



We are working diligently to prepare for the months ahead - gift ideas for upcoming holidays, classes and projects to keep you busy during the cold days and nights, and always, new yarns, needles, books and accessories. We've included the **January - March Class Schedule**, **Winter Sale** info and a flyer for our **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bed & Breakfast Knitters Weekend** in late March.

 Winter Sale: December 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>  
**All in-stock inventory is on sale 25%**  
 (no returns or special orders please!).

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### Holiday Gifts:

It's not too early to start thinking about what you would love to give AND receive from Creative Fibers for the holidays. Did you know that we can set you up with your own personal wish list? Just let us know and we will update your customer record with those needles, yarn or books you've been hoping for. This way you will be pleasantly surprised with a gift you really want. The wish list lasts as long as you like; use it for birthdays, holidays, Mother's Day, etc. Remember to tell those special people to stop by Creative Fibers and check out your wish list. Give them a store card; they can even arrange for gifts over the phone! Here are some gift ideas from the staff:

- The Whisper Scarf Kit in a velvet pouch makes a perfect grab bag gift or stocking stuffer
- Rosewood circular needles – they are just the nicest needles to knit with, what can I say?
- Clear notions bag and project bags so you can easily identify the contents
- Goodies to fill the bags (stitch holders & markers, cable stitch holders, needle gauge, row counters, Knit Klips, T-pins, yarn bras, needles, a skein or two of yarn, a gift certificate...)
- Yarn Harlot (or other small book) as a stocking stuffer
- One of the Stitchionary books, AlterKnits, or Knitting Beyond Scarves, as a special gift
- Needle sets (in a nice zippered case)
- Gift certificates are always appreciated gifts
- A skein of Step sock yarn (infused with aloe and jojoba oil) and a set of double pointed needles
- Hanks of hand dyed sock yarn and needles
- One skein of Misti Alpaca Chunky for that cute cabled hat or ripple edged scarf
- Adorable sheep tape measure (especially the black sheep)
- Anny Blatt scarf kit
- Small travel or cased scissors
- Blocking board/wires
- Hand lotion
- Note cards
- Swift/ball winder
- Shawl pins
- Addi Necklace kits for either knit or crochet. Kit includes beads, wire, needle or hook, and clasps.
- Gift certificates of \$75 or more come in a free 7x10in notions bag

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### Focus on Crochet

Melissa Leapman's recent visit and introduction to crochet inspired all of us who took her class. We thought that with long winter days ahead it would be the perfect time to focus on this skill. So, we are offering **Intro to Crochet** in January and February, especially to knitters. We also have three fashion-focused crochet projects on the class schedule once you have mastered the basics.

- The **medallion crochet belt** is a quick and easy project that we think you will enjoy.
- The **Allspice Hat** is featured in Interweave Crochet Fall 2006 on page 84.
- Also in Interweave Crochet Fall 2006 on page 27 is the **Blue Sky Alpacas Cap Sleeve Wrap**.

**Isn't it time for you to learn crochet?**

### Focus on Entrelac

Entrelac is a knitting technique use to create a textured diamond pattern or basket weave effect. Hats, scarves, shrugs and fabulous felted bags can all utilize the Entrelac method especially when a variegated or self-striping yarn is used. Think Noro or Knit One Crochet Too "Paintbox".

- **Intro to Entrelac** class will introduce the basics and you will end up with a clever felted pouch.
- The **Felted Entrelac Bag** is for those with both experience with Entrelac and circular knitting.



- **Noro Entrelac Vest** (Spring 2007) Get ready now!



## Trunk Shows and Guest Instructors

We have three Trunk Shows currently scheduled. These loaners from the yarn companies allow you to feel the yarn knit up and give you ideas. You also receive a 10% discount on your purchase of that yarn/book during the trunk show period.

Louisa Harding's Natural Knits for Babies and Moms is an awesome book; just as the title states it features natural fibers that we carry (check out the bump sweater and two nursing sweaters) ~ January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>.

