INTERWEAVE

BEYOND THE BASICS

ARAN KNITTING

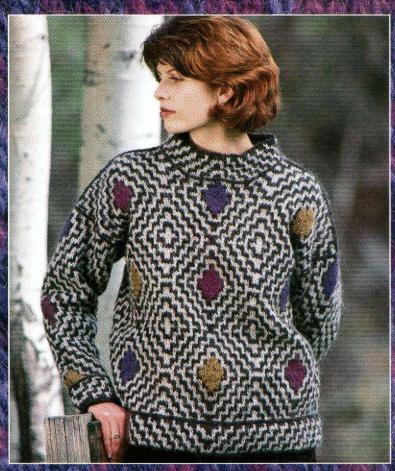
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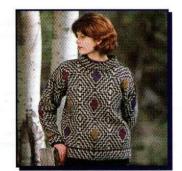
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FRONT COVER: Diamond Maze by Barbara Venishnick

STRANDS

FROM THE EDITORS

M OST OF US who come from knitting families (and many who don't) have some connection to Aran knitting. Whether it was watching our mothers and grandmothers knit, seeing our fathers sport a handknitted creation, or wearing one ourselves, there's something special about those diamonds, cables, and bobbles. While working on this issue, these Aran images came to mind.

Marilyn: I remember watching my mother knit during many evenings of my childhood. She sat on the couch with one needle tucked under her arm, the natural colored Aran fabric growing in front of her. This wonderous fabric would become a sweater for my brother, pillows for the parlor, an afghan for the couch. She couldn't be interrupted until she had finished a row. When I visit her now as an adult, I still find her in the evenings, sitting on the couch with wool and needles, but this time she's making an Aran afghan for each of her grandkids. She says to me she's not a very knowledgeable knitter and that maybe she should take a class. But I look at the Arans she's made over the years and wonder how she could possibly think that.

Judith: When I was in junior high school, my favorite sweater was a royal blue



Aran my mother had knitted for me. It was a security-inducing (and pimple-covering) turtleneck that bore cables and bobbles. I loved it so much I bought some plaid woolen fabric in royal and green and made a pleated skirt especially to wear with that sweater.



Double Knitting including exquisite reversible sweaters

Shetland Knitting including magnificent accessories from the Isle of Skye

Gift Knitting including an alluring assortment of small projects (Can you picture it? Knee socks, saddle shoes, pink winged glasses. It was, after all, the 1960s.) I wore my ensemble to school once a week. Were it not for my fear of peer jeering, I'd have worn it more often. On weekends it was the sweater with blue jeans. I wore that Aran for many years, until the sleeves reached about three-quarter length. I wonder what ever happened to it? I don't remember seeing it on either of my younger sisters, so I imagine it found its way to the church rummage sale or the Goodwill bin. I hope it found a new owner and pleased her as much as it pleased me.

Though the myths and legends surrounding Aran knitting are a matter for debate, the patterns, for us, have a magical power, telling stories that will stay with us forever. We hope you enjoy the Arans in this issue. Maybe you'll create your own legacy.

Judith Durant

Marilyn Murphy

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Interweave Knits (ISSN 1088-3622) is published quarterly by Interweave Press, Inc., 201 East Fourth Street, Loveland, Colorado 80537-5655. Phone (970) 669-7672. Fax (970) 667-8317. Application to mail at Periodicals Postage rates is pending at Loveland, CO 80538, and additional mailing offices. Interweave Knits is copyrighted © 1997 by Interweave Press, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited, except by permission of the publisher.

Printed in the USA. For subscription information, call (800) 645-3675. Visit the Interweave Press web site at: http://www.Interweave.com

Press

CABLES LETTERS FROM OUR READERS



I was especially interested in the article by Theresa Williams on beaded bags (Summer, 1997), and when I saw the photo of the bags made by the Interweave staff, I decided to try it. I bought *Bead Knitted Pendant Bags*, a set of tiny needles, and a kit. I was amazed at how I took to it and determined to finish a bag to give our school secretary at her retirement party. Was it a hit! Now several teachers want to learn and we plan to meet for a craft session this summer. I am now working on three more bags. Thank you so much for your fascinating magazine.

Mary Lynn Adamowski, Evergreen, CO

I would like to try some beaded knitting from the summer 1997 issue. I found the needles and the beads, but have not found anyone familiar with "Size E Gudebrod silk".

Lorraine Dossett, Seattle, WA

This specialty yarn is available through Lacis, 3163 Adeline St., Berkeley, CA 94703. (510) 843-7178. You can also substitute #8 Perle cotton, which is available through craft and knitting shops.

Apparently Candace Eisner Strick's Ravelings "Sickness or Passion" in the summer 1997 issue struck a chord with many readers. Nancy Robinson (Edmonds, WA) sums it up succinctly:

Dear Candace:

You said it. Amen. Let's go knit.

The response to Anne Rogers's plea for yarn and unfinished knitting projects for the Lakota living under miserable conditions at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota (Knits News, vol. 2, no. 1) has been heartwarming. Here's an update.

I have shipped eighteen cartons of knitted garments. Other people are sending things on their own. Several guilds adopted Pine Ridge as their charity projects for this year. We've received calls for more information, letters, yarn, help, etc., and have received checks to defray postage expenses. We're finally getting a few drops in the bucket to warm people.

Meg Swansen started me on this project six or seven years ago, and we consider it an unqualified success so far. I definitely appreciate all everyone has done to help.

Anne Rogers, East Petersburg, PA

We welcome your comments and questions. Write to "Cables", Interweave Knits, 201 East Fourth Street, Loveland, CO 80537-5655; fax (970) 667-8317.





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Glossary

Abbreviations

alt	alternate
BC	back cross
beg	beginning; begin; begins
bet	between
BO	bind off
CC	contrasting color
cm	centimeter(s)
cn	cable needle
CO	cast on
cont	continue
dec(s)	decrease(s); decreasing
dpn	double-pointed needle(s)
ÊC	front cross
foll	following
g	gram(s)
inc	increase; increasing
k	knit
k tbl	knit through back of loop
k2tog	knit two stitches together
kwise	knitwise
LC	left cross
LT	left twist
m	marker(s)
MC	main color
mm	millimeter(s)
M1	make one
р	purl
patt(s)	pattern(s)
pm	place marker
psso	pass slip stitch over
p2tog	purl two stitches together
pwise	purlwise
RC	right cross
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
rev St st	reverse stockinette stitch
rib	ribbing
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
RT	right twist
sc	single crochet
sk	skip
skp	sl 1, k1, psso
sl	slip
sl st	slip stitch (sl 1 st pwise
	unless otherwise indicated)
ssk	slip, slip, k 2 sl sts tog
st(s)	stitch(es)
St st	stockinette stitch
tbl	through back loop
WS	together
	wrong side
wyb	with yarn in back
wyf	with yarn in front
yo *	yarn over
1310	repeat starting point (i.e., repeat from *)
* *	
3° 8.	repeat all instructions between asterisks
()	alternate measurements
()	and/or instructions
[]	
11	instructions that are to be worked as a group a
	specified number of times

T

Knitting Gauge

To check gauge, CO 30 to 40 sts using the recommended needle size. Work in pattern stitch until the piece measures at least 4" (10 cm) from the cast-on edge. Remove the swatch from the needles or BO loosely, and lay the swatch on a flat surface. Place a ruler over the swatch and count the number of stitches across and number of rows down (including fractions of stitches and rows) in 4" (10 cm). Repeat two or three times on different areas of the swatch to confirm your measurements. If you have more stitches and rows than called for in the instructions, use larger needles; if you have fewer, use smaller needles. Repeat until the gauge is correct.

Reading Charts

Unless otherwise indicated, charts are read from the bottom up. On right-side rows, read charts from right to left. On wrong-side rows, read charts from left to right. When knitting in the round, read charts from right to left for all rows.

Binding Off Shoulder Stitches Together



Place the front and back shoulder stitches onto two separate needles. Hold them in your left hand with the right sides of the knitting facing together. In your right hand, take another needle and insert the righthand needle into the first stitch on each of the left-hand needles and knit them as one stitch. Knit the next stitch the same way. You now have two stitches on the right-hand needle. Pass the first stitch over the second stitch. Repeat until only one stitch remains on the right-hand needle. Cut the yarn and

pull the tail through last stitch.

One-Row Buttonhole

Work to where you want the buttonhole to begin, bring the varn to the front, slip the next stitch purlwise, and then return the yarn to the back.



1. *Slip the next stitch. Then on the right needle, bass the second stitch over the end stitch. Repeat from * 2 (3, 4) times. Slip the last bound-off stitch to the left needle and turn the work.



2. Move the yarn to the back and use the cable cast-on to cast on 4(5, 6) stitches as follows: *Insert the right needle between the first and second stitches on the left needle, draw up a loop, and place it on the left needle. Repeat from *3(4, 5) times. Turn the work.



3. With the yarn in back, slip the first stitch from the left needle and pass the extra cast on stitch over it to close the buttonhole. Work to the end of the row.

OOPS!

Corrections to the Summer '97 issue: The clever trick of winding threaded beads onto plastic spools that was featured in "Beyond the Basics" in the Summer '97 issue is the invention of Sharon Dalebout of Boulder, Colorado. Sorry we overlooked you, Sharon.

Summer Cardigan (page 22): The chart and key for the Back Cable Panel on page 24 have errors. Follow the written row-by-row stitch patterns on pages 22-23 instead. If you want a corrected chart and key, please call us or drop us a note; we'll be happy to provide it.

Suppliers' Guide (page 62): Rumpelstiltskin's correct phone number is (916) 442-9225.

M1 Increase



With left needle tip, lift the strand between the last knitted stitch and the first stitch on the left needle, from front to back.



Knit the lifted loop through the back.

I-Cord With dpn, CO desired number of sts. *Without turning the needle, slide the sts to the other end of the needle, pull the yarn around the back, and knit the sts as usual; rep from * for desired length.

Reverse I-Cord Work as regular I-cord but pull the yarn around the front of the work.

Applied I-Cord

As I-cord is knitted, attach it to the garment as follows: With garment RS

facing and using a separate ball of yarn and cir needle, pick up the desired number of sts along the garment edge. Slide these sts down the needle so that the first picked-up st is near the opposite needle point. With dpn, CO desired number of I-cord sts. Knit across the I-cord to the last st, then knit the last st tog with the first picked-up st on the garment, and pull the varn behind the cord (pull the yarn in front of the cord for reverse I-cord). Knit to the last I-cord st, then knit the last I-cord st tog with the next picked-up st. Cont in this manner until all picked-up sts have been used.

Note: When working attached I-cord, as in all picked-up edge finishes, do not pick up every st. Work the edging for about 2" (5 cm), then lay the piece flat to make sure that the cord lies flat along the edge—if not pull out the necessary sts and rework, picking up more or fewer sts along the garment edge, as needed.

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BEYOND THE BASICS

WORKING WITH SLIP-STITCH PATTERNS

HE INTRICATE multicolored slip-stitch patterns that play light against dark, termed "mosaic" by Barbara Walker, are surprisingly easy to knit. Though the patterns appear complicated, they are worked with just one color at a time by knitting and slipping stitches according to a charted pattern.

In mosaic knitting, a foundation row is worked in one color (in general, the light color), after which the two colors of yarn are alternated every two rows. When working with the dark yarn, knit (or purl) the stitches designated dark by the chart and simply slip the stitches designated light. Always slip stitches as if to purl. When working with the light yarn, do the opposite.

Think of the second row of each two-row sequence as a mirror image of the first. You don't have to worry about pattern multiples or reading a partly completed chart backwards. All the stitches that were worked on the previous row are worked again, and all the stitches that were slipped are slipped again. You don't have to think about the pattern in second rows; just work the stitches that are in the working color and slip the others, and you'll end up where you started, ready to pick up the other color.

When slipping stitches on right-side rows, hold the yarn in back; when slipping stitches on wrong-side rows, hold the yarn in front. In this way, the yarn is always carried on the wrong side of the knitting.

The slipped stitches tend to give mosaic knitting a slightly rippled texture. Although much of this unevenness disappears when the piece is blocked, enough remains to give it an interesting surface. But be aware that slipped stitches tend to spread horizontally, making it essential that you steam or wash a swatch before using it to determine gauge.



Based on Roxana Bartlett's upcoming book Slip-Stitch Knitting to be published by Interweave Press, Spring 1998.

READING CHARTS

Charted patterns delineate shapes and are easy to follow. Each square represents one stitch, each line represents two rows. Follow a slip-stitch chart from right to left for the first row of a two-row sequence, and then follow the established pattern for the second row of the sequence. Notice that the rows are numbered along the sides of the chart-odd numbers along the right and even numbers along the left. The odd numbers represent the first rows of the two-row sequences. The even numbers, which are on the same row as the odd numbers, represent the second mirror-image rows of the sequences. The color bar on the right-hand side of the chart designates which color of yarn should be worked in each row; black squares indicate dark yarn, white squares indicate light yarn. On rows designated dark, work the dark stitches and slip the light stitches; reverse for light rows. For example, Rows 1 and 2 are both worked with dark varn, Rows 3 and 4 are worked with light yarn, and so on.

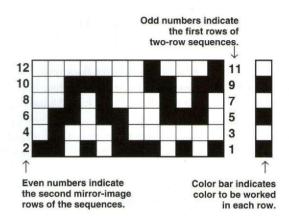
STOCKINETTE AND GARTER STITCHES

Slip-stitch patterns can be worked in stockinette or garter stitch, and some of the most interesting effects can be achieved by combining the two. To work a mosaic chart back and forth in stockinette stitch, as in Barbara Venishnick's "Diamond Maze" sweater (see page 9), knit and slip stitches in the first row of a two-row sequence according to the chart. Work the second row by purling the stitches previously knit and slipping the stitches previously slipped. Continue in this manner, knitting the working stitches on the odd rows and purling the working stitches on the even rows. To work stockinette st in the round, knit and slip the same stitches on both rounds of the two-round sequences.

To work a mosaic chart back and forth in garter stitch, as in Wendy Keele's "Mosaic Square Jacket" (see page 13), knit and slip stitches in the first row of a sequence as described above. Work the second row by knitting the stitches previously knit and slipping the stitches previously slipped. Remember to bring the yarn forward when slipping stitches on the wrong-side rows and hold it in back when knitting stitches on these rows. This technique keeps the yarn carries on the wrong side of the knitting. To work garter stitch in the round, knit and slip stitches in the first round of a sequence as described above, then work the second round by purling the stitches previously knit and slipping the stitches previously slipped, remembering to hold the yarn in back when slipping stitches on both rounds.

Working just one element in garter stitch, as in Kathleen Power-Johnson's "Tone-on-Tone Mosaic Sweater" (see page 25) or "sprinkling" garter stitches within a mosaic design, as in Roxana Bartlett's "A Walk in the Woods Vest" and "Evening of Falling Stars Socks" (see pages 19 and 22) can produce visually striking fabrics.

You can easily create myriad designs and textures by using different stitches, combining different charted patterns (if you use the same yarn, your gauge won't change!), and varying colors. The designs presented in this issue are only a sampling of the possibilities with this simple yet versatile knitting technique. Come spring, Roxana's book will offer lots more new ideas.

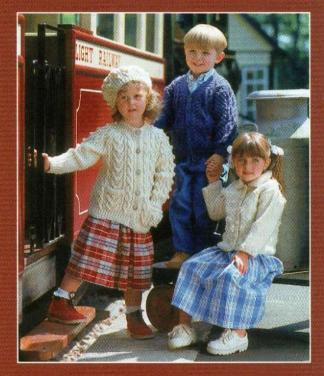




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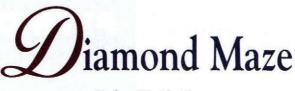
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Barbara Venishnick

THE DARK AND LIGHT geometric pattern in this pullover is worked in slipped stitches in which only one color is worked each row. The contrasting diamonds are worked in stockinette stitch in the intarsia method. In these areas, the two main colors of yarn are stranded behind the diamonds in the Fair Isle technique.

Edgings for the lower body, sleeves, and stand-up neck are worked in a contrasting pattern that pivots around a center point. The edgings are faced and set off by single rows of purled stitches. The shoulders are joined by binding off the front stitches with the back stitches, with wrong sides together, to make a slight ridge on the right side of the work. *Note:* Refer to "Beyond the Basics" (page 6) for more information on working slipstitch mosaic patterns.

Finished Size: 40 (43, 47)" (101.5 (109, 119.5) cm) bust/chest circumference. Sweater shown measures 43" (109 cm).

Yarn: Reynolds Lite-Lopi (100% Icelandic wool; 109 yd (100 m)/50 g): #52 dark brown (A), 7 (7, 8) balls; #86 light heather (B), 5 (5, 6) balls; #432 lavender (CC1), #426 gold (CC2), and #429 cranberry (CC3), 1 ball each.

Needles: Body and Sleeves—Size 8 (5 mm): straight and 16" (40 cm) circular (cir); Facing—Size 6 (4 mm): straight and 16" (40 cm) cir. Adjust needle sizes if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

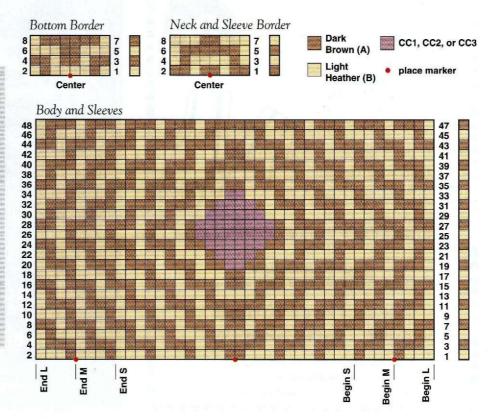
Notions: Markers (m); four stitch holders, three bobbins; tapestry needle.

Gauge: 18 sts and 28 rows = 4" (10 cm) in mosaic pattern on larger needles; 17 sts and 22 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st.

 Back: With A and smaller needles, CO 88 (96, 104) sts. Work St st for 21/4" (5.5 cm) for facing, ending with a RS row. With WS facing, knit 1 row, inc 1 st at each end of needle-90 (98, 106) sts. Border: (RS facing) With larger needles and B, work first row of Bottom Border chart as follows (note: The first and last sts of each row are worked in St st; these edge sts are not shown on the chart): K1 (selvedge), rep first 4 sts of chart 11 (12, 13) times, pm for center back, rep last 4 sts of chart 11 (12, 13) times, k1 (selvedge). Work 2 repeats of the 8-row pattern (16 rows) in this manner. Then with A, knit 2 rows. Body: With B and beg with Row 1, work 3 repeats of Body and Sleeve chart, beg and end as indicated for your size, placing m's as shown, and working contrasting diamonds in CC1, CC2, and CC3 as desired. Then

work Rows 1 and 2. With A, knit 1 row. Place 29 (33, 37) sts on one holder, center 32 sts on a second holder, and rem 29 (33, 37) sts on a third holder.

• Front: Work as for Back until piece measures 14 rows shorter than Back, ending with Row 36 of chart. Shape neck: Work 36 (40, 44) sts in established patt, place center 18 sts on holder for neck, join new ball of yarn, and work rem 36 (40, 44) sts in established patt. Working shoulders separately, dec 1 st at each neck edge every other row 7 times (note: keep 1 st at each side of neck opening in St st, and work the decs just before or just after this edge st)-29 (33, 37) sts rem on each shoulder. Work through Row 2 of chart. With A, knit 1 row. Holding wrong sides together, BO Front shoulder sts tog with Back shoulder sts (see Glossary, page 4).

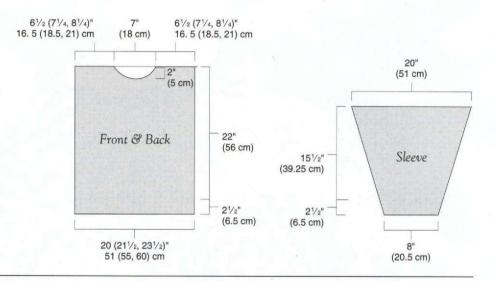


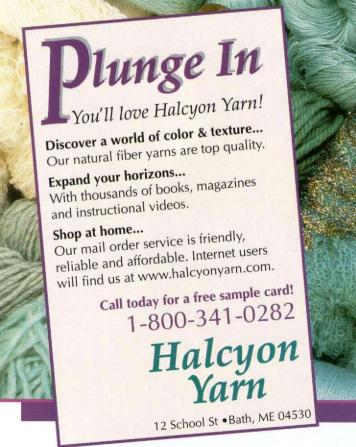


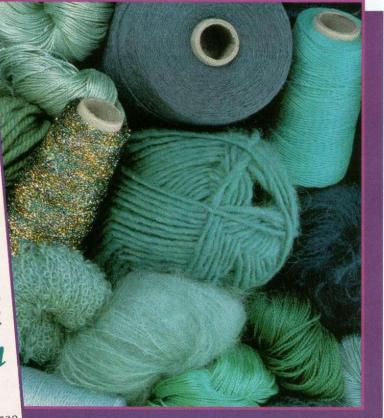
•Sleeves: Measure and mark Front and Back 10" (25.5 cm) down from shoulder seam. With A, larger needles, and RS facing, pick up 90 sts (for all sizes) evenly spaced between m's. Following Body and Sleeves chart, work Rows 17-48 once, Rows 1-48 once, and then Rows 1-26, working 1 edge st each end of needle, working intarsia designs in CC1, CC2, and CC3 randomly as desired, and dec 1 st each end of needle every 4th row-38 sts rem. With A, knit 2 rows. Cuff: K1, then work Row 1 of Neck and Sleeve Border chart as follows: work sts 3 and 4 once, rep first 4 sts 4 times, pm, rep last 4 sts 4 times, work sts 5 and 6 once, then k1. Work chart for a total of 16 rows. With A, knit 2 rows. Change to smaller needles and work St st facing for 2" (5 cm). BO all sts loosely.

• Finishing: Neckband: With A, larger cir needle, and beg at center back, k16 sts from Back holder, pick up and knit 17 sts along left side of neck, k18 sts from Front holder, pick up and knit 17 sts along right side of neck, and k16 rem sts from Back holder—84 sts. Place m and join. Purl 1 rnd. Beg with Row 1 of Neck and Sleeve Border chart, work sts 3 and 4, then rep first 4 sts 10 times, pm for center front, work last 4 sts 10 times, then work sts 5 and 6, and pm for center back. Work chart for a total of 16 rnds. With A, knit 1 rnd, dec 1 st every 3-st block across front (shoulder to shoulder)—12 sts dec'd total; 72 sts rem. Purl 1 rnd. Change to smaller cir needle and work St st facing for $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.5 cm). BO all sts loosely. With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew sleeve and side seams. Fold facings to inside and sew in place. Weave in loose ends. Block lightly.

Barbara Venishnick lives in Simsbury, Connecticut, with her husband, Joseph, and high-schoolaged daughter, Anna. Olivia, their oldest child, is in college in New York State. Barbara is grateful that her knitwear design business allows her to work at home where she can keep track of the comings and goings of her busy family.







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sources a a

Mosaic Square Jacket

Wendy Keele

This OVERSIZED, drop-shoulder woman's jacket is worked in bands of contrasting colors against brown in a mosaic pattern. Because the yarn is used doubled throughout, the jacket is thick and warm. The back of the jacket is worked from side seam to side seam. The fronts are worked from the side seams to the center front. The sleeves are worked from the cuff up. Garter stitch bands are added to the lower, center front, and neck edges after the pieces have been sewn together.

Note: Read "Beyond the Basics" (page 6) for more information on working slipstitch mosaic patterns.

Finished Size: 39 (45, 51)" (99 (114.5, 129.5) cm) bust/chest circumference, buttoned. Sweater shown measures 51" (129.5 cm). Sweater length measures 29 (30¹/₂, 32)" (73.5 (77.5, 81.5) cm.

Yarn: Colorflow EJ Merino (100% merino wool; 120 yd (110 m)/1 oz) used double: Chocolate (MC), 9 (10, 11) skeins; Olive, Loden, Forest Green, and Air Force (CC), 2 (2, 3) skeins each.

Needles: Body and Sleeves—Size 7 (4.5 mm); Edging—Size 6 (4 mm): 24" (60 cm) circular (cir). Adjust needle sizes if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions: Tapestry needle; nine 1" (2.5 cm) buttons.

Gauge: 20 sts and 40 rows = 3" by $3\frac{1}{4}"$ (7.5 by 8.5 cm) in one motif of mosaic pattern with yarn doubled, blocked; 20 sts and 29 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st with yarn doubled on larger needles.

