

A new year, a new project for you!

Since the holidays are past, I'm planning on knitting something for myself (the last few months have been devoted to gifts). While I enjoy being able to give hand-made gifts, I often neglect making anything for myself. I've decided that needs to change.

I have a preference for small projects – the odds of getting them finished is so much better than trying to complete a large project. Having said that though, I would like to do an afghan and a long vest (we'll see how that goes). At the moment, hat and gloves or mittens to go with a new coat will be first on the list. We have a great new book for hats! "Weekend Hats" (A15053) has a wonderful selection of hats in a variety of styles, skill levels and yarns, so there's many to try. I like hats especially because they are small, portable, and are great places to try new things. You can play with different yarns, interesting stitches, or new techniques without being tied to a major undertaking. Sometimes that play can lead to good ideas for a future project.

"60 Quick Knits" (59151) is another book filled with small projects such as scarves, hats, gloves and mittens. Worsted weight yarn is used for most projects, so the knitting goes relatively quickly. The sequel, "60 More Quick Knits" (coming soon) is just as useful, with 60 more small projects – perfect for yourself (or gifts – yes, we'll all continue to give).

The latest special issue from Interweave Knits Magazine follows the trend for small projects. As soon as I saw "Knits Accessories" (A15175) I knew I had to buy it! It offers 42 little projects including hats (I can't help myself), gloves, fingerless mitts and cowls (must make one). There are also sock patterns too, which I want to try again – I have one pair of knitted socks at home, but I need to try this again, I hear it can be very addicting. Of course, for some of us, yarn and knitting is ALL addicting (we could consider ourselves collectors, that sounds better than addicted).

I found a pattern for a simple long vest in an older book. I want to try a bigger project, hoping I can get myself to stick with it. I like the look of longer lines, and a vest seems like a good way to add something to my wardrobe without overheating myself. I'm still trying to decide on color, but I'm sure I'll find something I love here at the store. Our selection has grown over the years, offering a variety of yarns in a range of prices, there's something for everyone!

A cozy afghan always sounds wonderful for our Northern Indiana winters, but some pillows for the sofa sounds good too. Smaller projects seem to better for me (have I mentioned that already?) I like the idea of playing with stitches and color and that gratification as I bind off and have a useable item is a wonderful feeling. Now I'm ready to go home & knit!

Remember to be good to yourself. If you're feeling good, you'll pass that feeling along. Take care of others, but remember to take care of yourself too.



Happy Knitting!

by Cathy Mark