



KATHY'S KREATIONS  
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MARCH 2006 UPDATE

Dear Knitters,

Are you winter-weary? Stop in for a "spring break" -- the outlook has never been brighter and we've got color, color, color everywhere!

BERROCO tells us, "Fashion designers are hooked on handcrafted looks for the upcoming season, applying colorful 60's-inspired touches including knots, fringe, embroidery, hand-dyed color effects and patchwork. Whether it's knit or crochet, fashion or accessories, it promises to be a big season for creativity".

We've got the latest colors, looks and inspiration for this "do-it-yourself" style in our spring collection of yarns, patterns and "must-haves", so get ready to:

**"KNIT, KNIT, KNIT!"**

All regularly-priced PLYMOUTH YARNS in stock  
(Plymouth, Cleckheaton, Italian Collection & Adriafile brands))  
are 10% off during March 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 and crochet instructions are available by appointment  
Finishing services available  
Gift certificates available

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

Bring on spring! INTERWEAVE KNITS Spring 2006 (\$6.99) is a colorful treat for the winter-weary, chock full of fresh patterns and textures. One of our favorite KNITS features is the "Beyond The Basics" series and this one on Knitting In Color: Intarsia Basics is a "keeper", with excellent illustrations on how to interlock yarn when joining a new color. We are pleased that one of Kathy's Aran designs, "Breezy Cables" (shown upper left) is included in this collection, about which KNITS says, "This jacket makes an updated showcase for classic Aran patterns. Time-saving features include stockinette-stitch pocket linings that double as gauge swatches and bands worked in as you go. Roomy pockets and a cozy shawl collar provide extra warmth, and a luxurious cashmere-blend yarn makes this jacket the perfect outer layer for a breezy spring day".

VOGUE KNITTING KNIT SIMPLE Spring/Summer 2006 (\$5.99) doesn't just bring you the latest knitwear trends, it sparks them! This issue presents awesome blossoms, easy crocheted flowers to embellish pretty knits. There are a couple of good articles on "stashology" (don't touch that pile until you have a plan, and learn all about Vegas knitting) and color by numbers (even the math-challenged can do this one, the Fibonacci sequence demystified, and guidelines for perfect color stripes). We love the articles in this issue (if you can't already tell) and the wardrobe pick-me-ups with breezy tops, flirty florals and sassy stripes. We find the presentation and format of this new magazine to be very refreshing, and appealing to a variety of skill levels...

TAHKI/STACY CHARLES presents four superb knitting booklets for spring/summer 2006 (\$12.50 each):

TAHKI YARNS S/S Collection-- basics for work or weekend wear in perennial favorites "Cotton Classic", "Poppy" & "Pansy"

TAHKI YARNS-- 20 romantic, breezy, nautical styles in "Cotton Classic" for those perfect vacation days at the beach

S. CHARLES COLLEZIONE -- sophisticated, upscale designer looks

FILATURA DI CROSA -- urban city styles & contemporary elegant looks

AND -- CROCHET (\$13.50) -- sweaters, shrugs, wraps and accessories in all TSC yarns

BABY EXTRA (\$6.50)-- what stylish babies will be wearing this spring in "Pompom" & color block designs in "Lovely"

It's time to plan for Easter and those spring special occasions, like showers and Mother's Day! PLYMOUTH YARNS introduce the "Felted Easter Baskets" pattern (\$3.95). These lovelies are knit with "Galway" wool and "Flirt" or "Parrot" trims. A reminder that all PLYMOUTH yarns used in this pattern are on sale this month...

New from NATURALLY is pattern K560 (\$4.50), a cute collection of textured hats for babies 0-3 months in DK weight yarns. You'll want to knit the entire assortment...

New from JO SHARP is "Saturday" (\$17.50, softcover, shown right), hand knitting collection book number nine, featuring 17 projects using Soho Summer DK Cotton & Desert Garden Aran Cotton. These garments are perfect not only for Saturdays, but for any casual leisure time wear (think jeans sweaters)...



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

What's new from LISA KNITS? "Cabled Cap Trio" hats (\$4.00, shown left) are worked circularly in worsted weight yarn and feature cables, popcorns, and textures. "Baby's First Hat" (\$4.00, shown lower left) & "Baby's First Socks" (\$4.00, shown upper right page 8) are knit with fingering weight self-striping yarns (new supplies just arrived) and US size 2 double-pointed needles for babies 0-3 months, and 3-6 months...



New from ROWAN YARNS / RYC (\$16.95 each):

- RYC book 2 Classic Garden ---a range of handknits in Cashsoft & Cashcotton 4-Ply especially developed to be a joy to knit and a pleasure to wear, not just today but into the future. Classics with a contemporary touch, all the designs will enhance and extend your existing wardrobe, adding a touch of creativity
- RYC book 9 Classic Beach ---captures the essence of the English coastline and all it has to offer. Packed full of references to the seaside in the fishnet lace stitches, deckchair stripes and rope cables, the patterns are a feast of textures and colors bleached by the elements in Aran weight (featuring Natural Silk Aran, arriving later this spring; our picks are the Saltwater and Driftwood designs)
- RYC book 11 Summer ---if you are nostalgic for a more rural past or a vacation you remember from your childhood, you will love the Classic Summer handknit and crochet collection of pretty tops in soft neat shapes with delicate edgings and features for women; sporty vests, vintage Fair Isles and cables for men all with a 1950's influence

Are you like most knitters, always misplacing your tape measure? "Knit Stix", invented by Helen Jost, will save you in a pinch -- these 14" aluminum needles have rulers printed right on them. We've got them now, in US sizes 5 - 9 (\$8.45 - \$10.45). Knit and measure, all in one!

Congratulations to the "SUPER" Pittsburgh Steelers and their amazing fans. From training camp, into the regular season (win or lose), and throughout the Playoffs, no gameday outfit was complete without a "terrible scarf". We've seen such an outpouring of creativity from Steeler fashionistas that we now have a "Black and Gold" collection of novelty and basic yarns (including wools for felting), just so Steeler fans can wear their colors with pride. Be sure to check out the CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS gold eyelash "Fizz" (\$7.25, 50 grams, 120 yards, color 7305), super bulky two-tone yellow boucle with black wisps "Poof" (\$7.50, 50 grams, 47 yards, 100% supersoft nylon, color 9559), and super bulky gold mini-fringe with black & gold wisps "Punk" (\$8.95, 50 grams, 55 yards, 75% nylon / 25% polyester, color 5093). GGH/ MUENCH YARNS arrivals include super bulky thick & thin gold with gold/black wisps "Nevada" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 38 yards, 70% wool / 30% nylon, color 07) and bulky weight "Aspen" (\$7.50, 50 grams, 62 yards, 50% merino / 50% acrylic). Combine any of these with traditional black eyelash or novelty special effect yarns for a one-of-a-kind super look. We've got an entire year to celebrate our championship...



New from NATURALLY YARNS is "Perendale" (\$4.50, 50 grams, 110 yards, 100% wool), a delightful basic DK weight wool from New Zealand, great for medium weight sweaters, & felting, too...



\*\*\*\*\* GOOD READS \*\*\*\*\*

When we knit for a child, we can be a bit indulgent, a bit carefree. We can choose an impractical color; we can spend a little extra on the yarn; we can take a little time; after all, it's a small knit. In the newest BEST OF KNITTER'S MAGAZINE series, *Kids -- a Knitter's Dozen* (\$15.95, softcover), there are actually 19+ projects for children you can count on for good design, knitting fun, and endless colorful possibilities. We are thrilled to have one of Kathy's designs included, "Colorful Combs", knit from PLYMOUTH YARNS "Wildflower DK" (on sale this month). This design provided the inspiration for our windows, monthly promotion, and newsletter theme for March 2006. About this sweater, KNITTER'S says. "Kids tend to like bright, energetic colors. These colors look like they've jumped from the crayon box onto this pullover. The repeating vertical and horizontal stripe design was inspired by a Peruvian chulla hat". This book is a terrific compilation of popular knits, from top-down raglans, to every which way stripes, companion teddy bear sweaters and color blocks -- all charmers, sure to delight the kids in your life...

*Fabulous Felted Bags* (\$22.95, softcover) by Nicky Epstein is a magnificent collection of 15 bags, making full use of Nicky's amazing repertoire of knitting knowledge and versatile creativity. Fashionable designs include flora, fauna, pictorial, tapestry, geometric and textural styles. In all shapes and sizes, running the gamut from whimsical to haute couture, these bags are both delightful to look at and amazingly functional, not to mention fun to knit and felt...

What do a cozy cap, a baby's bib, and a stylish clutch have in common? Just one skein of yarn! In *One Skein* (\$19.95, softcover), knitwear designer Leigh Radford shows the infinite creative possibilities in a single skein of yarn with this inspired, elegant collection of 30 quick projects to knit and crochet. You'll find a clever assortment of felted totes, comfy cable footies, fashionable fingerless mittens, mod tank tops, geometric accessory bags, chic mohair pillows, and a homey rug. All of these projects are geared towards beginners, but have brilliant ideas for more advanced skill levels. So splurge on one fantastic skein of yarn and explore the one-knit wonders of *One Skein*...

*Poncho a la Carte* (\$19.95, softcover) serves up a lovely menu of knitted and crocheted ponchos, capelets and wraps. These delightful designs will whet your high-fiber appetite with mouth-watering confections such as strawberry shortcake, blackberry tart and crème fraiche, and spicier numbers like salt and pepper, allspice and chutney. This book is quite clever and the wraps very wearable for spring...

*Funky Knits* (\$19.95, softcover) is the hippest guide to knitting for guys, gals, teens, tweens, and any newbie with attitude. Learn all the knitty gritty basics, then skate into 30 contemporary projects like iPod covers, a striped beanie, a guitar case, record bag, two-tone socks, pixie hat, and more. Or experiment with tried-and-true classics like hoodies, scarves, and hats -- after all, if you gotta stay warm, why not look cool?

Inside every knitter is a story of how we came to knit, who taught us, what knitting means to us, how it feels, and why we often feel driven to do the crazy things we do (such as acquire enough inventory to clothe a small nation). *KnitLit the Third* (\$14.00, softcover), is an all-new, enjoyable collection of stories about the ups, downs, ins, and outs of knitting, created by and for the lovers of the craft...

\*\*\*\*\* LACY ONE-ROW PATTERN SCARF OR STOLE \*\*\*\*\*

Lace and openwork are very important looks for spring. This vintage pattern stitch originally appeared in a Pat Trexler newspaper column in the 1980's and Kathy has adapted it as an easy reversible scarf or wrap for a new generation of knitters. Enjoy!

MATERIALS: NASHUA HANDKNITS "Creative Focus Worsted" two balls for scarf, 3 balls for stole (CYCA classification 4); knitting needles US size 7

GAUGE: in openwork pattern stitch, 4 sts = 1"

MEASUREMENTS: approx. 6" X 60" for scarf; 10" X 60" rectangular stole  
Openwork Pattern Stitch (multiple of 4 + 2, pattern not shown)

All rows: K2, \*P1, P2tog (purl 2 sts together), yarnover, K1; repeat from \* across row.

Scarf directions: Cast on 26 sts. Work in openwork pattern until piece measures 60" or desired length. Bind off all sts. Add fringe, if desired.

Stole directions: Cast on 42 sts. Work in openwork pattern until piece measures 60" or desired length. © Copyright 2006 Kathy Zimmerman. All rights reserved.

\*\*\*\*\* SPRING FORECAST \*\*\*\*\*

According to CLASSIC ELITE YARN's Trend Report, if there is a key fiber for Spring 2006, it is silk, alone or in blends. Very light weight yarns are the big thing in apparel (hopefully we can persuade our customers to knit on tiny needles). Other key yarns include: sheer/netting; ribbons (multi-color, with lurex, embroidered, beaded); lurex (in anything); printed (stamped, space-dyed on any fiber); novelty; small nubs; things woven into and through yarn; new fibers such as bamboo, corn, and soy; things hanging off; fluffy; beads; mini-fringe; marls; and lace weight.

In knitwear stitches, lace and openwork are very important; ribs in interesting directions & combinations; texture stitches, small and large scale; cables combined with other elements (ribs, lace, textures); jacquards; crochet (the open look is very hot); stripes; plain stitches with interesting shapes and details; embellished (beadings, trims).

The accessories for Spring 2006 include skinny scarves; the spring hat with interesting details; the wrap (sheer, lacy, crocheted, tied, trimmed, novelty shaping, multi-color); tanks worn over tees or shirts; lace wristlets; knitted or crocheted jewelry; gloves; dog accessories; felted bags; belts; socks

It is shaping up to be a very embellished season with details: beading (looks great on the little cardigan); bows (functional, laced through holes, as ties on vintage-looking designs); customizing (personalizing an item by attaching things, mainly to bags: bows, buttons, knitted fruit, flowers, lace, embroidery, buttons, etc.); embroidery (from delicate and tonal to big, bold and in your face); 3-D effects (big flowers, plastic flamingos, huge roses, big very noticeable trim); lace collars; sequins; ruffles; lace edging; buttons; sewn-on trim such as ric-rac; handpainting; lacing; weaving ribbon through holes; and hand stitching. Thanks to CLASSIC ELITE for sharing this information -- be sure to check out their spring yarn & pattern collection, and enjoy the season!

