



KATHY'S KREATIONS  
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NOVEMBER 2006

Dear Knitters,

The outsiders are in! Handknit and crocheted cardigans and jackets are cold-weather friends that hit style on the mark and give you another reason to head out the door. We've got fabulous yarns and fresh ideas to help you create wardrobe-building sweaters and give winter's chill a nice, warm welcome.

It's time to get serious about holiday projects, those gifts of love that come from our hearts and hands, not a shopping bag. We've got some great ideas for everyone on your list, from your family to your friends, and home decorations, too. Why not add one more name to your holiday gift list, and take time out from the hustle and bustle to make something for yourself? We're sure that Santa would approve.

Nothing proclaims your holiday spirit better than a perfect scarf or sweater that shines with a little glitter and adds sparkle with great style. Glamorous metallic yarns, luxurious chenille and eye-popping ribbons also make easy, elegant gifts for those very special someones. Put the "special" in front of every occasion this party season and celebrate with shimmer, glimmer and glow, and,

### **"GO FOR THE GLITZ!"**

**All regularly-priced eyelash and selected novelty yarns\*  
in stock are 10% off during November 2006  
(\*choose from Trendsetter, Berroco, Plymouth, Muench  
and Crystal Palace in display cases 1, 2 & 3)**

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

In her VOGUE KNITTING Holiday 2006 (\$5.99) editorial, Trisha Malcolm tells us that "intricate stitching, clever cabling combinations and beautifully detailed lace define this season's knits". The amazing pieces that grace the pages of this issue are not only a wonderful challenge, but a joy to behold. Our favorite project is the cover scarf, a plaited beauty, cleverly knit from CLASSIC ELITE "Lush" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 124 yards, 50% angora / 50% wool). Six soft strips and some fancy fingerwork put a new twist on an old standby. Other special features include lacy, feminine winter whites, sweaters for town & country, exotic Asian-feel garments, color therapy, sophisticated stripes and "gold rush" holiday sparklers, all sure to inspire you to get your hands on something wonderful to knit...

VOGUE KNITTING also presents the holiday 2006 KNIT SIMPLE (\$5.99) with 36 holiday hits to knit. There are some fantastic ideas to help you deck your halls, warm up and chill out, with big-needle knits and razzle-dazzle party wear. We are pleased that one of Kathy's designs (blue scarf shown in background, lower right) is included in the "12 Scarves a-Knitting" feature. Garter stitch borders an easy center openwork rib pattern on Kathy's scarf. There is also a hat pattern with four style categories plus three yarn weights equaling infinite possibilities, for sizes newborn's to men's: earflapped, ribbed (in a trio of stripe options), stockinette, with or without pompoms, and brims. Our own Lisa Carnahan has designed two slip-stitch toddler pullovers worked in cheery bright colors. This issue is a "keeper" for great gift-giving ideas and basics you'll want to make again and again...

INTERWEAVE KNITS HOLIDAY GIFTS (\$7.99) is a special issue with 33 engaging knits to make and give as presents. This collection celebrates the joy of making something incredibly special by hand for those we love and those who need what we make (charity knitting). Christmas stockings, afghans, scarves, cozy crochet slippers, hats, fingerless mitts, felt items, mini-mitten & tiny sock ornaments, and socks are among the many projects sure to spark your creativity...

Need a last-minute holiday gift project idea? COLINETTE's new accessories book, *Arboretum* (\$11.95, shown upper right) is packed with great knit and crochet ideas that can be completed in practically no time: a lovely evening bag, fingerless gloves, flower brooches, scarves both cozy and lacy, and an absolutely stunning crocheted necklace. All patterns are worked with the delectable "Tao" (\$26.95, 50 grams, 126 yards, 100% silk) and/or the delicate "Parisienne" (\$13.50, 25 grams, 238 yards, luxury kid mohair). "Parisienne" is a soft and light natural fiber with incredible yardage and is versatile enough to knit on any size needle from US 5 to 10. "Tao" is gorgeous and could very well be considered the ultimate luxury fiber, spun out of the finest silk. Both yarns are beautifully hand-dyed in COLINETTE's famous color range. Also new from COLINETTE is "Cadenza" (\$9.95, 50 grams, 128 yards, 100% DK weight superwash merino wool). If you've ever wanted to indulge in something that feels sinful, here is your chance to do so without feeling guilty!

New from MINNOWKNITS are two new patterns for the younger set (\$5.50 each): "Green Bean" cabled pullover and hat and "Coco Loco" striped cardigan with high collar. Perfect for adorable little darlings...



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

The holidays, just like colder weather, always have a way of sneaking up on you. We've got a suggestion to help you to deal with both. Lisa Carnahan has designed two new patterns to keep you fashionable, comfy and toasty -- weather or not! LISA KNITS "Textured Cap Trio" HT-019 (\$4.00, shown upper right) features three adult hats with your choice of zigzag, seed checks or ripple pattern, all knit in the round with worsted weight yarn. LISA KNITS "My First Raglan" SW-024 (\$4.00, shown lower left) is a basic V-neck raglan pullover in 12 sizes ranging from a child's 2 to adult's XXL, worked in heavy worsted or Aran weight yarn. We've had so many requests for basic men's sweaters, particularly V-neck raglans, and Lisa's classic design is just the ticket. Try working it in one of our rustic tweeds for a sweater your guy will love to wear...



Looking for a versatile wrap that goes from office wear to evening? KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO "Leaves & Cables" Stole (\$4.50) combines seed stitch borders, plait cables, zigzag textures and leafy openwork for a very feminine cover-up sure to keep you cozy while looking fabulous...

"Simple Style #7" (\$12.50 by MANOS DEL URAGUAY features a mitered ruana, sideways knit jacket, sideways knit shrug, short jackets and vests, all knit with the beautiful hand-dyed "stria" yarns for which MANOS is so famous. The stitches are simple, but the style is sophisticated...

Love to work "in the round" seamless sweaters? KNITTING PURE & SIMPLE #9730 (\$5.50) is an easy top-down pullover with rolled neckband for kids in worsted weight yarn. This design is worked in heavy worsted weight yarn, in sizes 2 - 12...

"Butterfly Garden" (\$4.00) was designed by Kathy Zimmerman in memory of her cousin, Rena Rix and her infant son, Jordan, as part of our "Knit For The Cure" Collection. The mother's textured stole is knit from WHEELSMITH WOOLS "Zephyr DK" in Rena's favorite color, yellow, and a little butterfly pattern on garter stripe background. Jordan's baby blanket uses the same pattern stitch. "Zephyr DK" (\$9.50, 100 grams, 123 yards, 50% Chinese silk / 50% fine merino wool) is an elegant yarn for working shawls. Profits from pattern sales will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation...

Just when we thought we had seen everything in self-stripping yarns, NASHUA HANDKNITS introduces "Wooly Stripes Tweed" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 88 yards, 100% wool). This is the rustic cousin to "Wooly Stripes", but with more intense colorways and tiny flecks of color. This looks outstanding in diagonal stripe and mitered scarves, and we understand that it felts beautifully. We can't wait until we see this in a felted tote! Speaking of felted totes, check out our new collection of purse handles, buttons and metal clasp closures...



Looking for an easy but elegant shawl for holiday parties that will make last year's little black evening dress look brand new again? KEEP IT SIMPLE "Ruffled Shawl" (\$5.50) will not only keep you warm, but look quite "flirty". You may use mohair or any heavy worsted weight yarn (ours is knit with FIESTA "La Boheme"). The ruffle is *simple* to create with the knitting of just one row!



\*\*\*\*\* NEW ON OUR BOOKSHELF \*\*\*\*\*

Get ready ... get set ... get crocheting! Designed especially for beginners, *Getting Started Crochet* (\$16.95, hardback, shown left) demystifies the techniques, explains the jargon, and outlines the process, giving you the confidence to get started. Judith L. Swartz begins by taking you to the yarn shop where you'll learn all about crochet hooks and how to shop for yarn. What follows are hip crochet designs developed just for newbies like you. Each crocheting project will introduce you to a world of possibilities.

Begin with a simple scarf, a striped pillow, and an iPod case -- easy and quick to make, and just what you need to build confidence in your newfound skills. After you've mastered the basic stitches, move on to shaping techniques to make an evening bag and a simple top, then work in rounds and motifs to create fun hats and a gorgeous lap blanket, and add crocheted edges to customize a sweet tank top. What are you waiting for? *Getting Started Crochet* is all you need to begin making the fabulous crocheted pieces you see everywhere!

Take your knitting to a new level with handmade yarn! With *Spin to Knit* (\$21.95), you'll learn all the details about fibers, tools, and materials for spinning, and find a substantial selection of simple patterns to knit with that fabulous yarn you've created. There are also ideas for combining your precious handspun with commercial yarns and for accenting your sweaters..

The designers from CABIN FEVER bring you *Kids' Knitted Sweaters & More* (\$21.95, softcover), featuring over 30 designs for the special children in your life. You'll find great projects for experienced as well as beginning knitters. Styles include top-down (their specialty), one-piece and cuff-to-cuff sweaters. We love the photography in this book, and each detail is clearly visible...

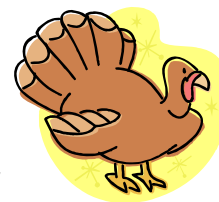
Take your knitting *Beyond The Edge* with Nicky Epstein's third and newest reference guide in the series, expected later this month. Brimming with inspiration, this indispensable resource provides the last word on knitted decorative borders, featuring more than 200 unique adornments for cuffs, collars, corners, edges, closures, necklines and more. We will gladly reserve a copy for you. Complete the set with Nicky's *On The Edge* and *Over The Edge* (\$29.95 each, hardcover). All focus on trims, accents, edges, and other creative details that can make a garment truly spectacular...

One flip through Susan Anderson's adorable collection, *Itty-Bitty Hats* (\$17.95, also expected later this month), and you'll be positively giddy to get your knitting needles clicking. There's a bumper crop of 35 caps to choose from, all organized by a theme: animals, "from the garden", stripes, dots, sweet treats (so cute you will want to eat them up!) and embellished hats. Each design uses fresh colors and imaginative details such as embroidered motifs and playful appliques. Novices take note: two comprehensive introductory chapters explore techniques from casting on to knitting in the round to pompoms and tassels, making this your all-in-one guide to learning the ropes and then knitting them into precious gifts...

New from REYNOLDS comes LOPI book Volume 25 (\$12.50, spiral bound). These contemporary and colorful designs provide updated looks for this timeless Icelandic single ply wool. Our favorite is the sweet dog sweater with traditional motif yoke...

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

'Tis the season for finishing up gift projects (hopefully), and we all want our projects to look perfect. Kathy has received a couple of inquiries related to problems with binding off stitches.



---Donna McG asks, "When swatching, the last stitch on my bind-off row is larger than the rest. Is there any way to fix this?" After researching her archives, here are a couple fixes which Kathy learned from knitting friend Jean Lampe, the master of knarly knitting, that might work. If your last stitch appears "loose", resulting in a "hole" or gap at the finished edge, SLIP the FIRST stitch in the row BEFORE the bind off row. This stitch will become the last stitch in your bind-off row. Because it was slipped rather than worked, it has no excess yarn to create a gap. This is the preferred method, BUT, if you forget to slip the stitch, here's another idea. At the end of the bind-off row, slip the last stitch onto the right-hand needle temporarily. Dig down into the side edge bump of the last stitch in the row below, pull up a loop, placing both the loop and slipped stitch back onto the left-hand needle. Work both the loop and the stitch together, then complete the bind-off.

---Judy Y is knitting sweaters for her two toddler grandchildren, but: "The sweater has a rolled neck edge. My bind-off seems very tight and I am concerned that it won't fit over the baby's head. What can I do to remedy the situation?" The answer may be as simple as working the bind-off row with a needle one, two or even three sizes larger than the one which you used to work the neckband. If that still doesn't solve the problem, try the bind-off method which TRENDSETTER YARNS recommends for light and airy triangular shawls: \*bind off two stitches in the usual manner, make a yarn-over (bring the yarn between the needles toward you and wrap it around the needle), bind off the yarn-over stitch, repeat from \* to the end. This will give you a more relaxed edge, but still have a neat appearance.

