

STITCHES

1408 West Mountain Ave, Fort Collins, Colorado ♦ (970) 407-1461 ♦ Tues 10am - 8pm ♦ Wed - Sat 10am - 5pm

Well, we've gotten through the first major snowfall and Halloween....today is November 1st, so LOOK OUT !! THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING !!!!

We have so many great sock yarns in stock right now, a terrific selection of books and patterns and new items every week. The newest are the AK traditions knitted patterns from Australia.....dolls (boys and girls) that are too cute, clothes for them and clothes for kids as well. We are knitting like fiends to get samples ready for you all to fall in love with at first sight. We are all trying a wide assortment of yarns; so you can see how different each item can be.

Kate and Robin have been making Maine Morning Mitts out of doubled sock yarn, Kureyon and Kidsilk Haze and leftovers in the stash box. They are quick and easy and great for gifts or community knitting (speaking of which, Freba is working hard to put together a Community Knitting Project.....talk to her.....it is a fabulous idea).

We are still awaiting Madelinetosh yarns; guess they are coming via sloth express ! I do know that they will be beautiful!

Don't forget to purchase a copy of Interweave Knit's Holiday Gifts 2009. The photos were all shot at My Sister Knits and in the house and yard.....you might even recognize some familiar faces!

Thank you all again for your generous support for our 2009 Hope Lives project. Your time and talent and donations are appreciated by all of us at My Sister Knits and everyone at Hope Lives! from the staff to caregivers to clients. My Sister Knits was honored with a Champions of Hope Award; please share that award with us as part of the MSK community.

Happy Knitting! -- Julie

A little glimpse of the new AK Traditions Huggable Friends patterns that recently arrived from Australia. Also available from AK Traditions at the Paintbox patterns for children's knits too!



Use Ravelry to Find Free Patterns

1. Log into your Ravelry account. If you do not have one, request one. It may take a few days to get your confirmation. Be sure to check your SPAM or bulk mail folders for the invite.
2. Click on the "Patterns" tab at the top of the screen slightly left of center.
3. Just below the search box in the upper left is a link for "Advanced Search" - click on that link.
4. Below this search box there is a row of tabs labeled as filters. Click on "Availability" then "Free" and then "Yes."
5. Use "Pattern" and "Category" to select the type of project you are interested in. Under general you can choose from Knitting, Crochet or Weaving.
6. In the upper right you can choose how to sort the patterns, including by difficulty level, most projects, most favorites or queues etc.

You can also enter things into the search box if you know the pattern designer, source or part of the name of a pattern. You can also set many additional parameters such as yarn weight, yardage requirements and gauge.

Upcoming Events

Tuesdays, Nov 3 & 10, 6-7:30pm - Crochet Stash Basket from Purl Bee with Julie Luckasen.

Saturday, Nov 7, 9am-4pm - Intro to Fair Isle Knitting (A La Carte Hat) with Kristi Schueler

Tuesday, Nov 17, 6-8pm -OR- Saturday, Nov 21, 9-11am- Beginning Cables with and without a cable needle with Kristi Schueler.

Saturday, Nov 21, 1-3pm - Knitting & the Internet: Finding Help After Hours with Kristi Schueler.

Every Tuesday, 6-8pm - Community Knitting with Freeba - this month knit for Crossroads Safehouse.

Every Tuesday 6:30-8pm - Open Knitting.

Every Wednesday 10am-2pm - Free drop-in help from Kathy Hartmeister.

More detailed class descriptions are available in the class schedule available online or at the shop.



"All knitterly creation stems from one simple element: yarn. It is the baker's flour, the jeweler's gold, the gardener's soil. Yarn is the creation, consolation, and chaos all spun together into one perfect ball."

— **Clara Parkes**

Community Knitting Is Back!

