

Stitches

June
2010

A Monthly Publication

EVENTS

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Summer Sweater, 5:30 - 6:30 pm (7:30pm for first class)

You choose the style, a t-shirt or a cardigan. Both are knit from the top and require no finishing. This is a perfect class for your very first sweater. T-shirt class ends after the 4th session, the cardigan requires the 5th. \$65 + supplies.

June 12

Top-Down Socks Workshop, 9:30am - 4:30 pm

Following techniques outlined in Getting Started Knitting Socks, learn the basic formula for knitting socks from cuff to toe using a flexible Norwegian cast-on, standard heel with gusset and finishing a wedge toe with the Kitchener stitch. You will make a baby-size sock allowing you to learn all of the skills needed for adult socks in one day. After this class you will be able to knit a variety of sock sizes in different weights of yarn. \$65 + supplies.

June 26

Anniversary Open House, 10 am - 5:00 pm

Join us as we celebrate 6 years of My Sister Knits with fabulous discounts, delectable treats and companionship with other knitters and crocheters.

**New class schedule
coming soon!**

We are looking forward to the new class schedule, with all new classes and some new teachers. Watch the blog or web site for the new schedule when it is ready.

I want to thank Ann Budd for such a great class on finishing and seaming. If you have never taken a class like this one, Ann is the one to take it from. Jenny Hubbard is being added to our teacher list. I have known Jenny for years, first as a fabulous quilter and now equally talented as a knitter. Welcome Jenny! Julie Conway continues to teach, offering expertise in garment construction. Ann McCauley is back by request on the recommendation of those who participated in her first class. This class was designed to help all of us take care of our bodies as we create.

We will be hosting an open house later this month to celebrate SIX years of My Sister Knits! Please join us for a fun day filled with discounts, delicious treats and networking with fellow knitters. Please join us Saturday, June 26th, 10am-5pm.

August 18th-September 1st, nine yarn shops in Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming will participate in our first shop hop - Hot August Nights. Watch the blog for more details as the dates approach!

We continue to receive new yarns, let us know if there is something you are looking for that we do not currently carry. Recent arrivals include Shibui, Ashland Bay, Misti Alpaca, Madelinetosh. On the way is Knit Collage--a small order from the UK, so check in frequently to be sure you get the best selection.

We continue with our KAL, up next is the Tea Leaves from Madelinetosh. Patterns available on their web site for both adult and child sizes. We are limiting our KAL to 12, if interested call to let us know.

Looking forward to seeing all in the shop! Keep knitting,

Julie

NEW ARRIVALS



We just love Marie Mayhew's wonderful felted animal patterns. Her brand new Woolly Sheep pattern and kits are now in-stock. The kits contain everything you need to make one of the two sheep in all of Marie's preferred brands. The kit even includes the adorable little bells! Kits are limited.

Overview: Center-out Circular Cast-ons



Most of us first learn to knit flat, as we advance to increasingly complex projects it is likely to eventually need to cast-on a relatively small number of stitches that occur at the center of a project. Such projects may include socks from the toe-up, or hats or mittens from the top down or shawls.

Cast your mind back to when you first learned to cast-on. Remember how it took a few tries to get an even edge and how those first few rows of knitting were difficult because of the lack of finished fabric hanging from the needle? The same holds true when casting on in the center. Practice is required and knitting the first several rounds is awkward with all the extra needle hanging around, even for those experienced in these techniques.

Two Needle Methods

There are three different methods of casting on central stitches onto two needles - the Turkish or Middle Eastern Cast-on, the Figure-8 Cast-on and Judy's Magic Cast-on. All three of these cast-ons can be made even easier by using circular needles as you can rest the stitches on the cable portion of one needle while you work the stitches on the other one. This gives you a bit more room for working the stitches and allows the unused needle to lay out of the way. If you are brand new to these methods try using circular needles made of two different materials so it is easier to figure out which needle tips belong to the same circular.

The methods of these cast-ons are very similar and the results nearly identical. They are particularly well suited for toes, mitten tips and bottoms of bags. They are not as neat looking for flat items as the other methods as they start from a central row of stitches rather than a circle. Try each one to see which works best for you.



Tutorials and Videos

Two Needle:

- FluffyKnitterDeb's Turkish Cast-On - <http://bit.ly/joafG>
- Knitting Daily's Middle Eastern Cast-On - <http://bit.ly/b2EjPn>
- cheekyattitude's YouTube Video of Turkish Cast-On - <http://bit.ly/25olqQ>
- Fiberfool's Tutorial with Video of the Figure-8 Cast-On - <http://bit.ly/11HmFD>
- Hello Yarn's Figure-8 Cast-On on DPNs - <http://bit.ly/8t3sSa>
- Judy's Magic Cast-On from Judy Herself - <http://bit.ly/14Y3th> & a follow-up - <http://bit.ly/UgP0F>
- Cat Bordhi's Video of Judy's Magic Cast-On - <http://bit.ly/jkwTn>

Closed Circle:

- Bagatell's Emily Ocker Tutorial - <http://bit.ly/ZuDqL>
- kelleypetkun's YouTube Video - <http://bit.ly/9mgdLL>
- djinnj's Lighter Circular Cast-on Two Ways YouTube Video - <http://bit.ly/9v3a2T>
- TECHKnitting's Disappearing Loop Tutorial - <http://bit.ly/2mfUPr>

Closed Circle Methods

For items that lie flat such as shawls, doilies, washcloths etc. cast-ons that start with a circle of stitches rather than a row of stitches will give your items a more finished look. Probably the best-known of these cast-ons is the Emily Ocker cast-on (occasionally referred to as the pinhole cast-on) where you form a loop of yarn and then single crochet over this loop the number of stitches required. After knitting a few rounds the tail can then be pulled to tighten and neaten the circle. A similar method skips the crochet hook and involves working knit stitches and yarn overs around a similar loop. This method is sometimes known as the Disappearing Loop cast-on or lighter circular cast-on.

The end result of these methods are very similar. Some feel the disappearing loop method is superior because the crochet of Emily Ocker's cast-on is a bit bulkier and longer than a knit round. But choose the method that you find most comfortable. Whichever you choose, work the first round or two as though you were working an i-cord before dividing onto multiple needles and it will be a bit easier to keep the needles under control.

Another way to achieve a similar result is to cast-on the required number of stitches with scrap yarn of comparable weight and work an inch or so of i-cord, then switch to your project yarn and begin the pattern as instructed. When the project is done you unravel the scrap yarn and run the tail of the working yarn through the live stitches and cinch closed just like you would finish a normal bottom-up hat.

This month's free pattern on the following page is a great project for practicing and comparing these different cast-ons.

Stellar Facecloth

BY KRISTI SCHUELER | PHOTO BY KRISTI SCHUELER

Worked from the center out, careful placement of increases and decreases creates a mitered fabric that forms the 5-points of these fun star washcloths. Make a splash with bold and bright ones to enliven bath time with the kids. Knit them in dark colors for makeup removal in the evening without worrying about stains. Knit them in natural colors to keep your bathing rituals free of dyes. Combined with some homemade bath salts, soap or sugar scrub they will also make a great gift for anyone who needs a little pampering.



Yarn

Frog Tree Yarns Picoboo; 60% pima cotton, 40% bamboo; 116 yds per 50 g; 1 skein. Shown in colors 1000, 1046, and 1064.

Needles & Notions

- US 5 / 3.75mm, set of 4 or 5 dpns, 16" circular needle is optional
- Stitch markers (optional)
- Tapestry needle

Gauge & Size

Not critical, shown here at 26 sts and 36½ rnds per 4" / 10 cm in St st in the round for a 12½" cloth from point to point.

Special Instructions

Abbreviations used follow the standards at <http://www.craftyarncouncil.com/knit.html>.

kfb - Knit into the front and do not remove from left needle, knit into the back of the stitch, 1 stitch increased.

M1L - Insert left needle, from front to back, under strand of yarn which runs between last stitch on left needle and first stitch on right needle; work this stitch through back loop as directed.

M1R - Insert left needle, from back to front, under strand of yarn which runs between last stitch on left needle and first stitch on right needle; work this stitch through front loop as directed.

p2sso - Pass 2 slipped sts together over the stitch just worked.

We are sorry, but the licensing period for this pattern has expired!

To ensure you do not miss out on future patterns, be sure to sign-up for our newsletter e-mails at http://www.mysisterknits.com/newsletter/newsletter_subscribe.php

Katherine Ware

A Chicago native, jewelry artist Katherine Ware has resided along the Colorado Front Range for 26 years. She moved to Boulder to follow her siblings to the University of Colorado where she studied Art History. As part of her studies she “learned the traditional methods of casting and fabricating in silver. I enjoyed studying ancient jewelry and jewelry in portraits, and I was inspired to try recreating what I liked.”

Katherine’s mother taught her to knit when she was young, but it was her Norwegian friends she met while volunteering in Israel before college that hooked her. Combining the properties of metal with knitting and crochet aids the creation of more imaginative shapes that make her jewelry designs unique, wearable art.

She finds her jewelry work an intuitive process where the pieces make themselves while she acts as a facilitator. To deal with creative slumps she likes to look at photos of old and new jewelry for inspiration, puts on music



and starts simple.

Katherine recommends those looking to try knitting or crocheting with wire to “use [a] fine gauge (24-30) and make sure the wire is ‘dead soft.’ Use wooden or plastic needles (not metal) as they work best with the metal and will help keep it from getting stiff. I like fine silver for its color and that it can be fused to itself without solder.”

Opting for smaller and portable projects that can travel with her, Katherine still knits with more traditional materials as well. She says most often you will find socks, shawls and gloves on her needles. She also enjoys painting, drawing and spinning her own yarn. She says, “It is good for me to mix things up and try new things to keep my ideas fresh.”

In addition to seeing her trunk show at My Sister Knits through the month of June she will be taking part in Longmont’s Studio Tour in September and frequently has shows at the Muse Gallery on Main Street in Longmont.



Katherine’s Website:

<http://www.katherinewaredesigns.com>

Katherine’s Blog:

<http://www.katherinewaredesigns.com/blog/>

Longmont Studio Tour:

<http://www.longmontstudiotour.org>

The Muse Gallery:

356 Main Street
Longmont, CO 80501-5527
(303) 678-7869

July 4th Ideas

Free Patriotic Projects

- Knit Stars & Stripes Felted Hot Pads - <http://bit.ly/dhTh3j>
- Knit Patriotic Earflap Hat - <http://bit.ly/cPU5dR>
- Knit American Flag Socks - <http://bit.ly/9vl8dr>
- Knit Stars & Stripes Bib - <http://bit.ly/aYSssV>
- Knit Patriotic Celebration Girl’s Dress - <http://bit.ly/aarpVr>
- Crocheted 4th of July Beach Bag - <http://bit.ly/a4Mclz>
- Crocheted Stars & Stripes Afghan - <http://bit.ly/CTQjwD>
- Crocheted Baby Starghan - <http://bit.ly/bO8dtF>
- Crochet Red, White, and Blue Hat with Stripes from 1917 - <http://bit.ly/bxEMxZ>

Sale Block

40% Off

All Novelty Yarns & Sox Stix!