



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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OCTOBER 2007 UPDATE

Dear Knitters,

Ready to rev up your wardrobe? What's new is here now. Fall 2007 is a season of high style. From relaxed to refined to simply divine, cotton to cashmere, crews to cardies, we're celebrating a new season of colors, fabulous collections and fashion-forward classics.

According to CLASSIC ELITE YARNS, Fall 2007 brings excitement for handknitters and crocheters: "Brush up on your skills, as there is plenty of adventurous stitching ahead. Fashion is seeing the return of complex stitch combinations, elaborate cabling and wonderful color work. We will be seeing simple silhouettes with one fabulous piece of knitwear being THE key accessory this fall. Challenge yourself to try a new knitting technique and know that you are wonderfully in style with a fabulous knitted coat, sweater or large accessory". Read more of CLASSIC ELITE's Trend Report on page 5...

At Kathy's Kreations, we've harvested a dazzling array of yummy yarns -- classic ones, smooth ones, soft ones, stylish ones, ooh-la-la ones -- all the ones you've been waiting for, just the ones you need. Don't let them be the ones that got away. Make us your knitting destination to plan and create your new must-have sweater wardrobe. Come meet our new "babies", and see what crops up. Our yarns, books, patterns, needles and accessories are ripe for fall and holiday stitching, PLUS,

"OCTOBER IS MOHAIR MONTH"
All regularly-priced
mohair and mohair-blend yarns in stock
are 10% off during October 2007



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

COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON

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

Shapes and colors will dictate fashion for Fall 2007. Streamlined looks will focus on sophisticated, body-conscious details: a touch of metallic, ribbings, textures, and collars. *Size* does matter. Silhouettes continue to expand in body widths and lanky lengths. Some yarns will be big, some will have a finer gauge. Silhouette is the focus this fall, whether it be sleeveless, belted, fitted or oversized.

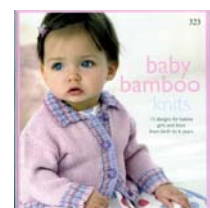
Vests are everywhere -- long, short, cardigan or crewneck -- functional layering is an integral part of the "must-have" wardrobe for everyone. Knit in lace, vests add femininity to the menswear look; knit in glitz, they add flair without being blingy. And the bonus is: NO SLEEVES, easy to knit or crochet a bunch!

It seems that every season, one color becomes the "new black". According to *Vogue Knitting*, it's the color you just *have* to have. This season, blue is that color, ranging from cobalt to indigo. However, gray is nature's most sophisticated neutral and is always a wise choice. And here are more wise choices...

Whether you are feeling the urge to knit with color, or are looking for a clever technique challenge, indulge your passion for fiber this month by working with one of our fabulous mohairs (and they are on sale, too). New shades of you've-gotta-come-in-and-touch-it soft NASHUA HANDKNITS "Creative Focus Kid Mohair" are here (\$9.50, 50 grams, 98 yards, 75% kid mohair / 20% wool / 5% polyamide, CYCA yarn classification 5), as well as lace-weight CRYSTAL PALACE "Kid Merino" in prints and solids (\$6.95, 25 grams, 240 yards, 28% kid merino / 28% merino wool/ 44% micro nylon, CYCA yarn classification 1). Ask to see our fingerless gloves model -- the pattern is free with the purchase of "Kid Merino" to make this project. Other new arrivals include all the new colors of NASHUA HANDKNITS "Julia" (\$7.95, 50 grams, 93 yards, 50% wool / 25% alpaca / 25% mohair, CYCA yarn classification 4) -- who can resist shades like bright blue, rose, dusk, dried wheat, sage, and aqua fog? Yowie, zowie -- they're gorgeous!

What are knitters knitting? SOCKS, SOCKS and MORE SOCKS! Treat your feet with exquisite fibers in fabulous colors from CLASSIC ELITE "Alpaca Sox" (\$18.50, 100 grams, 450 yards, 60% alpaca / 20% merino wool/ 20% nylon; CYCA yarn classification 2). This yarn has incredible softness and warmth. Other new arrivals are SCHOELLER + STAHL "Fortissima Colori / Socka Color" in new Mexico Country Colors (shown above left, \$20.50, 100 grams, 75% superwash wool / 25% polyamid, CYCA yarn classification 2) and our "green" entry, CRYSTAL PALACE "Maizy" (\$6.95, 50 grams, 204 yards, 82% corn fiber, 18% elastic nylon, CYCA yarn classification 2). Did you ever think we would be knitting socks with corn fiber? These yarns are also ideal for knitting lace shawls and crocheting delicate wraps...

"Baby Bamboo" (\$6.50, 50 grams, 104 yards; 80% bamboo / 20% wool. CYCA yarn classification 3) is SIRDAR's new, incredibly soft Snuggly DK yarn. Made from natural bamboo and wool, it is perfect for wearing next to baby's skin. There are ten yummy colors to choose from and the cutest collection of fun and stripey designs for babies, girls and boys from birth to 6 years (book 323, \$14.50, shown lower right). The round-edged bolero style cardigan is one of our most requested children's designs. SIRDAR "Baby Bamboo" -- creating the softest and sweetest knits for your sweethearts...



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

Millions of readers know Debbie Macomber as a gifted writer. What they may not know is that she also loves to knit! "Debbie's Favorites" (\$12.95, softcover) is the 5th book in the *Knit Along with Debbie Macomber* series. The *New York Times* best-selling author now shares her personal passion for knitting, with 11 classic designs from clothing and accessories to items for your home. Many were designed by Debbie's friends, and each was personally chosen by Debbie with her readers (you!) in mind...



We are pleased to introduce sassy DELLA Q handmade knitting bags and accessories for the trendy needle crafter. Their products combine luxurious fabrics with the traditional craft of Vietnamese hand embroidery. Many of the pieces are 100% silk, and are beautifully crafted, reflecting the work of the individual artisan. "The Que" Lily Silk bag (\$45.00, shown upper right) has multiple pockets to hold and organize circular knitting needles, with each pocket numbered for needle size. There is a matching large "Theodora" bag in the same fabric (\$89.95), with one zip pocket and two smaller pockets for tools. The "Mary Ellen" bag (\$37.95) has unique handles and is dressy enough for evening...

Scottish Highland Knits (\$22.95, softcover) is certain to provide readers the perfect knitting project -- modern in style and shape, yet comforting to touch and comfortable to wear. ROWAN's stunning tweed yarns, with their soft, heathery colors redolent of the Highlands and Islands, provides the core inspiration for the beautifully presented collection of designs from renowned British knitwear designers. Giving the traditional Fair Isle designs of Scotland a contemporary twist, the 18 "new classics" that will stand the test of time and trend...

Over the summer months, we've told you about knitting with bamboo, soybean and corn yarns -- what's next? Would you believe seaweed? FIBRANATURA "Mermaid" (\$13.50, 50 grams, 125 yards, 42% cotton/35% superwash merino wool /12% silk/11% seacell; CYCA yarn classification 4) has subtle color variations, a gentle twist, and an incredibly soft hand. We're constantly amazed at the variety of wonderful new fibers available for your knitting and crocheting pleasure...

The Rowan Story Book of Little Knits (\$27.95, hardback) is a charming story and collection of 25 handknit designs for children aged 3 - 10 years. Prepare to be enchanted and inspired by the tale...

Profits from the sale of our "Knit For The Cure" patterns are donated to a variety of disease-related research and educational programs (see page 8). We are pleased to add two new projects by Susan Zylka to our collection. "Bessie's Bluebelle Scarf" (shown left) was knit in memory of Bessie Bergman, Susan's grandmother, with pattern



profits to benefit lung cancer R & E) and was the first place winner in our Design-A-Scarf contest at the 2007 Westmoreland County Fair. "Leaves In Lace", a diagonal lace mohair shawl, was knit in honor of her mother, Betty, a 30-year breast cancer survivor (profits to benefit breast cancer R & E). The 2008 Westmoreland County Fair "Design-A-Scarf" contest entries will be knit with CLASSIC ELITE YARNS...



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

Who but the editors of *Vogue Knitting* magazine can bring you the ultimate guide to the most knitterly of skills? Much more than a pattern book, *Vogue Knitting: The Ultimate Sock Book* (\$29.95, hardback shown upper left) introduces novices and experts alike to the wonderful world of sock knitting. This volume includes a fascinating survey of the history of sock knitting, complete with a photo essay showing the importance of this vital craft in the two world wars of the twentieth century. There are basic and advanced techniques using for knitting top-down and toe-up socks, using both the double-pointed and two-circular techniques. For the adventurous, there is everything you need to design your own socks: the VK Sock Calculator, universal patterns, a Stitch Pattern dictionary and a Sock Design Worksheet. Extensive information about sock yarns and a handy reference table are also featured, as well as patterns for men, women and children...

In *Knitting Classic Style* (\$27.50, hardback), designer Veronik Avery encapsulates both modern and traditional standpoints by reinterpreting the classics. There are 35 designs inspired by fashion's archives and pieces which have made an impact on women's fashions throughout history. The collection includes staples of feminine style, menswear influences, sportswear, and ethnic traditions...

What do you get when you pair crafting's hottest trend with a timelessly chic fashion accessory? Fabulous "Crocheted shawls"! *Vogue Knitting's* latest edition in the *On The Go!* series (\$12.95, hardback) features this favorite wardrobe staple in just about every style, from fun and flirty to classically sophisticated to unique and funky. Worn as a functional cover-up or a deliberate fashion statement, a shawl is the perfect addition to any outfit, and these projects utilize an assortment of yarns including ribbon, mohair, baby alpaca and cashmere, so you can crochet a shawl for every occasion and every season. Shawls also make great gifts with no need to worry about individual fit; these stunners will wrap, tie, or drape beautifully on anyone! Classic crochet techniques like granny squares will appeal to newbies and experienced veterans will appreciate the more innovative stitches, with each shawl a treasure in its own right...

The Knitting Man(ual)(\$24.95, hardback) presents a dynamic collection of clothing and accessories that regular guys will want to wear. Designed to appeal to both male and female knitters, the 20+ projects are based on traditional silhouettes interpreted with modern colors and construction. Reflecting author Kristin Spurkland's Scandinavian roots, with a little vintage inspiration on the side, these straight-up and stylish projects range in complexity for a variety of skill levels. Our favorite projects and mittens are the fingerless gloves (seemingly, our customers' most popular choice for holiday gifting projects so far this season)...

With *The Knitter's Bible Knitted Accessories* (\$19.99, soft cover) from Claire Crompton, you can combine fabulous yarns with vibrant designs to create over 30 accessories for all seasons. Knit slinky scarves, cute mittens and funky hats, plus ponchos, shawls and wraps to keep you feeling snug while looking cool. Discover the design secrets and yarn choices behind each project, then see how simply changing the yarn dramatically changes the look. So pick up your needles and start knitting -- you'll have a wardrobe of knitted accessories or holiday gifts in practically no time...

***** THE BEAUTY OF HAND PAINTED YARN *****

Claudia of CLAUDIA HAND PAINTED YARNS included this information with our recent shipment of her gorgeous fine merino: "Hand dyed yarns are sublime in their imperfections. Each skein is different from the next. Even when they are dyed together at the same time, adjacent to one another in the dyeing process, there will be subtle and not so subtle differences. We take a large skein of yarn, dye it and then break it down into smaller skeins which are kept together and sold together. Even with all this togetherness, there will be variations within the skeins. These variations are what makes hand dyed yarns so wonderful to work with.

Dye lot numbers are utilized to help keep track of various adjustments that are made over time. Each time a particular colorway is dyed, it is assigned a new lot number. This lot number does not mean that each skein in the dye lot will be identical to another skein. It means that a particular dye recipe and batch of dye was used and attempted to dye in a uniform manner.

Some customer may enjoy knitting with two (ed. note: or three) skeins at the same time. Sock knitters may elect to knit the toes/heels/cuffs with one skein and the body/foot with the 2nd skein. Other knitters relish the irregular pattern which can surprise us as we knit with yarns which are unique". Thanks, Claudia!

Attention, Steeler Nation! We stock a black and gold "Steeler" colorway of CLAUDIA HAND PAINTED YARNS for lucky socks and accessories. Ladies, did you know that the Pittsburgh Steelers football team has the largest female fan base of any team in the NFL? Let's show our colors...

***** CLASSIC ELITE FALL '07 TREND REPORT *****

Our thanks to CLASSIC ELITE YARNS for sharing their fashion forecast!

Natural Blonde: This grouping is inspired by the Nordic landscape. Garments in this category would be sweater coats and dresses, scarves and knitted bags. Yokes, wide necklines and hoods are a prominent design feature. Shapes are rounded and enveloping. Pale colors are predominant in these garments.

Precious Metals: Garments in this category have soft, lean silhouettes with fluid movement. The only fullness would be found in the sleeves. Look for elbow-length sleeves, featuring puffed or kimono cuts. Curved hems and cowl necks add softness and design interest.

Organic: Luxurious fibers prevail in this family of designs. There is a huge emphasis on stitch definition. Oversized cables, ribs and seed stitch provide drama and shaping. Cardigan coats, tunic vests and oversized accessories are often paired with close-fitting garments.

***** THOSE PESKY YARN-OVERS *****

Both Michelle G and Mary from the Post Office are concerned about their "funny-looking" yarn-overs. Kathy says, "First, always bring the yarn **towards** you through the needle tips. Take the yarn over the top of the needle once before making the next stitch. If the next stitch is to be knitted, then the yarn is simply taken over the top of the right-hand (RH) needle to the back of the work, where it is in position to knit the next stitch. If the next stitch is to be purled, take the yarn over the top of the RH needle and then under the needle to the front, (completely wrapped around), where it is in position to purl the next stitch. On the next row, the yo wrap is usually worked as a stitch".



***** KNITTING TIPS AND A PATTERN, TOO *****

Tracey Earhart keeps a chain of locking stitch marker pins on her work to keep track of increases and decreases, having one pin for each increase / decrease. As you work each increase / decrease, place one of the pins at the edge of your work. When you run out of pins, you are finished with the shaping. Tracey says that this works especially well with textured yarns. Tracey also uses a short 5" double-pointed needle (dpn) as a cable needle, in the same size as the project needle. You can work the cable crossing directly from the dpn. Thanks, Tracey!

To avoid "ladders" when knitting from one double-pointed needle to the next, Betty Lou Glasso tugs on the second stitch worked on the new needle. Thanks, Betty Lou!

Karen Frisa recommends working seed stitch in the round over an odd number of stitches. Round 1 is worked by beginning and ending with a knit stitch. Round 2 is worked by beginning and ending with a purl stitch. If you are having trouble visualizing this (as we did), Karen tells us, "Remember that knitting in the round is really a spiral. The last stitch of round 1, a knit, will be next door to the first stitch of round 2, a purl. So, in a side-to-side way, it will look like seed stitch. And the first stitch of round 2, a purl, will be sitting on top of the first stitch of round 1, a knit, so in an up-and-down way, it will also look like seed stitch. It's really pretty cool". VERY cool! We had to try this out on needles, so Kathy designed a cap for you to try it, too...

***** TOP-DOWN SEED STITCH HAT *****

SIZES: Babies' (toddler - child - adult in parentheses)

FINISHED HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE: 15.5" (18" - 20" - 23")

MATERIALS: BROWN SHEEP LAMB'S PRIDE Worsted Weight 1 hank; US size 7 double-pointed (dpns) and US 5 & US 7 circular knitting needles 16" length

GAUGE: 5 sts / 8 rounds = 1" in seed stitch

DIRECTIONS: With dpns, cast on 3 sts. Join into circle. Divide onto 3 needles (1 st on each needle). Shape crown:

Round 1: Knit (K).

Round 2: Inc 1 into each stitch: 6 sts (2 sts on each dpn).

Round 3 and all odd-numbered rows: K.

Round 4: Inc 1 into each stitch: 12 sts (4 sts on each dpn).

Round 4: *K1, m1 (increase by picking up the strand before the next st & working through the back loop), K2, m1, K1; rep from * on each dpn: 18 sts (6 sts on each dpn).

Round 6: *K1, m1, K to last st on needle, m1, K1; rep from * on each dpn.

Cont to inc 6 sts on all even-numbered rounds, one st at each end of each dpn, until 78 (90 - 102 - 114) sts on needles. K next round, inc 1 st at end of round: 79 (91 - 103 - 115) sts.

Round 1: K1; *P1, K1; repeat from * around.

Round 2: P1; *K1, P1; repeat from * around.

Repeat these two rounds until piece measures 3.5" (4.5" - 5.5" - 6.5"), dec 1 st on last round: 78 (90 - 102 - 114) sts. Change to smaller circular needle. Repeat round 1 only for 1" more. Bind off all sts in rib pat. Weave in ends.

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***** FIBER SENSITIVITIES *****

Tami Forgan, a hand spinner and knitter, tells us that people who are sensitive to lambs' wool might find alpaca to be a wonderful alternative, because there is no lanolin. Very often, it is the lanolin in the lambs' wool that causes the problem. Thanks, Tami!

Is your skin sensitive to some fibers? Joyce Bischoff suggests testing yarn by taking a small length of the yarn and tucking it inside your bra or waistband. If your skin becomes irritated, then you will probably be sensitive to that yarn. Good idea, Joyce!

***** WHAT IS ??? *****

Carolyn P asks, "What is Bohus Knitting?" Pam Allen, Creative Director of CLASSIC ELITE YARNS, states in CEY web-letter issue 9, "The lively, color-rich patterns used in the mid-twentieth century sweaters knitted under the Bohus Stickning label were the work of the Swedish knitwear designer, Emma Jacobsson. In the 1930s, Jacobsson started Bohus Stickning as a cottage industry to help women supplement their families' incomes in post-Depression Sweden. After WWII, the business turned from a relief organization to a small fashion house for exquisite knitwear."

Subtle color shadings, small rhythmic pattern progressions, tiny purl specs, geometric color patterns and fitted round-yokes are hallmarks typical of these sweaters. The pieces -- front, back and sleeves -- are knitted separately with the body usually a solid color, then joined after a few rows of underarm shaping. A few more raglan rounds are worked before the patterned circular yoke begins. Authentic Bohus designs are worked with Fair Isle techniques using two, sometimes three, colors in a round...

Gloria M asks, "What's the difference between felted knitting and fulling?" Our shoppal Jennifer referred us to an article in *Interweave Felt* magazine (\$7.99, now on our shelves), with this explanation adapted from *Felted Knits* by Bev Galeskas (also on our bookshelves). "Felting is traditionally defined as creating a fabric from wool batting or fleece. Fulling is traditionally defined as creating a fabric from a woven or knitted fabric". The term "felted knitting" seems to fit the popular process as we know it today...

Judy C asks, "What are faggoting patterns?" Faggoting is the most basic of lace stitch patterns. In *A Treasury of Knitting Patterns*, Barbara G. Walker states, "Typically, faggoting consists of a yarn-over stitch and a decrease, and the pattern has just one row. It is, in fact, lace reduced to its bare essentials". We've used a faggoting pattern for a delicate scarf, knit with a gorgeous merino / cashmere / angora blend.

KATHY'S REVERSE HERRINGBONE SCARF

FINISHED MEASUREMENT: 7.5" X 64"

MATERIALS: CLASSIC ELITE "Princess" two balls (approx. 300 yards worsted weight CYCA classification 4); US size 8 knitting needles

GAUGE: 17 sts / 28 rows = 4" in pattern stitch with US 9 needles

REVERSE HERRINGBONE FAGGOT PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 4, stitch detail lower right)

All rows: *Knit 2, yarn-over (yo), K2tog (knit 2 sts together); rep from * across row.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 32 sts. Work in pattern stitch until piece measures 64" or desired length. Bind off all sts. Block lightly to measurement.

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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, October 1, 2007, and November 5, 2007, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Selected picks for holiday knitting and crochet projects will be featured. Please note that there will be no meeting in December because of the holidays...

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

Tuesday evenings, October 9, 2007, and November 13, 2007, from 7 - 9 pm

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

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

***** **FORT LIGONIER DAYS** *****

Please join the merchants of Ligonier Valley for the homecoming happening of the year! "Early Bird" sidewalk sales will be held 9 am - 5 pm on Thursday, **October 11, 2007** from 9 am - 5pm. The weather can be unpredictable, but one thing for certain, we will have sales, either indoors or outdoors. In addition to clearance sales on discontinued yarns, we will also have selected handknitted hats, scarves, mittens, sweaters and children's garments for sale. Our sale will continue on **Friday, and Saturday, October 13, 2007, 9 am - 5pm (maybe later) and Sunday, October 14, 2007 from 12 noon - 5 pm.** Karen McCullough will display antiques and Ligonier memorabilia in our large window, (thanks, Karen!) and our "Knit For The Cure" collection will be in the small window. We hope that you will join us for this special celebration that is uniquely "Ligonier"!

FUN FRIDAYS with instructor Joyce Bischoff, Friday, October 26, 2007, 10 am - 2 pm and FUN SATURDAY, October 20, 2007, 10 am - 2pm

It's fun! It's free! All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor 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. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

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

In October 2004, Kathy's Kreations began a service project "Knit For The Cure". Kathy and some knitting friends each designed a scarf in memory or honor of someone dear battling with cancer or a devastating disease. Profits from the sale of these patterns are donated to the charitable organization specified by each designer. We draw special attention to Breast Cancer Awareness Month with our "pink" window, but the proceeds also benefit lung cancer, leukemia, cystic fibrosis, kidney disease, and local cancer centers. We hope that you will take a look at our pattern collection this month and perhaps knit or crochet a chemo cap, scarf or prayer shawl for someone in need. Items will be collected here for local distribution. Please call us for more details. Thank you to all who help support our efforts to make a difference...

Given yourself a hug lately? At Kathy's Kreations, we feel that knitted and crochet sweaters feel like a hug you give yourself. Best wishes for a colorful autumn and hours of stitching bliss.

KEEP KNITTING! Kathy