

Appendix: Images of blogs and industry websites referenced in research



SUNDAY, JUNE 07, 2009

Tippy Toe Knitting

Posted by [Virtuous](#) at [6/07/2009](#)

Yesterday morning I was able to take a sock class in person with [WendyKnits](#) herself!



And got the chance to fondle all of her socks that are featured in her book too!

About Me




 [Virtuous](#)

A woman of distinction loving the world of knitting she stumbled upon! Indeed she became a Purl! This blogosphere is about my journey in knitting. You can also follow my running journey at: www.runcrimsonrun.blogspot.com

 [View my complete profile](#)

 [Malabrigo Swap Info](#)

 [Secret Swap Questionnaire](#)

 [Color Swap Questionnaire](#)

Knitting U Missed:

Knitting U Missed:

Please Leave a Message!
Beep

20 Jul 12, 13:36

HotAngel: Hi all..anybody?

19 Jul 12, 02:21

Shela FB: Hi.. Saja melawat



Then I happened to look up from my needles and seated right across from me was a blogger pal that I had yet to meet IRL!



[Zonda!!](#) :o) We drop each other little blog comment presents from time to time (giggle), but I never really expected to meet her in the flesh Haha!

So I had to get the proper blog photo for the occasion! :o)

tgk2 blog.. FB apps
Ramadhan

19 Jul 12, 01:44

Zarina: Will Visit Again 😊

16 Jul 12, 09:13

LienA: Visit me back

13 Jul 12, 21:20

Nancy: Hai Your Site So
Awesome I Like It 😊

12 Jul 12, 14:18

inna: datang melawat kesini
lagi.. dulu xda komen, hari ni
nak tgglkan jejak.

11 Jul 12, 04:27

fifi: Gila bola dah habis... tp
orang ramai lagi jual baju
bola. fifi pon ada koleksi iersi

[Switchnode]

refresh

help · smilies · cbox

[1 Guest Visiting Now](#)

On My Needles:



Shhhh...It's a Surprise

90%

[Baudelaire](#)

5%

[Crimsonmund](#)



Told you this has been a great year of no travel and still getting to meet soooo many people!

And not to mention seeing some of my Purl friends again that I had not seen in such a long time!!



Of course with Wendy J. too!! :oD

The sock class was just the push I needed to get back started again in cranking up those teeny tiny needles.

I joined the [Ravelry Socks from the Toe Up KAL](#) where each month the group will knit a pattern out of the book! This month is Lacey Rib and it is going very well!!



[Whisper to me...sweet sumethins'](#)



2009 Knit Chest

www.flickr.com



What is this?

Knit Bling:





I am excited about it b/c I am loving the colors of this yarn and the easy pattern, not to mention this will be my first "long" pair of socks (I always get antsy and stop at anklets or quarter length socks).

I would recommend this book as there are explicit directions on how to do various toe-up COs with easy to understand directions. I've always been that gurl who loves doing 2AAT toe-up socks as I don't like the mystery not knowing if this sock is going to fit me. More patterns are now considering toe-up in their directions but most are in the traditional top-down approach. So the book is great in providing lots of easy to do options for toe-up patterns along with different heel options too!


The only thing I would say is because it is so cookie cut it doesn't break down how you could adjust the patterns specific to your unique size (i.e. skinny ankles/narrow feet, etc.) and expects you to intuitively understand how socks are designed so the training wheels of the step by step instructions are necessary. Which is exactly what I need right now until I get more comfortable in my sock making skin ;o)

Here is to a great Sunday Sock knitting for me!!

And in the words of WendyKnits SOCK ON!!

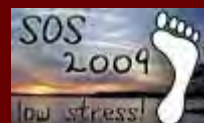
Labels: [KnitGroups](#), [Meet-ups](#), [Randomness](#), [WIPs](#)

24 Comments:

1.  [Adrienne](#) said...

[June 7, 2009 3:32 PM](#)

Glad you had a good time! I SOOOO want to learn to knit socks lol maybe one day soon!



🗨 [gold](#) said...

June 7, 2009 5:04 PM

Looks like a fun class. Your socks are looking good!! like that yarn color!

🗨 [Zonda](#) said...

June 7, 2009 5:11 PM

Hehe..it was great to meet you too! I thought when you walked in there's Stacey, cool! :)

🗨 [Sheila](#) said...

June 7, 2009 7:09 PM

Glad you had a great time and your socks are coming along nicely. You are definitely doing your thang.

🗨 [martha - ca knitter](#) said...

June 7, 2009 7:33 PM

I really admire your sock-tenacity. I have yet to tackle a socks...unless you count a christmas stocking, but that was a giant sock, with big needles, unlike the little ones used for a regular knitted sock.

Sock on!!

🗨 [Michelle](#) said...

June 7, 2009 8:08 PM

OHH I am so jelous!!! Glad you had a great time!!!

🗨 [DeltaPurl](#) said...

June 7, 2009 9:11 PM

Super jealous

🗨 [turtlegirl76](#) said...

June 7, 2009 10:01 PM

If you're wanting a sock book to help guide you through custom fit for skinny ankles and whatnot - let's sit down with Cat Bordhi's books sometime and I'll show you how she accommodates for that. =)
Wendy's book is a great start though!

🗨 [Sereknitty](#) said...

June 8, 2009 1:28 AM

Girl, you're just moving' on up, aren't you? Look at you pumping out lace socks, now. So impressive!

🗨 [IrishgirlieKnits](#) said...

June 8, 2009 1:44 AM

Looks like you had a great time! And you got to meet Zonda!! Lucky you! Lucky her!!



Knit on

Thanks for Visiting Me!

I'm a cuff down girl myself, but I've heard great things about Wendy's book! Yay for more socks!

 [Knitaholictoo](#) said...

[June 8, 2009 7:55 AM](#)

Wow! Loving that color! I like knitting from the toe up...eh hem, i just can't get to that other sock, LOL. Sock on!

 [Channon](#) said...

[June 8, 2009 8:52 AM](#)

Fun, fun! This no travel thing IS working out well for you, isn't it?!

 [cpurl17](#) said...

[June 8, 2009 7:25 PM](#)

Aw, I'm so jealous of y'all! Looks like a great time!

 [diddlinaknits](#) said...

[June 8, 2009 11:18 PM](#)

Ahhh i am so jealous!! :) what a great time and seeing friends is always great.

I have that book as well and i cant wait to make something from it but i have a couple things that must come first :(its so hard to not want to cast on for something.

I am glad you had such a great time :)

 [Dianne](#) said...

[June 9, 2009 8:36 AM](#)

I'm so very jealous! It looks like you had a great time. I've loving the Socks from the Toe Up book too, and am in the Ravelry KAL. It's so much fun!

 [Lorette](#) said...

[June 9, 2009 6:42 PM](#)

Girl, I'm jealous, too! I really need to give toe up another try. Wendy makes it look so easy. Maybe I need to get out of my sock rut and give her book a look.

 [Batty](#) said...

[June 10, 2009 7:56 AM](#)

OMG, you got to see Wendy, handle her socks, and you met Zonda? Now that's an incredibly awesome class you went to. What fun!

 [Jeanine](#) said...

[June 10, 2009 3:06 PM](#)

Looks like you had a great time. Can't wait to see what you churn out!

 [Deb](#) said...

[June 10, 2009 9:06 PM](#)

Oh, you lucky girl you.....

I love WendyKnits patterns, but I have yet to knit a toe-up sock successfully. :-(So...I hesitate to buy her book.

It's looks like you had a great & wonderful time, and it looks like a great & wonderful time was had by all!

 [tiennie](#) said...

[June 11, 2009 3:13 PM](#)

How very fun!!

 [Kelly](#) said...


[June 11, 2009 8:25 PM](#)

Hey man. Thanks for the wedding congrats. It's been such a long time, I thought you forgot about me! That's super cool you got to meet WendyKnits. Man, where's my socks!

 [Loren G.](#) said...

[June 12, 2009 10:25 PM](#)

Glad you had a great time knitting toe-up socks. Wendy is scheduled to be in Philly in mid-July and might have to consider taking her classes when she is the special teacher at Loop on South St. I had heard negative remarks about her book, but you have convinced me that it is worth buying. Will go to my LYS on Sunday and hope they have it in stock. I have noticed that many LYS are only ordering books that their customers request considering the economic times. Your socks look incredible and will wait to see the finish. Great sock knitting!!!!

 [moo](#) said...

[June 19, 2009 6:07 PM](#)

These socks are so nifty! Love your slide show! and finally THANKS for checking in with me, Stacey!

 [Twisted Knitter](#) said...

[July 6, 2009 5:24 PM](#)

Omigosh - you lucky girl!

I can tell by your smile you had a GREAT time.

[Post a Comment](#)

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

Departments

patterns

- * FREE PATTERNS
- * PATTERNS FOR SALE
- * FLS Mods

find me!

- * ravelry
- * twitter
- * facebook
- * empty orchestra



craft

- * A Black Pepper
- * A Cold Bright Day in April
- * Adventures of a Desi Knitter
- * Affiknitty
- * Bag 'n' Trash
- * Bockstark Knits
- * Carrieoke's Knitting Blog
- * Cosmic Pluto Knits
- * Fricknits
- * Half & Half
- * Hello Yarn
- * Knit Creations of a Curious Mind
- * Knitting School Dropout
- * KnitXcoreE
- * Little Purl of the Orient
- * Moonstitches
- * Neither Hip nor Funky
- * Nova Made
- * Pepperknit
- * s t r i k k e r
- * Sknitty
- * Sown Brooklyn
- * Specs Knits
- * Split Yarn
- * The ADD Knitter
- * The Compleat & Actual Adventures of Marcella White Campbell
- * Through the Loops!
- * Tiennie Knits
- * YaiAnn Knits
- * Yarn Ball Boogie
- * ZigZag Stitch

let's talk.

April 9th, 2009 pam Posted in [blogging](#), [february lady sweater](#), [patterns](#), [politics](#) |



[utterly ridiculous handspun, handknit sweatbands. [raveled](#)]

ETA: I've edited some of the language here in my discussion of NAMELESS LYS. It seems more useful to stay focused on the broader culture here, rather than on the practices of a single shop. I want to be very, very clear that (1) I am not advocating — or myself practicing — any kind of boycott, or change in shopping habits; (2) this is not a problem limited to or reducible to a single shop; (3) I like, respect, and admire all of the LYSs where I regularly shop; and (4) I initially "named names" in this post because I am saddened that even otherwise-amazing shops seem to fail in this regard. And I think that failure warrants both discussion and some accountability. But I'm also lazy, and poor, and ill equipped to deal with accusations of slander. So, I did some editing instead. Those of you whose comments I edited, please forgive me, and please contact me if I need to grovel further.

In June 2008, I wrote up a tutorial for a sweater I had knit, thinking that some of my friends might like to make one too. Today, 10 months later, more than [5,000 Ravelry users](#) (and probably a few other knitters too) have used that tutorial to make their own [February Lady Sweaters](#).

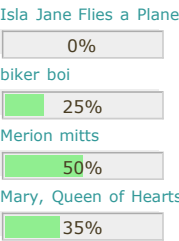
That is so totally fucking awesome. All I did was execute some basic math and write down some simple instructions, and from that, I've gotten a crash course in knitting design, met loads of fascinating new people, and learned heaps about the indie craft world.

Unfortunately, one of the things I've learned the hard way is that not everyone bothers to honor the guidelines designers set out for how their work can be used. My free patterns page has always said that my patterns may not be used for commercial purposes, but I've been adding to that statement a lot in the last 10 months, as people have failed to honor it. As of today, it's [nine sentences long](#).

If you do a [Google search](#) or a [Ravelry search](#) for paid classes using the FLS pattern, you will find dozens and dozens of them, all over the country. They charge anywhere from \$20 to \$100 for the classes, plus materials. Only nine stores have honored my request that they get my permission to use the pattern for classes — which I granted, with some very reasonable [terms](#). The rest of those stores, whether they realize it or not, are exploiting my labor and my free pattern to make a profit, without my consent.

The pattern is free for anyone to download and use and share. All I ask is that folks not use it for profit. Or, if a store wants to use it for a class, that they contact me first and honor my (again, v. minimal) terms.

ravelry



archives

- [+] [2012](#) (1)
- [+] [2011](#) (9)
- [+] [2010](#) (10)
- [+] [2009](#) (13)
- [+] [2008](#) (29)
- [+] [2007](#) (88)
- [+] [2006](#) (13)

recent posts

- * [this is the main event!](#) (are you ready?)
- * [new pattern for sale: Frick Frick BERET!](#)
- * [omg hats!](#)
- * [Knitting, Charity, and the "Virtue of Selfishness."](#) (plus, [CONTEST!](#))
- * [Spring is here! And it has POCKETS!](#)

categories

- * [baby](#)
- * [blogging](#)
- * [colorwork](#)
- * [contests](#)
- * [crochet](#)
- * [crush](#)
- * [despair](#)
- * [dresses](#)
- * [february lady sweater](#)
- * [flint](#)
- * [food](#)
- * [FOs](#)
- * [friends](#)
- * [guest bloggers](#)
- * [halloween](#)
- * [hats](#)
- * [history](#)
- * [lace](#)
- * [life](#)
- * [marigold](#)
- * [meetups](#)

My issue is not that I'm looking to make money off this pattern myself. There are a number of reasons why I chose not to charge for the FLS pattern. First, the design concept is not mine — it's Elizabeth Zimmermann's. Second, I made no great innovation here — I used the innovations of Barbara Walker and Elizabeth Zimmermann to create something new(ish). Finally, and most importantly, I believe that Sharing is better than Capitalism and indie is better than corporate — which is why I love local yarn stores, and is also why it fills me with livid, unholy fury to see these same businesses profiting from my free work without my consent.

I want to support local yarn stores. And I know that classes are an important way for them to sell yarn and to get folks in the door. Because of this, whenever an independent yarn shop has contacted me and asked to use my pattern for a class, I've always said yes, provided they give me credit for my work.

But, oftentimes, they don't ask. They take. And the biggest concern for me is that they don't give credit, either. If you check out the newsletters and calendars and class announcements for the stores using my pattern without my consent, you'll see that almost none of them mention my name or my web site. Almost none of them provide a link to the pattern or the blog, or credit me for the photos they've stolen (and, sometimes, altered).

And, as much as I've been all "me me me" up to this point, it's *not* just me. There's a definite pattern of abuse when it comes to yarn stores using free online patterns for profit, without crediting designers. When I contacted my very favorite yarn shop, NAMELESS LYS, after I noticed that they were offering an FLS class without notifying me (and without crediting me in any way), they immediately changed the language on their promotional materials, linking to my site and including my name. Two weeks later, though, the class description in their newsletter was back to its original language, full of passive voice (the baby sweater "has been upsized"), and empty of credit. Today, my name and web site appear nowhere in their newsletter's description of the class, which they seem to be offering for a second time. Moreover, while they temporarily changed the blurb for the FLS class, they didn't change *any of the other descriptions* for any *other* classes, or their descriptions of their new shop models, or the "freebies" in their newsletter that link directly to PDF files — all of which almost always fail to mention pattern designers.

Let's be clear, though, that this shop is not alone — they're simply, for me, the most personally disappointing example of this widespread phenomenon. Almost no yarn shops give any kind of credit to independent or web-based designers when they advertise classes. Perhaps they don't want to give links to free patterns, because they don't want potential students to get the pattern on their own and skip the class. I understand why this tactic might makes sense to them, and am sympathetic to the challenges facing brick-and-mortar stores these days, but this is no way to treat the independent designers and crafters who make the free patterns that make those classes possible.

I get that many LYSs are struggling to figure out how to negotiate the online craft world, particularly in an economic moment when luxury items like full-price yarn might not fit into many people's budgets (if they ever did). Well, here's a primer: in [Kate's words](#), "**DON'T BE A JERK.**" In other words, don't do things online that you wouldn't do in the "real" world. Because the internets? ARE the real world. I am real. My labor is real. My intellectual property rights? Real.

It's pretty simple: **DON'T BE A JERK. ASK BEFORE YOU TAKE MY STUFF.**

If we do that? If we treat each other like human beings instead of just businesses or resources for plundering? Then local yarn stores can only benefit, can only earn better reputations for themselves, can only set themselves further apart from the JoAnns and the Michaels and the fucking Hobby Lobbies. Because then they make themselves an indispensable part of a respectful, personal, supportive local and global community, in a way that that JoAnn and Michael can never touch.

That first Google search yesterday floored me. I am overwhelmed by the scope of this. After I post this, I'm going to draft a friendly e-mail to send to the yarn shops that are using my pattern and/or images without my consent. But I have a life. I work. I knit. I play. I snorgle kitties. I do not have time to be the pattern police. And I don't know what to do here.

I'm posting this partly just to vent, and partly to bounce my thoughts off the internets. (Am I crazy? Are my expectations — that LYS owners will comply with my terms of use by attributing my work to me, and asking permission before using my free stuff for profit — unreasonable?) Knitters, what are your expectations for the classes you take? Teachers, how do you navigate these issues in teaching classes? More experienced designers, how do you handle this stuff with your free patterns?

I ask these questions because the main reason I'm posting is that I'd like to think we can make some change here. Knitters! Post about this on your own blog, or in the Ravelry forums, and link back to me, and to [Kate](#), and to each other. My hope here is that, if we can create (ETA: or [continue](#)) some kind of high-profile online dialogue among knitters, we might educate one another, and inspire each other to demand ethical and honest business practices from our otherwise badass LYSs.

Blog on! xo, Pam

ETA: So many fabulous LYS owners have contacted me about their FLS classes now that I've taken down the list of the 9 stores who had contacted me at the time of posting. Thank you!

- * [mittens](#)
- * [patterns](#)
- * [pickadilly](#)
- * [politics](#)
- * [random](#)
- * [rock](#)
- * [scarves](#)
- * [sewing](#)
- * [shawls+wraps](#)
- * [silliness](#)
- * [socks](#)
- * [spinning](#)
- * [swaps](#)
- * [sweaters](#)
- * [toys](#)
- * [tutorial](#)
- * [Uncategorized](#)
- * [wilma](#)
- * [wurstwarmer](#)
- * [yarn](#)
- * [zimmermania](#)

subscribe



meta

- * [Login](#)
- * [Entries RSS](#)
- * [Comments RSS](#)
- * [WordPress.org](#)

You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

154 Responses to “let’s talk.”



Caro Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 6:44 pm

It really just kills me that some folks can’t even be bothered to link back to you. It’s not hard! And it’s not like you’re selling yarn and stopping people from going into the shop to take classes. I’ll definitely keep my eyes peeled locally for any shops offering classes to known free projects. Thanks for a GREAT post, Pam!

