



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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OCTOBER 2011 UPDATE



Dear Stitchers,

For knitters and crocheters, fall not only means a new season, but new projects, new yarns, and sweater weather! We've got the style you want and the quality you need to create perfect knits to keep you warm all fall. This season, we're seeing simple shapes and stitchwork. Our current collection of yarns and patterns represents all kinds of knitting and crocheting -- rustic colorwork, eye-catching textures and traditional cables. We've made sure to offer plenty of projects that are fun and easy to knit -- pieces that make the most of basic stitches and fresh embellishments.

Feminine flourishes like ruffles and collars add just the right amount of detail to accessories and sweaters. Chunky yarns render knitted stitches into sculptured elements, particularly cables. There are lace patterns worked in a bolder chunky gauge, as well as traditional triangular shawls and scarfleets worked with one luxurious skein of hand-dyed sock and fingering weight fibers. Fibers are a big part of the appeal of fall knitting and crocheting. Alpaca, merino wool, mohair and all manner of fuzzy yarns return to our shelves for fall knits. And you may be surprised to find that novelty yarns are making a comeback.

With a little bit of something for everyone, our Fall 2011 collection is another winner!

"OCTOBER IS MOHAIR MONTH"

**All regularly-priced mohair and mohair-blend yarns
in stock are 10% off throughout October 2011**

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday

Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open

Open Sunday, October 2, 2011, 12 noon - 4 pm and

Sunday, October 16, 2011 12 noon - 5 pm for Fort Ligonier Days

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX

Private knitting, crochet, spinning, and drop spindle
instructions are available by appointment

Finishing services & gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier

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*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Another change of season is upon us and it's one we all wait for: Fall! Here in the Laurel Highlands, the next few months lend themselves to knitting and crocheting. Perhaps it's the end of summer's lazy days or the shorter days and longer nights keeping us indoors, but something compels us to pick up our needles and hooks. Here are some of the outstanding products and brilliant ideas now on our shelves...

It's always exciting to announce the premiere of a new magazine, particularly when it is truly a special issue. *Knit wear* (\$14.99, shown upper left) explores simple handknits for the thoughtful knitter -- sleek, visually simple pieces built with basic stitches. At the same time, this magazine draws on tricks like unusual constructions, gauge elements, and fabric manipulations. The finished pieces are conceptual, elegant, and modern -- interesting to knit, easy to wear. These 25 elemental knits will help you simplify your life and get inspired. And there is the perfect sweater -- one sweater in 4 custom ways...

Can the holidays be far away? 'Tis the season to be knitting, when we start thinking about our gift list, decking the halls and planning festive holiday looks. *Knit Simple Holiday 2011* (\$6.99) offers many ideas for spicing up your wardrobe and your home. We love the cute mini-sweater and mini-mitten adornments for packages and wreaths. Knitting for babies is always a joy and two precious layettes are featured -- a textured cable version and a lovely lace ensemble, both in the fashion colors of the season. If you've ever believed in fairies, have a look at "Flora & Fairies", magical little sprites to charm believers and non-believers alike...

What do the Gobi Desert and the Andes have in common? They are both locations featured in the latest special issue of *Knitting Traditions* (\$14.99)! That's right, *Knitting Traditions* Fall 2011 explores patterns and stories from all over the world, bringing the extraordinary history of knitting to life. Grab your needles, pack your yarn, and get ready for one of the greatest global tours. Over 35 patterns (including Scottish Kilt hose) with inspiring and informative companion stories that frame the projects with cultural and historical context, focusing on techniques from lace and openwork to heel treatments of the 16th century...

New patterns have arrived from CHURCHMOUSE DESIGNS (\$5.50 each). The "Felted Shetland Beret" is a simple beret resulting from a gauge accident! This beret is lightweight, lofty, not too warm, and we bet you won't make just one. The "Beaded Beret" makes the most of one precious skein of fingering merino. A little touch of beading "gilds the lily". Easy-peasy knitting plus a shape that's timeless and flattering. This little beret makes the perfect gift...

HOLIDAY GIFTS (\$14.99) is filled with 30+ gift ideas and exquisite knits. Discover socks, shawls, hats, and mitts. Included in the "make it rustic" log cabin knits is Kathy's e-reader cover (shown lower right). About this design, INTERWEAVE says, "You can't retreat to the cabin for the holidays without a fully-loaded e-reader -- first, work up a NOVEL SLEEVE in tweedy cotton and lace". Rustic elegance meets comfort and luxury; Kathy's low-tech hand-knit meets high-tech wonder...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Lace and openwork are HUGE fashion trends, which are expected to continue right into spring and summer, so lace projects are a future-forward investment. Hottest projects right now are triangular shawls and scarflets. Our favorite is LISA KNITS AC-026 "Autumn Leaves Shawlette" (\$5.00, shown right). Openwork eyelet chevrons border a stockinette shoulder section with central eyelet increases. This machine washable one-skein wonder was worked from MADELINE TOSH "Tosh Sock" in colorway magnolia leaf (\$27.50, 100 grams, 100% superwash merino wool, 395 yards, CYCA #2). You need to see it to appreciate the magnificent color and stunning drape...



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Lisa Knits

Warm Silver Gray and Camel are the neutrals of choice this season -- pair sweater jackets or outerwear in these shades with bright accessories! Rich burgundies combine with pops of bright fuchsia and deep teal. Other directional colors are bamboo (yellow), emberglow (orange), honeysuckle (pink), phlox (violet), cedar (sage green), coffee liquer, nougat (beige), orchid hush, and quarry (blue-green). Leatrice Eiseman, Executive Director of Pantone, tells us that the art of color for Fall 2011 is sensible and spirited: "Designers take a painterly approach to fall 2011 by artfully combining bright colors with staple neutrals, reminiscent of how an artist would construct a stunning work of art". How does this apply to knitting and crocheting? In our fabulous new fibers, of course! We've received shipments of gorgeous hand dyed yarns from MADELINE TOSH, DREAM IN COLOR, and LORNA'S LACES. MADELINE TOSH "Pashmina" (\$31.50, 360 yards, merino/silk/cashmere sport weight, CYCA #3) is a fiber-lover's delight with a "charred" color palette for shawls, mitts and hats. LORNA'S LACES "Solemate" (\$27.95, 100 grams, 425 yards, 55% superwash merino / 15% nylon / 30% outlast, CYCA #2) is here in shades ranging from watercolor to "zombie bbq". This revolutionary "climate-controlled" new fiber will keep you cool in summer and warm in winter...

For fans of last year's popular BERROCO "Borealis" chunky weight yarn (new colors now in stock), meet its worsted weight counterpart, "Boboli" (\$15.50, 100 grams, 206 yards, 42% wool / 35% acrylic / 23% viscose, CYCA #4). Each shade is composed of an enchanting mix of shining colors, reminiscent of Impressionistic watercolors. A glimmering wool blend boasting a subtle shine and soft hand, this yarn lends cool-weather projects an air of sophisticated originality...

Every little girl could use another topper over a T-shirt or a pair of leggings to make an outfit complete. New from MADDY KIDS is #ML156 "Girls' Frillin' Top" (\$5.50). With slightly flared shaping and a lower edge frill, this DK weight top will create layers of outfits. #ML166 "Girl's Smart Topper" (\$5.50) is an easy-to-knit worsted weight pattern in double moss stitch with slightly-flared shaping and cap sleeves. Both are written for sizes 2 - 10...



New from KALAMAZOO KNITS is "Spring Fling" (\$6.50). Knit up a lightweight sock that works great with tennis shoes, Birkies or around the house as slippers (it is time to put away the flip flops). Ignore everything you know about knitting a traditional sock and enjoy this unusual construction. "Rufflicious" (\$6.50, shown lower left) are girlie-girl sock booties for the baby princess, to knit in fingering or DK weights...

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Kalamazoo Knits



*** MAKE HEADS TURN ***

The clever and fun designs of *Weekend Hats* (\$22.95, soft cover, shown left) will have knitters everywhere rejoicing in year-round hat style! This charming and fun-loving collection includes 25 variations on caps, berets, cloches, hats, toques, tams and snoods ranging from feminine to sporty. These unique designs makes knitting a picture-perfect hat easy to do, offering the best in contemporary style and patterns. Keep your noggin cozy with this all-in-one resource for creating want-to-wear knitted caps...

*** OH, BABY! ***

Kathy's perennial favorite article in *The Country Register* shopping guide is "The Dropped Stitch" written by Sharon Greve. Sharon has given us permission to re-print her thoughtful presentation on knitting for babies, which follows. Thanks, Sharon!

"No knitting project is more joyous than one made for baby. Baby projects, except for full-size blankets, do not require that much work, time, or yarn. Toys, mobiles, and stuffed animals require small yardages of soft, washable yarn scraps. They work up quickly and accurate gauge is usually not so important. However, toys should be small enough for baby's grasp but big enough not to be swallowed. Polyfiberfil is a good stuffing choice over cotton (kapok) as it doesn't attract insects or bugs. Facial features should be embroidered, not glued felt or sewn on.

Because of the small size, baby items are great for the beginning knitter as well as the busy knitter. For the knitter who has never knitted a sweater, it is a great exercise in sweater construction before tackling an adult size sweater. Before you know it, the project is completed and you've learned sweater techniques in miniature scale. You might even create an heirloom, such as a Christening gown. Moms welcome garments beyond newborn and onesie sizes. It's OK to fashion 3 month, 6 month, or even 12 month clothing. Better to be too big than too small, keeping in mind that babies grow very fast.

YARN. Always select very soft, washable yarns. New mothers need easy care items. Cottons, eco-friendly organic fibers, acrylics, merino wools, or rich alpaca blends work well. Families with a history of wool allergies usually do not have a problem with wool blend fibers. It's best to avoid fuzzy angora or mohair yarns because these fibers shed easily which can result in fuzz caught in baby's nose, eyes, and mouth. The stitch pattern should create a soft and cuddly fabric, not a stiff and bulky mass. Include a skein label band or a note with fiber content, laundry, and care instructions. No one wants their gift to become a doll or teddy bear item after the first wash and dry.

COLOR. Traditional baby colors are pinks for girls and blues for boys. Pastel colors have been used for pre-birth girls when the baby's sex is unknown. However, babies are attracted to bright colors such as red, hot pink, lime green, and orange which stimulate the senses. Baby toys exhibit bright primary colors. Whites, creams, and muted greens, blues and purples are soothing and calming to baby. Consider the parents' color choices, also, if possible.

EMBELLISHMENT. Obviously, bead and button embellishments can pose a choking hazard. They should be secured tightly. Intarsia, duplicate stitch, or appliques add colorful designs. The baby should be seen first and then the knitting. It's best to avoid large, open lacey work, no matter how beautiful, as baby's toes and fingers can become entangled and the eyelets snag easily on stroller edges. Tightly woven stitches are safer.

Don't have a baby to knit for? Babies seem to be everywhere. Check out your own neighborhood or circle of friends who may be expecting a child or a grandchild. Consider the many charities, hospitals, police departments, etc. in your local community that welcome baby items. Your local yarn store is an excellent resource as well as charities listed online.

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KATHY'S NOTE: Donations for baby items are being collected here for distribution to area agencies. Please ask to see our newest pattern collection of Churchmouse Designs Wee Ones and Kalamzoo Knits for inspiration.

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

- Fall Knitting Workshop hosted by Kathy Zimmerman and Carol Smith; September 30 - October 2, 2011; Ligonier Ramada Inn
- Bedford Springs Knittreat; November 3-6, 2011; Bedford Springs Resort & Spa; Bedford, PA; mini-market vendor featuring CLAUDIA HANDPAINTED YARNS and teaching "Button, Button", a technique workshop on buttonhole methods, buttonhole placement, "ribbing rules" and closure options. For information, call 412-963-7030 or e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com

*** ANOTHER FIRST FOR KATHY -- A PODCAST INTERVIEW! ***

What's a podcast? It's like a radio interview over the internet. Kathy will be interviewed about her design process on Tuesday October 18, 2011, at 2 pm by phone. The show is available at journalgazette.net/craftyliving. There is a new podcast every Sunday. You can access it from *iTunes*. It's called Math4Knitters - Journal Gazette. It's completely free to subscribe through *iTunes*. Let Kathy know what you think...

*** TIPS AND TECHNIQUES FROM OUR CLASSES AND EVENTS ***

At Kathy's "Take It From The Top" class 9/24/11, Aimee Levenson shared her tip for keeping track of the beginning of the round when working a project circularly. Aimee adds a small coilless safety pin to the marker at the beginning of the round as a reminder...

At the "Essential Skills" Workshop 9/18/11, instructor, author and knitter extraordinaire Sally Melville recommended blocking gauge swatches by laundering with EUCALAN (on our shelves). Sally also prefers the cable cast on method for a decorative, tight, firm edging...

At Knitter's Day Out, Kathy's "All About V-Necks" class 9/10/11, Kathy recommends that the back neck of a garment should be slightly shaped to conform to the back of the wearer's neck, for a better fit. The back neck should also be narrow enough to provide stability and prevent it from "riding up". As a general rule, the deeper the V-neckline, the narrower the width of the back neck should be. Don't forget to pick up the same number of stitches on each side of the V-neck and have them evenly spaced to match identically...

At Stitches Midwest 8/27/11, at the "From the Pages of Knitter's Magazine" Preview for issue K103, editor Rick Mondragon recommends this finishing tip: try if possible to join a new ball of yarn at the seam. Always work your ends into the seams if you can. Leave a short tail when seaming, then block the garment. Trim the ends from seaming after blocking your sweater. Rick says they won't pop back out



*** FORT LIGONIER DAYS ***

Dates for Fort Ligonier Days are Friday through Sunday, October 14 - 16, 2011. Early bird merchant sidewalk sales begin Thursday, October 13th. In addition to our annual yarn sale, we will feature a variety of children's and adults' hats, scarves, mitts and accessories for purchase, including a bevy of pumpkin hats and Patty Menta's stone & stud tee shirts...



*** A CAP FOR A KID ***

Once again, Kathy's Kreations will be collecting donation of cold weather items for our "Caring Tree", with items to be donated to area food banks and charities. Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS has generously shared this pattern with us. This pattern is provided free of charge and is authorized for non-professional, individual home use only. Please donate caps made from this pattern to a charity such as our "Caring Tree" or Caps for Kids.

WORKED FLAT AND SEAMED

#10 needles (or size needed to obtain gauge),
approx. 100 yds Aran weight yarn, tapestry needle.

Gauge = 3.5 sts / 1"

Loosely cast on 62 sts.

Rows 1, 3 & 5 (ws): K2, *p2, k2; rep from * to end.

Rows 2 & 4: P2, *k2, p2; rep from * to end.

Row 6, 7 & 8: Knit.

Row 9: Purl.

Rows 10: Knit.

Row 11: Purl.

Rows 12-23: Repeat rows 6-11 two more times.

Row 24: K1, *k13, k2tog; rep from * to last st, k1. 58 sts

Row 25: K1, *k12, k2tog; rep from * to last st, k1. 54 sts

Row 26: K1, *k11, k2tog; rep from * to last st, k1. 50 sts

Row 27: P1, *p10, p2tog; rep from * to last st, p1. 46 sts

Row 28: K1, *k9, k2tog; rep from * to last st, k1. 42 sts

Row 29: P1, *p8, p2tog; rep from * to last st, p1. 38 sts

Row 30: K1, *k7, k2tog; rep from * to last st, k1. 34 sts

Row 31: K1, *k6, k2tog; rep from * to last st, k1. 30 sts

Row 32: K1, *k5, k2tog; rep from * to last st, k1. 26 sts

Row 33: P1, *p4, p2tog; rep from * to last st, p1. 22 sts

Row 34: K1, *k3, k2tog; rep from * to last st, k1. 18 sts

Row 35: P1, *p2, p2tog; rep from * to last st, p1. 14 sts

Row 36: K1, *k1, k2tog; rep from * to last st, k1. 10 sts

Cut yarn and draw tail through remaining sts. Fasten off and sew side seam. Attach tassel if desired.

WORKED IN THE ROUND

#10 – 16" circular needle, #10 double pointed needles (or size needed to obtain gauge),
approx. 100 yds Aran weight yarn, tapestry needle.

Gauge = 3.5 sts / 1"

Loosely cast on 60 sts. Join, being careful to not twist.

Rnds 1-5: *K2, p2; rep from * to end.

Rnds 6, 8, 9, 10 & 11: Knit.

Rnd 7: Purl.

Rnds 12-23: Repeat rnds 6-11 two more times.

Note: Change to double pointed needles as necessary.

Rnd 24: *K13, k2tog; rep from * to end. 56 sts

Rnd 25: *P2tog, p12; rep from * to end. 52 sts

Rnd 26: *K11, k2tog; rep from * to end. 48 sts

Rnd 27: *K2tog, k10; rep from * to end. 44 sts

Rnd 28: *K9, k2tog; rep from * to end. 40 sts

Rnd 29: *K2tog, k8; rep from * to end. 36 sts

Rnd 30: *K7, k2tog; rep from * to end. 32 sts

Rnd 31: *P2tog, p6; rep from * to end. 28 sts

Rnd 32: *K5, k2tog; rep from * to end. 24 sts

Rnd 33: *K2tog, k4; rep from * to end. 20 sts

Rnd 34: *K3, k2tog; rep from * to end. 16 sts

Rnd 35: *K2tog, k2; rep from * to end. 12 sts

Rnd 36: *K1, k2tog; rep from * to end. 8 sts

Cut yarn and draw tail through remaining sts. Fasten off. Attach tassel if desired.

