



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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MARCH 2008 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

Need to unwind? Our hectic world moves at a fast pace, with time spent juggling errands, work, households and a busy schedule, so we all need to relax. Knitting, even if just a few rows during little windows of opportunity, can help us calm down and cope with the rigors of daily life.

Socks are small, portable take-along projects. They are as individual as the knitters who make them -- self-striped, Fair Isle, lace, textured, ribbed, cabled, knee socks, clog socks, anklets, boot socks, toe-up, cuff-down -- with double-pointed needles, two circulars, or one long magic loop -- let's face it, SOX ARE HOT!

We're proud to be joining in the enthusiasm and energy of yarn shops across the country to encourage our customers to participate in an unprecedented sock contest sponsored by *Knitter's Magazine*, **Think Outside the SOX**. We're a Unique Kolours SOX HOT SPOT featuring COLINETTE "Jitterbug" yarns. We've expanded and updated our Sock Station, now jam packed with more yarns than ever for your sock-knitting pleasure. We hope that you'll join us in making 2008 the year of THE SOX. Let's jump in feet first,

"IT'S SOCK MONTH!"
All regularly-priced sock yarns in stock
in our new "SOCK STATION"
are 10% off during March 2008

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
plus special extended holiday hours
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

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier

COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON

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please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



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

Doing the right thing for the environment has become so popular that it's now become fashionable. We think that's a wonderful thing. Our new products for spring are not only eco-conscious, but they offer comfort and functionality to fit your lifestyle...

In the Spring/Summer 2008 *Knit Simple* (\$5.99), editor Carla Scott tells us, "Spring has sprung! With the holidays behind us and the weather finally beginning to heat up, it's time to take a fresh look at our wardrobes. When I think of springtime, I think *color*". And the pages of this issue are certainly filled with colorful projects. "Gimme a Tee" continues the color theme, serving up brights that accentuate any style. Start knitting now and you'll have a closetful of these super-easy tops before the first thaw. The yellow (spring's "go to" color) with white accents cover sweater is knit from the top down. If you've never done this technique before, give it a try. There are also neutral must-knits, plus size fashions you'll love year-round, pastel mother/daughter duos, and fast & simple, bright & easy home dec spring re-do projects. Our favorite article is "knitting with the pros", with useful tips and tricks from the *Knit Simple* staff and designers, including Kathy. Couldn't you have guessed that Kathy's tip had to do with gauge?

Spring forward with *Interweave Knits* Spring 2008 (\$6.99). There are 24 fresh knits with fine details, breezy shapes and amazing lace, information on working with linen yarns, the ultimate guide to finishing, sweet little sweaters and beautiful openwork shawls -- all signs of spring style. We are thrilled that one of Kathy's designs is included in this issue (shown upper left), about which *Knits* says, "A large winglike cable unfolds between mirrored ribs and rope cables in the center of the DOVETAIL PULLOVER. Kathy Zimmerman treats the reverse stockinette stitch background as a fourth pattern of its own, balancing texture elements with plenty of negative space. Simple set-in sleeves, waist shaping, and a wide scoop neck keep the sweater light and streamlined. A seasonless medium-weight cotton yarn knits up into a pebbly, richly textured fabric." Kathy is thrilled to have this sweater featured on the Interweave Press website, *Knitting Daily* (2/25/08), entitled "Are You In A Box?" (see page 5 for more info)

Style is in the air! Pretty, perfectly pulled-together looks begin here, with five new pattern collections from TAHKI / STACY CHARLES:

TAHKI "Terra Collection" (\$15.50) -- TSC is proud to do its share in developing manufacturing processes, products and packaging that respect our natural resources. The inherent properties of the natural yarns featured in this booklet (including our perennial shop favorite, "Cotton Classic") make them perfect for all-season garments and accessories

FILATURA DI CROSA "Baby Brights" (\$12.50) -- colorful, cute styles for babies & toddlers, featuring several baby afghans and blankies

TAHKI YARNS Spring Summer 2008(\$15.50) -- classic, easy to wear textured casual sweaters that look great with jeans

FILATURA DI CROSA Spring Summer 2008 (\$15.50) -- very chic, sophisticated classic looks