\*\*\*\*\* ALL NATURAL STONE BUTTONS FROM JHB \*\*\*\*\*

Seeking a unique and different closure for your handknit purse or felted bag? JHB INTERNATIONAL introduces "Roch" (pronounced rock), earth-friendly, one-of-a-kind polished natural stone buttons (\$7.00 each, shown at right). These buttons are perfect to use as bag closures, craft project or home décor embellishments, or for buttons on a sweater. Look for our new easel display -- no two "rochs" are alike!



\*\*\*\*\* THE "HOLIDAY DE-STRESS" PATTERN OF THE MONTH \*\*\*\*\*

In our February newsletter, we told you about Tracey Earhart's fiber group's resolution to "de-stress the holidays" by starting early and doing one gift project a month. The finished items will accumulate gradually over the course of the year, to avoid the last-minute rush and budget crunch. Kathy designed a soft, textured hat in one of our newest yarns, JAEGER "Roma" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 137 yards, 63% viscose / 22% nylon / 15% angora) to keep you merrily "de-stressing" away. The resilience of this DK weight yarn also makes this an ideal choice for chemo hats. Our thanks to Stephanie Bronder-Fagan of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for the pattern stitch which inspired this design...



THE ROMA 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 17" (20" - 21.5" - 23"), slightly stretched

MATERIALS: 150 (175 - 200 - 225) yards DK weight yarn (weight classification 3); knitting needles US sizes 4 & 6; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 6.5 sts / 8 rows = 1" in pattern

CHICKENFOOT PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 4 sts, shown upper right with rib cuff and yes, that's the real name of the pattern -- understand why we call it the "Roma" Hat?)

Rows 1 & 3 (right side): Knit (K).

Row 2: K1; \*P2, yarn over (yo), K2, pass yo over the K2; rep from \* across, end P2, K1.

Row 4: K1; \*yo, K2, pass yo over the K2, P2; rep from \* across, end yo, K2, pass yo over the K2, K1.

Repeat rows 1 - 4 for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: With smaller needles, cast on 110 (130 - 142 - 150) sts.

Row 1 (wrong side); P2; \*K2, P2; repeat from \* across row.

Row 2: K2; \*P2, K2; repeat from \* across row.

Work rows 1 & 2 until piece measures approximately 1" (1.5" - 1.75" - 2"), end on wrong side, inc 1 st at beg and end of needle: 112 (132 - 144 - 152). Change to larger needles and work in chickenfoot pattern stitch until piece measures approximately 5" (6.5" - 7" - 7.5") end on wrong side with row 2 or row 4 of pattern stitch. Knit next row, dec 0 (0 - 2 - 0) sts evenly spaced: 112 (132 - 142 - 152) sts. P 1 row.

Shape crown:

Row 1: K1; \*K8, K2 tog; repeat from \* across to last st, K1.

Row 2 & all wrong-side rows: P.

Row 3: K1; \*K7, K2tog; repeat from \* across to last st, K1.

Row 5: K1; \*K6, K2tog; repeat from \* across to last st, K1.

Row 7: K1; \*K5, K2tog; repeat from \* across to last st, K1.

Row 9: K1; \*K4, K2tog; repeat from \* across to last st, K1.

Row 11: K1; \*K3, K2tog; repeat from \* across to last st, K1.

Row 13: K1; \*K2, K2tog; repeat from \* across to last st, K1.

Row 13: K1; \*K3, K2tog; repeat from \* across to last st, K1.

Row 15: 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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\*\*\*\*\* INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW \*\*\*\*\*

“What's the big deal about gauge? Is it really necessary to do a swatch every time?” YES, YES, YES! Elizabeth Zimmermann said it best, in *Knitting Without Tears*: “Gauge is the most important principle in knitting. People knit so differently in matters of tightness or looseness that it is totally impossible to recommend one size of needle for everybody. Gauge means the number of stitches that you achieve to one inch using the wool and needles you plan to use on the project. Get the gauge right and your measurements accurate and the sweater will fit”. This is especially important when substituting yarns...

“It takes a long time for my woolen sweaters and felted projects to dry. Any helpful hints?” Here are our favorite short cuts and shape-ups for drying knits from Lisa Carnahan. Thanks, Lisa!

Mittens & gloves: Pull them over bottoms of small jars or plastic containers and stand them in front of a fan.

Bulky sweaters: Insert a beach towel between layers and dry flat. This also blocks the garment and prevents pattern colors from running.

Turtle-cowl necks: Roll collar into shape and put crushed tissue paper under it. This helps re-shape the neckline, too.

In an emergency: use a blow-dryer on a **cool** setting. Just be sure to keep sweater on a flat surface.

Hats: try placing them over large spindle-type candlesticks with an inverted bowl on top to air dry (Kathy's favorite trick).

\*\*\*\*\* DID YOU KNOW? \*\*\*\*\*

As wool absorbs moisture from the air, the fibers liberate heat. A gram of wool gives off 27 calories of heat when it goes from dry to wet...

Space-dyeing means that various sections of the same hank are placed in different colored dyes to create a rainbow effect...

Fair Isle sweaters (popular once again) first became the height of fashion in 1922 after the Duke of Windsor wore one to a golf tournament in St. Andrews, Scotland. Knitters in Scotland developed their two-toned grid motifs in the 18th century, fashioning them after ancient weaving patterns called “shepherd's checks”...

Aran cables, lattice and moss stitch patterns are believed to have come to the Aran Isles with Irish emigrants returning from America in the early 1900s...

Luxurious mohair comes from the silky-haired angora goat. More than 90% of all American angoras are raised in Texas. Angora goats, raised for mohair, need the company of others and thrive on the competition of pushing and shoving. One goat alone can actually die of loneliness...

To keep mohair garments their softest and fluffiest, always dry clean them; hand or machine-washing will mat the fibers...

Fuzzy yarns are much warmer than smooth ones! All the little fibers create lots of tiny air pockets that trap your body heat...

The heathery multi-color yarns we now call tweed originated in the Tweed River region of Scotland (still famous for its wool yarn and woven fabrics). The thrifty-minded spinners would chop up odd scraps of dyed wool and incorporate them into the yarns they spun...

The indigo plant, the natural dye source for dark blue, has been grown in India and used to color fabric for more than 4000 years!



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

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, March 6, 2006, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. All skill levels are invited. Knitting stitch dictionaries, including *Vogue Knitting Stitchionary*, will be on display for you to review. Volunteers will be on hand to help with knitting questions and how-to's, including instructions for beginners. The next session will be **Monday, April 3, 2006, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** and will focus on knits for little ones, including *For the Pampered Baby* by Rita Weiss and *Simple Knits for Little Cherubs* by Erika Knight.



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

**"Knit Nite" at Kathy's Kreations: Tuesday evening, March 14, 2006, 7 - 9 pm (knitter's night out)** All skill levels welcome -- come, sit & knit! Hosted by the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild... it's free!

\*\*\*\*\* **UPCOMING CLASSES** \*\*\*\*\*

**"Finishing Finesse" Saturday, March 11, 2006, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm with instructor Joyce Bischoff \$10.00 registration fee\***

You've spent hours knitting your projects, so isn't it time you learned how to add the perfect finishing touches? Learn Joyce's secrets and tips for professional-looking results!

**"Skill Building" Saturday, March 25, 2006, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm with instructor Joyce Bischoff \$10.00 registration fee\***

Joyce will help you with your questions as you tackle your first projects -- mastering knit and purl, increases, decreases, recognizing and fixing mistakes, interpreting pattern directions, and much more. For novices, beginners and advanced beginner knitters wishing to learn more...

\* 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 3 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 and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.

The spring 2006 color forecast takes its cue from the elements: **earth** (rich colors that makes us think of roots and minerals); **wind** (clean, clear pastels reminding us of watercolors); **fire** (intense brights that evoke fireworks) and **water** (calming shades of blues and greens, yellow).

When choosing a yarn for knitting and crocheting, color is just as important as the feel of the yarn, or the composition of the fiber. Color is powerful -- it can make us feel happy, relaxed, girly-girl, upbeat, sophisticated, glamorous. We've got a world of colorful yarns for your stitching pleasure -- stop in and take a look at what's new for spring 2006!

KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy