

Knit New(s)

A Year in Review



Snohomish Knitters Guild

home to all the fearless knitters of Snohomish County, WA, USA

A regular feature of the SKG meetings is a "best of the web" segment - where you learn about what's hot, and what's useful on the Web.

SKG Knit New(s) is created by member Tandy Imhoff. Every month Tandy brings us knitting information around a theme of her choice. This booklet includes the first year of the New(s) from membership year 2009-2010.

See all segments of the SKG Knit New(s) online at
<http://www.snohomishknittersguild.org>

In September, we offered an introduction to five wonderful online magazines. All of these magazines, offer free patterns, informative articles and techniques. All of them have archives of previous issues for you to browse as well. The images shown for each of the magazines are from their Summer/Fall 2009 issues.

Pop Knits — vintage knitting redux

Publishes four times per year and features a wide array of patterns from hats, socks and shawls to glass cozies, egg boxes and bags.

www.Popknits.com



Knitty — little purls of wisdom

Publishes four times per year and features a large selection of wonderful patterns for all shapes and sizes. See the Summer '09 edition for some quick holiday knits as well. Knitty.com also features wonderful articles and occasional contests.

www.knitty.com



Meta Post Modern Knitting (MPMK)

Publishes twice yearly and is a celebration of fashion-forward and avant-garde knitting. Wonderful, edgy patterns and trend articles.

www.metapostmodernknitting.com



Knitting on the Net — free knitting patterns for your pleasure

Offers a weekly newsletter, featuring a new, free pattern every week. A wide selection of patterns for babies, adults, home, holidays and much more. Also features an extensive stitch library.

www.knittingonthenet.com



Knotions — free knitting patterns for your pleasure

Published four times per year and offers a nice selection of patterns in each issue, usually sorted into different categories. The website also has nice techniques, reviews and resources sections and includes a blog as well.

www.knotions.com



Simply Knit Scarf

By Lisa Gubbels

A wonderfully simple scarf using only knit stitch and yarn overs. Uses approximately 250 yds of a DK or light worsted weight yarn and size 8 (5.00 mm) needles.

Download for free at:

<http://knitsnthings.wordpress.com/simply-knit-one-stitch-lace-scarf>



In October, we brought to you wonderful books and websites about knitting seamless sweaters. There are three basic types of seamless sweater construction, raglan (slanted sleeve seam), set-in sleeve (standard shoulder seam) and round yoke or Scandinavian (yoke is worked in the round after body and sleeves are complete). While there are many free seamless patterns online, I was only able to find a few sites that offered insight into the design of a seamless sweater, which I have included here. All of these resources are great for reference and most include patterns for you to try.

Knitting without Tears by Elizabeth Zimmermann

This book features in depth discussion about techniques and materials, also discusses stranding (color work) and steeking (cutting sleeve and neck openings into your knitted items). She offers guidelines and patterns for bottom up construction in raglan, set-in sleeve, Scandinavian and saddle shoulder sweaters. She also offers percentages and calculations for figuring out the methods for your own patterns. *List price: \$16.95



French Girl Knits

by Kristeen Griffin Grimes

This book features wonderful unique and lacy designs. All of the design techniques are well explained and most of the patterns are seamless. The seams required in this book are usually grafted (3-4 patterns out of 18, with one seamed sweater). The patterns are mostly raglan sleeved, but feature both top down and bottom up construction.

*List price: \$24.95



Custom Knits by Wendy Bernard

This book covers how to understand schematics and what they mean to your sweater, it also discusses ease and how to create your body double (out of duct tape). Wendy offers 23 patterns including raglan, set-in sleeve and Scandinavian methods, all seamless. In the back, you will also find common sweater attributes that can be changed and modified.

*List price: \$27.50



Smart Knitting-Crocheting

A wonderful online resource that guides you through making a seamless, raglan sleeve sweater from your own measurements. She also provides information for taking your body measurements and many other things, included seamed sweater design and many other knitted and crocheted items.

www.smart-knit-crocheting.com/seamless-sweater.html



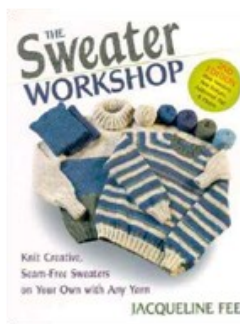
The Sweater Workshop

by *Jacqueline Fee*

This book is an all-around reference book that teaches you in a simple manner how to create seamless sweater patterns. It walks you through a sweater sampler (which looks like a weird hand warmer or something), and

includes all the basic techniques used in sweater construction. There are many pattern ideas and suggestions, but this is not a pattern book, in that it will give you exact stitch numbers to work. All of

the patterns are based on your own measurements and gauges. *List price: \$25.95



The Tailored Sweater

A new, innovative guide to knitting your own custom-fit set-in sleeve sweater. This downloadable pattern and worksheet, guides you through taking measurements and working your sweater from the top-down, to allow for many try-on sessions to ensure a perfect fit. It is \$25.00 and is available through the designer's (Tuulia Salmela) website.

<http://tuulia.blogspot.com/2009/03/tailored-sweater.html>



Purple Sweater

By *Jenifer Paulousky*

A lightweight, cotton raglan that makes curves where none exist. Available for bust sizes 30 -53 inches. Knit on size 10 ½ needles with DK/Sport weight yarn, it is a quick and seamless knit.

Download for free at:

<http://www.bluealvarez.com/bluealva/patterns/purplesweater.pdf>



In November, we realized that there are as many ways to work a sock as there are sock patterns. Many people prefer double pointed needles, but there are those radicals that like 2 circulars or magic loop (which truly is magical). Some people knit them from the cuff down, while others prefer toe up. Everyone has their own way of making socks, but here are a few helpful resources you might try if you have never knit socks before, or if you grow tired of the same old thing and want to try something new.

Sock Innovation by Cookie A

A wonderful book of 15 patterns cuff down socks, for anyone familiar with sock construction and able to read charts. The first half of the book is devoted to designing secrets and techniques, which teaches you a lot about socks and other techniques, which can also be used in your everyday knitting as well. The remainder of the book, are the patterns, but not just any patterns, sock patterns that encourage you to become an “adventurous knitter”, branching out to try new things. “The sock can be your empty canvas.”

*List price: \$22.95



Personal Footprints for Insouciant Knitters

by Cat Bordhi

Insouciant means ‘free of concern, worry or anxiety’ and this book will teach you to knit socks in a different way, by enticing easy-once-you-get-the-hang-of-it techniques. There is a very low learning curve, if you first do a little homework, as you learn a new architecture to sock construction and use a humble piece of cardboard. These patterns are all toe up on all types of needles (but can be converted to your favorite). The book includes 28 fun, lively and varied construction sock patterns, and directs you to YouTube videos to help you learn the techniques, if you need additional help.

*List price: \$26.95



Knitting the Perfect Pair

by Dorothy T. Ratigan

The perfect book to learn how to make socks or to learn new options for creating the perfect fit with time honored techniques for shaping heels and toes. Dorothy also gives you useful sizing advice and construction tips. Graphically explaining many cast ons, bind offs, heel turnings and toe shapings, as well as basic stitches, increases and decreases, grafting and sock care. Very easy to follow along. *List price: \$22.99



The Arachne Sock Calculator

This sock calculator will give you a pattern for cuff down socks from a few simple measurements. Includes calf shaping and a regular heel flap construction. <http://www.panix.com/~ilaine/socks.html>

The Arachne Sock Calculator

Version 2.4

Notes: Check for required fields.
 To save "Test" as a pattern file, click "Save".
 Blank lines are marked for you to enter the sock size, what size needles and what type of yarn you are using, etc.

Notes:

Options:

Heel flap per sock Heel flap per sock

Weight from flower to:

per foot from cuff measurement heel from

Cuff measurement:

per foot from Waist part of calf Ankle

Length:

Foot length to toe

Check what style of construction you would like:

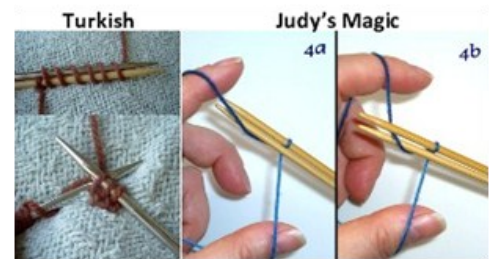
1. ☐ Basic Knitting
 2. ☐ Machine Knitting

[Back to Cat Bordhi's Arachne.com](http://www.panix.com/~ilaine/socks.html)

Toe Up Cast Ons

Turkish Cast On, consists of wrapping the yarn around two needles and then knitting into the wraps. This creates a seam-less toe, but may require a bit of cleanup work when weaving in your ends.

<http://fluffyknitterdeb.blogspot.com/2005/10/knitting-made-easier-turkish-cast-on.html>



Judy's Magic Cast On, an invisible way to start your next pair of toe up socks. It is a combination long tail and figure 8 cast on.

www.knitty.com/ISSUESpring06/FEATmagiccaston.html

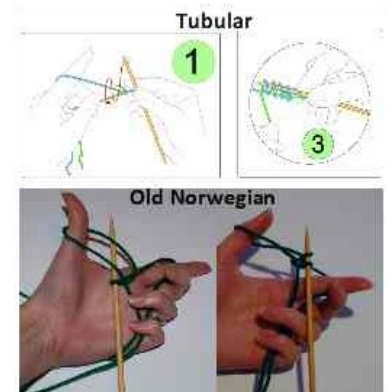
Cuff Down Cast Ons

Tubular Cast On, beautiful, springy, elastic-like sock cuffs in a 1x1 rib.

<http://knitting.about.com/od/knittingtips/qt/sock-knit-tips.htm>

Old Norwegian Cast On, contains a built-in extra twist that gives the cast on edge more elasticity.

http://knitting.about.com/od/castingon/ss/german_twisted.htm



Sock Heel Reference Article (Pros and Cons of different heel types)

A nicely written article by Catherine Wingate, discussing the different types of sock heels. She includes a lot of helpful information on each type, including construction, variations and how to reknit it when it wears out. Included heel types are: heel flap with gussets, short row, peasant heel (afterthought), separate sole, and spiral socks (no heel).

<http://www.woolworks.org/sockheels.html>

Sadie (Toe Up Socks)

By Stephanie Sanger

An innovative cable pattern, knit from the toe up, using approximately 380 yds of fingering weight yarn on size 1 ½ needles.

<http://purplesteph.wordpress.com/2009/05/03/sadie-a-sweet-and-simple-cabled-sock-free-pattern/>



Silver Bells (Cuff Down Socks)

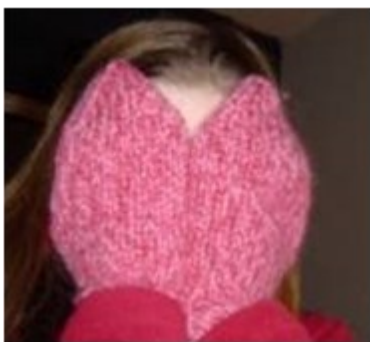
By Daniele Langham

A gorgeous lace pattern sock, using approximately 400 yds of fingering weight yarn on size 2 needles.

