Subject: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Tue, 14 Oct 2008 22:02:14 GMT
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I was just noticing how many threads are threatening to veer off into fiberstuff talk, so decided to create one dedicated to it!

I'm on Ravelry (though pretty new there) as Mori-neko. I sorta grew up doing various fiber stuff, though I got pretty rusty on a lot of it recently! I theoretically know how to spin and weave (though if you ask me to thread a loom, it'll take a bit). I can sew pretty handily, and keep getting drafted into doing so for whatever show I'm working on. I do embroidery and cross-stitch... I've recently taken my first tentative steps away from stamped embroidery into counted cross-stitch (did these adorable see-no/hear-no/speak-no evil tree froggies). Last winter I asked my mom to send me something to do with my hands, and she sent me a few balls of a gorgeous varigated wool yarn (pretty heavy weight, dunno what it'd be called) in gold, dark orange, and green that I made into a (very) long and fring-y scarf. I've got a ball of it left over that I keep meaning to make into fingerless gloves, but get intimidated by the patterns I've found...

I'm also in the middle of (well, barely started) doing the Diva Halter from the Domiknitrix book. Mine's going to be in cotton, charcoal grey and turquoise. ^_^

And I've been playing with doing wire jewelry using knitting/crochet... got some really pretty stuff, and it turns out pretty quickly while I'm watching movies or whatever.

Oh! And for any other gamers out there, I'm crocheting Katamari for several friends as christmas presents (I just need a good not-horribly-expensive source for magnets for 'em...).

Anyhow, off to class goes the good little student!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Tue, 14 Oct 2008 22:52:19 GMT
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Yay! *admires the shiny thread*

I've been sewing--in a sort of slap-dash way--my whole life. The catch is that I hate to follow directions, and I'm always improvising, so sewing by patterns or cross stitch has never really been my thing. But I love costumes, and I was the costume designer/crazy person attempting to sew show from scratch for several shows while I was in college. After I graduated in May, I started to get a little stir-crazy...so I talked my sister (hah, that makes it sound like it was hard) into letting me make her a costume out of duct tape. XD

Most recently I've learned to knit, and now I adore knitting and I don't know how I lived without it all these years. It's like knitting is the hobby I've been searching for my whole life. I've learned the most basic elements of crochet, but I haven't practiced it much yet, and I am dying to learn how to spin, but don't even have a spindle yet--but I will soon! Especially now that I have an enabler/spinning sensei XD

Also, crocheting jewelry with wire sounds awesome! What does it look like when you're done?

[edit] And my username on Ravelry is Charismitaine!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Guest on Tue, 14 Oct 2008 22:57:22 GMT
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Im not sure if this counts, but as part of my SCA interests Im teaching myself needlelace.

And I have been lucky enough to find a tutor in bobbin lace and hope to go back to classes soon.

I have and can crochet, and enjoy Teresa Wentzler cross stitch, but I have never been able to get the hang of knitting.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Tue, 14 Oct 2008 23:00:41 GMT
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Hurrah! Someone (not me!) posted a thread. Now I don't look like such a virus. ;)

My mom taught me how to crochet when I was fourteen, and I went on to make many blankets for friends and family. (Still haven't made one for myself. I have one in progress, but...)

A couple years ago, I decided to learn to knit, so I got one of those "I Taught Myself Knitting!" kits from Michael's...and shortly after discovered the wonders of local yarn stores with wool and alpaca and silk and and and-- I became a sock-knitting freak.

In May 08, my mom sent a spindle kit for my birthday. Now I have an intimidating fiber stash, as well as a yarn stash. (Intimidating only because I use a handspindle, not a wheel (maybe some day!) and it takes forEVER to spin things on the spindle.)

I'm avoiding things like weaving and other forms of fiber prep (carding and blending and so on), and dying. I don't know that I could handle any more obsession than this. It's dangerous here!

PS. I am UnicornWarlord on Ravelry. Add me to your friends!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Maureen E on Tue, 14 Oct 2008 23:57:53 GMT
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I've been knitting since I was about 5...my mother is a big crafty person and taught me knitting and crochet. Except that I forgot how to crochet and had to re-teach myself when I was about twelve.

My last knitting project was an Aran-knit sweater for my father. You can see pictures here. I'm planning to make an Aran sweater for myself next since I love cable knitting! I'm just waiting to buy the yarn on sale.

I also love embroidery. I've been working on a few small projects for Christmas presents which will turn into little sachets/pincushions.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by southdowner on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 00:27:02 GMT
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What an excellent thread :)

I taught myself to knit with my grandmother's help age 8, and then stopped several years ago. Jodi has revitalised my enthusiasm, and I now have 4 projects all started at once, a goth-y scarf for my daughter, two big warm winter jumpers for me and one for my daughter.

(Thank you Jodi for the great yarn shop links!)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 00:43:16 GMT
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I can jump in here. My mother taught me to embroider when I was five or so. I did a lot of simple

work before moving on to cross stitch (doing traditional Greek designs and copying stuff my grandmother had embroidered). She also tried to teach me knitting but failed. It was my Aunt who taught me the Greek way (the placement of the needles differs: you tuck the working needle under your armpit) and that worked for me and I was off. I knitted a lot for many years and then gave it up for lack of time in grad school, when I took up making jewellery, which I still do, when in the mood. I have recently been reintroduced by Jodi, the virulent fibre-virus (yes, I coined the phrase) bless her and am knitting once more and spending too much money on yarn. I too am on ravelry as Susan-from-Athens.

Besides knitting, I learned to crochet while still in primary school (Greek girls are supposed to be accomplished in this way, and I always loved doing things with my hands) but I never took to it the way I did to knitting. I can't or won't sew, but still embroider from time to time and have been known to weave, knot, and cross-stitch. I have recently, since a visit to a Museum or three, become fascinated in samplers and am now planning an expansion in that direction. Where I will find the time I do not know.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 01:03:16 GMT
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jmeadows- if you're already spinning, then it's really not far to mix fiber types! You should experiment!

I started dying stuff very young... I did science fair experiments dying various fabrics with brown onion skins (and won a bunch of prizes, too!). I did a more elaborate version a couple years later, using mordants and stuff (things you add to the dye bath that change the way it affects fabric), and then a few years after that I played around with organic indigo (gorgeous color, nasty smell). It wasn't until I started helping a costume designer friend with stuff that I got to play with more mainstream dyes.

When I was 5 or so, one of my big presents was a little wooden loom, and I grew up card weaving as well. My mother actually wove my talis for when I was Bat
Mitzvah'd. I'm so incredibly out of practice with spinning... I have no idea where my drop spindle(s) is. I've got a wheel, but it's not been used for a while... one of my cats kept chewing through the band on it and I got tired of replacing it. I really should pick it up again, especially since I'm knitting/crocheting now and it would be awesome to have my own yarn to do it with (and since that cat has passed away and will no longer chew through it...).

I've got a few pictures of the wire stuff I've been doing. The first two are crochet, the third is just wrapping, and the fourth is knitting. The knitted one is with 24ga wire, which tore my hands up pretty bad...I made two of them so I've got a matching pair. I've done more pieces since these, but

haven't taken pictures (and apologies in advance for the bad photography!).

http://www.polybemani.net/uploader/userfiles/8/Rosette%20Nec klace.JPG
http://www.polybemani.net/uploader/userfiles/8/goldstone%20c hain.JPG
http://www.polybemani.net/uploader/userfiles/8/Hatpin.JPG
http://www.polybemani.net/uploader/userfiles/8/Photo%205.jpg

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 01:11:15 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Tue, 14 October 2008 21:03jmeadows- if you're already spinning, then it's really not far to mix fiber types! You should experiment!

faints I mean, I spin blends. Wool, bamboo, silk (well, planning), other stuff... I'm just not sure it's safe for me to own a drum carder or purchase fleece.

Your photos are lovely!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 01:14:17 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Tue, 14 October 2008 21:11Mori-neko wrote on Tue, 14 October 2008 21:03jmeadows- if you're already spinning, then it's really not far to mix fiber types! You should experiment!

faints I mean, I spin blends. Wool, bamboo, silk (well, planning), other stuff... I'm just not sure it's safe for me to own a drum carder or purchase fleece.

Your photos are lovely!

I've actually done silk from cocoons... I don't recall the exact circumstances, but I wound up with a batch of silkworms, which went through their standard process and gave me a (small) pile of cocoons to spin. We also at one point (since my mother can spin and weave etc. as well) got a full fleece to play with....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 01:53:05 GMT
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nice thread but a little bit intimidating for us starter babies. i don't sew very well so i collaborate with my friend who is a fantastic sewer and i design the quilt and we put it together.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 02:01:57 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Tue, 14 October 2008 19:00Hurrah! Someone (not me!) posted a thread. Now I don't look like such a virus. ;)

Yes, you do.

Just yesterday you tried to convince me to try knitting things out of alpaca when I pleaded a wool allergy. That's totally viral.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 02:08:03 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Tue, 14 October 2008 22:01jmeadows wrote on Tue, 14 October 2008 19:00Hurrah! Someone (not me!) posted a thread. Now I don't look like such a virus. ;)

Yes, you do.

Just yesterday you tried to convince me to try knitting things out of alpaca when I pleaded a wool allergy. That's totally viral.

There's LOTS of things to knit that aren't wool! That's hardly an excuse.... I've got the FABULOUS cotton, for example.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 02:22:47 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Tue, 14 October 2008 21:14
I've actually done silk from cocoons... I don't recall the exact circumstances, but I wound up with a batch of silkworms, which went through their standard process and gave me a (small) pile of cocoons to spin. We also at one point (since my mother can spin and weave etc. as well) got a full fleece to play with....

Ooh, how fancy!

I went to a fiber festval a couple weeks ago and picked up some silk caps. The guy who sold them to me explained how to do it, but I'm still pretty nervous! I'd hate to mess them up!

How did you like the cocoons?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 02:24:51 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Tue, 14 October 2008 22:01
Yes, you do.

Just yesterday you tried to convince me to try knitting things out of alpaca when I pleaded a wool allergy. That's totally viral.

There's also linen, hemp, cotton, silk, tons of synthetic fibers... Oh, oh, angora, cashmere (mmm), mohair (seems itchy to me, though), and quivet! (I think that's how you spell it, but I am just as likely wrong. It's expensive, at any rate, but supposed to be very soft.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 02:49:41 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Tue, 14 October 2008 22:24
There's also linen, hemp, cotton, silk, tons of synthetic fibers... Oh, oh, angora, cashmere (mmm), mohair (seems itchy to me, though), and quivet! (I think that's how you spell it, but I am just as likely wrong. It's expensive, at any rate, but supposed to be very soft.)

You see--like a virus, it multiplies, overwhelming its target! :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 03:09:07 GMT
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Mori, those are fabulous! *coos with admiration*

A friend of mine (Reading Angel here on the forum) has a llama that should really be shorn next year (Texas heat is hard on hairy creatures), and I've promised to help them find out all about the glorious fiber process--mostly so that I can learn it myself XD

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 03:55:52 GMT
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They're really fun to do, too. The crocheted ones were done with a size E hook and 30ga copper wire and goldstone beads. I -love- goldstone.

I want to work with some silver wire, but it's awfully expensive...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 09:37:42 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 06:55They're really fun to do, too. The crocheted ones were done with a size E hook and 30ga copper wire and goldstone beads. I -love- goldstone.

I want to work with some silver wire, but it's awfully expensive...

Your stuff is lovely. I have a crocheted silver bracelet with pearls and have thought of trying but worried what it would do to my hands and to my pocket book! Well done anyhow!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 09:42:22 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 05:01jmeadows wrote on Tue, 14 October 2008 19:00Hurrah! Someone (not me!) posted a thread. Now I don't look like such a virus. ;)

Yes, you do.

Just yesterday you tried to convince me to try knitting things out of alpaca when I pleaded a wool allergy. That's totally viral.

It is Jodi. A nice virus. With our own good in mind. But potent! However I agree with you about going to another fibre. Cotton is wonderful to knit with, so is silk. Don't miss out Black Bear. You too can be infected. Join the Jodi-positive strain of this forum!

holmes44 don't be intimidated. We all started out once. And as we keep adding to our addictions we are all frequently beginners again, so feel happy to help others along the way and ask for help too. Hey, you got going on the forum (as did I), you got your avatar up (as did I) and neither of us was particularly sure about that to begin with, were we? Baby-steps sounds a bit patronising and psycho-babblish but that is the way most of us learn anything. Expanding our horizons day by day. Now if only we could expand our days to fit our horizons :).

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 14:45:43 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 05:37Mori-neko wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 06:55They're really fun to do, too. The crocheted ones were done with a size E hook and 30ga copper wire and goldstone beads. I -love- goldstone.

I want to work with some silver wire, but it's awfully expensive...

Your stuff is lovely. I have a crocheted silver bracelet with pearls and have thought of trying but worried what it would do to my hands and to my pocket book! Well done anyhow!

Thank you!

Working with the fine copper wire is actually pretty nice on my hands. The 24ga that the cuff is made out of was murder though.... I did a couple things with steel wire that was really fine, but much less malleable than the copper, and that tore me up pretty good too. I've got one that I did with some insulated malleable wire I got from Radio Shack and a very tiny hook that came out pretty neat... A couple nice things about working with wire: it's MUCH harder to drop stitches (I've managed it, but most of the time if you're hooks/needles come out, the stitch stays there), and it can be easier to see some of the intricacy in the piece, especially when you're using small hooks.

On the other hand, I keep finding myself looking for new wire to try (I got a reel of 32ga copper wire designed for making electromagnets that I'm working with now).

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 14:56:29 GMT
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I have to agree Mori-Neko, your stuff is beautiful.
I myself am a crocheter and a beginning knitter. I languished in confusion for a long time until I realized that the knitting my grandmother taught me was continental combined, which is why the way I did it looked so different from everyone else. I have since adapted to plain old continental for ease in following diagrams and whatnot.
I can handle anything square/rectangular, or circular, if it's crochet. I haven't graduated to anything differently shaped, like clothing. But I have just successfully taught myself cable knit! I really want to make an afghan out of my remnants for "Afghans for Afghans," but that depends on my mother being able to find all of my scraps which are somewhere in her basement. I am too poor to buy a whole afghan's worth of new wool yarn. (The charity won't send acrylic blankets over, because Afghanistan is COLD and they aren't exactly living in comfortably heated houses).

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 15:33:45 GMT
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The llama should have been shorn this year... I'm still unclear as to why we didn't, poor thing. But, we'll have to catch her and wash her thoroughly before we can sheer her... I wonder if we can sheer the baby llama or if it's better to wait a bit? His wool is much cleaner than Wilma's is...

Hello, fibercrafters! Y'all can call me Angel. I've been knitting for nearly a month now, I guess, thanks to Charismitaine. I used to know how to crochet but it's been about 8 years since I've done anything with crochet, but luckily I had all this yarn sitting about from that handy for when I started knitting. I'm not very good at embroidery but I can do it. It helps if I have a pattern to follow, though.
I have been working on a cross-stitch pattern for nearly four years now - I pick it up when I have nothing else going on and do steady work for a few weeks and then get bored because I've finished the interesting part and am now putting the trees around the outside and the shadows in the background.
I'm also fairly handy with a sewing machine, my Mom has been a quilter since I can remember, and I made my first quilt when I was 9. I'd rather sew costumes, though, than quilts since I have a tendency not to sew in a straight line and that's much more important in making a quilt... I'm

working on a skirt made entirely of men's ties, but I've yet to decide how long/short it's going to be and the exact construction is still under debate.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 15:56:42 GMT
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Laura wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 10:56I have to agree Mori-Neko, your stuff is beautiful.
I myself am a crocheter and a beginning knitter. I languished in confusion for a long time until I realized that the knitting my grandmother taught me was continental combined, which is why the way I did it looked so different from everyone else. I have since adapted to plain old continental for ease in following diagrams and whatnot.
I can handle anything square/rectangular, or circular, if it's crochet. I haven't graduated to anything differently shaped, like clothing. But I have just successfully taught myself cable knit! I really want to make an afghan out of my remnants for "Afghans for Afghans," but that depends on my mother being able to find all of my scraps which are somewhere in her basement. I am too poor to buy a whole afghan's worth of new wool yarn. (The charity won't send acrylic blankets over, because Afghanistan is COLD and they aren't exactly living in comfortably heated houses).

I'd learned to knit long ago from my mother, then didn't do it for a long time (there's less call for knitted stuff in SoCal, and I never got into socks). Moved up to Oregon, and suddenly there's cold weather! Joy! The Domiknitrix book was one she found and got me, and it has instructions for two basic styles of knitting... until then I didn't even know there WAS another way to do it! I tried doing the one that's right-dominant, and simply couldn't (tried it reversed, since I'm a lefty, too, but couldn't do that either), so I'm sticking to the style that uses both hands.

The shaping on this halter has me a bit intimidated.... I've done the rows of ribbing, where that's all you're doing, and have kind of stalled out because I'm scared of getting my increases and decreases all wrong....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 16:05:31 GMT
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Yeah, increases and decreases are intimidating. I have gotten a lot more confidence from http://www.knittinghelp.com. (I am link impaired, it seems). The videos there are extremely clear.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 18:52:13 GMT
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Look what I just found!

Now I really want to try it! If only I had a spindle...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 18:54:02 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 14:52Look what I just found!

Now I really want to try it! If only I had a spindle...

That's awesome!

But you don't think you'd get papercuts?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 19:04:58 GMT
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Can you get papercuts from newspaper? That hadn't occurred to me... I just think it looks cool and fairly simple and a great thing to recycle all the newspapers that just get thrown away around here...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 19:08:55 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 15:04Can you get papercuts from newspaper? That hadn't occurred to me... I just think it looks cool and fairly simple and a great thing to recycle

all the newspapers that just get thrown away around here...

Some of us can get papercuts from anything!

I agree, though. It looks cool, and would be great for recycling.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 19:15:18 GMT
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Hmm, my concern would be the way newspaper ink tends to rub off on everything!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by southdowner on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 19:25:48 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 02:03I've got a few pictures of the wire stuff I've been doing.
These are just fantastic, mori-neko! I reallly love the goldstone chain, what a superb piece of jewellery (stroking screen!)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 20:42:14 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 17:45
Working with the fine copper wire is actually pretty nice on my I keep finding myself looking for new wire to try (I got a reel of 32ga copper wire designed for making electromagnets that I'm working with now).

You can get yourself some drawing plates and draw your own wire. My father used to do it for copper and silver wire and it really isn't hard at all. That way you can pull your wire to any gauge you want to work with.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Mori-neko on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 22:15:44 GMT
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Well, I just figured out how I wanted to do the clasp for a bracelet in similar style to that chain (it's about an inch and a half wide, with a row of goldstone in the center). I also just found a resource for ordering the specific wire I was using online... it's about $4 for a 40 yard spool of copper. I think when I'm a bit more flush, I'm going to order a bunch. I actually want to figure out pricing so I can sell it. *grin*

Also, that newspaper yarn looks NEAT! Just the thing to do a set of placemats out of or something... maybe a wallhanging that'd get touched up with paints?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Wed, 15 Oct 2008 23:48:11 GMT
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Oh man, I know I have some fine copper wire somewhere, and now I'm dying to crochet with it! And I barely know how to crochet....*compulsively overreaches her grasp*

I read that article on spun newspaper a while ago and have been dying to try it, but some blogs said it was very tricky and that the ink does get all over your hands, so it might have limited uses and is maybe not a beginner project...but still! cool! I've also read about knitting and crocheting with recycled plastic bags, which looks like it could have really cool results--I've been talking about crocheting a mat and seeing how it holds up.

Quote:The llama should have been shorn this year... I'm still unclear as to why we didn't, poor thing.
I think it's too late in the year, now--it wouldn't grow back soon enough.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Thu, 16 Oct 2008 01:07:27 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Wed, 15 October 2008 19:48Oh man, I know I have some fine copper wire somewhere, and now I'm dying to crochet with it! And I barely know how to crochet....*compulsively overreaches her grasp*

I'd just BARELY learned to crochet when I started doing this. In some ways, it's actually -easier-. I've learned SO much in the way of technique doing this, but when I started (not too long ago,

either) I could barely do a single crochet. Jumping in headfirst is fun!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 16 Oct 2008 20:01:38 GMT
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this is the top half and bottom half of the quilt i made my husband for christmas last year.he loves watching poker, so i made him a poker quilt.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 16 Oct 2008 21:43:42 GMT
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Well done Bonnie (with the quilt and with the photo posting!). I envy your skill, as I can't sew worth a damn. I have nightmares of fingers caught in sewing machines. I think I saw somebody's finger get caught once in an old fashioned one and it freaked me out for life. Otherwise my imagination made the image up.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by afuzzybird on Thu, 16 Oct 2008 21:50:15 GMT
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Quote:Oh! And for any other gamers out there, I'm crocheting Katamari for several friends as christmas presents

That is the best thing I've ever heard. You're my new hero. Seriously. Too bad the only thing I can knit is a scarf. Or other rectangular object (towel, washcloth, cat-sized blanket).

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 16 Oct 2008 21:52:48 GMT
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between jodi excellent instructions for posting all things and black bears concise instructions in the tips and trick. look ma, i got a sig line. it is hard not to learn.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 01:06:56 GMT
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afuzzybird wrote on Thu, 16 October 2008 17:50Quote:Oh! And for any other gamers out there, I'm crocheting Katamari for several friends as christmas presents

That is the best thing I've ever heard. You're my new hero. Seriously. Too bad the only thing I can knit is a scarf. Or other rectangular object (towel, washcloth, cat-sized blanket).

http://amysbabies.wordpress.com/magnetic-katamari-pattern/ is the pattern I'm using for the katamari.

Another random (and quite neat) pattern, http://knitty.com/ISSUEwinter06/PATTbinary.html

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Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by livvispatula on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 05:58:01 GMT
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I've been knitting since I was nine-ish and crocheting since...three, four years ago? I love making socks and hats; basically anything small, quick, not too fiddly, and utterly lacking in cables. I'll do sweaters only if I *really* love the pattern, and I'm never making a blanket again.

Recently I've been "forced" to watch Firefly by a friend, and I was immediately inspired to recreate Jayne's hat for him. The only problem is, I don't know how to make pom poms. Do any of you know how to do it?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mrs Redboots on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 11:41:08 GMT
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I've been knitting for simply ever, but started to do it really seriously when my daughter was born. I crochet a lot, too, but find knitting easier. And have done some spinning in my time (but no longer have the time for it, alas).

I'm not on Ravelry - I seriously haven't the time for any more forums (fora?) in my life, including this one!

This Christmas, I am knitting these bags for people, which will be filled with a variety of goodies, including my home-made soap and washcloths like these. Think I might just have to do a Chalice one....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 12:09:38 GMT
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livvispatula wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 08:58I've been knitting since I was nine-ish and crocheting since...three, four years ago? I love making socks and hats; basically anything small, quick, not too fiddly, and utterly lacking in cables. I'll do sweaters only if I *really* love the pattern, and I'm never making a blanket again.

Recently I've been "forced" to watch Firefly by a friend, and I was immediately inspired to recreate Jayne's hat for him. The only problem is, I don't know how to make pom poms. Do any of you know how to do it?

Yes, it is very easy. Use a soft fibre for a very caressable pom-pom. On a doubled up piece of light card draw two concentric circles. Cut around the edge and cut out the inner circle so you have two rings. The size of the outer circle determines the size of the pompom and the size of the inner circle the density and amount of yarn. If you want a slight pompom make the inner circle small. If you want a super dense one make it big.

Loop your yarn around the ring to cover the entire surface of the ring (as neatly as possible)(I start at 12 o'clock and go clockwise, but my sister says I am too fussy with these things). Then keep going around until you fill the entire hole up.

With a pair of sharp scissors cut into the outer edge of this bloated doughnut shape. You want to cut between the two layers of the card. So think of your pre-pom-pom as Saturn you want to slice along the plane of Saturn's rings, but only the outer layer. Once you reveal the "card sandwich" and be careful here not to remove the cards (I am mixing up my metaphors horribly) you use a piece of yarn to tie around the central core of the pom-pom. You tie it as tightly as you can.

Then you remove the card, fluff up the pom-pom and do any trimming necessary. I hope that makes sense.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by AJLR on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 12:23:35 GMT
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There's a nice little video about making a pom-pom here, if anyone would like a visual prompt alongside Susan's helpful explanation. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by livvispatula on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 13:31:45 GMT
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Ooh, thank you so much!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Becky in VT on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 13:46:01 GMT
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I simply cannot believe I'm the first to find this, but it's not anywhere else in the forums (that I can find)

Yarn Harlot was in Boston yesterday, and someone brought in a knitted cable pattern representation of change ringing:

They called it Cambridge Major.

I actually think this picture helps me understand change ringing, maybe a little...

Oh, and I've never introduced myself forum-wise. I'm Becky, I've been sewing since I was a kid, but I never learned to knit (although I wanted to, I had no one to teach me) So in college I made a knitting friend teach me and it's been going strong ever since! I taught myself to spin as well, but I can knit on the bus, so that's my major craft these days.

~Becky

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by scarhandpiper on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 15:17:13 GMT

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I just typed this all out and my computer ate it! Ahhhhhh!

I love this "thread"! Very warm and fuzzy!

I've been doing fibre things since I was 7. Not going to tell you how many years that is! I can:

Knit
Sew
cross stitch
embroider
spin and
crochet (but all my squares come out as trapezoids or parallellograms!)

I am currently working on a Christmas stocking in cross stitch, and a knitted lacey sweater in blue bamboo wool (blue makes me happy!)

I just finished a hat in grey wool that my daughter spun on a drop spindle. I feel safe in saying it has character.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by scarhandpiper on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 15:26:02 GMT
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Becky in VT wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 07:46I simply cannot believe I'm the first to find this, but it's not anywhere else in the forums (that I can find)

Yarn Harlot was in Boston yesterday, and someone brought in a knitted cable pattern representation of change ringing:

They called it Cambridge Major.

~Becky

I can't see this pic/link, and I 'd really love to! Do you have a different link or some such thing?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by scarhandpiper on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 15:27:46 GMT
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Never mind, I found it.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Becky in VT on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 15:49:26 GMT
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In case anyone else has this problem, just click on the link and scroll down, it's there (the green cabled scarfy thing)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 17:02:51 GMT
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i am currently in the process of making a quilt for my sister and her husband for Christmas. i worked out the design and chose the colors, now i just have to buy the materials to make it.hopefully will have enough money by end of the month.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 17 Oct 2008 17:51:50 GMT
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livvispatula wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 16:31Ooh, thank you so much!

You're welcome. I did my first in grade school. I don't want to think how far back!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Lissla Lissar on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 00:10:08 GMT
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You know, the very last thing I need is another forum. Fora. Anyway, I sew, spin, have done weaving (although not recently), and have been making doll's clothes since I was born. I graduated to trying to half-ass clothing in about grade nine. I've done fine jewelry chainmail, too, which kind of counts as knitting.

I keep getting clobbered into making wedding dresses. One more, and then never again. Unless I ever have a daughter. Maybe then. Maybe.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 01:35:10 GMT
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livvispatula wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 01:58
Recently I've been "forced" to watch Firefly by a friend, and I was immediately inspired to recreate Jayne's hat for him. The only problem is, I don't know how to make pom poms. Do any of you know how to do it?

Yay Firefly! A friend of mine with a new baby has finally watched Firefly, and now I'm dying to make a Jayne hat for her offspring XD

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by livvispatula on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 01:44:54 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 21:35livvispatula wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 01:58
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Yay Firefly! A friend of mine with a new baby has finally watched Firefly, and now I'm dying to make a Jayne hat for her offspring XD

You have to post pictures when you get it done! Baby + Jayne hat = win!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 03:44:59 GMT
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Lissla Lissar wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 20:10 I've done fine jewelry chainmail, too, which kind of counts as knitting.

Ooh! I keep thinking about getting into chainmail.... though I really wish I could make gloves. Generally, I think it's best that I don't, though. I REALLY don't need more to do!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 05:23:54 GMT
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I've wanted to get into making chainmail for a while - I've made byzantine chain bracelets before and it was tonnes of fun*, but I am simply staggered by the expense of enough wire to make something out of chainmail...

*though also quite a bit confusing - it requires a lot of focus and memory to get which link goes where and then where it connects...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 07:31:04 GMT
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livvispatula wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 21:44Charismitaine wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 21:35livvispatula wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 01:58
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You have to post pictures when you get it done! Baby + Jayne hat = win!

I will! XD It'll be a little while, because I have to learn how, of course--I haven't attempted knitting in the round yet *fears lack of knitting mojo*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Lissla Lissar on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 12:53:13 GMT
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I've cheated, and done Japanese chainmail, which is far, far less confusing than European, and easier to do in tiny links. I'm trying to find links off my blog, but the images are huge and... well, huge.

There are lots of tutorials online. If you can make chain, you can do Japanese chainmail.

A Jayne hat for a baby would be awesome.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by livvispatula on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 13:09:11 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 03:31I will! XD It'll be a little while, because I have to learn how, of course--I haven't attempted knitting in the round yet *fears lack of knitting mojo*

Aww, knitting in the round isn't that bad. Especially if you're doing something as small as a baby hat. The secret is to make sure you don't drop the needles you're not currently working with - I used to put rubber bands on the ends when I was first learning - and to make sure the stitches at the ends of the needles are tight enough that they stay next to each other instead of leaving a gap that looks like you dropped a stitch. A little gap is normal, though.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by livvispatula on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 16:50:00 GMT
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Here we go...

I couldn't find the colors of yarn I wanted so I went with whatever was softest. Turned out pretty cunning, don'cha think?

File Attachments
1) DSC00066.JPG, downloaded 232 times

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Kristin in MT on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 17:19:19 GMT
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Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 17:40:45 GMT
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livvispatula wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 09:09Charismitaine wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 03:31I will! XD It'll be a little while, because I have to learn how, of course--I haven't attempted knitting in the round yet *fears lack of knitting mojo*

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I have a set of interchangeable connected needles (lots of different sizes and various lengths of connectors for them). They make knitting in the round a breeze (trying to do it with normal needles scared me...)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by livvispatula on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 18:17:45 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 13:40I have a set of interchangeable connected needles (lots of different sizes and various lengths of connectors for them). They make knitting in the round a breeze (trying to do it with normal needles scared me...)

But you can't do really small stuff like gloves and socks and baby hats with those. Can you?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 19:29:00 GMT
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livvispatula wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 14:17Mori-neko wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 13:40I have a set of interchangeable connected needles (lots of different sizes and various lengths of connectors for them). They make knitting in the round a breeze (trying to do it with normal needles scared me...)

But you can't do really small stuff like gloves and socks and baby hats with those. Can you?

You can! My set goes from like a 3 to an 11, and there're connectors from very short to very long. For some things you want double pointed needles, but for pretty much anything else you can use the connected ones. And when you're not working, you can pull them together so you're less likely to lose stitches.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by livvispatula on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 20:25:09 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 15:29livvispatula wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 14:17Mori-neko wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 13:40I have a set of interchangeable connected needles (lots of different sizes and various lengths of connectors for them). They make knitting in the round a breeze (trying to do it with normal needles scared me...)

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I have a set, but they go from 5 to 15. But I always use 1s or 2s for socks because I knit too loosely.

Hey, does anyone else have this problem or know how I can fix it? When I'm doing stockinette stitch, my knit and purl rows sort of bunch up in pairs. I think I must have the tension different when I'm knitting as opposed to purling but it *feels* the same....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 21:16:17 GMT

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livvispatula wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 12:50Here we go...

It looks awesome!!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 21:18:55 GMT
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livvispatula wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 16:25
Hey, does anyone else have this problem or know how I can fix it? When I'm doing stockinette stitch, my knit and purl rows sort of bunch up in pairs. I think I must have the tension different when I'm knitting as opposed to purling but it *feels* the same....

I think most people purl looser than they knit. Your gauge will change when you knit stockinette in the round (be tighter), because you won't be purling. Give your purls an extra tug, if you're worried about it. Otherwise, it's just something to be aware of. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 18 Oct 2008 22:03:44 GMT
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livvispatula wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 19:50Here we go...

I couldn't find the colors of yarn I wanted so I went with whatever was softest. Turned out pretty cunning, don'cha think?

Lovely happy colours. In Greece in the winter so many people are going around in black and navy blue that I feel like pouncing on them and passing out colourful accessories. You know, a yellow/gold hat, a red scarf, a pink umbrella. Just to cheer them up! This is very cheerful!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Sun, 19 Oct 2008 00:28:19 GMT
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Charismitaine and I went to the local Yarn Shop today! So Much Pretty! And it was all so soft! We

both ended up with two skeins of fine Alpaca yarn - hers are green and mine a lovely shade of brown... We had dragged along her sister and two other friends and so were forced to leave pretty quickly but all the ladies who worked in the yarn shop were so nice and friendly I could easily have stayed for hours just chatting and watching them knit and stroking my alpaca wool...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by KitF on Sun, 19 Oct 2008 02:38:29 GMT
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I have a young friend who requested one of these hats for her gift this year. She sent me a link to the pattern, as I wasn't familiar with the show. The yarn has just arrived and it's next in line for working up. (My daughter has loaned me the series on dvd so I will be less clueless.)

Currently I'm working on the knitted tea set out of Itty Bitty Nursery for my granddaughter and a second one for a niece. My Emili dragged me into the yarn shop to show me the sample and begged. What can I say - I'm a besotted grandmother.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Sun, 19 Oct 2008 03:33:09 GMT
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A Knitted Tea Set! That sounds fabulous! My little cousin has a tea-party theme going to her room and I've been thinking of knitting her something... May I ask where you got your pattern for it?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by KitF on Sun, 19 Oct 2008 04:20:39 GMT
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It's called the Cupcake Tea Set and the pattern is in the book Itty-Bitty Nursery by Susan B. Anderson. Mostly the yarn is cotton, and you actually do about as much crocheting as knitting. I alternate between sitting there thinking that this is really cool and muttering about the cracked up sort of world where I would be sitting there knitting a plate. If I am doing this properly I am adding a photo of a completed serving plate with a dime for scale.

Note: I deleted the picture because it was huge and causing problems. I'll figure out how to get it smaller later in the week.

With any luck this one will work.

File Attachments
1) small knitted plate.jpg, downloaded 76 times

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 19 Oct 2008 23:07:09 GMT
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Adorable! (But is there any way to shrink the photo a bit? It's doing wonky things to my screen....)

Local Yarn Shop = fabulous--but I'm so glad I waited to go until I had money o.0 And now I will have to wait until I have money again to go again XD

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by KitF on Sun, 19 Oct 2008 23:19:05 GMT
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Quote:Adorable! (But is there any way to shrink the photo a bit? It's doing wonky things to my screen....)

Thank you. (And to tell you the truth, I don't know. Moderators? Is there some way I can make that photo smaller?)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 19 Oct 2008 23:31:30 GMT
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KitF wrote on Sun, 19 October 2008 19:19Quote:Adorable! (But is there any way to shrink the photo a bit? It's doing wonky things to my screen....)

Thank you. (And to tell you the truth, I don't know. Moderators? Is there some way I can make that photo smaller?)

Upload a smaller file size? That's all I got.

Or try uploading to Flickr/Photobucket and using the image tool that asks you to put in the URL - and use the medium size when you grab the URL.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by livvispatula on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 02:01:32 GMT
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KitF wrote on Sun, 19 October 2008 19:19Quote:Adorable! (But is there any way to shrink the photo a bit? It's doing wonky things to my screen....)

Thank you. (And to tell you the truth, I don't know. Moderators? Is there some way I can make that photo smaller?)

Open the picture in Paint. Press Ctrl+W to get the Resize window. 25% should do it. Then edit your post to use the smaller picture.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Guest on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 04:07:38 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Sat, 18 October 2008 18:23I've wanted to get into making chainmail for a while - I've made byzantine chain bracelets before and it was tonnes of fun*, but I am simply staggered by the expense of enough wire to make something out of chainmail...

*though also quite a bit confusing - it requires a lot of focus and memory to get which link goes where and then where it connects...

I have a friend (also in the SCA) who plays with chain mail and he made me a chain mail bra - which except for being a bit cold, is actually suprisingly comfortable. And not at all see thru!

I can share the pic if anyone is interested.

He also gave me lessons (and made me the cutest starter kit for my bday) on 4 link, 6 link, box, byzantine and something else - yes it is really hard concentration. I found it really hard on the wrists as well.

If you want links then this is a great place to go (and they ship world wide)

http://theringlord.com/cart/shopdisplaycategories.asp?id=1&a mp;cat=Rings

They do really cool aluminium rings in lots of pretty colours - its light so easy to work and wear (as well as the other kinds of rings)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 04:25:04 GMT
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Now I'm lamenting buying so much yarn yesterday...

And of course, I'd have the same issue with a chainmail bra as I do with ones with underwires - in the event that my heart stops and I need a defibrillator I would be completely exposed as they attempt to save my life, since the electric current and the metal in the garment are not conducive to the defibrillator working properly...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by librarykat on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 05:07:28 GMT
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I have tried and failed a number of times to learn knitting. My mother, who knits and crochets and was a professional dressmaker and pattern drafter, tried to teach me. She was more successful in teaching me to sew and embroider, so that is what I do. I'm a crazy person and prefer to handstitch everything rather than use a sewing machine, however. I have sewn several dresses by hand, including a 1920s flapper dress of satin. I do better with origami and jewelry making, and make earrings with miniature origami designs, I also make tiny handbound books into earrings. I handbind the books myself, using Japanese washi paper for the covers.

I do have a couple pairs of knitting needles and some yarn, and may probably attempt to knit again. It's just that you can't take knitting needles on board aircraft anymore, and I always found that cross stitching and such helps pass the time in airports and on flights. It's very irksome that I can't do this anymore.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by librarykat on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 05:14:44 GMT
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librarykat wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 00:07I have tried and failed a number of times to learn knitting. My mother, who knits and crochets and was a professional dressmaker and pattern drafter, tried to teach me. She was more successful in teaching me to sew and embroider, so that is what I do. I'm a crazy person and prefer to handstitch everything rather than use a sewing machine, however. I have sewn several dresses by hand, including a 1920s flapper dress of satin. I do better with origami and jewelry making, and make earrings with miniature origami

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Oh yes, I am also attempting Hawaiian quilting. My mother does it, and I have a couple of pillows that she made for me. I will NOT attempt a full quilt, I have a few smaller project kits I picked up in Hawaii on my last trip home. One of our libraries there has a collection of full-size quilt patterns, and there are tourists who actually travel there just to copy the patterns. They have to lay them out on the floor!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by livvispatula on Mon, 20 Oct 2008 05:33:13 GMT
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librarykat wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 01:07I do have a couple pairs of knitting needles and some yarn, and may probably attempt to knit again. It's just that you can't take knitting needles on board aircraft anymore, and I always found that cross stitching and such helps pass the time in airports and on flights. It's very irksome that I can't do this anymore.

Are you sure about this? I've taken my needles to airports several times, and never gotten stopped. I was worried once when I saw a sign at the gate saying NO KNITTING NEEDLES, but they didn't do anything, even when I took my needles out right there and started working on the sock I was making....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Wed, 22 Oct 2008 01:21:22 GMT
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yea, i bought the materiel for the quilt i'm making for my sister yesterday. i hope it turns out all right.if it does, will post a pic of it here. keep fingers crossed for me.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by scarhandpiper on Wed, 22 Oct 2008 19:30:26 GMT

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livvispatula wrote on Sun, 19 October 2008 23:33librarykat wrote on Mon, 20 October 2008 01:07I do have a couple pairs of knitting needles and some yarn, and may probably attempt to knit again. It's just that you can't take knitting needles on board aircraft anymore, and I always found that cross stitching and such helps pass the time in airports and on flights. It's very irksome that I can't do this anymore.

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According to the TSA, knitting needles are allowed on US flights. See their website, http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted- prohibited-items.shtm#4

Some TSA agents, however, take offense and will make you check them just because they are having a bad day.

I work for an airline, and have done for over 6 years. I've knitted, crocheted, cross-stitched, you name it, on flights.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 15:20:42 GMT
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So, I need some smaller needles for the shiny new yarn that I got the other day(it calls for size 2, all I have are size 7 needles...). After searching Wal*Mart(they only have down to size 5, curse them!), I decided to look on Ebay. I have now bid on 6 different pairs of needles and two antique pocketwatches... This is why I stopped going to Ebay! I don't need that many needles! Or any pocketwatches for that matter! And, I just bid $11 on that one watch because the other person had bid $10 and was going to get it for $0.01 - which is in no way fair to the seller.. and then I got frustrated when I kept being outbid by their maximum bid and kept going until I was highest bidder at $11. Not including shipping... *headdesk*

I think I'm addicted to auctions! This is why I rarely go to them in real life...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by KitF on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 16:52:49 GMT

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There are a number of online retailers of knitting supplies. My favorite is WEBS (www.yarn.com). They have almost everything at good prices and the service has always been excellent in my experience. There are others, and I'm sure other people will weigh in with their favorites.

In terms of knitting while flying, as someone up above said, knitting needles are allowed under the rules - but the people on the spot have the final determination. I have found that if you make a point of sticking to wood or entirely plastic needles for flying the question never even comes up, as they don't show up on their scanner. I have been told, and not personally experienced, that there are other countries that do not allow knitting needles. I would check on the rules before attempting to board an international flight. (On the other hand, everyone allows pencils and I have heard of successful knitting using pencils for needles by the desperate.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 18:01:01 GMT
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See, that would have been smart, to look for a website specifically for knitting supplies. I'll wait and see if I get any of these before I pop over somewhere else, though, as I've already bid on them.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by scarhandpiper on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 18:27:06 GMT
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KitF wrote on Thu, 23 October 2008 10:52There are a number of online retailers of knitting supplies. My favorite is WEBS (www.yarn.com). They have almost everything at good prices and the service has always been excellent in my experience. There are others, and I'm sure other people will weigh in with their favorites.

In terms of knitting while flying, as someone up above said, knitting needles are allowed under the rules - but the people on the spot have the final determination. I have found that if you make a point of sticking to wood or entirely plastic needles for flying the question never even comes up, as they don't show up on their scanner. I have been told, and not personally experienced, that there are other countries that do not allow knitting needles. I would check on the rules before attempting to board an international flight. (On the other hand, everyone allows pencils and I have heard of successful knitting using pencils for needles by the desperate.)

Very good advice.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 18:28:29 GMT
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I just want to let ya'll know that I'm on Ravelry now, name of "readingangel" - is anyone surprised?

It's a big scary place... *cowers in corner*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Akai on Thu, 23 Oct 2008 19:42:44 GMT
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I knit, but I find I have staying issues with any project I start. I have one finished knee sock for my sister (which looks rather homely, since I couldn't figure out the turning heel) and a number of unfinished scarves. The only thing I seem to be able to complete are teddy bears. I would love to be able to knit something awesome like the sweaters I see, but I know I don't have the patience. Sigh. Long live the knitted bear, I suppose.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 00:49:27 GMT
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Thought I'd get it on the action.

I can't knit, embroider, or do any sort of fancy stuff like spinning. I've never made a quilt. But I am 6'2" tall, and I learned to sew at a young age, because there were no clothes out there that fit me.

Fortunately when I was a teenager 501s and flannel shirts were the rage--or embroidered shirts (I was sort of a hippie, but mostly in the 70s, was a little too young in the 60s).

But I did teach myself to make bridal gowns. Decked out with pearls, fitted like a glove--I still don't know how I did it. I sort of felt my way through. I used patterns but switched sleeves and skirts and generally flipped things around until I had the look I wanted. I don't think I could do it now--I don't even have to make my own clothes anymore because so many places are starting to carry talls. But I love fabric, especially embroidered silks. I used to have a huge collection but I gave it to my SIL who does sculpture with fabrics. But I expect any day to start a new collection. Have you all checked out eBay? Man you can find some fine stuff on there...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 11:26:18 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Thu, 23 October 2008 20:49
But I did teach myself to make bridal gowns.

That sounds really neat! Do you have any photos of your creations?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 21:51:30 GMT
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I don't. I always kick myself about that. I do, however, still have one of my creations--the gown I made for my first wedding. Maybe I'll pull it out and snap a few...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 22:13:25 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Fri, 24 October 2008 03:49Thought I'd get it on the action.

I can't knit, embroider, or do any sort of fancy stuff like spinning. I've never made a quilt. But I am 6'2" tall, and I learned to sew at a young age, because there were no clothes out there that fit me.

Fortunately when I was a teenager 501s and flannel shirts were the rage--or embroidered shirts (I was sort of a hippie, but mostly in the 70s, was a little too young in the 60s).

...
Have you all checked out eBay? Man you can find some fine stuff on there...

I'm in awe of anyone who can sew. I knit, recently restarted due to Jodi, bless her. So I was thinking that we should make you something for your leg, encased as it will be in the pressure sock for a year. I was thinking that you won't want any more pressure from a second elastic (I've worn bandages with socks over them and you get secondary marks as the socks never fit perfectly over the bandages). So I was thinking like a leg-tabard? A tie-on rectangle, that would cover the bandage? If it doesn't stay up well (no guarantees) there are always safety pins. Otherwise a leg warmer - very fashionable in the eighties revival. Let me know dimensions. If anyone else fancies, we can have a competition? Or a knitting bee? For project finishing encouraging purposes!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 22:27:43 GMT
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You are too Kind, Susan. Leg warmers? Are they really back in style? I admit I wore them way back when...

A tabard would be a hoot. It would have to be teal, though. (Listen to me!)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 22:47:26 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Sat, 25 October 2008 01:27 It would have to be teal, though. (Listen to me!)

Okaaaay, as teal is one of those colours that is a bit hard to define (I've seen things from turquoise to emerald labelled teal) would you like to point at something or post something you regard as teal? I view it to be a deep blue/green colour.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 24 Oct 2008 23:08:45 GMT
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Any kind of blue green works for me! You're a sweetie.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 25 Oct 2008 00:10:13 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Sat, 25 October 2008 02:08Any kind of blue green works for me! You're a sweetie.

You'd change your mind if you really knew me. (Evil grin) I'll look out for fibre and you should get it by Christmas (to offer any sooner would, unfortunately be too optimistic) Dimensions? Do you want pompoms on the edges of the ties ;) ?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sat, 25 Oct 2008 00:58:12 GMT
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I think it should have pompoms. Maybe do it in a varigated material, so it has some sort of patterning to it?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 25 Oct 2008 01:09:47 GMT
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Well I was thinking the pattern to be textural rather than colour. A sort of mini stitch sampler, or a lace stitch, rather than a variegated colour. Easier to wear, particularly as Shelley has asked for a specific colour. Any allergies Shelley?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sat, 25 Oct 2008 20:15:42 GMT
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I'm allergic to wool, unless it's lined. Which would be a pain. Cotton is fine for me. Um, er, no pompoms, please. My dog will just eat them. I also like greens, if teal is too hard. And you really don't have to do this, you know. Not that I don't look forward to it. It just feels weird to say "yes" when someone suggests doing something for me--oh no, I see it now--I have a small case of the guilts! Here I am lying around while people are being so kind... and I like to give presents.

Your turn will come. (One of these days when I can get out and about. Mwahahahahaha.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sat, 25 Oct 2008 20:26:33 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Fri, 24 October 2008 18:13If anyone else fancies, we can have a competition? Or a knitting bee? For project finishing encouraging purposes!

I'm all for it! I just need dimensions XD And now I need a nap....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sat, 25 Oct 2008 20:29:34 GMT
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Looking for tape measure...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 25 Oct 2008 22:59:13 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Sat, 25 October 2008 23:15And you really don't have to do this, you know. Not that I don't look forward to it. It just feels weird to say "yes" when someone suggests doing something for me--oh no, I see it now--I have a small case of the guilts! Here I am lying around while people are being so kind... and I like to give presents.

Your turn will come. (One of these days when I can get out and about. Mwahahahahaha.)

Hey I've been in the post-surgery blues situation and it's always good to have things to look forward to. The best thing I did before going in for surgery was have a pedicure: it would have been misery looking at grotty toes and feet on weeks on end.

I firmly believe that I have been very fortunate in my life, I've received so much from my family and friends that I should spread it around. I prefer giving than receiving most of the time too :) And hey, a knitting challenge. This is good practice. Don't worry, no pompoms ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sat, 25 Oct 2008 23:40:15 GMT
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Hey, I got a pedicure, too--the day of my son's wedding, which was two days before the first surgery! Brilliant minds and all that. I still have the color on my toes--it's sort of a purple-ish (with a little maroon thrown in) with gold flecks. It's really beautiful, very dark. Whenever I get bummed I look at my toes.

Or I read this blog!

I found the measuring tape so I'll send dimensions to you--I guess I could post them here. Just remember I am a LONG lady, 6'2"! No tiny tabard for me!

And I love giving presents too, but right now all I could do is write bad poems or short stories for you, so it will have to wait.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 01:54:21 GMT
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I just ordered my first spindle! Spindles, actually--I decided to go ahead and get a kit with both a top whorl spindle and a bottom whorl spindle, so that I can try them both and see which one a prefer.

Of course, it occurs to me that anything I spin in this house will end up full of dog hair....

I'm enthusiastic about the sock-cover idea now--I'm having all kinds of dandy ideas on styles to try!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 02:14:18 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sat, 25 October 2008 21:54I just ordered my first spindle! Spindles, actually--I decided to go ahead and get a kit with both a top whorl spindle and a bottom whorl spindle, so that I can try them both and see which one a prefer.

Oh yay! From the MaineWoodsYarn? You're going to love it. Keep us updated on your progress!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 02:16:15 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sat, 25 October 2008 21:54
Of course, it occurs to me that anything I spin in this house will end up full of dog hair....

When I was younger, one of our cats had this rediculously long and soft fur... so I saved it when we brushed her, and spun it into yarn. Then I knitted a small rabbit out of it. ^^

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 02:59:17 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Sat, 25 October 2008 22:14Charismitaine wrote on Sat, 25 October 2008 21:54I just ordered my first spindle! Spindles, actually--I decided to go ahead and get a kit with both a top whorl spindle and a bottom whorl spindle, so that I can try them both and see which one a prefer.

Oh yay! From the MaineWoodsYarn? You're going to love it. Keep us updated on your progress!

Don't worry, I'm sure that as soon as it gets here you'll all be subjected to lots of pictures of yarn barf XD

I have contemplated collecting some of the dog hair and attempting to spin it, but while the Anatolian Shepherd sheds prodigiously and has soft fur, it's also pretty short...The wolfhound has longer hair, but of course it's rough and wiry, and both Sabriel and Caspian are short haired cats.

Mind you, my sister has lovely golden hair, and she sheds prodigiously too....XD

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 04:17:03 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sat, 25 October 2008 22:59
Don't worry, I'm sure that as soon as it gets here you'll all be subjected to lots of pictures of yarn barf XD

I have contemplated collecting some of the dog hair and attempting to spin it, but while the Anatolian Shepherd sheds prodigiously and has soft fur, it's also pretty short...The wolfhound has longer hair, but of course it's rough and wiry, and both Sabriel and Caspian are short haired cats.

Mind you, my sister has lovely golden hair, and she sheds prodigiously too....XD

Yay, yarn barf! I hung mine up on the wall. :)

Do try some pet hair if you're inclined, but don't be afraid to decide you don't wanna. I saved some Kippy fur - a lot, actually, but she has a lot - and tried spinning it. It...wasn't very fun. She's *soft*, but I didn't enjoy spinning it as much as wool and actual prepared fiber.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 04:25:24 GMT
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I used to know a woman who spun dog's hair but she could only do the kinds of dogs who have that soft undercoat, like Keeshounds. Sp?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 04:32:35 GMT
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I may make an attempt with Abby's fur--later, when I've had practice. Of course, Reading Angel's llama will need sheering next year, too, and I plan to be in on the whole affair--as much as possible, anyway. But leaping in blindly seems to be a good learning style for me XD and what better way to learn all of the steps of fiber processing than to do it yourself?

