

KATHY'S KREATIONS
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JANUARY 2006 UPDATE

Dear Knitters,

December brought with it the promise of a cold winter, and with rising heating costs, we will be needing a litany of woolies and comfy handknits to keep warm -- slippers, socks, lap throws, scarves, neckwarmers, mittens, hats and sweaters.

One of our cheeriest customers, Mary Shonk (who often manages to brighten our day), told us, "My father always used to say, 'If you're cold, put on a sweater". Mary, now the creative mother of seven herself, says to her own children, "If you're cold, put on a sweater". 'Nuff said? Bundle Up!

Here's a hot sale for a cold January:

"IT'S SWEATER WEATHER"

All regularly-priced bulky gauge yarns in stock
(3.5 sts / inch or less)
are 10% off during January 2006

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 *****

Have you noticed all the House of Chanel-influenced jackets and houndstooth fabrics in ready-to-wear clothing? This trend has been translated into knitting! At the core of KNITTER'S MAGAZINE Winter 2005 (\$5.95) is Coco Chanel, probably the most famous designer label. Her influence is in each section of this issue -- her creativity, her alluring sense of style, her couture influences on the fashion world. The designs in this collection aren't high fashion, but can be fun with a little black dress or when worn with jeans and a turtleneck. Create your own houndstooth pocketbook or a sweet little tote in a slip-stitch trellis pattern inspired by Chanel signature quilted bag (knitted bags are the *latest rage*).

KNITTER'S rounds out its selections with a "Confident Classics" feature. We are pleased that three of Kathy's designs are included, and here's what KNITTER'S says: **Fields And Streams** (ladies' V-neck cardigan with body shaping, inspired by a vintage pattern stitch, updated with colorplay for a contemporary ethnic feel, shown upper left) -- "Take mottled yarns and work them into horizontal stripes. The colors of blue, green and sand with hints of red remind us of a landscape of wheat fields, rivers and trees". This design is worked with CLASSIC ELITE "Renaissance" yarn, in stock... **Colorado River** (mens' /unisex crewneck pullover in DK weight, shown lower right) --- "Any guy will welcome this cashmere blend sweater. The ribbed texture and V-yoke cable are handsome details". This is Kathy's interpretation of the layered look, without the layering...

Copper Plait (ladies' cabled pullover, perfect for date night dinner-and-a-movie, shown on page 8)--- "Braids, bobbles, and ribs meander down the center of this woman's pullover. The copper tweed is a warm and flattering color for most skin types". This design is worked in ROWAN Scottish Tweed, the new name for Rowan Yarns with Harris Tweed, also in stock...

When one looks at a hand-dyed hank of COLINETTE YARNS, it's easy to understand why so many consider these yarns artistic masterpieces. We're sure you'll be inspired by the magnificent colorways, and offer three new easy to knit, easy to wear booklets with sweater ideas for COLINETTE YARNS:

Art To Wear (\$10.95) -- 15 designs including jackets, pullovers, throws and ponchos inspired by paintings, sculptures and textiles

LifeStyles (\$10.95) -- cozy ladies' jackets and pullovers perfect for "Sweater Weather"

Rock Gods & Movie Stars (\$19.00) -- inspired by Hollywood film and music legends (we love the Vivian Leigh poncho in "Tagliatelli" tape)

JORDANA PAIGE Knitter's Purse (\$82.00) & Knitter's Messenger Bag (\$89.00) are the latest must-have for serious knitters! These ingenious bags enable knitters and crocheters to take their daily necessities with them. Whether commuting, at work, or watching the football playoffs, these large purses provide an organized space for tools to enjoy any opportunities to fill the pauses in life with your favorite pasttime...

JO SHARP "Eclectic" (\$17.50, softcover) is an exotic collection of handknitting designs for women, featuring Jo Sharp's range of luxury yarns, in rich oriental hues. The floral kimono is particularly elegant, as well as the mulberry ribbed vest (easy, clever use of basic ribs) and a box stitch pattern short jacket that caught our eye...