Classic Elite: many lovely samples from the new fall/winter pattern books ~ December 7<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

Helen Haman's Peruvian Bolero featured in Andean Inspired Knits ~ on display February 9<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup>

\* Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Guest Instructor: Robert Gaudreau  
\* ❖ **Fabrication**: learn how yarns will drape and wear. What can your swatch tell you besides gauge? A must-do class for sweater knitters. noon – 2 pm \$20

\* Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Guest Instructor: Robert Gaudreau  
\* ❖ **Beautiful Beginnings – Casting On**: let Robert introduce you to the many ways of casting on and knowing why each one is important. 2:30 - 5 pm \$25

\* Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Guest Instructor: Judy Pascale  
\* ❖ **Fabulous Beaded Belts** - Laugh along with this zany, expert knitter and discover her beading technique. 1 – 5 pm \$55 plus materials



Having crossed over from enthusiastic knitter to new yarn shop owner, I have learned some valuable lessons and insights to knitting. I would like to share two with you.

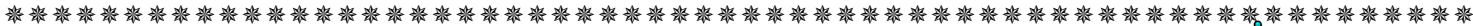
Let's start with the **quality of pattern directions**. They range from clear, precise and accurate to downright atrocious. Just about anyone can write a pattern today and have it published to the Internet, paper or book format. And, to compound matters, there is no standard format for writing patterns. Some write each pattern line out, others use charts, etc. So, knowing that it ranges all over, what can you do about it?

1. **Errata's/Corrections** – it's always wise to check if corrections have been made for a pattern. Most magazines and book companies post corrections on the web for their publications. (and remember, it's people like you and me that find mistakes/create those corrections and notify the company. Contrary to popular belief, errata elves don't exist.) Check our website for common errata websites and consider adding them to your Favorites.
2. **Common Sense** – if it just doesn't work after the first or second try, take a break. Go back to the pattern and your stitches and think about what's happening. Does it make sense? Maybe it isn't you; maybe the pattern is wrong. Get a second set of eyes to look at the pattern. Sometimes, I will interpret the pattern a certain way, and when I give it to Tina, she reads it with a whole new meaning.
3. **Educate yourself** – it's the old 80/20 rule. Most patterns are based on a standard premise. For example, take a sweater. Cast on some stitches, knit some rows up to the armhole, shape the armhole, etc. With experience, you will come to recognize pattern directions that aren't quite logical. You can then decide your own path to follow. Consider taking our "Reading Knitting Directions" class to learn how to navigate various patterns and look for information, even if it isn't provided.

Next there's the matter of **selecting the correct needle size for a pattern**. Take for example this situation: the pattern specifies a Plymouth yarn and size 8 needles. Only thing is, you want to use a Karabella yarn (which has the same gauge as the Plymouth yarn) and the Karabella label says to use size 7. What needles do you buy? Remember that there are 3 ingredients to your result - the yarn, the needle size and your own personal tension. To determine the right answer you must complete the dreaded gauge swatch. You and I could both knit with the Karabella yarn on a size 7 needle and our results will be different. Why? Because I am a very loose knitter. So, going back to our example, what needle size should you use to complete your gauge, using the Karabella yarn? I would suggest the needle size on the label should produce the gauge results you need. (Tip: If you are a really tight knitter you might want to start with one size larger. Or, if you are a loose knitter like me you might start with one size smaller.) The bottom line - knit gauge swatches until you meet the specified gauge. Even though a Plymouth and a Karabella yarn state the same gauge on the label, they may knit up quite differently. Yet another reason to knit a gauge swatch!

Check out Robert Gaudreau's **Fabrication** class to learn more about choosing yarns. He brings incredible knowledge and first hand experience to this topic.





## New Books on the shelf:

- Cables Untangled – Melissa Leapman
- Knitting Beyond the Edge – Nicky Epstein
- Knit Fix – Lisa Kartus
- Knitting Loves Crochet – Candi Jensen
- Men Who Knit and the Dogs Who Love Them – Annie Modesitt & Drew Emborksy
- Stitchionary 3 – Vogue Knitting
- Yarn Harlot – Stephanie Pearl-McPhee



## New Yarn on the needles:

- ❖ **Claudia Handpaints** – varigated sock yarn
- ❖ **Debbie Bliss** – Donegal Tweed (aran & chunky)
- ❖ **Ella Rae** – new heather colors (great for felting!)
- ❖ **Jolie** – Angora (great for Santa’s beard!)
- ❖ **Misti Alpaca** Chunky and Lace Weight
- ❖ **Muench** – Big Baby
- ❖ **Opal Uni** (solid sock colors) – fingering weight
- ❖ **Plassard BiBop**, Carre D’As, Colorado

## What is “boucle” yarn and why should I consider knitting with it?

Boucle yarn is a specialized type of yarn that is usually made of three plies. One ply (or thread) is usually looser than the others. The looser thread within the boucle yarn causes the yarn to have a loopy and bumpy look. The term *boucle* is derived from the French word *boucler*, which means “to curl.” This term perfectly describes some variations of boucle yarn, which contain distinctive ringlet curls. This characteristic makes boucle yarn a great choice for creating projects such as scarves, handbags, sweaters, tops, and ponchos. Alternatively, boucle yarn can make a delightful accent when used along with a plain background. And since boucle yarn is created by combining several plies of fiber together, it can be a colorful yarn. By the way, the term astrakhan has been used recently to denote boucle. For example, Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Astrakhan.

We carry boucles from Cherry Tree Hill, Debbie Bliss, Fiesta, Lorna’s Laces, and Plymouth.

The next time you stop in, take a look at a boucle yarn.

### K2Tog – Community Service Projects

Over **400 premie hats** have been donated so far to St. Francis and Manchester Memorial Hospitals. We are currently filling the cradle for Bay State in Springfield. What a great way to use up leftover yarn!



Sixteen (16) blankets have been donated to **Project Linus**.



**Thank you all who contributed!**



### Keeping in touch with you

Over the course of the year I’ve had some customers tell me they were unaware of something happening at the shop. We all lead hectic lives, so why not write down our important dates on you calendar **RIGHT NOW**? That way you won’t miss something that’s important to you.

We send out a newsletter/class schedule four times a year to keep you updated. You can also check out our website. Not only are the newsletter and class schedule there, we have added a class project page complete with pictures and descriptions.

Periodically we have little reminders we like to send out. While postage doesn’t seem like much, it does add up quickly when we do a store mailing so we **only** send these via email. If you would like to receive the reminders via email (and still receive the newsletter by regular mail) please provide us with your email address and we will gladly update your record.

We promise **NOT** to fill your inbox/mailbox with unnecessary mail!

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

We will be **closed** on the following days:

Thanksgiving Day ~ November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Christmas Eve Day and Christmas Day ~ December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

New Year’s Eve Day and New Year’s Day ~ December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>

### Holiday hours for the week between Christmas and New Years:

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> ~ 10am – 8pm

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> ~ 10am – 5pm



## Sit & Knit Sessions

Join us for **Guided Sit & Knit** each Thursday evening from 6:30-8pm. Meet others, get inspired, and receive assistance from the staff “guide”. We just ask that your project materials be purchased from Creative Fibers LLC.

### Late-Hour Sit & Knit

We keep the stop open til 9 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month so you can enjoy extended time with friends.



### Winter Hours

Monday-Friday 11am-8pm  
Saturday 10am-5pm  
Sunday 1-5pm

## Winter Class Schedule Enclosed

Flyer inside for our

# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bed & Breakfast Knitting Retreat Weekend

Nutmeg Inn ~ Wilmington, Vermont  
Friday, March 30 – Sunday April 1, 2007



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Guest Instructors

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Beaded Belts: 1 – 5 pm



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