And, good grief, I remember now why I'm not allowed on ebay. Unless some kind person outbids me, I'm going to suddenly have an alarming number of knitting needles....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 04:36:36 GMT
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Charis, you've used XD a lot, and little old dumb me doesn't quite get it. Enlighten, please? The only thing I can think of is crossed, but that doesn't work in all contexts. I think. No, no, don't think!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 04:44:01 GMT
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Oh, it's nothing so complicated--just a smiley face. So smiley, in fact, that the eyes are all scrunched up, hence the X. It's one of the bad habits I've picked up from the internet, along with instant gratification and lolcats....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 04:45:09 GMT

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ssshunt wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 00:36Charis, you've used XD a lot, and little old dumb me doesn't quite get it. Enlighten, please? The only thing I can think of is crossed, but that doesn't work in all contexts. I think. No, no, don't think!

XD is a variant on :) ... characters put together to look like a face. I generally interpret it as a biiiiiig grin, enough to make the grinner kinda squinty.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 05:11:21 GMT
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Well don't I feel dumb! It never occurred to me to look at it like that. But now I see it, all crinkly eyed and happy--good for you.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 05:42:01 GMT
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The family all went to bed early tonight so I got to work on Mom's dishcloths for an hour before deciding my fingers were sore. They're for Christmas so I have to knit them in secret, which means it's taken me nearly 2 weeks to knit the 2nd one. Luckily I only have 6 more rows of pattern and then the 5 rows of border until it's done, which I should be able to manage tomorrow afternoon between classes. Or if I still can't sleep after I get off here I may get it mostly done tonight...

Charis - I know! Ebay is bad for my bank account... So many shiny things! I think I'm gonna try to make myself a necklace like the Timekeeper's Daughter ones - I bought some gears off of Etsy and bid on a little clock necklace on Ebay. You know, because I don't have nearly enough things to do...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 11:55:40 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 06:32And, good grief, I remember now why I'm not allowed on ebay. Unless some kind person outbids me, I'm going to suddenly have an alarming

number of knitting needles....
I knew there was a good reason to stay off it. My grandfather was a compulsive gambler (on the horses) and I have seen what an addictive personality I have (I stay well away from video games of all kinds: I don't want to think of the man hours wasted in the past over solitaire and tetris). There is no need to have another shopping compulsion. :) Now at least the forum (anybody noticed my compulsiveness here?) is free and fun!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 12:26:39 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 01:11Well don't I feel dumb! It never occurred to me to look at it like that. But now I see it, all crinkly eyed and happy--good for you.

Don't feel dumb, I am pretty savvy on teh interwebz and I had never seen that one before. I had just decided it meant "I'm dead" before I got to the explanation. (X's for eyes mean dead, right? I read comic books, I know these things.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 17:14:49 GMT
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Or drugged. Sometimes the X means drunk or drugged.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 17:31:24 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 19:14Or drugged. Sometimes the X means drunk or drugged.
Both you guys are way ahead of me. I literally thought it was XD and was an acronym too far for me ***sigh*** Oh well, it took me four years to figure out what LOL is. I have since discovered the urban dictionary.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 17:32:35 GMT

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And super yay! that was the first tag I managed to add to text. Small triumphs like this are what we live for ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 17:45:15 GMT
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So I know I will probably be inundated with responses (at least I hope I will be) but I am looking for pattern ideas for a scarf for my husband. I just finished my first cable project, which was an Irish hiking scarf for myself, and then looked with regret at the giant scarf of baby alpaca yarn I made for my husband that he never wears. Why doesn't he wear it, you ask? It was my first big knitting project ever and is accordingly sloppy.

And...because it's ten feet long with the effects of gravity. I'm serious. When I hold it up folded in half, it is taller than I am. So I am unraveling all 10 feet to reuse the yarn. It's a little bulkier than sport weight; I believe I used size 11 needles on it the first time.
I'm not looking for anyone to violate any copyrights in order to give me a pattern, but rather for directions to a nice free pattern on the globenet somewhere. (Preferably not the Darkline, thanks)
I am fairly competent at cabling, and have not yet attempted anything with increases or decreases, but am willing to take on a challenge.
At least it won't be 10 feet long again, so I'll have at LEAST 2 skeins extra afterwards to go towards my Afghans for Afghans scrap collection.
I will certainly be looking for a pattern, myself (I'm not THAT lazy) but I thought with all the yarn experts here that this was a good resource to tap in my search.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 17:47:23 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 08:26ssshunt wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 01:11Well don't I feel dumb! It never occurred to me to look at it like that. But now I see it, all crinkly eyed and happy--good for you.

Don't feel dumb, I am pretty savvy on teh interwebz and I had never seen that one before. I had just decided it meant "I'm dead" before I got to the explanation. (X's for eyes mean dead, right? I read comic books, I know these things.)

It has to do with the orientation of the smiley (or emoticon, if you want to get fancy...) Since XD is

laying on it's side, the eyes are more of a >< with the D below it (I'm not going to try and create a 90 degree rotated D...). Now, if you wanted to do 'dead' then you could use X_X or x_x.

Often emoticons read without rotation are associated with anime and Japanese in general, probably because they resemble some of the faces used for expression in anime/manga. I tend to use those, especially ^_^ or ^^; or 0_o. The first is roughly equivalent to a :) the second is a 'sweatdrop' (a marker of stress or 'i messed up a little...'), the third is surprise and/or confusion.

Can you tell I spend an awful lot of time chatting on the internet? ^_^

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Kathy_S on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 18:05:00 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 08:26ssshunt wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 01:11Well don't I feel dumb! It never occurred to me to look at it like that. But now I see it, all crinkly eyed and happy--good for you.

Don't feel dumb, I am pretty savvy on teh interwebz and I had never seen that one before. I had just decided it meant "I'm dead" before I got to the explanation. (X's for eyes mean dead, right? I read comic books, I know these things.)

I'm glad the XD question was asked, as I had no idea either! I was trying to fit the Madeleine L'Engle version of X'ed, or extra-D (whatever D might be), or a Roman numeral, or something. I use :d for the "big grin," and if I'd had any idea the X was meant for an eye also would have thought it meant face-of-a-dead-being!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 18:16:29 GMT
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I generally take XD to be a bigger grin than :D. sort of a spectrum from :) through :D to XD

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Kathy_S on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 18:27:13 GMT
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How did you get the colon-D to stay colon-D and not morph into the toothy grin? (I meant to use

colon-D in the above, and forgot it was also code for the toothy grin.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 18:28:56 GMT
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Kathy_S wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 14:27How did you get the colon-D to stay colon-D and not morph into the toothy grin? (I meant to use colon-D in the above, and forgot it was also code for the toothy grin.)

If you scroll down on the posting window, above where you submit a reply, there's an option "Disable smileys in this message". Tick the ticky box next to it, and it won't automatically make them into faces.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 18:29:55 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 13:31 I have since discovered the urban dictionary.

Hooray Urban Dictionary! It is one of the things that makes communication between me and my younger coworkers possible. :) My favorite new phrase is "Awkward Turtle," complete with hand gesture.... because I do frequently have Awkward Turtle moments, I just didn't know there was a good name for it....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Kathy_S on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 18:35:15 GMT
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Mori-Neko wrote:If you scroll down on the posting window, above where you submit a reply, there's an option "Disable smileys in this message". Tick the ticky box next to it, and it won't automatically make them into faces.

Thank you!
I use :D a lot on other boards, but the smiley there just looks happy, not as though it's been ordered to "say cheese."

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 21:10:48 GMT
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Laura wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 13:45So I know I will probably be inundated with responses (at least I hope I will be) but I am looking for pattern ideas for a scarf for my husband. I just finished my first cable project, which was an Irish hiking scarf for myself, and then looked with regret at the giant scarf of baby alpaca yarn I made for my husband that he never wears. Why doesn't he wear it, you ask? It was my first big knitting project ever and is accordingly sloppy.

And...because it's ten feet long with the effects of gravity. I'm serious. When I hold it up folded in half, it is taller than I am. So I am unraveling all 10 feet to reuse the yarn. It's a little bulkier than sport weight; I believe I used size 11 needles on it the first time.
I'm not looking for anyone to violate any copyrights in order to give me a pattern, but rather for directions to a nice free pattern on the globenet somewhere. (Preferably not the Darkline, thanks)
I am fairly competent at cabling, and have not yet attempted anything with increases or decreases, but am willing to take on a challenge.
At least it won't be 10 feet long again, so I'll have at LEAST 2 skeins extra afterwards to go towards my Afghans for Afghans scrap collection.
I will certainly be looking for a pattern, myself (I'm not THAT lazy) but I thought with all the yarn experts here that this was a good resource to tap in my search.

Are you on Ravelry? They have a huge database with lots of patterns, and you can search according to yarn weight and whether the pattern is free--there are many fabulous scarves there! Most of the ones I've marked to attempt are lace, though, since I haven't learned cabling yet, but I'm sure that you can put 'cable' in the keywords and find several likely patterns.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 22:06:32 GMT
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Thanks, Charismitaine; it looks like I need to cave in and get onto Ravelry. Yipes.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 23:01:26 GMT
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I wish I could knit.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 23:10:02 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 01:01I wish I could knit.
It is ridiculously easy to learn. Don't try for anything too complex. Ask a friend who can knit over to show you the basics: cast-on, knit, purl, cast off. And away you go! Max quarter of an hour. Then you can chat away as you knit. I'd pop over myself it there wasn't an ocean and half a world between us.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 23:18:08 GMT
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How do you learn to read those patterns? They seem to be in code...

And I'm left-handed, though also a bit ambidextrous, so I guess I could learn the regular way. Is there a knitting for dummies book?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 23:26:27 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 19:18How do you learn to read those patterns? They seem to be in code...

And I'm left-handed, though also a bit ambidextrous, so I guess I could learn the regular way. Is there a knitting for dummies book?

I'm left handed as well. I would suggest learning Continental style knitting, 'cause it's way more ambidextrous then European. I picked up the Domiknitrix book a bit ago, and found it fabulous, both for new knitters and people who've been doing it for a while. It's really technique-heavy, with lots of pictures.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 23:31:26 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 01:18How do you learn to read those patterns? They seem to be in code...

You start with something that doesn't need a pattern, so that you can pick up techniques and yarn handling skills. Then you begin with something that will show you skills as you go along and add to your repertoire. Then you spend a few hours reading a couple of patterns trying to understand what is happening. Then you do it again. Then you attempt a pattern, take it apart a few times, trying to figure what you did wrong. Then you figure it out, and the pattern suddenly makes sense. It's passing from the theoretical to the sensory to the body memory. It takes time. Immersion helps as does time.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 23:34:00 GMT
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I could go into a yarn shop--I think there's one nearby that gives lessons--and I sure would like a winter scarf. Will have to think on this.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 26 Oct 2008 23:45:20 GMT
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I found videos--there are lots of knitting instructional videos on youtube and on various knitting websites--very helpful, because I'm a visual learner and didn't have a knitting friend handy. If your local yarn shop has beginner classes (and surely they do!) it might help to find some videos that you like, so that if you have an "er, how is that done again?" you don't have to wait until your yarn shop is open to find out! This was especially useful when I started my knitting at 2am...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 02:51:56 GMT
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Good idea, Charis. I didn't even think of youtube!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Charismitaine on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 03:24:03 GMT
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Another plus is that there are lots of left-handed videos, too, which might help if you don't find a left-handed teacher.

I'm so anxious for my spindle to get here *chafes* I decided to start saving the dogs' hair when I groom them, so that I can try to work with it later, when I've practiced. Because that would be cool (and it would be nice to have a use for the stuff, since it tends to form drifts in the corners, no matter how often we vacuum o_0).

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Akai on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 03:35:35 GMT
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I've been knitting for a few years and I still can't figure out the patterns. It annoyed me to the point that I just don't try any longer and make up what I want to do as I go along. It doesn't always come out pretty, but so far, they've all looked sort of like bears. Or my one sock.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 04:17:21 GMT
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I just did a lot of reading instructions and watching videos to figure out the patterns--the abbreviations really confused me at first, but it got easier as I became more comfortable with them. Every time I need to learn a new stitch for something, I find a video that explains it and go from there.

As soon as my DP needles arrive, though, I'll start attempting for complicated things than the scarves and baby blankets and dishcloths I've done so far (gussets? what are those, precious?), so we'll see how that goes o.0

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 10:22:07 GMT
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Try Knitting Help dot com if you're having trouble. They have lots of videos. Not sure about left handed videos, though. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 10:34:37 GMT
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Akai wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 05:35I've been knitting for a few years and I still can't figure out the patterns. It annoyed me to the point that I just don't try any longer and make up what I want to do as I go along. It doesn't always come out pretty, but so far, they've all looked sort of like bears. Or my one sock.

Some people like charts, some like pattern descriptions, but you have to study them a while to make sense. It took me several efforts too. It helps to photocopy the chart in a larger size, so you're not squinting at tiny squares, and photocopy a list of the abbreviations and symbols and go find a place where they explain those particular stitches, so that you can connect them all and do a few rows practicing those stitches, so that you connect them to the whole business.

I would say keep a diary, or log-book, but I admit shamefacedly to never having done this for anything, so I can hardly encourage you to place an extra burden on your time, when I can't make the effort ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 12:26:13 GMT
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I also really like to buy those inexpensive books at Hancock or Joann that are aimed at teaching kids to knit. Everything is always over-explained, and there are usually simple projects that teach a new thing, like increases/decreases to make things that are a shape other than rectangle.
My grandmother taught me continental knitting, and I retained enough of it to remember the basics. Now if I can't remember something in particular, www.knittinghelp.com has been indispensable. I know that site has been mentioned a lot, but it REALLY is put together clearly and the videos are extremely helpful. This site also teaches the abbreviations that are commonly used in patterns, which has decreased my confusion when attempting a new, more challenging pattern.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Katherine on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 12:58:22 GMT
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I've found out why Jodi didn't seem to function as a yarn-virus for me. I'm a carrier. My sister informed me this morning that she's taken up knitting. :)

She asked if I needed a scarf to go with my new winter coat and I said, sure, but could you make it in a very fine knit, as anything chunky looks a bit odd with the trench-like shape of it? She started laughing and said, "Okay, if I'm knitting it, it's going to look rather odd no matter what weight of yarn I'm using." She also noted that if I was hoping for this scarf by Christmas, it was likely to be either very, very short, or very, very late.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 13:09:33 GMT
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Katherine wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 14:58She also noted that if I was hoping for this scarf by Christmas, it was likely to be either very, very short, or very, very late.

The correct reply to that is that Christmas presents are welcome year-round! ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 13:17:38 GMT
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Katherine wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 08:58I've found out why Jodi didn't seem to function as a yarn-virus for me. I'm a carrier. My sister informed me this morning that she's taken up knitting. :)

Go forth and spread the virus to the unsuspecting people of your city. Soon, the world will be ours!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 13:33:04 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 15:17Katherine wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 08:58I've found out why Jodi didn't seem to function as a yarn-virus for me. I'm a carrier. My sister informed me this morning that she's taken up knitting. :)

Go forth and spread the virus to the unsuspecting people of your city. Soon, the world will be ours!

I knew that hidden behind that mild exterior, that "moi, a yarn virus?" innocence lay hidden your true motives: world yarn domination. Afflicted I knit and purl away, increasing, decreasing, twisting and untwisting. I smile fatuously. Life is sweet. ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 14:37:35 GMT
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OK, I requested membership on Ravelry. Now I wait for my life to be sucked even further into the internet.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 15:30:27 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 09:33
I knew that hidden behind that mild exterior, that "moi, a yarn virus?" innocence lay hidden your true motives: world yarn domination.

I'm not doing it TO the world. I'm doing it FOR the world. Life is better with yarn.

smiles benevolently

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 16:50:16 GMT
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I finished the dishcloths last night. Now I have nothing to knit! I got some smaller needles off of eBay for my pretty new fine Alpaca yarn, but they are not here yet. I do have a dark blue yarn that I could do something with using my current needles but I don't know what and I'm really not motivated to do anything with it after playing with my lovely Alpaca yarn...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 22:21:39 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 17:30Susan from Athens wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 09:33
I knew that hidden behind that mild exterior, that "moi, a yarn virus?" innocence lay hidden your true motives: world yarn domination.

I'm not doing it TO the world. I'm doing it FOR the world. Life is better with yarn.

smiles benevolently
The belevolent despot with the iron fist spinning away behind the scenes.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Tue, 28 Oct 2008 00:00:34 GMT
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Hurray! I've ordered four lots of knitting needles off of eBay--sizes 1-15 of single points, sizes 1-15 of double points, sizes 1-15 of 40 cm circulars, and sizes 1-15 of 80 cm circulars. Ha ha! Soon I shall be awash in knitting needle goodness!

...yeah, I was starting to get annoyed with "Ooh, I want to knit that--but I only have 5s and 7s. And since I apparently only knit in the middle of the night, I can't run out and buy some. Darn."

Oh, between all of these needles, and my spindle kit, it's going to be like Christmas!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Tue, 28 Oct 2008 00:01:26 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 12:50I finished the dishcloths last night. Now I have nothing to knit! I got some smaller needles off of eBay for my pretty new fine Alpaca yarn, but they are not here yet. I do have a dark blue yarn that I could do something with using my current needles but I don't know what and I'm really not motivated to do anything with it after playing with my lovely Alpaca yarn...

What YOU need is a Tam Lin project!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Tue, 28 Oct 2008 00:06:32 GMT
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I give. I know what/who Tam Lin is, but what is a Tam Lin project? Something that changes shape so many times you have no idea what it is?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Tue, 28 Oct 2008 01:17:05 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 20:06I give. I know what/who Tam Lin is, but what is a Tam Lin project? Something that changes shape so many times you have no idea what it is?

Hee! That would fit my projects! Actually a fairy tales group that I'm a member of on Ravelry does a seasonal knit-a-long (KAL), where they choose a fairy tale and everyone does a project inspired by it--the fall tale is Tam Lin, and lots of people are doing green sweaters and shawls, and one person designed a tam with running horses around the brim (very cool). I'm doing a green scarf with a vine pattern on it, which I plan to add roses too--not all over, but here and there in clusters of two ("she had not pulled a double rose, a rose but only two", and so on).

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Tue, 28 Oct 2008 03:21:21 GMT
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Well, my first package of needles from eBay arrived this afternoon! So, I started on the Scarf, but I realized that my yarn is too small and therefore the scarf is much thinner than I anticipated, so I'll have to take it out and start over and make it twice as wide as it is now...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Tue, 28 Oct 2008 03:48:43 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 19:17ssshunt wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 20:06I give. I know what/who Tam Lin is, but what is a Tam Lin project? Something that changes shape so many times you have no idea what it is?

Hee! That would fit my projects! Actually a fairy tales group that I'm a member of on Ravelry does a seasonal knit-a-long (KAL), where they choose a fairy tale and everyone does a project inspired by it--the fall tale is Tam Lin, and lots of people are doing green sweaters and shawls, and one person designed a tam with running horses around the brim (very cool). I'm doing a green scarf with a vine pattern on it, which I plan to add roses too--not all over, but here and there in clusters of two ("she had not pulled a double rose, a rose but only two", and so on).

This sounds very cool, Charis.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Creek on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 03:37:52 GMT
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holmes44 wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 13:02i am currently in the process of making a quilt for my sister and her husband for Christmas. i worked out the design and chose the colors, now i just have to buy the materials to make it.hopefully will have enough money by end of the month.

What kind of pattern are you doing? I've got several quilts in various stages right now, all of them different patterns.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by afuzzybird on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 12:26:25 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Sun, 26 October 2008 08:26
Don't feel dumb, I am pretty savvy on teh interwebz and I had never seen that one before. I had just decided it meant "I'm dead" before I got to the explanation. (X's for eyes mean dead, right? I read comic books, I know these things.)

Well, in Japan x_X means dead (or like died from embarrassment). So I think your assumption was perfectly logical. I lived in Japan for a year, and spent a night with one of my clubs teaching each other our smilies. (I find the word emoticons annoying.) The Japanese ones are cuter, so I use those.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Louiz on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 14:46:46 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Mon, 27 October 2008 11:30[I'm not doing it TO the world. I'm doing it FOR the world. Life is better with yarn.

smiles benevolently

I am sooooo using that somewhere:)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 15:57:32 GMT
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So, I was working on my scarf last night(the one using tiny brown thread and size 1 needles!), when I discovered that I had dropped a stitch, so I started undoing it and ended up tearing it all out. I re-cast on but I think I'm gonna try making a scarf in the same pattern with the blue yarn and the size 6 needles first... I did the first four rows late last night and it was so comforting after the frustration of the tiny yarn...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 22:51:45 GMT
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Sisi, maybe you need to double your yarn? I'm considering that when I get around to using mine, since it's so very fine.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 22:51:48 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Wed, 29 October 2008 17:57So, I was working on my scarf last night(the one using tiny brown thread and size 1 needles!), when I discovered that I had dropped a stitch, so I started undoing it and ended up tearing it all out. I re-cast on but I think I'm gonna try making a scarf in the same pattern with the blue yarn and the size 6 needles first... I did the first four rows late last night and it was so comforting after the frustration of the tiny yarn...

That's the way to go. I'm currently working and almost finishing my first ever lace project (pictures of the start are on my flickr) and I decided to use bigger needles and thicker yarn and I am most happy I did so. It means the project allowed me to pick up a few techniques without having to deal with ultra thin needles and yarn at the same time. Go Reading Angel!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 29 Oct 2008 22:53:28 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Thu, 30 October 2008 00:51Sisi, maybe you need to double your yarn?

I'm considering that when I get around to using mine, since it's so very fine.

The double yarn works well in some ways, but I always get frustrated as the two yarns keep twisting round each other and you have to keep untwisting them. If the project is large (mine was a sweater) you build up a lot of frustration and waste considerable amounts of time.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 00:19:12 GMT
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Creek wrote on Tue, 28 October 2008 23:37holmes44 wrote on Fri, 17 October 2008 13:02i am currently in the process of making a quilt for my sister and her husband for Christmas. i worked out the design and chose the colors, now i just have to buy the materials to make it.hopefully will have enough money by end of the month.

What kind of pattern are you doing? I've got several quilts in various stages right now, all of them different patterns.
i don't do patterns, i don't sew well enough because my fingers can't manage fine work like that. i do picture quilts for my family with help with the sewing from my best friend who does do pattern quilts. i posted one i made for my husband here some where. you would have to look for my avatar. it is a poker quilt.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 00:20:49 GMT
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I remember the poker quilt!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 00:25:01 GMT
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i is not to bad considering it is only my third quilt. not a professional but i have fun doing it.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 00:42:57 GMT
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holmes44 wrote on Thu, 30 October 2008 02:25i is not to bad considering it is only my third quilt. not a professional but i have fun doing it.

That's the whole point, isn't it? The process as much as the result if not more so? I mean, I love the fact that at the end of a project I have something I personally made, but I actually make it for the process and what I derive from making it, rather than for the end result. Probably the reason why I have only a tiny fraction of all the embroidery I've done over the years. The rest has all gone to friends.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Honey_Bee on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 03:14:04 GMT
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Does anyone have any advice/a pattern for an easy, basic hat to knit? I've only ever knitted scarves and I want to branch out but I'm not sure where to start. And I don't have a yarn store anywhere close to where I live so I can't bombard them for advice. Is there a certain kind of yarn that would be best for a hat?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 05:41:05 GMT
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How would I double it? Do you mean having both balls of yarn in use at the same time or doing something complicated to the first ball of yarn?

In other news, the blue scarf is going very well, in my opinion. I'm 14 rows in, now and still going strong.
I made myself a paper with a window in it which I paper-clip over the paper with the pattern on it so I can only see the row I'm working on. I think another large part of my problem before was also reading multiple lines of the pattern and then the stitches didn't all fit on the row how they ought to...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 09:38:21 GMT
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Honey_Bee wrote on Thu, 30 October 2008 05:14Does anyone have any advice/a pattern for an easy, basic hat to knit? I've only ever knitted scarves and I want to branch out but I'm not sure where to start. And I don't have a yarn store anywhere close to where I live so I can't bombard them for advice. Is there a certain kind of yarn that would be best for a hat?

I am not a hat knitter, probably because most of these hats do not suit me a bit, but here are two very simple beginner patterns clearly explained you might like to have a look at. As to yarn, something that will last (not too fragile) but that you want to touch and wear is always the answer for me :)

From Purlescence Yarns a simple cap:
http://www.purlescenceyarns.com/files/K_and_K.pdf

From the Yarn Harlot an easy hat:
http://www.yarnharlot.ca/blog/images/harlot_unoriginal_hat.p df

hope it works!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 09:39:19 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Thu, 30 October 2008 07:41How would I double it? Do you mean having both balls of yarn in use at the same time or doing something complicated to the first ball of yarn? You use two balls of yarn at the same time.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 20:03:38 GMT
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I may try doubling when I get done with the Blue Scarf. It's coming along really well... I've got 24 rows done and it looks lovely, IMO. I'm thinking I may give it to my sis-in-law for Christmas.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 22:45:46 GMT
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i was telling you ladies that i was making a quilt and that i had bought the material for it, today i

went and order the center piece for it. it is for my sister and her husband for christmas.the center piece is a picture of their two kids in the outfits of the things they love to do best.try getting those pics without giving anything away[whew]wipe forehead.a boarder around the edges and i'll make pictures of their favorite activity in each corner.i hope it turns out ok.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 22:50:18 GMT
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Bonny that sounds great. A personal memento you can use! Fantastic.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 23:05:47 GMT
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it should be nice, i try to make the design about something the person(s) like. my niece is wearing her ballet outfit and my nephew is wearing his biking gear.they like to camp and bike and they both curl and my sister runs marathons.so i'm making pictures of each thing to put in the corners.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 23:10:13 GMT
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hwy jodi, your virus is catching. my youngest daughter is learning to knit and my oldest daughter is learning to use the sewing machine. and no! not by me[or they never learn how]lol. my best friend, shirley is teaching them.:d thank god for friends.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 23:27:51 GMT
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holmes44 wrote on Thu, 30 October 2008 19:10hwy jodi, your virus is catching. my youngest daughter is learning to knit and my oldest daughter is learning to use the sewing machine. and no! not by me[or they never learn how]lol. my best friend, shirley is teaching them.:d thank god for friends.

Oh very good to hear!

Soon they'll have you kept in new clothes and hand-knit socks. ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 23:36:01 GMT
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i'd be happy if they kept themselves in clothes and socks:p my oldest,chelsey is doing pretty good and kaitlynn, my youngest is enthusiastic anyway,but i don't doubt that she will get there eventually. she is stubborn like her father.lol

---

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Thu, 30 Oct 2008 23:37:41 GMT
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So, after being on the internet and seeing all the drop-dropping stuff done by more experienced knitters with their fancy, gorgeous yarns, it is remarkably gratifying to hear non-knitters who haven't been exposed to all the wonders of the kniternet make a fuss about my humble scarf made of cheap acrylic yarn from Hobby Lobby!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 31 Oct 2008 00:09:11 GMT
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holmes44 wrote on Fri, 31 October 2008 01:36but i don't doubt that she will get there eventually. she is stubborn like her father.lol

See, when you're learning something new, is the only time when stubborness is regarded as a virtue. It goes by the name "persistence" and "hanging in there" and "learning step-by-step" so, hopefully, she will live up to her nature. I loved doing crafts when I was young, and it has given me a creative pleasure I retain to this day.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 31 Oct 2008 00:14:42 GMT

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Charismitaine wrote on Fri, 31 October 2008 01:37So, after being on the internet and seeing all the drop-dropping stuff done by more experienced knitters with their fancy, gorgeous yarns, it is remarkably gratifying to hear non-knitters who haven't been exposed to all the wonders of the kniternet make a fuss about my humble scarf made of cheap acrylic yarn from Hobby Lobby!

Hey, well done Charis! It can get a bit intimidating looking around Ravelry and seeing all these complex projects knocked off with no apparent effort. It takes time invested to gain expertise, and like in any other field, work put in should never be sneezed at. You keep up with your lovely scarf. Today Hobby Lobby tomorrow the world! And yes, I am very susceptible to yarn envy, and have splurged tremendously on lovely fibres, but I have very peculiar skin and I know that it if doesn't "feel" right it will never get done. Plus things bother my skin and make it dry up and my eyes tear up, so I go with my instinct (and carry out mostly small projects). It all starts with knit and purl!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Fri, 31 Oct 2008 19:06:24 GMT
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Good old knit and purl. The scarf I'm working on for the spouse creature is plain old knit/purl 1x1 ribbing, which is lovely, because it's a scarfs-length of practice getting my knits and purls consistent, but with the new learned skill of striping. I tend to want to overreach, which leads to frustration when the basics prove not to be as solid as they should be. This is why I have not yet tackled a beaded knit hat and scarf kit that I bought on clearance from my favorite LYS in my parents' town. To be fair, I didn't really realize it was beaded; I just saw a hat and thought "I should learn to use circular needles." But I'm totally not ready for beading yet. Eep.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Honey_Bee on Fri, 31 Oct 2008 19:06:56 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Thu, 30 October 2008 05:38

I am not a hat knitter, probably because most of these hats do not suit me a bit, but here are two very simple beginner patterns clearly explained you might like to have a look at. As to yarn, something that will last (not too fragile) but that you want to touch and wear is always the answer for me :)

From Purlescence Yarns a simple cap:

http://www.purlescenceyarns.com/files/K_and_K.pdf

From the Yarn Harlot an easy hat:
http://www.yarnharlot.ca/blog/images/harlot_unoriginal_hat.p df

hope it works!

These look great! I prefer the second one but I must say...for someone who has never knitted a hat before it looks mighty complicated.

Thank you!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 31 Oct 2008 22:37:37 GMT
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Honey_Bee wrote on Fri, 31 October 2008 21:06
These look great! I prefer the second one but I must say...for someone who has never knitted a hat before it looks mighty complicated.

Thank you!

You're welcome Honeybee! Read the pattern through. Read it again. Figure out what you don't understand (it sometimes takes me a few times to pinpoint the depth of my ignorance) try a swatch (say I the queen of avoiding making swatches). And the great lesson: if it doesn't work, take it apart and try again. It was your time used, and if you learned something you can use next time, it wasn't wasted - not to say you shouldn't curse, just curse and use it. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 07:08:48 GMT
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And the scarf part of the scarf is finished! Now to knit up the roses for it....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 09:59:15 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sun, 02 November 2008 09:08And the scarf part of the scarf is finished! Now to knit up the roses for it....

OOoh, roses, are they going to be shaped (i.e. 3-d) or jacquard? (if that's what you call pictured in the knit - my English knitting vocabulary is still limited) Do you have any more pictures? I've almost finished my first lace scarf (which I was too chicken to do on proper laceweight).

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 14:16:49 GMT
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They'll be shaped, and I've looked at several patterns for 3D roses but haven't quite settled on one yet....I think I'll have to try out a couple. I don't want it to look too precious--it is a Tam Lin scarf, after all.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 14:25:00 GMT
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I saw some good ones in a book I was "gazing at" in the bookshop. Knitting beyond the edge, I think it was called, and it had some lovely but very fancy trims. One rose is lovely but a whole row of roses would be too much! :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Honey_Bee on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 15:29:40 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Fri, 31 October 2008 18:37Honey_Bee wrote on Fri, 31 October 2008 21:06
These look great! I prefer the second one but I must say...for someone who has never knitted a hat before it looks mighty complicated.

Thank you!

You're welcome Honeybee! Read the pattern through. Read it again. Figure out what you don't understand (it sometimes takes me a few times to pinpoint the depth of my ignorance) try a swatch (say I the queen of avoiding making swatches). And the great lesson: if it doesn't work, take it apart and try again. It was your time used, and if you learned something you can use next

time, it wasn't wasted - not to say you shouldn't curse, just curse and use it. :)

Can I ask for help here? There are three instructions that I just cannot figure out. They are: "c2 over 1 right P", "c2 over 1 left P" and "c2 over 2 right" My knowledge doesn't go beyond knit and purl. Does anyone know what these mean?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 16:22:33 GMT
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I bet Susan from Athens does.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 16:41:52 GMT
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Honey_Bee wrote on Sun, 02 November 2008 10:29
Can I ask for help here? There are three instructions that I just cannot figure out. They are: "c2 over 1 right P", "c2 over 1 left P" and "c2 over 2 right" My knowledge doesn't go beyond knit and purl. Does anyone know what these mean?

Guessing, since I haven't knit the pattern.

C is probably cable. Do you have a cable needle? (Have you knit cables before? It's very simple, truly. You're just sliding stitches off the real needles and putting them on hold on the cable needle. Then you do whatever it says - knit or purl the next stitch(es) - and slide the stitches from the cable needle back onto the regular needle to knit or purl them.

The over/under would be where you bring the "on hold" stitches. Either in front of or behind the rest of the knitting. It will affect the way the end product looks.

Make sense?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 18:50:34 GMT
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Yes, jmeadows is on the right track. When translated into (almost) regular English, the instructions

would read like this:

c2 over 1 right p

Slip 1 stitch from left-hand needle to cable needle, hold in BACK of your work, knit 2 stitches off the left-hand needle, then purl the stitch from the cable needle. You've crossed two knit stitches to the RIGHT in front of the purl stitch.

c2 over 1 left P

Slip 2 stitches from left-hand needle to cable needle, hold in FRONT of your work, purl 1 stitch off of the left-hand needle, then knit two stitches off of the cable needle. You've crossed two knit stitches to the LEFT in front of the purl stitch.

c2 over 2 right
Slip two stitches from left-hand needle to cable needle, hold in BACK of your work, knit 2 stitches from the left-hand needle, knit two stitches from the cable needle. You've crossed two knit stitches to the RIGHT in front of two knit stitches.

Hope this helps! I just filled out the instructions a little more from the YarnHarlot's instructions.

By the way, if you don't have a cable needle, you can use a double-pointed needle. If you're really desperate, you can use a stitch holder, but you'll have to slip the stitches from the stitch holder back onto the left-hand needle when you're ready to knit them.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 20:22:53 GMT
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So when you've put the stitches on the cable needle and knitted or purled the other stitches, do you just knit or purl the cable stitches right off the cable needle? Or do you put them back on the left-hand needle first? (I haven't attempted cables yet, but I hope to be worked up to it soon!)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 20:29:34 GMT
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Just do it right off the cable needle. You could put them back on the left-hand needle, but there's no real reason to... knitting (or purling) from the cable needle works just fine, and eliminates the

extra step.

(Actually, I tend to live dangerously, and cable without a cable needle at all, but I'm a little insane. If you want to see how, Knitty had a good article on it.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 20:42:24 GMT
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Speaking of cabling, by the way, Lisa Grossman of tsocktsarina.com is in the middle of designing a cabled sweater with a visual representation of six (yes, six) change-ringing methods: Belshazzar Delight Maximus, Nemesis Delight Maximus, Barking Creek Surprise Maximus, Gypsy Delight Maximus, Albion Treble Bob Maximus, and Aldebaran Surprise Maximus. I'm not sure when she'll be done designing the sweater... she was going to try to have it ready for Rhinebeck, the New York Sheep and Wool Festival, but that did not happen. Meanwhile, I think I'm going to order her "Nine Tailors" sock kit. The socks have Kent Treble Bob Major represented both in cables and colorwork (as well as several other aspects in keeping with Dorothy Sayers' novel "The Nine Tailors.") Every time Robin posts about change-ringing, I immediately wonder why I haven't ordered my change-ringing sock kit yet :) (Answer: poor grad student.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 21:01:53 GMT
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That's an awesome article, thanks! I'll have to attempt cabling as soon as my double points get here *paces by mailbox*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 21:09:29 GMT
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I've been meaning to ask about cabling - when I've tried to wrap my mind around it it hasn't made sense to me at all... It's starting to make a bit more sense, thanks to Jodi and Blondviolinist. I'll have to try it, though, to really make sense of it. I'm a very physical learner, I have to try stuff before I fully comprehend it...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 21:10:33 GMT
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You know, I have no idea what y'all are talking about but I like to read cause the words are pretty...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Honey_Bee on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 21:29:03 GMT
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Thank you Jmeadows, Blondviolinist, Charismitaine and anyone else who responded! I kind of think that I understand now. Or at least I understand enough to feel confident attempting it. Thanks for all the help!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 22:38:49 GMT
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Sorry to get back to you so late, but I see others have come to the rescue, and better than I would have, seeing as I had no idea what those abbreviations were. My English knitting vocabulary is expanding rapidly but all the cabling I have done (and it was a massively complex cabled sweater that put me off knitting for a while, although I loved the end result) has been to instructions in Greek. And as I tell people here, all the time, just because you know the language, doesn't mean you know specific jargon. So I am picking up knitting and crafting jargon, but slowly.

As at the time I couldn't find a cabling needle, I used one of those kilt fasteners. I always had kilts and the fasteners never have sharp ends, as the weave is loose. You can close them if you feel insecure, or leave them open as you knit the first set of stitches. If this is your first set of cables, knitting them freehand might be a bit stressful. I'd hate to be picking cabled stitches and am klutzy enough to know that I would drop them :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 23:23:29 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Sun, 02 November 2008 16:09 I'm a very physical learner, I have to try stuff before I fully comprehend it...

Boy do I understand. That's how I have to learn, too.

I like to think of cabling as stitches switching places. I still have some trouble predicting what the end result will be, but I found it really helpful to grab a skein of yarn and start a scarf like thing and do *whatever* with the cables. That taught me a lot about what different cable things do. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 02 Nov 2008 23:27:36 GMT
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I think of cabling somewhat like hair braids. Only usually only in twos. But then when you get to the woven braids it really gets complicated ;) only do it if you have patience and feel like counting things A LOT!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Honey_Bee on Mon, 03 Nov 2008 23:21:25 GMT
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I'm sorry to be so bothersome but I need some more help with that pattern. It calls for 5 double pointed needles in which you distribute 14 stitches on each needle over 4 needles. It says "this hat is worked in the round, so join and begin". You can join needles? And if so, why not use circular needles? Anyone have any thoughts on this? I really want to make this for a friend for the upcoming holidays, so I'm sorry I need so much help. I really want to make this which is why I'm really trying to figure things out instead of using another pattern.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by KitF on Mon, 03 Nov 2008 23:31:13 GMT
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You can begin on a circular needle if you have a short one, but the hat is going to decrease down at the top to the point where it won't fit on a circular any more. If you find you totally hate them, look into the technique known as "magic loop".

At any rate, it isn't the needles that join, but the knitting. After casting on to the four needles, you then form them into a circle (ok, a square) so that they aren't twisted and then start knitting at the beginning so you are working round and round rather than back and forth.

Double points were invented before circulars and you can do anything on long double points that you can on a circular. Very small circumferences still tend to work better on double points, though they aren't absolutely required. There are those of us who like double points better. (I've tried magic loop, know how to do it, and I'd rather do double points any day.) I do prefer my double point needles to be either plastic or wood, not metal.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Mon, 03 Nov 2008 23:42:33 GMT
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Honeybee, I think it's great that you're taking on such a challenge! Good for you that you know what you'd like to do and you're just going out and learning it :) And you're not being bothersome one bit.

If you haven't used double-points (dpns) before, you might want to use a small circular needle for the first three or four rows of knitting, then transfer the stitches to the dpns. Make sure you don't twist the stitches when you join, though, because that can cause problems! (Your knitting will have a big twist in the middle of it, instead of making a nice tube.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 03 Nov 2008 23:45:35 GMT
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As a beginner I think it is easier to cast on on a long needle, distribute over the Double pointed needles then join. But as KitF stresses, make sure that all your cast-on stitches are straight, because, to put it bluntly, if you loop-the-loop you will get a mobius strip and not a hat ;) Unfortunately, or fortunately most hats are knitted in the round, so take this as a learning project and look at a few instructions on knitting in the round. If you don't get it the first time, read another set of instructions, they might offer a different perspective so that you "get it". Best of luck and I hope it goes well. ***sends encouraging vibes***

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 04:57:26 GMT
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Question: I just got my set of dpns from eBay today - there are only 4 needles. Every pattern I've

seen calls for 5: four to have the stitches on and one to work with. Would it be possible to use one of the (single pointed)needles of the same size in place of the 5th dpn or what? Or can I put the stitches on three needles, instead of 4? Not that I need to know for a while, considering I'm not half done with Liza's scarf and then I have Michelle's scarf to finish before I'll allow myself to experiment with more complicated stuff*, but I was intrigued when I got the "set" of only 4 needles...

*knitting in the round, cabling, etc...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 06:07:28 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Mon, 03 November 2008 23:57Question: I just got my set of dpns from eBay today - there are only 4 needles.

You can do the same thing with four needles. Hold with three, work with the fourth. I find five easier, but lots of people work with three. What kind of needles did you get? Boye? Lots of needles you'd buy at a local yarn store will have five. I like Brittany needles. Lots of people like Knitpicks - I haven't tried them.

I wouldn't use a regular straight needle as your fifth needle. You'd have to be able to slide the stitches off the other end!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Maureen E on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 06:52:21 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Sun, 02 November 2008 18:27I think of cabling somewhat like hair braids. Only usually only in twos. But then when you get to the woven braids it really gets complicated ;) only do it if you have patience and feel like counting things A LOT!

I do Celtic knotwork, so I tend to think of cabling as knotwork...in 3-d. But that explanation probably only makes sense if you also do Celtic knotwork.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by southdowner on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 08:48:01 GMT

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ssshunt wrote on Sun, 02 November 2008 21:10You know, I have no idea what y'all are talking about but I like to read cause the words are pretty...
Shelley, this could be my motto several days a week :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 08:50:14 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Tue, 04 November 2008 06:57Question: I just got my set of dpns from eBay today - there are only 4 needles. Every pattern I've seen calls for 5: four to have the stitches on and one to work with. Would it be possible to use one of the (single pointed)needles of the same size in place of the 5th dpn or what? Or can I put the stitches on three needles, instead of 4? Not that I need to know for a while, considering I'm not half done with Liza's scarf and then I have Michelle's scarf to finish before I'll allow myself to experiment with more complicated stuff*, but I was intrigued when I got the "set" of only 4 needles...

*knitting in the round, cabling, etc...
Ditto to Jodi's comment. But there is no reason not to have cabling or knitting in the round for your scarves as well. There are some lovely patterns and a scarf is a great time to experiment, because you are thinking about what the design does and the shape of the object mostly takes care of itself. Although, that said, I am knitting from a book called Knitting New Scarves by Lynne Barr and the whole point of those scarves is that the shape is not the long, scarf shape, but three-dimensional and fanciful.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by southdowner on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 08:52:10 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Tue, 04 November 2008 04:57... to experiment with more complicated stuff*, ...

*knitting in the round, cabling, etc...
I found socks impossible, but knitting in the round very straightforward... and fewer seams to stitch! (My least favourite bit) so I'm sure you'll enjoy going in circles :)
and there's such a lot of skill and friendly advice here - maybe I'll try socks again...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by southdowner on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 08:57:14 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Sun, 02 November 2008 23:23Reading Angel wrote on Sun, 02 November 2008 16:09 I'm a very physical learner, I have to try stuff before I fully comprehend it...

Boy do I understand. That's how I have to learn, too.

I like to think of cabling as stitches switching places. I still have some trouble predicting what the end result will be, but I found it really helpful to grab a skein of yarn and start a scarf like thing and do *whatever* with the cables. That taught me a lot about what different cable things do. :)
This is such a good idea Jodi. I've spent ages making illegible scribbles and this is what I should have been doing! Thank you.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 09:18:31 GMT
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Cables aren't difficult. I learned to do cables by picking up a pattern and doing a very complicated interlocking cable sweater (overambitions? I was young). However, what nobody tells you is that they take PATIENCE.

Cable knitting is not something you can do while giving your attention elsewhere. You have to be at least 80% focused on the knitting. I should replace the 2nd person with the 1st person here: I can't hold an intelligent conversation and count stitches at the same time. I can't watch TV (the little I do nowadays) or follow a forum on the interwebs while doing cables. I have to concentrate on the cables.

So before starting a cable project (that I want to finish) I have to ask myself searchingly: Are you sure you want to do this? Do you have the time. Because I am trying hard to no longer do half-finished projects. I am very strictly rationing myself to one project at a time, so that I have to finish it before going on to the next. So the excitement of doing the next also fuels my efforts on the present project. I know myself too well to think that anything would get finished if I were doing multiple knits. Plus my free time is liable to disappear at any second now as big translation projects loom on the horizon.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Louiz on Thu, 06 Nov 2008 13:59:21 GMT

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Susan from Athens wrote on Tue, 04 November 2008 04:18Cables aren't difficult. I learned to do cables by picking up a pattern and doing a very complicated interlocking cable sweater (overambitions? I was young). However, what nobody tells you is that they take PATIENCE.

Cable knitting is not something you can do while giving your attention elsewhere. You have to be at least 80% focused on the knitting. I should replace the 2nd person with the 1st person here: I can't hold an intelligent conversation and count stitches at the same time. I can't watch TV (the little I do nowadays) or follow a forum on the interwebs while doing cables. I have to concentrate on the cables.

Yep, I agree. Cables are fantastic, but take concentration. I too have to concentrate on them... so they're definitely not train knitting!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Louiz on Thu, 06 Nov 2008 14:07:51 GMT
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southdowner wrote on Tue, 04 November 2008 03:52Reading Angel wrote on Tue, 04 November 2008 04:57... to experiment with more complicated stuff*, ...

*knitting in the round, cabling, etc...
I found socks impossible, but knitting in the round very straightforward... and fewer seams to stitch! (My least favourite bit) so I'm sure you'll enjoy going in circles :)
and there's such a lot of skill and friendly advice here - maybe I'll try socks again...

Do! Socks are fun, there's all sorts of patterns and mmm yarn, loads of yarn just for making socks with...

from mild and meek right up to outrageously behaved, both patterns, colours and contrasts! Not to mention (what hooked my friend) silk? Cashmere? Silk/cashmere mix? Bamboo? Cotton? Wool? what do you fancy, someone will have it!

Louiz. (should sometimes be called "the sock enabler")

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 06 Nov 2008 14:21:18 GMT
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Louiz wrote on Thu, 06 November 2008 16:07Louiz. (should sometimes be called "the sock enabler")

Oh groan, another one! Sock it to us Louiz! :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Thu, 06 Nov 2008 17:08:23 GMT
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Louiz wrote on Thu, 06 November 2008 09:07
Do! Socks are fun, there's all sorts of patterns and mmm yarn, loads of yarn just for making socks with...

from mild and meek right up to outrageously behaved, both patterns, colours and contrasts! Not to mention (what hooked my friend) silk? Cashmere? Silk/cashmere mix? Bamboo? Cotton? Wool? what do you fancy, someone will have it!

Louiz. (should sometimes be called "the sock enabler")

high fives Socks ARE pretty rockin'. They're LOTS of fun. My first pair was the Jaywalkers on Knitty.com. (I've never understood the people who sit there with their math and long explanations about stockinette stitch and-- JUST KNIT A SOCK. It's easier to dive right in, honestly.

And sometimes you can do cables *and* socks *and* lace at the same time. See: Monkey socks. :d

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Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Katherine on Thu, 06 Nov 2008 20:08:51 GMT
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Is this thread open to other crafts as well? If not, this is completely cheating as there are no fibers involved, but there WAS weaving. That counts, right? I'm not fiberly crafty, but I want to be involved! Hee. And it was very crafty, though probably more akin to theatre costuming than, say, knitting, I suppose.

I give you my Halloween costume--Medusa! (From the back or I'd turn you to stone, of course).

File Attachments
1) Medusa back.jpg, downloaded 226 times

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Thu, 06 Nov 2008 20:22:59 GMT
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Katherine wrote on Thu, 06 November 2008 15:08
I give you my Halloween costume--Medusa! (From the back or I'd turn you to stone, of course).

Oooh, that is COOL! Looks awesome!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Thu, 06 Nov 2008 20:57:39 GMT
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Oh, how cool, Katherine! Now I want to dress up as Medusa and I'll have to wait until next Halloween!

We've talked about wire-crafting(chain mail, bracelets, crocheting wire, etc), so surely snake-crafting is likewise allowed... I wonder if it could be argued that snakes are a fiber? Or would what you've done be considered hair-crafting? I'm pretty sure hair is a fiber...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 07 Nov 2008 00:49:14 GMT
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You have to make room for snakes. They get really cranky if you don't. Great 'do, Katherine!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 07 Nov 2008 00:53:55 GMT
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Fabulous hairstyle, Katherine. Wow, how long did that take you?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Katherine on Fri, 07 Nov 2008 01:47:52 GMT
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Gee, thanks everybody! *beam* I don't feel nearly as bad about hijacking the thread anymore. Playing here is fun! :)

Susan from Athens wrote on Thu, 06 November 2008 19:53Fabulous hairstyle, Katherine. Wow, how long did that take you?

Not as long as you would think, actually. Maybe half an hour or so for the main part?

The topknot is actually mostly a hairpiece so I could get a little height on the hairstyle. I was planning to wrap it into a sort of beehive of braids, but...well, that went ridiculously badly. So I did twists instead and I much preferred the slightly mad feeling of that anyway. As I twisted, I wove snakes over and under in a few spots so the hair was holding them down. Then I just put the whole thing on top of a bun on my head in the morning and secured it with lots of bobby pins. The snakes that are crawling all unsupported-looking have jewelry wire sewn through their bellies and then wrapped around a bobby pin.

It took longer in the morning to put contacts in so I could wear my false eyelashes (which never did stick to my eyelids, by the way--my fingers, the counter, the mirror, but not my eyelids) than it did to put the piece on, add the extra snakes, and spackle on emerald green eyeshadow. And it was remarkably solid--it lasted all day, even through a dentist appointment and an "Getting divorced sucks, so let's have pizza!" lunch for a friend.

Hey, whoever wants to can use this costume! My sister wanted to steal the idea as soon as she heard it. She promised to pass out cards that said, "This was my sister's brilliant idea," but I won't hold any of you to that. *grin*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Louiz on Fri, 07 Nov 2008 14:23:32 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Thu, 06 November 2008 12:08

high fives Socks ARE pretty rockin'. They're LOTS of fun. My first pair was the Jaywalkers on Knitty.com. (I've never understood the people who sit there with their math and long explanations about stockinette stitch and-- JUST KNIT A SOCK. It's easier to dive right in, honestly.

And sometimes you can do cables *and* socks *and* lace at the same time. See: Monkey socks. :d

I like a monkey sock (better yet, two:)- and there's even a baby version too. (just google monkey socks if you want the pattern!)

Thing I like about socks? they're small, portable and people are sooo impressed when you whip one out and go "ta-da!" when really they are the easiest "thing that isn't a scarf" And they are really really not scary - they just look it! (does that make sense, I got interrupted in the middle of that sentence)

Louiz (who really ought to do something with the stockpiling sock yarn she has at home...)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Louiz on Fri, 07 Nov 2008 14:38:23 GMT
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Katherine wrote on Thu, 06 November 2008 15:08
I give you my Halloween costume--Medusa! (From the back or I'd turn you to stone, of course).

Fantastic costume!

Louiz.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Fri, 07 Nov 2008 14:44:50 GMT
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They're especially impressed if you're doing them on dpns :) "How do you knit with all those needles?!" Well, I only knit with two at a time, just like any of my other needles :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Vikkik on Fri, 07 Nov 2008 18:59:22 GMT
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Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Vikkik on Fri, 07 Nov 2008 18:59:46 GMT
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Socks are joyous! I'm a recently converted sock addict, and I have such a queue of patterns I want to try. (I finished my most recent one on the train home yesterday, and now I can't decide which pattern to do next....)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 00:51:43 GMT
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MY SPINDLE IS HERE!

Spindles, rather, since I got top and bottom-whorl, so that I can experiment to discover if I'm a top or a bottom *insert sexual joke here*

I got out the silky roving, unrolled it, stroked--and promptly broke it in half. Oops. Man, the videos make this rejoining thing look so easy....*frantically tries to pet roving back into position*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 02:07:41 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sat, 08 November 2008 02:51MY SPINDLE IS HERE!

Hurray, hurrah, jubilation, and further loss of free time for you, Charis! Have fun and show us your first efforts. You're a braver woman than me! I hope that roving shaped up and roved no more.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 02:09:57 GMT
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And HERE IT IS!