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*** WESTMORELAND COUNTY FAIR ***

Congratulations to the winners of our 2011 Westmoreland County Fair Design-A-Scarf contest, all from Latrobe, PA: 1st place Barbara McIntire; 2nd place Nancy Premoshis; 3rd place Sara Amorose. Barbara also received "Best of Show" honors for her "Guernsey Gals Pullover" designed by our own Kathy and appearing in *The Best of Knitter's: Celtics and Arans*. We are delighted that Barbara shared her prize-winning blue ribbon design pattern with us. Thanks, Barbara!

RED HOT CABLES SCARF

Finished scarf approx. 7" wide, by 55" long

Materials: 400 yards Brown Sheep Nature Spun worsted weight; US size 6 needles,
or size needed to achieve gauge; 1 cable needle, if desired

Gauge: 5 sts. Per inch over moss stitch

Finished scarf approx. 7" wide, by 55" long

Stitch Patterns:

Cable patt.: over 10 sts.

Row 1: (RS) P2, BC6, p2

Rows 2, 4, 6, 8: K2, p6, k2

Rows 3, 5, 7: P2, k6, p2

Moss st. patt. (over even number of sts)

Row 1: (RS) K1, *p1, k1*, end k1

Row 2: P1, *p1, k1*, end p1

Row 3: K1, *k1, p1*, end k1

Row 4: P1, *k1, p1*, end p1

Abbreviations: k - knit; p- purl

BC6 - slip next 3 stitches onto a cable needle, hold at back. Knit the next 3 stitches, then knit the 3 stitches from the cable needle onto the right needle.

Directions

Cast on 46 sts.

Rib Patt Row 1: (WS) K2, *p2, k2*. Repeat between *'s, end k2.

Row 2: (RS) K4, *p2, k2*, end k2.

Repeat these 2 rows for a total of 6 rows of ribbing.

Set-up row: (WS) K2, (p6, k2) twice, p10, (k2, p6) twice, k2.

Next row: K2, work Row 1 on each moss stitch and cable patterns in the following order: moss stitch over next 6 stitches, cable pattern over 10 sts, moss stitch over 10 stitches, cable pattern over next 10 stitches, moss stitch over 6 stitches, end k2.

Knit first and last 2 stitches of each row. Work the 8 rows of cable pattern, and 4 rows of moss stitch pattern, repeating until desired length is achieved, having just finished row 1 of both patterns. Repeat set-up row.

Work a total of 4 rows of rib pattern. Bind off loosely in rib pattern.

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*** FIRST ANNUAL DAY OF YARN & A DISCOUNT FOR YOU ***

Friday, October 14, 2011, is the first annual **Day of Yarn** -- the perfect opportunity to "declare your love of yarn", according to the Craft Yarn Council, the day's sponsor. Every knitter / crocheter wearing a handknit / crocheted garment or accessory to Kathy's Creations and mentioning that it is **Yarn Day** will receive a 10% discount on all regularly-priced yarn purchases (no limit, one day only!)





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

Join the "First Mondays" Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA. Meeting dates are **Monday, October 3, 2011, and Monday, November 7, 2011, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**. Come knit!

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, October 11, 2011, and November 8, 2011; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) *****

Join Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild members for an evening of knitting & lots of fun conversation with experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead to make sure we are meeting...

***** FUN FRIDAYS, October 21, 2011 and November 18, 2011; 10 am - 2 pm *****

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

***** LAUREL HIGHLANDS KNITTING GUILD MEETING; October 27, 2011, 7 - 9 pm *****

All knitters are cordially invited to the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild meeting on Thursday evening, October 27, 2011, 7 pm - 9 pm, in Room A of the Ligonier Town Hall on the Diamond. You may attend twice as a guest before joining the group. Please bring along worsted weight yarn and corresponding knitting needles, to learn the coin stitch from instructor Karen McCullough...

***** "MIDNIGHT SPLENDOR" LACE EVENING BAG with instructor Jean Wise *****

Saturday, November 12, 2011, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; \$25.00 registration fee* plus pattern and materials; for intermediate skill level knitters

Jean Wise combined a traditional Shetland lace pattern and edging for this spectacular clutch-style evening bag. Learn Jean's how-to's for the techniques and finishing tips, plus pointers for lining the bag. Class supplies include 125 yards KRAEMER Silk & Sterling yarn (available for purchase at class time), US 5 knitting needles (straight or circular), basic supplies (stitch markers, row counter, note-taking materials, 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 as a store credit. 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, crocheting, felting, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. We would be glad to do a specific class for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 31 years !

Be inspired this month by the change of seasons and the beauty that surrounds you. October 2011 has 5 Saturdays, 5 Sundays, and 5 Mondays -- this happens once in 823 years. Enjoy the extra stitching time to create something beautiful with your own hands. KEEP KNITTING & CROCHETING!
Kathy