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

LISA KNITS is making a big splash! "Ripple Stitch Pullovers" (\$4.00, SW-017, shown right) can be worked in self-stripping or self-texturing yarns, or create your own color palette in your choice of solid colors. These garments are worked with Aran weight yarn, and directions are given for 8 sizes, from 24" to 55" chest measurements. Our ladies' shop model was knit from NASHUA HANDKNITS "Wooly Stripes" (\$9.50, 100% wool, 50 grams, 88 yards) and the child's version from K1, C2 "Cotonade" (\$4.95, 100% cotton, 50 grams, 83 yards)...



Always on the cutting edge, SCHOELLER + STAHL is at it again with an amazing new sock yarn, "Fortissima/Socka Disco 3" (\$17.95, 100 grams, 460 yards, fingering weight). This great new sock yarn is self-stripping, filled with glitz (yes, glitz!), and available in six awe-inspiring colorways. One ball will do a pair of socks, so why wait?

ROWAN "Little Treasures" (\$15.50) features 16 designs by Lois Daykin. These are darling designs for toddlers and pre-schoolers. Our pick is the "Bruno" Hat, a delightful ear flap hat that is perfect for little boys...

Four new patterns have arrived from FIBER TRENDS:

Ribbons Baby Blanket CH44X (\$4.75) -- These simple Quaker Rib blankets were inspired by Early American crib coverlets. They are knit in the round from the center out, with an optional raised petal center motif. A great group project to welcome a newborn since each ribbon can be worked in a different color by a different knitter. Directions given for three weights of yarn.

Wooly Sheep Sweater 458X (\$5.50) -- Knit this playful wooly sweater and show the world you love sheep. In worsted weight with easy shaping, the sheep is knit from a chart.

Felt Birdhouse Ornaments 227 (\$4.75) -- the December holidays may be over, but these cheerful decorations can be made in a variety of colors to fit the seasons. Ask to see Tracey's sample now on display

A Shrug of A Jacket AC-75 (\$4.95) -- Made in a fur-like novelty yarn or light-as-air mohair, this shrug-like jacket is the perfect topper for that strappy dress. Knit in one piece from the neck down in garter stitch, there are only two very short seams to sew. Perfect for new knitters wanting to go beyond scarves, but not yet ready for sweaters...

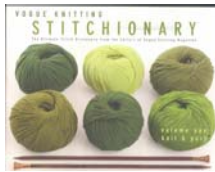
We know our customers love knitting gadgets as much as we do. Be sure to check out the new locking Jumbo Stitch Markers from BOYE (\$8.75) for marking your spot in a pattern and keeping track of stitches & shapings...

In the Winter 2005 INTERWEAVE KNITS (\$6.99), editor Pam Allen poses the question, "What do knitters want?" It's Pam guess that knitters want to be better at what they do.

We think you'll find plenty of inspiration in this issue, featuring Kathy's "Ribbed Diamonds" unisex cardigan (shown right). About this design, KNITS says, "Kathy Zimmerman loves to tweak traditional cable patterns to come up with contemporary twists. In this case, the vertical-and-diagonal grid of the communications tower she passes every day on her way to work suggested the placement of the classic rib and Celtic diamond motifs in this quintessential, oversized man's V-neck cardigan. The result is a comfortable sweater that is perfect for any time, any "wear"...



photo
© Interweave Knits



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

Vogue Knitting, the most trusted authority on knitting, proudly presents the ultimate stitch dictionary every knitter has been waiting for! Brimming with more than 250 stitch patterns, "Stitchionary" (\$29.95, hardcover, shown upper left) offers every imaginable combination of the knit and purl stitch in this first volume of the series. Inside you will find four exhaustive chapters arranged thematically -- Knit & Purl, Lace, Travelling, and Unusual. Whether you are seeking to brush up on the basics or enter into new knitting frontiers, this book is your new "must-have" reference...

Favorite Mittens (\$21.95, softcover), by folklorist and mitten expert Robin Hansen, is a compilation of the best and most popular handsome, well-fitting, extra warm mittens for hands large and small from her previous books. A whole new generation of knitters are enjoying making these distinctive hand coverings and are keeping folk traditions alive in their own knitting at the same time...

Are you the kind of knitter who loves reading, too? *Needled to Death* (\$6.99, paperback), is an intriguing knitting mystery with twists and turns to unravel, including a delicious recipe and knitting pattern...

