



In the Loop™

What's New - What's Hot :

Two Summer Knitting Designs Published

Two new designs for Spring and Summer knitting have been published by The Knit With: **Pixie** and **Side by Side** – each featuring one of the new vegetable fibres. (For more on the new vegetable fibres, see The Knitter's Palette below.)

Pixie, a sporty shell suitable for both dress and casual wear, is knit in stockinette trimmed in reverse stockinette using two complementary shades of Ornaghi's **Bamboo**. The design, with a slightly retro panache, uses slipped stitches to create the reversed lapels and epaulettes. From the imagination of the shop's chief finisher, Yelena Cummings, **Pixie** is



Pixie, worked in two shades of Bamboo

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The Knitter's Palette

Bamboo Joins The Wools of the World

Vegetable fibres dominate Spring and Summer knitting – which, until recently, were almost exclusively linen and cotton. New, more exotic vegetable fibre yarns are available with bamboo and soy joining the wools of the world at The Knit With.

Many bamboo yarns are appearing on shop shelves throughout the country and two of the finest are stocked by The Knit With: both sports weights and named **Bamboo**, either vat dyed from Ornaghi Filati and, since 2004, hand dyed bamboo from Alchemy Yarns. Both are ideally suited for summer wear.

Available in 13 solid and variegated shades, Ornaghi's vat dyed **Bamboo** boasts 137 yards per 50 gram ball with a smooth

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Editors' Note :

Pluses, Minuses in New Needle Standards

Long in the works, a new standard for sizing knitting needles and crochet hooks for the US market has been released by the Craft Yarn Council. The new standard brings pluses and minuses to American yarn consumers. (See, Page 3 for a chart of the new sizes.)

The most obvious plus is a standard for converting metrically sized needles to traditional American sizes. Satisfaction of this pressing need has been long overdue and future knitters will be able to readily use different brands of needles of the same compo-

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Applause, Applause :

Accomplished Knitters Complete Classes

Kathy Hebert from Mt. Airy, **Carolyn Ballard** from Wyndmoor, **Joan Morrone** from Blue Bell and **Candace Bracy**, from Westville, NJ are proudly known as accomplished knitters – having successfully knitted their Diamond Lace Vests to wearability after completing the shop's Introduction to Accomplished Knitting course.

Among the other knitters who have recently enrolled in classes, **Marian Curran**, from Olney and **Maryalice Brennan** from Germantown, have knitted evening purses while **Leigh Anne Parente**, from Mt. Airy and **Maryalice Brennan** have knitted a seamless, top-down raglan and **Brenda Wickersham**, from Valley Forge and **Geri Jones** from Lafayette Hill have learned to cable – expanding their knitting repertoire in their advancement towards master knitter status.

Congratulations, and much enthusiastic applause, to all participants in all classes.

Shop Changes

Shop Revamps, Expands Displays

Another stage of The Knit With's expansion program reached completion with the recent revamping of the larger Germantown Avenue room.

This stage provides a new, low-rise storage system for housing the thousands of pattern leaflets offered to knitters and crocheters

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Kathy Hebert proudly displays her completed vest.



Candace Bracy tucking tails – almost done!

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Summer Knitting Designs Published. From Page 1

as comfortable to wear as it is easy to knit – with stocking stitch used throughout. The simplicity of the straight line hemmed bottom contrasts with the slightly retro lapels and epaulettes – take-offs on traditional raglan lines easily produced by accomplished knitters.

Side by Side, easily knitted in **Oasis** from Southwest Trading Company (a double knitting yarn spun of soy fibre in a flexible chainette finish) is trimmed in seed stitch and worked sideways from the featured three-quarter length sleeves. The front button bands are joined in the knitting using Alice's Waltz stitch – a master knitter's technique especially suited to maintaining the direction of the seeds in this design, but, when mastered, has other applications as well. As a garment, *Side by Side* is lightweight and cool reflecting the ability of the soy fibre (it is, after all, a natural fibre) to breath, making garments ideal for wear during Philadelphia's humid Summer weather.



Bamboo for Knitting. From Page 1

finish and even twist to show better involved stitchwork while draping fabulously in stockinette. Combining the firmness of linen with the softness of silk, **Bamboo** is entirely spun from that most versatile vegetation which lends the yarn its name. Ornaghi's *Bamboo* inspired the shop's design for the strikingly dressy, yet sporty, *Pixie* shell.

Alchemy's *Bamboo* is hand-dyed in romantic colorways: Dylan's Depth (blues), San Francisco Sky (greys), Pablo's Solace (purples), Forest Waltz (shades of ferns and spring leaves) and Rich Berry (strawberry, raspberry and currant reds). Ideal for dressier blouses and accessories, Alchemy's *Bamboo* also sports 137 yards and is available in twisted skeins.