---Mary G wants to know: "I love working shoulder seams with a three-needle bind-off. What can I do if I don't have a third needle in the size I need?" This method is wonderful for shoulder seams, providing a neat, stable join with less bulk. The knitting needles *holding* the stitches may be smaller than the size used for the knitting, but the working needle used to bind off the stitches *must* be the same size. Check your needle inventory for a double-pointed needle to use as the bind-off needle because of the shorter length. You may be surprised at what will work in a pinch!

For those of you not familiar with this technique, here's a how-to. First, check before starting your three-needle bind off that each piece has the same number of stitches.

1. Place "live" stitches from front and back of the garment on two separate needles, with the points parallel and facing the same direction. Place the *right* sides together.
2. \*Knit two stitches together, one from the front needle and one from the back needle; repeat from \* once more. With left needle, pass first stitch over the the second stitch and off the right needle, as if to bind off.
3. Knit the next 2 stitches together.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until stitches are all bound off, cutting yarn and drawing loop up through the last stitch.

The three-needle bind-off is usually worked with the right sides facing. If worked with the *wrong* sides facing, it gives a sporty look to the seam with possibilities to embellish with embroidery or accents. Try teaming with I-cord as a "design feature".

\*\*\*\*\* KNITTING TIPS AND TRICKS \*\*\*\*\*

Susan Zylka tells us that her grandmother always worked bobble stitches with short 5" double-pointed needles, two sizes smaller than the needles being used for the rest of the garment. Susan remembers that her grandmother's bobbles were always neat and compact. Thanks for sharing this tip, Susan, and congratulations on your new grandson!

When knitting or crocheting a gift for someone, save a yarn label and include it in the gift package. The fiber content and care information will not only help the garment's new owner care for it properly, but it will let fiber-sensitive people know that they can wear the gift.

Plan ahead. Before casting on your first stitch, decide how you will finish your project. Choose the best cast on method, leaving a long tail for seaming if needed. What shoulder finish, seaming technique, band, etc. will you use? Try experimenting with something new -- it may come in handy for another project. For example, try working increases and decreases one stitch from the edge on side and sleeves. Seaming can be completed more easily and neatly. Rely on row count rather than measurements -- it is more reliable.

When working a garment with variegated or hand-painted yarns, pick up the neckline stitches with a complimentary soft solid color. This will blend the neckband transition and have a neater appearance. For an interesting accent, purl one round in the solid color, then begin neckband by working one row of knit with the main color handpainted shade before starting the ribbing. The "bumps" of the purl round aid in covering up small holes, as well as adding a decorative touch.

When working cable patterns with a yarn that tends to split, try using a crochet hook of similar size to the working needles as a cable needle. The stitches are less likely to split.

Cables pull in knitted fabric probably more than most other pattern stitches. When cables are combined with other patterns, such as reverse stockinette or seed stitch, there is a difference in the stitch gauges. In order to avoid "flare" at the lower edge, increases to compensate for this gauge difference should be made at the point where the cables are placed, before working them, instead of evenly spaced along the set-up row. The more stitches used for the cable usually means more increases required under that cable. If you make increases at the base of the cable, remember that you may wish to decrease those extra stitches at the end, for best results.

When working a provisional cast on with a crochet chain edge, try using dental floss instead of a smooth, slippery waste yarn. It will remove easily without tangling or "shedding" fibers into the main yarn.

When finishing your garment, leave an extra length of yarn in a seam for repairs. Since it will be cleaned with the garment, it should have the same color and appearance as the original yarn. Duplicate stitch works well for repairing holes.



\*\*\*\*\* "OH, MY!" THUMBLESS BABY MITTENS \*\*\*\*\*

In response to requests during our chilly Fort Days sidewalk sale, here is Kathy's easy pattern for baby and toddler mittens, shown at right.

SIZE: One size fits all babies (toddlers in parentheses)

MATERIALS: PLYMOUTH YARNS "Oh, My!" one ball; US size 7 needles; tapestry needle

GAUGE: 5 sts / 8 rows = 1" (mittens are worked with a tighter gauge than recommended on the ball band, to provide warmth)

DIRECTIONS (make two): Cast on 25 (29) sts.

Ribbing Row 1 (wrong side, WS): P1, \*K1, P1; repeat from \* across.

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

Repeat rows 1 & 2 of ribbing until 7 (9) rows completed, end wrong side. Work in stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row) until piece measures 3" (4") or desired length above ribbing, end WS. Shape top:

Row 1: \*K2, K2tog (knit two sts together); repeat from \* to last st, K1: 19 (22) sts.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: \*K1, K2tog; repeat from \* to last st, K1: 13 (15) sts.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: (K2tog) across to last st, K1: 7 (8) sts. Cut yarn, leaving a tail. Thread tail through tapestry needle, draw through remaining sts, and pull up tightly. Sew seam.

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\*\*\*\*\* "MY SO CALLED SCARF" FROM IMAGIKNIT \*\*\*\*\*

Have you ever wanted to try knitting with hand-dyed yarns? Here's the perfect project! This scarf was the hit of the recent Golden Dome Knitting Guild camp. The pattern appeared on the "Sheep In The City" internet blog, with original design credit and permission to share from *Imagiknit* yarn shop in San Francisco. Make one for a friend and one for yourself. Enjoy!

MATERIALS: 2 hanks MANOS DEL URAGUAY handpainted wool; US size 11 knitting needles; tapestry needle

ABBREVIATIONS

pssso - pass slipped stitch over

P2tog - purl 2 together

GAUGE: approximately 4.5 sts = 1" in pattern stitch

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 30 stitches.

Row 1: K1; \*slip 1, K1, pssso but before dropping the slipped stitch from the left needle, knit into the back of it; repeat from \* until there is one stitch left, K1.

Row 2: \*P2tog, do not slip stitches off the needle, purl first stitch again, slip both stitches off needle; repeat from \* across row.

Repeat rows 1 & 2 until a few yards of yarn remain. Bind off all sts. Weave in ends with tapestry needle.

Not familiar with MANOS yarns? The MANOS DEL URAGUAY Cooperative was founded in 1968 to develop economic possibilities for the women in rural Uruguay, where there were and continue to be, few opportunities for work. The handspun yarn is dyed in large kettles over wood fires, resulting in beautiful color shadings called "stria".

\*\*\*\*\* **READER'S KNIT NIGHTS** \*\*\*\*\*

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, November 6, 2006, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. These evenings will feature knitting-related novels, interesting reads and fun knitting with fiber-loving friends. There will be no meeting in December due to the holidays -- stay tuned for upcoming 2007 dates...



\*\*\*\*\* **SKILL BUILDING AND CLASSES** \*\*\*\*\*

**"Knit Knite" at Kathy's Kreations: Tuesday evenings, November 14, 2006, and December 12, 2006, 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 welcome -- come, sit & knit! It's free!

**"FUN FRIDAY" with instructor Joyce Bischoff: November 10, 2006, 10 am - 2pm**

It's fun, it's free -- join us to knit or crochet! Joyce is available for knitting help with your questions and skill-building. 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...

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

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

Please join us to celebrate our annual Holiday Open House **Friday, November 24, and Saturday, November 25, 2006**, from 9 am - 5 pm. In addition to complimentary appetizers and door prizes, each customer will receive a free gift as our "thank you" for your patronage (one per customer, please).

The Ligonier Valley Historical Society Festival of Lights will be held at the Ligonier Valley Library Gallery from **December 2 - 10, 2006**, 12 noon - 7pm daily. The general public is cordially invited. Our wreath, "A Heart-Felt Christmas", featuring felted pointsettias, was designed by Nancy Caldwell and inspired by the work of Nicky Epstein. Thanks, Nancy -- good job!

This is the time of year we look forward to throughout the year -- the season for visiting with family and friends, sharing favorite traditions and creating new memories to cherish. Whether your holiday plans include car trips or plane rides, overnight stays or journeys, we wish you beautiful beginnings, happy endings and joy every moment in between, as you bring the holidays home. Don't forget to pack a small project or two if you are travelling for those unexpected windows of opportunity to knit or crochet.

This season, we hope you'll start your holiday knitting early -- we can help you get ready, provide inspiration, and find something for everyone on your list. Best wishes for a very happy November filled with the sound of clicking needles and a wonderful Thanksgiving.

KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy