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Transform your stash and unleash your skeins!

One Skein: 30 Quick Projects to Knit and Crochet Leigh Radford

According to a 2005 Knitter's Review online poll of over 9,000 knitters, when asked "What do you do with leftover yarn?" 85.5 percent responded that they "Keep everything. You never know when it may come in handy later."

Loveland, Colo.: Knitters and crocheters love yarn—the colors, the textures, the potential in one skein to become something wonderful. Often they'll swoop up a gorgeous yarn with absolutely no purpose in mind, simply because "they have to have it."

ONE SKEIN: 30 QUICK PROJECTS TO KNIT AND CROCHET solves the challenge of what to make with a single skein (yarn wound in a coil) by offering some of the most fun, unexpected projects ever to be published. Author Leigh Radford is a designer and "knitting pioneer" with a reputation for inspiring creativity, and in this new book she unleashes the possibilities of knitting and crocheting with small quantities of yarn.

All of the projects in **ONE SKEIN** require no more than a skein of yarn and six projects are designed to make use of whatever you've got left over from other projects—those odds and ends collecting in your "stash." One of the nicest designs we've ever seen for converting mismatched yarns is a quick-to-make, colorful, and long-lasting rug.

Patterns are organized in chapters by category: garments and accessories, handbags, projects for baby, projects for the home, and projects using yarn scraps. Readers will relish

TOP 10 Reasons Why Knitters and Crocheters Have Extra Skeins in their Stash

1. Skeins are like potato chips; you can't have just one.
 2. They told their spouse that they use it to stuff their pillows.
 3. The pattern went out of style before the knitting began.
 4. If knitters/crocheters were reduced to only one skein, their lives would unravel.
 5. Bought it for the boyfriend sweater and decided against chancing the curse.
 6. Two words: garage sale
 7. It's on sale, and it's cashmere. It'd be insane not to get it.
 8. They like the yarn, they like the color, there's got to be a pattern somewhere for it, right?
 9. They went on a diet and didn't need as much yarn to make the sweater after all.
- Top reason:** Unbridled yarn lust. If you don't understand, you're not a real yarn slut.

What are your reasons for stashing extra skeins? Send us an e-mail at oneskein@interweave.com and we'll post your entry to our website at www.oneskein.com. Be sure to include your name and where you live, so we can give you the bragging rights you deserve!

Join the One Skein Knitalong
Beginning in April 2006. Sign up at
www.oneskein.blogspot.com

how quickly they can create a felted purse, a drawstring crocheted bag, cozy scarves, a pretty tank top, arm and leg warmers, felted bowls—and many more one-of-a-kind creations!

For foodies there are two yummy projects: clever candy wrapper sachets and knitted cupcakes, which can be created with virtually any yarn and decorated at whim. Knitters who like to knit in the bathtub (you know who you are) or knit projects for the bath will delight in the ingenious patterns for a bath mitt, bath puffy, and bath mat.

There's something for everyone in **ONE SKEIN**, as projects range in size, time commitment, and experience level, providing both beginning and experienced knitters and crocheters a variety of projects from which to choose. In fact, prior knitting and crocheting experience isn't even necessary to experience the joys of this book. **ONE SKEIN** includes all the essential knitting and crocheting know-how, stitch patterns, and instructions that are easy to follow and quick to use.

Everyone has the time and money to spend on a project requiring only one skein. So dig out your stash or dash to your yarn store . . . you won't want to wait to begin these fast and artful projects!

ONE SKEIN:
30 QUICK PROJECTS TO KNIT AND CROCHET
by Leigh Radford
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160 color photographs • 125 illustrations • full color throughout
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About the author: Leigh Radford is the art director for *Interweave Knits* magazine. She is an award-winning graphic designer with more than 25 years of experience in graphic design and corporate marketing. Leigh designs knitwear for *Interweave Knits* and for knitting pattern and yarn companies. Her work also appears in *Scarf Style* and *Wrap Style* (Interweave Press, 2004, 2005), and she is the author of *AlterKnits: Imaginative Projects and Creativity Exercises*. Leigh lives in Portland, Oregon.

