

Twists and Turns®

For Lovers of Cable Knitting

Vol 6. Issue 1 Spring 2006

This was a fun issue to put together. You'll notice that I decided it was time for a facelift for the newsletter. This year marks the sixth year of publication and it seemed like the right time to make some changes.

It's actually only a happy coincidence that all the projects for this issue were knit in the same color yarn. I didn't realize that was the case until I took the photos. Usually I don't plan that far ahead.

Sand and Ropes Gansey

My in-laws just moved to a small town on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay. My husband and I went to college in the same area, and it's still one of my favorite places to visit. This design brings to mind walks along the shore of the Bay in early summer.

Ganseys are wonderful sweater styles. It's easy to see why these precursors to the Aran sweater were such a key element of the fishing life. In keeping with the nautical tradition, I placed rope cables on a background of Sand stitch in the upper part of this sweater. The lower part of the sweater is easy Stockinette stitch for quick knitting. Garter stitch finishes off the bottom of the sweater and the cuffs.

Alas, I seem to have caused the death of yet another yarn. The Lion Brand Cotton-Ease which worked so well in this design recently has been discontinued. If you're lucky enough I have more in your stash, I envy you! Be aware that the yarn is knit at a fairly tight gauge to minimize stretching.

Electric Combo Bag and Beret

Amanda Shopa is a designer new to the pages of *Twists and Turns*. She writes about her design: "This summer my boyfriend and I took a road trip

through the midwest. While at the Experimental Aircraft Association's airshow event in Oshkosh, WI, I read some books about number theory and became really interested in prime numbers. The diamond cables in the designs reflect this—the number of crosses for the upper- and lower-half of each diamond are prime numbers. I found the plait cable and heel stitch from *Mary Thomas's Knitting Book* and decided to add the waves as reflections over the diamonds. I chose the Costa Rican coin as a button because before our trip this summer I'd spent a month in Costa Rica and I liked the silver color.

"I found the yarn at a yarn store in Minnesota (Needlework Unlimited)—bright blue because it reminded me of the sky, and the Cascade 220 because I've always had good experiences with it. It's one of my tried-and-true yarns that hasn't let me down. The name is because of the color and because the diamonds reminded me of those lightening balls at children's science museums—the glass balls that cause an arc of electricity when you touch them."

To see more of Amanda's work, visit her website at www.AmandaKnits.com.

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Nitto Shrug

I am a stitch pattern junkie. My favorite knitting books are my stitch dictionaries, and I will hunt far and wide for new ones. I even went so far as to visit the Amazon.jp website, where I found four new stitch pattern books. The Japanese are amazingly talented when it comes to creating new stitch patterns. I found lots of inspiration within the pages of those books.

The Nitto (Japanese for *knitting*) Shrug uses one of those stitch patterns. It's a slip-stitch cable pattern that incorporates a yarn over and SSK maneuver as part of the cable. The result is a delicate-looking lacy cable. I paired it with Filatura di Crosa's Zara yarn for a soft, luxurious cabled shrug. It's easy to knit and fun to wear.

Twists and Turns Skill Level Designations

Beginner: Minimal shaping, simple stitch patterns. Suitable for new knitters, or knitters new to cabling.

Ambitious Beginner: Simple shaping, straightforward stitch patterns. Suitable for beginners with confidence.

Intermediate: Mid-level shaping, multiple stitch patterns of moderate difficulty. Suitable for knitters comfortable with cabling.

Advanced: Unusual shaping or unusually complex stitch patterns requiring close attention to pattern instructions. Suitable for experienced knitters.

Twists and Turns Yarn Descriptions

Knitting terminology is always changing. The terms "worsted weight," "DK weight," "sport weight," and other "weight" designations may mean something for one knitter and something completely different for another knitter. Factor in the different systems used by retailers to classify yarns, and trying to find a good substitute can be a difficult process.

Rather than add to the confusion by describing a yarn as "sport," "worsted," "DK" or other weight description, *Twists and Turns* patterns gives the yarn specifications (yardage, fiber content, etc.), the gauge over stockinette, moss, seed, or cable stitch pattern, and the needle size used to achieve that gauge. If you need to substitute a yarn for that called for in the pattern, I strongly urge you to swatch carefully to determine what is the most suitable substitute.

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Twists and Turns is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. \$5.00 per issue, \$20 per year, \$36 for two years (eight issues) to US addresses; \$23 per year to Canadian addresses, and \$25 to international addresses. Copyright all contents 2006 by Big Sky Knitting Designs, 3720 Foothill Road, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-755-1338. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means without the express written consent of the publisher. Every effort has been made to present accurate and complete information; please notify us of any errors so we may correct them immediately. The graphs in this publication were created with Knitters Symbol Fonts which are copyrighted material made available as shareware by Golden Fleece Publications.

Visit our website at www.TwistsAndTurnsNewsletter.com for pattern errata and other information.

Sand and Ropes Gansey

Designed by Janet Szabo

Level of Experience: Ambitious Beginner

Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL

Finished Measurements:

Width at chest: 18 (20, 22, 24, 26)"

Length to underarm: 14 (15, 16, 17, 18)"

Sleeve length to underarm: 17 (16, 16, 15, 15)"

Armhole depth: 8 (8½, 9, 9½, 10)"

Materials:

1300 (1500, 1700, 1900, 2100) yards any yarn which knits to the specified gauge. Sample done in

Lion Brand Cotton-Ease (50% cotton/50% acrylic) 207 yards/100g skein

US sizes #5 (3¾ mm) and #7 (4½ mm) circ and dpns or size required to obtain gauge

Cable needle

Stitch markers

Stitch holders

Gauge: 20 sts and 28 rows = 4" (10 cm) over Sand stitch on US size #7 (4½ mm) ndls

Sand Stitch (in the round over an odd number of sts):

Rnd 1: *P1, k1; rep from *, end p1

Rnd 2: Purl

Sand Stitch (back and forth over an odd number of sts):

Row 1 (RS): *P1, k1; rep from *, end p1

Row 2: Knit

Garter Stitch (in the round):

Rnd 1: Knit

Rnd 2: Purl

Garter Stitch (back and forth):

All rows: Knit

DIRECTIONS

Body: Using smaller needles, cast on 180 (200, 220, 240, 260) sts. Join, being careful not to twist, and place marker to denote beg of rnd. Work 6 rnds Garter st. Change to larger needles.