

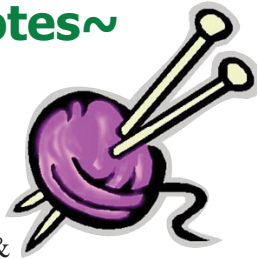
16 Knitters' Notes~

So many choices!

In trying to get a sense of what's hot for Fall in knitting & crocheting, I found as many questions as answers. It seems there is no one defined trend, but several stylish options for making a statement this season. The **colors** that are being featured range from neutrals like tan, beige, brown and shades of grey to rich tones of olive, red, purple and blue, to muted pastels like rose and golden yellow. Shapes are all over the place, from small shrugs to voluminous coats and everything in between.

Cardigans seem to be everywhere! Short jacket types in simple shapes to longer, more elaborate cabled versions can be found in almost any magazine. **Cozy coat shapes** also seem to be popular, many with a bit of extra fabric to wrap. We have several yarns that will work up into wonderful pieces. For a quicker project, choose a bulky such as **Montana** or **Como**. Both of these are bulky roving type wools that work up quickly – perfect when the project is a bit larger item. And as bulky yarns, they will keep you warm as the weather cools. Both yarns have knitting books dedicated to them with great projects including cardigans. If a cardigan seems too much to tackle, consider a vest. Less time, less yarn, still loads of style (and another trendy item that's been seen all over!)

Cables are also being shown in every magazine I pick up lately. And I mention magazines because they can offer the latest in style, providing patterns for the most current items and giving you an idea of what's hot right now. Cable designs can be simple or very elaborate. Find a style that suits your experience level and give it a try – it's really not as hard as it looks, the technique is simple, but you do need to pay attention as you knit. For cable patterns, I usually suggest a



solid or just slightly tweedy yarn – too much color going on and you'll lose the effect of your cables. Having said that, I have seen some cabled scarves done using softly variegated yarns and the effect is rather interesting. The cables are more a textural element, not the standout feature they often are. Try Noro's **Kuryeon** for this type of effect. For lessons on the cable technique, see **Next Steps Six: Learn to Cable** from Patons.

I've read that "*Hats are ultra-hot as the must-do accessory of the season.*" * This is great news, as hats are small, quick, easy-to-finish projects. And they are a great place to try new stitches, new color play, cables, shaping, or interesting fibers. Often a single skein of yarn is enough for a hat. Being in Northern Indiana also means that hats are a necessity, so go ahead and have fun! Experiment! Try something new or different! And hats make quick Christmas gifts! Remember, it's ok to find one pattern you like and change up the yarn or play with color to make each version look different. We have books with hat patterns to help you get started. Check these out: *Stitch Style Hats*; *Knit a Dozen Beanies*; *Big Book of Knit Hats & Scarves*; *Boutique Knits*; *One Skein Wonders*.

This season, make a fashion statement with your knitting. Enjoy!

P.S.. If you're in our area, join our Knitting Club!

Cathy Mark

* *Yarn Market News May 2009 issue* – Author Peter Pesslers



Happy knitting/crocheting!

Cathy Mark