Continuing for another season is **Oasis**, spun of another vegetable fibre – soy. This DK weight, hollow chainette ribbon yarn is available in 100 gram balls in 10 variegated colorways of 240 yards each; the yarn is featured in the shop's *Side-By-Side* design – a cardigan knitted from wrist to wrist with some unusual master-level assembly and finishing techniques.

These fibres complement the shop's extensive selection of more than 500 natural yarns, including cottons, linens, silks and blends.

In the Loop™

A newsletter published electronically four times a year to the family of knitters and crocheters of

the knit with

Delighting Knitters (And Crocheters Too) Since 1970 !

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Glad You Asked

Worsted : A Weight and a Twist

In knitting, worsted refers to both a weight (thickness) of yarn as well as a spinner's method or twist; so a worsted yarn need not be a worsted weight and not all worsted weights have a worsted twist.

Derived from the village of Worstead, in England's Norfolk county made famous in medieval time after the arrival of Flemish artisans, the term worsted can describe as well cloth woven of worsted yarns. Prior to the Norman Conquest, Norfolk wool was exported raw to Flanders and manufactured cloth exported from there throughout Europe, including England; after, Flemings began migrating to Norfolk, creating the basis of a woolen industry strongly associated with the English Crown for most of the next millennium. Worsted became a common term by the reign of Edward II; Edward III encouraged further immigration by Flemings to “ exercise their mysteries in the Kingdom. ”

The essential features of worsted spun yarns are strength and straightness (and, consequently, smoothness). Worsted yarns are well-twisted spins of long-staple fibres, combed to lay the fibres parallel; in contrast, the woolen spin very lightly twists shorter and carded fibres which can more readily break or split. Worsted yarns are spun, or even plied, to multiple gauges for both knitting and weaving; when woven, worsted cloth has a hard, smooth texture – usually gabardine or serge – and is primarily used for hard-wearing garments.

Knitting worsteds are generally smooth finish yarns resulting in a gauge of 4 stitches to the inch using a middle range needle – although worsted twists can be applied to finer yarns; worsted twists are ideal for pattern stitchwork. Worsted weight yarns result in a similar gauge but may be spun of any fibre and need not be smooth finish at all. When spun of short-staple wools, worsted weights are likely to pill and felt, characteristics usually associated with rovings and woolen twists.

Shop Revamps, Expands Displays. From Page 1

and creates new displays in an area previously closed to customers – and with a view of two of Marge's flower gardens.

The most recent changes are further increments in the improvement plan for better use of the shop's limited space and for expansion of the inventory. To come soon is a new home for The Bookshelf, where most of the more than 250 knitting and crochet tradebooks will be stocked and displayed. Yet to come, in 2007, is an enlarged wrap-around sales counter to accommodate the hardware for the shop becoming fully computerized in 2008.

Summer Hours

the knit with

Tuesdays to Saturdays 10 AM to 6 PM
Sundays and Mondays (Memorial through Labor Day weekends) CLOSED

Visit us on the web 24 / 7: www.theknitwith.com

New Needle Standards

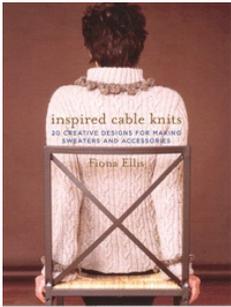
The Craft Yarn Council of America, and its member manufacturers and publishers, has adopted new standards for sizing knitting and crochet instruments in the United States. With the cooperation of manufacturers and publishers, the new, standardized instrument sizes will be implemented as new packaging and patterns are published. Instrument manufacturers are expected to make the metric sizing more prominent on packaging while retaining traditional U.S. sizes in both numbers and/or letters.

More prominent labeling of metric sizing, which is an actual measurement, should help eliminate consumer questions about the differences among the letter and number sizing of some needles and hooks.

Millimeter Sizes	US Needle Size	US Hook Size
2.25 mm	1	B - 1
2.50 mm		
2.75 mm	2	C - 2
3.00 mm		
3.25 mm	3	D - 3
3.50 mm	4	E - 4
3.75 mm	5	F - 5
4.00 mm	6	G - 6
4.50 mm	7	7
5.00 mm	8	H - 8
5.50 mm	9	I - 9
6.00 mm	10	J - 10
6.50 mm	10.5	K - 10.5
8.00 mm	11	L - 11
9.00 mm	13	M/N - 13
10.00 mm	15	N/P - 15
12.75 mm	17	
15.00 mm	19	P/Q
16.00 mm		Q
19.00 mm	35	S
20.00 mm	36	
25.00 mm	50	

Newly Released Tradebooks Stocked

Inspired Cable Knits, 20 Creative Designs For Making Sweaters And Accessories by Fiona Ellis, published 2006 by Clarkson Potter, hardbound with dustjacket at \$ 35.00. This first book from



a Toronto designer who has been on the yarn scene for many years marries traditional cable stitching with contemporary styling in a variety of garments inspired by the four basic elements of energy, time, nature and change. Cabled knits – for both parties and lounging, for the office and the bedroom, for women and men – fill these 133 pages to the point we can't wait for the author's second book. Among the more alluring is *Open to Change*, a v-

neck surplice with picot stitch edging contrasting closed cables on the body against open cables on the sleeves.

Hip Knit Hats, 40 Fabulous Designs by Cathy Carron, published 2005 by Lark Books, hardbound with dustjacket at \$ 24.95.

Newer knitters who have tired of scarves can find easy, quick-knitting inspirations for a multitude of variations on a basic hat design with this book – whose author hails from New York City – along with easy to follow instructions for knitting embellishments to trim the hat. Many of the designs are easily adapted to felting – with or without embellishments – to using novelties, or to mixing with novelty yarns. More experienced knitters may enjoy the entrelac beret or *Skye*, an ear-flapped Andean style sized for adults.



Pursenality Plus, 20 New Felted Bags by Eva Wiechmann published 2006 by Martingale & Co., softbound at \$ 19.95.



Responding to the demands of felters enamored with making purses, 20 new designs have been developed by the author whose first book, released almost two years ago, was a sensation. This collection is as varied in personality as was the first with purses for all moments, moods – even Mondays. Among the best crafted designs are *Tutu* (in ballerina pink, no less), *Crimson* and *Carmen* – the last, a take-off

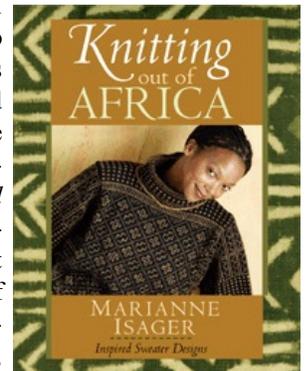
on an old-time physician's bag suitable for a nite at the opera or similar occasion.

Never Too Many Bags, A Guide To Creating Your Own Original Handbag Using Freeform Knitting and Crochet by Prudence Mapstone, published 2005 by the author, softbound at \$ 19.95.

Knitting For Dogs, Irresistible Patterns For Your Favorite Pup - And You! by Kristi Porter, published 2005 by Fireside Books, softbound at \$ 14.95.

Puppy Knits, 12 Quick Knit Fashions For Your Best Friend by Jill Eaton, published 2005 by Breckling Press, hardbound at \$ 13.95.

Knitting Out Of Africa, Inspired Sweater Design by Marianne Isager, published 2005 by Interweave Press at \$ 24.95. Danish designer Isager has produced 14 pieces of wearable art with African inspired motifs in an



unusual series of forays into adventuresome knitting. Africa's rich traditions in textile and patternwork design serves as the base for this graduate of Copenhagen's *School of Design and Handicrafts* to take a series of traditional tribal designs and adapt them to a multi-faceted safari of knitting techniques: entrelacs, intarsia, slip stitch knitting, Faire Ilse, short row and doubled knitting.

The bold patterns, and sometimes surprising use of techniques, form intriguing garments to delight adventuresome knitters.

New Needle Standards From Page 1

sition in the same size. Another plus is the addition of a new needle, size 36, although it is not yet generally available.

As with any change, there are minuses. The size 0 has been eliminated – a reflection of both its scarcity in manufacture and knitters' recent penchant for the jumbo sizes. Another is the Council's reluctance to adopt the full range of metric sizes available to knitters elsewhere in the world: metrically sized needles 4.25, 4.75, 7.00 and 7.50 have not been included in the new standard despite widespread availability to, and use by, knitters.

For a number of years, knitters who call The Knit With their yarn home have been made aware that the sizing of needles has actually been metric for some time – reflections of so few, generally available, brands being made exclusively for the domestic market and that the biggest American brands (Susan Bates and Boye) are actually made overseas to the metric scale and merely converted to American sizes.

The Knit With stocks eight brands of straight needles fashioned from a variety of materials : Lantern Moon's **Ebony** (sizes 5 through 19), Susan Bates' Quicksilver (**teflon coated aluminum** and plastic in sizes 1 through 15), Clover's **Bamboo** (sizes 0 through 19), Bryson's **Rosewood** (sizes 4 through 17), Lakewood (**white birch** in sizes 3 through 50), Brittany (**white birch** in sizes 3 through 17), Serendipity (**birch** in size 8 through 17) and Swallow's Timbergrain (**casein** in sizes 0 through 11). For circulars, the shop stocks three brands: Addi's Turbo (**nickel plated brass** in sizes 0 through 19), Bates' Quicksilver (sizes 1 through 17) and Clover's Bamboo (sizes 0 through 15). With the exception of the birch needles, all of these brands are made overseas.

Some needle manufacturers are expected to eschew the new standard. Clover is likely to continue the size 0 in straights – a reflection of the taste of Japanese knitters for small needles. Knitters can be assured that for as long as the shop's varied sources of supply make available the sizes not included within the new standards, those needles will be available.

Dawn, Bill and Jim