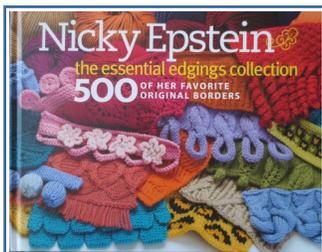


Yarn of the Month



My favourite yarn for May is most certainly Lion Brand's Shawl in a Ball. This yarn is a medium weight with a suggested needle size of 5mm, and a knitting gauge of 17 sts / 25 rows (10cm). The range of colours available is marvellous, 16 in all, with 8 having a metallic thread throughout, and it is a lovely yarn to work with. The yarn varies in thickness with some areas being heavier and fluffier, so if you want a yarn with a very consistent texture, this may not be your best choice. I really enjoyed the change in texture and loved the progression of colours. I purchased four shades of this yarn from YarnCanada.ca; Moonstone, Healing Teal, Graceful Green & Prism. The yardage is excellent, 473m / 518 yds! My first project using this yarn is my Frost Flower Scarf, knit with the Moonstone. I used a 4mm needle for this project, it is quite a long scarf, over 150cm (60 in) and I used only about 2/3 of the ball, leaving lots left over for another project! Definitely a yarn I will use again, one I highly recommend and for so much more than shawls!

Book of the Month



Choosing my favourite book this month was very easy! I have been getting Nicky Epstein's Edging books out of the library for a number of years so as part of my latest Amazon order, I decided to treat myself to "the essential edgings collection". This book includes 500 of Nicky Epstein's favorite borders and is a tremendous source of ideas! I have already used a few of the patterns for some of my projects; variations of le fleur, t twist garter st flower, and yo-yos for my Happy Spring Wreath, garter stitch t twist for a wrist warmer design, and sugar scallops for a cowl design. Every time I flip through this book, I find new techniques that inspire me with plans for original creations! This book is a must for any well stocked knitting library!

Project of the Month

I just completed this item as a commission and so enjoyed creating the design. It was wonderful to work with a client who gave me a few basic requirements and then allowed me the freedom to use my imagination to create the finished item. I will be adding the Kangaroo pattern to my Ravelry & Etsy stores soon!



Random Thought

Knitters are aware of the technical aspect of designing and producing a finished item. Many skills go into the creation, planning, sizing, gauges, and even algebraic equations. A non-knitter however, sometimes sees this craft from a much more basic point of view. My Grandfather's description of knitting was merely, "you just tie a bunch of holes together with string"!!

Art of the Month



This month's art piece by Painted Atlas, is titled "Let's Go Fly a Kite"! It is a perfect image for June as it not only pictures my knitted butterfly from my Happy Spring Wreath, but is also a nod to "K is for Kite" from my A-Z Knitting Challenge! I will be posting I, J, & K later this month!

What's New

I attempt to learn something new every month, whether it's a new stitch, technique, or design and May has been full of examples. My favourite new stitch for May is "Rose Stitch" from "750 Knitting Stitches". I will be doing a review of this book in the near future, it's an amazing source!



Multiple of 2 + 1.
1(WS): K2, *P1, K1, rep from * to last st, K1.
2: K1, *K1B, K1, rep from * to end.
3: K1, *P1, K1, rep from * to end.
4: K2, *K1B, K1, rep from * to last st, K1.

Inspiration!

Spring has been a long time coming this year, but with it's recent arrival, I found my inspiration! Our local gardens have opened for the season just in time to provide me with the vision I needed for my Happy Spring wreath.



This project is a birthday gift for a very special friend. I hope this little touch of spring will bring happiness to her home all year long!



Did you Know?

Knitting can reduce your heart rate, and blood pressure and it relaxes you, helping the body fight illnesses and disease?

Knitting Tip

I often make ornaments and decorative items with an inexpensive acrylic yarn but find the lack of softness rather unappealing. I recently discovered a very easy way to soften a stiff acrylic yarn! After knitting the item, give it a quick wash in warm water with a small amount of your favourite hair conditioner! Only a tiny amount is needed and it makes your finished item smell lovely too!!



Quote of the Month

"Imagination is more important than knowledge"

Albert Einstein