



Babetta's Yarn and Gifts

"Beautiful Selection – Friendly Service"

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March 2007 Newsletter 25th Edition
Open 10 to 6 Mon., Wed., Fri. & Sat.
10 to 8 Tues. & Thurs.
www.babettasyarnandgifts

Greetings Fiber Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and content with life's endeavors. Maya, Arwen, Phoenix and I just got back from our trip to the Stitches West Convention in Santa Clara. We got to talk to many of the fiber artists whose products we carry and we made some exciting new discoveries to bring into the shop over the next couple of months. What a feast for the senses Stitches is. The isles of color and texture and designs are so inspiring. My brain is so full it's spinning with ideas and plans for helping you realize your fiber dreams.

Spring is just around the corner now and we're stocking up on non-animal fiber yarns for the months ahead. With the ever-growing interest and popularity that is swirling around our beloved fiber arts, the yarn manufacturers are getting very creative with fiber combinations and quality. Rowan's Bamboo Tape and Calmer will be arriving soon as well as The Lily Chin Collection. New products from Lana Grossa, Elle YarnsBoku and Shire Silk from Plymouth are on the way too. We've got a new line of patterns called Black Purl with some great designs.

Come to the 4th Annual *Destination: Art! A visit to Exotic Asia*

It's beginning to be a tradition. Destination:Art! Is a 2 day expedition thru some of Sacramento's eclectic arts and craft shops, galleries and studios. You can pick up your passport at any shop with a map for your journey. A completed passport enters you in a drawing for one of 6 Gift Baskets valued at \$300. There will be door prizes, demonstrations and refreshments throughout your travels as you explore the world of crossover arts in an endless exchange of information. Collect your "souvenirs" at each destination to complete a wonderful memento craft project from your expedition. Bring your friends and join the fun!

TRAVEL DATES & TIMES: March 16th & 17th from 10am – 6pm

DESTINATION SHOPS: Art Ellis Supply Inc. Babetta's Yarn and Gifts

Cje's Art & Fiber Gallery

JR Flamingo Fabrics

Piece of Mind Bead & Jewelry Studio

The Stampe Art Shoppe, Inc.

Classes for March 2007

In our project classes you can learn to knit anything from scarves to socks to felted purses to lace shawls to hats to sweaters. Pick your project and join in the fun. Our knitters inspire each other to try new things by sharing ideas and showing off their latest creation. Sign up for one of our classes and you will receive a coupon for %10 off your next purchase. If our class times aren't convenient we also offer private lessons in Knitting Crochet, Spinning and Weaving by appointment.

Pre-registration is required as class sizes are limited. Please choose your dates carefully. Because of scheduling conflicts and complications, make-up classes will only be allowed under special circumstances and individual consideration.

Tuesdays March 6, 13, & 20

Intermediate Knitting 6pm – 7:30pm fee \$40

Thursdays March 8, 15, & 22

Advanced Beginning 6pm – 7:30 pm fee \$40

Wednesdays March 7, 14, & 21

Intermediate Knitting 1pm – 2:30pm fee \$40

Intermediate Knitting 3:00pm- 4:30pm fee \$40

Crochet all levels 5:30pm – 7pm fee \$40

Saturdays March 10, 24, & 31

Beginning Knitting 2pm – 3:30pm fee \$40

Intermediate Knitting 4pm – 5:30pm fee \$40

Workshop- Felted Easter Basket

Saturday March 10 and 31 from 11am – 1pm fee \$60 includes kit

Block a month meeting dates March 2 & March 30

Join our twice a month knitting group from 10am-2pm.

This month we'll be getting together on March 3 & 24.

Postage rates are going up again. If you receive our newsletter in the mail and wouldn't mind getting it by e-mail instead please let us know. It's easy! Go to www.babettasyarnandgifts.com and register today.

Free Pattern for March 2007 – Lana and Clark Ascot

We now carry yarns from Knitty Gritty's own **Vicki Howell**. This Ascot is written for her yarn "Love" but we have used "Craft". The pattern can also be found on her website along with her blog at vickiehowell.com

Materials:

1 Ball (CRAFT 65% organic cotton, 35% milk fiber) 125m

Size US size 7 needles

Tapestry Needle

Size:

One Size

Finished Measurements

6" (at widest point) x 28"

Directions (Make 2)

CO 26 stitches.

Rows 1-6: Knit

Row 7: K1, *YO, K2tog. Repeat from * to last st. K1.

Row 8: Purl

Rows 9-14: Knit

Repeat rows 7-14, four more times.

Repeat rows 7-8, once more.

Knit 2 rows.

Next row: K1, K4tog (6 times), K1.

Knit next row and every row for 6 1/2"

BO.

Picot Edging

On RS, PU 25 sts.

On the WS, BO as follows:

K1, place st back on left-hand needle, CO 2 sts, BO 4. *SI St on right-hand needle back onto left-hand needle, CO 2 sts, BO 4.

Repeat from * to end.

Finishing

Using mattress stitch, sew the garter stitch ends of both pieces together. Weave in ends. Block.

For more patterns in Vickie Howell Collection yarns visit the SWTCwebsite!

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Don't be afraid of gauges and blocking!

There are instances where gauge and blocking aren't important but in most knitted or crocheted items it can be the difference between being happy with a project that you've invested time and money into or being frustrated by things not working out. Taking a little time at the beginning and end of your project can make the time you spend working on it more worthwhile.

GAUGE=when you get the correct number of stitches and rows per inch and the fabric is satisfactory. If you get your gauge and the fabric feels too stiff or too flimsy you might want to use a different material.

BLOCKING=A process that finishes your piece by relaxing the tension into an even fabric.

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