



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
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OCTOBER 2006

Dear Knitters,

Did you know it's the year of the cardigan? Fall's all-star sweater line-up includes classic and casual, long and short, blends and natural fibers. An alternative to a traditional jacket, cardigans keep it simple with clean lines and gentle shapes, while adding cozy layering. Button up in a flattering, rich cable knit or a tailored traditional style, modern yet timeless. We've got patterns for everyday, textures galore, and looks that never go out of style. And, don't forget, the new twinset is a jacket with matching scarf.

Are you a yarn diva? We're indulging your passion for fiber this month by serving up some scrumptious skeins for your discerning palette -- a feast for the eyes and hands to behold. As warm days turn to cool nights, discover everything you need for the knitting and crocheting season ahead at Kathy's Kreations. The best of fall is here -- Viva La Diva!

"OCTOBER IS MOHAIR MONTH"

**All regularly-priced mohair and mohair-blend yarns
in stock are 10% off
during October 2006**

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover/Novus, AX

Private knitting and crochet instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services available
Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
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Telephone 724-238-9320

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

This fall, knitters and crocheters will be the ones wearing the "wow-where-did-you-get-that?" sweaters. The search for style is never easy, but we've got some great ideas and the how-to's to help you get started. Here's our "must-have" picks:

KNITTER'S MAGAZINE Fall 2006 (\$5.95) revels in innovative nuances and delightful details in jackets, coats, vests and accessories for the changing season. The designs are stylish and deceptively simple. Fun stitching and exciting yarns will assure you that you fall is going to be a *COOL* one. We are pleased that two of Kathy's designs are featured in this issue -- a "girly-girl" vertical openwork pullover with lace edging (shown upper left, knit with PLYMOUTH YARNS Royal Bamboo) and a V-neck lace and cable pullover (shown lower right, knit with ROWAN Cashsoft DK). If you appreciate distinctive, delightful, unequivocal style, check out this issue...

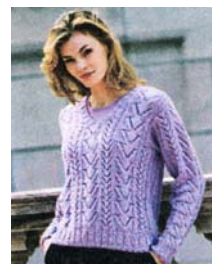
Love knitting? So does the editorial staff of KNIT IT! magazine Fall 2006 (\$5.99). They've picked the best fall trends from the runway and knitted them into classic coats and sweaters. Get set for a warming trend with some wonderful ideas for cozy hats, mittens and scarves. Colorwork is an important element this season, with new emphasis on simple Fair Isle sweaters. And, the collection of nostalgic childrens' sweaters and accessories is perfectly charming...

Be creative your way with the premiere issue of CROCHET TODAY (\$4.99). In this magazine, you'll find inspiration for gifts you can crochet for the holidays. Why spend hours in crowded malls, when you can relax at home and make meaningful handmade gifts? With one simple pattern and simply changing the yarns, you can make a different scarf for everyone on your gift list. You'll find plenty of fashion for holiday parties, as well as home decor items to make your house festive and cozy...

Want to give a special child in your life a gift to last a lifetime? Teach them to knit! PONY introduces 7" straight childrens' knitting needles (\$3.95/pair). Each set features two different colors of knitting needles for easy learning and whimsical kittens on the ends, in sizes US 5 -10. Great for grown-ups for making scarves & dishcloths, too...

The newest "feel-good, look great" yarns for fall / winter 2006 are here:

- NASHUA HANDKNITS "Creative Focus Kid Mohair", \$9.50, 50 grams, 98 yards, 75% kid mohair / 20% wool / 5% nylon; the softest mohair we've ever felt (honestly!)
- NASHUA HANDKNITS "Creative Focus Superwash", \$10.50, 100 grams, 218 yards, 100% superwash wool; beautiful color range
- PLYMOUTH / ADRIAFIL "Spillo", \$6.50, 50 grams, 99 yards, 55% acrylic / 43% wool / 2% viscose; lightweight and lofty subtle self-stripping blend with tweed flecks
- PLYMOUTH YARN "Plymouth Tweed", \$6.50, 50 grams, 109 yards, 100% virgin lambswool; a traditional British tweed in bright colors
- PLYMOUTH ITALIAN COLLECTION "Patches", \$9.50, 50 grams, 88 yards, 45% nylon / 32% wool / 13% mohair / 10% acrylic; self-stripping and self-texturing bulky weight; ask to see Betty Lou's version of the "Changing Directions" scarf, designed by Eleanor Swogger
- SKACEL / ZITRON "Prisma", \$12.50, 50 grams, 165 yards, 82% mohair / 18% polyester; now mohair comes in a self-stripping version, great for diagonal pieces or unique multi-directional special effects



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

Love knitting baby things with whisper-soft yarn? For cozy blankies, cuddly sweaters, and heirlooms in the making, PLYMOUTH YARNS "Oh, My" (\$5.50, 50 grams, 82 yards, 100% nylon) wins our unscientific "softest yarn" contest. This machine-washable yarn is incredibly silky and fluffy, and drapes beautifully. Ask to touch our model sweater (shown right, \$4.00 for pattern)-- we're pretty sure you'll say, "Oh, my!!"



Color yourself beautiful this fall in CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Waterlily" (\$9.95, 50 grams, 110 yards, 100% merino wool), a gorgeous Italian merino wool yarn with subtle hues of color. Knitters of every level will fall in love with the special qualities of this fabulous yarn. Its soft shades of tonal coloration make even the simplest garments exquisite. The adventurous knitter will appreciate the perfect stitch definition "Waterlily" brings to handknit garments. Pattern ideas are in CLASSIC ELITE's "Tweed Four" booklet (\$12.95)...

ROWAN YARN CLASSIC's Book 13 *Classic Alpaca* (\$17.50, softcover) is a distinctively timeless collection by Martin Storey in "Baby Alpaca DK" yarn. This booklet introduces you to the South American Prairies and the wild Peruvian plains where the Alpaca live. The patterns are a traditional English range of cables, stripes, Fair Isles and Shetland lace designs for men and women. Pullovers and cardigans have a rural feel, jackets and vests are modern classics, and the accessories use the warmth of this wonderful fiber to give you pure comfort. The gentle color palette radiates beauty and style in a selection of natural shades (did you see the "Evergreen" Fair Isle yoke and beaded pullover in our recent trunk show?). Get closer to the softer side of nature with "Baby Alpaca DK", and experience the unrivalled softness and luxurious feel that only 100% alpaca can offer...

FIBER TRENDS introduces a new look for its patterns with a larger full-color cover and expanded text area for easier reading. New titles (\$5.50 each) include:

-- AC-82 Ruffles & Ridges (shown lower left): knit in a simple ridge pattern, edged with a flirty ruffle, and featuring extra long "Ties", this shawl can be worn in many ways. Instructions given for two sizes, and is easily adjusted for other sizes or weights of yarn. One hank of JJ's hand-painted "Montage 8 ply" is sufficient yarn for the shoulderette version (\$24.95, 200 grams, 450 yards, 100% wool)

-- AC-80 Streaming Leaves Scarf: like leaves floating down a stream, slanting lines of leaf lace alternate with ripples of openwork. A lovely reminder that sometimes in life we should just relax and go with the flow. Fun to knit, the lace is easy enough for the adventurous beginner.

-- FT-228 Nuts About Squirrels: feeling like some nutty company? What could be better than a felted squirrel or two? The best part is that there is no feeding, exercising or grooming, just the joy of cuddling. Our cute model was knit by Madelon Sheedy -- thanks, Madelon!



-- CH-48 Light & Lacy Baby Blankets: choose between two lovely laces to welcome a newborn. Eyelet flowers combines a small lace pattern with basketweave for thermal warmth. Lace plumes is special enough for a christening, yet practical enough for everyday.

-- CH-47 Alpine Boots: knit with double yarn and felted to a thick, firm fabric, these boot slippers will keep feet warm and cozy. Both high or low top styles feature double soles for extra comfort & longer wear.



***** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES *****

From the author of the bestseller *Pursenalties*, Eva Weighmann, comes *Pursenality Plus: 20 New Felted Bags* (\$19.95, softcover, "Carmen" project shown upper left). Create fabulous knitted-and-felted bags -- and get fun ideas for giving each project your own "purse-onal" touch! If you've never "felt" this kind of fashion before, you'll soon be hooked on the fresh, funky designs from this book. Choose from 20 all-new purses, bags, and totes, with colors and styles for every season. Embellish bags with grommets, pockets and buckles -- even beautiful felted flowers -- to take felting to a new level. Knit projects on big needles with 100% wool and novelty yarns; then follow easy instructions for felting. Bonus patterns include a cell phone holder, an eyeglasses case, and a cosmetics pouch. Several of our customers are making these for holiday gifts. Never felted before and want some hands-on help with these projects or others? Kelly G will be teaching a basics class here on October 21st to have you felting without fear. Check out our new selection of purse handles, magnetic clasps and large button closures to give a professional finishing touch to your felted and non-felted knit and crochet bags...

Discover the wonderful art of reclaiming yarn from discarded knits, and giving it a new life! "The Frugal Knitter" (\$13.50, spiral bound) gives you pointers for "re-cycling" sweaters and yarn, as well as hints for using your yarn stash and knitting with multiple strands...

The Craft Queen's Guide to Hip Knits (\$25.95, softcover) will inspire you to make gorgeous knitted items for the home and to wear. This book gives a modern twist to traditional knitting techniques that have been passed down for generations. Using a variety of yarns, *Hip Knits* shows you how to create your own stylish and cozy knits, from slouchy bed socks and pompom scarf to placemats, a lampshade and hot-water bottle cover. These beautiful designs will have you reaching for your knitting needles, whether you are an experienced knitter or just starting out. With a fun, fresh approach and 18 inspiring projects to make, it teaches you essential skills that every craft queen or yarn diva should know...

Get ready to dive into a world of color with *Yarn Play* (\$22.99, soft cover)! Mix yarns, colors, and textures to create bold and bright handknits. Pile on the color to discover the joys of knitting with multiple hues in unexpected combinations. This is a guide to color techniques and projects for the creative knitter that shows you how to choose colors by drawing inspiration from everyday items like quilts, photos and magazines. There are a variety of contemporary projects, both big and small, from a graphic afghan to armwarmers and dishcloths. There are stash-buster projects for using your odds and ends, or visit Kathy's Kreation's for yarns to blend with your "inventory"...

For those new to the idea of working outside the rules and making things up as you go, *Freeformations* (\$19.95, softcover) will take some of the mystery out of the freeform concept and inspire you to create your own unique designs. Working in a freeform or freestyle manner means that you are leaping into the unknown and working outside your comfort zones. This book will help you with techniques, design and color choices, and help you to discover your creative self. It's also exhilarating and satisfying when you realize you've conquered something new...

***** KNIT FOR THE CURE *****

This year, we mark the healing power of knitting with our third annual "Knit For The Cure" fundraising event. In doing so, we recognize "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and the continuing need for research toward fighting this disease. We've expanded our scope to include other diseases, with 17 patterns in all (\$4.00 each), including six new ones. Profits from the sale of our original scarf and wrap patterns will be donated to specific charities at the request of each designer. We appreciate your interest, dedication and commitment in making October more than just another month. Thank you for helping us transform autumn into a time of year for action, knowledge and hope. The latest additions to our "Knit For The Cure" collection include:



- "Rose's Trellis Scarf" (shown upper right) was designed by Susan Zylka in honor of her friend, Rose McCaskie, a breast cancer survivor. This cable and trellis pattern won 2nd place in the "Design Your Own Scarf" contest we sponsored at the 2006 Westmoreland County Fair. The original scarf was knit in a blue shade of FILATURA DI CROSA "College" yarn, Rose's favorite color. Susan graciously re-knit this scarf in a pastel pink shade of BERROCO "Pure Merino" for our display. Profits will benefit breast cancer research. Our thanks to Susan for generously sharing her prize-winning pattern.
- "Tracy's Cozy Shoulder Hugger" is dedicated by Kathy Zimmerman and Jan Levine to Jan's daughter Tracy, a breast cancer survivor. The gorgeous ribbed wrap is worked in one piece with TRENDSETTER YARNS "Tiffany", a luxurious multi-color ribbon and mohair combination with a hint of glitz. Profits will benefit breast cancer research.
- "Vanda's Linn Run Scarf" (shown page 6) was designed by Kathy Zimmerman in memory of her cousin, Vanda McCurdy. This rib and cable scarf was knit with CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Princess" in a pattern taken from one of Vanda's favorite sweaters in her favorite color, blue. The cables represent the babbling brooks of Linn Run in nearby Rector, Vanda's favorite outdoor recreation spot. Profits will benefit the National Kidney Foundation.
- "Madge's Scarf" (shown page 8) was designed by Kathy Zimmerman in memory of her paternal aunt, Madge Zabkar. The vintage feather and fan stitch variation was knit from BERROCO "Ultra Alpaca" wool/alpaca blend in a soft rose shade. Profits will benefit the American Heart Association.
- "Blue Frost: Mary's Scarf" (shown lower left) is a tribute by Kathy Zimmerman to her aunt, Mary Guskiewicz, who not only taught her to knit but was like a second mother. Blue was Mary's favorite color, so Kathy chose MOUNTAIN COLORS "Weaver's Wool Quarters" in a shade of blue to match the twinkle in Mary's eyes. The double rib lace pattern stitch was chosen from her aunt's knitting book. Profits will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.
- "Butterfly Garden" was designed by Kathy Zimmerman in memory of her cousin, Rena Rix and her infant son, Jordan. Expected availability is November 2006. The mother's textured stole is knit from WHEELSMITH WOOLS "Zephyr DK" in Rena's favorite color, yellow, and a butterfly pattern. Jordan's baby blanket uses the same pattern stitch. Profits will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



Patterns are located in a special binder near our scarf display. Several of the scarf designs can be adapted for a "Prayer Shawl" project by increasing the number of stitches stated in the pattern multiple...

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

As you may already know, Kathy is the Guest Designer for CLASSIC ELITE's Fall/Winter 2006 Pattern Collection. We recently held a special "Cable Day" workshop taught by Kathy. Our students had some good questions and we're sharing some answers:



---"What kind of cable needle is best?" We have a variety of cable needles available. It's a matter of personal preference, use what feels best in your hand and what works the easiest for you. Whether you choose the "U" shape, fish hook or a short straight double-pointed needle, use a cable needle one or two sizes smaller than the needles used for working the body of the garment, to avoid distorted stitches. CLOVER and BRITTANY cable needles are packaged with three different sizes so that you can select the one to correspond to your yarn weight.

---"How can I keep track of the individual cables when working more than one?" There also are several types of stitch markers, which are very useful for separating each cable panel. This makes it easier to keep track of the individual cable combinations. Whether you prefer hard plastic, coil, locking pin, soft or rubber styles, choose the size closest to the needle in use. A stitch marker that is too large may stretch the stitches or keep popping off the needle. It may be helpful to use different colored markers if working more than one cable chart.

---"The cable charts look so complicated. How can I tell the twists and turns apart?" Charmaine Clawson enlarges a working copy and uses a different colored pencil to designate each specific cable symbol. She then uses the same color to mark the corresponding symbol on the chart key (example, pink for a 3/3RC cable on both the chart and the key). Our class really liked using this suggestion to work the Princess cable from CLASSIC ELITE "Second Edition" booklet (\$12.95) -- thanks, Charmaine!

---"What do you do about cables which look loose at the sides?" This seems to be more prevalent with single-ply (untwisted) yarns. If a hole occurs at the end of the cable, try working the next stitch through the back loop. This twist will tighten the fabric and minimize the hole created by crossing the stitches.

If a "long" stitch occurs when crossing a cable, a double stitch may improve the appearance. For example, if working a 3/3 RC: slip 3 sts onto cable needle and hold in back; K2, K the next stitch, then slip it back onto the left-hand needle and K it again (double stitch); K2, K1 double stitch from cable needle. We like this cable so much that we've incorporated it into "Vanda's Linn Run Scarf", a new addition to our "Knit For The Cure" scarf collection (pattern stitch detail shown upper right)...

Tanis Gray of VOGUE KNITTING tells us about plans to publish a book for Fall 2007 titled *VK's Best of The Basics*. A key feature will be a selection of basic, easy-to-modify patterns and suggestions for incorporating your own design ideas into knitted garments. To help readers learn creative ways to modify existing patterns, VOGUE KNITTING plans to include "Designer Tips" into each chapter. Here is a sneak peek at a few of Tanis' own tips which she shared with us. Thanks, Tanis!

--- When adding cables to a plain garment, remember that cable stitches will have a different gauge from plain stockinette or garter stitch. Always make a swatch of the cable pattern as well as the basic stitch.

--- Charting your pattern will help you decide where to place decorative features such as lace panels, cables or pockets.

---A garment knitted out of cotton will be heavier and have a different drape than one knitted out of wool.

***** KATHY'S RIDGED LACE SCARF AND STOLE *****

It wouldn't be "Mohair Month" without a project made with this fabulous fiber. Kathy chose a light and airy openwork pattern to showcase the delicate yarn.



MEASUREMENTS: scarf 8" X 60"; stole 16" X 64" (in parentheses)

MATERIALS: 600 (1300) yards lace weight mohair yarn; US size 8 needles

Kathy used CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS "Kid Merino" shade 4672 three balls for scarf; (6 balls needed for the stole)

GAUGE: 5.5 sts / 7.5 rows = 1" in pattern using size 8 needles

NOTE: Work with yarn doubled throughout.

Ridged Lace Pattern (multiple of 2, stitch detail shown at upper right)

Row 1 (right side): K1; yarnover (yo), ssk (slip, slip, knit decrease); repeat from * to last stitch, K1.

Row 2: K1; *yo, p2tog; repeat from * to last stitch, end K1.

DIRECTIONS: With two strands of yarn, cast on 44 (88) sts.

Set-up Row (wrong side): K1; *yo, P2tog; repeat from * to last stitch, K1. Beginning with row 1, work in Ridged Lace pattern until piece measures 60" (64"). Bind off all sts as if to K. Weave in all ends neatly. Block lightly to measurements.

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KNITTING TIP: when working with a dark shade of yarn, choose needles that are a light color like bamboo or blond wood. The same is true when working with light yarns -- it may be helpful to use a darker wood needle such as rosewood or ebony.

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

Viv A. recently asked, "My bobble stitches look flat. Is there a way to make them look neater?" Yes, Viv, there is! With the resurgence in the popularity of textures and English Countryside sweaters, bobbles seem to be popping up everywhere. A bobble is created by making extra stitches in one stitch, working them over one or several rows, then gathering them back together into one stitch, creating a round ball shape. One remedy is to "strangle" the stitch after completing the bobble decreases, by wrapping the lone stitch left on the needle after decreasing with the working yarn tightly before working the remaining stitch...

***** WHO DEY? WE DEY! STEELER SCARF *****

Tracey Earhart wants to remind all Steeler fans to send positive energy to rally our team by knitting a "Terrible" scarf and showing our colors. Kathy chose black and gold yarn with contrasting eyelash, knitting seven garter ridges before changing colors (seven for QB Big Ben *and* the number of points for scoring a touchdown with an extra point). For more luck, knit a FIBER TRENDS "Huggable Hedgehog" in black and gold!

SCARF DIMENSIONS: 6" X 60"

MATERIALS: NASHUA HANDKNITS "Creative Focus Worsted" one ball each 0500 ebony (A) and 1933 goldenrod (B); TRENDSETTER "Eyelash" two balls each color 30 gold (C) and color 5 black (D); US size 9 knitting needles

GAUGE: 4.5 sts = 1" in garter stitch with 2 strands held together

DIRECTIONS: With A & C held together, cast on 27 sts. Work in garter stitch (knit every row) for 14 rows (7 ridges). Cut yarn. With B & D held together, knit 14 rows. Cut yarn. Continue alternating A & C and B & D every 14 rows until scarf measures 60" or desired length. Bind off all stitches. Weave in all ends. Enjoy a Steeler victory!

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

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, October 2, 2006, and 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...



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

"Knit Knite" at Kathy's Creations: Tuesday evenings, October 10, 2006, and November 14, 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 FRIDAYS" with instructor Joyce Bischoff: October 27, 2006, and 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...

**"Felting Finesse" with instructor Kelly Gradischek: Saturday, October 21, 2006, 1 - 4 pm
\$10 registration fee* plus materials**

Felting, the process of washing and shrinking knitted items into felt, is the current rage and with good reason. Not only do felted knits look great, but they're warm, durable and fun to knit. Choose a FIBER TRENDS bag pattern and appropriate materials, and our expert Kelly will help you with the how-to's: how to knit in the round, how to add a novelty, how to felt, how to make the strap, and answer your questions. Learn to felt without fear -- you can do it!

* 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 Creations at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to kathy@kathys-creations.com

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

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

Fort Ligonier Days will be held **Friday through Sunday October 13-15, 2006**, with special "early bird" Merchant's Sidewalk Sales held **Thursday, October 12, 2006**. It's a town-wide happening and we're smack dab in the middle of all the action...

"Scarecrows On The Diamond", **October 20 - 31, 2006**, is the perfect way to cap off the month. The lamp posts around the Diamond are festively decorated with ghosts, goblins, black cats and witches celebrating Halloween.

Have a colorful autumn... KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy