



Knit Wits

Monthly Newsletter



Children's Knook

From the Owners

We often hear the question, "So, what are you working on now?" Well, we're working on some fun projects that will get you enthused and keep those needles humming.

Spring and summer garments are a lot of fun and quicker to knit (hurray for short sleeves!), use less yarn, and often introduce you to new techniques and ideas. It is also the perfect opportunity to explore lighter fibers such as sugar cane, kapak, bamboo, corn, and of course, cotton, (just to mention a few).

As the weather warms and we are able to venture outside, it is also nice to work on smaller projects that finish quickly and don't make our laps too warm. It is a perfect time to start building your gift stash! Consider making a few baby or children's garments, socks, scarves, hats, and/or accessories.

Most important, have fun and enjoy your hobby!

New Yarns are Here!

Come in to see the large selection of new yarns and patterns that we have available for Spring and Summer.

Demonstrations

These demonstrations will last approximately ½ hour and are designed to introduce you to concepts that will assist you with your projects.

Seaming Techniques

Date: Saturday, March 14th

Times: 11:00am and 1:00pm

Description: We will demonstrate various ways to put knitted items together using techniques such as the mattress or ladder stitch, whip stitch, and the Kitchener's stitch (aka grafting).

Bind-Offs

Date: Saturday, March 21st

Times: 11:00am and 1:00pm

Description: We will show you several ways to finish your project such as a three needle bind-off, an I-cord bind-off, a picot bind-off, and a suspended bind-off.

Featured Product

Zuma Bag

The newest knitting bag from Namaste Inc. is here! This bag is just the right size to double as your project bag and purse. We have four colors in stock that are all perfect for Spring and Summer. Come pick one out today!



Keep your eyes peeled in our upcoming editions of Knit Wits for new project ideas and for more information on a ***summer garment workshop!***

Knitting Retreat Recap

What a blast! Lots of fun, wonderful food, shared stories, gifts, and tons of laughter! Oh yes, and we knitted too!

The weekend's theme was friendship, and we believe everyone was able to fully enjoy the company of each person present. What an amazing, loving, and hilarious group of women!

We began Saturday afternoon with a color workshop. Every lady was able to choose between two projects for the weekend. The first was a fingerless mitt using 2 colors. The second was a sampler purse involving 4 colors and using the two-handed Fair Isle knitting technique. We all learned something new!

Accolades to John and Jeanette Daub for their gracious hospitality. We all felt so welcomed, pampered, and greatly appreciated such a beautiful and perfect setting.

Highest praises to Cindy Houff for her culinary masterpieces and all her hard work. We all felt as if we dined at a five star restaurant all weekend.

Thank you to everyone that chose to attend. You each have a very special place in our hearts, and we appreciate you!

Featured Product Fair Isle Sweater Kits

from
Philosopher's Wool Company

We now stock Fair Isle sweater kits! In a variety of colors and patterns, these sweaters will intrigue you. You will impress yourself when you complete one of these gorgeous creations!

The Philosopher's Wool Company is a small farm operation in Ontario, Canada. The fascinating history of this small family operation is outlined in their book Fair Isle Sweaters Simplified. Ann and Eugene Bourgeois open their lives in the first few pages of this book, giving every reader a detailed look at how Philosopher's Wool Company came into being and how it became successful. This book has a WEALTH of information and tips regarding Fair Isle knitting, sweater composition and alterations, finishing, caring for your sweater, and much, much more.

Fair Isle knitting produces beautiful, multicolored sweaters, and is completed using two different colors on each row of your work. The Bourgeois' have created a way to make Fair Isle Knitting simple, (yes, simple)... no bobbins, no twisting, no stranding... by using a two-handed Fair Isle technique. With this method you knit with both hands at once, carrying a different color in each hand. It may sound complicated, but with just a little practice, you will have the four-stitch technique down-pat. You will be able to knit quickly and efficiently.

Here are some tips and notes about these kits and the Philosopher's wool:

1. The garments are dropped-shouldered and are knit in 'tubes' (no purling!).
2. Begin knitting the sleeves first as you will learn the pattern more quickly.
3. The kits include perfectly matched buttons if you desire to knit a cardigan.
4. The yarn feels coarse to the touch, but your sweater will soften *dramatically* after the very first washing. The Philosopher's wool is heavy with lanolin. It may also grow 2-4" after washing as the fibers elongate and relax.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11: 28-30

Tips and Tricks

1. Here is a great idea passed to us, and we're passing it along to you. Place your completed pattern in a plastic sleeve, (this also helps makes it easier to organize your patterns). Once completed, take a picture of yourself wearing the garment. Place the picture, some of the left over yarn(s), and a label from each one of the skeins of yarns used in the plastic sleeve with the pattern. This way you will always know how the garment fit, and you will have extra yarn for repairs. The labels will help you remember what yarn(s) you used and how to care for your garment.
2. Start knitting the sleeves of your garment first. After you complete them, you have finished one-third of your project.
3. If you want to knit a long scarf, a good rule of thumb is to make the scarf as long as you are tall.
4. Many people shy from working with cotton for fear that their garment will stretch of shape. You can guarantee success with this wonderful fiber by choosing a cotton yarn with a tight twist. Also, choose garments with sturdy patterning instead of stockinette.



Specialty Classes

Pre-registration is required.

Moebius

Date(s): Thursday, March 26th OR
Saturday, March 28th

Time(s): Thursday evening, 6:00-7:30pm OR
Saturday morning, 9:00-10:30am

Cost: \$20 (not including supplies)

Materials: -At least 400 yds of worsted weight yarn
-Size 9, 60" circular needle
-Stitch markers

Description: Using a pattern from Cat Bordhi's book, A Treasury of Knitting, you will be learning the 'Moebius Cast-on' while knitting the Scottish Waves moebius. This moebius is a useful and decorative piece. Use it as a scarf, hood, cowl, or just an accessory to your outfit.

Sign up today!