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# cast on



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[www.TKGA.com](http://www.TKGA.com)

## **Fit and Warmth:**

Anatomy of a Watch Cap

## **Treasured Gift:**

Poinsettia Lace Stole

Knitting Patterns from  
Easy to Experienced

*Dainty,  
Romantic,  
Vintage ...*  
**LACE LIVES!**

THE EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL FOR KNITTERS

# productreview

NEW THINGS TO LOVE



1. Now your favorite coeds can sport knitted designs in their college colors. Jeannie and Brad Duncan of Fiesta Yarns developed the Campus Knits hand-dyed yarn line when Jeannie was unable to find anything in her alma mater Texas A & M's trademark maroon and white in their hometown. All Fiesta fibers are available in the college color spectrum, available in the BCS top 25 colorways. Arrangements can also be made for yarn in the official Pantone® colors of any university. Campus Knits can be purchased by the skein (\$15.50 retail for superwash merino sock yarn) or as kits including socks, scarves, shawls and throws (starting at \$25 for an Italian neck warmer up to \$135 for a throw in machine washable super merino – just right for dorm room use). [www.fiestayarns.com](http://www.fiestayarns.com)

2. Abstractions by Kollage is yarn that resulted from clever interpretations of abstract water paintings by American artists Sharon Will and Sandra Packer. Sharon, a customer service representative at Yarnmarket, collaborated with Sandra and the yarn experts at Kollage to create interesting fiber and color combinations that mirror the paintings. Each color is based on an individual painting; Impulse is shown. Abstractions yarns are made with 67% mohair, 13% wool and 20% nylon, each component being a separate strand of yarn, and they felt easily. (Retail \$12.35 for 100 yards/62 grams). Available exclusively at [www.yarnmarket.com](http://www.yarnmarket.com).

3, 4. Mountain Colors has added several brand new yarns to their extensive hand-dyed inventory. River Twist is worsted weight 100% merino with a soft, luxurious feel which is lovely to knit with. It's

available in 12 unique colorways developed just for this fiber. (240 yards/100 grams, approximate retail \$24). Another fresh offering is Silk n' Ewe, of 50% raw silk and 50% wool. The raw silk component is the dominant texture in this fiber, lending a nubby interest to knits, and the colorations are spectacular, as we've come to expect from Mountain Colors. (250 yards/75 grams, approximate retail \$17). [www.mountaincolors.com](http://www.mountaincolors.com)

5, 6, 7. Coats & Clark's latest additions to their Red Heart® line include several eco-friendly yarns. Eco-Ways™ Bamboo Wool, 55% bamboo/45% wool, is wonderful for felting. The sustainable bamboo gives it a very soft hand. (87 yards/50 grams, retail \$3.99). Eco-Cotton™ Blend, of 75% recycled cotton t-shirts and 25% acrylic, is a sturdy yarn perfect for dishcloths and hot weather garments. (145 yards/85 grams, retail \$3.49). Moon & Stars™ has a snuggly feel and is easy care, ideal for the baby in your life. (110 yards/50 grams, retail \$2.99). [www.redheart.com](http://www.redheart.com)

8. If you love luxurious hand dyed silks, RedFish DyeWorks has just the yarn for you. Their line includes 100% silk and silk blends, and 100% silk was used for the mini sweater. Available in three weights, the silks have spectacular drape in finished designs. Currently RedFish has four color wheels, with each wheel having a “clear” version and a “black” version, for a total of 384 regular colors plus some special colors to fill in gaps. Custom colors are also available. (Retail \$3.50 – \$16.50 per skein). [www.redfishdye.com](http://www.redfishdye.com)

9. Blokwrx, a premium blocking kit for knitted, crocheted and lacework items, was born when Jo Ellen Burton struggled with blocking wires that snagged her work. She and her husband, Jack, have developed a high quality kit that includes framing rods and wires with protective plastic coated tips, T-pins, a tape measure and a metal yard stick encased in a sturdy storage tube. Now, when you create one of the lovely lace pieces featured in this issue, you'll have just what you need to be sure they are blocked to perfection. (Retail \$44.95). [www.yarnbazaar.com](http://www.yarnbazaar.com)

10. Pick up a pair of Laurel Hill Forest Palm Knitting Needles and you will be so impressed with their smooth, silky, hand polished finish and beautiful wood grain. Rick Brown and Roland Hoskins take great pride in offering quality knitting needles made from sustainable exotic wood (forest palm with decorative hardwood tops of trai) at reasonable prices. The needles are made in Viet Nam by a cooperative using the portions of trees that would normally be thrown away. (Retail \$12 for sizes 4 through 9; \$13 for sizes 10 through 15). [www.laurelhillonline.com](http://www.laurelhillonline.com)

11. In conjunction with the kickoff of the miniature knitting for charity project introduced in last issue's Product Review, check out Miknitures. These darling hand knitted brooches are created by Pavia Lewis using tiny handcrafted knitting needles with decorative tops. A swatch is started on the needles and voila! You have jewelry for your knitter of choice! (Retail \$35). [www.miknitures.com](http://www.miknitures.com)

12. Are you fascinated by hand dyed yarns but not ready to take the plunge to create a full-blown hand dyeing studio? The Ewe Dye-It Sock Yarn Kit by Chris Hanner & Company, LLC is the ideal entrée into dyeing fibers. Using this ultra-low water method, with no pots, you can create your own hand-dyed yarn. The kit contains one skein of 75% wool, 25% nylon superwash fingering weight yarn, six blendable dye colors (enough for at least five skeins), three reusable dye dispensers, vinyl gloves, extensive instructions and the "pot" – a plastic zip lock bag. It even includes the recipes for several favorite colorways. As the package claims, they "provide the yarn and dyes, you have all the fun!" (Retail \$45). [www.myfavoritethimble.com](http://www.myfavoritethimble.com)

A GREAT IDEA FOR YOUR KNITTING BAG  
*Every Knitters Must-Have!*



13. Have you ever been knitting away, only to have a needle develop a splinter that caught on your work? It's natural for needles to wear with use, but what to do? Enter Stix Fix – the repair kit for bamboo and wooden needles. Ann Leslie of Knotty Girl developed Stix Fix after observing a similar repair process used by a woodworker. The kit includes sanding fiber, like that used on optics; a natural beeswax disk; a two-sided polishing/buffing cloth that uses the warmth of your hand to meld the beeswax into the needle. The whole thing fits into a portable plastic case. Never be caught with a rough needle again. Stix Fix to the rescue! (Retail \$9.95). [www.knottygirlsknit.com](http://www.knottygirlsknit.com)

