



KATHY'S KREATIONS  
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DECEMBER 2009 UPDATE



Dear Knitters & Stitchers,

Nothing seems to give quite as much pleasure as the act of giving itself. Give the gift of handmade! It's Stitcher's Wonderland here at Kathy's Kreations, and, as the holidays draw closer, we've got a new sampling of smaller, "last minute" projects to inspire you. This year especially, it seems that more of our customers are saying "Happy Holidays" and "Merry Christmas" with hand-made gifts. Whether you're thinking of a quick one-skein scarf or a heirloom quality Christmas stocking, our shelves are filled with ideas you might want to try -- and give -- to appreciative loved ones. Creating magical moments is one of the greatest joys of Christmas. Nothing justifies your effort like the moment the happy recipient gushes over the fact that you took the time to create a thoughtful, one-of-a-kind gift just for them, and recognizes the tiny bit of you that is in every stitch.

While many of our customers make sweaters and cardigans, more knitters and crocheters seem to be displaying their skills on smaller canvases like cozy hats, mitts, wraps, socks, and home decor. While our busy lives are part of the reason for this trend, accessories design is getting more interesting, available and creative. If your needles are itching to try a new technique, what better way to experiment than with a small project? Don't resist the temptation to make something for yourself along the way. There's plenty of comfort and joy to be had in giving a gift to yourself, too! Say it with stitches this holiday season, and,

**"HAVE A WOOL YULE!"**

**10% off all regularly-priced 100% wool yarns  
in stock during December 2009**

**Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday  
12 noon - 4:00 pm Sundays through December 20  
We will be closed December 25, December 27, and January 1**

Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open  
We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX

Private knitting, crochet, spinning and rug punch instructions  
are available by appointment  
Finishing services available  
**Gift certificates available**

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier  
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\*\*\* GREAT NEW STUFF \*\*\*

What better time for an accessories collection than during the season when you want to knit something quickly as a gift or have a hat, scarf, or mitts ready when the snow flies? Throughout the pages of INTERWEAVE KNITS *Accessories Special Issue 2009* (\$14.99), you'll find the perfect choices to meet this need. INTERWEAVE has compiled a group of projects from their archives -- requested favorites and ones we're sure you'll enjoy making.

In this issue's intro, INTERWEAVE says, "Many of us at Interweave are hardcore knitters. In fact, the Interweave 'lineage' includes a number of knitters who, through the pages of our magazines and books, have helped you learn good solid techniques, improved your skills, and talented designers who have inspired you through their projects". We are thrilled that one of Kathy's designs is included in the fancy scarves collection. "Forbes Forest" (shown upper left) first appeared in the book *Scarf Style*, and features bobbles, curving zigzags, and cablework. About this project, INTERWEAVE states, "Luxuriate in the making of this scarf. The ingenuity will challenge you, but you'll learn more knitting techniques with each stitch".

This super-sized issue is jam-packed with 60+ projects from simple to complex scarves, plain & patterned hats, sock patterns for everyone, quick finishing tips, small projects for small budgets, and how to get started with socks. Top techniques for great results -- don't we all need a little of this at this hectic time of year?

In the winter 2009 issue of INTERWEAVE KNITS (\$6.99), editor Eunny Jang writes, "Winter is a great time to knit. Whole books have been written about the soul warming that knitting can do, of course, but I'm talking about the practical, pragmatic warmth a lapful of yarn can give you ... When cold days drive us inside, there's real pleasure to be gained from an idea that is, at heart, very simple: Make something with your hands and then use it to make life better, more beautiful, more comfortable". This installment focuses on projects and interesting articles to keep you cozy all winter long. There are 24 knits for winter warmth, layered rich textures, folk styles and a super tutorial on reversible cables. As Eunny says, " There's enough inspiration to send you off on a dozen knitting journeys of your own ... Keep learning new things, keep experimenting, keep knitting. And stay warm". The pages of this magazine will help you do all that and more. And don't forget to check out Kollage Yarns full-page ad on page 5 featuring Kathy's Indigo Cardigan design, knit in KOLLAGE "Glisten" yarn...