<http://mscreate.typepad.com/SilverBells.pdf>



December is a time of gift-giving, so if you're still needing a few last minute gifts, here are some quick knits that are sure to please anyone.



Big Wool Mitts by Jennie

Very quick to knit and warm with 1 skein of Rowan Big Wool or Cascade Lana Grande
<http://knittingqueen2.blogspot.com/2004/12/big-wool-mittens.html>



Drop Stitch Drama Scarf by Melissa Horozewski
Impressive, yet quick to knit with 2 strands held together. Try Feza Mesmerize for this scarf that is sure to impress.

http://www.melissahdesign.com/files/Free_Drop_Stitch_Drama_Scarf_Pattern.pdf



Bunny Blanket Buddy by Lionbrand

A great cuddly toy that is quick to knit with Lionbrand Velvetspun or Plymouth Baby Bunny
<http://www.lionbrand.com/patterns/50722.html>
- free registration is required to download



75 yds Malabrigo Fingerless Mitts
by Jeanne Stevenson

A great stashbuster using only 75 yards of Malabrigo Worsted Weight or Plymouth Trabojos Del Peru
<http://lifeincleveland.blogspot.com/2008/03/mmmalabrigo-glovies.html>



Oriental Shawl by Feza or **Corespun Shawlette** by Amiee Knerr

Two patterns but still the same great look. Use Feza Alp Oriental or your favorite bulky hand-spun for this gorgeous shawl.
Pattern available with yarn purchase at Country Yarns or
<http://pancakeandlulu.blogspot.com/2009/05/corespun-shawlet.html>



Bath Mitt *by Bernat*

A luxurious gift for the women on your list. Try it in Sugar n' Cream or Plymouth Fantasy Naturale
http://www.bernat.com/data/pattern/pdf/Bernat_HandicrafterCotton001_kn_bathmitt.en_US.pdf
 – free registration required to download



Chilled Wine Garb *by Lisa Valentino*

Dress up a bottle of wine or sparkling cider in its own winter gear for a wonderful gift.
<http://knitsburgh.files.wordpress.com/2008/12/chilledwinegarb2.pdf>



Super Summer Kerchief *by Megan Murray*

Try this pattern in Plymouth Mulberry Merino for that special tween or teen on your list.
<http://jedimeg16.blogspot.com/2008/06/simple-summer-kerchief.html>



Fingerless Mitts *by Teresa Wilson*

Mitts that can be knit in a weekend. Warm and toasty hands, when knit with Plymouth Baby Alpaca Grande. Pattern available with yarn purchase from Country Yarns.



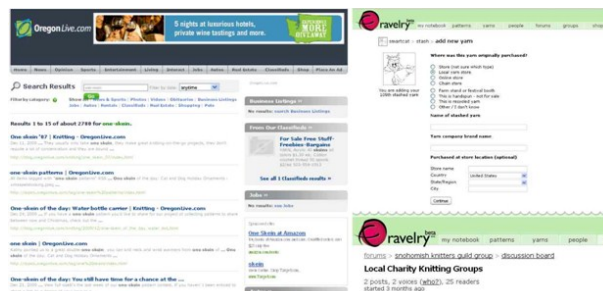
Knitted Hand Towel *by Teresa Wilson*

The perfect gift to brighten anyone's kitchen. Try knitting it in Plymouth Fantasy Naturale, Bebe Cotsoy or Sugar n' Cream. Pattern available with yarn purchase from Country Yarns.

In January, we asked “Did you make any knitting New Years’ Resolutions this year?” If so, and they are some of the ones I thought of, here are some resources to help you accomplish your resolutions.

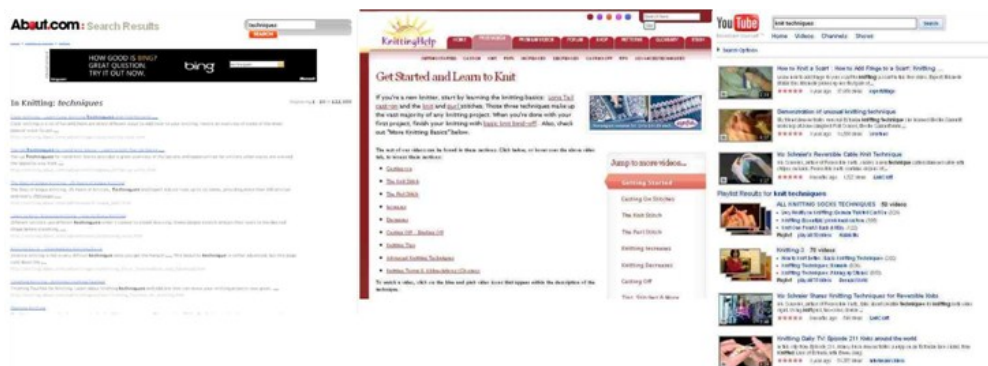
Organize the Stash

Many things can be meant when you say, you need to ‘organizing’ your stash. Some people may want to know all the yarn that they have, if this is you, try using Ravelry.com. There you can input innumerable types of yarn and quantities, and then when you find a project to use it for, you can associate the project with your stashed yarn. Perhaps you have too much and know you will never knit with all of it. How about donating it? There are many donation places, such as your local knitting stores, the Guild (for the new knitter packages), or charity organizations, like some of the ones listed on the Charity thread on Ravelry or on our Guild site. Maybe, you have too many single skeins and can’t think of a pattern to use them on, try looking at Oregonlive.com or Ravelry.com, search one-skein and you will get amazing patterns that you won’t believe are knit with only one skein.



Learn a new technique

Are you tired of knitting the same old thing? Well, try looking at knittinghelp.com, knitting.about.com or youtube.com to find great new ways of casting on, binding off, increasing, decreasing and a lot more. How about learning to do intarsia or fair-isle, steeking or grafting? If these sound too complicated, try a new lace pattern or learn to knit socks. It is only hard to do, until you learn to do it.



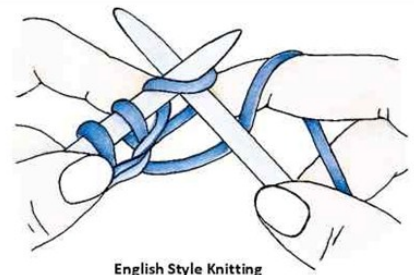
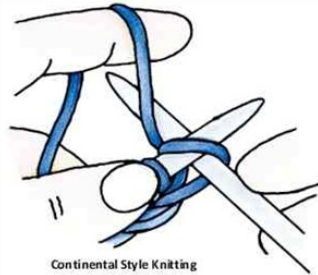
Perfect your Finishing Techniques

Do you often knit socks, and just draw all the toe stitches together at the end, because Kitchener stitch escapes your comprehension? Are you never happy with the way your sweater looks when it's finished, because the seams are extremely noticeable? Are you worried about gifting your knitted items, because the ends might come unwoven? Worry not and learn the right way to finish your projects. Try watching a video on doing the Kitchener stitch at knittinghelp.com or find videos of other techniques at youtube.com. Also Naomi McEneely's *Interweave's Compendium of Finishing Techniques*, is a great go to book to help you take your finished projects to the next level.



Convert to Continental or English Methods

If you find that your tension isn't perfect or your shoulder/arm/wrist/hand hurts when you knit, then maybe learning to knit in a different way would be a great resolution for you. There are great videos on youtube.com, but if you find it difficult to learn by watching videos or reading about it, then try the Continental Knitting Class at Country Yarns on February 8th. Also if you need help with other methods, just talk to Country Yarns, she is always willing to schedule something as a class or individually.



Yearning to Spin

Do you look at all the luxurious, hand-spun yarns around you and wonder how you too could create these luscious yarns? Learn to spin that glorious fiber into the yarn you knit with. There are a great number of spinners, who also belong to our Guild that would be more than happy to give you some pointers, or you can take a class at from Claudette Wagner at Country Yarns or from Katie Kent. Then you too will be spinning away in no time, creating a beautiful masterpiece.



Explore your Knitting Universe

Do you want to meet new friends or find more local places to build your stash? There are many yarn shops in our area to explore and find new things. Here in Snohomish is Country Yarns, Everett has Great Yarns, there's Main Street Yarns in Mill Creek, and Village Yarn and Tea in Shoreline.

Old Shale & Shale Ridge Moebius

by Naama Zahavi-Ely

The pattern is more of a formula than an actual pattern, and if you haven't worked lace or a moebius, than this can be your New Year's Challenge. It is a very easy pattern to follow and has an easy to remember repeat. The biggest challenge is finding a great yarn to show off the pattern.

<http://members.cox.net/nzecrafts/Old%20Shale%20and%20Shale%20Ridges%20Moebius.pdf>



In February, we realized that with more and more attention being drawn to our environment, it would be helpful to share with everyone with some wonderful information about being green with our knitting.

Green Fibers

When we talk about sustainable resources, not all of us think of yarn, but we should. We all know about cotton, it's wonderful absorbency and strength, but do you know of the other plant based yarns out there. Bamboo is a wonderful, sustainable yarn resources that is naturally antibacterial, very soft and has UV protection properties. Hemp is machine washable/dryable and doesn't stretch, so is great to use for market bags, purses and such. Corn is similar to bamboo, but is often a lighter weight option. Soy yarn is made from the leftovers of tofu processing and is also very soft and great for summer items. Most of the major yarn manufacturers have started using plant fibers more and more. Search at google.com for more information on any of these and more sustainable yarn resources.



Home Grown Fibers

When someone says natural fibers, usually the first thing we think of is wool. Wool has been used for centuries to create yarn and clothing and nowadays there are numerous varieties to choose from. But let's not forget a few of those other animal fibers as well. Cashmere, is a luxurious yarn from goats, it is incredibly soft and warm. Alpaca is fiber from the alpaca animal and is also extremely soft and often warmer than wool. Angora is from rabbits and is sometimes confused with an angora goat, which offers us mohair. Perhaps the holy grail to all knitters is quiviut, which is from arctic musk oxen and is light, soft and one of the few animal fibers that won't felt in it's pure form. These are just a few, but with a search on google.com, you can find many facts about all types of animal fiber yarns.



Recover and Reuse

Do you have a sweater that is no longer your favorite sweater, or it never fit right to begin with and you can't imagine why you've kept the thing all these years, but the color looks great on you? Or you love to browse the thrift stores for those wonderful, magical finds for just a few dollars? Then this is for you, unravel those old sweaters to create new ones. Here is a great tutorial at Neauveau Fiber Arts, on what to look for when looking to buy sweaters for unraveling, as well how to do it.

<http://www.neauveau.com/recycledyarn.html>



Plastic Bags

We all have plastic grocery bags around, unless you are one of those people religious about recycling them. Even though many of us use the reusable shopping bags these days, there are always those few times when you forget to stuff one in the car or you run out of your own bags, so they use one of the plastic type. Well now there is a use for them as well, cut them into strips and tie them together to create PLARN! (plastic yarn). It is great to use for door mats, under the dog blanket, or anywhere else you need a durable mat. Check out the tutorial at That Crafty Bitch:

<http://pink-thatcraftybitch.blogspot.com/2009/06/tutorial-spinning-plarn.html>



Green your Home

I don't know if you are like me, but I go through a lot of paper towels in the kitchen, and while there are somethings, I wouldn't use cloth for, there are many things that a good durable washcloth is great for and with today's washable, natural fibers, you can have the best of both worlds. Check out some great dishcloth patterns at Knittingpatterncentral.com or Ravelry.com and try knitting dishtowels as well. Bamboo is wonderful for these, with it's anti-microbial properties and cotton will take anything you can throw at it. Best of all, when they are dirty, just throw them in the wash and you have a bunch ready to use again. Most dishcloth patterns can be dishtowel patterns as well, just keep knitting on them to your desired length, or do a simple garter stitch rectangle.

Check out: www.knittingpatterncentral.com/directory/dishcloths.php or www.ravelry.com/patterns/search?query=dishcloth+free



Lacy Mock Cable Cloth

By Vaunda Rae Giberson

A wonderful and fancy lace pattern, that is easy yet elegant to work. Works with all worsted weight cotton yarns and can easily be adapted for a dishtowel as well.

Download for free at:

<http://www.groupepp.com/dishbout/kpatterns/lacymockcable.html>



In March, I shared with everyone an ad for a wonderful magazine from Interweave, called Knitting Traditions. This inspired me to share with you some traditional ideas about knitting.

Lace Shawls

The traditions of lace shawls are very individual to each country that is famous for knitting them. Most of the differences come from materials used, shaping and background stitch. The Faroese shawls are traditionally done from the bottom edge up, have a center gusset and shoulder shaping. This creates a triangular shape that often resembles butterfly wings. There are two types of Shetland shawls traditionally. The Shetland Hap shawl is a heavier everyday type shawl with a feather and fan border, but there are also the Shetland Lace shawls that are more widely known. Both shawls were traditionally square in a garter stitch pattern, that were then folded into a triangle to be worn. Shetland women appear to have adopted the wedding ring shawl in the 1830's with European trade. Orenburg shawls are unique in that they used goat's down that was combed out of the goats. These goats were migrated to try to expand the market, but failed to continue to produce the soft down after a year or so in warmer climates. Orenburg shawls are triangles, squares or rectangles and 'at heart' utilize ancient magical symbols. Each knitter expressed their view of the Universe in their shawl pattern. Estonia is another country that did wonderful 'wedding ring' shawls. Traditionally the shawls were square or rectangular and the lace edging was knit separately from the outside edge inward and then sewn onto the center. The corners were not mitered, but allowed enough stitches to ease around the corners instead.



Faroese



Shetland Hap



Shetland Lace



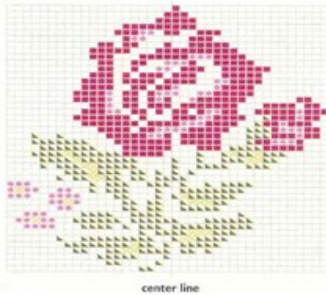
Orenburg



Estonia

Bulgaria – Intarsia in the round

I'm sure most of you have heard that intarsia CAN'T be done in the round and that is what I also believed until now. Bulgarian women have long been knitting socks in the round with intarsia designs. They do this by knitting the design and background on one row, on the next row, they slip the design stitches and then turn the work and purl the yarn back over the design, so the yarn end is now on the right side, set for the next row. Let me explain, has a nice article explaining the technique. http://explaiknit.typepad.com/let_me_explainknit/2006/08/rock_around_the.html



Two Socks at a time (Inside each other)

We've all heard of doing sock two at a time, but usually you will see them side by side on circular needles. What did women of old do, before circular needles were invented? They knit one sock inside of the other. It was recommended that you knit the ribbing first, since it can often confuse you, since you knit and purl on the ribbing. Once you are past the ribbing, you purl the stitches for the outside sock and knit the stitches for the inside sock. The stitches are alternated on the needles, so you purl one stitch and switch yarns and knit a stitch. This technique was mentioned in War and Peace, published originally in 1865, so we know this technique is at least that old. This technique could also be used to do two sleeves for your sweater at the same time. Knitty has an article, that helps to illustrate the technique. <http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEfall06/FEATextreme2in1.html>



Slightly Beyond Basic - The "Easy Peasy" Shawl

By MMario

Note: I used approximately 975 yds of sock weight handspun wool yarn. I achieved a 40" circular, got to row 125 with 512 stitches. I would double these amounts for a regular size shawl."

<http://www.menwhoknit.com/community/?q=node/2828>



In April, we had fun with our Annual Destash Sale, so we waited until May to enjoy the gorgeous weather and start thinking about what to knit during the warm summer months. It is stifling to have an afghan or wool sweater in your lap, when it is warm outside. Knit some small projects that you can take with you to the park, beach or pool.

Small projects

When the weather warms up, our projects tend to get smaller, so that we don't have heavy pieces of knitting covering our laps. Why not get some Christmas knitting started? Work on gloves, hats, scarves or socks to fill your present basket. That way, when the cooler weather arrives, you'll have time to work on that gorgeous alpaca sweater for yourself. You could also work on replenishing your dish cloth supply or make some reusable market bags and be green, while you keep cool this summer.



Take it on the Go

Another benefit of small projects, is that they are easily taken with you when you want to escape your overly warm house, for the cool and refreshing spray of the water at the beach or some cool mountain air, when you go on a hike. Try some knitted wrist bags or small project bags with drawstrings or handles, that allow you knit while you walk or hike (though I don't recommend it while bike riding). There are several patterns on Ravelry for small knitted bags and many retailers also have small project bags, ideal for taking projects on the go.



Cool Materials

If you do choose to work on larger projects, then work with cooler materials that won't make you as toasty as that gorgeous wool or alpaca that you have had in your lap all winter. Try some bamboo, hemp, cotton or soy. These gorgeous yarns make wonderful hats, tank tops, summer sweaters and even baby blankets.



Keep Cool and Hydrated

If you do choose to do larger projects this summer, then here are a few other tips to help keep you cool. Try a cooling neckerchief, it is filled with crystals that absorbs water and then releases it, and thereby uses evaporation to help keep you cool. They are available online, or can be made, with a bit of sewing, from a bandana and 'SoilMoist' crystals (from your gardening store). Fans are also great (as long as your pattern is securely fastened down). Be sure to keep well hydrated as well. Here are some yummy punch recipes that you can keep in your fridge to quench your thirst.

Raspberry Lemonade Punch - <http://recipes.kaboose.com/raspberry-lemonade-punch.html>

Other Refreshing Recipes - <http://recipes.kaboose.com/holidays/summer-recipes-drinks.html>



Shazza's Bucket Hat

by Sharon at Shazza Knits

This is a quick and wonderful hat to make. It knits up in a few hours and can be shoved in pockets, purses, bags and anywhere else you want to shove it, yet shakes out and makes a wonderful sun hat. Quick and easy to knit, with a skein of yarn and simple knit, purls, yarn overs and knit 2 together.

Download it now:

<http://shazzaspatterns.blogspot.com/2008/05/bucket-hat.html>



In June, we learned about Intarsia. Intarsia is a wonderful technique to add color graphics to your sweaters, blankets, stockings, purses and more. I thought that I would share a few tips and tricks that I have learned along the way with you, as I work on an intarsia Christmas stocking.

Things to Know

When do you choose to do intarsia, instead of fair isle? Usually if the color floats (stitches yarn is carried between stitches) are long or there are more than 2-3 colors per row, it is a wonderful time to consider intarsia. Also if you wish to do vertical stripes in multiple colors, it is another great time to use intarsia. With intarsia knitting, the each color stands by itself and the yarn does not generally carry over the back of stitches, as you would do with fair isle knitting. For this reason, intarsia will not result in a thicker piece of knitting, because each color is separate, unlike fair isle, where the different yarns are carried along the entire row. It is also very important that you twist the yarns together at every color change to avoid gaps between colors (however if you do get a gap, it can be repaired when you are finished, as you are sewing in your ends). Intarsia is also (almost always) worked flat rather than in the round.



Fair Isle



Intarsia



Front



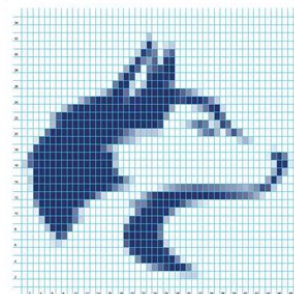
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Finding a pattern

There are many patterns online and in books that have wonderful items with intarsia designs on them, but what if you want a specific picture on a specific piece of knitting. If you can find a picture you like, then you can turn it into an intarsia design that can be used with any knitting pattern (with enough stitches). I love using cross-stitch patterns or clipart from the internet for patterns. There is a wonderful tool on

the internet that transforms any graphic into a charted design, it is called Knit-

pro. It allows you to upload any graphic from your computer, you then select the size you want and it creates a PDF pattern that you can save and print. You can also use graph paper or a computer program (like Microsoft Excel) to create your own charted pattern. <http://www.microrevolt.org/knitPro/>



Free Intarsia Charts

Here are a few links of intarsia designs to help you get started.

Knitting on the Net: <http://www.knittingonthenet.com/motifs.htm>

Knitting-and.com: <http://www.knitting-and.com/knitting/patterns-charts.htm>

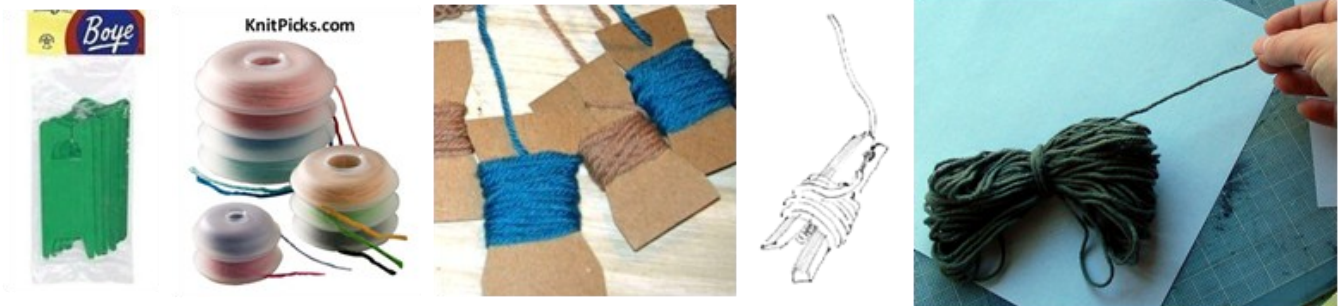
Jessica Tromp designs:

<http://www.jessica-tromp.nl/2intarsiajacquardknittingmotifsgraphscolourcharts.htm>

Knitter's Graph Paper: <http://sweaterscapes.com/lcharts3.htm>

Managing the Yarn

It can seem a little daunting to work with 2, 3, 4, or more colors of yarn all at the same time, but with a little preparation, it can be handled easily. First split your main color into several balls of yarn, so that you don't have to refresh bobbins of this color often. Make bobbins or use store-bought bobbins for the smaller color areas, while using small balls or butterflies for the larger areas. Bobbins can be made at home out of any sturdy cardboard, clothes pins or other items that allow you to wind the yarn around the object and hold it in place. Only unwind enough yarn from the bobbins that can be used on the row you are working, to keep them from tangling around each other.



Keep track of the chart

It is very important to be sure of which row you are working on your charted design. You can use a magnetic chart holder, like the one available from KnitPicks.com. This holds your chart in place and you are able to use magnetic strips to mark where you are on your chart. Another item you can use to mark your chart is highlighter tape. This is a transparent colored tape that is re-positionable. It acts like a highlighter marker, but is much easier to use on all surfaces, including books. I also recommend, making several copies of your chart (especially if you have borrowed the pattern), because you wouldn't be the first person to misplace your chart and then have a hard time finishing, because you can't find/borrow the original pattern again.



Framed Diagonal Dishcloth by Jana Trent

This is a wonderful pattern to try out your new intarsia skills. It is well laid out and explains all of the intarsia steps very well. You can knit it in dishcloth cotton or if you knit it in wool, you could then felt it to use as hot pads or coasters.

Download for free at:
<http://www.eloomanation.com/pdf/new/eLoomanator-Framed-Diagonal-Dishcloth.pdf>



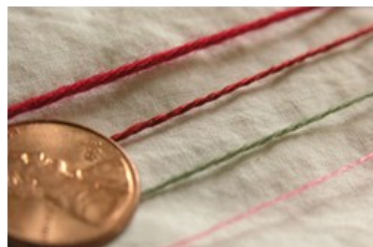
In July, we discovered that knitted toys can be fun to make. With all of the toy recalls lately, it can be hard to know what your child is putting in their mouth, but you don't have to worry about that if you make it yourself. Knitting toys isn't that difficult, if you know a few tips and tricks.

Gauge

Overall gauge is not critical when working with toys, however when making something that will be stuffed, you want your gauge to be tighter than you would normally make it. You will want to decrease your needle size by at least 2 needle sizes from your normal gauge. By doing this you will decrease the size of the stitches and the yarn will fill in the gaps between stitches, that is normally there. Gauge can also affect the finished size of your toy. By changing your yarn and needle size you can get many results from a single pattern.

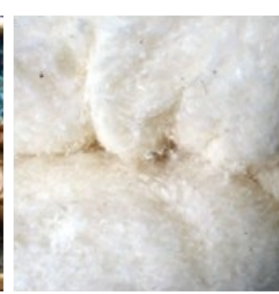
Choosing the right materials

When you are choosing the yarn to work with, you will want to consider a few important things. First, is the weight of the yarn. Most toy patterns are very flexible and you can easily change the finished size, by altering the weight of the yarn you use. The next thing to consider is the end use, is this going to sit on a shelf as a decorative piece or is it going to a child that will love it, until it falls apart? If it is for decorative purposes, then there is no limit to the type of yarn you use, other than your budget. If it is going to be for a child, you may want to consider something that is machine washable and easily cleaned. Make sure that all the materials you use have similar care instructions.



Stuffing Your Toy

There are many things that you can use to stuff your knitted toy with. Probably the most common is polyester fiberfill, found at most craft and sewing stores. You can also stuff it with yarn scraps, wool fleece, or cotton batting. The benefits of using fleece, cotton or yarn scraps is that you can choose or dye the stuffing to match the color of the toy, so that gauge is less critical because you won't be able to tell where it shows through. Don't overstuff or push too hard when stuffing, as that can cause the stuffing to lump up and be hard, but also don't under stuff. Once you have it well stuffed, massage and roll it around in your hands to distribute the stuffing and even everything out.



Finding Patterns

There is a huge selection of patterns online and at your library. Dozens of books have been published with patterns for all types of toys, including some character toys as well. If you are looking for a few to get started, here are a few links to free patterns for you:

Knitting Pattern Central – Animals: <http://www.knittingpatterncentral.com/directory/animals.php>

Knitting on the Net – Dolls & Toys: <http://www.knittingonthenet.com/dolls.htm>

Noisemakers

If you are making your toy for a child, you may want to consider putting something inside the toy to make it a interactive. There are a number of ways you can add noise to your creation. Use a foil chip bag (washed, of course) and crinkle it up and put it near one of the surfaces of the toy, when the child squeezes it, it will make the crinkly sound kids love. You can make shakers out of anything, like plastic easter eggs or film canisters filled with rice, beans, jingle bells, pasta, and more. Just be sure that you use a non-water soluble glue to glue it shut, so even when the toy is washed, nothing will fall out. Squeakers are available now in most pet stores and can be put into your toys as well.



Finishing Touches

Be sure to put the same effort and thought into those finishing details too. THERE IS A USE FOR FUN FUR! Be sure that there is nothing that can come loose and pose a choking hazard, if your toy is for a small child. Embroidered or felted faces are wonderful for young children's toys for this reason. If your toy is for an older child or decorative purpose, then you can use pom-poms, buttons, glue-on eyes and more. Just let yourself be creative.



Love Ewe

by Christine H. Wilkins

Try this cuddly little sheep as your first or thousandth toy project. It is a simple project to do and is a great way to practice your bobbles at the same time. The pattern offers a few customization options and will make a wonderful toy for a child or a great decoration for your knitting room. Knit with worsted weight yarn and size 5 needles, it is a fun and quick project to add to your project bag. It is also relatively small and therefore easy to knit on in the heat of summer.



Ravelry download: <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/love-ewe>

In August, protecting our hand-knit treasures is what we explored. We have all labored with love over something hand-knit. If we're lucky, we've carefully unpacked that gorgeous sweater or afghan that our mother or grandmother lovingly packed away to use it once again. But how do we preserve these items to be treasured by the next generation?

Loving Care

First you must wash the items using the appropriate care. Read the care labels of the yarn and if you are unsure of what it is made of, treat it as if it were made of silk or cashmere. Regardless of whether or not you can throw it in the washing machine or need to hand wash it, use cold water and a gentle detergent. You can find Eucalan or Kookaburra Wool Washes in most knit shops or online, but you can also use Dawn dish detergent, or Ivory soap. Vinegar makes a wonderful fabric softener, that doesn't leave a residue or a fragrance. Once you have cleaned your precious item, lay it flat to dry and be sure it is completely dry before you pack it away. Check out this great website for more information: <http://laundry.about.com/od/laundrybasics/a/carehandknit.htm>



The Bitter Pill

Regardless of how carefully, you care for your hand-knit items, most of them will develop pills on the surface at some point. These are caused by the shorter fibers breaking and grabbing hold of their neighbors and creating these 'pile-ups'. All natural material knit items will pill to different degrees, unless you NEVER use them. The pills however can be removed, using a sweater stone, fabric shaver or razor and the pilling will become less, as the shorter fibers are 'weeded out'. I found that the makers of the Sweater Stone, offer a free stone with postage paid of \$4.99: <http://www.sweaterstone.com/free.htm>, through the end of the year. If your sweater develops a snag, be sure to immediately pull it through to the inside of the sweater with a Knit Picker or crochet hook.



The Right Choices

The next step in preserving your hand-knits is to create the perfect environment for your hand-knit item to live in, while it awaits its next event. Plastic is never a good choice for storing your hand-knits or wools and you do not want anything that is air-tight. Your precious items need to breathe, so pack them in cardboard boxes, muslin or canvas bags, and acid-free tissue paper. Many plastics, papers and cardboards, release chemicals into your items as they sit, so acid-free choices are essential to preserving the life of your hand-knits. Here is a website, that can help you make your own acid-free boxes, for just a few dollars (<http://www.museumprofessionals.org/forum/member-articles/2333-collections-care-shoestring-budget-acid-free-storage-boxes.html>) or you can purchase acid-free items online at sites like Amazon.com.



The Evil Moth

If you work with wool, in any form, you live in fear of this creature. If you notice any signs of infestation, immediately put suspect items in your deep freeze (in plastic bags) at 0° – 5° F. Leave them at least 4 days, take them out for 3-4 days, then return them to the freezer once again, repeat several times. The repeated cycle can kill both the larva and the eggs over time. To help prevent them from claiming your wools, use natural herbal repellants, like those found here: <http://www.care2.com/greenliving/packing-those-sweaters-away-safely.html>. If you find you have a truly bad infestation, here are some sites that may help you stop them from completely destroying everything in your house. <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05599.html> & <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05599.html>



Dutch Heel Baby Hoodie by Pam Stiff

This ingenious design is a baby sweater that will be worn often and treasured forever. It starts at the face opening of the hood, completes the hood with a traditional dutch heel, then continues the sweater with raglan shaping, to create a completely seamless baby sweater. It is knit in worsted weight yarn on size 7 needles, so is a fairly quick gift as well.

ERRATA: After the eyelet row, you need to knit 3 rows (not 2), in order to finish on the right side to divide for the sleeves.

Download at:

<http://knitalittlebit.tripod.com/Dutch%20Heel%20Hoodie.htm>



Come Join Us!

Second Tuesdays, 7-9 P.M. –The Waltz Building, 116 Avenue B, Snohomish, WA

Open knitting group 6 –7 P.M. (prior to regular meeting); KnitLab (help when you need it) 6:30pm.

Mission

The Snohomish Knitters Guild is committed to encouraging friendships between new and long-standing hand-knitters who have a passion for knitting, sharing knowledge, and promoting the use of local knitting resources. Kindred spirits regularly meet to learn the art of hand-knitting, foster knitting skills, and cultivate a supportive community. SKG is a gathering of all the fearless hand-knitters of Snohomish County, WA – fearless about trying new techniques and fearless in our creativity.

The Snohomish Knitters Guild (SKG) serves all the hand-knitters of Snohomish county in Washington state, providing a place to meet hand-knitters face-to-face, share the work of our hands, and get inspired. The SKG provides a monthly newsletter to members with articles about the membership, upcoming fiber-related events, fairs, gatherings and classes.

What do you get when you become a member of the Snohomish Knitters Guild?

- Face-to-face interaction with knitters
- Regular inspiring speakers
- Show and tell - see the real thing
- Members-only newsletter
- You help support the craft and the local knitting economy with your guild membership

Snohomish Knitters Guild Resources

Web site: <http://www.snohomishknittersguild.org>

Ravelry group: <http://www.ravelry.com/groups/snohomish-knitters-guild>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Snohomish-WA/Snohomish-Knitters-Guild/108331839240>

Snohomish Knitters Guild