It used to be that knitting at the shop on Tuesday evenings was for community knitting. While we are not requiring that you knit for the community when you stop in on Tuesday nights, Freeba will be helping those who wish to knit for charity. Each month a new charity and a new type of project will be chosen. We'll have a few suggestions for patterns at a few different skill levels, all using worsted weight yarns. Bring your own washable worsted weight yarns from your stash and needles or choose some from our stock.

We'll start the first Tuesday in November. The charity of the month will be Crossroads Safe House, a safe place for women and children to get a new start in leaving abusive situations. When Freeba spoke with them they reported having plenty of scarves and all types of knits for children. They said they could really use hats and gloves for the women. So Tuesday evenings in November will be dedicated to knitting women's hats.

You are welcome to bring your own patterns to work from, though it is not required. Freeba will be available to answer questions and help you get going. If you cannot join us for community knitting on Tuesdays but would still like to knit for our community you are welcome to drop off women's hats, gloves and fingerless mitts at the shop for them anytime this month. Any of those items donated in November will be given to Crossroads Safe House. Do remember that not everyone knows how to care for wool so please choose washable yarns for your charity knitting projects.

Check out some of the following free worsted weight hat patterns to knit or crochet:

- Divine Hat by Rheatheylia - crochet
- Felicity by Wanett Clyde (Ravelry Link) - knit
- Guian by Kim K. (Ravelry Link) - knit
- Lattice Hat by Rheatheylia - crochet
- Retro Rings Tab Hat by Jaybird Designs - crochet
- Turn a Square Hat by Jared Flood (Ravelry Link) - knit
- Utopia Cable Hat by SmarieK - knit

Don't forget, even the simplest of hats keeps heads and ears warm and a little finishing touch can really dress them up a bit. Add a little bit of embroidery or sew on some buttons for decoration on a plain hat. The sky is the limit and no matter what you make it will certainly help keep women in our community warmer this winter!

If you know of a charity in need or our fiber art skills be sure to let Freeba know so we can add them to the list of organizations to help in the coming months.

Amanda Berka's No Fuss Mitts



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Cuff

Loosely CO 36 (42) sts, distribute evenly on 3 or 4 DPNs, join for working in the round. Work 5 rounds in St St. **Nxt Rnd, hem turn:** *K2tog, yo; rep from * to end of rnd. Continue in St St until work measures 3 1/4" from hem turn.

Gusset

Rnd 1: K18, pm, m1l, k1, m1r, pm, k to end of round; 38 (44) sts total.

Rnds 2-3: Knit.

Rnd 4: K18, sl mkr, m1l, k3, m1r, sl mkr, k to end of round; 40 (46) sts total.

Rnds 5-6: Knit.

Rnd 7: K18, sl mkr, m1l, k5, m1r, sl mkr, k to end of round; 42 (48) sts total.

Rnds 8-9: Knit.

Rnd 10: K18, sl mkr, m1l, k7, m1r, sl mkr, k to end of round; 44 (50) sts total.

Rnds 11-12: Knit.

Rnd 13: K18, sl mkr, m1l, k9, m1r, sl mkr, k to end of round; 46 (52) sts total.

Rnds 14-15: Knit.

Rnd 16: K18, sl mkr, m1l, k11, m1r, sl mkr, k to end of round; 48 (54) sts total.

Rnds 17-19: Knit.

Rnd 20: K18, sl mkr, m1l, k13, m1r, sl mkr, k to end of round; 50 (56) sts total.

Yarn

Manos del Uruguay Manos Silk Blend; 150 yds/137 m per 50g skein; 70% merino extra fine wool 30% silk; color 3204; 1 skein

Needles & Notions

- US 4 (3.5 mm) double pointed needles (DPNs), set of 4 or 5
- 2 stitch markers
- 1 stitch holder or scrap yarn
- Tapestry needle
- Scrap yarn and crochet hook to create chain for provisional cast on, *optional*.

Take time to check gauge and change ndl size if necessary.