We've told you time and again that we love gadgets. We have assembled quite a selection of stocking stuffer ideas from LANTERN MOON, including the rosewood cable needle set (3 sizes ridged short dpns in tapestry holder shown lower right, \$9.50), teeny crochet hook for correcting pesky stitches in tapestry holder (\$7.50), Baaabs sheepy scissor holder (\$16.50), crocheted flower tape measures (\$9.95), crocheted mini-sweater key rings (\$3.95) and crocheted wine bottle toppers (\$9.95 in choice of tree, snowman, or snowflakes on blue, red, or green background). More favorite stuffers include sampler bottles of Eucalan (\$5.00, great to include with a handknit gift along with washing instructions), Itty Bitty scissors (\$6.50), "must-have" highlighter tape (\$2.95, in yellow, purple, pink, blue & green) and the most requested gift on every knitter's list this year, the hit Knitting Daily Workshop DVD, "Classic to Creative Knit Cables with Kathy Zimmerman" (\$19.95). If all else fails, one of our gift certificates will fit nicely into any stitcher's stocking...



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

The best way to honor traditions is to make them your own, with hints of vintage charm, and memories in the making. If home is where we want to be for the holidays, then what could be a better complement than a unique gift for hearth and home? Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS introduces "Deck The Halls!" pat AC-019 (\$4.00), ornaments that can be worked flat or in the round. The basic ornament is worked in a self-striping sock yarn like our new WISDOM YARNS "Marathon Socks North Pole" (\$15.95, 100 grams, 437 yards, 72% superwash wool / 24% nylon / 4% metallic thread, CYCA yarn classification 1), that adds a bit of glitz. Be creative and work the openwork one or cabled one with a solid color. Wouldn't these look great on your mantel or tree?



© 2009  
Lisa Knits

New yarns are arriving daily. Easy-care machine washable blends include BERROCCO baby spot prints "Comfort DK" (\$3.75, 50 grams, 178 yards, 50% super fine nylon / 50% super fine acrylic, CYCA yarn classification 3), very soft and machine washable, and BERROCO "Vintage Wool" (\$6.50, 100 grams, 217 yards; 50% acrylic / 40% wool / 10% nylon; CYCA yarn classification 4), a great choice for accessories and kids wear...

LORNA'S LACES makes "pretty string". We are delighted to add these gorgeous hand-painted yarns to our shelves -- you need to see the colors in person to appreciate their beauty. Lace knitters will find elegance with "Helen's Lace" (\$57.50, 4 oz., 1250 yards, 50% silk / 50% wool, CYCA yarn classification 1). Free pattern for the "Free and Easy Pie Wedge Shawl" is included on the label, and takes only one glorious skein. "Shepherd Worsted" (\$19.50, 225 yards, 100% superwash wool, 225 yards, CYCA yarn classification 4) is another beauty. We've got "Shepherd Sock" in Bee Stripe black 'n gold (\$11.95, 215 yards, 80% superwash wool / 20% nylon, CYCA yarn classification 1)...

FILATURA DI CROSA "Flying" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 82 yards, 37% alpaca / 37% wool / 25% acrylic / 1% polyamide, CYCA yarn classification 5) is true to its name -- this yarn has been flying off our shelves! The tight loop boucle texture and soft yet lofty feel make it perfect for accessories. Ask about the "Eternity Scarf" pattern for this yarn, the "neck's best thing" in trendy looks for town or country...

We've got a thing for tweeds and ROWAN "Silky Tweed" (\$12.50, 50 grams, 137 yards, 80% lambswool / 20% silk) is rustic looking with a soft hand. Also new is ASLANTRENDS "Artesanal" (\$6.25, 100 grams, 218 yards, 40% cotton / 30% alpaca / 30% polyamide, CYCA yarn classification 4), a feel-good basic tweed...



New patterns from MOUNTAIN COLORS (\$5.50 each) include a bevy of crochet items: basic mittens, easy socks, Helmsville beanie & scarf, and crocheted spiral winter hat. The most requested pattern from our recent trunk show is "Mountain Moss Vest", now in stock (\$5.50, shown at left). Other new patterns include CLASSIC ELITE "Curvy Knits Cambridge" (\$9.95), sized from medium through 4XL to flatter a variety of figures and TAHKI / STACY CHARLES "Modern Living" (\$14.99) with sophisticated, high-fashion knits that are always in style...

© 2009  
Mountain Colors



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

Just in -- books that will help you knit, crochet, and spin with confidence! In the introduction of her newly released book, *Easy Knit Squares* (shown left, \$8.95, paperbound), designer Lisa Carnahan states, "The knit stitch. It's a simple maneuver of yarn and needles. Yet with this one stitch and slight variations, many exquisite patterns can be created.

