



Knit Wits

Monthly Newsletter



From the Owners

The beginning of April means we have officially been officially open for 6 months! With the weather heating up, be sure to come see some of our new arrivals in cotton and cotton blends. Don't forget about corn and bamboo – also great for knitting warm weather garments!

We wanted to let you know that we will be traveling the end of this month and the beginning week of May, but the shop will remain open. Come by to meet our stand-in employees: Brenda and Julie. You will be glad to have met these wonderful ladies!

The only dates that the store will be **closed** are:
Thursday and Friday, April 24th and 25th and
Tuesday, May 6th

April's Featured Yarn is: Organic Cotton



What is Organic Cotton?:

- Grown without the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers
- Growth and harvesting is regulated and certified by the USDA – these regulations are *very* strict
- Organic production systems replenish and maintain soil fertility by using methods such as crop rotation and supporting beneficial insects for pest control
- Third-party certification organizations verify that organic producers use only methods and materials allowed in organic production

Where does Organic Cotton come from:

- Grown in 12 countries
- Leading producers are the USA and Turkey
- Texas continues to lead the United States in organic cotton production

Facts about Organic Cotton:

- If all the cotton in the world were grown organically, the use of insecticides could be reduced by 25 percent!
- Only natural dyes can be used to dye yarn that is labeled 'organic cotton'.
- Hand picked (no destroying plants, no machinery) which means less waste
- Organically grown cotton fibers have the same characteristics as conventionally grown cotton.

Flirty Tank Workshop

Pre-registration is required.

Do you know how to knit and purl?
Would you like to increase your skill set while making a stunning garment to wear just in time for Summer?

If you answered "yes!", this workshop is for you! We will work together from **start to finish** creating this beautiful Flirty Tank. There will be 6 sessions totaling 8 hours of class time.



The Flirty Tank is a not-too-revealing, non-fitted empire bodice and features shoulders wide enough to hide straps. The bodice is stockinette with a relief of "daisies" above a lace body and looks great with jeans, shorts, or a skirt.

Your skill set will increase as you learn things like:

1. Lace Pattern: SSK, YO, k2tog, using markers
2. Daisy Pattern
3. Shaping Neck and Armholes
4. Shoulder joining using 3 needle bind off
5. Picking up stitches and blocking

The yarn used for the Flirty Tank is naturally dyed organic cotton named Cottonwood. The colors are soft and luxurious.

Drop by soon to see the Tank in person, feel the yarn, and sign up. Make sure to come by **soon** so we can **make sure you get the yarn color that you want!**

Space is limited to **6 people** per workshop, so be sure to grab your spot!

The workshops will be offered two days each week to suit your schedule. Simply choose the day you would like to attend.

Workshop Times:

Thursdays evenings beginning at 6:00pm **OR**
Saturdays mornings beginning at 9:00am

Workshop Dates:

For Thursday evening group: May 8th – June 12th
For Saturday morning group: May 10th – June 14th

April Free Pattern Ice Crystal Poncho

Materials:

DK or light worsted yarn
(800 to 1000 yds)
G hook
22" separating zipper

Gauge:

20 sts = 4" & 10 rows = 4"
(multiple of 4 & 3)

Directions:

Ch 95.

Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each rem chain; ch 1, turn.

Row 2: Sc in next 2 sc, * ch 2, sk next 2 sc, sc in next 2 sc; rep from * across, ch 3; turn.

Row 3: 4 dc in each ch-2 sp across to last sc; dc in last sc; ch 1, turn.

Row 4: * Sc in next 2 dc, ch 2, sk next 2 dc, rep from * across to last 3 dc; ch 2, skip next 2 dc, sc in last dc and in 3rd ch of turning ch-3; ch 3, turn.

Repeat rows 3 and 4 for 62".

Fold poncho in half crosswise. Sew zipper into shoulder seam with the BOTTOM at the neck edge and the TOP next to the short sides of the poncho. Rev sc around neckline. The zipper can be left partially open for a peek-a-boo look if desired.



Tips and Tricks

1. If you are crocheting on a larger piece, work your foundation chain with a separate ball of yarn. Then attach the yarn from a new ball at the first chain of foundation and work the first row. This way you will be able to add or subtract chains if you miscounted the first time or need more stitches.
2. Don't know what to do with your left over yarn? Care Wear is an organization that provides hand made garments to hospitals for babies and children. Items like premie caps do not require a lot of yarn, and are knitted or crocheted quickly. For more information and patterns, visit: <http://www.carewear.org>.
3. Here is a handy conversion: 1 ounce = 28.4 grams
4. To keep your yarn from twisting, change the way you turn your work after you've completed each row - for example, turn your work clockwise after each even numbered row and turn it counterclockwise after each odd numbered row.

Specialty Class Information

Pre-registration is required.

Spaces for these classes are limited to 10 persons.

In April, we will be hosting 2 specialty classes:

April 5th: Felting Project Day

Time: 9-10:30am

Cost: \$10/person

For everyone that missed the opportunity in March, we are opening this morning for anyone who would like to begin a felted project. We have several project ideas for both knitting and crocheting.

April 12th and 19th: Felted Clogs

Time: 9-12:00am

Cost: \$35/person

Here it is – due to popular demand! Set aside 2 Saturday mornings, grab your **size 13** circular needles, and come on down! These clogs are a must-have item, and are custom made to fit your personal style and your foot. ☺ The pattern is included with the class cost, is easy to understand, and is also *very* interesting to work. If you know how to knit and purl and would like to expand your knowledge with an incredibly fun project, you have to sign up for this one! I can promise you that you will LOVE THEM!

Instructional Class Information

Class cost: \$15/session

Class length: 1 ½ hours

We offer private instruction for anyone aged 6 and above who would like to begin to knit and/or crochet. We will supply the yarn and needles to use during your first class, so there is no extra expense for supplies to learn the fundamentals.

If you already know the basics, but would like to increase your knowledge by learning new stitches, how to read patterns, finishing techniques, or have a special question/interest of your own that you would like to learn about, give us a call to schedule a time just for you!

“He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”
2 Corinthians 12:9