

Yarn of the Month



My favourite yarn of July is actually a long time favourite, I have been a huge fan of Paton's Astra for almost as long as I have been a knitter! I don't feel that Astra gets the appreciation it deserves, it's a very versatile yarn, excellent quality, and extremely affordable. The majority of items I create are small ornaments and toys, and the huge range of colours available in Astra, makes it my yarn of choice for most of my creations. It is a lovely yarn to knit with having a smooth, soft, even finish and looks wonderful whether it is knit on a very small needle such as a 2.75mm or on a larger needle such as a 4.00mm or 4.50mm. I have even knit sweaters with Astra and love its washability!! Astra is a #3 yarn, with a gauge of 22 sts and 28 rows on 4mm needles.



Above is a photo of my Wishing Angels created with Astra, and my favourite project of the month, Three Kings, was also created with this delightful yarn!

Book of the Month

There's a bit of a twist to the book of the month post for the August newsletter. I was having difficulty choosing between three or four books as they are all favourites for one reason or another, when I came to the realization that they were all Nicky Epstein books! So instead of a book of the month, in August I celebrate my favourite knitting book author. Nicky Epstein has produced in excess of 2 dozen amazing knitting & crochet books, of which I have tried only a handful. My favourites include; Essential Edgings Collection (reviewed in the Premier edition of MurisKnits Knitting News and Notions), Knitting in Circles, the Knitting Beyond the Edge series, and Knitting Block by Block! After checking out Amazon's list of available books by Nicky Epstein, my wish list grew quite large! Perhaps her books could even inspire me to have another go at crochet!

Project of the Month

One of my goals over the next two to three months is to create patterns for a complete Nativity scene and this month's favourite project is the first pattern in this series, Three Kings! The pattern includes a basic body, & clothing and also offers three different crown and gift options! These are so much fun to knit in a variety of colours and can be made as a standing ornament or, with the addition of a length of yarn or ribbon, would make a charming hanging ornament for your holiday tree! Next month, I will be issuing the next pattern in the series, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus!



Random Thought

I thought I would share some fun terms this month!
TINK - to undo knit stitches (Knit backwards!)
FROG - undoing lots of work to correct an error or to take apart a previously knit item (rip it, rip it!)
FROG POND - a place to keep items waiting to be frogged!
YARN BARF - a big lump of yarn that comes out of the middle of a ball of yarn (these drive me batty!)
TOAD - trashed object abandoned in disgust (I have a few of these in my Frog Pond!!)
SABLE - stash acquisition beyond life expectancy (no comment!)

Art of the Month



My favourite art of the month by Starlight Call is an adorable depiction of my three little kings following the Star of Bethlehem! I love these little guys even more than the knitted version:)

What's New

Sometimes I need something easy and simple to knit and dishcloths are my projects of choice for these occasions. I usually stick with a simple square cloth with a textured pattern, but recently I decided to try something new!



The Spinning Wheel Dish Cloth pattern is found here: www.knitting-crochet.com/knidis.html
 It's quick, easy and really pretty. The Yarn Lover's Room has hundreds of other free patterns too, be sure to check them out!

Inspiration!

Sometimes looking at a completely unrelated craft can be an excellent source of inspiration. This past month while scrolling endlessly through Pinterest (majorly addictive!) I kept coming across posts covering adorable little creatures made from polymer clay! The work produced by some of these artists is absolutely amazing, so tiny and detailed! This little guy in his holiday stocking was inspired by one of these posts and my idea board has increased dramatically thanks to these extremely talented artists!



Did you Know?

The word **Knit** is from the old English word "cnyttan" which means "to knot"!



The work **Purl** is from an obsolete Scottish word "pirl", which means a "twist"!

Knitting Tip

Knitting needles are generally made from one of four types of materials; wood, bamboo, metal & plastic, thankfully, no longer ivory, bone, or tortoiseshell!!!

- Wood and bamboo are excellent choices when working with slippery yarns as they generally provide more friction and they are very lightweight.
- Plastic needles may be the best choice for working with heavy, thick yarns as they are extremely light. They also come in lots of pretty colours!



- Metals needles are the best choice for yarns that tend to catch. Metal needles are definitely my favourite needles to work with, mostly because of the relaxing, therapeutic clicking noise!

Quote of the Month

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

Albert Einstein