Work it along with the purl stitch (the reverse of the knit stitch) and beautiful textures result. Knit two stitches together, and then wrap the yarn around the needle, and a lace pattern emerges. Reposition the knit stitches and a cable begins. In this book, these and other techniques will be used to create 20 different squares. From the very simple to the challenging, you will enjoy working through these squares as you create a one-of-a-kind afghan. I hope this book serves as an inspiration for you to further explore the vast possibilities of the simple knit stitch". Several of our customers are working this beautiful sampler afghan as a way to learn new skills while creating a keepsake heirloom. We are so proud to have Lisa as an instructor on our staff -- congratulations on a project well done!

If you are intimidated by "knit-speak", learn to overcome your fears and make your knitting life easier and more successful. *Fearless Knitting Workbook* (\$24.95, spiral bound) explores the principles behind knitting techniques while offering exercises to get your hands (and mind) comfortable with the unfamiliar. Work through more than 24 swatch projects that get you acquainted with concepts and methods. Once you've gained an appreciation and understanding of how yarn becomes fabric, no knitting pattern can stand in your way!

With *Beyond Basic Knitting* (\$19.95, spiral bound), you can master more advanced knitting techniques with step-by-step instructions. Learn how to knit on the bias, create flawless necklines, incorporate beads and more creative techniques to take your knitting skills to the next level...

Tangled up by your latest knitting project? In *The Knitting Answer Book* (\$14.95, hard cover), veteran knitter Margaret Radcliffe will help you solve any knitting mystery you may encounter, from needle sizes and yarn weights to dropped stitches, tight ribbing, chart reading, and curling edges. Hundreds of detailed illustrations make this the one reference you'll want to keep tucked inside your knitting bag...

Going loopy over your latest crochet project? *The Crochet Answer Book* (\$14.95, hard cover) by Edie Eckman is the perfect little handbook to answer all your hooking dilemmas. From selecting the right hook and yarn for the project, to getting started in the round or flat, working around corners and other tricky spots, and venturing into more complex patterns, every situation is anticipated and offers clear, complete answers, along with easy-to-follow diagrams. With this book in your bag, the chain never stops...

Finally, a quick reference guide to spinning for spinners! *The Spinner's Companion* (\$19.95, spiral bound) is the resource tool to turn to when you have questions about spinning. It's all here -- wool characteristics charts, Bradford count and micron count charts, how to wash wool, how to splice a drive band, how to prevent repetitive motion injuries, and much, much more...

\*\*\* CHRISTMAS IN LIGONIER \*\*\*

Get away from the hectic pace of the holidays and visit our many quaint specialty shops. From **Thanksgiving to Christmas**, enjoy free two hours Saturday parking and festive Christmas music throughout the town. Make visiting Ligonier a holiday tradition!

The **Town-wide Open House** on **Sunday, December 6, 2009; 12 noon - 5:00 pm** features over 40 participating merchants (including us!) and outdoor choral presentations -- like a step back in time.

The **Festival of Lights** featuring more than 50 decorated trees and wreaths will be held **Saturday, December 6, 2009 through Sunday, December 13, 2009** at the Town Hall Community Room. Please look for our folk art wreath, "Christmas Traditions", with ornaments designed by Tracey Earhart and worked in Oxford Rug Punch by Nancy Caldwell. Tracey is the area's only certified Oxford Rug Punch instructor. If you are inspired to learn how more about Oxford Rug Punch and Tracey's ornaments, please ask us for details about upcoming beginner and intermediate classes (dates to be announced after the holidays).

\*\*\* KNITTING TIP \*\*\*

When knitting mittens, it is sometimes difficult to avoid small holes when picking up stitches at the base of the thumb. Try picking up a few extra stitches at both ends of the thumb opening. Decrease on the first row or two to get back to the correct stitch count. If any gaps remain, snug them up by weaving on the inside of the mitten.

\*\*\* IN FASHION \*\*\*

In the Wall Street Journal 11/8/09 was a "Style" column article, "Can The Snood Save Christmas?" The snood, a "lavish play on layering", is a cross between a scarf and a hood, work over the head. Often worn over a chunky knit or tailored jacket, the trend emerged on the fall runways of big-name designers and has now gone mainstream. Ask us for snood patterns and other hat & neck warmer ideas, as well as our hot new accessory, the "Eternity Scarf" (aka infinity loop or "circle scarf")...

