



## Knitting Projects to Beat the Heat

Although it may not feel like summer everywhere – at the new Knitability Headquarters in Central California, there is no doubt that summer has arrived. We have already had several consecutive days of temperatures in excess of 100 degrees. But as is often said, it is a dry heat!

Many folks put away their knitting for the warmer months, when in fact summer is the perfect time to get a jump on gifts for the holiday season. Small projects are perfect for summer as they do not weigh heavy on your lap and can be easily carried with you wherever you are headed.

As many of you can surely attest, knitting socks is a great carry-along project and wonderfully lightweight. So just in time for summer knitting, Knitability is happy to introduce two new lines of sock yarn, Passion Feet and Splashing Feet. Both yarns are machine washable, composed of 75% wool and 25% nylon. [Splashing Feet](#) comes in five beautiful hand-paint color combinations. [Passion Feet](#) come in a wide variety of solid and marled color ways, several of which coordinate beautifully with Splashing Feet.

If socks knit on tiny needles are not your thing, Knitability has several other great small projects, perfect for gift giving. What about [Felted Socks](#) knit on nice large needles!! These socks knit up quickly and as a basic pattern, offer a wide range of “customization” possibility. For something really quick, our [Simply Sensational Glove Kit](#) is fun and not the least bit fussy. We have recently added several new glove colors, so take a look. Our [Quick Knit Gifts](#) pattern has several fast project alternatives including an eyelash scarf or shawl. Select your favorite color of [Mist](#) (1 ball for a scarf, 3 balls for a shawl) and find your [size 15 needles](#) and away you go.

If small projects are not your thing, then select a larger project that can be worked in pieces. The blocks for the Reversible Stitch Afghan (started in our last issue) are a great example of a larger project worked in smaller pieces. See the following pages for the latest installment!

Whether you find a project on our website or at your local yarn shop, remember, summer is definitely the time to knit. So grab you knitting needles, a ball of yarn and be on your way.

Happy Knitting,

Gwen & Bev



## Gwen is Famous – Well...Sort Of!!



For those of you who regular readers of XR's [Knitter's Magazine](#), you are probably familiar with the regular column by Perri Klass, a Boston area pediatrician. In the recently published Summer 2003 issue, Perri talks about her college roommate, Martha who has recently learned how to knit. And who was Martha and her daughter's private knitter instructor...you guessed it, Gwen.

In our last issue we introduced the Reversible Stitch Afghan project, inspired by one of Gwen's knitting students. Right again, the student was Perri's college roommate, Martha. This issue, we are making blocks utilizing several different lace patterns. Get started on your own Reversible Stitch Afghan and you too can be famous....well, sort of!!!

**Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone you think would be interested.**



## Enhancing Your Knit Abilities

This is a regular feature of the Knitability News. Each issue highlights a different knitting stitch, technique or skill. Our topic for this time:

### Yarn Over or Yarn Round Needle

Lace knitting, although thought to be very complicated is in fact fairly easy. So much so, that many of my beginning students create lace with their first project (not on purpose mind you). The key component for lace is to create a hole in the work by placing or wrapping the yarn around the needle to create a new stitch. This is then compensated with a decrease of some sort to maintain stitch count.

Depending upon the pattern, the term yarn over (abbreviated – yo) and yarn round needle (abbreviated – yrn) usually mean the same thing.

The key for working a yo or yrn is to make sure that the yarn is traveling in the same direction that it does for all other stitches. For most knitters, this would be counter-clockwise around the needle.

If the preceding stitch is a purl and the following stitch is a knit, the yo or yrn can be created by simply carrying the yarn over (yo) the needle. In all other versions, the yarn must complete at least one full wrap around the needle (yrn). As such stitches created with a yo are slightly smaller than those with a yrn. To compensate, make sure to carry the yarn over the needle loosely.

## More Knitting, Please!

By Jeanne Abel

It seems like I've always knitted. Somebody taught me, probably my Grandmother, back in the early '60s. I also learned other things along the way, sewing, crocheting, cross-stitch, quilting, computer consulting, parenting. But in my free time, I always end up knitting. When we decided I would quit my job and we'd move from Maryland to Kansas City so my family could live under the same roof, knitting was not foremost in my mind ... maybe in my dreams.

I caught up with Gwen a few months after our move to the mid-west and a few months before her move to California. Knitability sounded exciting. And, even though I'm **NOT** a sales person, the thought of knitting for more than the sole purpose of creating a sweater was very exciting. I had taught many people how to knit and many experienced knitters new and innovative techniques, but had never had time to teach knitting classes. With my knowledge base and knitting know-how and the "Learn to Knit" and "The Next Step" kits in hand, the transition was surprisingly easy.

Knitability provided the direction, supplies, hand-outs (and a few hungry students) and I was off and running. With the encouragement of my students ("Teach us more, please, PLEASE, PLEASE!!!"), I plunged in headfirst. Since January, I've taught my own classes on felted mittens, cabled vests and scarves as well as Knitability's "Learn to Knit" and "The Next Step". In the next six months, I have even more classes scheduled, some based on Knitability designs, others on my own. That's 17 classes in 2003 ... only two evenings out of the house leaving plenty of time for my family.

By the end of April, with just the fees from my classes and commission earned as a Knitability Sales Representative, I had paid for two trips to CA to attend Stitches West and the TKG National Convention, the creation of my web-site, most of the fees to run a business in Missouri, not to mention the purchase of some really nice yarn to add to my list of planned knitting.

Again, I'm not a sales person and won't ever be one, but generally, knitters love yarn, fresh ideas and camaraderie. My goal is to promote the art. If my efforts pay for my habit ... YEA!!!

**For more information on becoming a Knitability Sales Representative, please visit our [Opportunity](#) page.**



### Reversible Stitch Afghan

A new feature of the Knitability News, the Reversible Stitches Afghan was introduced in our last issue, Volume 2 Spring. Blocks 4 – 6 focus on lace stitches and techniques. For information on yarn quantities and finished sizes, please see the table on the following page.

## Reversible Stitch Afghan – Part 2 – Lace

This is a 4-part series of afghan squares exploring different knitting techniques in which the finished fabric is pleasing on both sides. As some techniques will require up to three different colors, it is suggested to plan for equal quantities of each of three colors for the 12 squares. Finished square size will vary depending upon the weight of the yarn used.

### Materials and Finished Sizing:

Suggested Yarn	Yarn Weight	Gauge / Inch	Approx Yds / Block	Block Size	Est Total Yds
Prudence	Sport	5 sts	75	9"	900
Sagacity	Worsted	4 sts	90	12"	1100
Bulky Sagacity	Bulky	3 sts	120	15"	1500

**NOTE:** For the purposes of these directions, the abbreviation **yo** will be used to signify yarn over needle or yarn round needle, which ever is appropriate at the time.

### Block 4 – Turkish Stitch (Even number of sts)

*This pattern is found in Barbara G Walker's A Treasury of Knitting Patterns. Turkish Stitch is an example of the most basic form of lace called faggoting. Faggoting is generally form by repeats a single row of decreases and yarn overs. As the single row is repeated for the entire pattern, it looks exactly the same on both sides.*

CO 42 sts placing a marker after the first 5 sts and before the last 5 sts; slip these markers (SM – Slip Marker) every row. Work 10 rows (5 ridges) of garter stitch (knit every row), slipping the 1<sup>st</sup> st as if to purl.

Row 1: SL1, K4, SM, \*yo, K2tog; repeat from \* a total of 32 sts, SM, K5  
Repeat Rows 1 for a total of 50 rows

Work 10 rows (5 ridges) of garter stitch slipping the 1<sup>st</sup> st as if to purl. Loosely BO all sts.

### Block 5 – Eyelet Bar (Multiple of 4 sts plus 1)

*This pattern is found in Barbara G Walker's Charted Knitting Designs. This fabric is pleasing on both sides, with the official right side featuring strong vertical lines and the reverse side featuring soft horizontal lines. Twisting the stitches on each row emphasizes the raised ridge.*

CO 43 sts placing a marker after the first 5 sts and before the last 5 sts; slip these markers (SM – Slip Marker) every row. Work 10 rows (5 ridges) of garter stitch (knit every row), slipping the 1<sup>st</sup> st as if to purl.

Row 1: SL1, K4, SM, K1, \* P1, K1-blp, P1, K1; repeat from \* a total of 33 sts, SM, K5  
Row 2: SL1, K4, SM, \* K2, P1-blp, K1; repeat from \* a total of 32 sts, K1, SM, K5  
Row 3: SL1, K4, SM, K1, \* P1, K1-blp, P1, K1; repeat from \* a total of 33 sts, SM, K5  
Row 4: SL1, K4, SM, \* K1, P3; repeat from \* a total of 32 sts, K1, SM, K5  
Row 5: SL1, K4, SM, K1, \* yo, sl1, K2tog, pssso, yo, K1; repeat from \* a total of 33 sts, SM, K5  
Row 6: SL1, K4, SM, \* K3, P5, K3; repeat from \* a total of 33 sts, SM, K5  
Repeat Rows 1 – 6 for a total of 48 rows  
Repeat Rows 1 – 3 for one more time (total of 51 rows in pattern).

Work 10 rows (5 ridges) of garter stitch slipping the 1<sup>st</sup> st as if to purl. Loosely BO all sts.

### Abbreviations

-blp	(K or P) though the back loop
CO	Cast On
K	Knit
P	Purl
pssso	pass slipped stitch over following stitch
RS	Right (Public) Side
sl	Slip a stitch as if to purl
st(s)	Stitch(es)
SSK	Slip, Slip, Knit (see last page)
tog	Together
WS	Wrong (Private) Side
yo	Yarn Over

### **Block 6 – Spanish Window (Multiple of 4 sts plus 3)**

*This pattern is found in Barbara G Walker's A Second Treasury of Knitting Patterns. Spanish Window is an example of lace work where the number of stitches varies on each row. It is often recommended when working patterns of this nature to mark each pattern repeat with a marker of some sort. In this pattern, two stitches are added for each repeat on row 3 and remain until row 9 when they are decrease through the use of a "knit 3 stitches together" or K3tog.*

CO 41 sts placing a marker after the first 5 sts and before the last 5 sts; slip these markers (SM – Slip Marker) every row. Work 10 rows (5 ridges) of garter stitch (knit every row), slipping the 1<sup>st</sup> st as if to purl.

Row 1: SL1, K4, SM, Purl a total of 31 sts, SM, K5

Row 2: SL1, K4, SM, Knit a total of 31 sts, K1, SM, K5

Row 3: SL1, K4, SM, P3, \* yo, K1, yo, P3; repeat from \* a total of 45 sts, SM, K5

Row 4: SL1, K4, SM, K3, \* P3, K3; repeat from \* a total of 45 sts, K1, SM, K5

Row 5: SL1, K4, SM, P3, \* yo, K3tog, yo, P3; repeat from \* a total of 45 sts, SM, K5

Row 6: SL1, K4, SM, K3, \* P3, K3; repeat from \* a total of 45 sts, K1, SM, K5

Row 7: SL1, K4, SM, P3, \* yo, K3tog, yo, P3; repeat from \* a total of 45 sts, SM, K5

Row 8: SL1, K4, SM, K3, \* P3, K3; repeat from \* a total of 45 sts, K1, SM, K5

Row 9: SL1, K4, SM, P3, \* K3tog, P3; repeat from \* a total of 31 sts, SM, K5

Row 10: SL1, K4, SM, Knit a total of 31 sts, K1, SM, K5

Repeat Rows 1 – 10 for a total of 50 rows

Work 10 rows (5 ridges) of garter stitch slipping the 1<sup>st</sup> st as if to purl. Loosely BO all sts.

### **Finishing for All Blocks**

Work all loose ends in along edges as these will then be incorporated into the seams when complete. Block each square to the same size and join together using you favorite joining technique.