Note: When working the mosaic chart, rows designated as light colored should be worked in CC (Air Force, Forest Green, Loden, or Olive); rows designated as dark colored should be worked in MC (Chocolate). On CC rows, the dark squares indicate sts that should be slipped; the light squares indicate sts that should be knitted. Likewise, on MC rows, the light squares indicate sts that should be slipped; the dark squares indicate sts that should be knitted.

•Back: With larger needles and Air Force, CO 183 (193, 203) sts. Join Chocolate as MC and beg Walking Square chart with Row 1, work across chart 9 (9½, 10) times. Work 40 rows of chart. Change CC to Forest Green (maintain Chocolate as MC) and rep 40 rows of chart. Cont repeating charted patt, changing CC as follows: Loden, Olive, Air Force, then Forest Green. For middle size only: Work another mosaic band in Loden. For large size only: Work another band in Loden, then one in Olive—6 (7, 8) mosaic bands. BO all sts.

•Left Front: Work as for Back for 1 (2, 2) complete mosaic bands, and through Row 21 (1, 21) of the second (third, third) band. *Shape neck:* At beg of next row, BO 11 (13, 15) sts, and cont working chart in same color sequence as for Back, and *at the same time*, at the beg of each odd-numbered row, BO 2 sts 3 (4, 5) times, 1 st 6 (6, 6) times—160 (166, 172) sts rem. Cont in patt through Row 21 (5, 21) of third (fourth, fourth) mosaic band. BO all sts.

•Right Front: Work as for Left Front, beg with Forest Green (Loden, Olive) and reverse shaping by working from the right underarm seam to the neck and working the neck decs on evennumbered rows.

•Left Sleeve: With MC, CO 58 (58, 72) sts. Work 6 ridges (12 rows) of Garter st, inc 5 (5, 11) sts evenly spaced across last row—63 (63, 83) sts. Beg with Air Force

(Olive, Olive), work Rows 1-40 (21-40, 1-40) of Walking Square chart, inc 1 st each edge of needle every 4 rows 30 (40, 40) times, working new sts according to Dot Pattern chart until there are enough sts for a complete new patt. At the same time, cont to work the following mosaic bands: For small size only: in Forest Green, Loden, then Olive. For middle size only: in Air Force, Forest Green, Loden, then Olive. For large size only: in Air Force, Forest Green, Loden, then Olive. There will be a total of 4 $(4^{1/2}, 5)$ mosaic bands and 123 (143, 163) sts. Work even until sleeve measures about 141/2 (16, 173/4)" (37 (40.5, 45) cm) from beg, ending with Row 40 of the chart. BO all sts.

•Right Sleeve: Work as for Left Sleeve, but work CC in the following sequence: For small size only: Forest Green, Air Force, Olive, then Loden. For middle size only: Olive (work Rows 21–40 of chart, working just half a motif), Loden, Forest Green, Air Force, then Olive. For large size only: Air Force, Olive, Loden, Forest Green, then Air Force.

•Finishing: With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew shoulder seams. Sew sleeves to body, being careful to align motifs. Sew side and underarm seams. Lower band: With MC, cir needle, and RS facing, pick up and knit 175 (200, 250) sts around lower edge of sweater. Work 6 ridges (12 rows) of Garter st. BO all sts loosely. Neckband: With MC, cir needle, RS facing, and beg at Right Front neck, pick up and knit 28 (32, 36) sts to shoulder seam, 40 (45, 50) sts across Back neck, and 28 (32, 36) sts from left shoulder seam to Left Front neck-96 (109, 122) sts. Work 2 ridges (4 rows) of Garter st. On next row, dec 5 (6, 6) sts evenly spaced. Cont working Garter st until there are a total of 4 ridges (8

-continued on page 15



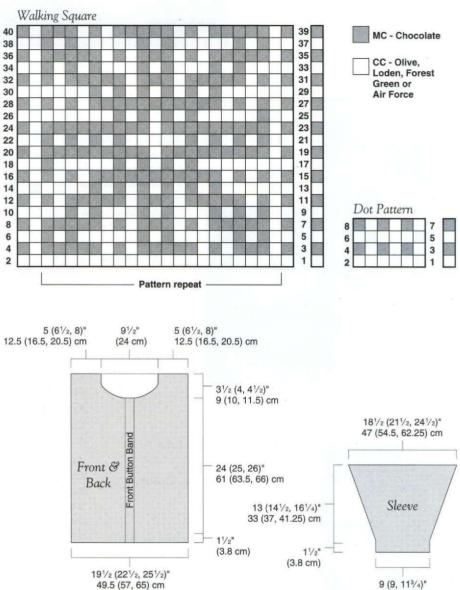


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(continued from page 12)

rows). In next row, dec 5 (6, 6) sts evenly spaced. Cont working Garter st until there are total of 6 ridges (12 rows). BO all sts loosely. Button band: With MC, cir needle, RS facing, and beg at Left Front neck edge, pick up and knit 147 (155, 163) sts along front opening, including neckband and lower band. Work 6 ridges (12 rows) of Garter st. BO all sts loosely. Buttonhole band: With MC, cir needle, RS facing, and beg at the Right Front lower edge, pick up and knit 147 (155, 163) sts along front opening, including neckband and lower band. Work 3 ridges (6 rows) of Garter st. Buttonhole Row: K2, *work one-row buttonhole (see Glossary, page 4) over 6 sts, k11 (12, 13) sts; rep from * 8 times, work one-row buttonhole over 6 sts, k3. Cont in Garter st until a total of 6 ridges (12 rows) have been worked. BO all sts loosely. Weave in loose ends. Block lightly, if necessary. Sew on buttons. 0

Wendy Keele of Hastings, Nebraska, enjoys all types of knitting, and has spent considerable time researching Bohus Stickning for her book, Poems of Color (Interweave Press, 1995). Wendy is enthusiastically passing the knitting tradition on to her nine-year-old daughter, Marcia.



9 (9, 11%4)" 23 (23, 30) cm

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> charted patterns for 14 original Alice Starmore designs include her own interpretations of Celtic knotwork. With the last-minute addition of previously-unpublished historical information, and photos taken on location in the Aran Islands and County Clare, Aran Knitting is a real eye-opener on all the facets of this enduring style.

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Aran Knitting

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Ann Feitelson

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Vicki Square

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Marcia Lewandowski

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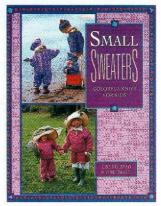
felt

Lise Kolstad & Tone Takle

CHNIQUES AND PATTERNS

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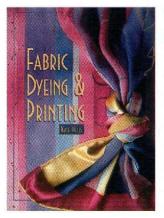


Gunilla Paetau Sjöberg, Patricia Spark, translator

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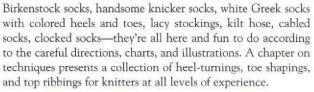
stunning—and inspiring. Throughout the book, careful attention is paid to the decorative effects that can be created on fabric, from tie-dye through computer-generated imagery. Textural effects include a full chapter on devoré, plus crimping, flocking, and embossing. All in all, 30 key patterning techniques are presented, while 20 dye recipes are laid out in easy-reference cookbook style. As senior technical instructor of dyeing and printing at London's Royal College of Art, author Wells is an expert on the latest, most exciting developments in surface design.

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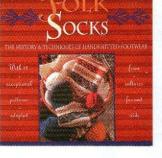
Folk Socks The History & Techniques of Handknitted Footwear

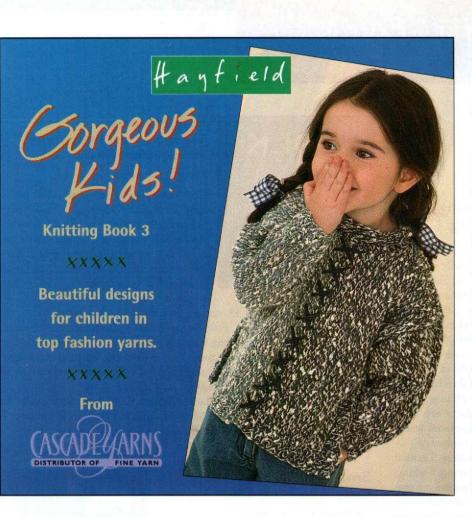
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A WALK IN THE WOODS VEST

Roxana Bartlett

HOUGH THE COLORFUL patterns on this vest and the socks on page 23 resemble complicated Fair Isle patterning, they are easily worked with one color at a time in a slip-stitch "mosaic" technique. For the vest, the light stitches are consistently worked in ash gray and the dark stitches are worked in four different colors of a heavier weight varn. Colors are changed on wrong-side rows. All isolated dark stitches are knit on both right- and wrong-side rows, making them appear as purl bumps and giving added dimension to the surface texture.

This vest is worked in one piece to the armholes, then the back and fronts are worked separately to the shoulders and joined with a knitted bind-off. The armholes and front opening are finished with attached I-cord. A single pewter clasp holds the fronts together. Note: Read "Beyond the Basics" (page 6) for more information on working slip-stitch mosaic patterns.

Finished Size: 39 (43)" (99 (109) cm) bust/chest circumference, clasped. Vest shown measures 39" (99 cm).

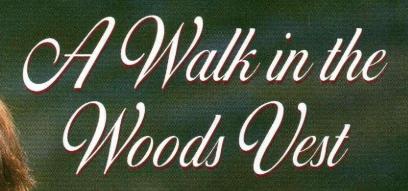
Yarn: Brown Sheep Nature Spun Sports Weight (100% wool; 184 vd (168 m)/50 g): #720 Ash (MC), 2 (3) skeins. Plymouth Cleckheaton Tapestry (100% superwash wool; 109 vd (100 m)/50 g): #3 multicolor, 2 (3) skeins. Cascade Lana D'Oro (50% wool, 50% alpaca; 110 vd (101 m)/50 g): #216 dark blue, 2 (3) skeins; #214 teal, 1 (2) skein(s); #210 red, 1 skein.

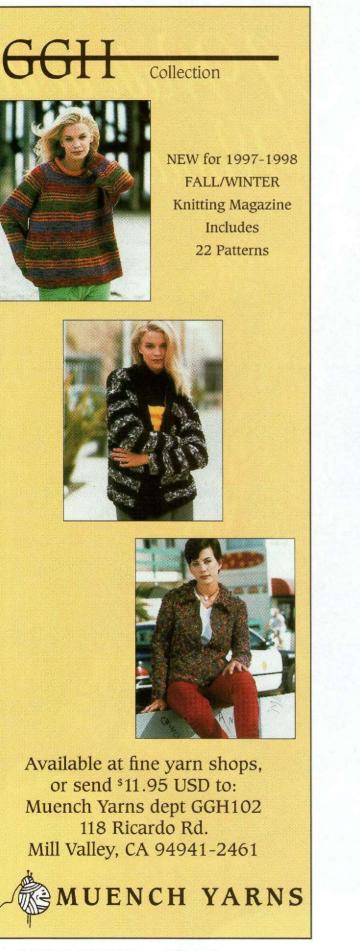
Needles: Body-Size 4 (3.5 mm): 32" (80 cm) circular (cir); Ribbing-Size 2 (2.75 mm): 32" (80 cm) cir; I-cord-Size 3 (3.25 mm): double pointed (dpn). Adjust needle sizes if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

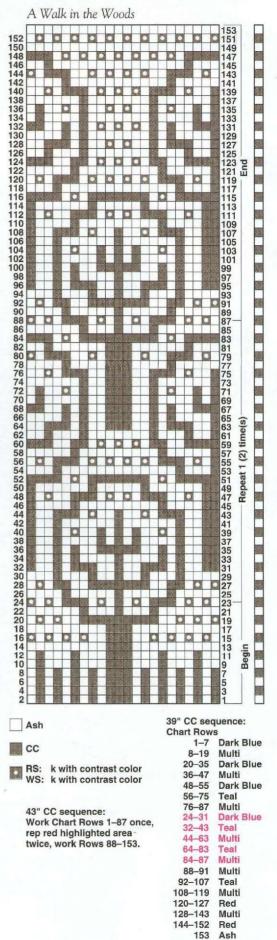
Notions: Four stitch holders; tapestry needle; one 3/4" (2 cm) pewter clasp.

Gauge: 25 sts and 46 rows = 4" (10 cm) in slip-stitch pattern on larger needles.

•Body: With dark blue and larger cir needle, CO 215 (232) sts. Change to





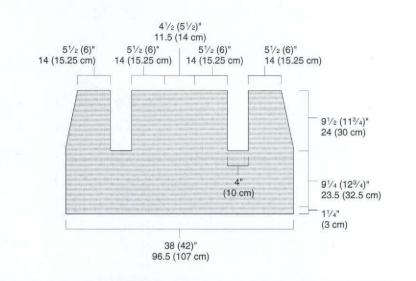


smaller cir needle and work k1, p1 ribbing for $1^{1}/4^{"}$ (3 cm). Knit 1 row, inc 23 (32) sts evenly spaced-238 (264) sts. Change to larger cir needle. Knit 1 row. Purl 1 row. Beg charted patt, using MC for all light sts and specified CC for dark sts, and work Rows 1-87, then work Rows 24-87 once (twice) more, then Rows 88-153 once-216 (280) rows total, and at the same time, when piece measures 10¹/₂ (14)" (26.5 (35.5) cm) from beg, ending on a WS row, divide for armholes: Keeping in established patt, work 45 (51) sts for right front, BO 26 sts for right armhole, work 96 (110) sts for back, BO 26 sts for left armhole, and work 45 (51) sts for left front. Place front sts on holders. Back: Work Back sts through Row 153 of chart-216 (280) rows total. Next row: With MC. p34 (38) sts for left shoulder, BO 28 (34) sts for back neck, p34 (38) sts for right shoulder. Place shoulder sts on holders. Left front: Keeping to established patt, work across row to last 2 sts, k2tog. Dec at neck edge in this manner every 4th row 11 (13) times-34 (38) sts rem. Cont even in patt until piece

measures same length as Back. *Right front:* Work as for left front, reversing neck shaping by working ssk decs at the beg of dec rows.

• Finishing: With RS tog, BO shoulder sts together (see Glossary, page 4). Neck and Front band: With dark blue, RS facing, and beg at lower right front, work 3st attached I-cord (see Glossary, page 4) around the neckline, ending at the lower left front. With dark blue, work another attached I-cord in the same manner. Then with teal, work another attached I-cord in the same manner. *Arm bands:* With dark blue and RS facing, work 3-st attached I-cord around armholes. Weave in loose ends. Block lightly if necessary. Sew clasp in place.

Roxana Bartlett, of Boulder, Colorado, is working on a new book, Slip-Stitch Knitting for Interweave Press. Look for it in the spring of 1998.



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Evening of Falling Stars Socks

Roxana Bartlett

HESE LIVELY SOCKS are worked in a simple slip-stitch "mosaic" pattern punctuated with purl stitches. The gussets are worked in a striped pattern, which adds design interest while eliminating the problem of interrupted patterning along the gusset decreases. The heel flap and toe are worked on smaller needles to make them denser and increase durability. *Note:* Read "Beyond the Basics" (page 6) for more information on working slip-stitch mosaic patterns. Finished Size: 10" (25.5 cm) from heel to toe; 7" (18 cm) from cuff to top of heel. To fit a medium/large adult foot.

Yarn: Tahki Yarns Stahl Wolle Hobby Kids (60% acrylic, 40% superwash wool; 120 yd (110 m)/50 g): #4662 Black, 1 ball. Tahki Yarns Stahl Wolle Hobby (60% superwash wool, 40% acrylic; 137 yd (125 m)/50 g): #4814 Bordeaux, 1 ball. Brown Sheep Nature Spun Sports Weight (100% wool; 184 yd (168 m)/50 g): #N75 South Pacific Blue, 1 skein.

Needles: Leg and Foot—Set of four size 3 (3.25 mm) double-pointed (dpn). Heel and Toe—Set of four size 2 (2.75 mm) dpn. Adjust needle sizes if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions: Marker (m); waste yarn; tapestry needle.

Gauge: 28 sts and 42 rows = 4" (10 cm) in slip-stitch pattern worked in the round on larger needles; 24 sts and 28 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st.

•Cuff: With Black and larger dpn, loosely CO 48 sts. Divide sts evenly onto 3 dpn. Place m and join, being careful not to twist sts. Work k2, p2 ribbing for 2 rnds. With Bordeaux, knit 1 rnd, then work k2, p2 ribbing for 1" (2.5 cm). With South Pacific Blue, knit 2 rnds.

•Leg: Beg with Black and Row 1, work chart, alternating Black and South Pacific Blue every 2 rnds, until leg measures 7" (18 cm), or desired length to top of heel. Break both yarns. Sl 12 sts from needle #3 to needle #1.

•Heel: With Black, knit across 12 sts, sl m, and knit across next 12 sts. Sl rem 24 sts of instep onto waste yarn. Change to smaller dpn. Turn.

Heel flap:

Row 1: Sl 1, purl to end. Turn. Row 2: With South Pacific Blue, *sl 1, k1; rep from *. Turn.

Rep these 2 rows, alternating colors every 2 rows until heel flap measures $2^{1}/4^{"}$ (5.5 cm), or desired length, ending with Black and a RS row.

Turn heel:

Row 1: With Black, sl 1, purl to 3 sts beyond m, p2tog, p1. Turn.

- Row 2: Sl 1, k7 (3 sts beyond m), sl 1, k1, psso, k1. Turn.
- Row 3: Sl 1, purl to 1 st before gap, p2tog, p1. Turn.

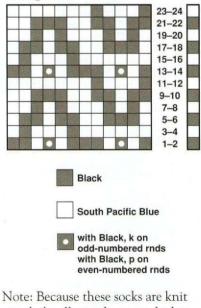
Row 4: Sl 1, knit to 1 st before gap, sl 1, k1, psso, k1. Turn.

Cont in this manner until all heel sts have been used. Change to larger dpn. *Heel gussets:* With Black and RS facing, pick up and knit 1 st for every slipped edge st along the right side of the heel flap. With needle #2, knit across 24 instep sts. With needle #3, pick up and knit 1 st for every slipped edge st along the left side of the heel flap, and then work across heel sts to m, slip m. Transfer rem 8 heel sts to needle #1. Dec md: Beg at m, knit across rem heel and picked-up sts to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. With needle #2, knit across instep sts. With needle #3, k1, sl 1, k1, psso, knit to m. Change to South Pacific Blue and knit 1 rnd. Rep the last 2 rnds, alternating colors every 2 rnds, until 12 sts rem each on needle #1 and needle #3. Beg with next color and Row 1 or 3 of chart, work until foot measures 8" (20.5 cm), or desired length from back of heel, alternating colors every 2 rnds and ending with 2 rnds of South Pacific Blue. Change to smaller dpn.

• Toe: With Bordeaux, knit across needle #1 to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. On needle #2, k1, sl 1, k1, psso, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1. On needle #3, k1, sl 1, k1, psso, knit to end. Knit 1 rnd even. Rep these 2 rnds until 8 sts rem on needle #2 and 4 sts each on needle #1 and needle #3—16 sts total. Cut yarn, leaving a 12" (30.5 cm) tail.

• Finishing: With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, use kitchener st (see Glossary, page 4) to graft toe sts together. Weave in loose ends. Block. ∞

Falling Stars



circularly, all rounds are marked on the right-hand side of the chart and should be read from right to left.





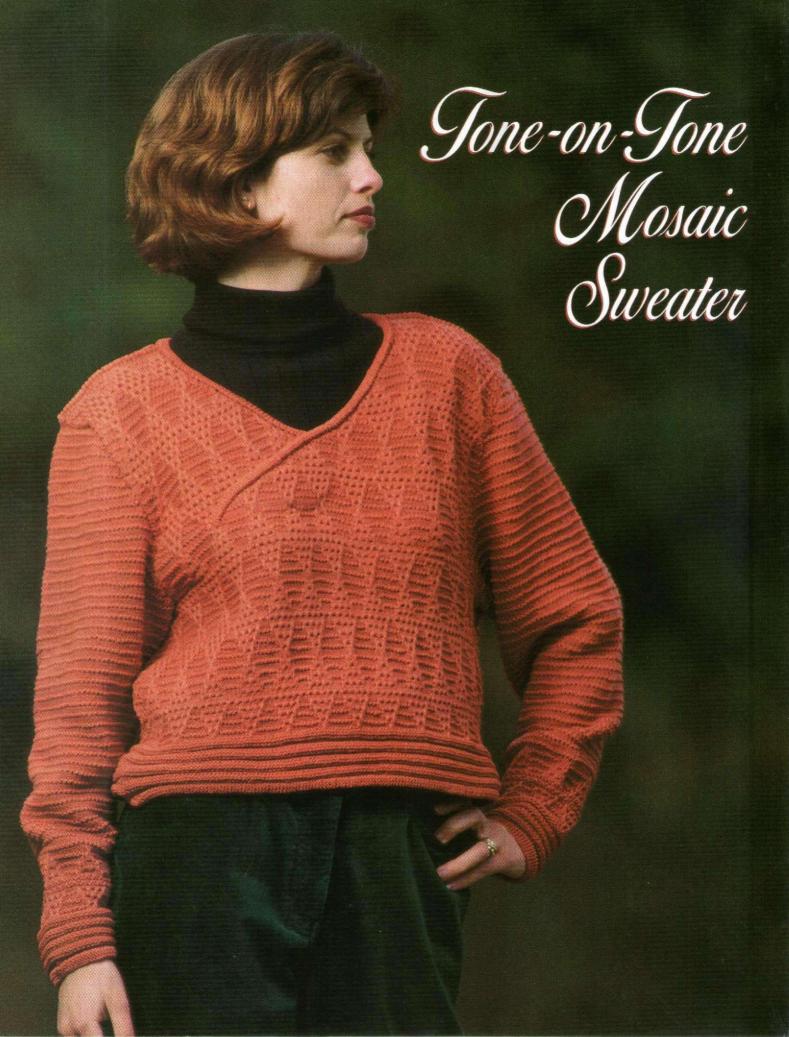
Two of the latest Kaffe Fassett designs which are available as Rowan Knit Kits and as patterns in Rowan Magazine #20.

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TONE-ON-TONE MOSAIC SWEATER

Kathleen Power Johnson

Soft WOOL playing against ribbon gives an interesting embossed look to the slip-stitch mosaic design featured on the front, wrists, and lower back of this cropped pullover. Stripes of the two yarns on the back and set-in sleeves echo the stripes of the mosaic design, while the asymmetric V-neck placket picks up the shape of the mosaic diamonds. Wide alternating bands of stockinette stitch and reverse stockinette stitch border the sleeves and lower edges which, along with the neckline, are finished with rayon ribbon worked in reverse I-cord.

This garment fits loosely around the waist. If you'd like a slightly nipped-in look, work the welt on 10 fewer sts.

Note: This pattern uses a combination of knit and purl sts. Be sure to *knit* the designated sts on wrong-side rows.

Finished Size: 37¹/₂ (40¹/₄, 43, 46)" (95.5 (102, 109, 117) cm) bust/chest circumference. Sweater shown measures 40¹/₄" (102 cm).

Yarn: Laines Anny Blatt Merinos, (100% wool; 137 yd (125 m)/50 g): #534 Sanguine (A), 6 (6, 7, 8) balls. Laines Anny Blatt Libertine (100% polyamide ribbon; 109 yd (100 m)/ 50 g): #534 Sanguine (B), 8 (9, 9, 10) spools.

Needles: Body and Sleeves—Size 5 (3.75 mm): 16" and 32" (40 and 80 cm) circular (cir); Welt—Size 3 (3 mm): 16" and 32" (40 and 80 cm) cir; Edging—Size 4 (3.5 mm): 16" and 32" (40 and 80 cm) cir and doublepointed (dpn). Adjust needle sizes if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions: Marker (m); four stitch holders; tapestry needle.

Gauge: 28 sts and 44 rows = 4" (10 cm) in pattern st; 27 sts and 38 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st on largest needles.

Stitches

Welt:

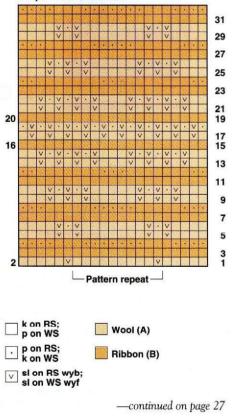
Rows 1–4: With A, work in St st. Rows 5–8: With B, work in rev St st. Rep Rows 1–8 for pattern. Stripe Pattern: Rows 1 and 2: With B, knit. Row 3: With A, knit. Row 4: With A, purl. Rep Rows 1–4 for pattern.

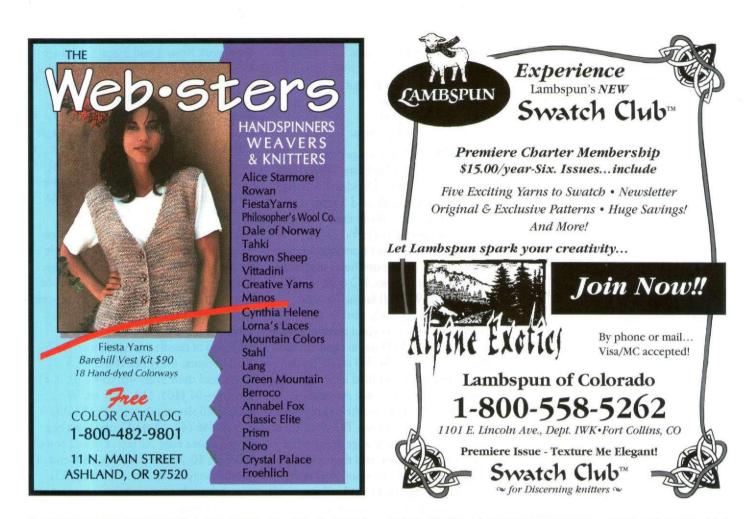
• Front: With A and longer welt needle, CO 131 (141, 151, 161) sts. Work Welt for a total of 32 rows (8 ridges). Change to longer body needle and Stripes and Diamonds pattern. Work even until piece measures 121/4 (123/4, 13, 121/2)" (31 (32, 33, 31.5) cm) from beg. Mark the center st. Shape armholes and neck: At beg of next 2 rows, BO 6 (9, 9, 10) sts and with WS still facing (second armhole shaping row), work in patt to 28 (30, 32, 34) sts beyond marked center st-88 (92, 99, 105) sts on right needle. Place rem 31 (31, 34, 36) sts on holder for left front to be worked later. Cont to shape armhole as follows: At armhole edge, BO 2 (2, 3, 4) sts. At beg of next alternate 0 (0, 1, 2) rows, BO 2 sts, then dec 1 st each armhole edge every other row 6(4, 5, 5) times, and then every fourth row 0 (4, 4, 3) times. And at the same time, shape right neck: Sl first neck edge st as to purl every RS row. (The I-cord finish will be attached to this sl st later.) Dec 1 st at neck edge (inside sl st) every row 16 (14, 12, 10) times, then dec 1 st at neck edge every other row 36 (38, 43, 47) times-52 (52, 55, 57) sts dec'd. Cont even until center front measures 201/4 (21, 22, 22)" (51.5 (53.5, 56, 56) cm) from beg. Place rem 28 (30, 30, 32) right shoulder sts on holder. Shape left neck: With RS facing, place 31 (31, 34, 36) sts from holder onto body needle, attach varn, and CO 39 (45, 48, 52) sts-70 (76, 82, 88) sts. Cont in patt, working armhole shaping as before and shaping left neck edge as follows: SI first st on all WS rows. On RS rows, dec 1 st at neck edge (inside sl st) every 4 rows 10(9, 11, 12) times, then every other row 24 (27, 27, 28) times-34 (36, 38, 40) neck sts dec'd. Cont even until piece measures same length as right shoulder. Place rem 28 (30, 30, 32) left shoulder sts on holder.

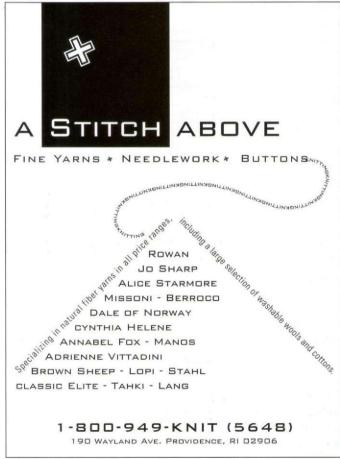
•Back: With A and longer welt needle, CO 131 (141, 151, 161) sts. Work Welt for a total of 32 rows (8 ridges). Change to longer body needle and work Rows 1–32 of Stripes and Diamonds pattern, then work Rows 1 and 2 again. Change to Stripe pattern (working armhole decs as for Front) until piece measures $19^{3/4}$ $(20^{1/4}, 18^{3/4}, 18^{1/2})$ " (50.5 (51.5, 48, 47.5) cm) from beg. **Shape neck:** BO center 33 (29, 29, 29) sts. Working each side separately, BO at the neck edge 6 (6, 5, 5) sts once, then 1 (1, 3, 3) st(s) once—28 (30, 30, 32) sts rem each side. Work even until length measures same as Front. Place all sts on holders.

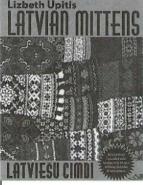
•Sleeves: With A and shorter welt needle, CO 47 (55, 69, 73) sts. Work Welt for a total of 32 rows (8 ridges). Change to sleeve needle and work Rows 1-32 of Stripes and Diamonds pattern, then work Rows 1 and 2 again. Change to Stripe pattern and, at the same time, inc 1 st each end of needle every 6th row 21 (24, 17, 18) times, every 8th row 3 (0, 5, 0) times, and then every 4th row 1 (0, 0, 8) time(s)-97 (103, 113, 125) sts. Work even until sleeve measures 18 (17, 17, 17¹/₄)" (46 (43, 43, 43.5) cm) from beg. Shape sleeve cap: At beg of next 2 rows, BO 7 (9, 10, 10) sts. Dec 1 st each end of needle every other row 30 (31, 35, 32) times, then dec 1 st each end every row 1 (1, 1, 10) time(s). BO rem 21 sts.

Stripes and Diamonds









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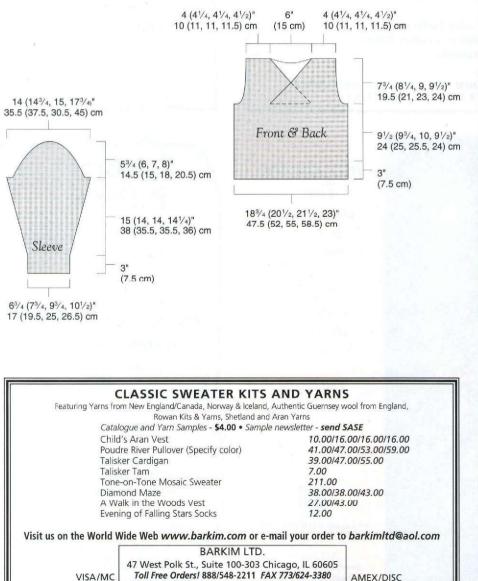


(continued from page 25)

• Finishing: Shoulders: Holding Front and Back together with WS facing each other, and beg at neck edge, join the shoulders using edging dpn and A, as follows: *Insert needle through first st on front needle, then through corresponding st on back needle, pull the back st through the front st; rep from * across all sts. Join B. Work 3-st Rev I-Cord (see Glossary, page 4) along rem sts, ending k2tog, BO 1. Cut yarn and pull end through rem st. With A threaded on a tapestry needle, sew side and sleeve seams. Neck edging: With B, RS facing, cir edging needle, and beg at right neck edge, pick up 1 st for every slip st along right front edge, 1 st for each BO st across neck, and 1 st for each slip st

along left neck edge—132 (146, 161, 167) sts. With WS facing, CO 5 sts and work 5-st Applied Rev I-Cord (see Glossary, page 4). Work 1 row unattached. Stitch in place using B. *Cuffs and Hemline:* With RS facing, short cir edging needle and B, and beg at a seam line, pick up sts around the edge. With WS facing, CO 5 sts and work 5-st Applied Rev I-Cord, working 1 unattached row for every 6 sts. End by sewing or grafting final row to CO row. Weave in loose ends. Wet block carefully.

Kathleen Power Johnson has been knitting since she needed a way to keep her dolls warm. She lives in Sarasota, Florida, where she designs for and writes about knitting, crocheting, and buttonmaking.







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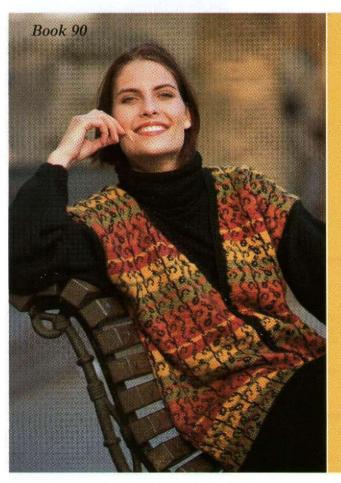
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A What? A Nøstepinde. **A What**??

"I DLOVE TO SEE your 'nawstepinnas'," Jim Childs told me during a demo-day at Halcyon Yarn. "I've never seen a real one."

Lots of people haven't even heard of nøstepinder, but for Jim not to have seen one was odd. He and a growing number of Americans make this Scandinavian tool, turning 1×8 -inch lengths of hardwood into precisely profiled creations.

So what is a nøstepinde? In Scandinavian languages, a nøste, or nösta, is a ball of string or yarn. Think of a "bird's nest". Pinde, pinna, or pinne, (all pronounced like "pinafore") mean little stick. Nøstepinde: a yarn-winding stick.

In past centuries, young men whittled nøstepinder for their sweethearts. On farms in Jutland, mountains of yarn skeins were changed to balls by hired girls winding busily on nøstepinder in the dark edges of light from the fire. Many old nøstepinder have rattles so the farmer's wife could hear the girls working even when she couldn't see them. (Sometimes a rattle of dried peas in a loop of animal trachea was wound into the ball itself.)

Today, most nøstepinder are turned on lathes and associated with twined knitting. Twined knitting's Swedish name, *tvåändssticking*, or "two-ends' knitting", refers to the two ends of any ball of yarn; the ends are knit alternately with a half-twist between stitches.

Two ends? How? The end on the inside of the ball is pretty inaccessible. We've all stuck an index finger into a machine-wound ball and pulled out a twenty-foot tangle which sometimes includes an end. The nøstepinde solves this problem. It's a tool for winding a ball with an *easily accessible* inside end.

While you can substitute the handle of a wooden spoon, a dowel, or even a mechanical yarn winder, there's something special about a handmade tool smoothed to silky perfection. There's pleasure in the winding, in watching each turn of yarn lay up against the turn before, over and over again, ending with a handsome ball that looks almost machine made *but isn't*.

Robin Hansen

I saw my first nøstepinde in Fredericia, Jutland, while visiting Danish knitting historian Ann Moller Nielsen. Ann showed me the smooth knit side of a twined knitted mitten and the twisted appearance of its purl side. "If it's not twisted on the back, it's not twined knitting," she explained. "And you need a nøstepinde to wind the yarn." She brought forth a well-worn oak stick that looked like a belaying pin, and showed me how to use it.

I bought a brand new nøstepinde the next morning, and on the way back to my in-laws' home in Copenhagen, I rewound all the yarn I had with me. Twice. At first I wound slowly, laboriously copying the instructions Ann had given me. Then I realized the tool was like a thumb that I could rotate 360-plus degrees. The varn flew, the ball began to form as if by magic into something wonderful, each turn laid perfectly beside the one before it. When I got home to Maine, I rewound all my yarn scraps. I fell in love with winding yarn! I finally remembered that children can't wear balls of yarn and began knitting again. Eight years later, I too have a wellused, lovely oak nøstepinde polished by lanolin and years of use.

BRINGING NØSTEPINDER TO AMERICA

Ann introduced me to the women who unearthed twined knitting in Norway and Sweden, and I ended up translating Birgitta Dandanell and Ulla Danielsson's book *Tvåändssticking* for Interweave Press (*Twined Knitting*, 1989). This book brought not only twined knitting but the nøstepinde to American knitters.

Neither Twined Knitting nor articles in knitting magazines have much to say about nøstepinder or how to use them. Nor are there plans for nøstepinder printed in Twined Knitting to inspire woodworkers. But American woodworkers were inspired. Jim Childs made his first nøstepinde from a fuzzy photocopy of a fuzzy photograph with no measurements. Now every state seems to have at least one woodworker, often a knitter's partner, busily turning and selling variations on the theme. Nøstepinder earn their keep by using up remnants of fine wood too precious to discard.

Twined knitting brought nøstepinder to America, but then American ingenuity kicked in. We realized that balls of yarn pulled from the inside don't roll all over the floor while we're knitting. Small inside-pull balls can be pinched to make effective bobbins. Tuck the outside end of a nøstepinde-wound ball into several horizontal turns and it won't unwind and get tangled in the yarn basket. And so forth.

When I brought my nøstepinde to a machine-knitting workshop in 1991, some women snickered. Now nøstepinder are standard equipment and regularly sell out at knitting fairs. Simple tools are, after all, the best. And if they're handmade by someone who cares, so much the better.

Robin Hansen is a folklorist and freelance writer and knitter with a passionate interest in traditional knitting in Scandinavia and North America.



Anchor yarn end

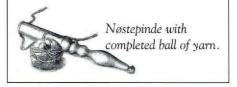
with two half

hitches.

Securing the half hitches and yarn end against the nøstepinde, begin winding yarn toward you and around nøstepinde.

29

After about ten turns, wind diagonally across the first turns. As you continue winding, rotate the nøstepinde away from you, so that with each turn the yarn lies next to the one before.



KNITTING ARANS

TOP DOWN

Beth Brown-Reinsel

Since ITS INCEPTION in the early part of this century, the Aran has been a popular sweater style. Aran sweaters are easily recognized by their highly textured cables and other intricately intertwined motifs. But while the patterns of these wonderful sweaters are readily identifiable as "Aran", there does not seem to be one unique method of construction.

The biggest advantage to knitting from the top down is that the garment can be tried on at every step, assuring a good final fit. When knitting circularly from the bottom up, the sweater can be tried on along the way, but you can only guess about how the completed garment will hang on the body.

When I design an Aran from the top down, I go through several steps before I begin the knitting. I will take you through the steps of designing Celtic Dreams (pictured on page 33).

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

First decide the general type of sweater you want to make. Will it be a cardigan or pullover? Do you want it cropped or tunic length? What type of armhole and neck shaping will you use? Do you want to work it flat or circularly? Will it have rolled or ribbed edgings? Some of the oldest Arans were constructed with skirts deep (6" [15 cm] or longer) bottom edgings made up of cabled patterns that contrast with the body designs. I write down my ideas and make a rough sketch of the piece. Celtic Dreams is a pullover with saddle shoulders, square armholes, and a deep skirt.

At this point in the design process I typically buy yarn. An Aran requires about 30 percent more yarn than a sweater of the same size knitted in stockinette stitch. I like to play it safe and buy 50 percent more yarn so that I'll have plenty for working swatches. And, of course, it's always good to have a little left over. . . .

THE SCHEMATIC

The next step is to determine the desired finished sweater dimensions. The

schematic in Figure 1 shows all the necessary measurements. Measure the width of the shoulders (or back width) on the person who will wear the sweater. Or measure a well-fitting sweater across the shoulders from armhole seam to armhole seam (A). Next, measure the bust/chest or hips (whichever is larger) and add 2" to 10" (5 cm to 25.5 cm)—or more—of ease. Divide this measurement by two to get the lower body width (B). By subtracting A from B, and dividing the result by two, the underarm width (C) can be ascertained. The width of the skirt (D) will be the same as B.

Next, determine the width of the neck opening. For adults, divide the shoulder

A - Width across shoulders B - Width of Front or Back C - Width of underarm D - Skirt or ribbing width of Front or Back E - Width of back neck - Length of shoulder for saddle G - Width of saddle (and of neck) H - Depth of armhole (including half the width of the saddle) I - Length of lower body (from top of skirt to underarm) - Length of skirt or ribbing K - Length of sleeve (from underarm to top of cuff) L - Width of sleeve top M - Circumference of cuff N - Length of cuff O - Circumference at sleeve bottom (above cuff: M + 1" or more if desired)

width (A) into thirds—one third for the neck (E) and one third for each shoulder (F). Because children up to size 12 have proportionally larger heads than do adults (see Beth Morimoto's article on page 50), the width across the shoulders should be divided into fourths—two fourths (one half) for the neck (E), and one fourth for each shoulder (F).

The width of the saddle (G) determines the depth of the neck and should measure from 2" (5 cm) for children to 4" (10 cm) for large men. Determine armhole depth (H) by measuring the wearer from the shoulder to 2" (5 cm) below the armpit. The armhole depth (H) plus the length from the armhole to the skirt (I) plus the length of the skirt (J) equal the total body length. I always consider the total body length to be a "ball-park" number, subject to change depending on how the motifs work out—I often find that I want to add or subtract length to achieve a balanced pattern.

Determine the sleeve length (K) by measuring the underside of the wearer's arm 2" (5 cm) down from the armpit to the wrist. The width of the sleeve top (L) is twice the armhole depth (H). The cuff circumference (M) should be the wrist measurement plus at least 1" (2.5 cm) ease. The cuff length (N) is typically 2" to 3" (5 cm to 7.5 cm). The circumference of the sleeve at the bottom (O) is the cuff circumference (M) plus 1" to 2" (2.5 cm to 5 cm).

PATTERN MOTIFS

The classic Aran includes a variety of textures repeated vertically in panels across the body front and back, and sleeves. Early Arans were commonly created without armhole or neck shaping, having drop shoulders and using saddles to give the neckline depth. Typically, these saddles were worked in motifs that copied or complemented the patterns on the sweater body, and were carried down the sleeves to the cuffs.

For design continuity, choose motifs with mathematical compatibility. In our example, the largest motifs repeat every twenty-four rows. Others repeat every eight rows, and some every four. All of these numbers are factors of twenty-four (they divide evenly into twenty-four). While it is possible to have a beautiful layout with a variety of row repeats, it will be more difficult to plan and knit.

Since each motif will knit up to a different gauge, each must be swatched. To make swatches that will lie flat and allow accurate gauge measurement, work a few garter stitches on each side of the motif. Because I like to separate my motifs with a couple of purl stitches, I flank the motifs in my swatches with two purl stitches followed by two garter stitches. These swatches allow you to become familiar with working the various patterns and give you the opportunity to see how motifs look next to one another.

To minimize the "splay", or unsightly spreading out of the knitting just before a cable pattern is begun, cast on fewer stitches than are needed for the pattern and then increase to the necessary number of stitches in the first pattern row at the base of each cable motif. I usually find I need to increase one stitch for every knit stitch group within the cable, but sometimes more. For example, in the center panel of Celtic Dreams there are five knit stitch groups, or cable parts. By experimenting with my swatch, I found that I needed to cast on six stitches fewer than required by the motif, and then increase six stitches right before the cables to compensate for their takeup. On the last row of patterning, decrease the same number of stitches in the same places. These increases and decreases should correspond to the position of the cable motifs.

Keep in mind that when you work a sweater from the top down, the motifs will appear upside down, which you may or may not like. You can't just reverse a pattern by working the rows in reverse order; instead, turn the charted pattern upside down and determine which stitch movements will have to change to create the same effect. Some cables will have the same appearance, some will not.

MEASURING

Once you have decided which motifs you want to use, and in what sequence you want to use them, determine their combined knitted width. To help you figure, make a table as in Figure 2, listing the motifs in the order you've settled on, the number of stitches and rows needed for each, and their knitted measurements (excluding the garter stitch edges). Then total the number of stitches and inches (centimeters) represented by all of the motifs in the body width (above the base of the armhole) and compare this number to your desired upper body width (A). Next, add in the width of the pattern panels to be used after the armhole stitches are cast on to be certain your lower

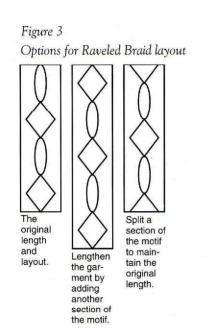
Number of	Broken Rib (C)	Twisted Knit	Braid + 2 purl	4-st Cable + 4 purl	Raveled Braid	4-st Cable + 4 purl	Center Panel	4-st Cable 4 + purl	Raveled Braid	4-st Cable + 4 purl	Braid + 2 purl	Twisted Knit	Total Upper/ Lower Body
Stitches	13	2	8	8	12	8	22	8	12	8	8	2	98/124
Rows	4		4	8	24	8	24	8	24	8	4	-	-
Inches (centimeters)	3 (7.5)	1/2 (1.3)	11/8 (2.8)	11⁄2 (3.8)	21/8 (5.3)	11⁄2 (3.8)	31⁄2 (9)	11⁄2 (3.8)	21/8 (5.3)	11/2 (3.8)	1½ (2.8)	1/2 (1.3)	17 (43)/ 23 (58)

The upper body (A) is worked on 98 sts (17"/43 cm). The number of stitches to cast on is based on the dimensions of the individual motifs. Note that the neck requires 36 sts, but because of cable splay, only 30 sts are cast on and 6 sts are increased in the first pattern row. For the lower body (B), stitches are cast on at both underarms and worked in Broken Rib for a total of 124 sts (23"/58 cm). Flanking purl stitches were added to the Braid and 4-st Cable panels to achieve the desired width.

body width is the same as B. Inevitably, there will be some variance between the calculated and desired widths, and stitches will need to be added or subtracted. For small adjustments, add or subtract purl stitches between motifs. If more width is needed, add twisted knit stitches between panels, two-stitch, four-stitch, or wider cables, or add panels of moss, seed, or trinity stitch along the sides. If less width is needed, reduce the number of stitches within or between panels, make narrower cables, or eliminate motifs.

In addition to working out a pleasing horizontal layout of motifs, you must plan their vertical arrangement. Give some thought to where in the repeat you want each motif to begin at the shoulder and end at the skirt. Partial motifs at these junctures may become unwanted focal points, such as a diamond that begins as a whole unit but ends with just a partial motif.

As I laid out Celtic Dreams, I realized that although the raveled braid had the same row repeat as the center panel, and that both would fit in the sweater length perfectly, the raveled braid would begin with a diamond but end with a braid, which appeared unbalanced. This problem occurs when a motif is not vertically symmetrical. I could have added another diamond at the end, but the extra length would impact the repeats of the other motifs. I chose instead to split the diamond in



the center so that the motif would begin and end with half a diamond, and appear symmetrical (see Figure 3).

CHARTING THE DESIGN

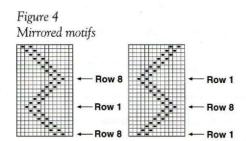
Plan for *all* of your patterns to begin with either a right- or a wrong-side row. If you are set on using a pattern that begins on a wrong-side row while all the others begin on a right (or vice versa), move that pattern up or down one row on the chart so that it coincides with the other motifs. Otherwise you may end up having to work some cables on wrong-side rows and others on right-side rows. Though this isn't impossible, it can be a nuisance, especially with more complex patterns.

To mirror horizontally asymmetrical motifs for side panels, chart out one panel, beginning with row 1 of the pattern. For the other panel, begin charting with the center row of the pattern repeat (Figure 4). To mirror symmetrical cables, plan right crosses for one side of the garment and left crosses for the other.

Chart out at least one full repeat of the longest pattern you've chosen, and then chart the remaining motifs to coincide with it, making note of the increases and decreases necessary to reduce cable splay. If the motifs have various row repeats, chart the entire sweater to ensure that all the patterns will mesh well together.

FINAL SWATCHING

After you've charted the sweater body, knit a large swatch of the chart from one side to the far end of the center panel (a bit more than half the width of the front). I knitted this swatch to the length of a full repeat of the largest motif. It is difficult to accurately account for the draw-in on the purl stitches that flank the motifs some will disappear behind cables but still contribute to the width. This swatch will eliminate the guesswork.



WORKING THE SWEATER

Cast on and work two saddles to match the length of the shoulder (F). From your swatching, the table, and charting, you will know how many stitches of front patterning will be picked up and worked from the saddles, and how many stitches you need to cast on for the neck area, as well as how many stitches to increase (and where) to compensate for cable splay. Pick up the necessary number of shoulder stitches along the edge of one saddle, cast on the number of stitches necessary for the back neck opening, then pick up the necessary number of stitches along the edge of the other saddle. In the next row, increase to the total number of stitches in your table for the back upper body. Work the patterns back and forth to the desired armhole depth (H), ending with a wrong-side row. Note that this measurement includes half the width of the saddle. Repeat for the front upper body.

In her book *Knitting From the Top Down*, Barbara Walker encourages knitters to work the neckband as soon as possible so that the fit will be more accurate as the garment is tried on throughout the knitting process. To start a neckband, pick up a stitch for a stitch along the front and back neck openings and along the cast-on edges of the two saddles. Then increase or decrease the number of stitches in the first round to accommodate the pattern multiple or to reduce cable splay of the chosen neckband motif. Neckbands are generally 1" to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (2.5 cm to 4 cm) long.

Once you've reached the full armhole depth, cast on the required number of stitches at each underarm to create a base for the armhole (C). At this point you can join the front to the back and work circularly to the lower ribbing or skirt. If you change to circular knitting, you will need to adjust the stitch patterns accordingly. When working circularly, every row is worked with the right side facing; you will need to knit instead of purl and vice versa on alternate rows. Also, make sure that the front and back are worked to the same pattern row before joining to ensure that the patterning on the two sides is in sync.

-continued on page 34



(continued from page 32)

Continue knitting to the skirt. You may have to increase or decrease stitches at the beginning of the skirt to accommodate the different pattern repeat in the skirt. Refer to your swatches and charts for the necessary adjustments. At the end of the skirt, decrease at the cables to minimize splay. Then bind off all stitches loosely.

For the sleeves, begin at one corner of the armhole with the right side facing you and pick up stitches along the armhole edge, work across the live saddle stitches, then pick up stitches down the other armhole edge to the other corner. The saddle pattern should be continued down the center of the sleeve, flanked

CELTIC DREAMS

Beth Brown-Reinsel

HIS SWEATER, shown on page 33, is worked from the top down and features saddle shoulders, square armholes, Aran motifs, and a deep skirt (as the traditional Aran ribbing is called). The cuffs fit loosely, in keeping with the early Arans. The yarn, from the Blue Face Leicester sheep, is a very soft wool that has the feel of cashmere.

The saddle shoulders are worked first and the stitches are placed on holders. The front and back stitches are picked up along the edges of the saddles, and the neckline stitches are cast on. The front and back are worked downward to the armhole, and then stitches are cast on for the underarm. The garment is then joined and worked circularly to the bottom of the skirt. The sleeves are picked up along the armhole edges, worked back and forth for a few inches, and then worked circularly to the cuffs.

All of the stitch patterns repeat at least every 24 rows. All "wrong-side" rows (alternate rounds) are worked as the stitches appear, which simplifies the knitting. Special attention has been given to the technique of casting on fewer stitches and then increasing in the first row to compensate for the take-in of cables. This creates a smooth edge while avoiding cable "splay" (the spreading out with other motifs used in the body. To minimize pattern disruption where decreases are made along the underside of the sleeve, work this area in a simple two- or four-stitch background pattern. Work the sleeve back and forth for the width of the underarm (C). Then either join the sleeve and work it circularly to the cuff or work it flat and sew the underarm seam later. The sleeve stitches should gradually decrease to the lower sleeve circumference (O) for the length of K, after the underarm width (C) has been knit. Then decrease to the final number of stitches for M in the first row of the cuff.

Determine the sleeve decreases as follows:

1. Determine the number of rows or

of the base of the cables). Similar adjustments are made at cable terminations by decreasing stitches.

Finished Size: 36 (40, 46, 52)" (91.5 (101.5, 117, 132) cm) bust/chest circum-ference. Sweater shown measures 46" (117 cm).

Yarn: Creskeld Blue Face Leicester Aran 3-ply (100% wool, 133 yd (122 m)/100 g): Sienna, 9 (10, 11, 14) skeins. Needles: Size 7 (4.5 mm) 16" and 32" (40 and 80 cm) circular (cir) and double-pointed (dpn). Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge. Notions: Markers (m); three stitch holders; cable needle (cn); waste yarn; tapestry needle.

Gauge: 18 sts and 24 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st (worked back and forth).

Abbreviations

Tw2: K2tog, but don't sl off left needle, knit the first st again, sl both sts off. *p-inc:* Purl in front and back of same st.

• Saddle: (Make 2) With waste yarn and dpn, CO 16 sts. Break off waste yarn. Join main yarn and knit 1 row. *Inc Row:* (WS) P2, k1, p2, k1, p-inc, p1, p-inc, p1, k1, p2, k1, p2—18 sts. Work Saddle Braid chart until piece measures 4¹/₂ (5, rounds from the underarm to the top of the cuff (K).

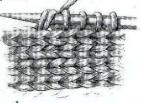
- 2. Subtract the number of stitches at the sleeve bottom (O) from the number of stitches at the sleeve top (L) to determine the number of stitches to be decreased.
- 3. Divide the number of rows or rounds by the number of stitches to be decreased to determine how many rows or rounds to work between decreasing one stitch and the next. To pair the decreases, that is, to work one at the beginning and one at the end of the row or round, multiply this number by two.

Now you're ready to design your own Aran (or other sweater) from the top down. You'll be rewarded with a wellfitting sweater that is fun to knit.

 $5^{1/2}$, $5^{3/4}$)" (11.5 (12.5, 14, 14.5) cm), ending with a WS row. Break yarn. Place sts on holder.

•Upper Back: Note: When picking up sts along the saddle, pick them up one full st in from the edge for a stable, even pick-up edge. With RS facing and longer cir

needle, join yarn at holder end of one saddle and pick up and knit 25 (28, 30, 32) sts along the



long side of the saddle, CO 30 sts for back neck, and join the other saddle by picking up and knitting 25 (28, 30, 32) sts along the long side (with the RS facing you and working from the waste yarn edge to the holder edge)—80 (86, 90, 94) sts. *Inc Row:* (WS) P2 (2, 2, 4), k1 (2, 2, 2), p6, k2, p2 (4, 4, 4), k2, [p2, k3] twice, p2, k2 (1, 2, 2), p-inc, p0 (2, 2, 2), k8 (7, 8, 8), p-inc twice, M1, p-inc twice, M1, k8 (7, 8, 8), p0 (2, 2, 2), p-inc, k2 (1, 2, 2), [p2, k3] twice, p2, k2, p2 (4, 4, 4), k2, p6, k1 (2, 2, 2), p2 (2, 2, 4)—88 (94, 98, 102) sts.

Begin patterning: (RS) K2 (2, 2, 4), p1 (2, 2, 2), work 6 sts in Braid, p2, work 2-st Cable (4-st Cable, 4-st Cable, 4-st Cable), p2, work 12 sts in Raveled Braid, p2 (1, 2, 2), work 2-st Cable (4-st Cable, 4-st Cable, 4-st Cable), p2 (1, 2, 2), work 22 sts in Center Panel, p2 (1, 2, 2), work 2-st Cable (4-st Cable, 4-st Cable, 4-st Cable), p2 (1, 2, 2), work 12 sts in Raveled Braid, p2, work 2-st Cable (4-st Cable, 4-st Cable, 4-st Cable), p2, work 6 sts in Braid, p1 (2, 2, 2), k2 (2, 2, 4). Cont in patt as established until piece measures $8^{1}/_{2}$ (9, $9^{1}/_{2}$, 10)" (21.5 (23, 24, 25.5) cm) from the midpoint of the saddle, ending with a WS row. Break yarn and place sts on holder.

• Upper Front: Work as for Upper Back, ending with the same WS row. Do not break yarn.

•Neckband: With shorter cir needle and RS facing, pick up and knit 30 sts along back neck, 16 sts from left saddle, 30 sts along front neck, and 16 sts from right saddle—92 sts. Place m and join. Work Garter st (purl 1 rnd, knit 1 rnd) for 4 rnds. BO all sts in purl.

• Join Upper Front to Upper Back: Work as established across 88 (94, 98, 102) Upper Front sts, CO 18 (18, 26, 34) sts for left underarm, work across 88 (94, 98, 102) Upper Back sts, CO 18 (18, 26, 34) sts for right underarm—212 (224, 248, 272) sts. Place m and join, being careful not to twist sts. Cont circularly as established, working sts on former WS rows as they appear on the RS, and working Broken Rib on the 18 (18, 26, 34) newly CO sts at each underarm until the 22-st Center Panel has been worked 4 (5, 5, 6) times total, ending at m—garment should measure about 16 (20, 20, 24)" (40.5 (51, 51, 61) cm) from front neck.

•Skirt: To avoid splay as the patterning changes from cables to Garter st on the following rnd, dec sts within the cables on either side of the Center Panel and two flanking cables as follows: *Dec 5 (8, 8, 8) sts over the next 27 (30, 30, 32) sts, pm, work center 34 (34, 38, 38) sts as established, pm, dec 5 (8, 8, 8) sts over the next 27 (30, 30, 32) sts, work across 18 (18, 26, 34) Broken Rib sts; rep from *-192 (192, 216, 240) sts rem. Work 4 rnds in Garter st (beg with purl 1 rnd), keeping center 34 (34, 38, 38) sts between m's in established patt. Inc rnd: Work across 22 (22, 22, 24) sts inc 10 (11, 10, 18) sts evenly (for a total of 32 (33, 32, 42) inc sts), work across 34 (34, 38, 38) sts of center panel as established, work across 62 (62, 70, 82) sts inc 20 (32, 32, 40) sts evenly (for a total of 82 (94, 102, 122) inc sts), work across 34 (34, 38, 38) sts of center panel as established, work across rem 40 (40, 48, 58) sts inc 10 (21, 22, 22) sts evenly (for a total of 50 (61, 70, 80) inc sts)-232 (256, 280, 320) sts.

Cable patterning:

Rnds 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8: *[K2, p2, k4,

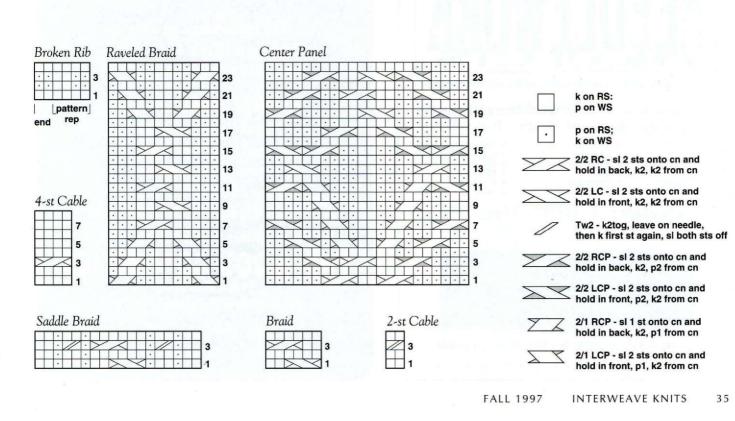
p2] 3 (3, 3, 4) times, k2, p0 (1, 0, 0), work 34 (34, 38, 38) sts as established, p0 (1, 0, 0), [k2, p2, k4, p2] 5 (6, 7, 8) times; rep from *.

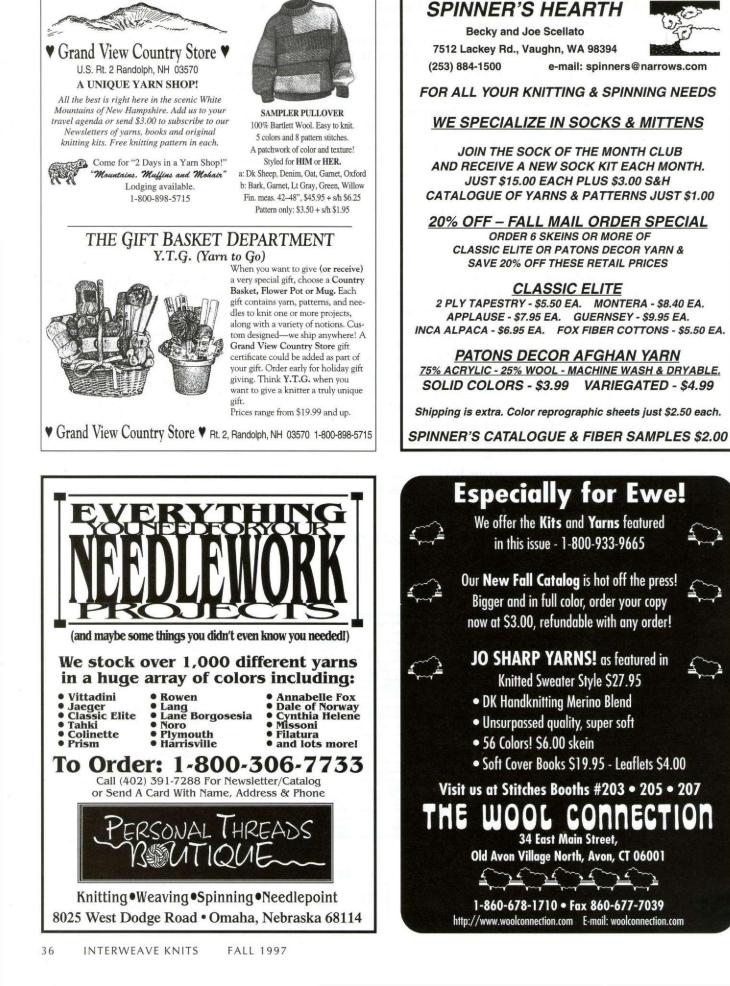
- *Rnd 2:* *[Tw2, p2, k4, p2] 3 (3, 3, 4) times, Tw2, p0 (1, 0, 0), work 34 (34, 38, 38) sts as established, p0 (1, 0, 0), [Tw2, p2, k4, p2] 5 (6, 7, 8) times; rep from *.
- Rnd 6: *[Tw2, p2, 2/2RC, p2] 3 (3, 3, 4) times, Tw2, p0 (1, 0, 0), work 34 (34, 38, 38) sts as established, p0 (1, 0, 0), [Tw2, p2, 2/2RC, p2] 5 (6, 7, 8) times; rep from *.

Cont as established for a total of 19 rnds after the inc rnd, by working Rnds 1–8 twice, then Rnds 1–3. *Dec Rnd*: Dec 62 (72, 82, 90) sts within the cables—170 (184, 198, 230) sts rem. Purl 1 rnd. Knit 1 rnd. BO all sts in purl.

•Sleeves: Note: The sleeves are picked up at the armhole and worked flat for 2 (2, 3, 4)" (5 (5, 7.5, 10) cm); then they are joined and worked circularly to the cuff. With RS facing, and shorter cir needle, pick up and knit 32 (34, 36, 38) sts from the inner corner of the armhole to the saddle, work across 18 sts of saddle in patt, then pick up and knit 32 (34, 36, 38) sts down the other side of the armhole to the inner corner—82 (86, 90, 94) sts. Do not join. Turn work.

-continued on page 37





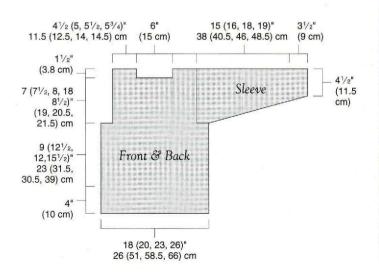
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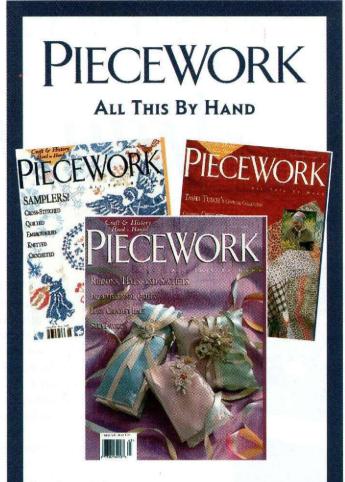
Inc Row: (WS) P17 (19, 21, 23), k2, p2, p-inc, k2, [p1, p-inc] twice, k2, p4, k1, p2, k1, p6, k1, p2, k1, p4, k2, [p1, p-inc] twice, k2, p2, p-inc, k2, p17 (19, 21, 23)—88 (92, 96, 100) sts. *Begin patterning:* (RS) K1 (3, 5, 7), work Row 2 of Broken Rib on 16 sts, p2, work Row 1 of 4-st Cable on 4 sts, p2, work Row 1 of Braid on 6 sts, p2, work Row 1 of 4-st Cable on 4 sts, work 14 saddle sts as established, work Row 1 of 4-st Cable on 4 sts, p2, work Row 1 of Braid on 6 sts, p2, work Row 1 of 4-st Cable on 4 sts, p2, k2, work Row 2 of Broken Rib on 14 sts, k1 (3, 5, 7).

Cont as established until piece measures 2 (2, 3, 4)" (5 (5, 7.5, 10) cm) from pick-up row, ending with a RS row. Do not turn, pm, join, and cont working circularly for 4 rnds. (Alternate rnds are worked on the RS, knitting the knits and purling the purls.) Next rnd: K1, ssk, work to last 3 sts, k2 tog, k1. Dec 1 st each end of needle in this manner every 4th rnd 20 times total-48 (52, 56, 60) sts rem. Work even until piece measures 15 (16, 18, 19)" (38 (40.5, 46, 48.5) cm) from pick-up row, or desired length to cuff. Cuff: Knit 1 rnd dec 3(1, 3, 5) st(s) evenly spaced on either side of the center 14 sts of the Braid and flanking cables-42 (50, 50, 50) sts rem. [Purl 1 rnd, knit 1 rnd] twice, keeping the center 14 sts in patt. Cable patterning: [Work Rnd 1 of 2-st Cable on 2 sts, p1 (2, 2, 2), work Rnd 1 of 4-st Cable on 4 sts, p1 (2, 2, 2)] twice, work Rnd 1 of 2-st Cable on 2 sts, p1, work 6 sts in Braid as established, p1, work Rnd 1 of 2-st Cable on 2 sts, p1 (2, 2, 2), work Rnd 1 of 4-st Cable on 4 sts, p1 (2, 2, 2), work Rnd 1 of 2-st Cable on 2 sts, p1 (2, 2, 2), work Rnd 1 of 4-st Cable on 4 sts, p1 (2, 2, 2). Cont as established for a total of 14 rnds. Dec rd: Knit, dec 10 sts evenly spaced in cables. Purl 1 rnd. Knit 1 rnd. BO in purl.

• Finishing: With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew underarm seams to sleeves. Weave in loose ends. Block lightly.

Beth Brown-Reinsel teaches knitting workshops nationwide and is the author of Knitting Ganseys. She imports yarns from England for her mail order company, Knitting Traditions, and is working on a book about knitting Scandinavian sweaters.





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ALICE STARMORE ON

an Kni **Ieane** Hutchins







Alice Starmore during a photo shoot in Northern California for her upcoming pattern book, Pacific Coast Highway, for The Broad Bay Company. LICE STARMORE is passionate about her work and passionate about gardening. Fortunately for the knitters of the world, she lives in the Hebrides where the weather can be testy, to say the least, and thus her gardening time is limited.

In a recent conversation with Alice, I asked about her work in general and her new book, Aran Knitting, in particular. Her eyes sparkled, the pace of her speech increased, and she was off! This woman, who is incredibly focused and dynamic, mesmerized me. Those wordsfocused and dynamic-may seem contradictory, but they typify Alice Starmore. And her enthusiasm is catching! A onehour interview turned into a three-hour discussion on topics as diverse as the sources for her designs ("I find inspiration in the most unlikely places; I don't have a favorite, but my most-often-used resource is the sea.") and rock and roll music (we are both fans). I found it extremely fitting that our interview took place in a house perched on a hilltop in Sonoma, California, with Hale-Bopp's cruise through the night sky visible outside the large windows.

My first questions for Alice were about the "myths" behind Aran knitting. I, along with many others, have always assumed that the tradition behind the craft was centuries old, that Aran knitting was intertwined with the mysticism of Celtic sources, and that the sweaters were knitted for fishermen. Herself curious about these assumptions, Alice spent time in the Aran Islands and talked to the people who call the islands home; the more she investigated, the more she felt there was a story there. Whenever she brought up the subject of Aran knitting, she said, the people seemed "to skirt the issue."

To further complicate things, different people would answer a direct question in diametrically opposite ways. In fact, there are almost as many stories about the origins of Aran knitting as there are people on the islands of Aran. Alice recalled one particular story: "A man was credited with starting the tradition. However, he then moved to America and was never heard from again!"

As she states in Aran Knitting, "Despite the fact that the Aran sweater was not seen until the twentieth century, there has been no shortage of writers claiming that it dates back to 'the Deluge'. There have been various more realistic accounts dealing with the comparatively recent origins of the craft, but they contain serious contradictions and amount to a confusing web of conflicting information."

To untangle this web, Alice visited the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin, where, with special permission, she was given access to the museum's collection of eleven Aran garments. Here is where Alice really turned into an Agatha Christie sleuth. In painstaking detail, she examined each garment the individual stitches, the yarn, the design elements, and the patterns. The result: her classification of the collection, and thereby the history of Aran knitting, into three phases "that reveal a distinct, linear development..."

Alice was well suited for this quest. She was born and raised in a Scottish fishing community; both grandfathers were fishermen. Her mother, a dressmaker and knitter, taught her to knit-by the age of three, Alice remembers-starting with traditional Scottish ganseys, the basis for Aran knitting. In fact, one of Alice's conclusions from her research is that "Aran women learned gansey knitting skills from a Scottish source or sources." Among the possiblities for these sources were the "herring lassies". These mostly young women were brought to Aran in the early 1900s to assist the fledgling fishing industry "because of their skills in gutting, filleting and packing, which they did with almost supernatural skill and speed. . . ." Two of Alice's aunts were "herring lassies".

The origin of Aran patterns, Alice states, "has always been the burning issue. This, more than any other aspect, has been the source of the myth, legend, and speculation which has surrounded the craft. The idea that the patterns came from an ancient Celtic source can be dismissed." Although the braided cables that are a hallmark of Aran patterns are similar to some Celtic designs, Alice feels strongly that the museum pieces validate her theory that the Aran knitters had the skills required for cabling and the expertise to do the necessary mathematical calculations *before* the typical Aran sweater was developed.

Her well-documented research is presented in detail in the first forty-five pages of Aran Knitting. This is fascinating reading, due in equal part to the subject matter and the precise flow of the writing. The author's affinity for the Aran knitters whose "experiments" resulted in one of knitting's most well-recognized and glorious creations—the Aran sweater —becomes the reader's delight. That is certainly fitting; when asked what results she expects from the publication of Aran Knitting, Alice said, "I hope readers have as much fun as the Aran knitters had in their experimental stage!"

Now, one final revelation from Alice's research: "... [K]nitting follows the same path of practice, repetition, imitation,

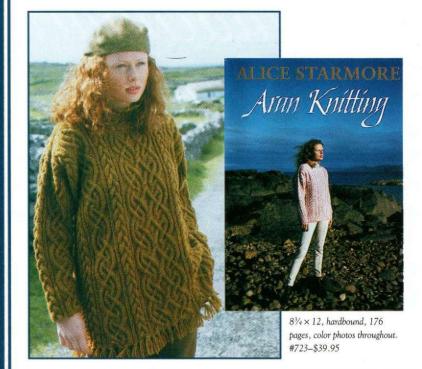
and the occasional flash of inspiration, as with many other human activities. I am convinced that this is what happened in Aran. The patterns had their genesis in the mind of one very skilled and imaginative knitter. . . probably the knitter of Garment 1 [the navy blue gansey in the museum collection]."

By this point, I was so intrigued with our conversation I almost missed the import of Alice's statement. "Do you mean," I asked, "that the Aran sweater tradition stems from the needles of just one person?" Alice's emphatic reply: "Yes!"

Stay tuned, folks. I'm certain we will be hearing more from Alice Starmore on this subject. In the meantime, feast your eyes, and needles, on *Aran Knitting*. And when you're working your way through an intricate Aran pattern, remember Alice's credo: "A knitting tradition is a means of producing a perfectly crafted garment with the minimum effort."

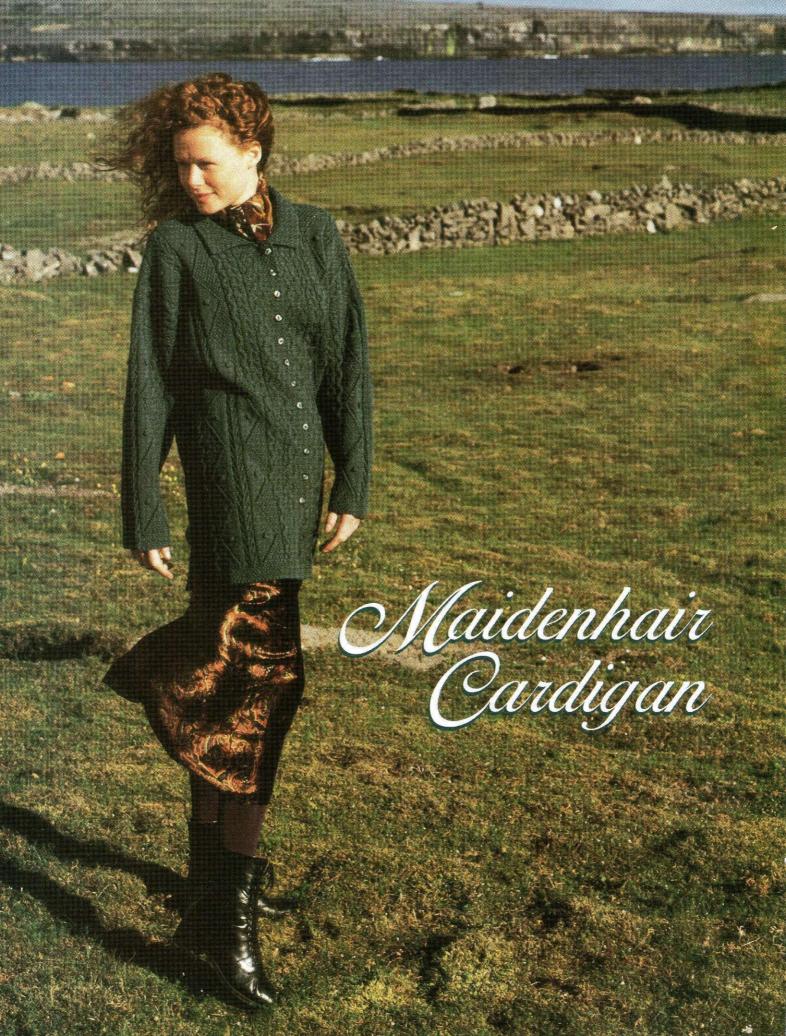
Jeane Hutchins is the director of marketing for Unicorn Books and Crafts, Inc., in Petaluma, California.