\*\*\* TWIN RIB SCARF \*\*\*

Eleanor Swogger gave us the idea for this versatile, but cozy traditional winter warmer -- the simple pattern stitch makes it perfect for guys or gals. Thanks, Eleanor!  
MATERIALS: KRAEMER YARNS "Perfection" 3 balls (approx. 500 yards worsted weight );  
US size 8 knitting needles

SIZE: 7" X 63" (sized for adult's unisex)

GAUGE: 5.5 sts / 7 rows = 1" in pattern stitch

TWIN RIB PATTERN (multiple of 6 + 3)

Row 1 (right side): K 3; \*P3, K3; repeat from \* across row.

Row 2: K1; \*P1, K1; repeat from \* across row.

Repeat these 2 rows for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 39 sts.

Set-up Row (wrong side): K1; \*P1, K1; repeat from \* across.

Beginning with row 1, work in twin rib pattern until piece measures 63" long or desired length, end with a right side row. Bind off all sts in pattern. Weave in ends. Fringe, if desired.



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\*\*\* KNITTED ELFIN HAT \*\*\*

Thanks to our many customers who filled the branches of our "We Care" tree with 114 handknit and crocheted "gifts". The hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves were donated to the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild Caps For Kids project, and were distributed to area food banks. Your hats not only helped the guild achieve their goal of over 500 items (actual total 568 items), but will keep needy area children warm this winter. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

The hat which travelled the greatest distance was handknit by LHKG member Sheila Ryle of Maidenhead, Berks, England (shown lower right). Sheila has kindly shared her pattern. We think it would look terrific in team colors, especially black & gold. Thank you, Sheila!

**MATERIALS:** 92 meters / 100 yards Aran weight yarn (CYCA yarn classification 4); knitting needles US 9 (5.0 mm); stitch markers

**SIZE:** Child's medium. Sheila suggests adjusting the yarn and needle size for a larger hat. Adjust length by working more pattern repeats. Adjust width by working more panel repeats. For child's size, Sheila cast on 6 panels / 120 stitches; for larger size, you may use 7 panels / 140 stitches, etc.

**GAUGE:** 18 sts / 34 rows = 10 cm (4") in garter stitch

**NOTE:** Instructions for one panel are given; repeat instructions for as many panels as needed. Sheila recommends using stitch markers to separate each panel because the garter stitch makes it difficult to see the crown shaping. Slip markers on each row.

**INSTRUCTION FOR ONE PANEL**

Cast on 20 sts.

Rows 1 & 2: Knit.

Row 3: Knit twice (Knit into the front & back) of the first 2 sts, K4, K2tog twice, skp (slip 1, knit 1, pass the slipped stitch over the knit 1) twice, K4, knit twice into the next 2 stitches.

Row 4: Knit.

Repeat rows 3 & 4 twelve more times (28 rows total from beginning)

Shape crown:

Row 29: Knit twice into the first st, K5, K2tog twice, skp twice, K5, Knit twice into the next stitch: 18 sts.

Row 30 and every even-numbered row: Knit.

Row 31: Knit twice into the first st, K4, K2tog twice, skp twice, K4, Knit twice into the next stitch: 16 sts.

Row 33: Knit twice into the first st, K3, K2tog twice, skp twice, K3, Knit twice into the next stitch: 14 sts.

Row 35: Knit twice into the first st, K2, K2tog twice, skp twice, K2, Knit twice into the next st: 12 sts.

Row 37: Knit 2, K2tog twice, skp twice, K2: 8 sts.

Row 39: K2tog twice, skp twice: 4 sts.

Row 41: K2tog twice: 2 sts.

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail. With tapestry needle, thread the tail through the remaining stitches and sew the seam.

Optional: Sheila worked an I-cord topknot on her hat; a braid or small pompom would also be wonderful embellishments.





\*\*\* THE GIFT \*\*\*

This article, written by Sharon Greve in her column "The Dropped Stitch", originally appeared in *The Country Register*, November-December 2009. It is re-printed with the gracious permission of Sharon Greve. Please do not re-print without permission. Thanks, Sharon, and Happy Holidays! You may reach Sharon at [k1p1greve@yahoo.com](mailto:k1p1greve@yahoo.com)

"Winston Churchill once stated, 'We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.' No purchased gift will equal the thoughtfulness of a handmade item. As the major gift-giving season approaches, knitters everywhere are busy filling their gift list with warm, colorful, functional presents knitted with love in every stitch.

This joyous season holds happy memories of holidays past and related knitting projects. What greater opportunity than now, as you knit away on holiday gifts, to reflect upon when and how the gift of knitting was given to you. Your teacher may have been a mother, grandmother, or other close relative for those who were fortunate to be introduced to knitting in those early childhood years. For others, teachers are often college roommates, friends, or yarn shop knitters. Some, determined to learn but without a teacher available, are self-taught. Why not take a moment between stitches to thank your teacher? If that's not possible, offer a quiet moment of gratitude for he / she will always be remembered for the wonderful gift of knitting.

Knitting is suitable for all skill levels because it is a "can-do" skill that has survived for centuries. The learning and challenges are non-stop; a knitter never learns it all. Treat yourself with the gift of a knitting class once the busy season is past. Better yet, join a Knitting Guild to raise skill levels and bring new friends into your life. But -- most important of all -- make an effort to teach someone to knit. Check with senior centers, yarn shops, after-school programs, children's / youth groups, neighbors and friends (the list is endless) for the sharing opportunity. Make a New Year's resolution to share the gift that keeps on giving. The fun is in the giving!"

Teach me to knit, so that I may feel the joy of fiber.  
Teach me to knit, so I may enjoy exciting colors.  
Teach me to knit, so I may challenge mind and hands.  
Teach me to knit, so I may be inspired to freely create.  
Teach me to knit, so I may improve self-confidence, stitch by stitch.  
Teach me to knit, so I may release stress.  
Teach me to knit, so I may attain contentment.  
Teach me to knit, so I may acquire patience.  
Teach me to knit, so I may have a lifetime skill.  
Teach me to knit, so I may give loving gifts.  
Teach me to knit, so I may teach others.  
Teach me to knit, so I may always remember you.

\*\*\* 6th ANNUAL PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL \*\*\*

The premier tri-state Knit & Crochet Festival will be held Saturday, February 13, and Sunday, February 14, 2010, at the Four Points Sheraton in Mars, PA near I-79 & the Cranberry exit of the PA Turnpike. Kathy's Kreations will be in the same large double space as last year, in booths 2 & 3 near the entrance. For more information, visit [www.pghknitandcrochet.com](http://www.pghknitandcrochet.com) or call (412) 963-7030.



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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Monday, January 4, 2010; 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore Cafe, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. There will be no gathering in December because of holiday activities. **PLEASE NOTE:** this group will be meeting at Panera Bread Greengate on the first Monday of each month **beginning Monday, February 1, 2010, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.**

**\*\*\* "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, December 8, 2009, and January 12, 2010, 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 FRIDAY, December 11, 2009, and January 15, 2010; 10 am - 2 pm with instructor Joyce Bischoff; rsvp (limited registration) \*\*\***

All knitters & crocheters welcome! Joyce 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.

**\*\*\* MOUNTAIN COLORS TRUNK SHOW \*\*\***

Over 20 fantastic, colorful items on display **now through December 5, 2009**, all knit & crocheted with luxurious fibers from Mountain Colors gorgeous hand-painted yarns...

**\*\*\* UPCOMING SKILL-BUILDING CLASSES (class project samples on display) \*\*\***

**"Bedford Springs Shawl" Saturday, January 9, 2010, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm with instructor Kathy Zimmerman; registration fee \$25.00 \***

Kathy will teach three edgings -- a ruffle, a frill, and a scallop -- used in her original shawl design taught at the Omni Bedford Springs Knittreat last month. This design won't even be introduced to knit shop owners until the TNNA Needlework Market in late January, so you'll be among the first to see and knit this wonderful wrap! Student class supplies include worsted weight yarn and US size 9 needles.

\*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](mailto:kathy@kathys-kreations.com)

**Private knitting, crochet, felting, Oxford rug punch, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for almost 30 years!**

Blessings to you and your loved ones! We are grateful for the special relationship we share with each of you. Family, friends, helping others and the true meaning of Christmas are the important things of the season. Cherish them all as you celebrate.

KEEP KNITTING & STITCHING ! Kathy