



Knit Wits

Monthly Newsletter



Children's Knook



From the Owners

We would like to thank everyone who came and supported us during our Grand Opening. We appreciate your positive input and comments and welcome your suggestions! Best wishes for the holidays and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Product Spotlight

Unicorn Fibre Wash and Rinse are two new economically friendly fibre cleaning products which are non-yellowing, eliminate odors, and help reduce the annoying "prickle factor". The products' eliminate contaminants and embedded dirt in natural fibre and yarns. The formulas are "professional grade" yet versatile and gentle enough to wash delicate luxury fibres like alpaca, angora, cashmere, and the finest merino. They are extremely effective in yarn, sweaters, blankets, and other knit garments.

It "deep cleans, refreshes, and conditions natural fibre with a hint of lavender".

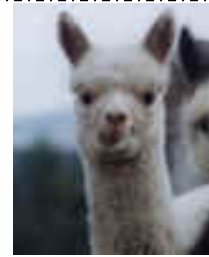
We have available:

1. Unicorn Fiber Wash – for cleaning and refreshing
16 oz bottle: \$13.75
2. Unicorn Fiber Rinse – for conditioning and anti-static
16 oz bottle: \$10.95
3. Unicorn Fiber Gift Sets – one each of wash and rinse
2 – 4 oz. bottles: \$7.75

Day at The Knook

Our featured project is a *Brea Bag*! Made with an alpaca/wool blend, this crescent-shaped bag is absolutely adorable! Our *Day at The Knook* is December 15th. Join us to work on a project that you can finish before Christmas! When you purchase the materials, the pattern is free!

Featured Yarn
In December
Is...
Alpaca



Alpaca History:

- Alpacas have been in South America since 4000 B.C.
- 99% of alpaca population are in Peru, Chile, Bolivia
- Native women sort fiber for quality and color and export – South America is still the largest supplier of fiber, and most fiber is spun in Peru.
- Spun for first time in England in 1808 and then in 1830 and declared "unworkable". In 1836, Titus Salt with Bradford was successful. Bradford is still the largest center for exported alpaca yarns and cloths to the U.S.

Alpaca Facts:

- Alpacas are smaller than llamas, but still spit.
- Live 18-25 years, and range from 120-175 pounds
- Two types: Suri (long, fine fibers) and Huacaya (dense, crimped fibers)

Alpaca Fiber:

- Huacayans make up 90% of the population and their fiber is easily spun, dyed, and knit
- Longer, finer fibers which are several times warmer than sheep wool, but not as warm as cashmere
- Fibers can be 12" (3 years growth), but typically are 6" (1-2 years growth)
- Like wool, it absorbs moisture, but feels dry to skin
- Alpacas do not produce lanolin, so the fiber is cleaner and more hypoallergenic than sheep wool
- There are 22 basic colors. Colors are truer and more brilliant. In the dyeing process, try to closely match the color with the fiber base color.
- Fibers are not bleached, so white will felt, unlike some wools

Alpaca Garments:

- Garments known as *very durable and long-wearing*
- Very fine yarn produces garments in same league of cashmere and baby kid mohair
- Great for articles close to your skin – even baby items
- High stitch definition, may want to incorporate cable-work or seed stitch to hide imperfections
- Hand wash in cold water and lay flat to dry



Instructional Classes

We offer instructional classes taught by professionally trained staff. Classes are offered throughout the week and vary from beginner to advanced skill level. Every student in the class will be given a free pattern for attending. We ask that students are at least 6 years of age. Here is a current list of offered classes for **January 2008**:

Beginning Knitting

Cost: \$50 for 4 sessions + supplies

Dates: Each Tues. 10-11am *or* Thurs. 6-7pm

Class Size: 4 – 10 persons

Class Description: Learn the fundamentals of knitting and purling, casting on, binding off, increasing, and decreasing. Also, learn how to read patterns, check gauges, and fix mistakes.

Beginning Crochet

Cost: \$40 for 4 sessions + supplies

Dates: Each Tues. 6-7pm *or* Thurs. 10-11am

Class Size: 4 – 10 persons

Class Description: Learn how to chain, the fundamental stitches, turning, finishing, and how to read patterns.

Specialty Knitting Class

Cost: \$10 for 1 session + supplies

Dates: Each Sat. 10-11:30am

Class Size: 4 – 12 persons

Class Description: These classes vary each week through the month and will vary each month. In January, the classes will be *How to “Measure Beautiful You”*, *How to Alter Patterns*, *Finishing Techniques*, and *Conquering Cables*.

Need a space for your knitting cluster to meet?

*Have a special group class request?
Need a special outing for your group of students?*

Simply contact us and we will set a time just for you!

(Classes require minimum of 4 persons)

Tips and Tricks

- When making a fringe for your garment, make it first. This way, you are sure you will have enough yarn.
- Sew buttons on loosely, then wrap the thread around under the button 4-5 times. To finish, run the needle through the wraps 2-3 times and cut. No knot!
- Freeze your garment overnight before trying to rip out mohair or other fuzzy yarns. This will help tame the tendency of fuzzy yarns to stick together.
- Use a needle about 2 sizes larger for casting on and binding off. This helps to keep a flexible edge.
- When using circular needles, it is often easier to cast onto a straight needle, then knit your first row onto your circulars.



December Pattern



The Lacy Scarf



If you would like a classy and elegant scarf, try this simple pattern.

Needles size 10-13*.

Cast on 20 stitches**.

Row 1-2: Knit

Row 3: K1, *k2tog, yo*, rep from * across to last st, k last st.

Row 4: Knit

Repeat rows 3 and 4 until desired length. Bind off loosely in knit.

**Depends on yarn weight. Chunky (or multiples) yarn, use larger size needle and cast on fewer stitches. For lighter weight yarns, use smaller size and more stitches.*

***Adjust for more or fewer stitches to vary the scarf width according to your personal preference, making sure you have an even number of stitches.*

Happy Holidays!

“Let all that you do be done with love.”

I Cor. 16:14

