm - 4:00 pm** for the how-to's for the beautiful and drapery openwork lace scarf, "Sugar Plum Dreams" (shown upper left). The design is suitable for advanced beginner skill level and beyond. The pattern directions include both written text and matching charts. Perfect for those who want to venture in the world of charts, yet have the word back-up to help along! Student materials include 552 yards lace or fingering weight yarn, US size 4 knitting needles, and stitch markers. Registration is \$25.50 (for instruction & mandatory pattern).

Private knitting and crocheting lessons available by appointment. Learning to knit or correcting mistakes are not the only reasons to have a one-on-one tutoring lesson. Learn new techniques like lace or short rows, or get help with a pattern before starting -- our instructors can do it all! Additional group classes are forming -- ask us for details. We would be glad to do a specific class topic for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for more than 36 years !

May you find joy and rewards in fiber, and may your projects provide you with hours of relaxation, satisfaction and contentment. We are grateful for the special relationship we share with you. Happy Thanksgiving!
KEEP STITCHING~ Kathy