Going loopy over your latest crochet project? *The Crochet Answer Book* (\$12.95, softcover) by Edie Eckman is here to answer all your hooking dilemmas. From selecting the right hook and yarn for the project, to working around corners and other tricky spots, getting started in the round or flat, and venturing into more complex patterns, this reference is a handy companion. With this book in your bag, the chain never stops...

Winter Scarf Collection (\$11.95, spiral bound) is a booklet of 6 quick-to-knit winter scarves in bulky yarns (on sale this month!). Our favorite is the bright checks short scarf, a circular knit. Larger and smaller houndstooth check patterns, so fashionable this season, on opposite sides of the scarf add yet more visual interest...

Make it your New Year's resolution to teach someone to knit during 2006. When the winter winds start to blow, teach your kids or grandkids to knit a snazzy Spaghetti Scarf -- they'll love it! *The Knit-It Kit* (\$16.95) is a well-packaged kit including two colors of yarn, kid-sized circular needles, detailed instructions and ten pattern cards for the coolest knitted accessories for ages 8 and up...

Learn to Knit (\$14.95, softcover) is knitting made easy for beginners. This book will help the novice quickly master the basics of knitting, from casting on to creating neckbands and buttonholes, then start on a great project using this comprehensive illustrated course which includes continental knitting and working with double-pointed needles...

Knit Now (\$12.99) is also a kids'-friendly book with a clever zippered pouch including needles, a yarn needle and yarn to start knitting now...

The "Yarn Girls" are upping the ante on quick-to-knit, sassy looks in *Beyond the Basics* (\$30.00, hardcover). With the same friendly encouragement and big-sister know-how found in their previous books, the authors are taking new knitters to the next level of stitch wizardry. Companion fold-out format notecards (\$13.00) are perfect for writing a quick note to a friend or sharing a knitting tip...

***** PEG'S PATTERNS *****

These patterns were shared by Marcy Jenkins. Marcy's mom, Peg, a knitting friend and long-time customer, passed away last summer. These vintage patterns were found among Peg's yarn stash and charity knitting projects. We thought Peg would like us to pass them along. They were hand-typed with no original source indicated, just the basic recipe and we've listed an approximate yardage and gauges.

KNITTED BABY BLANKET IN STRIPS

SIZE: Approx. 40" square

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn, approx. 1000 yards (can be assorted colors); US size 8 knitting needles; crochet hook size G

GAUGE: approx. 4.75 sts = 1"; not critical (each strip approx. 4" wide)

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 19 sts.

All rows: yarn over (yo), K9, K2tog; K8.

Repeat this pattern stitch, working in one color or changing colors every 36 rows. Work to 40" or desired length. Work 10 strips.

Assembly: place the wrong sides of two strips together and work single crochet into every hole in a contrasting color. Continue to attach remaining strips in this manner.

Work one row of single crochet around the edge, working 3 sc in each corner.

Variations: Blanket size may be easily adjusted with more or less strips, and strips of shorter or longer length.

And, also in Peg's box (from the Old Pueblo Knitters Guild newsletter, April 2001)

You Know You're A Knitaholic When:

- You own three cedar chests and five dressers and you still don't have room for all your sweaters
 - You go on vacation and plan ahead to learn what yarn stores are in the area (Kathy adds: and take an extra suitcase packed with yarn "just in case")
 - Your mantra has become "just one more row"
 - You've got six projects going at once
 - You've seen every movie at the video store as you work on those six projects
 - You're planning your next six projects
 - You own more yarn than you can possibly knit in one lifetime
 - You're seriously considering building an addition to the house to store all that yarn
 - Your eyes are so blurry that you need peepers to see the pattern, but you keep going anyway
 - Your friends just shake their heads as you arrive for lunch with yet another creation
- Editor's Note: Does any of this sound familiar? Does anyone think this sounds abnormal at all? It sounds pretty normal to us...

***** COLLONADE DISH CLOTH PATTERN *****

MATERIALS: 100 yards worsted weight cotton yarn; US size 8 needles

GAUGE: approx. 5 sts = 1" (not critical)

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 37 sts. Knit 3 rows for border. Begin pattern:

All rows (multiple of 3 + 1): K3; *yarn over (yo), K2tog, K1; repeat from * across, ending K1.