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MAIDENHAIR CARDIGAN

Alice Starmore

his roomy tunic-length cardigan features a variety of Aran motifs for allover patterning. The front bands, collar, and lower body and sleeve edgings are worked in moss stitch. The side seams are slit near the lower edge for ease of movement.

[Editor's Note: Alice Starmore's instructions for this design from her new book, Aran Knitting, have been modified from the original pattern for the magazine. The garment was designed in International System units; we have added inch measurements.]

Sizes: To fit bust 86–94 [96–102, 104–112] cm (34–37 [38–40, 42–44]"). Directions for larger sizes are given in square brackets. Where there is only one set of figures, it applies to all sizes.

Knitted Measurements: Underarm (buttoned) 123 [132, 140] cm (48¹/₂ [52, 55]"); Length 76 [79, 81] cm (30 [31, 31³/₄]"); Sleeve length 43 cm (17"). Sweater shown measures 123 cm (48¹/₂").

Yarn: Alice Starmore's Scottish Fleet (100% wool; 245 yd (224 m)/100 g): #305 Sea Green, 11 (12, 13) balls.

Needles: 3 mm (US 3) needles.

Notions: Cable needle (cn); markers; three stitch holders; twelve 8 mm (5/16") buttons.

Gauge: 30 sts and 36 rows to 10 cm (3.94"), in Moss st on 3 mm (US 3) needles.

Moss Stitch: To check gauge, work over an odd number of sts, as follows: *Row 1*: *K1, p1; rep from * to the last st,

k1.

Rows 2 and 3:*P1, k1; rep from * to the last st; p1.

Row 4: As Row 1.

Rep rows 1-4 for pattern.

•Back: With 3 mm (US 3) needles, CO 185 [197, 209] sts. Work Moss st for 13 rows.

Next Row (WS)—Inc: Keeping continuity of Moss st, patt 9 [15, 21]; *M1; patt 6; (M1, patt 3) twice; (M1, patt 22) twice; (M1, patt 3) twice; M1; patt 6; M1; ** patt 31; rep from * to ** once more; patt 9 [15, 21]—203 [215, 227] sts. Reading all charts from right to left for RS (odd numbered rows), and from left to right for WS (even numbered rows), set the patt as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Work Moss st over the first 7 [13, 19] sts; *work chart A over the next 12 sts; work chart C over the next 8 sts; work chart D over the next 15 sts; work chart E over the next 11 sts; work chart F over the next 15 sts; work chart G over the next 8 sts; work chart A over the next 12 sts; ** work chart B over the next 27 sts (center panel); rep from * to ** once more; work Moss st over the last 7 [13, 19] sts.

Row 2 (WS): Work Moss st over the first 7 [13, 19] sts; *work chart A over the next 12 sts; work chart G over the next 8 sts; work chart F over the next 15 sts; work chart E over the next 11 sts; work chart D over the next 15 sts; work chart C over the next 8 sts; work chart A over the next 12 sts; ** work chart B over the next 27 sts (center panel); rep from * to ** once more; work Moss st over the last 7 [13, 19] sts.

Continue in patt as set and rep all rows of each chart until back measures 76 [79, 81] cm (30 [31, $31^{3}/4$]") from CO edge, with RS facing for next row.

Shape Shoulders: BO 72 [76, 80] sts at beg of next 2 rows, and during BO, dec 1 st at center of charts A and E, and 2 sts evenly over charts C and G. Place the center back 59 [63, 67] sts on a holder.

•Left Front: With 3 mm (US 3) needles CO 101 [107, 113] sts. Work Moss st for 13 rows. Next Row (WS)—Inc: Keeping continuity of Moss st, patt 9 [15, 21]; M1; patt 6; (M1, patt 3) twice; (M1, patt 22) twice; (M1, patt 3) twice; M1; patt 6; M1; patt 24—110 [116, 122] sts. Beg at row 1 of all charts and set the patt as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Work Moss st over the first 7 [13, 19] sts; reading all charts from right to left, work chart A over the next 12 sts; work chart C over the next 8 sts; work chart D over the next 15 sts; work chart E over the next 11 sts; work chart F over the next 15 sts; work chart G over the next 8 sts; work chart A over the next 12 sts; work chart H over the next 13 sts; work

Row 2 (WS): Work Moss st over the first 9 sts; reading all charts from left to right, work chart H over the next 13 sts; work chart A over the next 12 sts; work chart G over the next 8 sts; work chart F over the next 15 sts: work chart E over the next 11 sts; work chart D over the next 15 sts; work chart C over the next 8 sts: work chart A over the next 12 sts; work Moss st over the last 7 [13, 19] sts. Continue in patt as set and rep all rows of each chart until front measures 69 [72, 74] cm (27¹/₄ [28¹/₄, 29¹/₄]") from beg, with WS facing for next row.

Shape Neck: + Next Row (WS): BO 9 sts; keeping continuity, patt to end of row. Patt 1 row without shaping. Next Row (WS): Patt 9 [11, 13] sts and place these sts on a holder; keeping con-



tinuity, patt to end of row. Patt 1 row without shaping. Keeping continuity, BO 4 sts at neck edge of next row, and 3 sts at neck edge of foll 2 alt rows—82 [86, 90] sts rem. Dec 1 st at neck edge of next 5 rows, then every foll alt row 5 times in all—72 (76, 80) sts rem. Continue in patt without shaping until front corresponds with back in length at shoulder, with RS facing for next row. ++

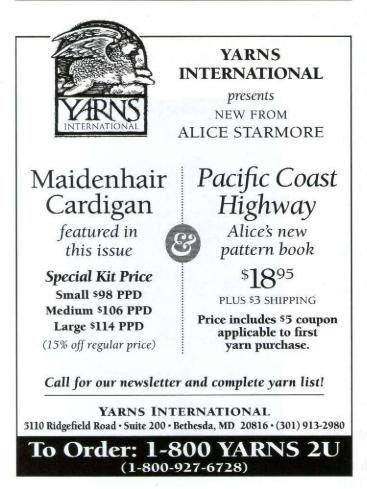
BO sts, and during BO, dec 1 st at center of charts A and E, and 2 sts evenly over chart C.

•Right Front: With 3 mm (US 3) needles, CO 101 [107, 113] sts. Work Moss st for 13 rows.

Next Row (WS)—*Inc:* Keeping continuity of Moss st, patt 24; M1; patt 6; (M1, patt 3) twice; (M1, patt 22) twice; (M1, patt 3) twice; M1; patt 6; M1; patt 9 [15, 21]—110 [116, 122] sts. Beg at row 1 of all charts and set the patt as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Work Moss st over the first 9 sts; reading all charts from right to left, work chart H over the next 13 sts; work chart A over the next 12 sts; work chart C over the next 8 sts; work chart D over the next 15 sts; work chart E over the next 11 sts; work chart F over the next 15 sts; work chart G over the next 8 sts; work chart A over the next 12 sts; work chart Moss st over the last 7 [13, 19] sts.

Row 2 (WS): Work Moss st over the first 7 [13, 19] sts; reading all charts from left to right, work chart A over the next 12 sts; work chart G over the next 8 sts; work chart F over the



next 15 sts; work chart E over the next 11 sts; work chart D over the next 15 sts; work chart C over the next 8 sts; work chart A over the next 12 sts; work chart H over the next 13 sts; work Moss st over the last 9 sts.

Continue in patt as set and rep all rows of each chart until front measures 12 [15, 17] cm $(4^{3}/_{4} [6, 6^{3}/_{4}]")$ from beg, with RS facing for next row.

Next Row—Make Buttonhole: Keeping continuity, patt 4; BO 2; patt as set to end of row. Continue in patt as set and on next row, CO 2 sts over those BO. Continue as set and make a buttonhole every 5 cm (2"), making 12 buttonholes in total, with the last buttonhole placed 1.5 cm (5/8") below neck BO. Continue as set until right front corresponds in length with left front at neck BO, with RS facing for next row. **Shape neck** as left front from + to ++, but reading WS for RS and vice versa throughout, thus reversing all shaping. BO 72 [76, 80] shoulder sts, and during BO, dec 1 st at center of charts A and E, and 2 sts evenly over chart G.

• Sleeves: With 3 mm (US 3) needles, CO 78 [82, 86] sts. Work Moss st for 13 rows.

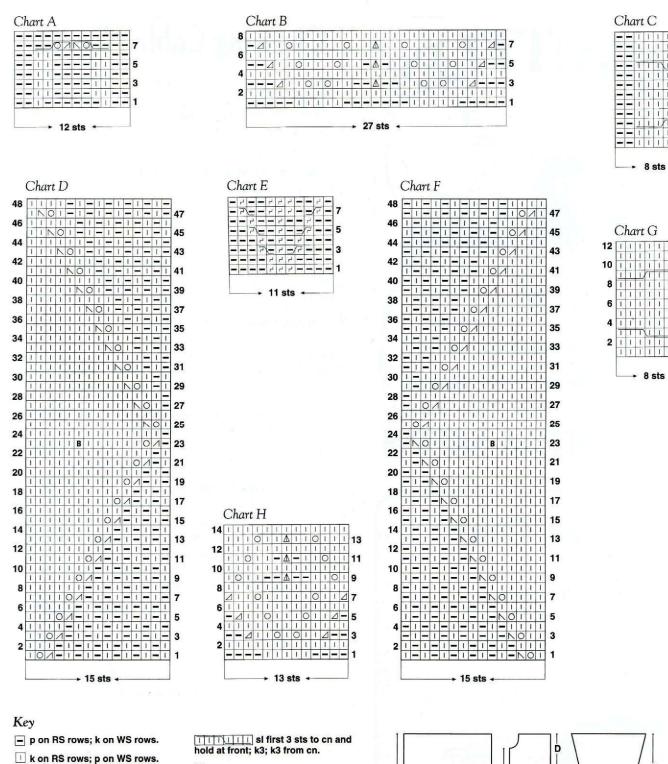
Next Row (WS)—Inc: Keeping continuity of Moss st, pat 5 [7, 9]; M1; patt 6; (M1, patt 3) twice; (M1, patt 22) twice; (M1, patt 3) twice; M1; patt 6; M1; patt 5 [7, 9]—87 [91, 95] sts. Beg at row 1 of all charts and reading all RS (odd numbered) rows from right to left, and all WS (even numbered) rows from left to right, set the patt as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Work Moss st over the first 3 [5, 7] sts; work chart A over the next 12 sts; work chart C over the next 8 sts; work chart D over the next 15 sts; work chart E over the next 11 sts; work chart F over the next 15 sts; work chart G over the next 8 sts; work chart A over the next 12 sts; work Moss st over the last 3 [5, 7] sts.

Continue in patt as set and inc 1 st at each end of next and every foll 3rd row, working all inc sts into Moss st, until there are 135 [147, 159] sts, then continue to inc as set on every foll 4th row until there are 167 [173, 179] sts in total. Continue in patt as set until sleeve measures 43 cm (17") from CO edge, with RS facing for next row. BO all sts, and during BO, dec 1 st at center of charts A and E, and 2 sts evenly above charts C and G.

• Finishing: Block pieces by pinning them to the required measurements on a well padded surface. Place markers 26 [27, 28] cm $(10^{1/4} [10^{1/2}, 11]")$ down from shoulder BO at back and fronts. Join back and fronts at shoulder seams. Place center top of sleeves at shoulder seams and sew sleeves to body between markers. Press seams lightly on WS. Sew up side seams to within 20 cm $(7^{3/4}")$ of CO edges. Sew up sleeve seams. Press seams lightly on WS.

Collar: With RS facing and 3 mm (US 3) needles, beg at right front neck and pick up and k the 9 [11, 13] sts from holder; knit up 26 sts evenly along right side of neck to shoulder seam; pick up and k the 59 [63, 67] sts from back neck holder; knit up 26 sts evenly along left side of neck; pick up and k the 9 [11, 13] sts from left front holder—129 [137, 145] sts in total. Work Moss st for 10 cm (4"). BO loosely and evenly in patt. Darn in loose ends. Sew on buttons.



k into back of st on RS rows; p into back of st on WS rows.

⊿ p2tog.

🖸 yo.

▲ p3tog.

SI first st to cn and hold at back; k into back of next st; p1 from cn.

P ≤ sl first st to cn and hold at front; p1; kinto back of st from cn.

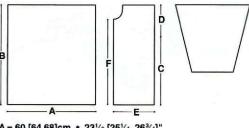
1 1 1 1 1 sl first 3 sts to cn and hold at back; k3; k3 from cn. A k2tog.

N skk.

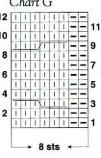
NO-- sl next 2 sts to cn and hold at front; p2; yo, ssk from cn.

--ON sI next 2 sts to cn and hold at back; k2 tog, yo; p2 from cn.

B Make bobble thus - k into back, front, then back of st, making 3 sts; turn and p3; turn and k3; turn and p3. Turn and sl1 - k2tog - psso.



A = 60 [64,68]cm • 231/2 [251/4, 263/4]" B = 76 [79,81]cm • 30 [31, 313/4]" C = 50 [52,53]cm • 193/4 [201/2, 203/4]" D = 26 [27,28]cm • 101/4 [101/2, 11]" E = 33 [35.5,37.5]cm • 13 [14, 143/4]" F = 69 [72,74]cm • 271/4 [281/4, 291/4]" G= 43 cm • 17"



1 1 1 11

111

117

1 1 5 3

1 1

9



Choosing Cable Needles

ITH SO MANY cable needles available, how do you decide which one is best? We asked some of our designers and staff members what they use and why. Their responses are as varied as the needles themselves.

Beth Brown-Reinsel: As a beginner, I used a metal U-shaped needle, and loved it. Now I use a small wooden straight one that has grooves—it doesn't fall out of the stitches and, for me, it's quicker to use.

Dot Ratigan: I use a U-shaped needle because it is faultless. If I slip the stitches onto the short end and knit them off the long end, I cannot inadvertently twist the stitches.

Judith Durant: My favorite is the U-shaped needle. I can hang it in my knitting when not in use, and if I always slip the stitches onto the long end and then knit them off the short end, the stitches never get twisted by mistake.

> Melissa Leapman: I use a spare double-pointed needle that I "borrowed" from my mother years ago. It's long enough that I don't lose it when I'm not using it.

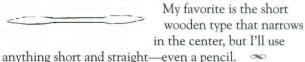
Tara Jon Manning: When I began knitting cables, I was religious about using a U-shaped needle. After attending Alice Starmore's Knitting Across America seminar, I tried the traditional Aran method of using no cable needle at all. I find this is fine for simple rope cables, but if I'm at all worried that the stitches may drop, I use a very short wooden doublepointed needle.

Beth Morimoto: I have one of every type of cable needle manufactured since my mothe prefer a small wooden straight needle

needle manufactured since my mother began to knit. I prefer a small wooden straight needle with grooves—it looks nice, feels good, and almost never falls out of the stitches.

Marilyn Murphy: I own most types of cable needles and although my favorite is the flying bird, I use whatever is handy when I need to make a cable.

Ann Budd: I'm sold on straight cable needles. For me, they are the easiest to slip stitches onto and knit off of.



Poudre River Pullover

POUDRE RIVER PULLOVER

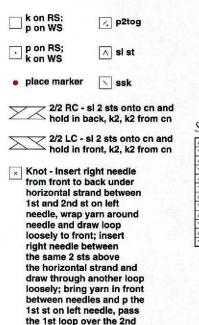
Tara Ion Manning

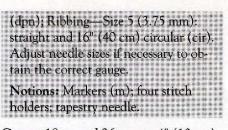
HE STITCHES used in this sweater represent the rushing waters and fields of rocks lining the Cache La Poudre River in northeastern Colorado.

This sweater is easy to knit. The cables are turned every four or eight rows and the small knots are worked on a single row. The saddle shoulders are constructed from strap stitches that are knit from the neck outward to the armhole, joining the front to the back along the way. The strap stitches are continued down the sleeves, which are worked downward to the cuffs. The neck ribbing can be worked to desired length for a mock or full turtleneck.

Finished Size: 46 (48, 50, 52)" (117 (122, 127, 132) cm) chest/bust circumference. Fenwick Grev Tweed sweater measures 50" (127 cm); Foxglove Tweed sweater measures 46" (117 cm).

Yarn: Patons Ballybrae (100% wool; 190 yd (173 m)/100 g): Colorway A #212 Fenwick Grey Tweed; Colorway B: #237 Foxglove Tweed, 6 (7, 8, 9) skeins. Contrasting waste yarn. Needles: Body and Sleeves-Size 7 (4.5 mm): straight and double-pointed





Gauge: 18 sts and 26 rows = 4" (10 cm) in Knot st; 24 sts and 28 rows = 4" (10 cm) in Honeycomb st and in Double Winding Cable; 20 sts and 24 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st; all on larger needles.

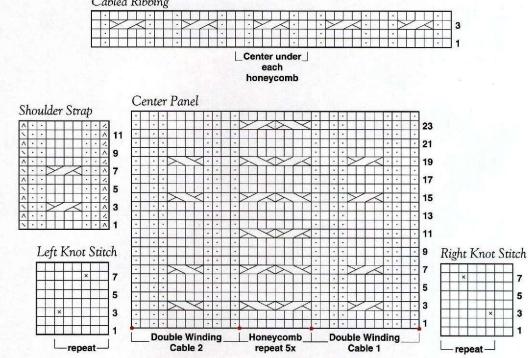
•Back: With smaller needles, CO 104 (104, 120, 136) sts. Work Cabled Ribbing for $2^{1/2}$ " (6.5 cm), ending with WS and inc 6(9, 4, 0) sts evenly spaced over first and last 20 (20, 28, 0) sts and dec 1 st over first and last 0 (0, 0, 36) sts of last row-116 (122, 128, 134) sts total. On next row (RS), change to larger needles and set up patt as follows: Work 26 (29, 32, 35) sts according to Right Knot Stitch chart, pm, 64 sts according to Center Panel chart as follows: 12 sts in Double Winding Cable 1, pm, 40 sts in Honeycomb, pm, 12 sts in Double Winding Cable 2, pm, and rem 26 (29, 32, 35) sts according to Left Knot Stitch chart. Work in established patt until piece measures $15^{1/2}$ " (39.5 cm) from beg. Shape armholes: At beg of next 2 rows, BO 7 sts-102 (108, 114, 120) sts rem. Cont in patt until piece measures 241/2 (251/2, 26, 261/2)" (62.5 (65, 66,

67.5) cm) from beg, ending on row 2 of last 4-row sequence of Knot Stitch patt. Place 33 (34, 35, 36) sts on holder for right shoulder, 36 (40, 44, 48) sts on second holder for neck, and 33 (34, 35, 36) sts on third holder for left shoulder.

•Front: Work as for Back until piece measures 22 (23, 23¹/2, 24)" (56 (58.5, 60, 61) cm) from beg. Shape neck: Maintaining established patt, work 42 (44, 45, 47) sts, place center 18 (20, 24, 26) sts on holder for neck, join second ball of yarn, work rem 42 (44, 45, 47) sts. Working each side separately, dec 1 st at each neck edge every row 4 (6, 6, 7) times, then every other row 5 (4, 4, 4) times-33 (34, 35, 36) sts rem each shoulder. Piece should measure 241/2 $(25^{1/2}, 26, 26^{1/2})$ " (62.5 (65, 66, 67.5) cm) from beg. Place shoulder sts on two separate dpn.

• Shoulder Straps and Sleeves: Right shoulder strap: Place 33 (34, 35, 36) sts of Back right shoulder on another dpn. Preparation: With contrasting waste yarn, CO 10 sts at neck edge of Front shoulder needle. Change to main yarn and break off contrasting yarn. With Back shoulder needle, knit across the 10 contrasting sts. Turn. Next row: (WS) Purl across 9 sts of shoulder strap, purl tog the last st of strap with the first st of Back shoulder. Turn. Row 1: (RS) Work Row 1 of Shoulder

Cabled Ribbing



FALL 1997

loop and the p st and off the needle, then pass the

2nd loop over the p st and

off the needle.

Strap chart over 10 strap sts (ssk last st of strap with first st of Front shoulder). Turn.

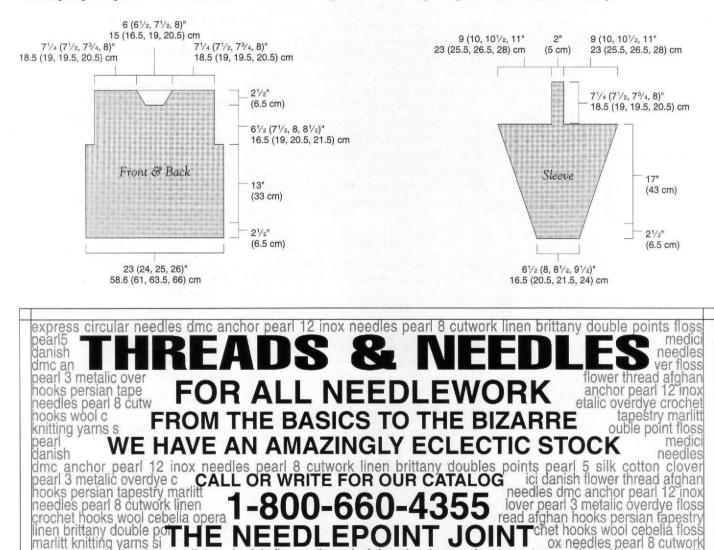
Row 2: Work Row 2 of chart across 10 strap sts (purl last st of strap tog with first st of Back shoulder). Turn.

Cont Shoulder Strap chart in this manner until all shoulder sts are used, ending with a WS row. Keep rem 10 sts on dpn. *Left shoulder strap:* Work as for right shoulder strap, substituting "Back" for "Front" and vice versa.

Sleeves: With larger needles, RS facing, and beg at armhole dec, pick up and knit 42 (45, 48, 51) sts along one side (to be worked according to Right Knot Stitch chart patt rep only), pm, work 10 shoulder strap sts (to be worked according to the center 10 sts of Shoulder Strap chart), pm, pick up and knit 42 (45, 48, 51) sts along other side (to be worked according to Left Knot Stitch chart patt rep only)—94 (100, 106, 112) sts. Work in established patt, and *at the same time*, dec 1 st each end of needle every 3rd row 15 (30, 33, 32) times, then every 4th row 12 (0, 0, 0) times—40 (40, 40, 48) sts rem. Cont in patt until piece measures 17" (43 cm) from armhole, or $2^{1}/_{2}$ " (6.5 cm) shorter than desired total length, ending with a WS row. Change to smaller needles and work Cabled Ribbing for $2^{1}/_{2}$ " (6.5 cm). BO all sts loosely in patt.

• Finishing: Lightly steam block only if necessary; blocking can compromise the rich texture of Aran knitting. With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew underarm and side seams. *Neckband:* With cir needle and beg at left shoulder, pick up and knit 11 (12, 12, 9) sts along left front neck edge, knit 18 (20, 24, 26) sts from front holder, pick up and knit 11 (12, 12, 9) sts along right front neck edge, pick up and knit 10 sts from waste yarn along right saddle (remove waste yarn), knit 36 (40, 44, 48) sts from back holder, and 10 sts from waste yarn along left saddle (remove waste yarn)—96 (104, 112, 112) sts. Place m and join. Work Cabled Ribbing chart for desired length, working center cable over center honeycomb patt. BO all sts loosely in patt. Weave in loose ends.

Tara Jon Manning and her husband, Bill, live near Boulder, Colorado, with two Akitas and a cat. Tara has just earned her Master's degree in the history and design of Aran knitting from Colorado State University.



opera tatting shuttles medicine danish flower thread afghan hooks persian tapestry marlitt knifting yarns silk ribbon expres 241 HISTORIC 25th STREET • OGDEN, UTAH 84401 brittany double points pearl 5 silk cotton clover pearl 3 metalic overdye crochet hooks, wool cebelia opera tatting shuttles, meici floss danish flower thread afghan hooks persian tapestry marlitt knifting yarn silk ribbon express circular needles

CELTIC IMAGES AND FAMILY PATTERNS Folklore of the Aran Sweater

HEN WE THINK of Aran knitting, images of rich, white fisherman's sweaters come to mind. These sweaters challenge us with charts and stitch instructions, and reward us with luscious and snugly garments. As we knit these cabled masterpieces, we become participants in a tradition filled with folklore, myth, and mystery.

The notion that Aran patterns are "family patterns" may be a consequence of oral tradition. Early experiments with stitches were not written down, and the sweaters themselves acted as visual records. Skills were learned by inspection, demonstration, and word of mouth.

While some believe that the women of a family guarded patterns as secrets, the cornerstone of the development of Aran knitting was, in fact, sharing. Patterns often ended up contained within families because they were unwritten they were passed from mother to daughter, threading knowledge through the generations and associating families with particular stitch combinations.

Knitters fashioned new sequences and patterns as they knit. One Aran tradition holds that the panels of a sweater relate to the number of sons in the family. When first married, a bride created a design with one central panel. When the first son was born, she added a set of decorative side panels. As more sons were born, she augmented the pattern. Thus, if this tradition is true, family patterns in Aran sweaters were not so comprehensive as a family crest or Tartan. The patterns referred only to immediate family—developed by each individual knitter for her intimate kin.

Many believe that elements of some Aran stitch patterns hark back to the art of ancient Celts, particularly the sculpted relief and interlace of Celtic stoneand metalwork. Geometric shapes chevrons, circles, spirals—appear in Celtic artifacts dating back to the Mesolithic Era (before 3,000 B.C.). Patterns on Bronze Age (600–200 B.C.)

Tara Jon Manning

Celtic metalwork contain cable-like plaits, ribs, bobble-like dots and other elements we see knit into Aran sweaters.

In addition to Celtic and Christian symbols, Aran knitters, like those of many fishing communities, used stitch patterns to depict images from daily life —ropes, stones, fishing nets, lightning, trellised fields. Many Aran stitches have special meanings attributed to them. As the patterns became more complex, so did the lore attributed to them. Often, a knitter chose stitches based on folklore, then combined them to imbue her sweater with special meaning and purpose. Such a sweater may have been intended for a son's first voyage to sea, or as a wedding garment.

Here is a glossary of folklore of prominent Aran stitches. Try combining a few next time you get the itch to create a special Aran sweater for a member of your clan—and share with them the mystic blessings you've knit into their personalized Aran masterpiece.

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Bobbles are seen on the earliest Arans. They are also a recurring theme in Irish Bronze Age metalwork. In knitting, bobbles accent patterns and sometimes fill diamonds or cable panels.

Cables, Plaits, and Interlacing Braids are reminiscent of Celtic art. Cables are among the earliest decorative stitches representing fisherman's ropes, and are said to bring luck to the wearer. Braided patterns represent the connection between families who emigrated and families who stayed.

Diamonds are found on the earliest Arans (circa 1920). They represent the small walled fields of the islands. Sometimes filled with Irish Moss stitch, diamonds bring luck.

Honeycomb symbolizes the hard work and sweet reward of the busy bee. It is a reminder that hard work is rewarded with plenty.

Irish Moss Stitch symbolizes the carrageen seaweed. For centuries carrageen has been collected from beaches and hauled up cliffs to the small Aran fields where it is combined with clay to become soil. Irish Moss represents fertility and diligence.

Lattice Stitch and Trellis can be found in Celtic art and jewelry. They symbolize fishermen's nets — and the bounty those nets can hold. They also represent the hundreds of miles of low stone walls that divide and protect Aran's small and precious fields.

Tree of Life is seen on the welts of fishing garments. A symbol of growth, it represents family unity, long life, and strong children. It brings long life to the wearer.

Trinity Stitch takes its name from the manner in which it is made. The pattern is created by making "three from one and one from three"—an evocation of the Holy Trinity. The phrase is repeated over and over by the knitter, much like a Rosary. This stitch is also called the *Blackberry Stitch*, presumably because it resembles berries.

ZigZag patterns can be seen at archeological sites such as Newgrange. ZigZag symbolizes both strikes of lightning and the cliff paths along the Aran shores. Double Zig-Zags are called Marriage Lines and represent the ups and downs of married life.





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Knitting FOR Children

PLANNING AND KNITTING a sweater for a child in your life is a pleasure. Creating something special for a loved one is a benefit, and there are others as well. Children's garments are small projects that are quickly finished, and knitting them allows you to sample new yarns and tackle techniques you may have been hesitant to try in an adult-size garment. However, knitting for a child requires some special considerations, whether you are working with your own design or a published pattern.

Children are not simply short grownups. A pattern planned for your husband cannot be reduced to fit your three-yearold son, even if, according to all your calculations, you've come up with the correct size. Why? Small children are uniquely shaped. Infants and toddlers have stout, rectangular bodies with waists that are obscured by little round bellies. Their heads are almost as wide as their shoulders, their necks are short and skinny, and their arms seem to grow overnight. A child's shape is similar to a square brick balanced on a soda straw atop a cement block. And children are in seemingly constant metamorphosis. Definitely a challenge.

BEYOND THE PINK AND BLUE

Color is the one thing about which even a small child may have a strong opinion. When planning for a child, choose three colors that you think will make a great sweater and have the child pick one. Older children will simply tell you if they like purple but hate yellow; listen to them. Don't spend hours knitting a gold sweater that will stay in a drawer because you didn't want to knit it in fuchsia. If the child isn't available for an opinion, pick a color that is cur-

Beth Morimoto

rently in fashion. Take a trip through the kids' section of a department store is the clothing pastel, black and white, or bright and bold? Chances are you won't go wrong following the present trend. If you are still at a loss, a bright, clear color is a good bet: appealing to most children and easily worn with jeans or black leggings.

FIBER CHOICES

Children don't care about fiber content, but they do care about fiber feel, and they definitely don't like scratchy clothing. If you want to knit a kid's hat out of somewhat scratchy yarn, consider knitting an inside hem of soft cotton. If a wool sweater is designed to be worn over a shirt, scratchiness shouldn't be a problem. As a handspinner, I prefer natural fibers, even for children, and machinewashable wools and cottons are more "user friendly" than those that have to be hand washed. But high-quality acrylics and blended yarns can also be considered. The important factor is quality, no matter what fiber you use. Children's clothes take a lot of abuse, and a sweater knit in high-quality yarn will look good for as long as the child can wear it.

High-quality acrylic yarns and blends cost about the same as natural fiber, and neither one is cheap. But I don't recommend getting too carried away with expensive yarn—choose the best yarn you can afford that will provide the feel, wear, color, and weight that suits your project.

SWEATER ANATOMY

Ribbing and Body

For an adult sweater, I knit the bottom ribbing or hem on smaller needles than the body, slightly pulling in the ribbing for a better fit. For children's sweaters, I recommend a shallow ribbing knit on the same-sized needles as the body. Remember, you are knitting for a changing shape; a straight sweater may be knit a little longer than necessary to allow for the child's growth and still hang gracefully.

Neckline

The neckline is a challenging part of planning a child's sweater. According to the percentage system for sizing sweaters devised by knitting legend Elizabeth Zimmermann, the neck opening of an adult sweater should measure about 40 percent of the sweater's circumference around the chest/bust. A child's requires 50 percent.

But simply making a round or crew neckline wider doesn't work for a child. The sweater will easily go over the big head, but it may fall off the narrow shoulders. To prevent this you can thread elastic through the neck ribbing or design a neckline that can be snugged up with a cord. Both solutions work and can look good.

A buttoned neckline is another possible solution, and by adding a placket at the front or back neck edge, or at the shoulder, the neckline can be opened to fit over the head. And, of course, cardigans avoid this problem altogether.

Yet another solution, as seen in my Aran vest on page 53, is to use a narrow but deep neckline. A deep U or V will fit easily over a child's head and look neat, and there are no buttonholes to knit. When you read the Aran pattern, note that the neckline is the same for all four sizes. Children's bodies "catch up" with their heads, so the neckline openings for the larger sizes are in smaller proportion to the rest of the sweater.

Sleeves

Children's sleeves seem to be the right length for only five minutes of wear. As a child grows and a sweater becomes shorter in the body, it could still look decent if only the sleeves would cooperate. I try to overcome this problem by knitting at least three inches (7.5 cm) of ribbing for the cuffs, or by making certain that a straight sleeve has a generous turn-back.

These sleeve strategies all work, but there is an easier way out. As you can see, my Aran design is a vest. Leaving the sleeves off entirely may be the coward's way out, but on a garment with complex pattern stitches, it makes sense. Because a vest will fit a child longer than a sweater of the same size, all the extra effort that goes into an Aran design is well spent.

CHOOSING A PATTERN STITCH

The scale of a pattern stitch is paramount to the success of a design. Eight-stitch cables or twenty-four-stitch snowflakes knit in anything heavier than fingering-weight yarn can overpower a small sweater. Two or three small cables will fill the same space as one large one and be in better proportion to the overall garment. Seed stitch will provide a lightly textured surface. Small stars, a simple lice (dot) pattern, or a series of peeries (small Fair Isle designs) also make pleasing choices for a child's sweater. Don't be afraid to try big, bold patterns; just be aware of the overall impact when you plan the design. We want to notice the cute kid, not just the sweater.

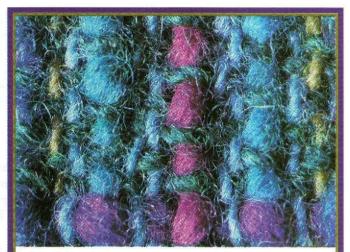
TIME TO KNIT

We've considered size, color, fiber, and pattern. My garment is a straight vest with a deep U neckline. It's knit in a berrycolored yarn of cotton and wool. The yarn is readily available in many colors at a moderate cost, and the blend is comfortable in most climates.

Now the question is, Do I have time to knit this Aran vest before the child's childhood is past? The answer is yes. By eliminating the sleeves, we've cut down significantly on time. And because the pattern is designed with four-, eight-, and twelve-row breaks, you can knit four rows whenever you have a few spare minutes. If you are really pressed for time, consider knitting the back in the ground stitch only, omitting the cables and hearts. The pattern instructs you to count hearts for the back, but if you eliminate them you will have to measure at the armhole and back neck instead. You can use this strategy on many sweater patterns, but remember that if you change the stitch from the original pattern, you must check gauge and measurements.

Whatever you decide to do, be sure to please yourself as well as the child you're knitting for. What reward is there in having unfinished or unused projects lying around? I take pleasure in what I'm doing—and in seeing my sweaters being worn and enjoyed.

A life-long knitter, Beth has finally taken the advice of friends and family to share her knitting designs. She and her family recently moved from Kansas City, Missouri, to Shawnee County, Kansas, where they hope to raise Nigerian Dwarf Goats in their spare time.



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CHILD'S ARAN VEST

Beth Morimoto

HIS CHILD'S ARAN VEST has a deep U-shaped neckline and shaped armholes. It's intended to hang straight. There are four pattern stitches: double moss stitch, leftslanting cables, embossed heart, and right-slanting cables. The heart requires cable crosses to be made on one wrongside row of the 12-row pattern. If you work a sample center panel and follow the cabling directions carefully, you'll find the pattern easy to follow.

This garment requires familiarity with working cables, keeping count of pattern rows, maintaining an established pattern while shaping a garment, and working ribbing in the round.

Finished size: 24 (26, 28, 30)" (61 (66, 71, 76) cm) chest circumference. Sweater shown measures 28" (71 cm).

Yarn: Brown Sheep Cotton Fleece (80% cotton, 20% wool; 215 vd (197 m)/100 g), #CW-850 Berry, 2 (3, 3, 3) skeins.

Needles: Body-Size 5 (3.75 mm): Neckband and Armbands-Size 3 (3.25 mm): 16" (40 cm) circular (cir). Adjust needle sizes if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions: Markers (m); cable needle (cn); row counter (optional); five stitch holders; tapestry needle.

Gauge: 22 sts and 33 rows = 4" (10 cm) in Double Moss st on larger needles; 22 sts and 28 rows = 4'' (10 cm) in St st.

Note: When slipping sts, slip them pwise wyb on RS rows; slip them pwise wyf on WS rows.

Stitch

Double Moss Stitch: (worked over a multiple of 4 sts plus 2) Row 1: (WS) K2, *p2, k2; rep from *. Rows 2 and 4: (RS) Knit the knits and purl the purls. Row 3: P2, *k2, p2; rep from *. Rep Rows 1-4 for pattern.

•Back: With larger needles CO 74 (82, 90, 98) sts. Work k2, p2 ribbing for 12 rows, inc 2 sts evenly spaced across the last row-76 (84, 92, 100) sts. With WS facing and beg with Row 1 of patterns, work 14 (18, 22, 26) sts in Double Moss st, pm, work 48 sts according to Center Panel chart, pm, work rem 14 (18, 22, 26) sts in Double Moss st. Cont in patt until piece measures about $8^{1/2}$ ($9^{1/2}$, 10¹/2, 11¹/2)" (21.5 (24, 26.5, 29) cm) from beg, ending with Row 5 (7, 11, 9) of the 5 (6, 6, 7)th heart. Shape armholes: BO 4 (5, 5, 5) sts at beg of the next 2 rows. Then BO 2 sts at the beg of the next 2 (4, 4, 6) rows. With RS facing and working patt as established, k1, work 2 tog (k2tog over knit sts, p2tog over purl sts), work to last 3 sts, work 2 tog (ssk over knit sts, p2tog over purl sts), k1. Dec at armhole edges in this manner every other row 4(5, 7, 9) times more-54 (54, 58, 58) sts rem. Work

even in patt until piece measures $14^{1/2}$ $(16, 17^{1/2}, 19)$ " (37 (40.5, 44.5, 48.5)cm) from beg, ending with Row 12 of the 9 (10, 11, 12)th heart. Place 13 (13, 15, 15) sts on holder for right shoulder, 28 sts on another holder for back neck, and rem 13 (13, 15, 15) sts on a third holder for left shoulder.

• Front: Work same as Back until piece measures about 9 (101/2, 12, 13)" (23 (26.5, 30.5, 33) cm) from beg, ending with Row 11 of the 5 (6, 7, 8)th heart. Shape neck: Keeping to established patt and continuing armhole shaping as for Back, work to first m, then work 32 sts. Place all worked sts on holder. Right neck: Continuing across row, p1, work 2 sts tog (k2tog over knit sts and p2tog over purl sts), work in patt to end of row, working armhole shaping as for Back. Dec 1 st at neck edge in this manner every other row 5 times more and at the same time, cont working armhole decs as for Back. Cont until piece measures same as Back to shoulder-13 (13, 15, 15) sts rem. Place sts on holder. Left neck: With WS facing, leave 16 sts on holder and place rem sts on needle. Attach yarn and work across row in patt. On next row (RS), maintain patt and armhole shaping as established and work to 3 sts from end, work 2 sts tog (ssk over knit sts, p2tog over purl sts), p1. Dec at neck edge in this manner every other row 5 times more, and at the same time. cont working armhole decs as for Back. Cont as for right neck.

•Finishing: With RS tog, BO shoulder sts together (see Glossary, page 4). With

Center Panel

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p on RS; k on WS

1/2RC - sl 2 sts onto cn and hold in back, k1, k2 from cn

1/2LC - sl 1 st onto cn and

1/1RC - sl 1 st onto cn and hold in back, k1, k1 from cn

7 1/1LC - sl 1 st onto cn and

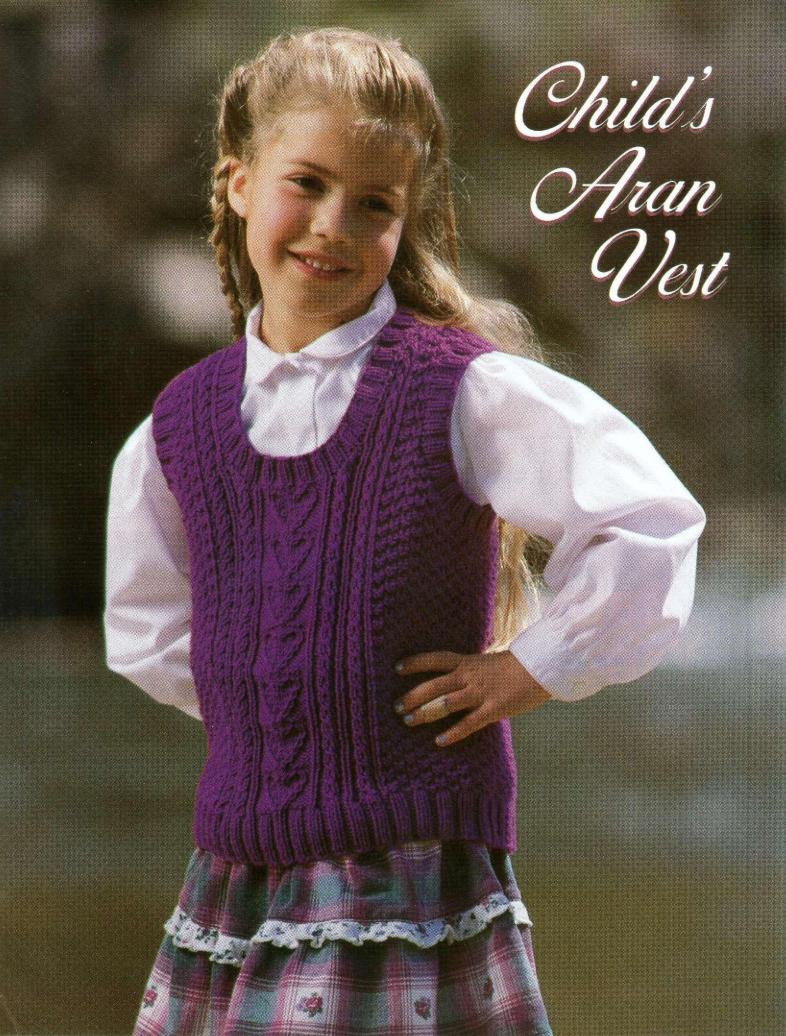
1/1RCP - sl 1 st onto cn and hold in back, k1, p1 from cn

k on RS: p on WS

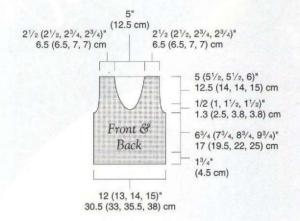
hold in front, k2, k1 from on

hold in front, k1, k1 from cn

7 1/1LCP - sl 1 st onto cn and hold in front, p1, k1 from cn



yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew side seams, matching patterns. *Neckband:* Slip 28 back neck sts onto spare needle. With RS facing, smaller cir needle, and beg at right shoulder seam, work ribbing as follows: p1, *k2, p2; rep from * across 28 back neck sts, pick up and knit 40 sts evenly spaced along neck edge, slip front neck sts onto spare needle and k1, p14, k1 across heart motif, pick up and knit 40 sts evenly spaced along other neck edge—132 sts. Place m and join. Work in established k2, p2 ribbing for 6 rnds. BO in ribbing. *Armbands:* With RS facing, smaller cir needle, and beg at underarm seam, pick up and knit 84 (92, 100, 108) sts evenly spaced around armhole. Place m and join. Work k2, p2 ribbing for 6 rnds. BO in ribbing. Weave in all loose ends. Steam very lightly, if desired.





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CONNECTIONS

Melanie Falick

HAT IS MOST STRIKING about Susan Gordon Lydon, whether you are reading her most recent book, The Knitting Sutra, or sitting down and talking to her, is her intelligence, her humor, and her warmth. Susan and I met last March at a restaurant near her home in Oakland, California. It was a sunny afternoon and we sat on the restaurant's patio like two old friends (though we hadn't met before), never for a moment at a loss for words. We laughed (even giggled), talked about writing and knitting, and shared our desserts-chocolate pudding and lemon bread pudding. In fact, we both wished our time together could have lasted much longer.

Reading The Knitting Sutra is also like a long, wonderful lunch with an old friend, one who not only appreciates the passion we bring to our knitting but is also able to find an honored place for that passion in our lives. In this compelling text, Susan, who has been writing-and knitting-since the 1960s, when she attended Vassar College, tells the intertwined stories of her recovery from a broken arm, her search for spiritual peace, and her acceptance of middle age, and the key role that knitting has played in all three. Writing mostly about a five-year period between 1991 and 1996, she takes us not only to her favorite yarn shops but also to visit an elderly Sufi murshida, or teacher, to a Sufi zikr (mystical ceremony), to a Navajo Reservation, and to twelve-step meetings, and shares with us her knowledge about Buddhism, Judaism, and Arica (a contemporary school of meditation). And she does all of this without ever making us feel that we are being proselytized or that we have to become involved in any of these spiritual practices to understand her, partly because she always comes back to the downto-earth, the knitting, and partly because she is such a fine writer.

"So many words are charged," she tells me over lunch. "Religion, meditation, enlightenment. I can say that knitting



A Visit with Susan Gordon Lydon

gives you peace of mind, because it gives that to everyone who does it. It takes you to the same place that meditation takes you." The book, Susan explains, is really about the interior journey that happens when you make something.

In The Knitting Sutra, as in her first book, Take the Long Way Home (about her grueling but successful struggle with drug addiction), Susan writes from her own experience and generously reveals both her public and private selves. "I have always written in a way that has made women feel better about themselves, that has validated their own experiences," Susan explains. Her writing on such varied subjects as feminism, fashion, art, sexuality, music, and knitting has appeared in myriad publications, including the New York Times, Village Voice, Ms., Rolling Stone (where she was a founding editor), and New Age Journal.

In *The Knitting Sutra* Susan writes about her experiences making four sweaters: a cardigan that she knitted while traveling through the Southwest; a cashmere pullover that she designed when she returned home and decided, after thirty-odd years of marginally successful projects, that she wanted to become a master craftsperson; an Anabelle Fox sweater that she knitted in an attempt to become proficient at complex intarsia; and an Alice Starmore Fair Isle vest that she impulsively undertook after she was diagnosed with cancer (from which she made a full recovery). During the process of making these garments she was able to incorporate into her life what had eluded her through all of her other spiritual studies. She truly learned to sit still, focus the mind, and ask for help. She realized that by applying what she had learned while knitting to other parts of her life she could "knit without knitting."

At the end of the book, she writes, "I sit still. I take time for quiet reflection. I center myself and direct my attention to what's in front of me. I continue to let my spirit loose in the fertile fields of creativity, imagining colors, textures, and shapes in various combinations. . . . Whatever I'm doing, I keep going through the difficult parts, even when I want to give up. . . . I focus on the journey rather than the goal."

Susan and I said good-bye after only a few hours together because she had to go to work at the Oakland Tribune; after finishing The Knitting Sutra she took a job there as a copy editor. Though another book is percolating in her mind, for now she is relying on the work of other authors to sustain her literary appetite. Her eclectic taste includes everything from fashion magazines and, surprisingly, the Star and Enquirer, to the New Yorker, Native American novels, histories, memoirs, and literary fiction by women. In The Knitting Sutra she quotes from sources as varied as Leo Tolstoy, Mies van der Rohe, Pete Seeger, Louise Erdrich, and Elizabeth Zimmermann.

"If I like writers," Susan tells me, "I'll follow them wherever they go. It has to do with their voice and the music in their writing, where they are able to take me—even to the places of my own heart and soul."

My response to Susan? Tell me, my new friend, where are we headed next? I'll follow you wherever you go.

Melanie Falick is author of Knitting in America: Patterns, Profiles, and Stories of America's Leading Artisans (Artisan, 1996). Her next book, for children who want to learn how to knit, will be published by Artisan in the spring of 1998.

Jalisker Cardigan and Tam

Nancy Bush

T HE SUBTLE PATTERNING in this casual cardigan and tam is inspired by the knit and purl designs typical of traditional fisherman's sweaters from the coastal areas and islands of Scotland. The sweater body is worked in three pieces and then seamed at the shoulders. Stitches for the sleeves are picked up at the shoulders and worked downward to the cuff. Two simple stitch patterns on the front yoke interrupt the overall body pattern. The ribbed button and buttonhole bands are worked sideways. The neck ribbing is worked last.

The tam is worked in the round from the ribbing to the top of the crown. An I-cord loop finishes the top.

Finished Size: Sweater: 40 (45, 50)" (101.5 (114.5, 127) cm) bust/chest circumference, buttoned. Tam: 10" (25.5 cm) diameter. Sweater shown measures 45" (114.5 cm).

Yarn: Harrisville Tweeds Highland Style (100% wool; 200 yd (183 m)/ 100 g): #T9 Chestnut, 5 (6, 7) skeins for sweater; 1 skein for tam. Needles: Sweater: Body and

Sleeves—Size 8 (5 mm); Ribbing— Size 6 (4 mm). *Tam:* Body—Size 8 (5 mm): 20" (60 cm) circular (cir) and double-pointed (dpn); Ribbing— Size 5 (3.75 mm) 16" (40 cm) cir. Adjust needle sizes if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions: Markers (m); two stitch holders; tapestry needle; seven 1" (2.5 cm) buttons.

Gauge: 16 sts and 21 rows = 4" (10 cm) in Sailor's Rib on larger needles, before blocking; 18 sts and 24 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st.

Stitches

- **Ribbing Stitch worked flat:** (multiple of 5 sts plus 3)
- *Row 1*: (WS) P1, *p1, k1, p2, k1; rep from *, end p2.
- *Row 2*: (RS) K1, *k1 tbl, p1, k2, p1; rep from *, end k1 tbl, k1.

Rep Rows 1 and 2 for pattern.

Ribbing Stitch worked in the round:

- *Rnd 1:* *K1 tbl, p2, k1 tbl, p1, k2, p1, k1 tbl, p2; rep from *.
- Rnd 2: *K1, p2, k1, p1, k2, p1, k1, p2; rep from *.

Rep Rnds 1 and 2 for pattern.

Sailor's Rib worked flat: (multiple of 5 sts plus 3)

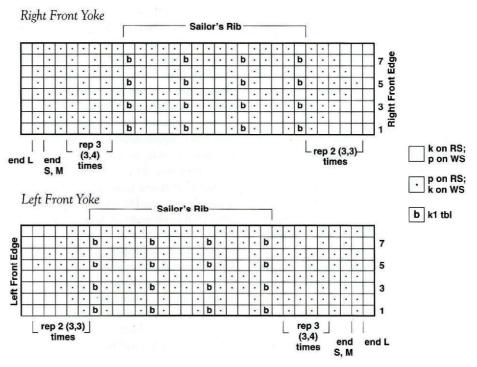
- *Row 1*: (RS) K1, k1 tbl, *p1, k2, p1, k1 tbl; rep from *, end k1.
- *Row 2*: (WS) P2, *k1, p2, k1, p1; rep from *, end p1.
- Row 3: K1, k1 tbl, *p4, k1 tbl; rep from *, end k1.
- Row 4: P2, *k4, p1; rep from *, end p1. Rep Rows 1–4 for pattern.

Sailor's Rib worked in the round:

Rnd 1: *K1 tbl, p4; rep from *. Rnd 2: *K1, p4; rep from *. Rnd 3: *K1 tbl, p1, k2, p1; rep from *. Rnd 4: *K1, p1, k2, p1; rep from *. Rep Rnds 1–4 for pattern.

SWEATER

•Right Front: With smaller needles, CO 43 (48, 53) sts. Work Ribbing st for $2^{1}/2^{"}$ (6.5 cm), ending with a WS row. Change to larger needles and work Sailor's Rib until piece measures 15 (16, 16)" (38 (40.5, 40.5) cm) from beg, or desired length to underarm, ending with a WS row. Yoke: Beg on Row 1, work Right Front Yoke chart until yoke measures 7 (7, $8^{1}/2$)" (18 (18, 21.5) cm). Shape neck: Keeping to established patt, BO 4 sts at neck edge once, 3 sts once, and 2 sts 2 (2, 3) times. Then dec 1 st at neck edge every other row 4 times—28 (33, 36) sts rem. Cont in patt until yoke mea-







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sures 10 (10, $11\frac{1}{2}$)" (25.5 (25.5, 29) cm). Place sts on holder.

•Left Front: Work as for Right Front, following Left Front Yoke chart and reversing neck shaping.

•Back: With smaller needles, CO 83 (93, 103) sts. Work Ribbing st until piece measures 2¹/₂" (6.5 cm), ending with a WS row. Change to larger needles and work Sailor's Rib until piece measures 1 row less than Right Front to shoulder. *Next row:* (WS) Work in patt across 28 (33, 36) sts, BO 27 (27, 31) sts for back neck, then work in patt across rem 28 (33, 36) sts. *Shoulder seams:* Join Back to Fronts by binding off the shoulder sts together (see Glossary, page 4).

•Sleeves: Measure and mark Fronts and Back 10 (10, 11¹/₂)" (25.5 (25.5, 29) cm) down from shoulder seam. With larger needles and WS facing, pick up and purl 83 (83, 93) sts along armhole edge between marked sts. Working in Sailor's Rib, dec 1 st at each end of needle as follows: k1 (edge stitch), ssk, work to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1 (edge stitch). Dec in this manner every 6 (6, 4) rows 10 (10, 20) times total, then every 4 (4, 0) rows 5 (6, 0) times—53 (51, 53) sts rem. (Note: You may cont to knit the second st from both edges through the back on the RS rows.) Cont in patt until sleeve measures $14^{1/2}$ " (37 cm), or 2" (5 cm) less than desired finished length, ending with Row 3 (1, 3) of pattern. Dec row: Smallest and largest sizes only: P2, k2tog twice, *p1, k1, k2tog, k1; rep from *, end last rep p1, k2tog twice, p2; Middle size only: P2 *p2tog, k1, p1, k1; rep from *, end last rep p2tog, p2-41 sts rem for all sizes. Change to smaller needles and rib as follows:

Row 1: (RS) [K1, p1] twice, *k1 tbl, p1, k1, p1; rep from *, end k1 tbl, [p1, k1] twice.

Row 2: (WS) *P1, k1; rep from *. Rep Rows 1 and 2 until ribbing measures 2" (5 cm), or desired length. BO all sts loosely.

• Finishing: With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew sleeve and side seams. Button band: With smaller needles and RS facing, pick up and knit 2 out of 3 sts along Left Front, achieving a number of sts that is divisible by 4 plus 1. Row 1: (WS) *P1, k1; rep from *, end p1. Row 2: (RS) K1, *p1, k1 tbl, p1, k1; rep from *, end k1. Rep Rows 1 and 2 for 12 rows total. BO all sts loosely in pattern. Mark button placement: Allowing for 1 buttonhole to be placed in the center of the neck ribbing, mark 1 buttonhole centered in the bottom ribbing, and the other 5 evenly spaced in between. Buttonhole band: Work as for button band, working 2-st one-row buttonholes (see Glossary, page 4) opposite markers on Left Front. Neckband: With smaller needles and RS facing, pick up and knit almost every st around neck opening, achieving a number of sts that is divisible by 4 plus 1. Work ribbing as for button band for 1" (2.5 cm), making 1 buttonhole opposite marker on Left Front ribbing. BO all sts loosely in pattern. Sew on buttons. Weave in loose ends. Block.

TAM

•Body: With smaller cir needle, CO 77 sts. Place m and join, being careful not to twist sts. Work Ribbing st for 1" (2.5 cm), ending with Rnd 2. *Increase rnd 1:* *K1 tbl, p1, M1, p1, k1

tbl, p1, k2, p1, k1 tbl, p1, M1, p1; rep from *. *Increase rnd 2:* *K1, p1, k1, M1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, M1, p1; rep from *—105 sts. Change to larger cir needle and work Sailor's Rib for 3³/4" (9.5 cm), or longer for a floppy tam, end with Rnd 4. *Decrease for top:* (Remember to k1 tbl on every other row as established.)

Rnd 1: Work patt as established, to 1 st before m.

Rnd 2: (Dec rnd) Sl 2 sts kwise (the last st of Rnd 1 and the first st of Rnd 2), k1, p2sso, *p3, k1, p4, k1, p3, sl 2 kwise, k1, psso; rep from *, end p3, k1, p4, k1, p3.

Rnd 3: Work in patt, taking into account the sts that were dec'd.

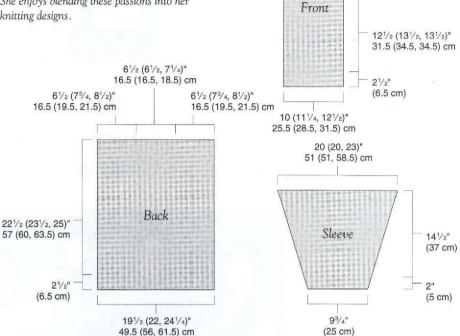
Rnd 4: Dec as in Rnd 2, working the 7 decs in line with those on Rnd 2.

Keeping in patt, rep Rnds 3 and 4 until 7 sts rem, changing to dpn when necessary. K2tog twice, k3tog—3 sts. Work rem sts in 3-st I-cord (see Glossary, page 4) for $2^{1/2}$ " (6.5 cm). BO all sts.

• Finishing: Fold I-cord in half to form a loop and use BO tail threaded through a tapestry needle to stitch cord tightly to

the center of the tam. Weave in loose ends. Block on 10" (25.5 cm) diameter round dinner plate.

Nancy Bush, owner of The Wooly West in Salt Lake City, and author of Folk Socks, has a passion for ethnic patterns and remote islands. She enjoys blending these passions into her knitting designs.



3¹/₂ (3¹/₂, 4)" 9 (9, 10) cm 61/2 (73/4, 81/2)"

16.5 (19.5, 21.5) cm

3'

(7.5 cm)

7 (7, 81/2)"

18 (18, 21.5) cm



IN THE ROUND

Katherine Hegg



The Point Challenge The purl stitches were dealt with in many ways. One person knit in a very fine gauge so the floats were not so long. Another added a line of contrast color within the purl section to shorten the carry. One knitter used seed stitch instead of all purls to catch up the floats in back of the knit stitches. Yet another preferred to execute the motif solely in knit stitches, in true Fair Isle fashion, and

weave the floats in.

Most people worked with only two colors-background and pattern-although the Turkish socks, done with three colors, present a totally different look for "The Point". Two sweaters added a whole new dimension by using variegated yarn for the background. One of the sweaters won prizes at both Fiberfest in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and the Sandwich Fair in Sandwich, Illinois. Earlier in the year, three "Point" garments were exhibited in the Crossman Gallery of the University of Wisconsin by the Whitewater Spinners and Weavers Guild.

"The Point Challenge" was fun. We all enjoyed the camaraderie, the enthusiasm, the laughter, and the friendly competition. And we're all looking forward to the next event, "The Anatolian Challenge!" This challenge is based on a medieval Egyptian design featured in Betsy Harrell's *Anatolian Knitting Designs* (Schoolhouse Press, 1981). The criteria are the same, and the deadline is January 1998.

Katherine Hegg has a degree in Clothing and Textiles and teaches knitting, crochet, and weaving in the Chicago area. She has also taught at Fiberfest in Michigan and the Wisconsin Spin In. Her work has been published in Spin[•]Off and Knitters magazines.

I N JANUARY 1996, Jacquie Vaughan and I, both instructors at The Great Yarn Loft Company in Elmhurst, Illinois, were admiring the designs in *Poems* of Color by Wendy Keele (Interweave Press, 1995). The book concerns garments, mostly sweaters, created during the first half of the twentieth century by the Bohus Stickning workshop in Sweden. Jacquie and I were enthusiastic

about "The Point" pattern the book provides instructions and color charts for both a pullover and a cardigan using the pattern —but there is no photograph of a whole "Point" garment. That's how "The Point Challenge" was born.

Participants had one year to design and complete a garment using "The Point" pattern. The only criterion was that "The Point" had to appear at least once in the finished piece. No limits were placed on what the piece had to be or what fiber medium was to be used. People in the shop were talking about what they would make, and someone joked about knitting a small headband with one point in it, so it wouldn't take too long.

We discussed the pattern often. The original design puts the detail at the yoke of a sweater with the points directed downward. We wondered, what if you used the pattern as a border on the bottom with the points directed upward? Should you carry the motif over onto the sleeves or leave them plain? Should it be an all-over design? Front only? The Bohus knitters used purl stitches to carry color from one row to another. If you knit the pattern as written, in the Fair Isle method, how long would the floats be? Could you modify the design so the floats would be shorter?

As we began working on our projects,



What's the point? The garments that resulted from "The Point Challenge" are markedly different.

the enthusiasm grew. Anyone who came into the shop was told about the challenge and asked to take part. Participants brought their works-in-progress to knit-nights and guild meetings for showand-tell. The excitement lasted for the entire year as everyone wondered what the finished creations would look like.

On January 12, 1997, The Great Yarn Loft Company sponsored "The Point Party". In all, there were three sweaters, one vest, a felted hat, a pair of Norwegian mittens, and a pair of Turkish socks. Each piece was different but all were in harmony. All participants had chosen to knit their creations, but some were done with handspun and hand-dyed yarns, some with commercial yarns, some in very fine weight yarns, and some in heavier weight.





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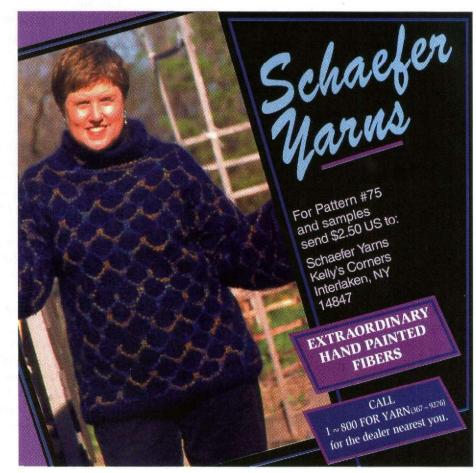
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HOURGLASS CABLE PULLOVER

Melissa Leapman

HIS ROOMY PULLOVER is easy and fun to knit, since most of it is worked in seed stitch. A panel of hourglass cables adds interest to the front of the sweater and each sleeve. The cables are enlivened with seed stitch interiors and reverse stockinette stitch borders.

This updated classic design has shaped armholes and will fit every wardrobe, so the body instructions are unisex and the sleeve instructions are written for both men's and women's sizes.

Finished Size: 40 (43, 46, 49)" (101.5 (109, 117, 124.5) cm) bust/chest circumference. Sweater shown measures 43" (109 cm).

Yarn: Lane Borgosesia Baruffa Maratona (100% merino wool; 121 yd (110 m)/50 g): #41248 teal, 14 (15, 16, 17) balls.

Needles: Body and Sleeves—Size 8 (5 mm); Ribbing—Size 7 (4.5 mm): straight and 16" (40 cm) circular (cir). Adjust needle sizes if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions: Markers (m); cable needle (cn); two stitch holders; tapestry needle.

Gauge: 20 sts and 28 rows = 4" (10 cm) in Seed st on larger needles.

Stitch

Seed Stitch: Row 1: *K1, p1; rep from *. Row 2: Knit the purls and purl the knits. Rep Row 2 for pattern.

•Back: With smaller needles, CO 122 (130, 138, 146) sts. Work k1, p1 ribbing for 1¹/₂" (3.8 cm), ending with a WS row. *Next row*: Change to larger needles and work 39 (43, 47, 51) sts in Seed st, pm, work center 44 sts according to Hourglass Cable chart (beg with Row 1), pm, work Seed st to end of row. Work established patt until piece measures 16 (16, 16, 16³/₄)" (40.5 (40.5, 40.5, 42.5) cm) from beg. *Shape armholes:* At beg of next 2 rows, BO 4 sts. Then dec 1 st each end every other row 4 times—106 (114, 122, 130) sts rem. Cont even until armhole measures 9 (9¹/₂, 10, 10¹/₂)" (23 (24, 25.5, 26.5) cm), ending with Row 8 or 16 of chart. *Shape shoulders:* At beg of next 4 rows, BO 8 (10, 11, 12) sts, then BO 9 (9, 10, 12) sts at the beg of next 2 rows. Slip rem 56 (56, 58, 58) sts onto holder for back neck.

• Front: Work as for Back until armhole measures 7 $(7^{1/2}, 7^{3/4}, 8^{1/4})$ " (18 (19, 19.5, 21) cm). Shape neck: Work 36 (40, 44, 48) sts in established patt, slip 34 sts onto holder for front neck, join second ball of yarn, and work in patt to end. Working both sides separately, BO 4 sts each neck edge once, BO 3 sts each neck edge twice, then dec 1 st each neck edge 1 (1, 2, 2) time(s), and at the same time, when Front measures same as Back to shoulders, shape shoulders as for Back.



Kids' Knitting Contest!

Interweave Knits wants to publish a book of kids' creations, knitting patterns by kids for kids. So we're having a contest to see the great patterns kids can come up with. We're looking for original patterns in six categories and two age groups, and we're giving prizes for each category. To help with the ins and outs of knitting, we're asking each kid to choose an adult knitting partner.

For complete contest rules, contact Vicki Matthews, Interweave Press, 201 East Fourth Street, Loveland, CO 80537-5655, fax 970-667-8317, phone 970-669-7672, ext. 150.

PRESS

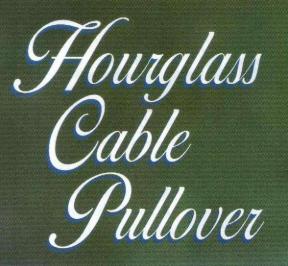
KNITTING IN SCANDINAVIA

mmerse yourself in the knitting traditions of Denmark, Norway and Sweden on this fifteen day knitting journey with Interweave Press. The unique geometric, floral, and figurative designs of Scandinavia come alive as we explore historical textiles in museums and private collections, and visit studios of contemporary knitwear designers. We'll also be learning traditional Scandinavian knitting techniques in specially arranged hands-on workshops.

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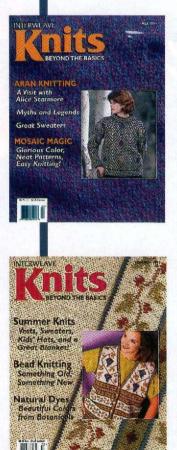
Anna Zilboorg's MAGNIFICENT MITTENS Kits

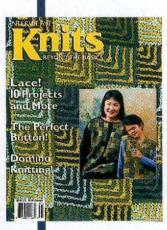
To be unveiled at *STITCHES East* in October will be **MAGNIFICENT MITTEN KITS**, complete with hand-dyed yarns (to Anna's specifications and recipes) and instructions. The colors are rich and glowing, the mohair/merino blend yarn is gloriously lustrous and smooth, and the patterns for these gauntlet mittens are intricate, exciting, and—well, magnificent!

The kits and yarns will be available for sale by mail order starting Nov. 1. The book will be available here when published. *Color card, kit info: \$2 (for fall mailing).*

SPINNING - WEAVING - KNITTING - DYEING Equipment, supplies, books, videos, and more! Catalog of spinning, weaving, dyeing supplies: \$2.







F YOU WANT IT, you can knit it that's what the editors of *Interweave Knits* believe, and every project in the magazine is clearly illustrated to help you succeed. Designs are inspirational, sometimes classic, sometimes contemporary, always exciting. To reflect knitters' individuality, alternate yarns and colorways are suggested.

And you get a bonus with your *Interweave Knits* subscription. Twice yearly, a special subscriber newsletter features projects by staff and readers, vintage patterns, and lots of <u>your</u> news about knitting.

To make sure you receive Interweave Knits, and your free newsletter, subscribe or renew today (\$24, 1 year, U.S.). Call 800-645-3675, Dept. A-KB, or send back the bound-in order form.

INTERWEAVE PRESS 201 East Fourth Street Loveland, CO 80537-5655 (800) 645-3675

(continued from page 62)

 Sleeves: With smaller needles, CO 66 (66, 72, 72) sts. Work k1, p1 ribbing for $2^{1/2}$ " (6.5 cm), ending with a WS row. Change to larger needles and work 11 (11, 14, 14) sts in Seed st, pm, work 44 sts according to Hourglass Cable chart, pm, work Seed st to end. Work patt as es-

Hourglass Cable

15 13 11 9 7 5 3 sl 3 sts onto cn and hold k on RS: sl 3 sts onto cn and hold in p on WS in front, k3, k3 from cn front, p1, k1, p1, k3 from cn necessary. 🔊 p on RS: sl 3 sts onto cn and hold sl 3 sts onto cn and hold in k on WS in back, k3, k3 from cn back, k3, k1, p1, k1 from cn 7 (7, 71/2, 71/2)" 18 (18, 19, 19) cm 5 (53/4, 61/4, 7)" 5 (53/4, 61/4, 7)" 12.5 (14.5, 16, 18) cm 12.5 (14.5, 16, 18) cm The Finest Original Woven Labels Since 1846 Heirloom Woven Labels 1" (2.5 cm) 2 (2, 21/4, 21/4)" 5 (5, 5.5, 5.5) cm 7 (71/2, 73/4, 81/4) 18 (19, 19.5, 21) cm FL A Front & Back NANCY JOHNSON 141/2 (141/2, 141/2, 151/4)" LETTERING Circle style desired above. 37 (37, 37, 38.75) cm 2. MOTIE Circle choice. Not available with style E or F. a so E 11/2" (3.8 cm) Circle one for lettering, one for background below. 3. COLORS 20 (211/2, 23, 241/2)" 51 (54.5, 58.5, 62.25) cm 18 (19, 20, 201/2)" LABEL BACKGROUND LETTERING 46 (48.5, 51, 52) cm WHITE, CREAM, GREY, BLACK BED. GOLD LUBED ON GREEN, NAVY GREEN, YELLOW ON WHITE, CREAM, BLACK 1 GREY, ROSE, SKY, LILAC, BLACK WHITE, GOLD LUREX ON GREEN, NAV (2.5 cm) BLUE, BROWN, BLACK, PINK WHITE, CREAM ON women's sizes: 16 (153/4, 161/4, 16) 4. LABEL INFORMATION PLEASE PRINT 40.5 (40, 41.25, 40.5) cm Sleeve Line One men's sizes: Line Two 191/2 (191/4, 19, 191/4)" MAXIMUM 24 letters and spaces per line Mail to: HEIRLOOM WOVEN LABELS 49.5 (49, 48.5, 49) om 5. CUSTOMER INFORMATION Send labels to

9 (9, 10, 10)"

23 (23, 25.5, 25.5) cm

Name

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21/0" (6.5 cm)

> FALL 1997 INTERWEAVE KNITS 65

tablished, inc 1 st each side as follows: for women's sizes only: every other row 3 (8, 7, 11) times, then every fourth row 20 (17, 18, 16) times; for men's sizes only: every fourth row 17 (24, 24, 27) times, then every sixth row 6 (1, 1, 0) time(s)— 112 (116, 122, 126) sts. Cont even until sleeve measures 181/2 (181/4, 183/4, $18^{1}/_{2}$)" (47 (46.5, 48, 47) cm) from beg

for women's sizes, and 22 (213/4, 211/2, 21³/₄)" (56 (55.5, 55, 55.5) cm) from beg for men's sizes. Shape cap: At beg of next 2 rows, BO 4 sts, then dec 1 st each end of needle every other row 4 times. BO rem 96 (100, 106, 110) sts.

• Finishing: With varn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew Front to Back at shoulders. Neckband: With cir needle, RS facing, and beg at right shoulder seam, knit across 56 (56, 58, 58) sts from Back neck holder dec 10 (10, 10, 12) sts evenly, pick up and knit 10 (10, 10, 12) sts along left front neck edge, knit across 34 sts from Front neck holder dec 6 sts evenly, and pick up and knit 10 (10, 10, 12) sts along right front neck edge-94 (94, 96, 98) sts total. Place m and join. Work k1, p1 ribbing for 1" (2.5 cm). BO all sts loosely in rib. With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew sleeves to armholes, then sew sleeve and side seams. Weave in loose ends. Block lightly, if

Melissa Leapman is a widely published New York freelance designer who enjoys creating fun-to-knit and easy-to-wear sweater designs.

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PILLOW TALK

Our challenge for this issue was to knit a pillow using Aran stitches and two skeins of Plymouth's Galway worsted weight yarn (100% wool; 230 yd (210 m)/100 g).



Vicki Matthews • Public Relations

What fun! I've been wanting to knit an Aran sweater, but with all the other socks and sweaters I have "in the works", I didn't want to commit the time. This pillow project was just the right size. After lots and lots of samples, I settled on a very, very simple cable pattern that gives some depth to the soft lavender color and a velvety look to the pillow. I stuffed it softly, but firmly, with fiberfill, making it perfect for napping on the couch. Finished size: About $18\frac{1}{2}$ " × $11\frac{1}{2}$ " (47 cm × 29 cm).



Marilyn Murphy . Editor

Directly north of my house is a beautiful grove of conifers lovingly planted and maintained by a neighbor. Many mornings I visit the grove to sit and listen to the birds' chirpings. I wanted to incorporate the grove into my Aran pillow, so my pattern stitches are symbols—the traveling stitches represent the conifers, the honeycomb is the beehive that sits at one corner of the grove, and the bobbles are the rocks and pebbles that line the bottom of the irrigation ditch that runs beside the grove. Wherever I go I can take my pillow with me and be transported to this special place. **Finished size:** About 14" (35.5 cm) diameter.

Susan Strawn Bailey • Illustrator When I learned Knits would feature Aran pillows in this issue, I checked out The Complete Book of Traditional Aran Knitting by Shelagh Hollingworth. My pillow design is adapted from pattern stitches in this book—I especially like the Irish knots, which are sturdier and take less yarn than traditional bobbles. Finished size: About 16" (40.5 cm) square. Ann Budd • Technical Editor

I wanted a firm fabric with a simple allover pattern that would look the same no matter how the pillow was oriented. This diamond pattern is from Barbara Walker's A Treasury of Knitting Patterns. I covered the seams with a 3-st I-cord to give the pillow a tailored look. The size 3 (3.25 mm) needles I used were relatively small for this yarn—a size larger needle would produce an adequately dense fabric. Finished size: About 10¹/₂" (26.5 cm) square.





Jillian Moreno • Associate Publisher

Nancy Disney • Assistant Production Editor

I've always liked Aran sweaters, but have been afraid of keeping track of several patterns at once. This pillow was the perfect project for a sampler of braid, diamond, and honeycomb with a border of seed stitch. A row counter and a few calculations made this easier than I imagined. Now I'm ready to tackle a sweater! **Finished size:** About 15" (38 cm) square. This pillow is what would happen if "I Dream of Jeannie" went to the Aran Islands and had too many pints. Though not visible in the photo, the pillow back is purple and the two sides are held together with a cable twist of purple and green. No matter that I had never done a circular project—not a tam, not even a potholder—I was determined to make a round pillow. So I stuck myself to the couch and figured it out. Then there's my weird bobble love. Bobbles are sort of silly and sort of cute—something like knitted hiccups—and if one is good, I figure fifty have got to be divine! I'm pleased with the results, and I think Barbara Eden would be, too. Finished size: About 15" (38 cm) diameter.

Basic Round Pillow

Finished Size: About 14" (35.5 cm) diameter.

Needles: Size 6 (4 mm) needles, 16" (40 cm) circular (cir) and set of 5 double-pointed (dpn). Adjust needle size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions: Cable needle (cn); markers (m); tapestry needle; fiberfill stuffing or 14" (35.5 cm) round pillowform.

Gauge: 20 sts and 28 rows = 4" (10 cm) in St st worked circularly.

• Pillow Front: Sides: With cir needle, loosely CO 154 sts. Place m and join, being careful not to twist sts. Note: Rnds 1–16 form the pillow sides.

Rnds 1-4 and 9-12: Knit.

Rnds 5-8 and 13-16: Purl.

Rnd 17: (Dec Rnd) *K5, k2tog; rep from *-132 sts rem.

Top: Change to dpn and divide the sts into six sections separated with m's. It's easiest if the sections all have the same number of sts, but they can vary by a few sts. Select a pattern stitch (cables, honeycomb, bobbles, etc.) for each section. Choose patterns that begin on RS rnds and have reps that are easily tracked (i.e., 4-, 8-, 12-rnd reps). *Work 3 rnds in pattern. *Dec Rnd*: Dec 1 st on each side of each m—12 sts dec'd. Rep from * until piece measures 11³/4" (30 cm) in diameter. Knit 1 rnd. *Next rnd*: *K2tog; rep from *—6 sts rem. Break yarn and draw through rem sts.

• Pillow Back: With dpn, CO 132 sts and work as for Front, beg with Top.

• Finishing: Block pieces if necessary. With yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, sew Pillow Front to Pillow Back halfway around. Insert pillow form or fiberfill. Stitch remaining seam.

Judith Durant Editor

I've just moved. Again. Third home in as many years. Fortunately, I'm getting really good at creating adjustable decor. My beautiful Arts & Crafts natural linen curtains with burgundy-ribbon trim look stunning in our new old bungalow, and these bolsters for the sofa complete the look. **Finished size:** About 14"×5" (35.5 cm × 13 cm).



Subscribers to Interweave Knits receive all pattern details in Knits News, a twice-yearly newsletter published in January and September. If you don't subscribe and wish to receive these patterns, send a #10 SASE to Pillow Talk, Interweave Knits, 201 East Fourth Street, Loveland, Colorado 80537-5655.

YARN SWAP: Details and Alternates for Yarns in this Issue

These pages are dedicated to creative choice. There are many reasons you may want to use a yarn other than the one specified for a particular project. Yarn Swap aims to help you select a workable alternative. Below you will find actual-size reproductions of the yarns used for all projects in this issue with the distributor/manufacturer, name of yarn, and wraps per inch. Fiber content, color, and yardage are listed in the materials section of each project. For many projects, we have tested one or two optional yarns and included swatches.

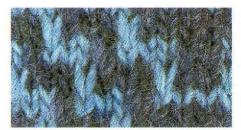
DIAMOND MAZE

JCA, Inc./Reynolds Lite-Lopi; singles; 10 wraps per inch

Yarn Swap



Eagle USA Optimum Performance, 100% wool, 206 yd (188m)/100 g



Green Mountain Spinnery Mountain Mohair, 70% wool, 30% mohair, 140 yd/2 oz (128 m/57 g)

MOSAIC SQUARE JACKET

Colorflow EJ Merino; 2-ply; 14 wraps per inch

Yarn Swap



Harrisville Designs Highland, 100% wool, 200 yd (183 m)/100 g



Tahki Yarns Sable, 70% merino wool, 30% angora, 140 yd (135 m)/50 g

A WALK IN THE WOODS VEST

Brown Sheep Nature Spun Sports Weight; 3-ply; 13 wraps per inch

Plymouth Cleckheaton Tapestry; 3-ply; 11 wraps per inch

Cascade Yarns Lana D'Oro; 4-ply; 11 wraps per inch

Yarn Swap



Cascade Yarns Lana D'Oro, 50% alpaca, 50% wool, 110 yd (101 m)/50 g Schaefer Yarns Lola Superwash, 100% wool, 560 yd/8 oz (512 m/227 g)



Cascade Yarns Cascade 220, 100% wool, 220 yd (201 m)/100 g Mountain Colors 4/8's Wool, 100% wool, 250 yd/4 oz (227 m/114 g)

EVENING OF FALLING STARS SOCKS



Tahki Yarns Stahl Woole Hobby; 4-ply; 11 wraps per inch

Brown Sheep Nature Spun Sports Weight; 3-ply; 13 wraps per inch

Yarn Swap



Berroco/Lang Thema, 100% superwash wool, 132 yd (121 m)/50 g

Berroco/Lang Thema Color, 100% superwash wool, 132 yd (121 m)/50 g



Brown Sheep Nature Spun, 100% wool, 184 yd (168 m)/50 g Renaissance Yarn/Froehlich Woole Die Tolle Woole, 100% wool, 183 yd (160 m)/50 g

TONE-ON-TONE MOSAIC SWEATER

Laines Anny Blatt Merinos; 2-ply, 6 strand; 12 wraps per inch

Laines Anny Blatt Libertine; 4 mm ribbon; 7 wraps per inch

Yarn Swap



Tahki Yarns Cotton Classic, 100% cotton, 108 yd (99 m)/50 g Tahki Yarns Linguini, 100% cotton ribbon,

103 yd (95 m)/50 g

CELTIC DREAMS

Creskeld Sienna Blue Face Leicester Aran; 3-ply; 8 wraps per inch

Yarn Swap



Knitting Fever Jaeger Shetland, 80% wool, 20% alpaca, 182 yd (166 m)/100 g



Classic Elite Artisan, 90% wool, 10% alpaca, 127 yd (116 m)/100 g

MAIDENHAIR CARDIGAN

Alice Starmore's Scottish Fleet; 5-ply; 12 wraps per inch

POUDRE RIVER PULLOVER

Patons Ballybrae; 2-ply; 11 wraps per inch

Yarn Swap



Harrisville Designs Highland, 100% wool, 200 yd (183 m)/100 g



Tahki Yarns Donegal Tweed, 100% wool, 194 yd (178 m)/100 g

CHILD'S ARAN VEST

Brown Sheep Cotton Fleece; 3-ply, 4 strand; 11 wraps per inch

Yarn Swap



Tahki Yarns Cotton Classic, 100% cotton, 108 yd (99 m)/100 g

TALISKER CARDIGAN AND TAM

Harrisville Designs Tweeds Highland Style; 2-ply; 10 wraps per inch

Yarn Swap



Alice Starmore's Scottish Heather, 100% wool, 120 yd/2 oz (110 m/57 g)



Classic Elite Kelso Wool Tweed, 100% wool, 185 yd (169 m)/100 g

HOURGLASS CABLE PULLOVER

Lane Borgosesia Baruffa Maratona; 2-ply, 6-strand cabled; 13 wraps per inch

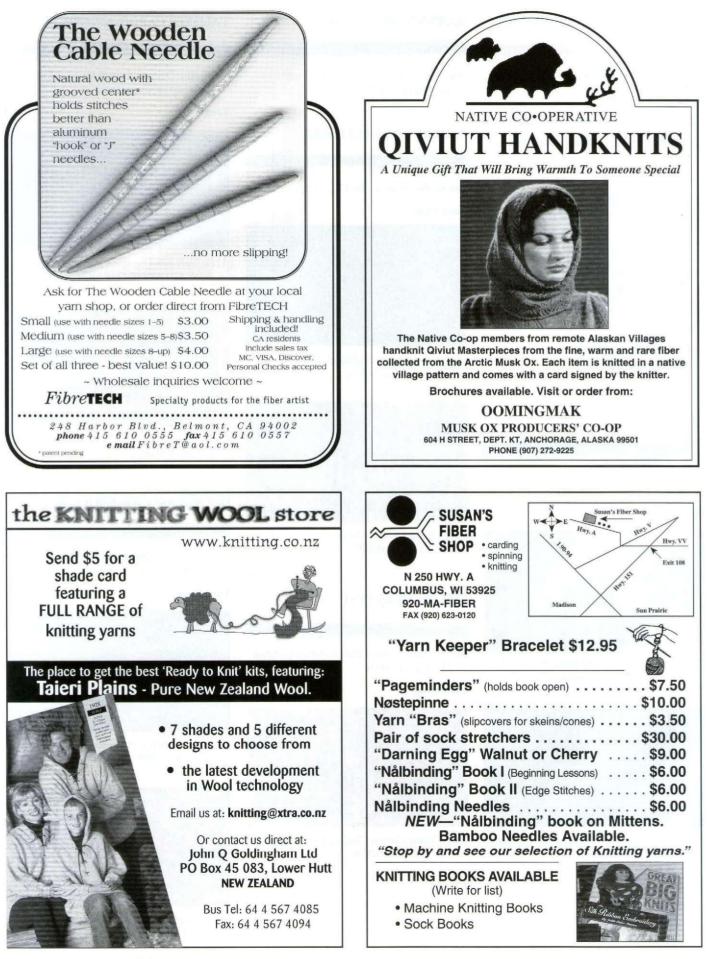
Yarn Swap



Creative Yarns International Southlander, 100% wool, 486 yd (444 m)/200 g



Lane Borgosesia Knitaly, 100% wool, 215 yd (196 m)/100 g



PRODUCT NEWS

NEW BOOKS

Knitters, on your mark! I don't remember a fall that has offered so many new knitting books. So organize your yarn stash and plump those couch pillows—you *will* be knitting this fall!

The Knit Hat Book Nicky Epstein Taunton Press, \$19.95



The Knit Hat Book is the first book from celebrated designer and teacher Nicky Epstein. Nicky takes a few basic hat shapes and

masterfully presents us with twenty-five unique toppers. From an elegant leopard-spotted pillbox to a grandly goofy Elmer Fudd hat, Nicky shows enough style and variation to outfit any knitter (and her friends and family) for this season and to inspire original designs for years to come. All designs are shown in full color with charts and step-by-step instructions.

Available from your local yarn shop or Taunton Press (800) 283-7252.

45 Fine and Fanciful Hats to Knit Anna Zilboorg

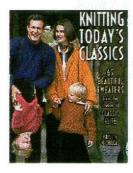
Lark Books, \$18.95

As soon as you open 45 Fine and Fanciful Hats to Knit you just know this book is going to be different. There are hats everywhere-even the table of contents is stuffed with hat photos. Anna Zilboorg uses her teaching skill and sharp eye for ethnic color and pattern to create a book rich in style and substance. Detailed directions range from casting on to blocking, and the pattern charts are so large that you may not have to blow them up! Anna goes way beyond traditional hat shapes (though she includes some of those, too). Don't come to this book looking for a simple watch cap; how about a star instead? Or a pentagon?

Jillian Moreno

Or an onion dome? This book will keep you warm and smiling no matter how harsh your winter. Available from your local yarn shop or Lark Books (800) 284-3388.

Knitting Today's Classics: 65 Beautiful Sweaters from the Studios of Classic Elite Kristin Nicholas Lark Books, \$27.95



Classic Elite designs are some of the best loved and most recognizable knitted creations in this country. Now, following the first collection *Knitting the New Classics*, here

are sixty-five more designs from the prolific studios of Classic Elite. Knitters will be hard pressed to limit themselves to just a few 'must knits' from this collection—there is truly something for everyone here. All designs are presented with Classic Elite's typical breathtaking fullcolor photography and clear instructions. Nice additons to this second book include a chapter on knitting basics and a detailed explanation of how a design collection comes to life at Classic Elite. *Available from your local yarn shop or Lark Books* (800) 284-3388.

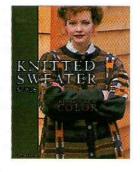
MITTEN MANIA

Along with the Schoolhouse Press reprint of Lizbeth Upitis's *Latvian Mittens* (see below), be on the lookout later this fall for Anna Zilboorg's *Magnificent Mittens* from XRX, Inc., the same folks who brought you *Ethnic Socks and Stockings*. *Magnificent Mittens* should be available in October and is bound to be as gorgeous as *Ethnic Socks*.

Following in the footsteps of Nancy Bush's Folk Socks, we here at Interweave will bring you Folk Mittens this fall. See page 16 for details.

NOT-QUITE-NEW BOOKS

Knitted Sweater Style: Inspirations in Color Jo Sharp Taunton Press, \$27.95



Forty-two luscious sweaters await you in this first book by Australian knitwear designer Jo Sharp. Drawing inspiration from all over the world and employing

her unique color sense, Jo Sharp brings to life clever interpretations of classic sweater designs.

Available from your local yarn shop or Taunton Press (800) 283-7252.

Faroese Knitting Patterns: Knitted Shawls

Translated by Marilyn van Keppel Schoolhouse Press, \$36.00

Are you seriously smitten with shawls? Faroese Knitting Patterns may be just what you need. A translation from Faroese, this book presents nineteen patterns for traditional Faroese shawls, all featuring the ingenious decrease that actually helps to keep your shawl on your shoulders! Available from your local yarn shop or Schoolhouse Press (800) 968-5648.

REPRINTS OF NOTE

Thanks to Meg Swansen, the fairy godmother of knitters, two classsic knitting books are back in print. *Latvian Mittens* by Lizbeth Upitis is a cornucopia of history, lore, and technique with enough patterns and charts to make hundreds of variations on the basic Latvian mitten. *The Learn-to-Knit-Afghan Book* by Barbara Walker teaches everything you need to know about pattern stitches and leaves you with a sixty-three-square afghan. *Latvian Mittens*, \$25.00.

The Learn-to-Knit Afghan Book, \$20.00. Both available from your local yarn shop or Schoolhouse Press (800) 968-5648.

SUPPLIERS' GUIDE

(W) = Wholesale (R) = Retail

BUTTONS

(W) Durango Button Company, 1021 County Rd 126, Hesperus, CO 81326. (800) 834-2001 or 105271.3316@compuserve.com.

YARNS

Yarns in this issue are available through your local retail store or by mail order. If you are unable to locate them, below is a listing of the U.S. distributors. Write to them for a retail source.

- (W) Alice Starmore, The Broad Bay Company, PO Box 2935, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.
- (W) Alice Starmore, Yarns International, Westwood Center II, 5110 Ridgefield Rd at River Rd. Bethesda, MD 20816.
- (W) Berroco Inc/Lang, 14 Elmdale Rd, PO Box 367, Uxbridge, MA 01569.
- (W) Brown Sheep Company, 100662 County Rd 16, Mitchell, NE 69357.
- (W) Cascade Yarns, PO Box 24326, Seattle, WA 98124.
- (W) Classic Elite Yarns, 12 Perkins St, Lowell, MA 01854.
- (W) Coats Patons, 1001 Roselawn Ave, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6B 1B8.
- (R) Colorflow, 311 S. Van Buren, Lancaster, WI 53813. (608) 723-7908 or dyebat@pcii.net.
- (W) Creative Yarns International, 911 Western Ave, Ste 311, Seattle, WA 98104.
- (R) Creskeld varn is available from Knitting Traditions, PO Box 421, Delta, PA 17314. (717) 456-7950.
- (W) Eagle USA, PO Box 48282, Seattle, WA 98166.
- (W & R) Green Mountain Spinnery, PO Box 568, Putney, VT 05346. (802) 387-4528.
- (W) Harrisville Designs, Box 806 Center Village, Harrisville, NH 03450.
- (W) JCA, Inc/Reynolds, 35 Scales Ln, Townsend, MA 01469-1094.
- (W) Knitting Fever/Jaeger, 180 Babylon Tpk, Roosevelt, NY 11575.
- (W) Lane Borgosesia, PO Box 50546, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.
- (W) Laines Anny Blatt USA, 7796 Boardwalk Rd, Brighton, MI 48356.
- (W & R) Mountain Colors, PO Box 156, Corvallis, MT 59828. (406) 777-3377.
- (W) Plymouth Yarn, PO Box 28, Bristol, PA 19007.
- (W) Renaissance Yarns/Froliche Wolle, PO Box 937, Norwalk, CT 06856.
- (W) Schaefer Yarns, Kelley's Corners, Interlaken, NY 14847.
- (W) Tahki Yarns, 11 Graphic Pl, Moonachie, NJ 07074.



Interweave Knits BACK ISSUES

□ Fall 1997 Aran, Texture, Mosaic

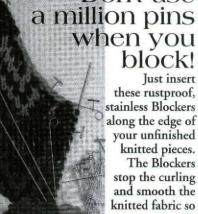
Summer 1997 Summer Knits, Bead Knitting

> □ Spring 1997 Domino Knitting, Lace

□ Fall 1996 (premier issue) Fair Isle, Entrelac, Gloves & Cardigans

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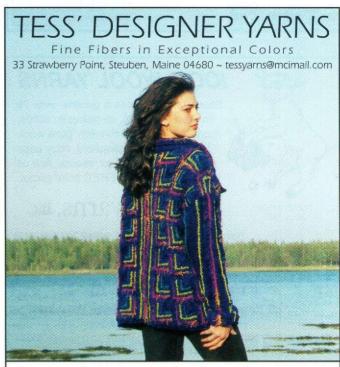
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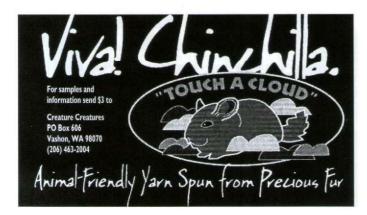


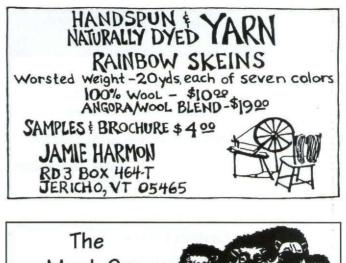


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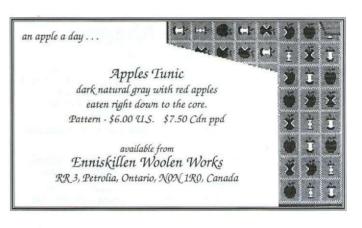


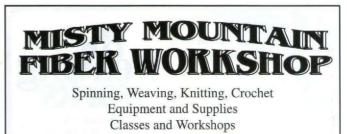
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RAVELINGS

Susan Gordon Lydon



My First Knitting Retreat

ted in the car while we waited at the ferry landing; we knitted on the ferry; and, excepting the driver, we knitted as we drove to the hotel.

The Inn at Ludlow Bay looks rustic but is in fact brand new, with every modern amenity. Each room has a gas fireplace which bursts into flame with the flip of a switch, down comforters on the beds, plush robes in the closets, and Jacuzzis in the bathrooms. Beryl and Lindy had rented a large suite with several adjoining rooms: conference room, dining room, and hospitality suite.

We virtually took over the hotel. We knitted in the bar, in the breakfast room, in our own rooms, in the hospitality suite, gathering in fluidly shifting groups, both large and small. Because we were all knitters, we shared an instant bond. There might have been some initial awkwardness when we first met and began talking with one another, but it soon dissolved into the deep, companionable female comfort we generate when groups of us gather to do needlework and talk. I have problems with my wrists from repetitive stress, and I have a job where I work on computers, so I should have been knitting moderately, but I could not resist the extraordinary pleasure of sitting and knitting with a group of like-minded women.

Saturday morning Lindy sent a masseuse to my room, for me the height of luxury and voluptuous relaxation. Afterward, I went for a long walk on the beach. I was worried about what I would say in my talk and wanted to center myself and absorb the beauty of our surroundings. I could look far across the vast expanse of water, or closely at the multicolored pebbles that dot the beach.

While I walked I cast about for ideas for my next knitting project. The carnelian color of some beach rocks intrigued me. Large cedar trees ringed the beach, and the pieces of wet red cedar that lay about displayed a similar rich rust color. Now I'm knitting a sweater in that shade. As I walked back to the hotel, the fog broke, and the jagged, shining, snow-covered peaks of the Olympic Range suddenly emerged in the distance.

My talk took place in a cold and imposing, official-looking space with a large horseshoe table and water pitchers at every place. I was dismayed by the formal feel of the room and wished we had a warmer space to meet.

I began by introducing the sweater I was wearing, a complex black wool Aran I had named my "No Smoking" sweater because I designed it to occupy my hands and mind when I first quit smoking. Then I talked about the process of writing the book and how it had come about. At a certain point I looked around the room. Every single person was knitting! It's difficult to describe the feeling I got at that point, something like looking into a mirror split into twenty-five different sections. I'm used to being the sole knitter at every group meeting I attend. In this room everyone was like me.

I knitted so much that weekend that I could barely move my hands for weeks. But it was worth it. Just that moment in the boardroom alone made the whole trip worthwhile. We're more alike than we are different, all us women who knit too much. And sometimes we need to be together to remind us this is true.

Susan Gordon Lydon writes books, essays, and reviews when she can tear herself away from her knitting.

AVING BEEN PRIMARILY a solitary knitter, I was intrigued by the idea of a knitting retreat. Particularly one that would be held in a nice hotel on Washington State's spectacular Olympic Peninsula, a few hours' drive, including ferry, from downtown Seattle.

This retreat was arranged by Beryl Hiatt and Lindy Phelps of Seattle's Tricoter. I could call Tricoter a yarn store, but it's more like a club. There are instructors, finishers, elegant clothing custom-made on knitting machines, constant classes, every sort of needlework notion, and the largest selection of Missoni yarns and sample garments I've ever seen in one place. Tricoter has a large and loyal customer base, about twenty-five of whom had signed up for the retreat.

Beryl and Lindy had read my book, The Knitting Sutra, Craft as Spiritual Practice and called Linda Borof, who owns the Knitting Basket in Oakland, California, and who figures prominently in the book, to invite us to the retreat. I would spend a day signing books in Tricoter, and give one workshop at the hotel. Otherwise my time would be my own.

A few weeks later, Linda and I were on a plane to Seattle. Beryl and Lindy met us at the airport, put us up at their home, and the next day we went to the store.

I have to admit that I was too overwhelmed by the vast selection of yarns at Tricoter even to make a decision about buying some. At any rate those decisions take me a long time. In fact, I'd thought about the yarn I brought to the retreat for two years before I actually bought it. Admittedly, this is an extreme case, but still, one day at Tricoter held too many possibilities for a snap decision.

That afternoon we crossed Puget Sound to the Olympic peninsula. I could see a shadow image of Mt. Rainier, mostly shrouded in fog, to the south, but the Cascades to the east were completely hidden. All four of us knit-

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