



Knit Wits

Monthly Newsletter



From the Owners

Here at the Knook we're always working on something! Feel free to come by to see the newest items begin displayed, and come to work on your project. We all have different styles, techniques, and we all learn from each other. It's so much fun to see what everyone pulls out of their bag, because every person is so unique and brings something special to the table! Come on in!

We have a new yarn arriving the beginning of May! Provence, a 100% mercerized Egyptian cotton is machine washable. It has a beautiful sheen and is perfect for lightweight garments! Also, come check out a new self-stripping and texture changing ribbon yarn titled Boho. With bright yet elegant colors, you can make the perfect wrap for those cool spring and summer evenings.

FYI: Jessi and Jane will be taking a trip from April 24 thru May 5. We have Julie and Brenda filling in for us. See you when we return!

Linen Yarns at The Knook

We carry a hand painted 100% Belgium linen yarn, distributed by Claudia Hand Paints. We also have "Linen" from Katia which is a linen and cotton blend.

Product Spotlight

One of the newest items we have on our shelves is EXTREMELY popular – especially for sock knitters! A new circular needle that is 9 inches (yes, 9 inches!) long. They are perfect for knitting socks in the round. Socks are a great project for the on-the-go knitter, and with these needles, you don't worry about your stitches popping off when you drop your work-in-progress into your bag or purse.

The needles are bamboo joined with a nylon cord, and are very smooth for speedy knitting.

May's
Featured
Yarn is...
Linen



About Linen Fiber:

- Linen is spun from flax fibers
- The flax must be pulled from the ground – if the stalk is cut, the sap is lost and this affects the quality of the linen
- High quality linen does *not* have small knots or "slubs" occurring randomly along the yarn length
- Strong, lustrous
- Primarily grown in Western Europe; many believe Belgium grows the highest quality, with Scottish and Irish linen not far behind

History of Linen:

- Linen may be the oldest textile in the world.
- Fragments have been found dating back to 8000 B.C.
- Flax has been grown for linen for at least 5 millennia
- Was used to wrap the mummies of Egyptian pharaohs

Linen Properties:

- High natural luster and natural color ranges are between shades of ivory, ecru, tan, or grey.
- Has the ability to absorb and evaporate water rapidly – it can gain up to 20% moisture without feeling damp
- Stiff fabric that does not cling to the skin – when it billows away, it tends to dry out and become cool to the touch
- Has no elasticity, therefore it wrinkles easily
- Linen is more expensive to manufacture than cotton, but the benefits are unmatched

Benefits of Linen:

- VERY durable – 2 to 3 times stronger than cotton and is stronger when wet than when dry
- Does not stretch or pill and is lint free
- Resists dirt, stains, and even moths.
- Gets softer the more it is washed
- Linen outlasts cotton, enduring up to 20 years of use

Caring for Linen:

- Most linen is machine washable. Dry slightly in dryer, then lay flat to completely dry.
- Iron when damp
- NEVER use vinegar for cleaning

Tips and Tricks

YARN SUBSTITUTION. Yikes! Don't get too anxious. Because there are *so* many yarns in the world, it is impossible to inventory every yarn for every pattern. How can you find a substitute yarn that is perfect for you and perfect for the pattern you've fallen in love with? Here are some tips to get over the fear of substituting yarn. You will need to "swatch" to discover a combination of needle size and yarn that gives you the drape that you like. If the swatch is too open and airy for you, keep going down in needle size until you like way the fabric looks and feels. If the swatch isn't open enough for you, keep going up in needle size until you like the look and feel. Swatch until you get the look and feel you want and then knit until the "cows come home." This information offers a segue for an exciting 6-week project, The Flirty Tank, which starts in May for beginning knitters. (See April newsletter for days and times.) The first session is "swatching" so that you will end up with a perfectly fitted garment.

Flirty Tank Workshop

Hurry, Hurry Hurry! The classes are filling up so if you want to make a wearable, properly fitting garment in six weeks just in time for summer, you need to come in and pick out your color of Cottonwood's Organic Cotton and reserve your seat.

Two sessions will be held on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, beginning the week of May 8th and ending the week of June 12th.

Specialty Classes

During the month of May, we will be hosting the Flirty Tank workshop every Saturday morning. But, be looking forward to the last two weeks in June with **SOCK CLASSES!**

Details for these classes will follow in the June edition of Knit Wits.

May's Free Pattern Cell Phone Bag

MATERIALS

Berroco Suede, 1 ball
Straight knitting needles, size 8
2 Double pointed needles, size 7.
Crochet hook, size 4.50 mm (G).
1 Decorative button.



GAUGE

19 sts = 4"; 28 rows = 4" in St st on size 8 needles.

BAG

With straight needles, cast on 32 sts. Work even in St st for 6" (or desired length), end on WS.

Flap: Bind off 16 sts, k to end – 16 sts.

Dec Row (RS): SSK, k to last 2 sts, k2 tog – 14 sts. Rep this dec every RS row 6 times more, end on WS – 2 sts. K2 tog, then fasten off last st.

FINISHING

Sew bottom and side seam.

Flap Edging:

Row 1: With RS facing, using crochet hook, work 1 row sc around flap edge, working 1 sc in center point.

Row 2: Ch 2, work 1 dc in each sc to sc at point, ch 3 (buttonloop), skip 1 sc, then work 1 dc in each remaining sc. Fasten off.

Fringe (optional):

Cut two 4 1/2" long strands of yarn. Put strands tog and fold in half. With RS facing, using crochet hook, draw center of strands through first dc of flap edging to form a lp. Pull ends of fringe through this lp. In this manner, make fringe in each dc of Flap Edging. Trim fringe to even off if necessary.

Fold flap down and sew on button under button loop.

I-Cord:

With dpn's, cast on 3 sts and work as follows:

Row 1: * K3, do not turn work. Slide sts to beg of needle to work next row from RS. Rep from * until cord measures 8" or desired length. Fasten off. Sew 1 end of cord to each side of back of bag 1/2" down from top.

Note: Cord can be made any length from short enough to hang in the car to long enough to fit around your neck

"Through the Lord's mercies, we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion', says my soul, 'therefore I hope in Him!'"
Lamentations 3:22-24

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