



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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MAY 2011 UPDATE



Dear Knitters & Crocheters,

Spring and Summer 2011 styles for women are romantic and feminine, with details and embellishment highlighting classic silhouettes. One of our favorite examples of these feminine details is ruffles! Ruffles are the trendy look for this season, from casual feminine daytime wear to dramatic evening pieces. Here at Kathy's Kreations, we'll help you "find your frills" with some great easy and fun accessories. Try the Potato Chip Scarf, Barb's Ruffled Scarf or the Marina Cafe Scarf, and update any outfit by adding flattering ruffled details to your knitting and crocheting. Betcha can't make just one!

Spring also finds us celebrating the "natural" world, trying to make small changes in our personal lives to conserve precious resources. Ecological efforts are habits worth encouraging. It's perfectly "natural" for us to be supportive of eco-friendly knit and crochet yarns. The perfect way to welcome the long-awaited warmer weather is with a "spring break" for you!

MAY IS "STITCH WITH COTTON" MONTH
All regularly-priced, 100% cotton yarns (all weights)
in stock are 10% off throughout May 2011

10% Tuesdays are back!
Receive 10% off as many regularly-priced items as you can fit into
your Kathy's Kreations logo tote bag on Tuesdays only

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, AX
Private knitting, crochet, spinning, and drop spindle
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

e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations

please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Spring is here at last and it's time for a classic taste of freshness in our knitting and crocheting projects. Our newest additions combine a sense of timeless designs with a feel for up-to-the-minute fashion. Our spring collection features soft, relaxed, very feminine styles perfect for wearing when taking time out of your busy life. Classic textures are given a contemporary twist with delicate cables, scatterings of lace, and elegant openwork patterns. Garments are practical and eye-catching in refined shades, scarves have a unique element, accents add depth, and all are perfect for weekend, workday or any-wear...

New from CLASSIC ELITE comes booklet 9135 "Hot House" (\$9.95), which brings together a range of designs that are perfect for long, lazy days enjoying the garden, tending the borders or simply taking afternoon tea on the lawn. What could be more refreshing for the soul! This booklet features one of Kathy's designs, "Brandywine" (shown upper left). This short-sleeved scoop neck cardigan with three-button yoke closure is adorned with sideways entwined hearts lace panels and mirrored lace twists on fronts and back. All designs are worked in CLASSIC ELITE "Classic Silk", a luscious yarn with a soft hand, available in a beautiful palette of colors (\$8.50, 50 grams, 135 yards, 50% cotton/ 30% silk / 20% nylon)...

Did you know that we receive automatic shipment for all new shades of CLASSIC ELITE "Liberty Wool Print"? Our latest colorways are 7806 reflecting pool (turquoise, lime, lilac, teal & off white) and 7809 campfire (orange, purple, caramel & royal blue). New shades seem to sell as fast as we get them...

Part of CLASSIC ELITE's Verde Collection of environmentally-conscious yarns, "Katydid" is 100% organic cotton ribbon (\$8.95, 50 grams, 90 yards, 100% organic cotton, CYCA weight #4). Katydid's ribbon construction gives it a quick-knitting gauge and sophisticated look. This warm-weather yarn comes in a bright, summer-friendly palette...

What is it about lace that captivates and intrigues us as stitchers? Its lightness? Its delicacy? Maybe it's the painstaking hours of handwork that go into creating it. *Piecework Magazine* May / June 2011 (\$6.99) compiles its 4th annual lace issue with stories about lace that are as unique as lacemakers, from a knitted Queen's Lace doily, to a christening gown with information about reading knitted charts, to the dragon scarf with Orenburg lace-knitting techniques, to the Yokahama Mama crochet shawl, to a delicate crochet butterfly. This story of lace is truly extraordinary...

Welcome to spinning! *Interweave Knit & Spin* is designed for you --- the comfortable knitter, but beginning spinner. The editors of *Spin-Off Magazine* went through nearly 140 issues and a number of INTERWEAVE spinning books to compile articles and projects that offer the best information for beginning spinners. There is a wealth of information including tons of tips, thirty projects to make with your handspun, how-to's for blending, preparing, and spinning fibers, washing do's and don'ts for wool, plus a bonus article to help you get the most out of your wheel. Our fave? Charlene Abrams' "Mitered Square Top" worked in strips...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

New from LISA KNITS is "Strawberry Patch" HT-029 (\$5.00) hat, booties and headband for little girls for the very berry month of May. All samples were knit with BERROCO "Comfort" (\$6.50, 100 grams, 210 yards, 50% nylon / 50% acrylic, CYCA #4). So cute...



What is it about hand-dyed yarns that sparks our creative spirit? Is it the gorgeous colorations that can only be achieved on natural fibers? Is it the thrilling surprise combination of tones and patterning that the fabric produces? Kathy and Betty Lou searched the extensive Yarn Market at Stitches South and brought back some outstanding samples of yarns which will start arriving later this summer from MADELINE TOSH (Vintage, Tosh DK and Tosh Sock), DREAM IN COLOR (Smoochy, Classy and Everlasting DK), and MALABRIGO (Malabrigo Sock). We have also received new shades of CLAUDIA HANDPAINTED YARNS fingering weight merino wool for the CHURCHMOUSE "Linen Stitch" and "Barb's Ruffle" scarves, including artichoke, John B, spring break, and blue terra cotta...

From Stonehedge Farm & Fiber Mill comes "Shepherd's Wool" (\$11.95, 100 grams, 250 yards, 100% worsted spun fine wool, CYCA #4). This yarn sets the standard for top-quality handknitting yarns, making heirloom projects affordable. "Shepherd's Wool" is made from a wonderfully soft merino top. It is worsted spun, meaning it's very smooth and almost shiny in appearance. It gives great stitch definition for intricate patterns like lace, cables and knit/purl patterns. With a soft, cushy feel, it also felts well (including the white!), so you can be confident that your knit, crochet and felted projects will be outstanding...

Made in the USA, spun in Pennsylvania -- that's important to us. We are pleased to announce the addition of KRAEMER YARNS worsted weight "Tatamy Tweed" (\$6.50, 100 grams, 180 yards, 40% cotton / 60% acrylic, CYCA weight #4). The machine washable and dryable basic yarn joins the DK weight we've had on our shelves for years. Looks great and is durable enough for kids and active wear garments...

Oh, baby, baby! Sun protection is so important for tender little heads. KNITTING AT KNOON "Li'l Sunhats" pattern is once again in stock (\$10.50). Choose from six designs -- three for baby girls and three for baby boys. In one size, to fit little heads from 18" - 20", these adorable hats make sun-time cover-up fun and fashionable. Ask to see our colorful "Pretty Petals" and "Gone Fishin" hats handknit by Marilee Roney from easy care TAHKI "Cotton Classic" (\$6.50, 50 grams, 108 yards, 100% mercerized cotton, CYCA weight #4). Our "Cotton Classic" display is like a color explosion, as beautiful as the spring blooms on the Ligonier Diamond...

New from BERROCO is booklet #308 for "Vintage DK" and "Vintage" yarns (\$8.50, shown right). These machine washable blends feature a wide color range, an incredibly soft feel and yardage that goes on and on. It's unique fiber blend makes laundering a breeze, perfectly suited for easy care garments for both children and adults...



2 NEW COLORS!



699 Oceana



822 Clay

*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Color is the heartbeat of spring fashion. Pleasing colors, in whisper-soft pastels to blossom brights, have an undeniable appeal. KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO "Ty-Dy Cotton" has been a summer staple on our shelves for years (\$15.50, 100 grams, 196 yards, 100% cotton, CYCA weight #4). Still a best-seller, this smoothly textured multi-color rainbow-dyed cotton yarn is knitter's eye candy, with the added charm of being soft to the touch. Now there are two new colors and we've got 'em, #699 oceana and #822 clay (shown upper left). Look for Kathy's scalloped lace cardi knit with "Ty-Dy Cotton" #289 painted desert colorway in the next issue of *Knitter's Magazine*, K-102, arriving later this month...

UNIVERSAL YARNS "Cotton Supreme Batik" (\$9.50, 100 grams, 180 yards, 100% cotton, CYCA weight #4) features a smooth and sumptuous cotton base, plus the added benefit of self-shading Fair Isle-look colors. Available in eight summery shades, it coordinates beautifully with the Cotton Supreme solids, both of which are machine washable and dryable. This yarn is an excellent choice for garments and home dec items (placemats, wash cloths, coasters, etc.)...

*** COLOR OF THE SEASON ***

There is no doubt that the color orange is first and foremost in this Spring's fashion lineup, appearing front and center as "the" color of the season. Orange complements and coordinates beautifully with many other shades, so you can add a little or a lot to your wardrobe. Try pairing it with turquoise and vibrant shades of blue (think Southwest landscapes, or wear an orange top with turquoise jewelry -- very appealing!)...

*** EACH ONE, TEACH ONE ***

At the end of the Stitches South conference, *Knitter's Magazine* editor Rick Mondragon challenged each knitter and crocheter in attendance to teach at least one other person to knit or crochet during the upcoming year. In order for each of us to honor that special someone who taught us to knit or crochet, we at Kathy's Kreation's are encouraging all of our customers to pay it forward. Here are our favorite items on our bookshelves for teaching beginners:

BOYE NEEDLE COMPANY "I Taught Myself Knitting" and "I Taught Myself Crochet" Kits \$19.95 per kit including needles or hooks, how-to booklet with exclusive helpful hints and special left-handed section), and basic accessories for getting started...

SUSAN BATES "My Crochet Teacher" (\$5.50) featuring easy to follow instructions, clear diagrams, 30+ projects and special left-handed instructions...

TNNA Needlecraft Resource Library "How To Knit" (\$6.95) a comprehensive booklet including tools of the trade, knit techniques, decreasing and increasing, binding off stitches, correcting mistakes, gauge and tension, finishing methods, knitting with color, understanding instructions and much more...

BAR CHARTS quick reference guide "Learning to Knit" and "Learning to Crochet" (\$5.95 each) a handy tri-fold laminated guide with the basics of each craft, binder-ready pre-punched holes...

*** MERCURY IN RETROGRADE ***

One of the interesting side discussions at Stitches South revolved around the planet Mercury in retrograde. Mercury supposedly rules how we think. We will be adjusting everything related to thoughts, concepts, ideas, and communication, especially how technology and material elements play a part in the manifestation of ideas. Treat the time period as a time of gathering information and go about putting everything in order, while maintaining the fine art of flexibility.

How does this impact us as knitters and crocheters? Think of it as time for some creative spring cleaning. Plan out your spring and summer projects, inventory your stash and fill in with new yarn additions to make innovative garments or gifts. Review your needle inventory, adding those extra tools and the accessories you are missing. We'll provide you with a free needle inventory guide to help you get started. Mercury retrograde provides the opportunity to adjust our thoughts, attitudes and communication about our direction. All of the Mercury retrogrades in 2011 are in fire signs, which emphasizes the energy, enthusiasm, innovation and spark we put into our activities. Pick up your knitting needles and crochet hooks -- creativity is in the stars!

*** ORGANIZATIONAL KNITTING TIPS & TRICKS ***

When making a cardigan, always make the band without the buttonholes first. Mark the buttonhole placement with tiny coilless pins, and leave these pins in place as you do the other band. When it comes time to sew on the buttons, the placement is already marked for them...

Freezer bags are wonderful for storing odds and ends of leftover yarn -- write the weight, fiber and brand info on the outside & tuck a label on the inside. Organize your patterns according to weight (Mary Lou Fleming uses notebook binders, placing her patterns into plastic sleeves) and childrens' patterns according to size. Save all pattern notes inside the plastic sleeve in case you wish to work the pattern again...

To simplify counting rows when working circular knitting, weave a contrasting color of the same yarn at the increase point as you work. For example, if you are increasing every 4th round, keep the contrast yarn toward you and take it to the back of the work after increasing 4 rounds later. After 4 more rounds, bring the yarn to the front. You will not only know that the increase was worked, but also how many rounds have been completed...

*** DESIGN-A-SCARF CONTEST THEME ***

Kathy's Kreations will once again sponsor the "Design-A-Scarf" contest at the Westmoreland County Agricultural Fair, to be held in August 2011. Entry must be a scarf of original design knitted or crocheted with a natural fiber made in the USA. The pattern design and yarn label must be submitted with the completed scarf. Prizes are gift certificates from Kathy's Kreations: 1st place \$40; 2nd place \$30; 3rd place \$20. Entry dates and deadlines for submissions will be announced by the Fair Association this summer...



*** A LITTLE DITTY ***

While weavers are loners, and spinners keep quiet
But, two knitters together can make quite a riot!

*** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW ***

Jane B wants to know: "What does the abbreviation DK mean? Should I work with two strands of yarn?"

No, Jane, this does not mean to work the yarn doubled. The term refers to double knitting weight (DK) yarn. This weight knits up at approximately 5.5 stitches per inch on US #5 or #6 knitting needles, CYCA yarn weight classification #3. It is a good choice for summer wear or kids' garments.

The terminology is said to have started in Great Britain during World War II, when factories were short staffed and materials hard to come by. Instead of spinning a sport weight yarn to be worked at 6 stitches per inch as well as a worsted weight to be knit at 5 stitches per inch, this in-between gauge could "double" to get either gauge depending on the size needle used. Some of the more popular summer DK weights brands on our shelves include CLASSIC ELITE "Provence", BERROCO "Comfort DK" and KRAEMER "Tatamy Tweed DK". And here's a cute little hat worked in your choice of DK weight yarn...

*** TWO-COLOR HAT ***

FINISHED SIZE: Infant (Toddler - Child's medium in parentheses)

To fit head circumference: 15" (16.5" - 18")

MATERIALS: Double knitting weight yarn, approx. 50 (75 -100) yards each in two colors;
US size 4 and US size 6 knitting needles or size needed to obtain gauge

GAUGE: 22 sts = 4" in stockinette stitch with larger needles

GARTER STITCH STRIPE PATTERN

Row 1 (right side): With color B, knit across row.

Rows 2, 3 & 4: repeat row 1.

Row 5: With color A, knit across row.

Row 6: With color A, purl across row.

Rows 7 & 8: repeat rows 5 & 6.

Repeat rows 1- 8 for pattern.

NOTE: carry color not in use up side of work

DIRECTIONS

With smaller needles and color A, cast on 81 (90 - 99) stitches. Work in K1, P1 ribbing for 1/2" (1.5" - 2"), ending with a wrong side row. Change to larger needles. Join color B and work in striped pattern until piece measures 2.5" (3.5" - 4.5"), ending with a wrong side row. Break off color B. Work crown with color A.

Crown:

Row 1: *knit 7, k2 tog (knit 2 together); repeat from * across: 72 (80 - 88) stitches.

Row 2 and all wrong side rows: Purl across row.

Row 3: *knit 6, k2tog; repeat from * across: 63 (70 - 77) stitches.

Continue decreasing 8 (9 - 10) sts every odd-numbered row in this manner until 18 (20 - 22) stitches remain.

Next Row: K2 tog across row. Cut yarn, leaving a long tail. Draw tail through remaining stitches and fasten tightly. Sew seam and weave in ends.

VARIATIONS: Use a self-stripping yarn or work in stripes of contrasting colors. For larger size, work with bulky yarn (CYCA weight #5) and US 7 & 9 needles.

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*** WHERE'S KATHY??? ***

- Slip-Stitch Colorwork Hat; a 6-hour workshop for the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild on Sunday, May 15, 2011, Ramada Inn of Ligonier; 9 am - 4 pm; \$40 fee for non-members (includes lunch); for details, call Kathy at 724-238-9320.

CLASS DESCRIPTION: 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 basic 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 (now on display at the shop) which experiments with color combinations as the student learns the technique.



- Interweave Knits Summer 2011; read Kathy's Designer Profile and an article about Kathy's Kreation's expertly written by Julie Matthews; we are so pleased that the cover calls Kathy "The Knitter's Knitter"; this issue will be arriving soon
- Stitches Midwest August 25 - 28, 2011; Schaumburg, Illinois; teaching classes Knit To fit, Slip Stitch Sampler; Intro to Combining Lace & Cable; Ruffles, Frills and Scalloped Edgings. Kathy's "In Living Color" design for Knitter's Magazine K-101 (shown upper right) will be featured in the Knit To Fit class presentation.
- 26th Annual Knitter's Day Out; Friday & Saturday, September 9 & 10, 2011; Central PA College; Summerdale, PA; vendor and teaching All About V-Necks, Make It Your Own (Fit & Sizing), and the Sideways Knit Cabled Hat (provisional cast on, short rows, and cable knitting); details available June 2011 online at www.knittersdayout.org
- Bedford Springs Knittreat; November 3-6, 2011; Bedford Springs Resort & Spa; Bedford, PA; mini-market vendor and teaching "Button, Button", a technique workshop on buttonholes methods, buttonhole placement, "ribbing rules" and closure options; for information, call 412-963-7030 or e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com

*** STITCHES SOUTH HIGHLIGHTS ***

Kathy and Betty Lou recently returned from Stitches South in Atlanta, GA, the largest knitting expo in the South, where Kathy taught 15 hours of classes. Her classes were well-received by enthusiastic, happy knitters who welcomed Kathy with traditional Southern hospitality.

Kathy's design, "In Living Color" (shown upper right) was displayed on a ten foot banner outside the Market entrance, welcoming everyone to come inside. Her "Kollage Kimono" was in the spotlight at the Friday evening fashion show. Kathy was the featured guest designer at the KOLLAGE YARNS booth on Saturday afternoon, where she demonstrated working cable stitches with KOLLAGE's wonderful square knitting needles (lower left).

Kathy also visited with the folks at the BIJOU BASIN RANCH booth, reviewing her upcoming vest design for *Knitter's* Summer 2011 issue. This project is a textured design with intarsia patchwork insert, knit from "Lhasa Wilderness", a luxurious 75% yak down /25% bamboo blend.



Favorite new Market "find"? In addition to the MADELINE TOSH and DREAM IN COLOR handpainted yarns, would you believe recycled earrings made from aluminum knitting needles? How eco-friendly is that?

Look for more photos of Kathy at the Market and teaching classes at Stitches South and Stitches West on Facebook (Stitches Expos).

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

Join the "First Mondays" Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA on the first Monday of each month: **Mondays, May 2, 2011, and June 6, 2011; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.** Come knit with us!

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, May 10, 2011, and June 14, 2011; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) *****

Join Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild members for an evening of knitting & lots of fun conversation with experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead to make sure we are meeting...

***** FUN FRIDAYS, May 20, 2011, and June 17, 2011; 10 am - 2 pm *****

All knitters & crocheters welcome! An instructor is available for help with your questions, skill building and how-to's for projects purchased here. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor. The April date is also "FRILLY FRIDAY", when Tracey will demo the Cafe Scarf in our hottest new yarn UNIVERSAL "Marina" (free pattern with yarn purchase). Bring along Crochet Ruffles, Barb's Ruffled Scarf, Molly Scarf, the Potato Chip scarf or work the Cafe Scarf -- if your project has ruffles (or not), you may knit or crochet along!

***** RAVELRY 101; Saturday, May 14, 2011, 10 am - 12 noon *****

Have you always wondered what we mean when we mention "Ravelers"? Well, you can be one too! Come join Jen Ferrence (tricotlore on Ravelry.com) and learn how this "facebook for knitters" website can enhance your knitting universe. Aside from organizational help, Ravelry offers interaction with other knitters worldwide, pattern support from the designers themselves, and unlimited ideas for your next projects and unused yarns. Jen's class is perfect for those just getting into technology as well as for advanced net surfers. Learn how to become a Raveler, and learn how to use the basic functions of the website. You will receive handouts to help you remember what to do once you get home. Please bring along a pattern or knitting book for the second part of the class. Jen will show you how to use the search engines on the website to find the perfect yarn for your pattern and the perfect pattern for your yarn! Cost is \$15*, which includes the handouts.



*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 2 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for bad 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, crocheting, felting, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. Group classes in a variety of intermediate knitting skills are being planned, or we would be glad to do a specific class for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 31 years !

Nothing beats experience. Kathy's Kreations is now in its 32nd year. We pride ourselves on staying true to who we are as a yarn shop, the fibers and accessories we bring to you, our knowledgeable staff, and the value of our products. We appreciate your friendship and support. KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING! Kathy