Gauge

24 sts 4" / 10 cm in St st knit in the round

Size

Women's S/M (M/L) with a finished circumference of 6" (7"), negative ease of about 1" is recommended. Shown in S/M on hand of 7" and wrist of 6 1/2" circumference.

Special Instructions

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

m1l - insert left needle, from back to front, into stitch two below the stitch just knit; place onto left needle and knit through back loop.

m1r - insert right needle, from back to front, into stitch below the next stitch to be knit; place on left needle and knit.

Optional: To avoid extra steps in finishing a provisional cast on may be used by picking up stitches in a crochet chain of scrap yarn. Work 5 rounds St St after hem turn rnd then fold over cast on edge and knit next rnd together with live cast on sts to form the hem.

Upper Hand

Nxt Rnd: K18, set aside gusset sts on stitch holder or scrap yarn, CO 1, using backward-e, k to end of round; 36 (42) sts total. Continue in St St for 7 rnds. **Nxt Rnd, hem turn:** *K2tog, yo; rep from * to end of rnd. Work 5 rounds in St St. BO all sts.

Thumb

Work held sts, picking up 3 sts at the end of round where 1 st was cast on using the backward-e method. Continue in St St for 8 rounds. **Nxt Rnd, hem turn:** *K2tog, yo; rep from * to end of rnd. Work 5 rounds St St. BO all sts

Finishing

If any of your hems are left open, fold them over and sew them down with a tapestry needle to the wrong side to form a picot hem. Weave in any loose ends. Soak in a warm bath, spin, and lay flat to dry.



Artist Profile: Amanda Berka

Another Fort Collins-based designer we are proud to profile is Amanda Berka. She is a former assistant editor of Spin-Off Magazine and has had patterns published in several Interweave Press publications, including her Big Thaw men's pullover in the current Holiday Knits magazine that was photographed here in the shop and house. You may also have knit or at least seen Amanda's Squatty Sidekick or Feminine Mittens, both popular free patterns on Knitting Daily's web site.

Like many, Amanda learned to knit from one of her grandmothers as a young girl. She took on knitting a long hat whose extra length also served as a scarf for her first project, but then knitting slipped from her interests until at the age of 16 she wanted a sweater in a department store. Her mother felt it would be better to invest in classes and yarn than in the pre-made sweater so Amanda would take better care of the garment. After the teacher insisted she work her way up to a sweater by knitting a scarf and mittens she finally got to knit her sweater which she still has - moms always know best, don't they?

Whether choosing patterns to knit or designing her own, Amanda prefers simplicity with interesting details. This is evident not only in the pattern mentioned earlier but in this month's free pattern - No Fuss Mitts. She chose to let the rustic luxury of Manos del Uruguay's Silk Blend take center stage in a simple gusseted stockinette stitch fingerless mitt with all edges finished with a picot hem. As a wife, mom of two boys, 1 and 3 years old, and an engineer by day Amanda has slowed her knit design and teaching pace but still enjoys knitting when life allows.

Free Patterns for Keeping Hands Warm

Maine Morning Mitts by Clara Parkes

Susie's Reading Mitts by Janelle Masters

Give a Hoot Mittens by Jocelyn Tunney

Bella's Mittens by Marielle Henault - this one has a contest running through Nov 20th!

Knotty Gloves by Julia Mueller

Vintage Cable Gloves

Sean's Qandahar Gloves by Meredith Davey (Ravelry Link)

Knit Items Really Are Heirlooms to be Passed Down

Some are hesitant to knit for little ones but there is no reason not to. The sweaters pictured on the right were knit by Barb (Julie's mom) 23 years ago for her daughter's triplets (one of whom is the mother of the boys pictured here ages 1 and 3). The littlest ones do well with rolled up sleeves and most kids grow more in length than circumference making handknits wearable for more time than store bought clothes if dimensions are chosen carefully.

Most importantly, when cared for, handknits are treasures to be passed down to wrap each new generation in love and warmth!