TA-DA!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 02:13:37 GMT
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It looks very well behaved. It is past four in the morning here and I know it is time to go to bed, when the first thing I think, is well done Charis, great first effort, and the next thing I think is: It looks like udon noodles... :) Is it as soft and cuddly as it looks?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 02:52:36 GMT
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It is soft and cuddly--it is also very thin in a couple of places o_0 I had a little group with the twist leaping over a thickish spot and twisting up a thin spot into a tight little knot. I suppose this is something that I'll learn to manage with practice? One can only hope :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 03:20:47 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Fri, 07 November 2008 21:09And HERE IT IS!

TA-DA!

Gorgeous! Good work!

Your first yarn is bound to be thick and thin. Keep going! I think the ideal yarn weight for that spindle will probably be a tad thinner than what you've got on the spindle already. That will keep it spinning longer.

As for reattaching your roving, that's another thing you'll get with practice. You'll find it wants to grab onto itself. Have you ever done a spit splice in knitting? It's the same sort of thing, but without the spit or the rubbing or anything. :)

Lovely work!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by shalea on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 20:09:28 GMT

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You people are going to make me go out and try to get back into some sort of needlework or yarn project or something... Grr. :d

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 20:21:10 GMT
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Oh, no. We won't make you. We'll just talk about fibercrafting so much that your own curiosity will suck you into our stringy world.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 22:46:35 GMT
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Well I got sucked in by Jodi. A few months later I have a growing stash, knitting on my needles again, a growing collection of knitting books (anything that interests me I will read about) and a serious Ravelry addiction. Share the pleasure, share the pain. I'm having a ton of fun!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 23:08:13 GMT
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A Ravelry addiction is the best kind :)

If I hadn't recently found Robin's blog, I would have thought Ravelry was the entire interwebz

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 23:10:08 GMT
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Just found you and friended you on Ravelry. My username is different there.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 23:21:23 GMT
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Gotcha and back at you !

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Sat, 08 Nov 2008 23:38:20 GMT
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I just joined Ravelry today, username TheLorelei. I haven't done anything with my profile yet but I'm sure that will change...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 09 Nov 2008 00:40:43 GMT
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Not me. I suck at them. But I like to hang around.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 09 Nov 2008 06:53:30 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Fri, 07 November 2008 22:20Charismitaine wrote on Fri, 07 November 2008 21:09And HERE IT IS!

TA-DA!

Gorgeous! Good work!

Your first yarn is bound to be thick and thin. Keep going! I think the ideal yarn weight for that spindle will probably be a tad thinner than what you've got on the spindle already. That will keep it spinning longer.

As for reattaching your roving, that's another thing you'll get with practice. You'll find it wants to grab onto itself. Have you ever done a spit splice in knitting? It's the same sort of thing, but without the spit or the rubbing or anything. :)

Lovely work!

Thanks!

And nooooo, I have not heard of this spit splice before, and I have to say that it kind of sounds gross o_0

So, my current problem is the already spun yarn coming up and curling around the hook when I spin out my spindle. Is it just that the spindle is full, or am I doing something wrong?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 09 Nov 2008 08:21:20 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sun, 09 November 2008 01:53
Thanks!

And nooooo, I have not heard of this spit splice before, and I have to say that it kind of sounds gross o_0

So, my current problem is the already spun yarn coming up and curling around the hook when I spin out my spindle. Is it just that the spindle is full, or am I doing something wrong?

The idea of a spit splice is to felt the two ends together - liquid, friction, and heat - but you can dip the ends in water if you don't want to spit on your knitting. ;)

You mean the yarn is slipping over the whorl (you're using the top whorl, right?) and generally being a pain? It *could* mean you're full, but you could also try a couple other things:

1. wrap the yarn around the hook twice to secure it before you start spinning

2. If your spindle has a notch in the whorl, make sure your yarn is catching in it - that way it won't slip around the whorl

3. wrap lower on the shaft before bringing the yarn over the whorl. Don't ask me why this works. It just does.

(If you have a webcam and want to do internet lessons sometime, let me know. Maybe we can figure out how to solve problems like that. :))

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 00:13:10 GMT
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Yeah, I have yet to attempt the bottom whorl...

It looks like double-wrapping the hook does the trick! Unfortunately I don't have a notch, though. I think it will also help if I draft the next batch to be half as thick....But first I have to get this stuff off the spindle! If I don't come back, my yarn ate me.....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 00:21:03 GMT
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OK, Ravelry is swallowing my life...but what an amazing resource! I discovered the vegan knitting group, which is helpful because my pregnant sister is vegan, and I want to try my hand at baby clothes! I made an acrylic blanket, but something that is actually on the little guy should really be a natural fiber, I think. I just remember those safety videos that we watched in high school chemistry class where they lit a polyester shirt on fire and it melted.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 00:27:28 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sun, 09 November 2008 19:13Yeah, I have yet to attempt the bottom whorl...

It looks like double-wrapping the hook does the trick! Unfortunately I don't have a notch, though. I think it will also help if I draft the next batch to be half as thick....But first I have to get this stuff off the spindle! If I don't come back, my yarn ate me.....

When you start your next cop (what the yarn on the spindle is called) on the top whorl, don't take the first bit of yarn off the hook. You know how you fold a pieces of wool over, start spinning...? Leave that piece on the hook. Bring it down to the base of the hook. Wrap it over the whorl, then start wrapping the yarn around the shaft. When you start spinning the next length of yarn, you can catch it on that piece of yarn, which will act as a notch.

That's how I do all my top whorls. I don't want to have to cut notches in any of my pretty whorls. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 01:11:57 GMT
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Laura wrote on Mon, 10 November 2008 02:21OK, Ravelry is swallowing my life...but what an amazing resource! I discovered the vegan knitting group, which is helpful because my pregnant sister is vegan, and I want to try my hand at baby clothes! I made an acrylic blanket, but something that is actually on the little guy should really be a natural fiber, I think. I just remember those safety videos that we watched in high school chemistry class where they lit a polyester shirt on fire and it melted.

Eeek! Surely cotton. I know vegans often have silk issues (torturing silk worms) but there are a ton of other plant fibres around: linen knits up beautifully, bamboo too, so much more: Jodi was just showing me (on Flickr) a corn based fibre.

(And Ravelry is yet another time sink).

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 01:20:47 GMT
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You have to be careful with some "plant-based" fibres, though. Sometimes the end-result of a supposedly plant-based fibre is something that has a much greater chemical resemblance to petroleum-based fibres than anything else. (I.e., the stuff will still melt into a puddle of plastic instead of burning to ash.) I know there have been some Ravelry threads on the Yarn board within the past month or so about this subject.

(Hmm... my computer thinks I should stick to the American spelling of fibre... silly computer.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 01:28:18 GMT
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blondviolinist wrote on Sun, 09 November 2008 20:20You have to be careful with some "plant-based" fibres, though. Sometimes the end-result of a supposedly plant-based fibre is something that has a much greater chemical resemblance to petroleum-based fibres than anything else. (I.e., the stuff will still melt into a puddle of plastic instead of burning to ash.) I know there have been some Ravelry threads on the Yarn board within the past month or so about this subject.

(Hmm... my computer thinks I should stick to the American spelling of fibre... silly computer.)

Yes, like...bamboo, I think. There was a discussion on a spinning board that it's not really a *green* fiber since there's so much processing involved.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 01:35:56 GMT
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I don't disagree. In many ways rayon is more natural than bamboo. But Laura wasn't asking about green fibres, she was asking about "natural", i.e. not petrochemical. I know vegans who will only wear plastic type shoes, so they'd rather have the petrochemical environmental damage than the ethical dilemma of animal death.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 01:57:50 GMT
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Eek! OK I suppose I'm looking for where natural intersects with plant-based. I know that cotton and linen are options, but I can't get over cotton's reputation as "the death fabric." I'd like to make something for the winter months, as he's due in January.
I know my brother in law wears hemp sweaters...maybe hemp? Argh.
ETA: My sister has noted that the problem she has with wool is just that there is so little information on the treatment of the sheep/llamas/alpacas/what have you and that some sources had implied that the shearing process can sometimes be rough and not done in a natural/seasonal manner. What's frustrating about this is that it's SO HARD to google this information, because I'm pretty sure that humanely treated animal wool would be acceptable (pretty sure she'd prefer they didn't end up as mutton, either, but HOW on earth can I verify that?)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by b_twin_1 on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 02:53:51 GMT
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Laura wrote on Sun, 09 November 2008 20:57
ETA: My sister has noted that the problem she has with wool is just that there is so little information on the treatment of the sheep/llamas/alpacas/what have you and that some sources had implied that the shearing process can sometimes be rough and not done in a natural/seasonal manner. What's frustrating about this is that it's SO HARD to google this

information, because I'm pretty sure that humanely treated animal wool would be acceptable (pretty sure she'd prefer they didn't end up as mutton, either, but HOW on earth can I verify that?)

You could always get to know some farmers and use their products ... :) Basically - don't trust everything on the internet and nature is *not* like Disney anyhow. Hehe. I know how I manage my stock and it is based on a low-stress premise.

(she might prefer if they don't end up as mutton but everything dies in the end ..... some of it "nicely" and some "not so nice". That's nature for you ;))

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 05:10:48 GMT
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I've finished the Blue Scarf! I would love to have made it about five inches longer than it is but I ran out of yarn and since I got this yarn ten years ago I don't think there's much hope of matching it so I just ended it. I still need to block it, but it's done.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 05:22:02 GMT
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When you start your next cop (what the yarn on the spindle is called) on the top whorl, don't take the first bit of yarn off the hook. You know how you fold a pieces of wool over, start spinning...? Leave that piece on the hook. Bring it down to the base of the hook. Wrap it over the whorl, then start wrapping the yarn around the shaft. When you start spinning the next length of yarn, you can catch it on that piece of yarn, which will act as a notch.

That's how I do all my top whorls. I don't want to have to cut notches in any of my pretty whorls. :)[/quote]

Oooooh, clever! That should do the trick!

...Cotton has a reputation?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Laura on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 12:32:57 GMT
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Haha, yes, you can witness it even in the musical Annie where they sing "cotton blankets, 'stead of wool...."
From what I understand, outdoor rescuers refer to cotton as "the death fabric" because it is a poor insulator and it also soaks up water very quickly, so it actually can end up sucking away your body heat.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 16:38:13 GMT
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Upon further research, it looks like cotton is still higher on the "warmth" index than acrylics, linen, hemp, and soy/bamboo/corn. So unless she gives me the go ahead on the humane wool resources I've located, I'll probably go cotton.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 19:51:26 GMT
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Laura wrote on Mon, 10 November 2008 18:38Upon further research, it looks like cotton is still higher on the "warmth" index than acrylics, linen, hemp, and soy/bamboo/corn. So unless she gives me the go ahead on the humane wool resources I've located, I'll probably go cotton.
Just tell her cotton by land and wool if by sea !

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Mon, 10 Nov 2008 20:16:36 GMT
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Hahaha! Apparently alpacas are a very environmentally friendly choice, as well as being veggie friendly because they aren't raised for meat. I found a canadian company that makes an affordable cotton/alpaca blend...we might be in business.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Tue, 11 Nov 2008 02:01:52 GMT

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Aaaaah. Living in Texas as I do, breathability is more of a factor than warmth for me, and I love cotton!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Tue, 11 Nov 2008 13:41:15 GMT
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Yeah, I will certainly make some cotton garments for the summer, but my sister is in Iowa, so I want to make the baby some winter clothes.
Quick question: Is there a substantial difference between worsted weight and aran weight? There's a pattern I want to tackle that says it's for aran weight yarn, which I know is one step above worsted, but worsted seems to be so much more common than aran...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Tue, 11 Nov 2008 14:30:08 GMT
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Occasionally "worsted weight" and "aran weight" are used interchangeably. To use an example from the cheapo yarn world, Red Heart Supersaver and Caron Simply Soft are both advertised as worsted weight yarns, but Red Heart is actually bulkier: it's aran weight, whereas Simply Soft is worsted weight, not aran weight. I like to think of aran weight as being the chubbier end of the worsted weight yarns :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Tue, 11 Nov 2008 15:18:39 GMT
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Aha! Thanks for the clarification.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Tue, 11 Nov 2008 22:50:09 GMT
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See? Where else could I go to hear yarn called "chubbier?"

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 12 Nov 2008 00:01:45 GMT
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The fibre world is another obscure dialect with its own jargon. An enigma wrapped up in a knit and purl chunky four-ply sock!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Wed, 12 Nov 2008 00:32:06 GMT
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I think I'm gonna try my hand at cabling soon. One of the women at church is a proficient knitter and says she'll help me figure it out. I found what looks to me to be a very simple cabling pattern... Now I just need more yarn and to actually get together with her.
Also, two of the girls in my class have asked me if I would knit them a scarf - I told them to supply me with yarn and I think they both want the pattern of the Blue Scarf. So yay! Hopefully I'll get some yarn from them tonight. I also warned them that I may not get the scarves back to them before this semester is over(or Christmas, even), and they both seemed fine with that as well...
If only my other set of needles would come I'd be able to work on several projects with similar size needles at once...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 12 Nov 2008 00:40:36 GMT
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Oh Reading Angel, that is the path to damnation (or a lot of unfinished projects) in my humble and long experience. Finish a project while you're still excited about it. Or else it lingers. And begins to get that rotting fish odour about it.

On the other hand really try cables, it isn't hard at all. If you have a cable needle (or I used to use a kilt brooch) on the right side of your knit, when you reach the point you want your cable, place the required number of stitches on the holder (i.e. half of the entire cable in a simple cable) and put it to the front of your piece if you want your cable to go one way, or to the back of your piece if you want your cable to go the other way. Knit the remaining stitches of that cable and then in the correct order (i.e. the order would have been knit in originally if not cabled) you knit the reserved stitches. Repeat as needed.

Stress not and attempt a few times with yarn you don't care too much about. Otherwise plunge right in. You can do it! And show us your results. Put some pictures up! I look forward to it.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Wed, 12 Nov 2008 00:45:14 GMT
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Well, yes but I want to knit all these things at the same time. I don't like having to wait to do any of them! And many of them I want to get done before Christmas... I am clearly far too ambitious for my own good.

See, I understand about half of what you've said about cabling but then my brain becomes obtuse and refuses to understand the rest of it. I get the part about Putting them Elsewhere and then Doing More Stuff Over Here and then Bringing them Back, it's the how that actually works that I don't get. It's gonna take sitting down with Susanna and trying it for me to really understand it, I think.

I don't have a cable needle or a kilt brooch. Would it be conceivable to use one of the dpns instead? Or ought I to find something that closes on the ends?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 12 Nov 2008 00:53:29 GMT
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Do you have an old-fashioned hair pin? A DPN is a bit iffy, particularly in the beginning, when you're feeling fraught and as if you have the fingers of Andre the Giant, when you are fairly much bound to drop one (this is no reflection on your knitting skills - more on my mentality). Of course you may be cool and collected and need none of the above. I do understand about wanting to do everything AT ONCE - I too have been looking at patterns avidly, and books and magazines. But you only have one pair of hands and you do want to FINISH stuff don't you? I suffer from terminal put-offi-ness. I decided to announce that sock for Shelley, because otherwise I would put it off until both her legs were mummified in a grave somewhere (Shelley - when you read this - I'm not wishing you ill ;) I'm just saying that a hundred years from now I would still be intending to knit you something). So now i will knit it. I have the fibre and am looking for my graph paper to plot it all out (having decided to do it "properly").

So kali epityhia! (Best wishes for a successful endeavour)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 12 Nov 2008 01:52:32 GMT
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Ooh! Wonderful!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Wed, 12 Nov 2008 14:38:25 GMT
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I aim to please :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 13 Nov 2008 01:12:39 GMT
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my daughter chelsey working on her first sewing project with my friend shirley. it will be a purse bag.
[img][url]http://farm4.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 13 Nov 2008 01:14:56 GMT
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here are some more pictures of work in progress.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 13 Nov 2008 01:53:07 GMT
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here is shirley helping kaitlynn with her first project.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 13 Nov 2008 21:16:24 GMT
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Well, Bonnie you have lovely daughters and a nice and generous friend - time is our most precious resource, and friends who have time for us are a wonderful gift. (thanks to all our forum friends!!!!)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 13 Nov 2008 22:51:19 GMT
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yes,shirley is indeed the the best, she is always willing to help the girls with what ever they need including baking for school functions. and she says we make a good team for quilting, i design, color coordinate ,shirley sews and we both put the batten in and put the front and back together and i tie it because my finger won't do the quilting any more.the one i am making for my sister is about half to 3/4 done.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 16 Nov 2008 22:49:51 GMT
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paces I need my new needles to get here! I need them now! There is Stuff I Need To Make! *chafes*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 16 Nov 2008 23:06:00 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Mon, 17 November 2008 00:49*paces* I need my new needles to get here! I need them now! There is Stuff I Need To Make! *chafes*
There, there, Charis. You are displaying addicted behaviour. Go back to your projects. Select one with needles you already have. Knit a bit of that. You will feel better ;) I haven't done any knitting today or yesterday. Yesterday I was cooking for a dinner party, today I spent twelve hours translating and the rest doing the laundry. I am in withdrawal too!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 16 Nov 2008 23:30:53 GMT
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But I haven't knit at all in...gosh, a week! But I can't finish my Tam Lin scarf without smaller needles!

I also need to go yarn shopping. Maybe tomorrow....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 00:57:28 GMT
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I've been getting more wire. ^_^

I picked up some 26ga sterling silver and malachite, amethyst, and lapis, made a necklace for my mom with it. Used all my wire... so then I got more!

28ga silver and copper and 30ga black and 3mm hematite beads. Made a collar for myself in silver with malachite with a dragon pendant that my boyfriend got me. Also, made boyfriend a really pretty bracelet with copper and hematite.

Next up! A pair of earrings to go with my mom's necklace, a bracelet (silver and hematite) for a friend, copper and silver for another friend, and two others (I'm not sure what) for other friends.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Vikkik on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 01:04:36 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sun, 16 November 2008 23:30But I haven't knit at all in...gosh, a week! But I can't finish my Tam Lin scarf without smaller needles!

I also need to go yarn shopping. Maybe tomorrow....

I sympathise completely! I was knitting away quite happily at my current sock on Wednesday evening when the needle I was knitting onto suddenly broke in the middle (luckily it didn't break right through, and I managed to transfer the stitches without losing any)so I had to dash onto ebay and order a replacement set (and I thought while I was at it I might as well order a couple of other sizes I was missing as well...;))I ordered them late Wednesday night and they arrived Saturday morning, so I was very impressed. However, in the intervening couple of days I came to the conclusion that I can NOT knit socks on 4 needles! I have to have 5 or it just feels wrong.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 03:16:53 GMT
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whimper I keep thinking about socks now.... I don't LIKE socks... but... the ones you guys keep talking about and linking are so PRETTY!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 04:55:00 GMT
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Yaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaay needles! *does new needle dance*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 09:00:41 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Mon, 17 November 2008 05:16*whimper* I keep thinking about socks now.... I don't LIKE socks... but... the ones you guys keep talking about and linking are so PRETTY!
Mori-neko show character: I too am not going to give in to socks. So many people knit lovely socks - I will resist and call on you to do the same ;) There is life for other knitting too!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 16:02:53 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Sun, 16 November 2008 22:16*whimper* I keep thinking about socks now.... I don't LIKE socks... but... the ones you guys keep talking about and linking are so PRETTY!

Jooooin ussssss.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 16:24:02 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Mon, 17 November 2008 04:00Mori-neko wrote on Mon, 17 November 2008 05:16*whimper* I keep thinking about socks now.... I don't LIKE socks... but... the ones you guys keep talking about and linking are so PRETTY!
Mori-neko show character: I too am not going to give in to socks. So many people knit lovely socks - I will resist and call on you to do the same ;) There is life for other knitting too!

I will start any more knitting projects until my halter is done.... unless it's a quick scarf for my boyfriend... but as far as projects that actually need focus. of course, I should really start working on it again, but I've been distracted by shiny wire and beads and fast-making pretties....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 19:07:05 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Mon, 17 November 2008 18:02Mori-neko wrote on Sun, 16 November 2008 22:16*whimper* I keep thinking about socks now.... I don't LIKE socks... but... the ones you guys keep talking about and linking are so PRETTY!

Joooooin usssss.

Resist, resist! It is the evil hypnotic influence. It is ferret power incarnate, resist. If you give in, it will be nothing put socks! Nothing, I tell you!!!!!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Mon, 17 Nov 2008 20:52:52 GMT
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Nonsense. We sock knitters have plenty of balance in our lives. Knit a pair of socks, knit a sweater. Knit another pair of socks, knit a scarf. Knit a third pair of socks, knit Christmas stockings. Knit a pair of socks, knit a lace shawl, knit a fifth pair of socks.

See, plenty of balance and variety ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 01:30:57 GMT
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I have two SPECIAL socks coming in the next few days. And they aren't even KNITTED socks! Mwhahahahahahaha!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 03:58:33 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Tue, 18 November 2008 20:30I have two SPECIAL socks coming in the next few days. And they aren't even KNITTED socks! Mwhahahahahahaha!
cheeky shelley very cheeky, better watch out or they will send the yarn goblin after you.[laughs

behind hand].

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 04:06:06 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Tue, 18 November 2008 20:30I have two SPECIAL socks coming in the next few days. And they aren't even KNITTED socks! Mwhahahahahahaha!

HEE!

I got some teal yarn to experiment with (not sold on the texture). Shelley, it's VERY teal. You like teal, right?

Because it's very teal.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 06:35:12 GMT
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I got yarn from T tonight! Yay! It's lovely, two shades of brown and teal/turquoise(not sure which it really qualifies as) variegated. I'm using the same pattern as the Blue Scarf because I had that pattern with me and have already gotten to Row 18 on the pattern. Yay! Also, it seems like my stitches are a bit tighter this time because the pattern is more visible on what I have than when I was doing it on the blue one, though that maybe because of the variegation instead. So, I'll hold off a bit on making the cable scarf. But, I do have the yarn for it now and I probably should procure a cable needle first so I don't go crazy by dropping cable stitches... In other news, I need to block the Blue Scarf and the dishcloths I've finished...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 14:06:19 GMT
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Oooh! The new yarn sounds beautimous! I'll be stalking your Ravelry pages for pictures.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Reading Angel on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 16:01:43 GMT
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Now I feel guilty for not having any pictures up on my Ravelry page yet! I'll make an effort this weekend...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 21:56:23 GMT
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I LIKE very teal...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 01:53:12 GMT
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Sort of a side question... how does one go about blocking stuff? I keep hearing the term, think I know what it means, but have no idea how to DO it!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 01:55:06 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Wed, 19 November 2008 20:53Sort of a side question... how does one go about blocking stuff? I keep hearing the term, think I know what it means, but have no idea how to DO it!

Here you go!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 02:51:46 GMT
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Good, because it is, indeed, VERY VERY teal. It is blindingly teal. I'm still not sold on the texture--it's a sort of chenille stuff--and I plan to go buy some real yarn soon, because I want to do something with cables and this just won't do, but I'll finish what I've started and then you'll see how

very teal this stuff is....(I picked it up for the color--it didn't seem so bright in the store! Then I brought it home, pulled it out, and sort of went 'Oh. My. God. That is teal. That is....REALLY teal'.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 20:25:33 GMT
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Love any kind of teal...

You made me laugh, thanks.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 23:45:06 GMT
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Charis, I keep misreading your icon as saying "Impudent Trumpet" and I keep thinking "But Charis doesn't play the trumpet... Oh wait, that squiggle is an S! Right, Strumpet, that makes more sense."

Shelley, I keep thinking about making you leg-cover-things but then I get bogged down in all the things that have to happen in the next month... Maybe after Christmas I'll get around to it - I have this beautiful blue-ish/teal-ish fabric with a black leaf silhouette pattern all over it; the fabric is see-through, though so I'll have to get muslin or something to line it.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 23:52:33 GMT
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You don't have to make me anything, Angel. You sweet thing.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 23:57:13 GMT
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I know, but every time I come across the fabric I think - I should really make those things for

Shelley. It's been in my stash for years - my original plan was to make a dress and then found I didn't have enough yardage to make the pattern I wanted, so it's been sitting around and I've never done anything with it, yet.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 23:57:55 GMT
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Hmmm. A purse?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Fri, 21 Nov 2008 01:17:45 GMT
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yea,am seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.i have finally got to the sewing things on to the front part of the quilt i am making my sister.[claps hands].hopefully next week i can put the bunting in and put the back and front together.then all i have left is to tie it.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Fri, 21 Nov 2008 04:36:58 GMT
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Yay, I think I've finally figured out a knitted rose pattern that will work for my Tam Lin scarf!

...now I just need to knit, oh, twelve of them....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 22 Nov 2008 13:59:19 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Fri, 21 November 2008 06:36Yay, I think I've finally figured out a knitted rose pattern that will work for my Tam Lin scarf!

...now I just need to knit, oh, twelve of them....

Twelve... Oh brave and foolish one, why?

Due to excessive yarn porn that has been coming my way and glorious pictures on Ravelry I succumbed (I am very weak on the moral fortitude side) and subscribed to sundara's lace yarn collection. I don't know what came over me but Arabian nights will be mine after Christmas. If I ever have the guts to knit with it, we shall see.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Sat, 22 Nov 2008 17:38:45 GMT
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Huzzah, I have finished the stripey scarf for my husband! (Pattern kindly located for me by the lovely Susan from Athens). Pictures may take awhile, as neither my iBook nor my husband's MacBook Pro has a digital photo card port. This means that I have to drag out the old Dell, download photos there, and then email them to myself. Urgh. However I really should do this as so far I have NO photos on my Ravelry page.
One other thing: being poor in this recession of ours has forced me to re-evaluate my old projects. Unraveled went my husband's ten foot scarf and re-knit into the fabulous aforementioned stripey scarf. Unraveled went the bizarre crochet shawl that just DIDN'T turn out the way it was supposed to and is waiting to be turned into a tube top (a classy one that is more like a corset, thank-you-very-much). Out comes the daunting beaded hat and scarf set that I bought on clearance years ago and never made because I was afraid of DPN's and circular needles, not to mention the whole beading thing. Is anyone else finding that their stash is dwindling like mine is?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Sat, 22 Nov 2008 19:19:32 GMT
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Laura, do ya'll have Walgreens or Eckerds up there? We took some pictures a few weeks ago and couldn't get either camera to cooperate with the computers, so we took the memory cards to the Picture Processing place in Walgreens and got them put on a CD which we then brought home and used to put the pictures on the computer.