Repeat this row until there are 24 rows of holes at border edge or desired length. Knit 4 rows. Bind off. Weave in ends.



***** LET IT SNOW SCARF AND HAT *****

The weather outside is frightful and Kathy's cozy duo is so delightful! Since you've got lots of places to go, here's the perfect outdoor scarf and hat for wintry days ahead.

DOUBLE BASKETWEAVE PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 4 + 3)
Row 1 and every odd-numbered rows (right side): K.
Rows 2 & 4: *K3, P1; rep from * to last 3 sts, K3.
Rows 6 & 8: K1; *P1, K3; repeat from * to last 2 sts, end P1, K1.
Repeat rows 1 - 8 for pattern (stitch detail shown at right).



THE SCARF

FINISHED SIZE: 6" X 60"

MATERIALS: 300 yards worsted weight yarn (yarn weight classification 4); knitting needles US size 8; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 5 sts / 7 rows = 1" in pattern

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 31 sts. K 1 row. Work in double basketweave pattern until piece measures 60" or desired length, ending with row 4 or 8 of pattern. K1 row. Bind off all sts. Weave in ends.

THE HAT (worked flat)

SIZES: Child's small (child's medium - child's large/adult's medium - adult's large in parentheses)

FINISHED HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE: approximately 18" (20" - 21.5" - 23")

MATERIALS: 100 (125 - 150 - 175) yards worsted weight yarn (weight classification 4); knitting needles US sizes 6 & 8; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 5 sts / 7 rows = 1" in pattern

DIRECTIONS: With smaller needles, cast on 91 (99 - 107 - 115) sts.

Row 1 (wrong side); P1; K1, P1; repeat from * across row.

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

Work rows 1 & 2 until piece measures approximately 1" (1.5" - 1.75" - 2"), end with row 1 of pattern on wrong side. Change to larger needles and work in double basketweave pattern stitch until piece measures approximately 6" (6.5" - 7" - 7.5"), end on wrong side with row 4 or row 8 of pattern stitch. Knit 2 rows, dec 1 st at center of last row: 90 (98 - 106 - 114) sts.

Shape crown:

Row 1: K1; *K6, K2 tog; repeat from * across to last st, K1.

Row 2 & all wrong-side rows: K.

Row 3: K1; *K5, K2tog; repeat from * across to last st, K1.

Row 5: K1; *K4, K2tog; repeat from * across to last st, K1.

Row 7: K1; *K3, K2tog; repeat from * across to last st, K1.

Row 9: K1; *K2, K2tog; repeat from * across to last st, K1.

Row 11: K1; *K1, K2tog; repeat from * across to last st, K1.

Row 13: K1; *K2tog; repeat from * across to last st, K1.

FINISHING: Cut yarn, leaving a 6" tail. Thread tail through tapestry needles and weave through remaining sts. Pull through sts, and draw up firmly. Sew back seam. Weave in ends.

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***** WHAT IS THREE-BALL KNITTING? *****

This colorwork technique calls for using three balls of yarn at the same time. These can be three different but complimentary colors for a tweed effect, three skeins of the same shade but in dramatically different dye lots, three balls of different textures, or three balls of hand-painted yarns. Each row is worked with only one ball at a time, changing at the end of every row. This method is useful for using up extra balls of leftover "stash" yarns.

Here's how:

Cast on specified number of stitches and work one row in pattern with the first ball of yarn (#1). At the end of the row, drop #1, but leave it attached. Attach the second ball of yarn (#2) and work one row in pattern. At the end of the row, drop #2, but keep it attached also. Attach the third ball of yarn (#3), and work one row in pattern. Drop #3, but keep it attached. There are now three rows worked, and three balls of yarn attached. Pick up #1 from two rows below (it should be waiting for you). Repeat this process, working one row in pattern with #1, then #2, then #3. Drop the yarn at the end of every row, leaving it attached, and pick up the yarn waiting two rows below to work the next row.

Helpful hint: If you put your work away and can't remember where to start again, it is always the side with two ends.