About Interweave Press: In business since 1975, Interweave Press publishes magazines and books related to fiber, thread, needlework, and beads. Throughout Interweave's evolution, its publications have focused on natural materials and processes, a respect for doing, and an appreciation of the fine, simple things in life. Interweave publishes six magazines including *Beadwork*, *Handwoven*, *Interweave Knits*, *PieceWork*, *Spin-Off*, and *Fiberarts*. Interweave is dedicated to creating a resource for its readers to find the best information in the field of interest, the latest news, the best products, the newest techniques, and the history behind the techniques.

Contact: Jaime Guthals, (502) 243-6834; Cell (502) 387-2383, JaimeG@interweave.com.



LEIGH RADFORD

Knitting Pioneer

Leigh Radford is a knitwear designer who inspires knitters to expect the unexpected, to think outside the scarf, and to see the potential of knitting with more creativity. Described as a “knitting pioneer,” she’s the type of artist who rummages through thrift stores looking for secondhand materials for her projects, and she isn’t afraid to experiment with unusual materials. Leigh has a talent for seeing familiar objects in a new light, whether she’s turning an assortment of T-shirts into “yarn” to create a knitted rug, recycling vintage sweaters into creative totes, or playing with the possibilities of knitting and crocheting with just one skein.

QUICK FACTS

Where Leigh Radford collects her stash:

Her home in Portland, Oregon. She’s also lived in the Bay Area and Loveland, Colorado.

Day job:

Art director for *Interweave Knits* magazine. She is an award-winning graphic designer with more than 25 years of experience in graphic design and corporate marketing.

Books:

One Skein: 30 Quick Projects to Knit and Crochet (Interweave Press, April 2006) and *AlterKnits: Imaginative Projects and Creativity Exercises* (STC, 2005)

Find Leigh’s designs in:

ScarfStyle and *WrapStyle* (both from Interweave Press), *Weekend Knitting* and *HandKnit Holiday* (both from STC), and frequently in *Interweave Knits* magazine. She also designs for knitting pattern and yarn companies.

Press & TV:

Organic Style
Woman’s Day
Country Living
Knitty Gritty (DIY Network)

Contact Leigh Radford at:

Studio@leighradford.com

Website:

www.leighradford.com

Join the *One Skein* Knit
along at oneskein.blogspot.com

Leigh brings this same degree of creativity to her latest book, *One Skein: 30 Quick Projects to Knit and Crochet* (Interweave Press, April 2006). We caught up with Leigh at her home in Portland, Oregon, to talk about her exciting forthcoming book.

Q&A with Leigh Radford

Q. It’s been said that a knitter can never have too much stash. How many yarns are in your stash and how do you organize them?

Leigh: I couldn’t even begin to determine how much yarn is in my stash. Let’s just say I have a lot of yarn! As for organizing, I generally have things organized by fiber content...yarns of similar fiber are in the same drawer or basket. It’s not a very tight system, sometimes things end up in the same basket because I like the color combination.

Q. Did those yarns inspire the projects in *One Skein*, or did you start with patterns in mind and search out the yarns?

Leigh: A little of both. Certain yarns inspire an idea once you have swatched with it—revealing its texture and drape. Other times I have something particular in mind and swatch with several different yarns until the fabric suits the design.

Q. When did you first catch the knitting bug?

Leigh: I started knitting and crocheting when I was about thirteen and have had a project on my needles ever since.

Q. When did you start crocheting and do you think crocheters use their stash differently?

Leigh: I learned to crochet at the same time I learned to knit—when I was about thirteen. I remember making a lot of granny squares! I think anyone who loves fiber probably uses their stash in the same way. We have all this great leftover yarn in various amounts and colors and yet we just can’t help but add to it the next time you see something you haven’t worked with before.

Q. What is your favorite project from *One Skein*?

Leigh: That’s a hard choice...some of my favorite projects are the Ruffle Cravat, Asymmetrical Cable Hat, and the Cupcakes.



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