

KnittingDaily.com Offers New Patterns for Handmade Toys

Crafty parents concerned about toy recalls are considering handmade toys or organic toys; DIY toy-making gives parents control of materials used

Loveland, Colo., August 21, 2007: Crafty parents concerned about the safety and quality of their children's toys have an alternative: do-it-yourself. KnittingDaily.com, Interweave Press's new online knitting community and pattern library, is offering knitters nine free handmade toy patterns—from a knitted horse to fairy-tale hats and a charming tea set, a great alternative to plastics for imaginative playtime. Three of the patterns call for organic yarns, which is another option for parents looking for affordable eco-conscious, or 'green' toys.

The free toy patterns are available online at: www.knittingdaily.com/toys

"Making your own toys allows you to control the production process," says KnittingDaily.com editor Sandi Wiseheart. "You decide on the materials and you make it your own. And with handknits, parents also have the option of making their toys organic through the use of readily-available organic yarns and materials."

Knitting Daily's featured patterns this week are the eco-friendly stuffed bear, rabbit and cat from Louisa Harding's book, *Natural Knits for Babies and Moms: Beautiful Designs Using Organic Yarns* (Interweave Press, \$21.95).

"When I was pregnant I decided to start working with organic yarns to reflect my philosophy of new life and new babies: keeping them wrapped in as natural an environment as possible, just like the one they've come from," says Harding. "The yarns I've selected for the patterns require no environmentally harmful pesticides, petroleum-based synthetic fertilizers, or artificial dyes in their production, so they safe and healthy for babies, moms and the planet."

The other handmade toy patterns available on KnittingDaily.com include:

- **Crocheted Lamb**—a charming farm animal combining fine yarn for the lamb's legs, underside, and face, with fuzzy yarn for the fleece.
- **Fat Cat**—a felted pink and orange cat. In a hurry? As an alternative, find an old sweater made of 100% wool at a resale shop for the fabric.
- **Carousel Horse**—Bright colors, soft yarn and attention to detail make this little horse come alive. This is a pattern for experienced knitters.
- **Make-Believe Crowns**—Not just for birthdays, these party crowns are the perfect dress-up headwear for royal princes and princesses. They're elegant, soft, and glittery, and they fit as comfortably as a knitted headband.
- **Fiesta Tea Set**—Inspired by the simple style of her Fiestaware dishes, this colorful cup, saucer, creamer, sugar bowl, pitcher, and plaid placemat is for a little princess of imagination.

Also available in bookstores and yarn shops nationwide is *Knitted Babes: Five Dolls and their Wardrobes to Knit & Stitch* (Interweave Press, \$19.95), the charming book of patterns for handknit dolls with their own personalities and DIY wardrobes. Online at: www.knittedbabes.com

According to the 2005 Craft Yarn Council of America (CYCA) consumer research study, baby items remain among the favorite projects of all knitters and crocheters in the United States. In 2005, 50% of knitters and crocheters in the United States made a baby blanket (the second most popular project), followed by 20% reporting that they made at least one baby item (the fourth most popular project).

The CYCA estimates that 53 million women in the United States, or 1 in 3 women, know how to knit or crochet.

KnittingDaily.com offers free knitting patterns for the entire family—from babies and children to men and women. It presents collections in every design category imaginable: shawls and stoles, gloves and mittens, scarves, afghans and blankets, handbags, home décor, gifts, and more.

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About Interweave Press LLC

Interweave Press, a unit of Aspire Media, is one of the nation's leading craft media companies, with businesses in magazine and book publishing, interactive media, broadcast programming, and events for craft enthusiasts. The Interweave Press Publishing Group features 14 subscription magazines and many more special interest publications. Interweave Press has more than 200 books in print and annually publishes about 30 best-selling, how-to craft books on the same subjects as the company's magazines. Additionally, Interweave Press operates eight annual craft enthusiast events and has an extensive Internet presence that includes nearly 30 websites.

Linda Ligon founded the company in the 1970s when she began publishing *Handwoven* and *Spin-Off* magazines. Since then, the company has grown to employ more than 100 people throughout the country, with corporate headquarters located in Loveland, Colo. For more information on Interweave Press, please visit www.interweave.com or call (970) 669-7672.

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