TWEED SEED SCARF 6" X 60"

MATERIALS: 100 yards worsted weight yarn in each of three colors (300 yards total); US size 8 knitting needles; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 4.5 sts / 7 rows = 1" in pattern

SEED STITCH (over an odd number of stitches)

All rows: K1; P1, K1; repeat from * across.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 27 sts. Work in seed stitch using three-ball technique for 60" or desired length. Weave in ends with tapestry needle.

Or try experimenting with this two row pattern and the three-ball technique for an interesting variation:

BROKEN RIB STITCH (odd number of stitches)

Row 1 (wrong side): Purl.

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

Repeat rows 1 & 2 for pattern.

DESIGN NOTE: This technique looks great with rustic tweed yarns such as CLASSIC ELITE "Skye Tweed" or TAHKI "Donegal Tweed" (guys love this look). For a decidedly feminine combination, try CLASSIC ELITE "La Gran" mohair in three pastels or three brights. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination as far as pattern stitches or color combinations-- go for it!

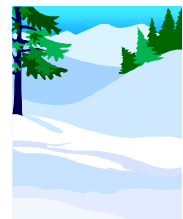
***** KNITTING TIP *****

For an accurate head measurement when making caps or hats, place a tape measure around the forehead and measure around the full circumference of the head. Keep the tape measure snug for accurate results...

***** ON THE LIGHTER SIDE *****

"Really, all you need to become a good knitter are wool, needles, hands, and slightly below-average intelligence. Of course, superior intelligence, such as yours and mine, is an advantage".

Elizabeth Zimmermann



***** **READER'S KNIT NIGHT** *****

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, February 7, 2006, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm** at Barnes & Noble, Route 30, Greensburg. Tracey will present a weaving demonstration, and books on weaving will be available to review. All skill levels are invited, and volunteers are available to help with knitting questions and how-to's, including instructions for beginners.



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

"Knit Knite" at Kathy's Creations: Tuesday evenings, January 10, 2006, 7 - 9 pm and February 14, 2006, 7 - 9 pm

All skill levels welcome -- come, sit & knit! Hosted by the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild...

"Funky Patchwork Cardigan" Saturday, January 14, 2006, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm with instructor Nancy Premoshis; \$20 plus materials (pre-payment requested at time of registration)

Our most requested class -- learn how to make the colorful jacket on display in our shop. Sign up soon -- this class is almost filled...

"Beyond Scarves: Shawls and Stoles 101" Saturday, January 21, 2006, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm with instructor Nancy Premoshis; \$10 plus materials (pre-payment requested at time of registration)

Ready to expand your skills beyond the basics and take the next step to stylish knitwear? Nancy will guide you through the how-to's of making a shawl. Students may choose from a large variety of styles, from easy garter stitch with shaping to challenging openwork. Start the New Year by learning something new...

Private knitting, crochet and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment. Students may pre-register for classes by calling Kathy's Creations at 724-238-9320 or e-mail at kathy@kathys-creations.com

***** **IT'S WEAVING DAY AT KATHY'S CREATIONS!!! (ICEFEST SATURDAY)** *****

Kathy's Creations is always on the forefront of "what's new" in fiber and Weaving is hot! Join Tracey, Kathy and some of our weaving friends for a day of exploration into this latest trend on **Saturday, January 28, 2006, 9 am - 5 pm (it's also Icefest in Ligonier)**. Try out a variety of portable looms, including the intriguing Triangle Loom, the versatile Rigid Heddle Loom in different sizes and Weavettes (weaving that fits in the palm of your hand!). Weavettes are currently featured in the winter issue of *Spin Off* magazine and will be featured on HGTV with Carol Duvall, and in the February issue of *Martha Stewart Living*. Perfect for using up those bits and bobs of leftover yarn, all of these weaving looms marry well with knitting. Pick up the edges all around and create a vest, scarf, purse, hat or jacket. And, yes, you will be able to purchase the looms through Kathy's Creations...

Knitting is about feasting on yarns. It's about creativity and personal expression. It's about style -- imaginative and contemporary, graceful yet playful, smart accessories, cozy home décor and always the unexpected. We're here with projects, yarns and tools sure to make your fingers itch to knit. Knitting is good for the soul, so start off the New Year planning to do at least a few rows each day.

KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy