



KATHY'S KREATIONS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2004

August 2004 Update

UPDATE

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Dear Knitters,

It's always "hands on" time at Kathy's Kreations (literally!). As summer begins to drift into fall, a new collection of exciting yarns in vibrant colors and subtle textures is arriving. We've got the pattern support, knitting tools and "know-how" to go along with our fabulous fibers, to help you enjoy your own personal knitting experience to the fullest.

Transitional projects will keep you knitting so right, right now -- casual looks to love now, love later and wear whenever you want. Sweater dressing is always smart -- we've got kick-back pullovers, back to school cardies, as well as elegant scarves and shawls. This season's "must have" is the poncho in all shapes and sizes -- plan to "wrap it up" for fall 2004. It's all in the details this season -- fashion-savvy embellishments & special trims will take your sweater wardrobe all the way to fabulous. With so many choices, we know you will probably have reasons to knit more than just one project, so we're celebrating summer's end with a great promotion,

"HAPPINESS IS MORE YARN"

During the month of August 2004,
make a one-time purchase of 2000 yards or more of our
regularly-priced yarns in stock
& receive a 10% discount!

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 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
Fax 724-238-5585
e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com





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

INTERWEAVE KNITS Fall 2004 (\$6.99) gives knitters even more reasons to knit (as if we needed more reasons to knit!). In her editorial, Pam Allen sagely states: "As knitters, fall is the time when we come home to our craft ... With the return of brisk mornings and the downward drift of curling leaves, we come inside to the yarns of substance and the projects that often require our concentrated attention". This issue is packed with ideas and inspiration to welcome back the pleasure and the season of knitting.

We are pleased that Kathy's "Rhapsody In Tweed" pullover (shown above left), knit from TAHKI "Donegal Tweed", is featured in this beautiful collection. KNITS says, "In her Aran-inspired textured pullover, Kathy Zimmerman has combined wide and narrow open cables with mini-rib cables, playing them in a rhythmic pattern against a reverse stockinette stitch background. The rustic tweed adds a gray undertone to the mix".

This is a terrific issue in true KNITS style, from the Classic Slant Cardigan to the Woven Tartan Jacket to the Touch Me Chenille Cardigan to the Floral Felted Bag. For kids, check out the "Dancin' Daisies Pullover" from DEVON YARNS "Julia", which we've recently added to our shelves. And, just for fun, be sure to check out the "76 Trombones Hat", the "Funky Chicken Pillows" and the "Pooling Colors Scarf" (knitting has never been so much fun!). And, our favorite technical series, *Beyond The Basics*, has an excellent article on grafting...

What's new and what's hot this season? BERROCO YARNS Creative Director Margery Winter had this to say at BERROCO's website: "BERROCO takes the lead as America's premier handknitting yarn company with its exuberant new collection of fancy yarns that speak volumes about the Hollywood trend of glitz, glam and 'bling bling'. New and reborn knitters look to BERROCO for quality, shine and color. Our design team travelled the globe to put together the most exciting yarns and patterns ever. BERROCO outshines the rest with a pattern collection of exciting books that burst at the seams with must-knits for sweater girls. Today's fashion yarns and styles are deliciously baroque, decorative and ornate". Thanks for the update, Margery. We are thrilled to introduce the fall/winter 2004-05 pattern books (\$10.95 each):

- #227 Kids Stuff -- once again, the popular "1 sweater 3 ways" format brings 21 options for knitting. This time, it's knitting for kids with coats, blankets, pullovers, ponchos (shown lower right), jumpers and a dress. Very cute...
- #228 Sweater Girls -- 19 great fashion knits include something for women of every age and every style. The projects include coats, jackets, pullovers, vests, shrugs, tanks and more for any occasion. Nicely done...
- #229 Adornments -- 27 pieces to adorn and decorate body and home. Scarves, shawls, skirts, dresses, ponchos, pillows, and a shag throw till appeal to the novice as well as the seasoned knitter. Great gift ideas...
- #230 My First Project, Volume 3 -- easy pieces for the beginner knitter with step-by-step instructions that are clearly written. Nothing is left to the imagination. There are no abbreviations to decode. The 8 simply elegant styles look so fashion perfect that no one will guess they are beginner projects. Let's knit!



Many visiting knitters find their way to Kathy's Kreation from our listing in *The Sixth Annual Knitter's Magazine Shopfinder* (\$5.95, paperback), now in stock...



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

We are often asked, "What's new?" Unquestionably, ponchos are making THE big fashion statement for fall. Our most popular pattern is LISA KNITS "Poncho Pizazz" (\$4.00, shown left), which we introduced last month. Lisa's model, knit from SKACEL COLLECTION "Unikat" is now on display in our "wrap it up" window theme designed by Tracey Earhart. Another new poncho pattern arrival is KNITTING PURE & SIMPLE's "Women's Poncho" top-down pattern 246 (\$4.25), with an optional hood...

Every now and then, a truly special yarn comes onto our shelves, and we are so pleased that it has begun to arrive. DEVON YARNS "Julia" (\$7.25, 50% wool / 25% mohair / 25% alpaca, 50 grams, 93 yards), designed by reknowned fiber artist & designer Kristin Nicholas, was created for knitters by knitters. KATHY'S KREATIONS is one of just a few quality yarn shops in the country invited to offer this exclusive yarn. It will be available in 24 gorgeous colors, all of which look terrific in colorwork or textured designs. It knits to worsted weight gauge at 20 sts = 4" on US size 7 needles. With a yarn like "Julia", it's a great time to be a knitter...

Novelty yarns continue to make a strong showing, for shawls, ponchos, throws and scarves. New from FFF is "Haiti" (\$10.25, 50% tactel / 50% nylon, 50 grams, 82 yards), a multi-color tape yarn with teeny little eyelashes, suggested gauge 3.5 sts / inch on US size 10.5 needles. "Moirra" (\$11.25, 50 grams, 68% nylon / 20% acrylic / 12% mohair) knits at a suggested gauge of 3 sts / inch on US 10.5 needles. It is a delightful combination of "paper"-like slubs hanging off on a fuzzy mohair base. FFF --- One yarn... a thousand sensations... very knittable...

Trends will come and go, but we always have a need for tweed -- we love tweed yarns! New shades of ROWAN Rowanspun DK, ROWAN Yorkshire Tweed Chunky, and TAHKI "Donegal Tweed" have arrived for your knitting enjoyment...

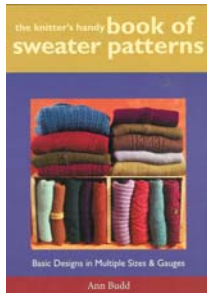
New JHB INTERNATIONAL buttons have arrived with a fall flavor (squirrels, acorns, leaves)-- these are now on display in our "Camp Knit 'n Purl" window designed by Tracey Earhart. Only our Tracey could design a campsite complete with a yarn campfire!

The 10th Anniversary issue of FAMILY CIRCLE EASY KNITTING (\$5.99) has sweaters to flip for and perfect ponchos that are easy to make, and fun to wear. There are great ideas for kids' wear (we love the button flowers) and snazzy extras to do in an evening, as well as some funky crochet. There are lots of modern takes on retro faves...

FIBER TRENDS introduces three new designs:

- "Bright Chapeau" #CH42 (\$4.50, shown lower right), a felted hat sized for children and adults, which will work up easily in any sport weight yarn that will felt.
- "The Sheep Tote" AC-64X (\$5.25) uses wet & dry needle felting techniques, and is knit from bulky weight wool that will felt easily and firmly. What could be better than a wooly sheep or even a whole flock of sheep to decorate a great knitting bag or everyday carryall? Choose from the small or large size and add as many pockets as you wish.
- "Foot Notes" #AC-68 (\$4.75), a pattern that turns socks into mini-canvases to create and send "footnotes". Use the design given or modify to support your school, express your patriotism or create an individualized message for a special person. The special messages can hide in shoes or peek proudly through sandals. These can be worked with self-striping yarns like SCHACHENMAYR NOMOTTA "Regia 4" combined with a solid like "Fortissima Socka".





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

Knitting one-of-a-kind sweaters just got easier. With *The Knitter's Handy Book of Sweater Patterns* by Ann Budd (\$26.95, spiral-bound), you can choose a style, a size, and a gauge, and you're on your way. The six most popular sweater constructions (drop shoulder, modified drop shoulder, set-in sleeve, saddle shoulder, raglan and seamless yoke) are presented with easy-to-follow, charted instructions. Each style comes in fifteen sizes from 26" to 54" chest circumference and in five gauges. If you're counting, that's 450 patterns. And, if you add the cardigan and neckline variations, edgings, waist shapings, and color & stitch patterns, you've got more than 1,500 design options! Detailed instructions for 18 sweaters are included along with an illustrated glossary of techniques. If knitting sweaters is your passion, this is your definitive resource, and now there is a companion "must have" leaflet...

One of our most frequently-asked questions here at Kathy's Creations is, "How much yarn do I need for my project?" *The Knitter's Handy Guide to Yarn Requirements* (\$5.95, laminated foldover) contains specific yarn yardage requirements for 8 of the most popular knitted items -- mittens, gloves, socks, scarves, tams, hats, sweaters, and vests. Based on the projects in *The Knitter's Handy Book of Sweater Patterns*, the yardages given here are for sizes ranging from baby or toddler to large adult, and for multiple gauges appropriate for fine to bulky yarns. Keep this leaflet in your knitting bag and use it as a reference for all basic patterns and buying yarn on speculation. No longer will you need to guess how much yarn to purchase for a bulky hat for a child, a pair of fingering weight socks for yourself, or a worsted-weight sweater for a friend (who might appreciate his or her own leaflet, too!)

The Crocheter's Companion (\$19.95, spiral-bound) by Nancy Brown is a pocket-sized reference for crochet lovers designed to fit into a project bag or basket, lie flat for easy use, and provide the essential information that crocheters need to have at their fingertips. Thread and hook charts, abbreviations, stitch instructions with clear illustrations, and lots of helpful hints demystify this popular art. From basic to advanced stitches, finishing techniques, and special touches, to time-honored favorite patterns, motifs and medallions, this is an indispensable resource for serious and beginner crocheters alike...

The two newest titles in ROWAN YARNS Miss Bea Collections are "Miss Bea's Band" and "Miss Bea's Seaside" (\$11.95 each, softcover) by Louisa Harding. If you haven't discovered this series yet, they are charming books containing 10 children's sweater patterns sized for ages one to four years. Accompanying the patterns is a story and colorful illustrations for your child to enjoy...

If you don't know how to knit, *The Knitting Directory* (\$19.95, spiral-bound) will show you how, with clear, large-scale diagrams and easy-to-follow steps. With divided sections on basic knit stitches, advanced work, adding decorative detail, and finishing garments like a professional, there's plenty here for both experienced and inexperienced knitters to enjoy...

***** TRAVEL & KNITTING ZEN SELECTIONS FROM OUR NEW BOOK BONANZA *****

Looking for stylish, classic sweaters comfortable enough to spend the weekend in? ROWAN *Denim People* (\$21.95, softcover) features 30 jeans-friendly designs for men & women, all from cotton "Denim" yarn...

"The Little Box of Sweaters" and "The Little Box of Scarves" (\$19.95 each) are clever portable collections of twenty 5.25" X 8.25" laminated project cards featuring a color photo, size & materials, information, step-by-step directions, and a schematic drawing. "Sweaters" includes pullovers, tunics, shells, tees, and cardigans easy enough for any confident beginner. "Scarves" includes traditional-to-trendy, easy-to-advanced projects for men & women. Choose from a textured triangle, "mock mink", and double eyelets and cables. Both are the ultimate in convenience for travelling -- just slip in your knitting bag and go!

As knitters know, the craft is much more than the finished project. By looking at the parallels between knitting and meditation -- how simple, repetitive actions can lead to a greater connection with the world -- *Mindful Knitting* (\$12.95, soft cover) by Tara Jon Manning shows you how to enrich your life by combining the two. With 10 original and enjoyable knitting projects, -- each complimented by a meditation exercise -- you'll develop a deeper sense of calm, involvement, & joy in your knitting practice...

In *Confessions of a Knitting Heretic* (\$18.99, spiral bound), Annie Modesitt offers tips, techniques, projects and reflections from an unorthodox handknit designer and teacher. This book opens the knitting world to new and experienced knitters alike, to energize them to take chances with their knitting...

For those who knit, *Beyond Stitch & Bitch* (\$12.95, paperback) will remind you why you love this handicraft. Knitting is not only a craft, but a hobby, a source of joy, a way to give, and a place to find peace. This is a collection of essays that explores the emotional and spiritual experiences common to those who knit. Intertwined are knitting patterns with easy how-to steps and photographs...

Explore and experiment with color, stitches, and embellishment in *25 Cushions to Knit* (\$24.95, spiral-bound), a stunning collection of 25 unique handknit cushion projects by Debbie Abrahams. Traditional stitches of cable, moss stitch, and lace are combined with color and textural embellishment, including beading and embroidery to beautifully accent any home. The book features a variety of styles -- from Modern Minimalist to Shaker, exotic patterns to children's designs -- to complement any décor...

There are many how-to books on the market, but one of Kathy's favorites for seaming and grafting is ONDORI *Basic Knit* (\$9.95, paperback). The illustrations alone make this little gem a treasure you'll use again and again...

Funky Knitting (\$14.95, paperback, shown right) is the first in a series of fun craft books by HAPPY HOUSE. Created in 1995, HAPPY HOUSE is a bright young Australian company that continues to infect the world with their contagious fun approach to knitting -- have some fab fun making cool beanies, scarves, knitted bags, and felt icon badges for embellishment. Great for teens and cool knitters of any age...



***** AUGUST SCARF OF THE MONTH *****

Here's a lightweight scarf for cooler evenings ahead, to wear with your favorite blazer or jeans jacket.

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS: 5.5" X 54"

MATERIALS: ROWAN YARNS "Wool Cotton" (50 grams, 123 yards, 50% merino wool / 50% cotton) two balls; US size 5 knitting needles OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE

GAUGE: 6 sts / 8 rows = 1" after blocking

CHECKED RIB PATTERN (multiple of 8 + 2, shown upper right)

Row 1 (WS): P2; *K6, P2; repeat from * to end.

Row 2: K2; *P6, K2; repeat from * to end.

Row 3: K2; *K2, P2, K4; repeat from * to end.

Row 4: P2; *P2, K2, P4; repeat from * to end.

Repeat rows 1 - 4 for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 34 sts. Work in checked rib pattern until piece measures approx. 54", end with row 4 of pattern. Bind off all sts in pattern. Weave in all ends. Block lightly to measurements. Please feel free to share this pattern with your knitting friends or use for charity knitting. Please do not use any portion of this pattern for commercial purposes or sell scarves made from this pattern without permission of the designer. Kathy Zimmerman © 2004



***** SCARF SAVVY *****

Michelle Hoke shared this information about how best to flatter your features with a scarf. This information is based on information which originally appeared in FIRST magazine, 3/8/04 issue. Thanks, Michelle!

For a square face: a scarf tied in a knot distracts from a broad jawline and softens angular features

For a heart-shaped face: a scarf wrapped around the neck with one side draped over the shoulder adds volume below the chin, making a narrow jawline appear wider and a broad forehead look proportional

For an elongated face: a scarf work snugly around the neck and tucked into a coat adds flattering width to the sides of an elongated face

For a round face: a scarf wrapped once around the neck with both ends hanging loosely in front of the body draws attention downward and makes a round face appear longer and slimmer

***** ENVELOPE EVENING BAG *****

This pattern was shared with us by Joanne Walthour -- thanks, Joanne!

MATERIALS: KNITTING FEVER / NORO "Daria" multi-cord three hanks; size US 4 knitting needles straight & double-pointed (dpns); size F crochet hook; lining fabric

GAUGE: not critical

NOTE: bag is knit sideways with flap & body knit in one piece.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 63 sts. Work in stockinette stitch for 8". Bind off.

Gussets: pick up & knit 23 sts along body edge. Knit 4 rows. Bind off. Repeat at other side of body.

Finishing: Sew gussets to bottom and back of body. Crochet one row of single crochet around flap and inside top of bag. Work one row of reverse single crochet around flap and inside top of bag. Make chain of 7 sts. Fold in half and attach to top of gusset. Sew sides of lining fabric to make lining and stitch inside the body of the bag.

Strap: With dpns, Cast on 3 sts. Work in I-cord for 60". Thread cord through chains at top of gusset and slip stitch ends together.

***** KNIT FOR THE CURE *****

The designers, instructors and "Girl Friday"s at Kathy's Kreation are coming together this fall for a very special project which we call "Knit For The Cure". This is part of an outreach movement within the National Needlework Association (TNA) to become more involved with their local health care communities in addressing the complex medical and psychosocial needs facing cancer patients. This program was designed to raise awareness and support for cancer research and education, while increasing appreciation and involvement in the needlearts. We will be fighting a variety of cancers with our own hands by knitting chemo scarves and garments in honor of special women in our lives. Directions and materials will be made available for sale, with profits designated for the specific cancer-related charity of each knitter. Stay tuned for more details next month, and our window display during October, breast cancer awareness month. We will have free chemo hat patterns available upon request to customers during October and will serve as an ongoing collection center for chemo hats, which will be donated to area hospital cancer centers.

***** KEY FALL FASHION TRENDS *****

This information is from Kathy Lacher, Creative Director at Classic Elite Yarns. Look for more information from Kathy about color forecast next month as the fall season begins to emerge...

"The very most excellent news is that Fall 2004 is predicted to be the season of the SWEATER! It will be the 'most important item in our wardrobes'. For handknitters, it is pretty much always the season of the sweater, but the fashion industry is more fickle. For fall 2004, we want to feel protected, cozy, and comfortable. Yarns and sweaters play the starring role in helping us feel that way. Fashion is usually a balancing act and this fall will be no exception. The two main opposite poles will be a sleek, modern, technical look and a warm, ethnic, handmade look, and the many variations between the two.

In yarn trends, classic and traditional looks are transformed and modernized. The comfortable and the practical must also be beautiful, have a soft hand and not harm the environment. Technology becomes invisible as it helps to produce beautiful yarns with great hand, high performance and easy care. Synthetics mix with natural fibers and new finishes to make featherweights, fluffy, felted. For fall, we will have elegance, casualness, ethnic looks, craft art looks, and lace influence. The fiber mills played with their yarns by combining fibers, colors, and plies to create gorgeous, inventive, soft, and fabulously colored yarns, making it hard to choose just a few ones this season.

- Fur/"stuff hanging off": this is the largest group featuring multi-color, space-dyed, glittery, sparkly, crinkly, furry, soft, rich, matte & bumpy
- Tweeds: also a large group which are speckled, marled, printed, rustic, subtle, fine gauge, blended fibers, lightweight and lofty in traditional, autumnal and bright colors
- Marls: bold colorations (color with black), rich neutrals, colors with natural, both chunky and fine gauge
- Multi-color with bumps; Glitter and sparkle
- Thick & thin: solid, space-dyed, self-stripping; combinations of all above
- Chainettes: solid, heather, tweeds, tonal, cashmere, brushed, camo
- Brushed: airy, floating, boucles, lace stitches
- Chenille
- Basic-looking: blends of wool / silk or wool/ cotton or other luxury or semi-luxury which looks basic, but isn't



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

Lisa Carnahan will be available for private knitting lessons on the following days: Monday, August 2, 2004 and Monday, August 16, 2004. Please call ahead to reserve your appointment time...



**“Nancy’s Funky Patchwork Cardigan” with instructor Nancy Premoshis
Saturday, September 18, 2004, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; class fee \$20.00 plus supplies;
pre-payment requested upon registration**

Modular knitting and patchwork techniques are popping up in all the latest magazines. Learn Nancy P’s how-to’s for making a custom-fit cardigan styled just for you! The patches are knitted together as you go to get a patchwork look without sewing them together. Based on the creative colorwork techniques of Valentina Devine, this class includes a pattern for you own unique creation of rectangles and strips with clever embellishments, including a holiday sweater. You will need approximately 1700 yards of worsted weight yarn in a variety of coordinating colors.

“Not A Celebrity Scarf” with instructor Nancy Caldwell Saturday, August 21, 2004 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; class fee \$10.00 plus supplies; pre-payment requested upon registration

This modular-knit triangular scarf, designed by Susan Shabo with SKACEL COLLECTION “Unikat” yarn, ia already a big hit. It’s easier to knit than it appears -- learn how to work short rows with self-striping yarns for a beautiful scarf. Let’s knit!

“Ponchos 101” with instructor Nancy Caldwell Saturday, September 11, 2004 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; class fee \$10.00 plus supplies; pre-payment requested upon registration

Ponchos are THE hot accessory for the upcoming fall season. Learn the basic how-to’s with a variety of neckline and embellishment options, for children and adults’. Temporary cast-on technique will also be included.

Private knitting lessons are also available by appointment during business hours. Students may pre-register for these events by call Kathy’s Kreations at 724-238-9320 or e-mail at kathy@kathys-kreations.com Class supplies are not included in the cost of registration. No refunds will be given unless cancellation is made 48 hours prior to class, or in the event of inclement weather. Classes without a minimum of four students may be subject to cancellation or postponement at the discretion of the instructor.

***** FUN FRIDAYS *****

Escape for a knitting break — it’s **Fun Friday with instructor Joyce Bischoff!** Please join us in our classroom area on **Friday, August 27, 2004, and Friday, September 10, 2004 from 10 am - 2 pm**, for a fun-filled day of knitting comradery. Joyce will be here to answer your questions and provide expert knitting assistance. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack or lunch if you wish, a folding chair if you’ve got one, and your sense of humor.

Knitting is one of the activities we bring into our lives that is fun and functional. For many of us, it is also a stress reducer as well as an outlet for our creativity. Remember to take along a knitting project for late summer travels, baseball games, and any other windows of knitting opportunity. You’ll be surprised how quickly those stitches will add up. KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy