



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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MAY 2006 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

Spring is in full swing! Refresh your wardrobe this season by knitting or crocheting the newest styles, something enduringly classic. It's a well-known fact that classic looks speak louder than words. What better way to tell your story than with timely textures or lacy openwork designs destined to be the talk of the town?

Our spring collection of yarns, patterns and accessories has something for everyone, something to "talk about". There are projects for every occasion — sweaters for down time, officewear, beach wear ("must-have" flipflop sandals), shawls for evening, dressier "special event" tops, short jackets, shrugs, and totes & bags to accessorize them all. Knits give you the opportunity for self-expression, allowing you to interpret your favorite fashion looks, in a way that suits your personality and individuality.

We're promoting some of our favorite yarns this month. Let the "classic" conversation begin!

"KNIT A CLASSIC!"

**All regularly-priced 100% CLASSIC ELITE YARNS in stock
are 10% off during May 2006**

**10% TUESDAYS ARE BACK — 10% off ALL
Regularly-priced yarns in stock**

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 *****

Relax, and get comfortable with all that spring knitting has to offer! We and our families and friends are planning for the upcoming seasons. Spring and summer schedules are filled with weddings, graduations, anniversaries, christenings and other special events. Occasions like these are often the impetus to create a special garment — something that can be worn again and again for elegant effect, a “Classic”. The *Occasion Lifestyle Pattern Book* from NASHUA HANDKNITS (\$14.95, shown upper left)

offers nine projects that can be worn for a variety of parties and celebrations. Choose from simple cardigans and bolero jackets, timeless Aran designs, to a magnificent crocheted dress. We are pleased that two of Kathy's designs, “Crocus Tank Top” (shown page 8, upper right) & “Cabled Cardigan” (shown lower right) are included, both knit from “June” (\$5.95, 50 grams, 120 yards, 100% microfiber). This yarn gives

fabulous stitch detail and feels like a premium quality natural fiber (even Kathy was fooled!). NASHUA HANDKNITS is committed to creating timeless designs that can be worn for many special occasions to come.

With the arrival of spring, many of us find our daydreams turning to thoughts of upcoming vacations. Vacation is a time to relax, whether alone or with friends and family, to discover new places, or just what is important to yourself. Whether you vacation overseas, drive cross country, or simply stay home in your back yard, vacation is a time to broaden your senses and recapture the spirit of vitality that becomes overlooked in daily life. The *Vacation Lifestyle Pattern Book* from NASHUA HANDKNITS (\$14.95) offers 8 projects that can be work for spring or summer getaways. Choose from tanks, pullovers and cardigans in knit and crochet, including Kathy's “Textured Cardigan” (shown upper left) from “Creative Focus Cotton” (\$5.25, 50 grams, 93 yards, 100% mercerized cotton), the perfect trans-seasonal fiber. These classic designs will be just the ticket, whatever your vacation destination...

Angora and cashmere for spring knitting? Yes, RYC Classic (Rowan Yarn Classic) “Cashcotton DK” (\$9.50, 50 grams, 142 yards, 35% cotton/25% polyaide/18% angora/13% viscose/9% cashmere) blends the best of several wonderful fibers for this yarn. The news gets better — it is also machine washable for easy care. RYC is for the woman or man who is looking to enhance a contemporary wardrobe with classically beautiful garments and accessories. Pattern support includes the softcover booklet “Classic Summer” (\$16.95) which transports you to the English countryside, with the colors and patterns of a bygone era. The vintage heathery shading works well for cables and textures, as well as basic sweaters...

A new spring offering from CLASSIC ELITE YARNS is “Patina” (\$7.50, 50 grams, 108 yards, 70% cotton / 30% silk). This is a very soft and shiny DK weight in bold colorways. Ask to see our LISA KNITS model garment

“Ribbed T-top & Shell” (SW-008, \$4.00) in this luxurious yarn...

A new supply of note cards from HANDS ON DESIGNS by Nancy



photo
© Nashua Handknits

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

What's new from LISA KNITS? The lovely "Loops & Lace" Pullover (\$4.00, shown right) in short or long sleeve pullover versions. The textured checkerboard eyelet stitch pattern with U-shaped neck knit in worsted weight yarn will quickly become a warm weather wardrobe favorite.



We've chosen CLASSIC ELITE YARNS' "Four Seasons" (\$5.50, 50 grams, 87 yards, 70% cotton / 30% wool) for our shop model...

Lace knitting is "HOT", and shawls are the new "must-have" project among our customers. Sock knitting is also enjoying a lively resurgence and are a wonderful "take-along" projects for travel. New arrivals from FIBER TRENDS are:

AC77X "Lupine Lace Socks" (\$5.50) — beneath a scalloped border, little flowers bloom around a stem of decreases on these lovely lace socks. Ribs of purl stitch separate the stalks fo flowers, creating vertical lines. To insure a flattering snug fit, the pattern includes two sizes for you to choose from, both in fingering weight yarn (lovely in the new REGIA 4 "Silk")

AC79 "Shoulder Shrug" (\$4.95) — this little shrug is just right for spring and summer. It knits up quickly in one piece with no seams to sew...

S-2015 "Spring Blossoms Shawl" (\$5.95) — blossoms are bountiful on this beautiful shawl. Purl stitches outline the leaves and define the stems, creating an interesting texture in the stockinette stitch lace pattern. Knit from the center out, the shawl is cast off with a simple crocheted chain edging that can be started near the end of any 16-round repeat, making it easy to customize this shawl. The sample was knit in lace weight, but also looks great in fingering, sport, DK, and light worsted weight yarns. Designed for the adventurous knitter, this heirloom-quality shawl will bring a bouquet of compliments throughout many seasons

S-2016 "Edged With Lace" (\$5.50, shown lower left) — this simple garter stitch square is knit in the round from the center out and then bound off in your choice of four different lace edgings. It can be made in many different weights of yarn to any size desired. A 36" to 40" square in lace weight makes a warm shoulder shawl. Create a warmer wrap in fingering or sport yarn or use this weight for a versatile baby blanket. In worsted weight, a 40" - 48" square makes a great lap robe and a 50" - 60" square, a cozy afghan.

228X "Huggable Hedgehogs" (\$5.50) — with one or more of these cuddly creatures around the house, you will never be without someone to hug

CH-45 "Pretty In Pink" scarf and purse (\$4.95) — nothing makes a little girl feel more grown up than having her own purse to carry. Complete the outfit with a matching neck scarf trimmed with pompoms.

CH-46X Diamonds for Rhiannon (\$5.50) — this simple yet beautifully patterned lace and ruffles blanket is the perfect choice to honor a special baby in your life. It will be treasured for years to come andas it is passed to the next generation



Our favorite summer yarn is TAHKI "Cotton Classic" (it has been for a very long time), which is machine washable and comes in over 100 colors. The newest addition to the line is "Cotton Classic Color" (\$7.50, 50 grams, 108 yards, 100% mercerized cotton), featuring beautiful variegated contemporary colorways. We also feature pattern support from crochet and knit in TAHKI's spring & summer collections...



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

Get ready ... get set ... get knitting! *New York Times* best-selling author Jennifer Worick shares all the tips, tricks, and techniques in this guide for total knitting newbies. Like a close friend, knitting tutor, and personal shopper rolled into one, Jennifer introduces you to the basic tools and materials. Then, she methodically teaches you how to cast on and bind off, knit and purl, and increase and decrease. With sparkling wit, she instructs you how to decipher charts and abbreviations, fix mistakes, and more. In no time, you will be knitting your favorite new scarf, retro leg warmers, funky ponchos, the essential turtleneck, and “superhero” hand huggers. Round out your repertoire with fun finishing techniques like tassels, fringe, I-cord and pompoms. All it takes is a little moxie, some yarn and a pair of needles from Kathy's Creations — and *Getting Started Knitting*, of course! (shown at upper left, \$16.95, hardcover)

Did you know that geometric shapes and mathematical concepts can be beautifully portrayed in handknitting? In *Knitting Nature* (\$29.95, hardcover), Norah Gaughan — one of the most innovative and respected handknit designers working today — blends the natural and artistic worlds together with 39 stunning, fun-to-knit designs for women, men and children (we love the target mittens). The masterful Gaughan shares clear explanations of intriguing natural phenomena along with easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions for the unique projects they inspire. This groundbreaking book proves that science and art have more in common than you probably ever imagined...

How can you create a knitting project with fabulous, detailed designs, rich in color, pattern and texture, but without complex color sequences or detailed texture patterns that demand close concentration while knitting? Easy! You simply knit the project in stockinette stitch, then embellish it with embroidery, duplicate stitch or beads when the knitting is through. *Beautiful Embroidered & Embellished Knits* by Jane Davis (\$22.99, softcover) will help you to add a little something extra to your next knitting project...

Have you ever seen the notecards embellished with tiny knitted items, and thought, “Isn't that clever? I could do that!” Now, you can. *New Knit It Greeting Cards* (\$9.95, booklet) has the how-to's for making knitted miniatures. New ideas include novelty yarn sweaters, baby bonnets, sweet socks and cute bags. Use the knitted miniatures on brightly colored greeting cards...

We've never had a shipment of books sell out in under one hour. That is, not until we received the latest in the series *Vogue Knitting On The Go, “Shawls”* (\$12.95, hardcover). We are waiting for more copies to arrive, and will gladly place you on our order list. Every girl knows you can never have too many accessories, and this one is brimming with fave outfit add-ons for spring and summer. If you're yearning to make a pretty new wrap (or nineteen of them), check out this book when it arrives and pick your pleasure: triangular, rectangular, hooded, cabled, scalloped or ribbon-laced, and so much more. There are projects for a variety of skill levels to keep both the novice and the expert well-entertained. We hereby grant you the right to self-accessorize...

***** ONE SKEIN WONDERS *****

What can you knit or crochet with one leftover ball of novelty yarn? Create a tie belt, cover flip-flop sandal straps, make a band for your summer straw hat, embellish a tote bag, make a headband or triangular scarf to tie back your hair, make a "suit scarf", knit a quick sachet, "top" a sock cuff, make wrist warmers, use 100% cottons for wash-mitts/dishcloths, or create a hair scrunchie. We've got the D-rings, patterns, buttons, needles and hooks to help you on your way.

Try your hand at "Vegas" knitting": choose 6 balls of yarn from your stash and designate each with a number from 1 to 6. Use a pair of dice — one die for which number of yarn to use, and the second for how many rows to work with that color. Use this sequence for accessories such as scarves, hats, socks, felted tote bags (with appropriate yarns only), or summer tank tops. You may use more than one yarn for a number, but complementary colors work best together...

***** DE-STRESSING THE HOLIDAYS *****

Our latest tip from Tracey Earhart for de-stressing the holidays is to take advantage of any windows of knitting opportunities to work on gifts. Tracey keeps baggies with small projects in the glove compartment or under the seat of her car. She particularly recommends the flip-flop sandal straps because they are an easy rectangle with minimal shaping. In the event there is an overtime Little League game or a wait in the doctor's office, you'll be able to make efficient use of time by having some knitting handy. Avoid having 100% wool though, just in case the summer heat may felt it a bit...

***** FELTED CELL PHONE COVER *****

This project was inspired by a program given by Janice Reeping for the Roof Garden Knitting Guild. It is ideal for "take-along". Thanks, Janice!

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS: approx. 3" wide X 5" long, after felting (without strap)

MATERIALS: approx. 100 yards wool yarn (or other suitable yarn for felting); US size 9 set of 5 double-pointed knitting needles (dpns); stitch marker

GAUGE: 19 sts / 25 rows = 1" before felting

Make one (m1) — make one stitch by picking up the horizontal loop before next stit and knitting into the back of this loop

ssk—slip, slip, knit decrease (slip two stitches, one at a time, as if to knit; insert left-hand needle through the fronts of these two sts and knit them together)

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 32 sts. Divide evenly onto 4 needles (8 on each needle). Join; being careful not to twist sts, place marker. K 10 rounds.

Next Round: *K1, m1, K14, m1, K1; repeat from * once: 36 sts. Knit 10 rounds even.

Next Round: *K1, m1, K16, m1, K1; repeat from * once more: 40 sts. Knit 8 rounds even.

Next Round: *K1, K2tog, K16, ssk, K1; repeat from * once: 36 sts. Knit 1 round even.

Next Round: *K1, K2tog, K14, ssk, K1; repeat from * once: 32 sts. Knit 1 round even.

Slip sts from first dpn into 2nd dpn (16 sts). Slip sts from 3rd dpn onto 4th dpn (two sets of 16 sts). Join by working 3 needle bind-off or graft seams.

STRAP: With right side facing, pick up & K 6 sts along top edge, centering sts over side edge of case.

Row 1 (wrong side): K1, P4, K1.

Row 2: Knit. Repeat rows 1 & 2 until strap measures 5.5", end with row 1.

Next Row: K1, ssk, wrap yarn around needle twice, K2tog, K1.

Next Row: K2, (K1, P1) into double yarnover, K2.

Next Row: Purl. Bind off all sts as if to K. Felt & embellish as desired.





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

There are more than 500 variations on the basic crochet granny square...

Rayon, our first synthetic fiber, was invented in 1910. The main component is cellulose, which is the woody pulp derived from plants...

The earliest forms of knitting were worked on frames, not on knitting needles! They were based on the same principles as the knitting nobby, which kids use today...

Bulky yarn isn't new! Thick, handspun yarn was used to knit socks in Ireland around 1850. The loose twist and large gauge allowed the socks to conform to the wearer's feet...

***** PLAN AHEAD *****

Vicki Trevino applies puffy fabric paint to the entire bottom of felted clogs to make them skid resistant and for added wear...

Stop and look at your work frequently. Admire your skill, but look for split stitches, misaligned patterns and any mistakes. Fix it, don't fudge it later — it will save time in the long run, and you will be happier with the results...

Knitted lace patterns are popular once again — bear in mind when shaping (working increases and decreases at the neck or on the sleeve) that every yarnover must have a corresponding decrease. If necessary, work in stockinette stitch until you have enough stitches to work a partial or full repeat...

When working with white or light colors, wash your hands before you pick up your project...

***** SUMMER FASHION TRENDS *****

According to KNITTER'S MAGAZINE (Winter 05/06 preview), "The primary color statement will be the use of neutrals, particularly grays and browns, with significant play given to blues and turquoise greens". There will be a heavy use of browns and a geology theme (see our "Roch" buttons), with soft neutrals like tans mixing it up with black and gray. Soft watercolor effects, particularly blues and greens, remind us of Monet's Impressionistic paintings. There is also a folkloric flair, with natural dye colors of rust, gold, tan paired with occasional blues. Garden colors — vegetable greens, beet red, berry tones, and some gold & tan — will mix with the light neutral gray shades. Will we still see brights? Sure, but look for them to be more muted shades of red, turquoise, blue and gold.

The prominent silhouettes are drapery, openwork, feminine lacy knits and crochet motif tops created with fine yarns on larger needles, sometimes with drop stitches. Graphic design has a big influence, so expect to see large-scale prints in clothing fabric, translating to intarsia and floral appliques in knitwear, a mixing of stitch patterns and yarn types. 40's fashions are making a comeback with waist shaping, squarish shoulders, more fitted styling, more pockets and details. The Chanel jacket is influencing the cropped look in cardigans and jackets, with shrugs continuing to be popular. The ethnic look continues, with tunics and caftans embellished with braids and trims. This will translate into more trims and pattern borders in knits. Expect to see a lot of stripes and "urban safari" designs.

What is most wonderful about the current season is that, as knitters and crocheters, we can develop our skills to take these trends and interpret them to suit our individual personalities, shapes, and sense of style. Enjoy the season!



My Needle Inventory

		mm	2	2.25	2.75	3	3.25	3.5	3.75	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	12	16	19	25
		US	0	1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10 1/2		11	13	15	17	19	35	50	
Metal	straight																							
	circular																							
	dpn																							

		mm	2	2.25	2.75	3	3.25	3.5	3.75	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	12	16	19	25
		US	0	1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10 1/2		11	13	15	17	19	35	50	
Wood	straight																							
	circular																							
	dpn																							

		mm	2	2.25	2.75	3	3.25	3.5	3.75	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	12	16	19	25
		US	0	1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10 1/2		11	13	15	17	19	35	50	
Plastic	straight																							
	circular																							
	dpn																							

		mm	2	2.25	2.75	3	3.25	3.5	3.75	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	9	10	12	16	19	25
		US	0	1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10 1/2		11	13	15	17	19	35	50	
Flex	straight																							
	circular																							
	dpn																							

You can simply mark off each block with a check or an X or add details i.e., metal needle colors, circular needle length, and/ or number of double pointed needles.

Last month, we gave you tips for completing unfinished projects. This month, we are continuing the "Mission Organization" theme with a special chart from Vicki Trevino to help you to organize your needles. Thanks, Vicki, for sharing your idea!

***** ANNE'S SHAWL *****

Anne Levin shared her favorite shawl "recipe" with us. She is particularly fond of the "beginner-easy" edging, and thinks it looks especially pretty with S. CHARLES COLLEZI-ONE "Cancun" or "Rialto". Thanks, Anne, for sharing this design with us...

MATERIALS: approx. 240 yarns novelty yarn; US size 11 needles

GAUGE: not critical, size of shawl with vary with weight of yarn used

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 3 sts.

Rows 1 - 7: K 1, inc in next st by knitting into the back & front of the next stitch, K to end: 10 sts.

Row 8: K 5, inc in next st by knitting into the front & back of the next stitch, K to end. Repeat row 8, working an inc on every row following the K 5 edging, until piece measures the desired width. Bind off all sts loosely.

Anne tells us this will work with a variety of ribbon yarns. The shawl may also be worked with a stockinette stitch interior. Simply keep the first and last 5 sts as garter (K every row, markers are recommended) and work stockinette (K all RS rows, P all WS rows) in between the markers.

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

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, May 1, 2006, and Monday, June 5, 2006, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Volunteers will be on hand to help with knitting questions and how-to's, including instructions for beginners. In addition to the latest knitting titles, May's featured book is *Kids: A Knitter's Dozen* which includes Kathy's design, "Colorful Combs", and June's title is *New Knits On The Block: A Guide to Knitting What Kids Want...*

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

"Knit Nite" at Kathy's Kreations: Tuesday evenings, May 9, 2006, and June 13, 2006, 7 - 9 pm, (knitter's night out) 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 welcome -- come, sit & knit! It's free!

Private knitting, crochet and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.

***** **UPCOMING TRUNK SHOWS** *****

May 2006: It's CLASSIC ELITE month! (trunk show window display, which our own Tracey has cleverly interpreted with amazingly "novel" interest)
June 2006: OAT COUTURE patterns (projects made with BROWN SHEEP YARNS)
August 2006: FIBER TRENDS patterns (projects made with BROWN SHEEP YARNS)

***** **FUN FRIDAY AND SATURDAY*******

Dig out your UFO's (unfinished objects) & WIP's (works in progress) and join us on **Friday, June 9, 2006 AND Saturday, June 10, 2006, from 10 am - 2 pm**, for a fun-filled day of knitting comradery. Joyce Bischoff will be here to answer your questions and provide expert knitting assistance, with wonderful tips for getting those UFO's back on track. It's free, it's fun, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack or lunch if you wish, a folding chair if you've got one, and your sense of humor. You deserve to escape for a knitting break!

***** **CUSTOMER APPRECIATION 10% TUESDAYS ARE BACK** *****

Did you know that there are FIVE Tuesdays this month? Given that fact and to show our "customer appreciation", we are offering 10% off all **regularly-priced yarns in stock on every Tuesday during May 2006** (that's right, all manufacturers). This applies to in-store purchases only — shop Tuesdays at Kathy's Kreations, get 10% off non-clearance yarns, a very sweet deal!

***** **FREEBIE DAY** *****

We are celebrating 26 years in business. **Saturday, May 20, 2006**, is "Freebie Day". All customers will receive a customer appreciation "freebie" with their purchase (one per customer). Hope to see you then.....

Spring is not just a season — it's a time of beauty and new possibilities. Renew and re-discover your passion for knitting and crocheting. We're ready to help spark your creativity... **KEEP KNITTING!** Kathy