S. CHARLES COLLEZIONE Spring Summer 2008 (\$15.50) -- trendy, stylish, colorful -- we love the stitchwork combinations!



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

As knitters and crocheters, we are also linked to the environment and green isn't just a color any more. Being good to the earth doesn't stop at the curb or with energy-saving appliances. Everyone recognizes the priority each of us must give to respecting and preserving the environment. ROWAN introduces "Purelife", a 100% organic cotton naturally dyed yarn (\$10.50, 50 grams, 131 yards). Knitting to standard DK weight gauge on US #5 needles, all 8 shades, pattern support and a sample garment are now on our shelves. We chose to stock this particular yarn because we feel it is the finest quality organic cotton in the marketplace. Kathy has designed a free dishcloth pattern especially for this yarn (see page 5) -- remember, hand-knit dishcloths are reusable, making them very environmentally-friendly...



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More spring things from NASHUA HANDKNITS -- the latest spring/summer 2008 pattern collections have arrived (\$14.95 each), and the yarns to knit and crochet them are in stock. Lace & cable combinations, ribs & textures are the stitchwork of the season: Natural Focus -- using Natural Focus Ecologie Cotton and stitchwork inspired by nature, you'll find lace, cables and ultra-feminine styles

Road Trip -- trendy cotton tops in the latest empire waists, cabled scoops & V-necks, cap sleeves, puffed bodice, gentle peplums, and cropped cardies & pullovers

Blossom -- knitting for baby is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding of projects; the 12 designs in this book are filled with ribs, lace, textures and cables; we love the easy pullover and cardigan in "Creative Focus Cotton" and the checkboard cardigan in "June"

County Fair -- a potpourri of textured stitches; Kathy's mother/daughter lace & cable duo with bobble inserts and zigzag borders is featured in this booklet (ladies' cardigan, shown lower left)

North American Designer Collection 6 -- Kathy's lace and rib design with V-neck and collar appears on the **cover** (shown upper right); this is a gorgeous grouping of classy sweaters

Kathy's cover sweater is knit with NASHUA's newest yarn, "Desert Flower" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 112 yards, 50% cotton / 43% linen / 7% nylon, CYCA yarn classification 4), a subtle multi-color mix with a hint of shine. This yarn is a real beauty...

Attention, Debbie Macomber fans! Does your knitting bag need a little spring cleaning? Debbie's latest collection of colorful, see-through organizer bags will help you "redd up" your knitting & crocheting accessories in style...



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GOT MILK? Milk yarn, that is? It's true -- KOLLAGE YARNS "Creamy" is now in stock (\$17.50 for natural, \$18.95 for colors, 50 grams, 200 yards, 80% milk / 20% cotton, CYCA yarn classification 2). This wonderful ultra-soft yarn is a delicious choice for spring shawls and wraps, great for special occasions. The lacy "Frosty Peaks Shawl" pattern (\$5.50) reminds us of jagged peaks surrounded by swirling snowdrifts, and the "Swan Song Scarf" pattern (\$5.50) has a lovely openwork center panel with an elegant knitted-on Florentine border. Each wrap is created with just two hanks of this light weight ultra-soft milk yarn, that seems to almost float and dance on your shoulders...



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

Finding the perfect knit for a guy can be challenging. Not to worry, *Guy Knits* (\$19.95, soft cover) features 25 of the best from *Knitter's Magazine* past issues. With the wide range of sizes and a special knit-to-fit section, these knits work for men in all walks of life (and ladies, too!). From hats, mittens, and gauntlets to sweaters and vests, these fun-to-make projects will be worn and look good -- just what men want.

We are pleased that four of Kathy's designs have been chosen for this classic collection:

"What's My Line?" (photo shown upper left) -- Here's the ultimate working vest. Real estate or construction? Banking or finance? Customize the motifs to your own (or some other lucky person's) occupation.

"Basketweave Green" (photo shown page 8, upper right) -- Kathy's vest was inspired by a basketweave pattern from a pair of men's socks. The knit panels appear to stand out on the purl background, creating the illusion of vertical lines. The design is versatile enough to please the "man about town" and the "country gentleman".