I don't have much of a stash, yet. I've tried not to buy any yarn unless I have a project lined up for it. I have the brown fine Alpaca yarn that I don't know what to do with, and some green yarn that I plan on making a scarf for my Aunt for Christmas whenever I get done with Tira's scarf(for which she supplied me with the yarn, and which I should have half-a-skein left after I finish her scarf..).

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Sat, 22 Nov 2008 21:06:10 GMT
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Reading Angel wrote on Sat, 22 November 2008 14:19Laura, do ya'll have Walgreens or Eckerds up there? We took some pictures a few weeks ago and couldn't get either camera to cooperate with the computers, so we took the memory cards to the Picture Processing place in Walgreens and got them put on a CD which we then brought home and used to put the pictures on the computer.

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Yeah, there's a Walgreens, but the easiest one to get to is near Union Square and it's always horrendously busy. It's probably just less of a pain in the ass to use the Dell. It's not that it's so horrible, I'm just lazy.
I, too try not to buy yarn unless I have a project, but occasionally I'll be given yarn, or I'll have some leftovers from projects. I just really don't have any extra income to spend on nice yarn and it's a real bummer.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 22 Nov 2008 21:15:06 GMT
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Laura, so glad that the stripey scarf turned out well! Well done. And virtuous indeed. I'm afraid I am in the mood to succumb - I am rewarding myself on the back for several immense translation projects done in the first half of the year and the ones looming over me right now. But I soon foresee my knitting time drying down to a trickle and even I will be hard put to shop for yarn without at least finishing the scarf that I have been knitting for too long and Shelley's foot thingummy. So knitting updates are slow, slow, slow at the moment :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sat, 22 Nov 2008 21:32:08 GMT
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I'm so happy I'm getting a thingummy!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 22 Nov 2008 22:32:13 GMT
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Well so you should be ***virtuously*** thingummies are rare things. Others have socks, wraps, legwarmers - you shall have a Thingummy (I previously forgot to capitalise appropriately) ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 02:35:00 GMT
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we have the go ahead for anyone interested in contributing a square of material [preferably cotton] with whatever you think robin might like [rose, dogs,music notes,ect]signed by you in what every manner you want[embroidery,cross stitch,painting] those interested can pm me for my address to send it to me when finished and i will put together and send it from us to robin for her taking the time and effort out of her busy schedule for us.if you are interested please pm me so i can co-ordinate it.thank you. depending on how many are interested in doing the quilt, the squares will be either 6x6 or 12x12 inches.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 04:03:10 GMT
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That sounds excellent! PM on its way--how large of a square are you looking for?

I don't have a lot of yarn--and I don't have very much good yarn at all! I don't know how to buy yarn yet, and I felt sort of lost when I went into our LYS (which was also tiny, and packed out), and the LYS is half an hour away....does anyone buy their yarn online? Where do you go, and what do you like?

And I did some more spinning! I think I'm getting better, but it's hard to tell....the result is uneven, although I think it averages out to be not so bad, but I'm worried that I alternatively have too much or too little twist.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 05:04:55 GMT
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Two good places to buy yarn online (in the States, that is) are KnitPicks and Webs. KnitPicks has a lot of really inexpensive but quality yarn. Webs tends to be a little closer in pricing to a regular brick&mortar store, but they have really good closeout sales all the time, and good customer service as well.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 15:20:52 GMT
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Bonnie that sounds like a great idea. But when do you want it for? Because to be brutally honest, I don't have time before Christmas. After Christmas I'm all for it. I have a pack of newly purchased sampler books (I was looking at samplers in museums over my summer holidays) packed with ideas and stitches I would like to try and an embroidery hand that is complaining that the computer keyboard and my knitting needles are getting all the action. So let me know what you want and any background colour you might prefer. I can do cotton and maybe even linnen without too much hardship. I'd love to show my appreciation to Robin for all the work she puts into the blog and the forum, because I have gained such pleasure and company from it over the past year.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 16:59:14 GMT
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i want to know who is interested by the 31 st dec but the square won't need to be done until april to give every one time.and no book covers because of copy right issues

---

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 17:22:57 GMT
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Oh great, even I could get something done in that time frame! I'll ponder on design in my spare time (let me laugh) and get on with it over the actual holidays, when I'll have some time off.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Mon, 24 Nov 2008 04:40:48 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Sat, 22 November 2008 08:59Charismitaine wrote on Fri, 21 November 2008 06:36Yay, I think I've finally figured out a knitted rose pattern that will work for my Tam Lin scarf!

...now I just need to knit, oh, twelve of them....

Twelve... Oh brave and foolish one, why?

Well, I overestimated by about three--I'll be making five or six, and I've made three already. It only takes about an hour for each one--the look that I liked best calls for knitting each petal separately in stockinette, so that they'll curl properly, and then stitching them together.

Quote:Two good places to buy yarn online (in the States, that is) are KnitPicks and Webs. KnitPicks has a lot of really inexpensive but quality yarn. Webs tends to be a little closer in pricing to a regular brick&mortar store, but they have really good closeout sales all the time, and good customer service as well.

Thanks! I'll definitely be ordering some yarn soon--I'd love to frequent the LYS, but it's quite a trek and I don't really have the time these days.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 24 Nov 2008 08:54:49 GMT
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Charis I read your twelve as twelve Tam Lins not roses ***headdesk*** I thought: wow her Christmas knitting list is LOOOOOOOONNNNNNNNGGGGGGG! Duh!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Tue, 25 Nov 2008 02:17:05 GMT
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Oooooh of course! No no--I might make one or two more as gifts, but not twelve!

I know how slow I am... ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Tue, 25 Nov 2008 08:21:15 GMT
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Pictures please, at least on Ravelry of the roses (detail) and the whole Tam Lin? Pretty please?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by tassiegal on Tue, 25 Nov 2008 14:14:16 GMT
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I'll admit I didn't read through all of this, but I'll add my 2 cents worth.
bobbin lace - I learnt about 20 odd years ago when my mum learnt, and it sat in the top of my wardrobe for years. Am slowly getting back into it with the help of the lovely ladies in my lace group. Because of this I also do a bit of bead work to get the spangles on the bottom of my bobbins looking nice.
I taught myself to knit about 3 years ago....I cant follow patterns and desperately want to learn how to knit socks but cant get my head around DPN's.
Cant crochet to save myself, but my mum can.
Can do french knots and basic embroidery but never seem to FINISH anything...have counted cross stitch but dont have the patience or the eye sight.
I can sew and follow a pattern and desperately want to start making clothes for myself but dont have a sewing machine or time.
Oh I also intend oneday to start scrapbooking.

So thats me. I have a 30 drawer cabinet of which about 15 drawers are full of STUFF.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Tue, 25 Nov 2008 22:48:22 GMT
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Ooooh Tassiegal lace, tell us more. I've always fancied doing bobbin lace, particularly since going to Brussels in my youth and seeing these old ladies whizzing up wonderful designs. I knit some lace and can crochet (but not very well - I've never got the effects I want). Any lace to show us?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 01:15:00 GMT
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And maybe I missed it but what the hell is a Tam Lin scarf? (Please?)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 01:19:07 GMT
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I've done bobbin lace some. My mom and I picked it up when I was 13 or so... she made my kippah for my Bat Mitzvah (along with weaving my tallis). I've still got my board for it somewhere, but I can't really remember how to do it... should pick it up again sometime.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 03:36:37 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Tue, 25 November 2008 03:21Pictures please, at least on Ravelry of the roses (detail) and the whole Tam Lin? Pretty please?

Well, I meant to take pictures of the scarf and of my yarn, which I dunked and dried overnight (I think that one has too little twist and one has too much. How do I tell if I have the ideal amount of twist?), except my camera is inexplicably kaput. I think it's the flash. But soon! I'll beg use of a camera from someone.

Quote:And maybe I missed it but what the hell is a Tam Lin scarf? (Please?)

The folklore group on Ravelry does a seasonal Knit-A-Long, where everyone knits a project inspired by a particular theme or story--the fall theme was Tam Lin, and my project is a scarf with a leaf pattern knit into it, and red roses knit separately and sewn on. And eventually I'll have pictures of it.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by tassiegal on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 04:26:39 GMT
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No pictures of my lace - but will try to take some of the purple spiders of doom when I get back from my writing retreat. I started it as an entry into the county show but the book is useless on how to start it, so I had to ask and then it took Cinni and I an hour to work it out....If you want to see how it works I suggest Jo Edkins Lace site she has nifty interactive demos on what way the bobbins go.

But essentially everything is made up of 2 stitches - a whole stitch and a half stitch. All grounds etc are variations on those two stitches. I would have had some lace to photograph, but I sent the good bit to my aged aunt in the UK.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 05:15:03 GMT
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Scarf!

It's aaaaalmost done--I need three more roses and as many leaves as I can squeeze out of my leftover yarn....

And yarn!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 05:27:02 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Wed, 26 November 2008 00:15Scarf!

Very pretty, both scarf and yarn!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 05:40:44 GMT
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Thanks, Charis. I can rest now. Great scarf!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Guest on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 05:49:26 GMT
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tassiegal wrote on Wed, 26 November 2008 03:14I'll admit I didn't read through all of this, but I'll add my 2 cents worth.
bobbin lace - I learnt about 20 odd years ago when my mum learnt, and it sat in the top of my wardrobe for years. Am slowly getting back into it with the help of the lovely ladies in my lace group. *snip*

Yay something I can talk about in this thread (Im not a knitter)

As part of my SCA activities I am teaching myself both bobbin lace and needlelace.

Needlelace is far harder of the two as its rarer and less well documented and not really done (the way it was back then) these days.

Bobbin lace is alive and well in the 21st century! I found a lady who teaches a group at a community center, and talked her into a couple of private lessons for myself and a fellow SCAdian, which was REALLY useful, and once I got my head around the basics, its actually quite a simple concept, and fun!

However I dont have the right bobbins or a proper cushion, which is a bit of a hindrance, and I have been working such long hours for the past 6 months or so I havent been able to make the classes :(

I did buy an awesome book which has colour coded examples to teach with and as soon as I get my life back again I will be righ onto those craft projects currently gathering dust LOL

I have one finished needlelace piece (which is awful but valuable learning experience) and one finished bobbin lace bookmark (also an awful learners piece)

For the SCAdian side of things I have had to do LOTs of research and I have lots of links and photos and book references for authenticity etc. So if anyone is interested in any of that feel free to PM me.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 05:56:24 GMT
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"as soon as I get my life back again "

Bluerose, take it from one who knows--you have to take your life back. Prioritize. Kick the mind and body sucks out.

(This coming from me, who has yet to start writing again since Sept. 3rd when I fell...)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 08:18:00 GMT
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Hey Charis, well done! The roses look very Tudor roses to me. I saw the pictures on Flickr and posted my comments there!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by tassiegal on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 13:18:49 GMT
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BlueRose wrote on Wed, 26 November 2008 16:49
Yay something I can talk about in this thread (Im not a knitter)

As part of my SCA activities I am teaching myself both bobbin lace and needlelace.
I dont even want to THINK about needle lace, my head would explode.

Quote:*snip* and once I got my head around the basics, its actually quite a simple concept, and fun!
So true, but the basic concepts when you are VERY left dominant? NOT so easy!

Quote:However I dont have the right bobbins or a proper cushion, which is a bit of a hindrance, and I have been working such long hours for the past 6 months or so I havent been able to make the classes :(
I could be VERY evil and post lots of links.....

Quote:I did buy an awesome book which has colour coded examples to teach with *snip*
Which one? I have a colour coded one which is USELESS.

Quote:For the SCAdian side of things I have had to do LOTs of research and I have lots of links and photos and book references for authenticity etc. So if anyone is interested in any of that feel free to PM me.
I spent 2 hours in the Victoria and Albert Museum last year this time looking at old bobbin lace

and giggling manically to myself. I was the only one in the gallery and was pulling out different drawers going "OOOH PREETY!" to myself. Ended up scaring the security guard - until we started talking - which wasted another half hour or so... DAMN I miss the decent museums.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 22:01:09 GMT
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tassiegal wrote on Wed, 26 November 2008 15:18I spent 2 hours in the Victoria and Albert Museum last year this time looking at old bobbin lace and giggling manically to myself. I was the only one in the gallery and was pulling out different drawers going "OOOH PREETY!" to myself. Ended up scaring the security guard - until we started talking - which wasted another half hour or so... DAMN I miss the decent museums.

Oh I've spent hours in that gallery too. Looking at those old brackets you pull out and the drawers, the samplers and fabrics and textiles and swooning. I discovered it entirely by accident a few years back when looking for an exhibition of Beatrix Potter's father's photographs (which were interesting too), but we loved the textiles and went back again this year. (Hint: the museum restaurant serves really good roast pork with crackling and apple sauce. Just so any visitors can plan on it.)

And Jodi, all the spinning info I've picked up from you: Bless you for it. It's turning up in this translation that landed on my desk yesterday: Labels for a folklore museum in the north of Greece and they have a lot of old weaving and spinning equipment. The problem is it is labelled in very "folk" Greek and I first need to figure out what they're talking about in Greek before figuring out what it is in English. ***Sigh***

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 22:46:05 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Wed, 26 November 2008 17:01
And Jodi, all the spinning info I've picked up from you: Bless you for it. It's turning up in this translation that landed on my desk yesterday: Labels for a folklore museum in the north of Greece and they have a lot of old weaving and spinning equipment. The problem is it is labelled in very "folk" Greek and I first need to figure out what they're talking about in Greek before figuring out what it is in English. ***Sigh***

Oh, well, good? Email me if you need any more spinning words. I got 'em. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by tassiegal on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 23:58:22 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Thu, 27 November 2008 09:01tassiegal wrote on Wed, 26 November 2008 15:18I spent 2 hours in the Victoria and Albert Museum last year this time looking at old bobbin lace and giggling manically to myself. I was the only one in the gallery and was pulling out different drawers going "OOOH PREETY!" to myself. Ended up scaring the security guard - until we started talking - which wasted another half hour or so... DAMN I miss the decent museums.

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Never tried the restaurant - dont think I have ever GOT to that side!! Mind you I was a paid up member of the British Museum Friends when I lived in the UK - THATS a membership with perks!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by scarhandpiper on Fri, 28 Nov 2008 20:20:01 GMT
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Charis, that scarf is gorgeous!

(I am getting absolutely NO knitting done, reading all these posts! But they're very entertaining!)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 28 Nov 2008 22:03:31 GMT
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Heh. Yeah, that's why I hang out here. That and at some time I want to commission a scarf.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Fri, 28 Nov 2008 22:47:52 GMT
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scarhandpiper wrote on Fri, 28 November 2008 15:20Charis, that scarf is gorgeous!

Thanks! I'm glad everyone likes it :) I finished the roses last night, so I just need to knit up some leaving and stitch everything on, which I plan to do while watching a lot of Tom Baker-era Doctor Who today ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Erika in Colorado on Sat, 29 Nov 2008 02:00:36 GMT
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Charis, I love the scarf. It's too bad the wrists don't allow me to crochet anymore. I mostly don't read this thread (but instead look for the occasional pretty picture on it) because it makes me sad I haven't been able to crochet or embroider since college; in third grade I did so much embroidery that my teacher found a locked case at school to display it when I brought some in for a show and tell kind of thing.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sat, 29 Nov 2008 03:40:20 GMT
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Thanks!

The scarf is 100% complete now--I'm very pleased with it and I plan to wear it on our tree quest tomorrow, so there should be pictures soon!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Sat, 29 Nov 2008 05:34:05 GMT
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I learned a new paper-crafting thing today - my Aunt's neighbor taught us how to make German Stars - you start off with four strips of paper and end up with a mostly-3D-star. It's pretty fun, and easy now that I have the trick of the taller points. Now I just need lots of coloured paper... Apparently it's traditional to dip them in wax as well, but we didn't have any wax...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 30 Nov 2008 05:03:28 GMT
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And the Tam Lin scarf is officially 100% done!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Sun, 30 Nov 2008 05:15:14 GMT
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Oh, sisi! It's lovely! The roses add an extra dimension to it...

(I want one...)

I thought I should let ya'll know that in my Black Friday shopping, I picked up four skeins of yarn which would normally have been approx. $30 for $12! Yay! I now have a couple skeins of deep red chenille stuff that Mom has requested a scarf out of and a lumpy off-white yarn that I have been looking at and stroking in every single store I found it in for a while but I couldn't stand to pay $5 for a skein before - $2 is much better!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 30 Nov 2008 07:21:04 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sun, 30 November 2008 00:03And the Tam Lin scarf is officially 100% done!

Looks fabulous! Awesome work!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 30 Nov 2008 09:30:11 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sun, 30 November 2008 07:03And the Tam Lin scarf is officially 100%

done!

Great work Charis, well done! The colours are wonderful and the knitting well executed. I love the result! See, taking your time over it was worth it!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sun, 30 Nov 2008 14:00:59 GMT
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Oh, Charis, that's beautiful!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Sun, 30 Nov 2008 22:35:53 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sun, 30 November 2008 00:03And the Tam Lin scarf is officially 100% done!
well done. it looks fabulous.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 30 Nov 2008 23:33:55 GMT
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Aw, thanks, guys! :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Mon, 01 Dec 2008 05:04:48 GMT
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It's beautiful, Charis. And should you run into your fairy lover at midnight you can use the scarf to help hold onto him while he turns into all sorts of things! Handy!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by skating librarian on Tue, 02 Dec 2008 03:20:52 GMT
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FAntastic scarf! An inspiration!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Tue, 02 Dec 2008 07:08:31 GMT
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Aw, you guys are too sweet to me *blush*

ssshunt wrote on Mon, 01 December 2008 00:04It's beautiful, Charis. And should you run into your fairy lover at midnight you can use the scarf to help hold onto him while he turns into all sorts of things! Handy!

Exactly! That's the entire idea behind the scarf design--now I just need a fairy lover....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Tue, 02 Dec 2008 09:05:02 GMT
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No, no, no, Charis: read those books - fairy lovers are a mess and nothing but trouble. You use the scarf to hold onto your human lover when the fairies try to steal him/her away! Grabbing a fairy lover is usually the stuff of nightmares.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Tue, 02 Dec 2008 20:33:49 GMT
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I Loooooooove that scarf, Charis. It is exquisite!
I am still sans photos of my projects on this computer. Booooo. I fail.
However, I went to the Lion Brand Yarn Studio in Manhattan today and picked up 19 skeins of loverly cotton-ease yarn to start a sampler afghan for my sister and brother-in-law. There's no way I'll get it done by their first anniversary at the end of this month, but I realized that I have been promising both of my sisters full sized afghans for years now. I've made them for both of my parents as well as both of my grandmothers. And if I'm going back to school in June, I need to hammer them out NOW or I never will. At least not until....jeez. Until I'm done with my residency? In like...8 or 9 years?

Anyway, I broke it gently to my oldest sister that because she had just received a baby blanket from yours truly, that middle sister would get the first afghan. Let's see how well youngest sister (me) holds up.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Wed, 03 Dec 2008 00:48:58 GMT
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Laura wrote on Tue, 02 December 2008 15:33I Loooooooove that scarf, Charis. It is exquisite!

Thank you! :)

(I was totally kidding about fairy loves o_0 Do Not Want! I like men who are nice and human, please, with good jawlines and hawkish noses....)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 03 Dec 2008 00:55:22 GMT
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Well now, that depends on the fairy. I figure there has to be at least a few non-human despising fairies out there...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by afuzzybird on Thu, 04 Dec 2008 00:29:52 GMT
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I just want you guys to know that you've inspired me to try and knit a pair of wristwarmers (my first project with CABLES [gulp]) for my little sister for Christmas. I've already taken it apart 4 times and I've never gotten more than five rows in.

But even if I end up having to buy her something else because they aren't done, her birthday's in February, so I can pretend that's what I had planned all along!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Thu, 04 Dec 2008 01:55:38 GMT
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Yaaay! Good on you for trying--I really want to make a pair, and I really need to try my hand at knitting in the round, but I fear the thumb gusset o_0

But I did figure out (all on my own, just from reading directions, without a video!) how to knit an i-cord! I've made a headband for a gift exchange, and I'm working on figuring out how to knit a jonquil (my giftee's fav flower) to adorn it....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 04 Dec 2008 08:43:27 GMT
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Charis, as another person who is viewing thumb gussets with trepidation, there are a lot of nice designs that entirely skip the thumb gusset, where you just knit a rectangle and you sew it up, leaving a hole for the thumb. That sounds a lot more manageable, doesn't it?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Thu, 04 Dec 2008 11:17:28 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Wed, 03 December 2008 20:55Yaaay! Good on you for trying--I really want to make a pair, and I really need to try my hand at knitting in the round, but I fear the thumb gusset o_0

No need to fear thumb gussets. It's just a bunch of increases, followed by a bind off over the new stitches when you have enough to stick your thumb through.

You could try Fetching (knitty.com); I don't think that has thumb gussets. I liked Mitt Envy (it's on Ravelry) as a cute mitt with a good intro to thumb gussets.

I've made a few pair of fingerless mitts for other people. I made a really soft, gorgeous pink alpaca/angora pair for myself...but either the pattern was too big, the yarn was too thick, or my wrists are just freakisly bony, but they kept sliding all over my hands when I tried to type. I ended up sending them to a friend. (I couldn't bear to rip it out, and I don't think the yarn liked being ripped very much, anyway. My friend loved them, and that was all that mattered.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 04 Dec 2008 12:08:20 GMT
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i can,t knit to save my life but both my girls are trying it thanks to my friend shirly.my oldest daughter has been nagging me for fingerless gloves but they have a flap that is attached and will cover the fingers if needed.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Thu, 04 Dec 2008 21:51:17 GMT
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This is why I buy my gloves.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Thu, 04 Dec 2008 22:06:48 GMT
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I just picked up some like that at WalMart this afternoon. The Computer Lab is much too cold to be stuck here for hours without gloves and I can't type with ones that have fingers - so I got fingerless gloves, and they have a flap to make them mittens.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Thu, 04 Dec 2008 22:38:32 GMT
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So you shop at Voldemart?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Thu, 04 Dec 2008 22:56:25 GMT
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Yes. Usually when I'm stuck on this side of town and can't go home to fetch whatever it is that I need Right Now(today, for instance, I needed gloves and socks and chocolate in a desperate way - it was the only conceivable place to fetch them all in time to get working on this dratted Paper...)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 05 Dec 2008 00:07:40 GMT
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Keep at it, Reading Angel, you can do it, one paragraph at a time. Fingerless gloves are the way to go with freezing offices and computer labs. We're pulling for you!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Fri, 05 Dec 2008 00:09:28 GMT
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go angel go, you can do it.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Fri, 05 Dec 2008 00:38:11 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Thu, 04 December 2008 03:43Charis, as another person who is viewing thumb gussets with trepidation, there are a lot of nice designs that entirely skip the thumb gusset, where you just knit a rectangle and you sew it up, leaving a hole for the thumb. That sounds a lot more manageable, doesn't it?

I actually did that, as the Very First Thing I Knitted Ever, but I don't like how naked the poor thumb is...

I just need to bite the bullet and give it a shot--after I finish my current projects, that is *cough*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Fri, 05 Dec 2008 21:05:57 GMT
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I keep thinking I want to make a pair of fingerless gloves too, but I like the ones with the half-fingers, and I just get scared >.>

I even have the yarn for it! Some gorgeous wool in varigated gold/green/rust that I've already made a matching scarf with (had most of a ball left over).... ooh I found it online! number 9972.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 05 Dec 2008 21:29:41 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Fri, 05 December 2008 23:05I keep thinking I want to make a pair of fingerless gloves too, but I like the ones with the half-fingers, and I just get scared >.>

I even have the yarn for it! Some gorgeous wool in varigated gold/green/rust that I've already made a matching scarf with (had most of a ball left over).... ooh I found it online! number 9972.

Looks lovely: pictures of the scarf? I feel for you with the fingers. I tell myself it's all in my head, but I need to gird my loins and jump in. I think with some harmless yarn first, though. Something that behaves and can be ripped out again and again, if necessary.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 00:14:51 GMT
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Yay, I finished another scarf today! It's all in star stitch, which I just learned and think is rather smashing.

I've also made two headbands, and I'm working on knitting a jonquil (I'm about to go attempt the cup for the center, which will be the tricky part) to go on one of them.

oh and I ordered 20 balls of yarn *cough*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 09:22:46 GMT
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Twenty balls of yarn! Wow. And well done with the scarf and flowers!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 13:01:03 GMT
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i am almost finished my quilt for my sister.i am tying it now and should be done[fingers crossed] by the end of the week. boy i hope she likes it.i am no artist but i have so much fun doing the picture quilts.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 19:16:17 GMT
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i love the butterflies on the envelope jodi,they are beautiful.i saw them on my flika site

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 23:49:45 GMT
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They're not all for me! Well, they are for me, but some of them are for making gifts! I swear! And several of them are multiple balls of the same thing, so that I can make extra-wide-and-long scarves--I think my sister will be a getting a scarf with a hood.

...and...and...they were so pretty!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Mon, 08 Dec 2008 23:56:26 GMT
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i had the same problem charis ,when i go looking at cotton patterns for my quilts.so many patterns not enough money.[waaa]

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Wed, 10 Dec 2008 03:00:42 GMT
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I made a Charis headband! It's very cute and made of pheonix-and-peacock feather-ribbon-yarn! I

loves that yarn! And the headband is cute and stripey - I was going to wear it today but then Winter showed up, meaning a hat was required...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 10 Dec 2008 20:17:20 GMT
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I looked at this conversation, compared it to the post about youth: do you realise we are all Senior Members? You know what this makes us? A bunch of seniors nattering about knitting. I can almost feel my dentures slipping :p

---

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 10 Dec 2008 20:18:58 GMT
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HA!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 01:02:12 GMT
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snork

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 01:52:20 GMT
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We should be senile members after 500 posts.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 02:30:08 GMT
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Heh, then what should it be after a thousand?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 02:36:19 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Wed, 10 December 2008 20:52We should be senile members after 500 posts.

Careful--that could be arranged.... :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 03:40:55 GMT
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Yeeeees!!!! I've been waiting to be senile my whole life! *promptly stops holding in the snarky things she always wants to say*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 04:03:47 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Wed, 10 December 2008 19:30Heh, then what should it be after a thousand?

Brain dead?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 12:23:54 GMT
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snork

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 20:53:43 GMT
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Bonnie snorked at me. Hush Bonnie, you should be knitting. Me, I'm the comic relief. Since I cain't knit worth a, um, dime.

Family website. Family website.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 21:55:31 GMT
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Shelley, I think if you arranged it to be senile members after 500 posts it would be you and me. This would not reflect well on us. Let more people join the club before you start suggesting derogatory names. (Hint: The Idiots sounds like fun when it is two hundred people having a great tim, but pretty pathetic when it is two women over forty on their ownsome - if you see what I mean) ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by shalea on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 22:47:00 GMT
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Snork!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 11 Dec 2008 23:49:04 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Thu, 11 December 2008 15:53Bonnie snorked at me. Hush Bonnie, you should be knitting. Me, I'm the comic relief. Since I cain't knit worth a, um, dime.

Family website. Family website.
i do not knit!!!! i quilt!!! in fact i just finished the quilt i was making my sister for x-mas and will post it as soon as i get a picture taken of it.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 02:12:39 GMT
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Sorry! I'm so ashamed.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 03:18:10 GMT
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Yaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaarn!!!!!!

My twenty balls of yarn arrived today and they are faaaaaaaabulous! I'm swooning all over them--we had cuddle time on the couch earlier. I've also overflowed my yarn basket and spilled into the giant teacup-shaped planter I got for Halloween.

I got:

3 skeins of Cardinal Twist (scroll down)

2 skeins of Storm

2 skeins of Jade

3 skeins each of Doyle and Dougherty

4 skeins of Fedora

2 skeins of Kenai (which is darker than it looks in the photos, but still lovely) and 1 of Cranberry

Yeeeeeah, not sure why all of the links were jacked up, but they should be fixed now!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by b_twin_1 on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 08:44:21 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Wed, 10 December 2008 21:36ssshunt wrote on Wed, 10 December 2008 20:52We should be senile members after 500 posts.

Careful--that could be arranged.... :)

snickers

Oh yes. I wouldn't be in a rush to accrue so many posts. MWAHAHA

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 09:30:44 GMT
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Charis, I'm drooling. Now you have to photograph it all and put it in your Ravelry stash. Lucky girl, so much lovely knitting ahead of you.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 20:56:50 GMT
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here is my quilt,now remember i never said i was an artist, i just love putting then together. i had to take the picture in three sections.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 20:57:24 GMT
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Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 21:03:32 GMT
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This looks great Bonnie! So your sister loves cycling and camping, has a daughter who dances and a son who goes cycling and (I'm guessing) a husband who runs or plays basketball. And she goes curling? It looks lovely. Well done, I'm sure she'll love it.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 21:13:22 GMT
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actually my sister runs marathons all over the place but that was a great deduction.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 21:33:00 GMT
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Make that 1,000 posts...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 12 Dec 2008 21:34:41 GMT
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Great quilt, Bonnie! Your sister will love it. She runs marathons? I'm impressed!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 01:49:22 GMT
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Colour me impressed too, Bonnie, and sorry about the sexist preconceptions.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Creek on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 04:02:18 GMT
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many rounds of applause to you Bonnie!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 04:13:33 GMT
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As requested by Susan...

This broken star in Amish colors is the only full-size quilt I've ever made, and it's...oh dear... about 20 years old. The red is pretty unstable, so I've tried hard to keep it away from sunny windows and the like. It's held up pretty well, but it's way too big for my bed, so it's been a wall quilt since I moved here. The one ON the bed is one my mom did for me, she pieced the top and then paid someone to machine quilt it because she hates doing machine quilting, and has already had enough hand quilting to last her lifetimes.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 04:18:34 GMT
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Fabulous Black Bear. I have done some small amount of handsewn patchwork in the past, but the emphasis is on small. This is immense and the colours are great too! Well done.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 04:20:50 GMT
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Immense is one word for it, yes. :) I don't think the quilting in the black squares shows up in the photo, but it's a sort of celtic knot pattern, and then I went in the ditches around all the diamonds. It was a lengthy project. I was living at home at the time, so mercifully had the use of both Mom's quilt frame, and Mom. Otherwise it'd've never gotten done...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by tassiegal on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 05:54:58 GMT
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I'm gonna hijack this thread for a minute to grumble at my lace...
Dear torchon pattern book,
you are USELESS. This is the SECOND spider I will be undoing as you didnt give clear instructions for how much ground there should be before starting said spider. So the 2 hours work last saturday will once again be undone to accomadate your odd markings.
GAH! (Oh well its still not as frustrating as knitting!).

I want to learn to quilt too. I seriously have to win the lotto to feed my craft lust.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 11:50:14 GMT
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tassiegal wrote on Sat, 13 December 2008 07:54I'm gonna hijack this thread for a minute to grumble at my lace...
Dear torchon pattern book,
you are USELESS. This is the SECOND spider I will be undoing as you didnt give clear instructions for how much ground there should be before starting said spider. So the 2 hours work last saturday will once again be undone to accomadate your odd markings.
GAH! (Oh well its still not as frustrating as knitting!).

I want to learn to quilt too. I seriously have to win the lotto to feed my craft lust.

There, there. It took four tries to get my first knitted lace going, but it was worth it. I had a couple of free evenings (a very rare event) and so I got started. As to the lotto win, I too could use the boost. Too much yarn porn recently means that my stash has grown, while my purse has shrunk. But still, a ton of things to look forward to.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 11:53:23 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Sat, 13 December 2008 06:20 I was living at home at the time, so mercifully had the use of both Mom's quilt frame, and Mom. Otherwise it'd've never gotten done...

I have no idea what a quilt frame is. Obviously my quilting ignorance is even greater than I thought. It isn't something practiced in Greece. I do know what a Mom is ;) and have a lovely and useful one myself, but she really isn't into crafts. She is into cooking and making preserves, however, which is wonderful. I have a constant flow of chutneys, jams and marmalades that it is my duty to taste. Family obligations are so onerous...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 13:29:52 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Sat, 13 December 2008 06:53

I have no idea what a quilt frame is.

This is a quilt frame. To do the actual quilting--the stitching through that ties the top to the filling and the bottom--the fabric needs to be held taut, and it can't slip at all. Pins won't do. So for a

large quilt like mine, this is easiest done on a quilt frame. You attach the top and bottom of the quilt to wood poles, put the poles in the frame, and then roll the excess quilt up on one pole til you've got a foot or two of quilt showing flat like a tabletop. Then you lock the thing in place and start sewing; when you've quilted as much as you can reach, you turn the poles, wrapping up the quilt you've done and exposing more of the part you haven't. When you reach the end, voila, it's quilted and you just have to sew on a binding around the edge.

Small quilts, you can use an embroidery hoop if you're careful to not stretch the fabric. My mom's quilt frame was made by my dad, very simple and elegant. Like I said, she doesn't hand-quilt any more... a shame, really, it's a very social activity. You can get 4-5 people around a large quilt, all working on it together.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 15:08:08 GMT
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Thanks Black Bear, most illuminating. Something like a half-loom, in fact.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sat, 13 Dec 2008 22:23:29 GMT
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Black Bear, that quilt you made is gorgeous. I once tried to make a similar quilt, and gave up after one square. It wouldn't lie flat, it peaked up like a hat. And I thought, No wonder I'm a writer, I suck at so many other things.

Not that I don't suck as a writer--yet to be determined.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 02:09:29 GMT
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Blackbear, that is GORGEOUS! Serious, I have so much envy right now! I keep looking at quilts, but -definitely- don't have the patience for them. *hats off*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 06:36:28 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Fri, 12 December 2008 04:30Charis, I'm drooling. Now you have to photograph it all and put it in your Ravelry stash. Lucky girl, so much lovely knitting ahead of you.

I know! I'm so excited! I can't stop petting it!

The sad part is that I'm already dying to buy more.

But first I need to finish a couple of projects so that I can show them off! I'm really pleased because I managed to knit in the round! I tried to use dpns, and I was pulling my hair out, so I skipped to the magic loop method that I've heard people mention and it was so much easier and more intuitive for me. So I managed to knit a jonquil! I just need to put it together.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 10:32:46 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sun, 14 December 2008 08:36The sad part is that I'm already dying to buy more.

This is the sad tale of the yarn stash - it is an addiction. Whatever you have will not suffice. Yarn porn makes matters worse. And if you hear someone say: You should see this.... Block your ears with wax. ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 15:35:05 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Sat, 13 December 2008 21:09Blackbear, that is GORGEOUS! Serious, I have so much envy right now! I keep looking at quilts, but -definitely- don't have the patience for them. *hats off*

Thanks Mori (and everyone!)--that's kind of you to say! I think I lack the patience for something this big nowadays, myself. It took a damn long while. In the last year or so I've shifted to

leathercrafting, which is a different sort of challenge. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 19:47:12 GMT
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i am glad you likes the quilt.

bonnie

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 19:51:55 GMT
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Ooh, what kind of leathercrafting do you do? A friend of mine works with leather--she sculpts masks.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 20:03:14 GMT
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I finally redeemed myself from total lameness by getting some project photos up on Ravelry! For those of you not on that site but who still like looking at photos (ahem, Shelley) here you go:
The first is the baby afghan that I made for my nephew who is due in January.

Next, the stripey alpaca scarf I made for my husband, shown here modeling oh so handsomely but still anonymously:

That scarf was the second incarnation of a project for the spouse. The first was frogged and knitted into what you see above. Susan from Athens found the lovely pattern for me. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Laura on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 20:09:37 GMT
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And then the scarf I made for myself out of fancy schmancy Sublime cashmere/silk/merino yarn...(and George reclining in the corner)

Followed by half of a bodice thing I'm working on, also with George:

My husband likes to tell people I'm making an Amish tube top. I'm sure the Amish would really appreciate it if they knew.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 20:15:42 GMT
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And then a rather intimidating beaded hat and scarf set that I'm trying to convince myself to start. You can see what it's supposed to look like...I actually have to do the crochet gauge swatch again, as it was a half inch bigger than called for, and I've been feeling lazy, so...

And then my progress on the first square so far of a sampler afghan I'm making for my sister and brother-in-law:

The only thing I don't have photos of is this awesome baby afghan I made a couple of years ago for my friend; she sent me some pictures of her little guy with it, but I don't feel it's ethical for me to post pictures of someone else's baby online, so you'll just have to use your imagination. It's peach, and has the letters of the alphabet on it.

Yay for pictures! By the way, I am dying of jealousy at the quilts posted earlier. I do not have the patience for quilting, so I very much admire those who do. You're all rockstars, as far as I'm concerned.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 20:44:40 GMT
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Laura, great work! The scarf came out beautifully. Congrats. And you got your act together too! Oooh, I'll have to make the trip to Ravelry (when I am not quite so inundated with translation) and see. Any stash pictures too? (Yarn envy is almost as good as yarn porn). :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 22:39:49 GMT
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Yarn porn? Did somebody mention yarn porn? Hey, thanks, Laura! Good stuff. (I want the scarf.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Sun, 14 Dec 2008 22:46:41 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Sun, 14 December 2008 14:51Ooh, what kind of leathercrafting do you do? A friend of mine works with leather--she sculpts masks.

I'm working on moccasins. Deer and buffalo. So far it is a learning process--I have learned that I need to make my patterns more carefully. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 01:20:00 GMT
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Laura wrote on Sun, 14 December 2008 15:15And then a rather intimidating beaded hat and scarf set ...

Awesome scarves and hats and all! They look fabulous!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 01:23:02 GMT
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Here's a few things I just finished up.

This is wool/alpaca on a .5 ounce spindle:

228 and 224 yards
4 oz

Didn't turn out to be as much yardage as I thought, but that's okay. I must have got lazy in there somewhere and started spinning thicker. (Or I was wrong about the weight, but I'm pretty sure it's 4oz.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 01:26:48 GMT
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I also have this wool/bamboo, definitely 4 ounces of fiber on a 1.3 ounce spindle. I love the flower shape; it makes natural notches that keep the yarn from slipping around the whorl.

Came out 122 and 168 yards, 290 yards total

They're a bit short for socks, but it's also pretty thick, so we'll see. I might start them toes up, that way it won't matter if I run out.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 01:32:17 GMT
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Currently I'm working on this: BFL/Merino/Silk: 40/40/20

I'm spinning it *very* fine, and planning on making three ply yarn out of it. Depending on what weight it turns out, it may grow up to be socks.

And while I have you hear, I may as well give you the name of my new cra-- I mean spendy fiber supplier. (And she IS spendy -- I totally can't afford to buy from her often -- but I cannot resist...) It's good to look at her things (though the shop empties rather quickly after she updates) and drool. Mostly, that is what I do.

50/50 Mongolian cashmere and Mulberry silk, 2 ounces. I think it will be a pet for a while.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 01:38:05 GMT
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Jodi: Gasp. Sigh. I am speechless and a little bit...drooly. Yes, that's what I said.
That yarn is beautiful.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 05:45:57 GMT
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Oh man, those are all so beautiful! *kowtows in awe and shame*

Laura, your projects look great too! I love your schmancy scarf ;)

And I did manage to photograph my new yarn today, but it will have to wait to go up on Ravelry--instead I updated my projects! Most of them are wip, but I did finish one today and here it is, being modeled by my obliging sister:

It's a wide headband (Molly's Headband--it's on Ravelry) and I knitted a jonquil (part of the daffodil family) to cover some mistakes I made *cough* Remind me not to knit in the car on bumpy country roads anymore. I think it turned out rather smashing *pleased* It's to go to a friend whose favorite flower is the jonquil.

I also started my first Very Simple cabled scarf, and it's fabulous! Cables are soooo not scary now :d

---

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 05:48:08 GMT
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Beautiful yarn, Jodi. Lovely.

And I love the headband, Charis!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 09:37:09 GMT
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Jodi you know I am in awe of your spinning abilities... And that pink stuff, drool doesn't cover it!

Laura, wow, you are going fast, girl. You make me ashamed of myself. Haven't knitted anything for the last couple of weeks. ***hangs head in shame*** I've been translating till 2 in the morning and falling asleep in front of my computer. (Plus getting anxiety attacks about the riots, which knitting would help, if I did any). You guys are motivating! I will find some time today! I WILL! I swear!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 13:01:56 GMT
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Susan, do me a favor and promise me you'll make it into your BED before falling asleep!
But thanks for the compliments...although to be fair, the baby blanket was finished awhile ago; I just didn't have photos up! I'm not as speedy quick as it may seem...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 14:30:22 GMT
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Well you and Charis are certainly whizzing through much faster than I am :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Maureen E on Mon, 15 Dec 2008 21:50:37 GMT
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I should really stop reading this thread. I really, really want to knit something but am currently needle-less and will be until Saturday.

Ack.

Also, that yarn is beautiful. I've done a tiny bit of spinning in the past and would love to pick it up again.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Tue, 16 Dec 2008 01:29:25 GMT
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Thanks! I'm rather fond of it, myself ;)

I don't really finish projects all that fast...I seem to be knitting the way I read. I get a bunch of things going, go from one to the other for a while, and then suddenly finish several of them all at once.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 20:50:44 GMT
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Mom gave me an awesome quilt for Christmas - when I was 6 or 8 or so, a friend of ours gave my mom Sunbonnet Sue blocks to make a quilt for me and she never finished it. Well, earlier this year we had been looking at all the retro prints that have come back into style lately and we picked out several that went with the SS blocks and she finished it for me for Christmas! It's awesome, and I loves it! I'll have to get pictures at some point to show ya'll... It doesn't have the binding on yet because with me living at home it's been difficult for Mom to find time to work on it...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 22:52:19 GMT
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How fabulous. Do show us pictures!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 23:12:34 GMT
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for those who are interested,there is only 2 more weeks to sign up for making robin's quilt.please let me now before the 31st dec.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Creek on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 23:12:49 GMT
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About two years ago, I made this lap quilt from the leftovers of a queen size version of this pattern (aptly named Lasagna). To keep myself occupied between shows I brought it to the theatre to sew the binding on it. The artistic director liked it so much he bought it from me!

File Attachments
1) John 2006.jpg, downloaded 334 times

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 23:13:49 GMT
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very nice, cool pattern.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 23:22:35 GMT
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Creek, that's lovely!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 23:40:00 GMT
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I want one!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 17 Dec 2008 23:56:09 GMT
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ssshunt wrote on Thu, 18 December 2008 01:40I want one!
Well, you know how to get one Shelley: take out a pair of scissors and some needle and thread...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Creek on Thu, 18 Dec 2008 00:59:10 GMT
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Thanks everyone!

His wife liked it so much that she commissioned a quilt. This is her quilt...

File Attachments

1) Ann 20071.JPG, downloaded 329 times

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 18 Dec 2008 01:23:31 GMT
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i like that. nice combination of color and pattern.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Thu, 18 Dec 2008 21:39:39 GMT
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Really nice quilt--I like purple.

If I should ever make a quilt it would be for my bed, because I have no wall space to hang one... that's a BIG if, my friends.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Fri, 19 Dec 2008 03:23:17 GMT
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you never know, 4 years ago i never thought i be making quilts and i have made 4 and helped with others.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Fri, 19 Dec 2008 04:13:31 GMT
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I love that pattern! Also purple and gold were my school colors :) *admires*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 19 Dec 2008 04:43:14 GMT
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My school colors were brown and gold. How boring can you get?

But I do like that quilt.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sat, 20 Dec 2008 00:37:25 GMT
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I got linked something neat in an irc channel...

What do you do with your old, giant, poofy wedding dress? Turn it into yarn, of course!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Melissa Mead on Sat, 20 Dec 2008 01:03:26 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Thu, 18 December 2008 23:13I love that pattern! Also purple and gold were my school colors :) *admires*

You didn't happen to go to SUNY Albany, did you?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Sat, 20 Dec 2008 02:58:58 GMT
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Nope--Hardin-Simmons, Abilene, Texas.

Christmas is suddenly upon us and my knitting is not done! Ah!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Sat, 20 Dec 2008 04:49:21 GMT
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Knit, Charis, knit like the wind!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Sat, 20 Dec 2008 19:35:26 GMT
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snork

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Mon, 22 Dec 2008 04:46:08 GMT
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I'm knitting! I'm knitting! (and painting!)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 22 Dec 2008 09:14:55 GMT
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Go, Charis, go! (And do some of mine virtually as I gave up ages ago in a landslide of work)...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Thu, 25 Dec 2008 19:50:43 GMT
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...Yeah the knitting's not done yet *whistles inoccently* But almost!

Did I wrap a partially finished scarf and give it to my sister still on the needles? Why, yes I did! And did I laugh hysterically at the frightened look on her face when I told her that the real present was knitting lessons? Of course!

And my Christmas present from my other sister was a gorgeous blue damask needle roll. I'll have to take pictures--it's fabulous.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Fri, 26 Dec 2008 00:34:22 GMT
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yea, my sister liked her quilt.she said her and her husband think it is to nice to put on the bed so they are going to hang it on the wall in the entry way.woohoo.score.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 27 Dec 2008 10:30:27 GMT
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Well done ladies! You're keeping intact the honour of this forum's fibercrafters, because I certainly am not!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sat, 27 Dec 2008 18:01:06 GMT
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Well, my boyfriend's christmas present scarf is officially past the halfway point.... it's gonna be a bit belated, but that's okay. I am also going to need to get another skein of yarn... fortunately the one I need more of is undyed (so no need to match lots). I suppose that's the downside of making a pattern up as you go along.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Honey_Bee on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 18:18:20 GMT
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Does anyone know any good books/websites for learning how to crochet? I can do a chain but that's about it. My goal (ha!) is to crochet a slouch hat but I figure I need to start with the basics first. I'm a knitter and still have the knitters mentality so the couple of websites I've founded have been difficult for me to figure out.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 18:21:25 GMT
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Sorry Honey_Bee, no idea! I learned to crochet way back in fifth grade for a school project and haven't really had fun with it, so I know most of the basics but have little appreciation for exercising the art, although great love for some of the results!

However if you want a slouch hat there are lots of wonderful knitted designs, even lace designs, if you care to venture that way. (leading you back to the knitters' fold ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 18:54:47 GMT
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Honey_Bee wrote on Sun, 28 December 2008 13:18Does anyone know any good books/websites for learning how to crochet? I can do a chain but that's about it. My goal (ha!) is to crochet a slouch hat but I figure I need to start with the basics first. I'm a knitter and still have the knitters mentality so the couple of websites I've founded have been difficult for me to figure out.

I think this YouTube user has really excellent video tutorials:
http://www.youtube.com/user/theknitwitch?ob=1

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 18:56:07 GMT
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I have a copy of this book and it's REALLY good. Has lots of clear instructions and logical progressions between stitches. I'd mostly done knitting before, so I'm coming from that background as well. Highly recommend it.

Looking at the comments on the amazon page, the one talking about lefties? I'm left-handed and found the instructions perfectly clear. So, I don't know what they're on about. *shrug* I'm fairly ambidexterous, so that probably helps.

On the subject of books/patterns.... I think I want to try socks *whimper*..... Any suggestions for books and/or specific patterns and/or especially friendly yarns?

[Edited to add comment comment.]

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 19:10:24 GMT
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for the quilt, i was reminded that i forgot that you have to make the square a bit bigger to allow for seam allowance,the design is 12x12 inches though except the knitters,your square is 12x12 thank you.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 19:31:26 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Sun, 28 December 2008 13:56
On the subject of books/patterns.... I think I want to try socks *whimper*..... Any suggestions for books and/or specific patterns and/or especially friendly yarns?

If you know how to knit on double point needles, socks will be no challenge for you. I started off knitting the Jaywalker Socks, which had enough of a pattern to keep me out of stockinette purgatory, but was simple enough I could concentrate on the construction of a sock, too.

But I learn better by doing. Lots of people recommend Simply Sensational Socks (or something) to start with.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 20:48:05 GMT
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I've never actually done anything on DPNs. They scare me >.>

I've got a good set of circular needles, though...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 28 Dec 2008 20:51:45 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Sun, 28 December 2008 15:48I've never actually done anything on DPNs. They scare me >.>

I've got a good set of circular needles, though...

You'll need two short circulars of the same size, in that case. And that's as far as I know on knitting socks with circs.

DPNs only look complicated. You have four needles holding yarn in a tube, and one working needle. Just go around in a circle, like you do with circs. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 02:17:05 GMT
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I have just finished my first in-th-round mitten using DPNs and I admit I found it rather anxiety inducing in the beginning, the set-up and joining and first few rows, given that my usual method of knitting involves tucking the right hand needle under my arm-pit. In the end I picked up on it, but found it easier to divide over three needles and have a working needle rather than 4+1. I did feel slightly octopussy before it all began to make sense, but I'm with Jodi on this: you have to try and you only learn by doing. I'm always slightly ambitious with crafts projects so I went for lace mittens, but hey one down and another to go and I'm pleased with the results.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 03:34:37 GMT
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go susan.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 16:20:50 GMT
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****bows to Bonnie**** Thanks, I too was intimidated and feel happy to have managed it. I'm not sure I would ever prefer DPN to long needles, however, nor am I up to speed on them. Slowly and steadily goes, at the moment.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Louiz on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 16:51:43 GMT
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Black Bear wrote on Fri, 12 December 2008 23:13As requested by Susan...

This broken star in Amish colors is the only full-size quilt I've ever made, and it's...oh dear... about 20 years old. The red is pretty unstable, so I've tried hard to keep it away from sunny windows and the like. It's held up pretty well, but it's way too big for my bed, so it's been a wall quilt since I moved here. The one ON the bed is one my mom did for me, she pieced the top and then paid someone to machine quilt it because she hates doing machine quilting, and has already had enough hand quilting to last her lifetimes.

Black Bear, that is fantastic! Am typing this with a three year old on my lap who said "Oh! Dat Pretty. Can I have one for my bedroom?" Unfortunately quilting is not one of my talents so we shall admire not emulate!

Louiz.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Louiz on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 16:56:04 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Sun, 14 December 2008 20:26I also have this wool/bamboo, definitely 4 ounces of fiber on a 1.3 ounce spindle. I love the flower shape; it makes natural notches that keep the yarn from slipping around the whorl.

Yummy, and serious spindle envy too:)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 19:45:35 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Sun, 28 December 2008 21:17I have just finished my first in-th-round mitten using DPNs and I admit I found it rather anxiety inducing in the beginning, the set-up and joining and first few rows, given that my usual method of knitting involves tucking the right hand needle under my arm-pit. In the end I picked up on it, but found it easier to divide over three needles and have a working needle rather than 4+1. I did feel slightly octopussy before it all began to make sense, but I'm with Jodi on this: you have to try and you only learn by doing. I'm always slightly ambitious with crafts projects so I went for lace mittens, but hey one down and another to go and I'm pleased with the results.

Good job, Susan! And good for you for figuring out whether you like four or five needles. I think five is actually a new-ish thing. *I* like five because I feel there's less tension on the fabric and it's easier for me to work with, especially around the gusset on socks, but I use short needles, too. They're only 5 inches. I think that might have something to do with my love of five needles, too. :)

The biggest thing to remember with DPNs (for me, anyway) is to make sure you keep the fabric between them tight, or you'll end up with ladders. You can fight this by moving where the needles meet (over a few stitches, back over a few stitches...), and remember when you're going to the next needle, pull the *second* stitch of that tight. Just the first won't be good enough. :)

Can't wait to see the mittens, Susan! *so proud*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 22:27:44 GMT
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Hrmm... I'm poking around Ravelry, think I'm gonna try
http://www.imaybeknittingaranchhouse.com/archives/Charade.pd f

I need to find some suitably awesome yarn though. AFTER I finish my scarf, damnit. ^_^

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by jmeadows on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 22:41:08 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Mon, 29 December 2008 17:27Hrmm... I'm poking around Ravelry, think I'm gonna try http://www.imaybeknittingaranchhouse.com/archives/Charade.pd f

I need to find some suitably awesome yarn though. AFTER I finish my scarf, damnit. ^_^

That's a great pattern! I think you'll enjoy it. The toe is a little odd, I think, and not shaped like my foot at all. I subbed my default toe on mine, and that worked out nicely. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Tue, 30 Dec 2008 16:23:24 GMT
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jmeadows wrote on Mon, 29 December 2008 21:45Good job, Susan! And good for you for figuring out whether you like four or five needles. I think five is actually a new-ish thing. *I* like five because I feel there's less tension on the fabric and it's easier for me to work with, especially around the gusset on socks, but I use short needles, too. They're only 5 inches. I think that might have something to do with my love of five needles, too. :)

The biggest thing to remember with DPNs (for me, anyway) is to make sure you keep the fabric between them tight, or you'll end up with ladders. You can fight this by moving where the needles meet (over a few stitches, back over a few stitches...), and remember when you're going to the next needle, pull the *second* stitch of that tight. Just the first won't be good enough. :)

Can't wait to see the mittens, Susan! *so proud*

Jodi, you should be proud! You got me knitting again, you got me on Ravelry and you got me interested and ambitious. So thank you so much. I think that straight is my way rather than in the round on DPNs but I am no longer as intimidated by them as I was initially. I figured out the four rather than five needles because with five I felt like the monster had taken over my knitting and I wasn't having any fun. With four I have to concentrate a bit but I can do it.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by afuzzybird on Tue, 30 Dec 2008 18:42:19 GMT
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It's great to see everyone's Christmas projects went so well! I did indeed finish some cabled

fingerless gloves for my sister, thumb and all, and if I do say so myself, they looked good. Unfortunately, I forgot to take a picture.

Those I knitted on the flat, and now I'm working on a pair of gloves for my mom knitted on dpns, which is my first project on those. I cannot weigh in on the 4 vs 5 needle debate, because the very first day I got up from the couch and snapped one of my needles, so I have only had 4 to work with. >.<

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Tue, 30 Dec 2008 19:33:45 GMT
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Those look most ambitious! Well done for even trying. I long ago decided no complicated eye-strain inducing colour patterns for me, but I very much admire those who do attempt them. Last night, just as I had got comfortably into my lace repeats on my DPNs I dropped a needle and all its stitches (deep in the throws of k4tog,then into the same stitches p4tog came undone. I had to go back 3 rows to a plain knit round to save it. I was pulling my hair out. Never get too confident ***rueful grin***.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 31 Dec 2008 09:15:24 GMT
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I would LOVE a pair of fingerless gloves but I can never find them here. I just might have to commission a pair!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Laura on Wed, 31 Dec 2008 12:39:11 GMT
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Oh, jeez, Susan, that sounds wretched. Good luck and I will make sure to avoid knitting hubris. :)

In other news, I really wish I could knit and read at the same time. I know there are audiobooks, but I really am not set up for those and my library, while it has plenty of audiobooks, never seems to have the ones I want.
Basically I need four hands and two sets of eyes.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Thu, 01 Jan 2009 20:23:31 GMT
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Oh no! When I work may way up to a real lace pattern I'm definitely going to fill it with life lines, because I hate ripping back. Hate it. I would rather leave a small error and go on (and give it to a non-knitter who won't know the difference!). I only rip back for really major errors that can't be cleverly concealed XD

I confess that doing anything other than i-cords with dpns has eluded me. I was trying to do a very small circumference, but I was just so frustrated that I gave up and tried the magic loop method instead, which was much easier for me--but I don't know if the magic loop can entirely replace dpns? Can you make gloves and hats with it? I don't know! But I really want to make both.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 01 Jan 2009 22:39:41 GMT
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Charis lace isn't so bad, if you work your way up from an easy project and get a feel for it. It helps to have stitch markers etc. but having a pattern that doesn't make you nuts is also a big deal. I did a scarf my first time out and I am most pleased with it. If I had begun with the shrug I wanted to make I would have stopped knitting it within a couple of days due to excessive headaches ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Maureen E on Fri, 02 Jan 2009 03:58:50 GMT
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I just bought yarn to make myself a cable-knit sweater--as soon as I fix the ribbing on my father's. I'm really excited as I love cabling! It fits with my brain somehow.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 03 Jan 2009 18:07:08 GMT
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Maureen E that is some sweater! Well done!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Tue, 06 Jan 2009 04:20:56 GMT
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Wooo scarf done! Need to take pictures. Prolly on the boy. It looks fantastic and feels really nice. He likes scarves, but hates wearing wool against his skin, so I made it out of cotton. The ends are 5x5 basket weave, and the body is 1x1 ribbing, with a few placed stripes. I've got a bunch of yarn left, going to make him some long fingerless glove/sleeves to go with. Eventually.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Charismitaine on Wed, 07 Jan 2009 05:15:44 GMT
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Here's a question--if I purchase a pattern as a pdf on the internet, and strongly suspect that the pattern was stolen from a book but don't actually have proof, since I don't own the book in question (but Ravelry's database lists a pattern of the same name that looks identical, from the pictures), should I still go to the website with my suspicions? The pattern is being sold on Etsy.

I don't know how I would go about proving the theft, but at the same time I feel strongly about intellectual property and copyright, so I hate to let it go....

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Wed, 07 Jan 2009 05:58:54 GMT
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Charismitaine wrote on Wed, 07 January 2009 00:15Here's a question--if I purchase a pattern as a pdf on the internet, and strongly suspect that the pattern was stolen from a book but don't actually have proof, since I don't own the book in question (but Ravelry's database lists a pattern of the same name that looks identical, from the pictures), should I still go to the website with my suspicions? The pattern is being sold on Etsy.

I don't know how I would go about proving the theft, but at the same time I feel strongly about intellectual property and copyright, so I hate to let it go....

I would see about getting proof (the book? look at a library or LYS), emailing the Etsy seller about the eerie similarities, and give him/her a chance to make all the necessary apologies if it really does happen to be the same pattern. Sometimes people just don't realize! If that doesn't work, see if you can find the original pattern designer and tell him/her. They will know who to contact from there.

Subject: Re: Knitters
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 09 Jan 2009 01:10:10 GMT
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I don't know where you are, but I find the best advice is one-on-one personal face to face. So, if possible, find an experienced knitter (most love to give advice) and have them show you a few basics. The good news: you can only improve and will improve soon. The bad news: it takes some practice. There are a bunch of nice and easy projects around and a lot of information on the net about knitting and books as well, with projects for beginners. knitty.com is a net-based magazine that always has some easy projects and has archives going back a few years and ravelry is a great source, but perhaps not for an absolute beginner.

That isn't much help I fear, but my knitting skills go back to sixth grade or so (which is a while) and so I have a bit of a hard time understanding how much advice you need.

Subject: Re: Knitters
Posted by skating librarian on Fri, 09 Jan 2009 02:33:49 GMT
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I fear Susan is right, at least in the beginning there is nothing like one on one instruction.

I have learned a lot from books, on-line etc, but some things, particularly getting the tension right, you'll learn much faster with the feedback of someone who knows what they're doing.

Knitting is pretty easy once you get over the challenge of not knitting too tight, and not too loose. In my neck of the woods the folks who own knitting shops give lessons and it seems as if every town and village has a knitting circle (usually at the public library a couple of times a month).

I learned a bit from my mother, and more from my grandmother, but everything since then has been by carefully reading both text and diagrams. When a term was used which wasn't defined, and which wasn't mentioned in any of my books, the ladies at the yarn shop always have come to my rescue.

Hope that helps.

Subject: Re: Knitters
Posted by KunoichiKaoru on Fri, 09 Jan 2009 02:58:51 GMT
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bangs head I just noticed there was a fiber craft thread. Whoops. Should this be on there? I

checked before posting this but I didn't see that one. Nice going, self.

Anyway, thanks for trying! ^_^

The problem is that the school semester starts back up in a week, so unless they have weekend classes at the craftstore I probably won't have time to attend. I'll check it out, though!

I can cast on, cast off, knit, and purl. That's pretty much it. I knit pretty tightly but I like the way it turned out and I didn't have to work to get my needles in, so I guess that's okay?

Pretty much what I'm after are any fancy new stitches, or patterns. I'm taking it for granted that I'll screw up at first, but I have yarn and time to spare, at least until school starts.

I knew someone in highschool who loved knitting, and what I really would like to learn is something I saw her make once, a two-sided scarf, green on one side, and black on the other, with the pattern of an alien. I'd rather do something other than an alien, but that's kind of the gist of what I'm on the hunt for.

Anyway, thanks.

Edit: I'm looking up the pattern now, and I realize it is probably fairly ambitious for a beginner, but I'd like to have it just in case. :d

---

Subject: Re: Knitters
Posted by jmeadows on Fri, 09 Jan 2009 02:59:44 GMT
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I'll move this thread to the fibercraft thread. :)

Check out www.ravelry.com

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by KunoichiKaoru on Fri, 09 Jan 2009 06:09:40 GMT
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Oh, and, one more request, if anyone can help with it:

Is there any way to keep stockinette from rolling?

Edit: By the way, thanks jmeadows!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 09 Jan 2009 09:55:52 GMT
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In order to get stockinette to stop rolling you edge it with another stitch (a few rows of knit 2 purl 2) or blanket stitch the edge or attach I-cord or sew on a ribbon on one side (this can be very decorative if you want) or thread it through with a light chain that gives it weight.

If you want to practice fancy stitches a great way is to get a stitch encyclopedia (I have the Harmony Guides and find them very clear and nice - each stitch is illustrated with a photograph of the end result) and do square swatches with each stitch. You then stack these and join them to form an afghan (if you have a lot of patience). Otherwise (like me) you make scarves of different shapes and sizes. Don't worry that you only know knit and purl: all of knitting is just knit and purl in various combinations and picking up of various stitches.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Fri, 09 Jan 2009 18:59:52 GMT
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to those who are doing squares for robin's quilt,would you please sign your name on the square when you are done.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Fri, 16 Jan 2009 02:56:04 GMT
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Well, stopped by my LYS today, got more pretties...

I'm going to a con by train next week, 16 hours each way, so I wanted something neat to do. Started the above-linked socks in a pretty cream/turquoise/purple yarn on #1 DPNs. They're.... interesting. I've managed to get all the way around, though. Also got some nice acrylic to do a two-tone enterlac scarf. Also, need to set and work on the square for Robin. Ooh. I think I just figured out what I'm gonna do. Yay! ^_^

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Fri, 16 Jan 2009 10:48:26 GMT
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Hey Mori I don't see a link, maybe I'm missing something. I'll go check Ravelry.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sat, 17 Jan 2009 02:08:05 GMT
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Susan - It's these: http://www.imaybeknittingaranchhouse.com/archives/Charade.pd f

It was a ways up. I've done a few rounds on them, and am currently working on http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEwinter05/PATTdanica.html as well. Enterlac is FUN! *grin*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 17 Jan 2009 04:24:14 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Sat, 17 January 2009 04:08Susan - It's these: http://www.imaybeknittingaranchhouse.com/archives/Charade.pd f

It was a ways up. I've done a few rounds on them, and am currently working on http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEwinter05/PATTdanica.html as well. Enterlac is FUN! *grin*

I was half out of it and was looking for a link in your previous post - duh! Entrelac looks like tremendous fun. I have been busy purchasing lots of laceweight off teh interwebs in many [url= http://www.flickr.com/photos/susan_from_athens/3189023735/in /photostream/] pretty colours. When I will knit it all I do not know!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sat, 17 Jan 2009 05:39:05 GMT
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Oooooh pretty....

I really want to get some nice slippery silk to do a drop-stitch wave pattern shawl from... not sure for who or anything, but it'd be fun... and pretty... *sighs and looks mournfully at her bank account*

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by scarhandpiper on Sat, 17 Jan 2009 22:14:33 GMT
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I finished a cabled beret and a pair of gloves for my daughter before she left on her mission (to South Korea), and have now finished one sock (first time) and am half done with the 2nd.

Here's kinda what the beret looked like, only it was hunter green: (I hope)

Well, it didn't download, so here's a link to the pic on Ravelry:

http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/gretel

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 18 Jan 2009 00:21:13 GMT
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Gretel is a lovely romantic beret! I've thought about knitting it myself. The same designer has just designed a rather gorgeous scarf/shawl that I am also considering. So many projects one wants to do, so little time to do them in!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Creek on Sun, 18 Jan 2009 00:26:14 GMT
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Some of the ladies at work have begun to teach me to knit. Any suggestions for an easy starter project (that is not a scarf)?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 18 Jan 2009 00:49:41 GMT
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Creek wrote on Sat, 17 January 2009 19:26Some of the ladies at work have begun to teach me to knit. Any suggestions for an easy starter project (that is not a scarf)?

Potholders? Dishcloths?

Honestly, I went to socks as soon as I could. I made a few swatches of things, and then learned most of my knitting skills on socks. Jaywalker and Charade are good patterns for beginners.

Are you on Ravelry yet? You can find lots of patterns there.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 18 Jan 2009 01:05:02 GMT
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Creek wrote on Sun, 18 January 2009 02:26Some of the ladies at work have begun to teach me to knit. Any suggestions for an easy starter project (that is not a scarf)?

I personally love scarves and go to them by choice, but otherwise a sweater. You have long enough bits to practice simple stitches and if you want to add something fancier you can. My second project ever was a long sweater with intartia: It looked great (now I think it looked awful but it was a very 80s creation royal blue with stripes of sparkly silver/black. Knitting is easy so you can do pretty much everything you want to: just look for a patter that says beginner or easy and don't go anywhere anything that says advanced, spicy or, goodness-forbid, heirloom.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by scarhandpiper on Sun, 18 Jan 2009 08:47:42 GMT
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I suggest dishcloths. They're quick and easy and useful (if you make them out of cotton). You can do them as simple or as complicated as you like. I made a cable one once. I don't know how much better it is at doing dishes than any other one, but it's very attractive!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Mon, 19 Jan 2009 03:15:39 GMT
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we have the first piece of robin's quilt finished,[claps hands]scarhandpiper is the first to finish so i think that her square should be at the center of the quilt.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 19 Jan 2009 09:42:01 GMT
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Well done, scarhandpiper! I am so impressed! Well done.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by dancingbordercollie on Mon, 19 Jan 2009 13:39:28 GMT
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I'm a quilter, I do some embroidery, not as much as I used to do when my eyes were better.

I sew, and I make costumes. I made the Glenda costumes for the Wizard of Oz on horseback, besides what the riders wore who were the flying monkeys. My costuming experience served me well when I pranced around at a Renfaire for extra credit in college.

I made my Klingon cosume when I used to participate in Star Trek Fandom. Not doing that now. I made my belly dancing costume for a Dressage Freestyle I rode for a horse show in 2006. I already had some props from when I used to dance.

Enclosing a Sun Bonnet Sue lap quilt pic.

File Attachments

1) Nancysquilt02.jpg, downloaded 1347 times

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by scarhandpiper on Mon, 19 Jan 2009 16:38:40 GMT
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I'm all for being the center!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 19 Jan 2009 19:31:33 GMT

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Nice quilt there. The number of quilters is increasing and threatening to beat out the number of knitters if we aren't careful ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Mon, 19 Jan 2009 19:37:48 GMT
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go quilters[meehee]sorry jodi.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Creek on Mon, 19 Jan 2009 19:57:06 GMT
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mwoohahahaha...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by dancingbordercollie on Tue, 20 Jan 2009 11:31:24 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Mon, 19 January 2009 14:31Nice quilt there. The number of quilters is increasing and threatening to beat out the number of knitters if we aren't careful ;)Thanks! I mostly do these applique things for gifts, or for hire. My mixed media quilts are popular. Funny, that I have not learned how to knit.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Tue, 20 Jan 2009 21:11:30 GMT
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I've been knitting since childhood. And doing embroidery: all things a good Greek girl used to learn, although a lot less so nowadays. Quilting, however intimidates me! So much material! Such a large surface to cover! I think I am more miniature in project (it takes me all my time to finish what I do!).

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Thu, 29 Jan 2009 16:23:04 GMT
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i got scarhandpiper's square today and she did a wonderful job.congrats! i can't wait to see the rest of them.it is going to be a fantastic quilt.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Thu, 29 Jan 2009 17:24:35 GMT
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My square is coming along slowly.... I keep changing my mind as to how I want to go about it.

In other news, hurrah for being able to get multiple credits for doing one thing.... I'm in a tech writing class, and we're supposed to write instructions/procedures for something. So, I'm writing up the pattern I made up for my boyfriend's scarf. ^^ I'll probably drop it on Ravelry when I'm done, if I remember to.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Fri, 30 Jan 2009 00:16:45 GMT
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I haven't got a clue to do for the quilt. But I gues I better get off my bum and figure it out soon, yes?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Maureen E on Sun, 01 Feb 2009 21:48:30 GMT
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I finished my sweater recently. It took me about a month without any major headaches. I hope to have some pictures soon.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 02 Feb 2009 00:42:17 GMT
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I've been doing lace fingerless mitts for a young friend - in black, she's been a Goth for years - and, disgustingly, forgot to check the pattern, so then riffed off on my own. Finished the knitting on the first glove and had her over to try it on. Most serendipitously it fitted - the wrong side up! Her hand is so tiny and slim that the less wide side fit her hand and the wider side her elbow! Ha! Will now knit the other mitt. Sewing them up a problem as usual - I've never enjoyed sewing: embroidery yes, sewing no!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Reading Angel on Mon, 02 Feb 2009 05:52:44 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Sun, 01 February 2009 19:42 Sewing them up a problem as usual - I've never enjoyed sewing: embroidery yes, sewing no!

Would it be feasible to use buttons instead of sewing? I've seen some of those gloves with buttons and they were pretty cute...

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Mon, 02 Feb 2009 10:17:16 GMT
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Dear Reading Angel (and by the way it is so nice to see you again!), buttons would look amazingly cute, but if there is one thing I detest more than sewing a seam, it is sewing on a button. I can do both most competently - my mother saw to that years ago - and use a variety of methods, but I have cardigans that have been missing a button for years, although said button is still in my possession, due to the extent of the activation energy necessary to get me to re-attach them. If my dear young friend wants buttons, she can sew them on herself! ;)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by tassiegal on Tue, 03 Feb 2009 10:23:24 GMT
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Ok - I started and finished some lace the other weekend. Am rather pleased with it - so have to share!at this link Cant work out how to get it to post here....well I can but it wont upload properly!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!

Posted by Susan from Athens on Tue, 03 Feb 2009 22:11:42 GMT
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tassiegirl that's great! Well done! And I love the two colours. This is bobbin work?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by afuzzybird on Fri, 06 Feb 2009 13:48:00 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Mon, 02 February 2009 05:17if there is one thing I detest more than sewing a seam, it is sewing on a button.

Ugh, I know what you mean. There's a super cheap department store that I buy pants from by my house, but with the cheapness comes poor quality button sewing--every pair of pants I buy the buttons fall off after one or two wears, and I HATE sewing them back on. When you're relatively poor, it's worth it monetarily, but I dread those buttons.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Fri, 06 Feb 2009 16:57:36 GMT
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I've got a request for all you lovely knitters out there.

I'm in a tech writing class, and my current assignment is to do up a set of instructions. I decided (with teacher's approval) to write the pattern for the scarf I just finished for my boyfriend. Unfortunately, I don't have anyone around here that can help me read it for usability.

Would some of you be willing to give me some feedback on this (it's attached).

Thank you~

EDIT: I haven't gotten pictures of the finished scarf yet, they will be forthcoming.

Edit 2 - So, no pictures yet, but a new revised edition, thank you Susan and Jodi.

File Attachments
1) scarf pattern.doc, downloaded 41 times

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Fri, 06 Feb 2009 19:17:29 GMT
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Mori-neko wrote on Fri, 06 February 2009 11:57I've got a request for all you lovely knitters out there.

Just a couple things that are pretty easily figured out, but could be a tad clearer:
Quote:
Row 1 [RS]: Using CC1, K5, p5, k5, p5
Repeat Row 1 five times.

Perhaps "Repeat Row 1 four more times" or "Knit Row 1 five times total." ?

My first thought was six rows of row one.

Same thing for the other instructions like this.

Other than that, looks good!

Big scarf. :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Fri, 06 Feb 2009 23:19:17 GMT
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nods Yeah, I was having some trouble wording that properly...

It's fairly narrow, especially with the ribbing, but he wanted it long enough to wrap all the way around his neck and still have decent-length tails on either side. I don't have exact measurements (and the measurements on that are aproximate), but I think it's around 4.5' long.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 07 Feb 2009 11:42:56 GMT
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I would also be a bit more detailed, if these instructions are for general and not just knitting consumptions thus
Size: One

(is there a two or three?)
Size: One size

stockinette stitch (knit on the right side, purl on the wrong side)
and adding a key to your abbreviations. Not all knitters use precisely the same terminology (there are differences between British and US knitters) and although most will understand, some won't so you might as well be clear.
Any particular cast-on recommended?
Break yarn, should there be a tail left to weave in? If so, how long?

(Just being super-picky by the way) :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Sat, 07 Feb 2009 17:38:32 GMT
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Well, my target audience was for knitting consumption. It's for a general class, but he told us we could pick our audience.

No particular cast on recommended. I used long tail, because I like it. As far as weaving the tail in, I generally don't, so it's a maker-preference again.

A key is a good idea. I'm targeting this at knitters, but beginning ones, since it's a fairly simple pattern.

Thank you for your input, I'm gonna edit my upload in a moment with a revised edition.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by dances-with-needles on Sun, 08 Feb 2009 01:06:55 GMT
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I did something similar for my tech writing class, and then had to submit it to an on line writing place for advice. Never do that. They spent five days trying to decide how to edit the pattern. As someone who writes patterns fairly often, the wording that works would be "Rows 2-5 knit the knits and purl the purls." Providing a chart along with the word pattern gains you points. there are some on line knitting software places that help with that.
Gauge needs to be set up over 10cm or four inches because if you are a half a stitch off over four inches your measurements on the finished piece will most likely be within reason but if you are

half a stitch off over an inch you could be five inches too large or small with the finished piece. There is a cover your behind statement that goes into all patterns that says, "Save time. Take time to knit a gauge swatch." It is standard and your pattern may be rejected without it. Guess how I know?
overall the scarf looks good. Hope this helps.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by tassiegal on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 02:22:08 GMT
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Susan from Athens wrote on Wed, 04 February 2009 09:11tassiegirl that's great! Well done! And I love the two colours. This is bobbin work?

Thank you! And yes, its bobbin work, 3 types of spiders, open, closed and group. The colours were to help me follow it, and it worked, despite the fact the picture in the book refused the colours and appeared to use less bobbins!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Thu, 12 Feb 2009 21:41:32 GMT
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My square was close to being finished, when I realized there was a problem, and had to frog a lot of it. Oh well, I'll try to make it up over the weekend.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Thu, 12 Feb 2009 23:58:43 GMT
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Oh blondviolinist the pain! You're obviously knitting it, good girl, I went for embroidery. I considered long and carefully about a dozen options including knitting a slightly larger than a doily English Rose and went a completely different way. The result is on its way, but by no means nigh!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sat, 14 Feb 2009 05:28:38 GMT
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Crochet, actually :) Basic Tunisian stitch. I wasn't paying attention, and lost one of my rows, which made the square significantly less than 12" across. Sigh!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sat, 14 Feb 2009 21:32:50 GMT
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Bummer! What is basic Tunisian stitch? My crochet terminology is Greek and limited - in contrast with knitting, I could never get my crochet to look that good, so I abandoned it after seventh grade, and haven't looked back since.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sat, 14 Feb 2009 21:38:46 GMT
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Here's a link to an explanation of Tunisian crochet. I like the fabric a lot. If you want a more involved explanation, CrochetCabana has a more lengthy entry.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Sun, 15 Feb 2009 00:18:03 GMT
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Thanks blondviolinist!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by blondviolinist on Sun, 15 Feb 2009 04:45:38 GMT
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No problem :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 01:09:09 GMT
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I really don't know what to do for my square!

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 08:47:30 GMT
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Now Shelley you don't know what to do with it, or you don't want to know what to do with it?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 18 Feb 2009 01:50:19 GMT
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Ahem. I had an Idea today, which just may work, and I am (I think) actually capable of making happen. Just you wait. Hmmmpf.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Mori-neko on Wed, 18 Feb 2009 16:45:29 GMT
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I know what I -want- to do... I'm having trouble with execution >.>

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by ssshunt on Wed, 18 Feb 2009 19:05:47 GMT
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Oh yes, I know what I want to do. But being able to do that is a different kettle of klutzim.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Susan from Athens on Wed, 18 Feb 2009 21:29:42 GMT
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The point is to be able to abstract the concept down to the point where the possible and the probable, meet the executable and likely ;) Taking from an infinite variety of choices that selection which fit your concept of representational or abstract art and conveying them in an original yet

craftsman (craftsperson)-like manner.

(does it show that I'm translating art theory and philosophy at the moment?)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Sat, 21 Feb 2009 00:36:05 GMT
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The "likely" for me is, am I likely to remember to go to the fabric store this weekend? :)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Sun, 22 Feb 2009 04:42:03 GMT
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to the ladies who are doing the quilt squares, just a reminder to allow an inch for the inseam please.i am sure they will all be beautiful.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by Black Bear on Sun, 22 Feb 2009 05:57:12 GMT
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An inch on each side, or an inch total? You want them 14x14", or 13x13"?

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 22 Feb 2009 10:49:41 GMT
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Another question: I'm going to knit or crochet something. I can make a solid piece of fabric, or I can make something frilly and lacy; lacy will have holes in it. Will tiny eyelet holes be okay, or will it make bad things happen to the finished product? (Will there be another piece of fabric underneath everything we're all making? is what I'm asking, I guess.)

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Sun, 22 Feb 2009 16:20:44 GMT

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13x13 would be fine and yes there will be a facing underneath it and any size wholes is fine.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 22 Feb 2009 17:11:57 GMT
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Awesome, thank you.

Subject: Re: One for all the fibercrafters!
Posted by holmes44 on Sun, 22 Feb 2009 22:37:03 GMT
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your welcome.