"Colorado River" (photo shown page 7, upper right) -- Any guy will welcome this cashmere blend sweater. The ribbed texture and V-yoke cable are handsome details.

"Forks In The Road" (photo on page 2, lower right) -- Men (and women) who love tweeds will find this a perfect option for sweater dressing. The silhouette and wide shawl collar are comfortable and warm. The rich wool and split cables make a truly handsome fabric.

Green isn't just a color any more. ROWAN YARNS encourages us to "think clean, knit green" with its latest support pattern booklet for its new "Purelife" organic cotton collection (\$18.95, softcover). You'll find a gallery of ideas, from easy, straight-forward designs to more challenging ones, in styles for the entire family. Please ask to see our "Snapdragon" ladies' model garment with gansey-textured cuffs and yoke, and a stockinette body, knit in the brazilwood colorway.

"Tweed Book 21" by ROWAN CLASSIC YARNS (\$17.50, softcover) is a versatile collection of 16 timeless sweater designs with contemporary appeal for men and women. The beautiful tweed yarns come in a rich palette inspired by the color blends in Scottish textiles, from classic tweed weaves to traditional tartans. Ribbed sweaters, scoop neck cable pullovers, shrugs, deep rollover collars, cape-sleeved jackets and easy-to-knit accessories are a knitter's delight...

***** PUNCH NEEDLE NEWS *****

We are excited to introduce four new T&S punch needle designs from local artisan Sue Schroettinger: Cock-A-Doodle-Do (a cheerful rooster, \$14.50); moonglow (moon and stars in the round, \$16.50); wings of hope (breast cancer awareness ribbon & dove, \$14.50) and lucky shamrock (Celtic Cross motif just in time for St. Paddy's Day, \$9.00). These designs are Kathy's Kreation's exclusives...

We are also pleased to announce the addition of GENTLE ARTS cotton floss sampler threads to our growing inventory (\$2.10 each)...

***** HERRINGBONE LACE RIB DISHCLOTH *****

Knitted dishcloths are the perfect small item to tuck in a springtime or "spa" gift basket for grown-ups, along with scented soaps or bath salts.

FINISHED SIZE: approx. 8" X 8" square

MATERIALS: one ball ROWAN "Purelife" 100% organic cotton (131 yards); US size 5 knitting needles

GAUGE: 5.5 sts / 7.5 rows = 1" in pattern stitch

HERRINGBONE LACE RIB PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 7 + 1, shown upper left)

Row 1(right side): K1; *P1, K1, yarnover (yo), P2tog (purl 2 together), K1, P1, K1; repeat from * to end.

Row 2: P1; *K2, yo, P2tog, K2, P1; repeat from * to end.

Repeat rows 1 & 2 for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: CO 43 sts. Work in herringbone lace rib pattern until piece measures 8".

Bind off all sts in pat.

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***** ARE YOU IN A BOX? *****

Kathy is thrilled to have the Spring 2008 *Interweave Knits* DOVETAIL PULLOVER sweater featured on the Interweave Press website, *Knitting Daily* (2/25/08), entitled "Are You In A Box?" Editor Sandi Wisehart says, "Defining your body's curves, instead of hiding them, can actually make you look better than you imagine... Knitwear designers accomplish hourglass shaping in as many clever ways as there are clever knitwear designers ... Vertical lines of any sort, such as cables, lace patterns, or interesting colorwork, can engage the eye so that The Box is less of a box and more of a painterly canvas. Combine interesting stitchwork with clever shaping, and you have the Dynamic Duo of flattering fit... Garment shaping is your friend. No matter how big or small you are, no matter what you think your flaws are, a little bit of shaping in the right places can help bring curves, balance, and world peace to even the simplest of knitted sweaters. OK, maybe not world peace. But a little more knitted beauty ceratinly can't hurt!" Wow, how cool is that? If you haven't checked out the *Knitting Daily* online knitting community, please visit KnittingDaily.com -- it's where life meets knitting!

One of our favorite patterns from *Knitting Daily* is the "Pine Cone Scarf" designed by Robin Melanson. The scarf begins at the center with a diamond shape, then stitches are picked up along the diamond's edges and worked outward in the familiar Old Shale pattern with a double strand of richly variegated MOUNTAIN COLORS "Mountain Goat" (\$23.50, 100 grams, 230 yards, 55% mohair / 45% wool), now in stock. If you aren't familiar with MOUNTAIN COLORS, the colors of the Rocky Mountain West (think firestorm, larkspur, red willow, wilderness) are amazing, vibrant, spirited and energetic...

***** RUG PUNCH EVENT *****

In a joint venture with local artisan Barbara Carroll of WOOLEY FOX, we're delighted to co-host a very special weekend event this fall. Nationally-recognized teacher Amy Oxford, designer of the Oxford Rug Punch needle, will be our guest instructor at a workshop, "Punching with Luxurious Yarns", on Saturday and Sunday, October 25 & 26, 2008, at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier. For further information, please contact Tracey Earhart at Kathy's Kreations (724) 238-9320. Registration will be limited to 15 students...

***** LACY MITTS *****

Our thanks to Betty Lou Glasso for sharing her beautiful lacy mitts pattern! The refined elegance of these mitts make them the perfect lightweight accessory for spring. Betty Lou worked her mitts with a subtly variegated blend of bamboo, merino wool and silk.

SIZE: instructions written for ladies' size medium to large

SKILL LEVEL: Intermediate

KNITTED MEASUREMENTS: 8" (around palm) X 7" long (cuff to top of mitt)

MATERIALS: CRYSTAL PALACE "Panda Silk" 2 balls (50 grams, 204 yards, fingering weight); one set of five US size 1 double-pointed needles (dpns); stitch markers; small 2" stitch holder

GAUGE: 40 sts / 48 rounds = 4" over lace pattern

HORSESHOE LACE PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 9 sts, abbreviations below)

Round 1: *P1, K7, P1; repeat from * around.

Round 2: *P1, yo, K2, SK2P, K2, yo, P1; rep from * around.

Rounds 3 & 5: Repeat round 1.

Round 4: *P1, K1, yo, K1, SK2P, K1, yo, K1, P1; rep from * around.

Round 6: *P1, K2, yo, SK2P, yo, K2, P1; rep from * around.

Repeat rounds 1 - 6 for pattern.

NOTES: Slip marker every round.

CUFF: Using one needle, cast on 72 sts. Divide sts evenly onto 4 needles (18 sts on each needle). Join, being careful not to twist sts; mark for beginning of round. Beg with round 1, work in horseshoe lace pattern stitch for 2.5".

Thumb Gusset:

Round 1: work 36 sts in pat, pm, m 1, pm, work in lace pat over rem 36 sts: 73 sts.

Rounds 2 & 3: work in pat to 1st marker, slip marker, K to 2nd marker, slip marker, work in pat to end.

Round 4: work in pat to 1st marker, slip marker, m 1, K to 2nd marker, m 1, slip marker, work in pat to end: 75 sts.

Repeat rounds 2 - 4 until 21 sts between markers, end with round 3: 93 sts.

Next Round: Work 36 sts in pat, remove marker, place 21 stockinette sts on holder, work rem 36 sts in pat: 72 sts. Work in lace pat as established for approx. 2.5", end with round 6 of lace pattern.

Next Round: Bind off all sts in pat, working P2tog over P sts between lace columns.

Thumb: With right side facing & dpns, pick up & K 3 sts along hand section, place 5 sts onto 1st dpn (* sts on needle). Work 8 sts each on 2 dpns: 24 sts. K around for 1.25", then work K1, P1 around for 4 rounds. Bind off in pattern. Weave in all ends.

ABBREVIATIONS: K - knit; P - purl; st - stitch; rep - repeat; rem - remaining; pat - pattern; yo - yarn over needle; SK2P - slip one, knit two together, pass the slipped sts over the K2tog; pm - place marker; m 1 - (make one) increase 1 st by lifting up bar between two sts & K into the back of the bar

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Who can resist a sunny shade that's as happy as it is stylish? In shades from lemon to mustard, yellow suits all tastes this spring. Pale yellow looks polished and softens bold black and white. Warm honey hues add ethnic flavor to khakis. And bright banana looks so delicious, you'll be seeing it in, well, bunches. Bask in the warm glow of something yellow this season...



***** KNITTING TIPS & TRICKS *****

Try using the clip style hangers used for ladies' slacks and skirts to dry a pair of handknit socks. Simply attach one sock to each clip and air dry in an out-of-the-way spot. This also keeps the socks organized as a pair...

When working a Fair Isle pattern, duplicate the color sequence chart on graph paper by hand or photocopy your own personal copy (most copyrights permit a copy for personal use). Using colored pencils or highlighters, color each block with the shade that you plan to use for the knitted project. This will help you keep track of the color work plus provides a good visual illustration of the motifs and how the colors will appear in the finished piece...

Having a problem counting rows in your knitted piece? Find the center of a knit stitch (it looks like the letter "V") and follow the column upward, placing the point of a knitting needle into the center of each "V" as a reference. Do not include the cast on row or the row on the needle in your count...

***** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW *****

Joan McAnulty recently asked us a "stash" question: "How do I tell the difference between DK and worsted weight yarns if there is no label available?" Tracey and Kathy both recommend checking the wraps per inch. This can be done by gently wrapping the yarn around a wooden ruler without stretching. Count the number of "wraps" per inch. Then do the same with a yarn that you know for certain is DK or worsted weight. Compare the two and that will give you an idea of the weight yarn you have. Lisa Carnahan uses a needle check tool. Place the yarn doubled over the opening of the size needle you think you will need to use for the yarn. The doubled strand should completely cover the opening. This should be an appropriate needle size to use with the yarn. Try a range of holes to make sure you get the correct fit...

***** PUNCHNEEDLE AND RUG PUNCH CLASS SCHEDULE *****

Kathy's Kreations is delighted to welcome Helen Stetina, Punch Needle Instructor and Designer extraordinaire, to our staff. "Introduction to Punch Needle" will be held on **Saturdays, March 15, March 29, and April 12, 2008**. The class is one two-hour session and students may register for morning from 10 am - 12 noon or afternoon 2pm- 4 pm. The registration is \$25*, which includes "hands-on" instruction with Helen, and a fabric and floss kit to make a charming sheep! Punchneedle tools and embroidery hoops will be available for students to use during class, and may be purchased after class. *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

Tracey Earhart will be teaching "Introduction to Rug Punch" on Saturday, April 5, 2008, from 2 pm - 4 pm. If you are interested, please contact us for further details...



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***** **READER'S KNIT CLUB** *****

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, March 3, 2008, and April 7, 2008, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. New knitting books for spring will be featured...



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***** **"KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS*******

Tuesday evenings, March 11, 2008, and April 8, 2008, from 7 - 9 pm

Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting, lots of fun conversation and plenty of advice from experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit!

***** **FUN FRIDAY with instructor Joyce Bischoff; March 14, 2008, 10 am - 2pm** *****

You'll find we do much more than than just knit and crochet on Fun Friday -- you'll share many wonderful things, from conversation to ideas, and favorite patterns to tricks learned along the way. It's fun! It's free! All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce is available for help with your questions, skill-building and how-to's. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

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

"Introduction to Slip-Stitch Knitting" with instructor Kathy Zimmerman, Saturday, March 8, 2008 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm \$15* registration fee plus class materials as needed

If you missed taking Kathy's slip stitch class at the recent Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival, here's your chance to learn this fun technique. Slip-stitch colorwork technique is an easy way for beginners and experienced knitters alike to add color and texture to their projects. Slip-stitch patterns use only one color per row, so complicated-looking patterns can be mastered quickly. Kathy will discuss the how-to's for working this technique, hints for choosing colors and yarns, as well as tips for interpreting instructions. The "hands on" class project is Kathy's tweed-stitch hat which experiments with color combinations as you learn the technique.

"Fantastic Finishes" with instructor Nancy Premoshis, Saturday, April 5, 2008 9:00 am - 12 noon \$15* registration fee plus class materials as needed

Finishing is all about the details. Nancy has the "how-to's" for working invisible seams, neat joins, weaving in ends, blocking, "finishing from the beginning" and a wealth of knitting tips for professional-looking finishing touches.

*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

Private knitting, crochet, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 27 years!

As you swing into spring, create something beautiful with your hands -- it's good for the soul. KEEP KNITTING!
Kathy