Bethe Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 6:47 pm

I’m so sorry that things like this continue to happen and that you’re one of the victims. I’ve noticed this happening in other shops with other patterns and it makes me both sad and mad. Time are tough all around, but that doesn’t make it ok to screw people over. I’ve mentioned it to store owners before and will continue to call them out on it when I see it happening. It’s just not right.

mai Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 6:57 pm

people are such assholes. i can’t believe they can’t give credit where it’s due. it doesn’t take much effort to email you and ask permission to use your pattern, either. thanks for posting this. i hope those LYS’ take notice and clean up their act, STAT!

Carrie Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Great post, Pam. I think sometimes people just think, oh it’s a free pattern, so no big deal, when that’s just not true - your hard work went into the awesomeness that is the free pattern, and you should be credited for it.

I teach classes at my LYS, and here is the situation I’m usually presented with where something like this would come up: I teach a class called Getting Started Sweater Knitting, where I teach about knitting a sweater that fits, gauge, etc, and then I help the students picked a sweater based on what they’ve learned, they do a swatch, we measure it, etc.

So, most students will end up picking a sweater out of one of the books that are in the store, but there is a store sample of the February Lady Sweater, so everyone wants to knit it. If they choose a free online pattern, the student will almost always ask the store to print the pattern.

What would be the right thing to do here? Tell the student that they can obtain the pattern online and give them the link is what I *think* is the right thing to do. Is that right? and seriously, thanks for starting this conversation.

Ashley Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 7:05 pm

I cannot believe, and yet I can, that you are illustrating this post with sweatbands.

whitney Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 7:07 pm

I am so sorry people are being such jerks. How hard can it possibly be to do the right thing and ask permission? That’s such a bummer about NAMELESS LYS, especially...I’ve always heard such great things about them.

This post definitely gives me lots to think about as I’m working on putting together my first “real” pattern (which, like yours, is going to be more of a tutorial than anything). Thanks.

Elinor Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 7:07 pm

OMG, that's absurd. I will certainly send my share of emails and post about it on my site. WTF. It's such a bummer that so many people are taking advantage of the free pattern.

Chris Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 7:10 pm

Nicely said, Pam. Maybe you should make a PayPal donation button for those who've made and loved the FLS and want to thank you...

yvette / overanalyzer Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 7:19 pm

that sucks! i had no idea. it really wouldn't take much time at all for all of those people to add a little language into their description of the classes etc to give you the credit for your hard work. i am sure though that there are thousands of people who are very appreciative of the work you put into converting the pattern... hopefully more that are willing to acknowledge you than those that haven't. i agree with chris above - you should definitely have a paypal donation button. if you don't feel comfortable getting paid for this, you could absolutely send the money to the ASPCA or similar... they need all they can get in this crappy economy.

Hookie, UK Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 7:33 pm

I totally understand your anger and frustration - it is like a form of 'mugging' IMHO (Im from UK so I hope this translates, lol) Another thing that makes me seethe with anger is when I see goods being sold from a bought or free pattern, online, or even the pattern itself that is stolen being sold on. In one case, a new pattern was released by an online mag only to be offered for sale on a blog about 6 hours later! I have a widespread knowledge of the internet in relation to knitting/crochet/craft and when I come across something like this I often contact the victim to let them know. I can only imagine that the people who do this either dont give a damn or think they are being smart and that noone will notice because they are not aufait with the knitting blogosphere. It takes my breath away the barefaced cheek of some people. We should have a kind of HALL OF SHAME type of site for naming and shaming sites/stores that do not fulfil their obligations to designers or who steal patterns and sell goods from them without the designer's permission.

maryse Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 7:34 pm

oh sweetie. i am not surprised. but i'm no less outraged. especially at NAMELESS LYS, who flip-flopped and went back to not giving you credit after they had.

i will definitely write something on my blog. it won't be as good as your post (unless i plagiarize heh) but it's important that we let these folks know that we're watching them.

Sara D Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 7:59 pm

I'm so sorry you're dealing with this issue firsthand. I'm also sorry to hear yet another story about the assholery going on at NAMELESS LYS. They have the potential to be such a wonderful business, and they have such a huge following in this state. It makes me sad and angry that they continue to have such shady business practices. Best of luck to you - I hope you and other independent designers get the recognition and respect that you deserve.

Mintyfresh Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:07 pm

I am completely afraid to do the same for my own free patterns--didn't Ashley notice that one of mine was ALSO being advertised by NAMELESS LYS? But I will fight this fight with you, because it so needs to be fought.

xoxoxo.

gleek Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:08 pm

jesus, mary, and joseph! when are these LYSes going to learn?! ugh. that sucks and yeah, they are jerks. good for you for naming names, too. otherwise, how would they know that they are doing something wrong?

anne Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:08 pm

It saddens me so much to see this, but unfortunately it doesn't surprise me. In the explosion of the internet and blogging, intellectual property rights have gotten the shaft - HARD - because so few people understand the law behind them and there's not much in the way of enforcement unless the holder of the IP finds out about it and has the means and understanding to enforce their own rights. (Oy, run-on sentence much?) But it is wrong and ILLEGAL what these folks are doing, and it deserves more attention. It sucks that we have to talk about this, but kudos for opening the discussion.

Kristin Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:13 pm

This evening I wore my FLS to church, and my two daughters wore theirs as well. One was knit from the original EZ pattern, and one was my one resizing of your pattern to fit a kindergartner. I can't even tell you how much joy these sweaters have brought us, so THANK YOU!

I will definitely be linking to your post on my blog. In all honesty, LYS's that screw this stuff up bother me a whole heck of a lot more than when a random knitter (who just might not know better) does it. I'm very sorry you've had to deal with this - and I do think you're taking appropriate action on it! All my best in getting it cleared up - or at least in getting the word out.

O Hail! « (mainer) Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:18 pm

[...] we'll get to those in a few days, mkey? In the meantime, drop what you're doing and go read this. Intellectual property rights are under attack all over the Internet and almost no one is paying [...]

elleen Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:21 pm

I have read on another blog that NAMELESS LYS had someone come in and teach Shelly Kang's blankie from sock yarn. They changed the description but gave her no credit. I will not do business with a shop that does this type of thing. I have to thank you for working out the directions for the FLS.

Kate Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:23 pm

<3. I'm sorry people are jerks, and I'm sorry that KNITTERS and LYSOs are jerks - no social system is exempt, even systems made up of generous, caring, compassionate, funny, smart people - like the knitting community.

I can understand your hurt and chagrin and irritation, and I hope that it doesn't decrease the joy you find from knitting, designing, and sharing your wonderful design.

I'll link to your post from my Twitter (twitter.com/kateohkatie) to help spread the word.

Kristen Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:25 pm

Hmmm...I'm a bit torn. On the subject of credit, I think it's essential that you be given credit as a designer. But on the subject of permission - there I'm not so sure. I'm coming at this as a designer of free patterns myself, though none of mine have ever blown up like the FLS, so my perspective is limited. As far as I know, no one has ever offered a class in one of my designs (though I'll be teaching some next week) so this isn't an issue that yet has personal resonance.

Here's my view. While your pattern is being used, what is being sold is not your pattern,

but the instruction. The instructors are making money not on the basis of your design, but the skills that they're teaching. At most stores, the way I've seen patterns selected for classes and advertised is about the skills gained in knitting them. Of course, an attractive and popular pattern is a bonus, but the idea is generally this: people want a class in cables, and they want a finished project with their new skill. A pattern with basic cables would then be selected for the class. I think it would be polite to ask the designer, but as long as the designer is credited, and the source cited, I don't see any problem with the rest of it.

Some classes require a purchased pattern. In that instance, each person in the class has to buy a copy of the pattern, as well as their yarn, and what's sold is, again, the instruction. Since the patterns are being purchased, I don't see why the designer would need to be asked.

Now, with free patterns, we come to a more complicated venue, but I think the basic principle applies. If the store has each person download the pattern from the original source, then the designer would be credited exactly as s/he would be if the customer downloaded the pattern on his or her own. The store would be selling the hand holding and instruction in basic knitting skills.

I do see a big problem when the designer isn't credited and when stores offer a print out themselves. There are, in my mind, two different issues at stake here, one being credit, and the other fair use. I'm not a lawyer, and as far as I understand it copyright law around fair use can be somewhat murky, so I may be misunderstanding. However, by my understanding, there's nothing wrong with teaching a class in a free pattern so long as the designer and source are credited. (By source, I'm referring to the website or other location where the pattern was originally published.)

Maritza Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:45 pm

Dude, that sucks. It never ceases to amaze me how people try to get around copyright. Never. Kudos to you for posting this.

Rebekah Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:49 pm

I definitely think that, at a minimum, LYSs should credit you and link to your site when using your pattern.

If the yarn stores credit you and make it clear that they are teaching a class based on your pattern, I'm not sold on the fact that they are profiting from your free pattern. The cost of the class includes teacher guidance, yarn selection help, technique help, etc. But, that's a big "if" as most of the stores hosting classes on your pattern aren't giving you any credit.

Danielle Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:53 pm

You're not crazy. Your expectations are not unreasonable. And you're pretty damn clear about how people can use your patterns.

This gets me thinking, though ... what if a LYS wants to teach a class using a commercial (i.e. published, not free) pattern? I wonder what they have to do for this to be OK?

melissa Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 8:56 pm

I think you rock for offering this pattern for free. And I think it's wrong for people to profit from your work. It's one thing to pay for expertise in teaching the technique, but really, how difficult is it to say "this pattern came from Flintknits.com. Let's give the wonderful Pamela Wynne some credit for upsizing this classic idea for us all"??? I'm a potter, so my work doesn't quite translate to this idea, but yes, I'd be peeved if someone offered what I taught for free and made a profit from it, except for this wonderful idea called karma. . . it will come back to them in spades.

amyp Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 9:02 pm

I don't have any credentials, but what you are saying seems perfectly reasonable to me. I'm sorry that so many LYS don't seem to be willing to behave professionally. That said, "Yea, Twisted!" (one of my lys) and the other stores who do have it together.

Donna Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 9:10 pm

Pam, this was a terrific post in defense of a great pattern, sweatbands and all. It doesn't surprise me that some shops refuse to give credit - I wish they saw that the more fun they make the whole interconnected world of knitting seem, the more people will want to knit - and the more money people (like me) will want to spend with them, the shop I trust. Now I find myself wanting to spend my money at the shops that gave you credit instead - so thanks for giving me an "I'm not a jerk" indicator.

Monet Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 9:15 pm

Pam,
You are not crazy in the least. It seems to me that you are just expecting other people to offer you the same respect and acknowledgement that you would do for them. By making the February Lady pattern free, you made it accessible to everyone who could print it from their computer. For people like me (meaning broke-ass college students), I can say that that is a very kind and thoughtful gesture. It only makes sense that, since you are not making a profit from your pattern, that yarn stores should not be allowed to make a profit from the use of it without your consent. Not crediting you with the work is just preposterous. I am offended for you and all the other unacknowledged designers who have to deal with this unfair treatment. It is wrong, and these people should not be able to get away with it.
I'm sorry I'm not able to offer any advice, but I just want you to know that I am with you all the way on this one. (And that the February Lady I knitted was all the rage in my college dorms. Again, thank you for sharing this beautiful pattern with us. Even if it's not a 100% original idea, that math is still way over my head, and it was a killer idea. You and February Lady are pretty much the shit.)

Bertha Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 9:18 pm

Christ, how fucking hard is it to give credit & shoot you an email asking if it's OK? Common courtesy. This is bullshitpants. I'd be pissed too.

Kendyl Young Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 9:46 pm

First, the headband ensemble- totally rocks in a band geek sort of way- no offense.

Second, I am disappointed that there are no responses/defense from an LYS or knitting instructor. I am clueless as to why they do not give credit. Ignorance or carelessness I get, but NAMELESS LYS is clearly quite intentional.

Why?

I read and understood your allusion to the idea that publishing the source of the pattern might be a disincentive from paying for a class but, as Kristen says, they are paying for the instruction, not the pattern.

I can only surmise that there is a deep lack of basic business understanding amongst these owners and this- more than any thing else, is leading to the demise of the LYS. I live in a knitting shop rich environment and the lack of biz acumen of several is obvious and painful.

By the way, I am zooming down the last sleeve for my own FLS and I can not WAIT to take it's luminous gorgeosity off the needles and on my bod. Thank you thank you thank you for an awesome pattern. I would gladly pay for a pattern of your design.

sara Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 9:49 pm

I'm shocked that LYS's would behave this way. They're behaving like big, evil corporations, not independent shops. It boggles the mind. Good luck fighting it! If I see any of my favorite yarn shops doing this, I will tell them how fucked up it is.

pam Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 10:43 pm

Hey Kendyl! Yes, the sweatbands are classic chic.

& Actually, I've gotten some really wonderful email and Rav mail responses from LYS owners and employees. One LYSO wrote to tell me about how she's worked to resolve this stuff at her shop. Another wrote to say that he'd been unaware of these issues, and thanked me — his store is going to change how they credit designers, and start contacting designers before using their free patterns for classes. I asked both of them to stop by and leave comments here, because I think their voices are really important.

laura Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 10:59 pm

When I found out that Kate wanted to teach a class on the FLS at lettuce knit, the first thing I asked was whether she'd gotten your permission! Of course, since Kate's a designer too, she knew where it was at 😊

Rodger Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 11:06 pm

Hey ya'll, I'm going to repost the rav message I sent to Pam here to add my two cents - But before I do, I just wanted to clarify. I'm not a yarn shop owner, I am at most a senior employee at the shop where I work - which amuses me since I'm the youngest person on staff (21 this May.) At any rate, my big responsibility at the shop is class scheduling and promotions which is why this post means so much to me. This year will be my third at this job, and it's the first job I ever got right out of high school. Our shop means a lot to me, and through our growth I've begun to find my own footing as a professional.

Anyway, enough about me - here's my original message to Pam.

"I work at a yarn shop in Portland called Abundant Yarn where I do the class scheduling and do you know...it never even occurred to me to credit the designer for some of the free patterns on our class list. I guess because I always tell people "This is the X by So And So, who is AWESOME." or I ask them to go to the website themselves to print off their copies so it wasn't like some anonymous source but I see what you're saying and feel that in the vein of being a professional all of our class descriptions are going to be altered tomorrow to include credit to the designers of the free patterns we're using as well as a few well-placed e-mails to ask forgiveness and permission.

Thank you so much for helping me to make our store a better, more professional place. I'm truly grateful that you took the time to write the post you did."

Janet Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 11:16 pm

Good for you for speaking up. I hope you achieve some satisfaction for your efforts.

Janet Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 11:28 pm

First, I know that it must have taken an emotional toll to have to come across all the blatant violations and to have to pour yourself into this blog entry, so big hugs from this grown-ass woman to you. I've not knit a FLS, but I can appreciate the work that went into creating your tutorial/pattern and I'm appalled that any shop would profit from your hard work with so much impunity. I can only hope it is simply ignorance on their part and that they make adjustments to their practices immediately.

And I also challenge all FLS knitters to click the donate button I found [here](#). Think of Wilma!

Yarndude Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 11:30 pm

I'm so happy to see my LYS's name on the list of shops that asked permission to use your pattern. I don't think it's at all unreasonable to send an email and expect immediate responses from the shops that did not ask permission.

Hanna Says:

April 9th, 2009 at 11:45 pm

Thank you for articulating the complications — but also the simplicity — involved with

free online patterns.

It's true that there are a lot of nuances involved in whether LYS's are charging for instructions or patterns, in the difference between printing patterns out for people versus giving them the links, and so forth. But you've also emphasized how easy it is to not be a jerk and just ask and attribute.

Nora Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 12:16 am

Pam, your expectations are more than reasonable and I can understand your frustration at not receiving the credit you deserve. For my part, I'll donate to your PayPal site and... send you some more linen! 😊 Yep, that's what I'll do. x

PS: Love that photo and the sweatbands!

Lauren Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 12:58 am

Pam, you are a rockstar for sticking up for yourself.

Business Ethics Training Tips for clients of management consulting - BIZFACE=AE - UK Business= ... « Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:43 am

[...] Flint Knits ? Blog Archive ? let?s talk. By pam My hope here is that, if we can create some kind of high-profile online dialogue among knittbloggers, we might educate one another, and inspire knitters to demand ethical and honest business practices from their otherwise badass LYSs. ... Flint Knits - <http://www.flintknits.com/blog/> & [...]

Sarah Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 2:33 am

You aren't crazy at all - anyone wanting to use your pattern for commercial purposes should have contacted you - it's very straightforward, not all confusing and it is shocking that it is happening on a large scale and all the more disappointing that it is coming from indie businesses.

I've not seen classes like this advertised in the UK but if I do see any classes based around a free online pattern I'll be sure to check whether they have permission to use it before I take that class.

wiscjennyann Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 2:41 am

Hi Pam!

I, for one, am thrilled that the FLS exists! And I think it's even more awesome that you put it out there for all of us to use and enjoy, not just keeping it for yourself or your friends. Hearing that there are people profiting from your work without asking you first kinda makes my stomach feel uneasy. Primarily this makes me feel terrible for you. It's your work! You should have credit! And it's not as if you are asking for a cut, only a recognition of authorship of the tutorial.

On a more broader level, I worry that the next clever designer will see what is happening to you and hold back their contribution to this wonderful knitting community we have. And what a shame that would be.

Of course I don't intend to go out of my way to track down every LYS in my city, state, country, etc. to check on your work- that might be construed as a little "stalker-esque." 😊 But I think I will pay more attention when I get fliers in the mail or in my inbox. I'll pay more attention when I come across something on the internet or in a shop. I'm more aware of this as an issue and in the future I'll speak up about it.

Thank you for this post. And for the sweater! And I am so so so sorry that this is happening to you.

ps- (I'm probably not the first person to do this but...) I hope you don't mind, but I was really moved to draw attention to this issue and your post on Ravelry. There is a lot of love and respect for you and your pattern there and I think that fans should also be aware of this.

heid Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 5:26 am

How disappointing to discover that your work is being abused:(

I really hope that in time, knitters will be so educated about this that it won't happen again. Unfortunately, until then, it's important that designers like you bring attention to this subject.

I agree with you basic point, if we don't share our knowledge we wont evolve either. Capitalizing on your work is opposing to that idea. I have no solution to this problem, but talking about it, bringing attention to it will hopefully make people aware of it:)

Ava Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 5:49 am

Our LYS is great about contacting the designers before offering any class that comes from a "free" source. If the owner doesn't get permission, she won't offer the class. In the description, she always says "From Knitty's _____" or "by the designer _____". There have been several classes that would have been stellar, but the designer never sent an email back, so it wasn't offered. We would have had a FLS class, but the dolt in charge of knitting the sample got impatient and attempted to use her frontloader to wring out the water . . . and now has a lovely FELTED FLS. Still kicking myself over my stupidity.

Steph VW Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 6:04 am

As the knitting wife of a musician, I think that when an LYS uses a pattern without permission, and without giving credit to the designer, it's almost like someone recording a song that they didn't write and passing it off as their own. While musicians don't usually ask permission to sing someone else's song live, they sure as heck better get permission to record and release it.

I don't think it is wrong to ask for credit where credit is due. Especially since it helps to pay my bills.

grumperina Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 6:40 am

Honestly, I'm afraid to Google search for shops who are using my free patterns to teach classes. I know I'm asked whether it's okay to do so at least once a month (I always say yes as long as some very lenient guidelines are followed), so I can only imagine the number of times shops go ahead and "assume" it's okay! Like you, I have a life, friends, hobbies, and I refuse to make policing yarn shops my job. I'm especially appalled at the shop which took the time to correct their mistake, and then reverted shortly thereafter!!! What is up with that?!? I think that unfortunately there's still a great misconception about The Internet being a "real" place, with real rules and regulations.

Noel Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 7:06 am

Well said! My friends and I are having a February Lady sweater knit along and let me just say how in love I am with this sweater. My dear friend's mother in law (who used to knit with EZ and goes to the special invitation only camp every year) is even knitting one, too. I am so sad to think that you have not been given simple courtesy.

carolyn Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 7:33 am

i have found, in general, that there are as many asshole knitters and as many asshole independent yarn shop owners as elsewhere in life. and sometimes, I actually think it's in higher percentage.

did you know there is another knitter out there, known to many, who would buy every one of a certain fellow knitter's patterns. change a few words (like change "increase 1" to "make 1") and then republish the pattern as her own design. and charge for it.

and that is just another regular knitter that a million people I know online are friends with and like and have no idea she does this.

and the real designer went to a lawyer and basically the lawyer was like "eh?" i.e., could

NOT see the value in a knitting pattern or see that the market could be huge and this could actually mean a serious loss of money to the actual real designer.

people suck. sadly it is proven true no matter where you go but even MORE SO in the crafty indy world b/c there is so much less oversight.

Angie Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 8:05 am

Pam~

You might be interested to read about a somewhat parallel incident with an indie doll designer, Rosa Pomar, having a design ripped off by a big corporation. Just google it to find her blog.

Love your work!

christina Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 8:06 am

I think most LYSs are probably out of touch with the huge knitting community on the internet. I'm sure they probably think (wrongly of course) that your website is inconsequential, and that not linking to it is therefore no big deal.

I remember telling one of my favorite LYSs to get on Ravelry and talk about what was going on in their shop, but they were hesitant. I mentioned that a competitor was doing this, and they ridiculed her. Now they just went out of business! I think they just have no idea what's going on online. And just because they're clueless doesn't mean that you shouldn't ask them to credit you, as you deserve!

gale (she shoots sheep shots) Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 8:10 am

Glad you posted about this and raised some consciousness!

Often the LYS using your designs for their profit is not trying to rip you off but is just clueless. Like "it's free so she won't care..." . Unfortunately that's a mindset that is tough to fight, and no amount of talk about copyright and intellectual property seems to work. I hate to say this because I love the online knitting culture of sharing free patterns but it is possible the only way you can get others to value your design work is to charge a nominal fee for it.

Eunice Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 8:15 am

Pam, that sucks big time. Here's what I think:

1) Not a lot of people know about creative commons. It's still so new, I'm not sure people understand that it is actually a copyright LAW. That doesn't excuse folks for being jerks, but it does make it harder for folks to do the right thing.

2) you've taken all the steps that you can take when it comes to violation of CC rules- contacting the stores, talking about it here. There is one option, though it's expensive, which is to contact a lawyer and enforce these rules.

3) Maybe you and Kate (and others) can get together to form a independent knitting designer cooperative, in which you pool together to get a hopefully dedicated lawyer who will enforce these rules. Kind of like a comic book legal defense fund or free software foundation.

Purlgirl918 Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 8:49 am

Um, hi. This fills me with rage. I am not a pattern designer, nor do I care to be. But I love and appreciate the designs that others put out there, and am often shocked when they are free. I can only imagine the time and effort one puts into making a good, well written pattern. (as an aside srsly, put up a donation button. If each of the 5,000 knitters on Rav alone who have knit your fab FLS donated \$1 thats \$5,000. Just think of all the yarn you could buy!)I even have non-knitting friends who admire what I've knit, and tell me I should sell my work. But I always tell them that I can't sell them as the pattern is not mine. How hard is it to sent an e-mail to ask permission, provide a link and give credit where credit is due???? God.

Heather Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 9:02 am

Bottom line: they are using your work to make \$\$\$\$. So uncool.

Ashley Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 9:58 am

Just a note to everyone suggesting that Pam put up a PayPal donate button: she's got one, on her free patterns page:

http://www.flintknits.com/blog/?page_id=3

Mercuria Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 10:04 am

I'm a cynic with a soft middle, and this is the soft middle talking:

Is it possible that your LYS had a document of class descriptions from which to copy-paste to the website that someone forgot to update when they added the credits the first time? If this were the case, then at least they didn't consciously remove the parts that credited you. Of course, there's still the problem that they've not addressed the problem in a broader sense...

It's also possible that there's just one idiot in the organization screwing up the shop's image for everybody else. I saw this happen in college, when one of our coworkers was treating free software in a similar fashion ("it's free, so we can distribute it"). He didn't listen to anybody telling him it was wrong until the university's lawyers told him that the software package could not go to print... Too bad there's no lawyer on retainer in this situation...

Kim Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 10:07 am

First, let me thank you for this kick ass pattern. I'm knitting a FLS right now and it's one of those patterns that brings me pleasure start to finish.

As for the shady & illegal practices of the LYSs, that blows. What does it take to simply ask permission and provide credit & links where credit is due. WTF?

Love the sweat bands. very 80s Olivia Newton John.

jillian Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 10:18 am

Oh man - I had no idea this issue may be so prevalent! Not too long ago I read on Wendy Knits' blog about her contacting an LYS that had been selling her free sock pattern as part of a kit, without her knowledge or permission.

I think some stores are ignorant to intellectual property rights, and to some degree, common sense, but not all. Some are definitely jerks out for their own. Brave you for standing up and speaking eloquently about this.

gudrun Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 10:20 am

Och what a pain in the bahoochie!!

It really does seem so inconsiderate for folks to nab our designs and not think twice about giving us credit where it is due!!!!.....and er not to mention the fact that they are breaching the copyright that is ...um...right there on the pattern!!

When I first started reading your post I thought to myself that I must be quite fortunate not to have run into this issue yet...then I realized I hadn't done any google searches in a long time for my free patterns....so I did...and lo and behold it happens to me to!!

.....including finding someone making my cowl and selling it as a finished knit under a different name.....aagrrhhh.....

I'll be spreading the word over at shetlandtrader too!

amanda Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 10:46 am

Pam, very interesting post. Sad, though not surprising to hear. Have you talked with a

lawyer about your legal options? My husband is an attorney, and although the laws vary by state, I'm curious to hear what he would say. You could perhaps report the LYS at fault and have them fined. I know that sucks, given the LYS are small businesses, but sometimes the only way to learn the right way is the hard way (I'm a hard ass, I guess!).

Brenna Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 11:24 am

I am proud to say that the LYS I love and go to pretty much weekly is on your list of people who asked permission. Not that I wouldn't ever doubt otherwise.

It's pure crap that people steal your stuff. Then again, it doesn't surprise me. It's simple, give credit where credit is due.

Oh, and I LOVE your owl tattoo!!!!!!!!!!

Veronique Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 11:59 am

Give 'em hell, I say.

MJ Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 12:23 pm

Pam, what a great, thoughtful post. You showed class by crediting EZ and BW; the yarn shop owners showed they didn't have any by using your pattern without crediting you.

Bravo for sticking up for your pattern. You have a lot of support here.

And you look great in your headband!

Ivete Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 12:26 pm

As an indie designer myself, I feel for you. That said, having worked in LYSs for a long time, I can tell you that stores really do not care about this because patterns are a dime a dozen to them. It's pretty common to have yarn manufacturers give away patterns and even encourage photocopying — LYS's tend to look at patterns as a necessary evil to sell yarn, not as something they really enjoy stocking, buying, or dealing with. While it's sad that so many stores are taking advantage of free patterns and denying the designers even a pithy byline, I'm not at all surprised to hear that it's happening.

I think in your particular situation, part of the problem is the use of a CC license instead of a traditional copyright notice. The concept of "creative commons" license is still new and largely only known to people who spend tons of time online. Most LYSOs *do* understand what "copyright" is and, I believe, would be less likely to infringe it than they are to infringe on CC. I personally stick to traditional "Copyright" for everything I publish, free or not, and plan to continue to do so indefinitely.

Anne Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 12:53 pm

"I believe that Sharing is better than Capitalism"

Really? Do you know what Capitalism actually means? Because it seems to me that providing a "donate" button on your blog for your pattern is capitalism at work. Are you paying taxes on those donations? Or is this under the table income?

I love how altruistic and generous people can be with OTHER people's tax dollars.

Who really cares if anyone is using your pattern if you truly believe that sharing is better than capitalism. What do you actually want the yarn stores to do? Compensate you? Credit you? Why? Anyone who uses the pattern can clearly see the designer.

It just seems to be a strange argument for someone who is opposed to Capitalism. Or are you just opposed to *other* people making money?

Kate Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:03 pm

I hear ya!

Janice in GA Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:04 pm

I narked out a LYS that was using a free online pattern like this once. They felt that "since it was a free pattern on the internet, they could use it however they wanted to."

So much ignorance in one little phrase. /sigh/

Erin Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:06 pm

Hi there,

I manage a yarn store in Tennessee that has used your free pattern to make a shop model of the February Lady Sweater - when a customer sees the sweater in the shop and wants to make one for themselves, we direct them to the Internet (you/your blog). I am assuming this is cool? If not, I guess I need to know so that we do not offend you and other designers offering their patterns for free online.

Thanks!

Erin

Cirilia Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:10 pm

Yay Annie Foley! I know and love her =)

Stella Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:16 pm

"Because the internets? ARE the real world."

Hear fucking hear. And it's about time we all started acting that way.

I think you have a great point that LYSs can benefit from becoming more linked in to the enormous, ridiculously interconnected, and generally very good-at-sharing community that is the online crafty world. And I'm thrilled to see that my darling Twisted is among those moving in that direction.

And Anne? I think Pam was entirely clear as far as what she wants from LYSs. (Credit and permission. Not money.) And it also seems pretty clear that a designer who prefers sharing to capitalism would hate to see her time and work and generosity used to move the craft world more in the direction that makes money off of people's work while anonymizing those same people.

Ashley Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:33 pm

Dear Anne, above: You obviously fail to distinguish between providing an option to freely donate—or not—and charging money for other people's labor. Are you seriously deeply stupid enough to think that anyone is forcing you to click that button and donate? "Other people's tax dollars"? Are you fucking kidding me?

The tone of your post is kind of surprising, because it sounds like you know enough about Pam to be familiar with her tax situation—how much she receives as freely-offered gifts, how much she earns, what she has to report based on those two things, etc. Is that the case? If not, please feel free to shut the fuck up until you know what you are talking about.

Finally, I think Pam has made it amply clear here what she wants from LYS owners and others who are profiting from her pattern. Honoring the labor of the person who makes their profit possible is not only the least they can do, it is their legal obligation under Pam's license terms.

Sincerely, someone who thinks you sound like somebody who reads a shitload of Ayn Rand.

carolyn Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:35 pm

good on ya, ashley.

personally, i hate ayn rand.

Stella Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:37 pm

HA! Ashley, you make my day.

Jen Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:42 pm

You are absolutely in no way being unreasonable. You're the one who put your time and brainpower to work to design "The Sweater that Ate Ravelry" (as I heard someone aptly term it when it was the only picture you could find on your friends' activity page!). It's beautiful, and I've got the perfect yarn on order to knit my own.

Too many people assume that because a pattern is free, they can do whatever they want with it...including make money with it in some way. I think it behooves anyone who sees this happen to say something, or those of us who enjoy the freely offered fruits of someone else's labor will be out of luck. And it won't be the fault of the designers.

Monica Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 1:49 pm

I have a related question of ethics. Is it wrong for a LYS to offer to sell you a Ravelry download pattern? Example: I see a shop sample and fall in love. I buy the same yarn as the sample is knit up in, and gush about my excitement over this sweater. The pattern is only available online, and can be purchased on Ravelry. The LYS owner, while ringing up my yarn for purchase, offers to buy the pattern for me from Ravelry and print it out for me. She would buy the pattern from Ravelry, and I would pay her the same pattern price. I declined and purchased it myself at home as a Ravelry download. But I've thought A LOT about this since it happened. What would prevent the LYS from selling the pattern to customers and only paying for the download once? Thoughts?

Sharon Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 2:17 pm

Amen sister! I'm going to keep an eye out at my LYSs to ensure compliance too.

lisabee Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 2:33 pm

wow. just wow. how sucky.

i remember saying to my bff, who works at my lys (and who, incidentally, started the fls ravelry group last summer, with your permission and my help), that i thought the shop where she works should offer a kit or a class on something-or-other. i pointed her to another yarn shop in town that does the kind of thing you're mentioning all.the.time, and she pointed out to me how wrong it is. she explained all the things you've explained, and i am so proud of her and the shop where she works (<http://www.naturalstitches.com> in pittsburgh, if anyone wants a recommendation for a wonderful shop) for not partaking in the kinds of things you mention. before that conversation, it had never occurred to me that these shops weren't crediting and paying the holders of the patterns' copyrights, and it makes me kind of sick to think about now. rest assured that there are some good folks out there who really love and appreciate what you do. (and i love ayn rand. go figure.)

Johannab Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 2:56 pm

Rockin' good post. A very big issue. In some ways... infringement is a sincere form of flattery, not that it's any comfort in this. I'm not sure what the answer for a designer is, unless you want to lock everything down behind either a shopping cart or a mail-me-for-your-copy kind of system, but how do you have time to manage that when you've created an almost viral knitting sensation?

Honestly, teachers (and by extension LYSs who employ them or are owned by them) should know better. If you teach high school, a copy of a textbook has to be paid for for every student and your curriculum package as well. If a shop teaches from a commercial pattern, each student and teacher has to buy a copy. The fact that someone's generous enough to provide your class materials for free is not carte blanche to take advantage.

A suggestion for those who attend knitting classes: Ask about the source for the

materials, and ask, in complete good faith, if the store talked to the author/designer/publisher for permission. If they haven't? Find another class, there are tons out there, and politely tell them why.

kimchi Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 3:04 pm

Thank you so much for writing this post. I had no idea this was happening and will make sure if I see/hear about it, i'll do my part to inform the LYS/studio owner.
And thanks so much for sharing your work with all of us!
Elaine.

Syl Strawbridge Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 3:19 pm

That sucks!! Your situation is like that of a musician. If someone wants to play a piece written by a living composer, the composer has a publisher and they have to buy the music or pay royalties on it. Isn't there something like that for someone who makes patterns? There should be!!! I know you want to be nice and independent, but unfortunately, there are a lot of people out there who don't blink twice about stealing. You should copyright your work and make it against the law to copy.....like music.....without your permission. You have to look out for yourself! Syl

Claire Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 3:20 pm

Yes! (x10) I totally agree with you.

PS> I just found your blog and am reading all of your entries from the beggining.

Elemmaciltur Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 4:07 pm

Well said and right on. I have been asking this kind of question myself....and in a similar context towards the ethics and morals of people and items. Next time I blog, I'll definitely mention this.

Emma Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 4:52 pm

Just wanted to give you some support, and say how much I appreciate your generosity. I'm knitting a, much tweaked !, FLS. It's so much seing all the beautiful FLSs on Ravelry. So sad that your work, and that of so many designers, is being abused.
Knit on !

Big love.

earthchick Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 5:11 pm

1. You rock. Headbands+brilliant articulation of difficult matters=total win.
2. You are not crazy.
3. People who steal are jerks.
4. I am going to link back to this post when I blog my latest FLS next week.
5. I am going to contact you about whether or not I can share the mods I have made on your design before I blog about them. Because that's the right thing to do.
6. Did I mention that you rock?
7. Marry me?
8. Don't tell my husband about #7.

Erin Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 5:29 pm

Being an archivist, I completely understand your issue. Many people try to use materials

for profit that we preserve in our repositories (re-purposing digitized content). We don't have the resources to "enforce" copyright and intellectual property rights and just hope people do the right thing.

The Girl From Auntie blog has a great legal page on her site that really spells out what copyright means in terms of her blog, patterns and other material on her site, <http://www.girlfromauntie.com/legal/> (she's an intellectual property lawyer and knitter).

I love reading your blog and I'm almost finished with an FLS for myself, so I felt the need to send a comment of support for your post. This is really important stuff for everyone to know, not just lawyers or business owners. We are all creators, so thank you for bringing these issues to the surface.

Annie Foley Says:
April 10th, 2009 at 5:50 pm

Pam,
I did not teach it yet. It will be in the fall at WEBS. I am also modifying it to work it in the round with a steak for the lace section.
I agree that people should get permission before using patterns and give credit to people who design patterns-free or not.
I am knitting mine now and love it. Thanks.
Peace And Yarn,
Annie

JulieFrick Says:
April 10th, 2009 at 5:57 pm

Dear "Anne,"
Bite me.
And please don't ever knit anything from anyone's free pattern, ever, as you are obviously one who does not need benefit from anyone else's intellectual property. Unless maybe it's Rush's. Or Sean's. In which case I use the term "intellectual" loosely.
Sincerely yours,
JulieFrick

Christy / Not Hip Says:
April 10th, 2009 at 6:48 pm

I loves you

Hannahbelle Says:
April 10th, 2009 at 8:11 pm

One of my LYS's recently had a class on your FLS - she charged for the yarn and the 'time it takes to help someone with a sweater', when I asked for specifics. I felt like she should have asked, at least, for permission to teach the class, and was pretty appalled when she basically told me in nicer words to go shove it. I haven't been back, instead preferring to drive an hour to go to an LYS that respects designers and what they create and give us.

And who's tax dollars are you using? As far as I know, all my tax dollars are already taken away without my personal consent... so how could I possibly be giving them to you, or anyone else? (If you've discovered some secret, please let us know! 😊 I want some of my tax dollars back!)

Keep doing what you're doing and those who are jealous because they didn't think of it first or get credit can keep throwing stones inside their glass houses. You deserve the credit and you have the right to ask that people ask you permission! They're making money off of your work, the bastards!

JulieFrick Says:
April 10th, 2009 at 8:24 pm

Dude. Does anonymous Anne have a URL?

Mr Puffy Says:
April 10th, 2009 at 8:53 pm

As I hear it, all you want is credit where credit is due. It's well deserved credit and I'm glad you spoke up for yourself.

You rock and any knitter worth their salt knows who designed this sweater and is responsible for this pattern phenom.

Lori in Michigan Says:

April 10th, 2009 at 10:31 pm

Hey lady.

I'm not in your position as designer, but I am an admirer of your talents and greatly respecting of propriety. I can and will support you and all designers when I come across this issue. I *have* recently seen a February Lady sweater class posted in a LYS here in MI, but cannot place where I saw it. I will backtrack my steps over the last couple months since I've seen it and bring up the issue with the owner/manager when I do find it and advise I will NOT spend money in there shop until they make right. This is an affront I take personally as a former art major. We must stand strong in this world of declining ethics.

lly Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 4:10 am

I'm confused. I asked for the pattern in my LYS and was told where to find it as was everyone else in the class. And horrors, I printed one for my friend who does not currently have a good quality or color printer. Remember not everyone is net connected and she DID NOT pay me for my computer paper or ink. If I read the pattern it is very obvious who the author is and the method of distribution. There was never any "cover-up" of credit to the designer. Numerous promotional materials also named the designer and provided a link to the web site. There was NEVER any fee for the pattern. I paid for the teacher's time, shop lighting and heat, and a place to sit comfortably. No one ever tried to pass off the pattern as their own work!!

As far as pictures. If I make a sweater in my color, my size, my time and want to send a picture of ME in the sweater do I still have to put a credit line on the picture? Think of all those family photos without credit lines!

And speaking of credit and original design, Nothing is really original. We live in a world of ever changing ideas and experiences. None of us created the 2 sticks and rope we called knitting. Who do I have to give credit to?

If the author has expectations when the FREE pattern is used in a group setting, then put it on the pattern. I think she now has. And what if I use this for a program for my knitting group? Many of us have shown off our sweaters in our "Show and Tell" programs. This should not be complicated. If this is FREE with strings attached - then say so, but tell me what the strings are. Most of the so called coywrite statements are not clear and try to cover areas that are not copywrite law. Remember copywrite is the written document only. Patents, licenses, trademarks are entirely different.

I guess I'm getting a little tired of the FREE pattern with so many strings attached. Is it FREE or not? And if your expectations and restrictions are longer than the pattern itself, I'll just move on. We can always design our own, but have to just be sure to find and credit that elusive person who first thought of sticks and string to make fabric.

According to Websters dictionary one definition of Free is "having no trade restrictions". What we have here are lots of restrictions so maybe we need a new word for this issue and new definitions.

lynn Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 6:10 am

Hey Pam- ijust finished a fls- when i noticed how many folks were knitting it - like purgirl above i thought -WOW if everyone just offered \$1.00 that would add up- actually your awesome pattern gave me way more than \$1.00 worth of knitting enjoyment- (now that i see i can donate i plan to)have to say i walked into my lys sporting my fls (its so fun to get that instant positive feedback)warm fuzzies were clouded over by the yukkies when i noticed the shop was doing just what you described- it gave me a sick feeling when i thought about what you had offered and how it was being used- and so for the past week or so when i've worn or looked at my fls (which is alot cause i love it so much) i've also sent good thoughts your way and plan on continuing that- - - now if everyone did that - expressed gratitude- not to mention- treated the work of others with respect- just think what a beautiful world it would be.<3

diana Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 6:30 am

Permission is not too much to ask for the use of your amazing pattern. People, do the right thing already.

And "Anne" can suck it. Get back to us after reading a bit more about dialectical materialism.

pam Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 8:45 am

@Diana. Or, you know, after actually reading the post. That would help.

maryse Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 9:13 am

dear ily,

you sound like my 15 year old nephew who is currently in what i call his "sarcasmo" stage, i.e. he's a smart ass. which is what i understand is a rite of passage for a 15 year old boy.

what i don't understand is why someone who i assume is an adult (perhaps you are not. perhaps you too are a 15 year old boy in which case i would like to bop you on the head) would go down the road of ridiculous scenarios such as you just have.

i mean, use your head. really? you've seriously made a leap from one talented designer requesting that permission be asked before an LYS uses her work to make \$ for a class to wondering out loud if you owe this same designer credit because you are using sticks and string?

why the sarcasm ily? why?

flintknits just asks that she get credit for her work.

i think we can all get behind that.

and "free" in this context means "without charge." it does not mean "to do with whatever i damn well please."

now, go to your room if you can't be respectful.

caro Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 9:19 am

@ily

I think you're missing the point. The LYS that you took the class from clearly pointed you to where to get the pattern and made it plain who the designer was and gave credit where it was due. All Pam is asking for is that the LYS's who DON'T do that smarten up a bit.

Specs Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 9:33 am

So, ily, if I use your ideas as my own, I don't have to credit you, because, like who owns words and stuff?

andrea Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 9:37 am

hah @ specs. nice.

jillian Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 9:45 am

BTW, Ily, it's copyRIGHT not copywrite. There are not a pack of knomes writing copy. Anywhere.

yvette / overanalyzer Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 10:01 am

agree with ashley. anne needs to pipe the fuck down.

Jocelyn Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 10:12 am

Sometimes Women just don't value each other when we do something that is smart.

pam Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 10:37 am

Hey Ily. I'm sorry to hear that you're confused! I will try to clarify just a couple of points.

Copyright isn't the biggest issue here (though copyright infringement is something that a lot of designers have to deal with), but rather USE. And not even personal use, but *commercial* use. If you're sincerely interested, you might check out the statement at the top of my Free Patterns page. It clearly says that folks can make all the FLSs they like, and wear them, and photograph them, and give them away, or sell them at charity auctions, or throw them in the garbage. What they *cannot* legally do is directly use the pattern or the finished product to make a profit without my written consent. You'll find that most designers who publish patterns online have a similar policy regarding commercial use of their free patterns.

With regards to photos, the photographs I take are my property, and that IS a copyright issue. Clearly you can take all the family photos you like wearing your FLS, and do whatever you like with them! But, if you protect your photos as I have, then people cannot take those photos and use them for commercial purposes without your permission. Again, if you're sincerely interested, there are a whole lot of great discussions online about photo rights, since there are even more photographers online than there are knitters.

Jen Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 12:21 pm

Well said, Pam!!!

pam Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 12:30 pm

Also, Ily, I think it's important to let you and others know that, when stores DO ask to use my pattern, I always make it clear to them that, while I prefer that students download and print it themselves, they are welcome to share copies with folks who don't have internet or printer access. If your LYS had contacted me about using the pattern for profit, they would have gotten that same message.

But because many other designers do not allow this, it's always the responsibility of the end user (in this case, yarn shops) to find out about, and comply with, each pattern's terms of use.

Melissa Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 12:39 pm

Just one more voice piping in here to offer my sincere support. Hang in there - you are fighting the good fight with this one.

JulieFrick Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 5:37 pm

I love gummi worms. Though I prefer Coke bottles.

meg Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 5:52 pm

i can't think of anything supportive to say that hasn't already been said. if i ever come across a lys doing this i'll make sure to give 'em what for!! hang in there, lady.

Sarah Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 8:14 pm

I'm so sorry that this is happening. There is nothing unreasonable about your expectations. I hope that the cases where people have unintentionally violated your terms out of ignorance will be remedied by the educational content of your post. As for the willful, knowing thievery, I feel angry, discouraged, and hurt.

Thank you for sharing your work and talent with the FLS. I knit it for my sister for Christmas, and it was one of my favorite gifts to give.

Kristy Says:

April 11th, 2009 at 9:23 pm

Wow, Pam. I remember when this pattern came out and how excited I was about it. I'm amazed at the response to this sweater, and so happy for you!

I'm sorry that you've had problems with people taking advantage of your intellectual property. I think that people sometimes see the word "free" and think that means they can do anything they like with it.

You have some awesome friends. If I ever feel like saying something mean about you, I will never, ever say it on the internets 😊

Birdwoman Says:

April 12th, 2009 at 2:04 am

I've been offline for a week and I logged on today and found that two of the small group of knitblogs I read (you and [needled](#)) have both been having trouble with others not respecting your intellectual property. It's just ridiculous - particularly since the FLS is a free pattern! How hard is it to send a designer an email and just ask?

Good luck getting it sorted out - I hope the various stores come to their senses quickly.

Intellectual property « *Birdwoman Knits* Says:

April 12th, 2009 at 2:28 am

[...] at Flint Knits, who designed the gorgeous February Lady Sweater (which I must knit one day!), has found that many [...]

Schrodinger Says:

April 12th, 2009 at 6:16 am

So it's all be said and much more eloquently than I could put it, but here! here! I'm amazed at this callous attitude to your material, really - does it require that much effort or thought to check with a pattern writer if you can use their pattern? Let's face it, it's great to know people are using the pattern in the first place and getting so much pleasure out of it, most designers are unlikely to refuse - even if it does mean that person is profiting partially from your work.

And as for the trolls in your comments, thank for your taking the higher road, and also for leaving those in-conceived comments out there for the rest of us to see.

Oh and the FLS totally rocks! It's my second most worn handknit 😊

Mary Jane Says:

April 12th, 2009 at 7:28 am

Excellent post!

Have you read [Annie Modesitt's](#) post "Valuing our Work?". Its the same, only different. Best of luck to you.

CE Says:

April 12th, 2009 at 5:34 pm

agree (1,000) This is so, so basic. I love my FLS, think it was fabulous of you to make it a free pattern, and am kind of stunned that people are doing this. I'm really sorry.

Confidential to Anne: Step awaaaay from the Ayn Rand.

Jocelyn Says:

April 12th, 2009 at 8:55 pm

I can't get this out of my head. It's a real shame that women don't stand together and support each other. Pam should be rewarded for her hard work, not given more grief. It's just crazy (CRAZY) to me. She is the Pam!! Treat her right!

I wrote a blog post about supporting knitwear designers last November, it's here:

<http://joce.blogs.verbs.ca/?p=218>

Anonymous Anne makes me want to cut my tits off so I may have even less in common w. her.

Good luck Pam.

kellee Says:

April 13th, 2009 at 5:10 am

Just wanted to stand in solidarity with you against this shameless theft, particularly as I came to know your blog in the first place through your Ravelry-posted pattern of the gorgeous February Lady Sweater. Shit ain't right, and the LYS owners know in their hearts that they've broken the Knitters Code, so on their heads be it. While I was reading your above post, my boyf came and read it over my shoulder and was equally enraged - he came with me to our LYS shop that day and was scoping out all the cardigans they had up on display, saying "Is THAT the February Lady Sweater? Is THAT it?" in a ready-to-pounce sort of way (they weren't)...He is officially on FLS-Watch too. We got your back over here in the UK 😊

knitted, sewn: for Easter (FLS+skirt) « *earthchicknits* Says:

April 13th, 2009 at 8:23 am

[...] taken her hard work without credit and used it to make money. She has written about it eloquently here. Read through the comments, too. I have to say that reading the post and some of the really [...]

terri Says:

April 13th, 2009 at 10:07 am

It's not just free patterns that get co-opted. People teach my class, from my book, all the time. And I don't think there's a darned thing I can do about it, except hope that it generates a sale or two. It's crappy. PS, I finished my February Lady, except I can't find my buttons. And my daughter wants a February Kid.

finished! garter yoke cardigan! « *only things i wanna talk about are cats and crafts.*

Says:

April 13th, 2009 at 12:04 pm

[...] this is unrelated, but i think important. read flint knits' post about following copyright terms on free patterns on ravelry or elsewhere. i've read lots of [...]

Seanna Lea Says:

April 13th, 2009 at 12:38 pm

I completely understand how you feel.

I've sold things at a holiday bazaar, and invariably someone asks me why I didn't sell x (the big one was the One Skein Wonder). I always tell them that I am honoring the designers copyright by not making them for sale without permission. I can only imagine how much worse it would be if it was something I had designed and I was being used!

(I love your FLS, and I have printed the pattern out twice when I misplaced my copy... mine is just about a sleeve away from completion if I can just find the time.)

tiennie Says:

April 13th, 2009 at 4:34 pm

This was a very good talk. This frustrates me to no end. You very generously gave us this wonderful pattern. The least people could do is acknowledge it.

BTW - You look rockin!

Jenn Says:

April 14th, 2009 at 12:36 am

Wow. I wish I could say I am surprised about stores not knowing better- but I am not. I worked in a yarn store and run an online store as well (and have to deal with people using my free patterns as their own) and I was shocked at the number of times I heard "but another yarn store copied/let me copy/gave me" or seeing people just write a pattern down....umm, no!

I am a bit soured about it honestly, and it is something that keeps me from selling patterns and really from going to the trouble of writing them up for free.

I find it interesting that people are focusing so much on specifics that are clearly outside intent- the printing of an extra copy for themselves/a friend who doesn't have a computer or printer, etc. while those to me pretty clearly do not violate the spirit of the copyright (unless they are handing out copies to all 200 of their closest friends 😊)

Lisa Says:

April 14th, 2009 at 8:12 am

Love the sweater.

Hate that you are encountering these issues.

Will pledge to fight the good fight if I see it occurring in my LYS.

Thank you for spreading the word and edumacating (ha!) the masses.

Thank you for updating the wonder of EZ and sharing it for free!

Nonnahs Says:

April 14th, 2009 at 2:24 pm

Pam, I'm so sorry this is happening to you! But I'm really glad you posted about it- clearly more people need to be made aware of these things. All you are asking is that people ask for your permission. Seriously- how hard is that?? Grr...

Meredith Says:

April 15th, 2009 at 12:06 am

I'm frustrated on your behalf. Another Kate (of <http://needled.wordpress.com>), the designer of the popular "Owls" sweater, has had similar rip-off issues. But not from yarn stores, which is especially upsetting. My question is, as a consumer of yarns and fiber but not classes, how can I know if the LYS I'm spending \$\$ at is engaging in this type of practice? I understand not wanting to name names. I guess the best option is to ask at my LYS'S what their policies are? Luckily in my town they're small enough that it is a simple matter to talk to the owner.

Reading about the struggles of designers to get credit for their work has opened my eyes, and I hope made me a more intelligent consumer. I appreciate your openness!

Intellectual property | rocky hill Says:

April 15th, 2009 at 1:31 am

[...] at Flint Knits, who designed the gorgeous February Lady Sweater (which I must knit one day!), has found that many [...]

angelika Says:

April 15th, 2009 at 7:49 am

such a controversial subject. free patterns are nice. but I think we have almost too many free patterns available now. It makes it almost impossible for a designer to make a living. "Why should I pay for it? I can find something free on the internet."

With this attitude, we can and are loosing many talented designers. Grouped with designers, most often the same person, are the teachers. Without teachers the knitting industry would be a fraction of what it is now. We'd have a fraction of patterns, quality would be poor, and the selection of yarns rotten.

But back to your issue. Speak to a lawyer or find a generic letter and use it for every LYS that chooses to advertise/host a class on the FLS. LYS cannot afford to get caught up in court.

Next time? Charge for it. Even if it is only \$2.

Sophia Says:

April 15th, 2009 at 9:20 am

I'm behind you on this 100%!!! This is I cant even find a descriptive term that's heinous enough for this type of thing. Please don't be discouraged, your work is so great.

nova Says:

April 15th, 2009 at 1:45 pm

I can not say anything helpful or witty since Ashley and Specs recapped my thoughts in re: Anne and Ily so well. So what I will say is simply this: Amen, sister.

Purlgirl1918 Says:

April 16th, 2009 at 10:17 am

Glad I came back...thanks Ashley for pointing out the donate button. I just visited it. Go Pam!

karen Says:

April 16th, 2009 at 11:33 am

this is a great post, kind of a public service announcement as well as your own personal statement. people really need to think about these things occasionally and realize that just because the internet makes it easy to disregard a. intellectual property laws and b. general ethics and politeness doesn't mean that doing so is okay in any way.

anyway, right on.

Jamie Says:

April 17th, 2009 at 1:58 am

You know, this is very depressing to hear about. I was considering offering some knitting classes out of my home because I enjoy knitting and wanted to see how I felt about teaching it but I almost don't want to unintentionally drag-through-the-mud some designer's wonderful work. I can't believe there are people who feel the need to not even credit you with your wonderful work. Please don't be too discouraged, I think you're doing a great job so far Pam!

marlannem Says:

April 17th, 2009 at 8:39 am

I'm absolutely sympathetic to your right to get credit and to dictate the terms of distribution for your pattern (it's totally cute and I plan to make one — thank you!), but taking an extremely rigid view of copyright in this case seems a bit ironic. I always assumed the pattern was free because it's a modification and upsizing of the February Baby Sweater, Elizabeth Zimmermann's design. Yes, EZ is credited and yes, most patterns build on earlier work, but if Schoolhouse Press has taken the same rigid stance towards rights that you do, I doubt the FLS pattern could exist at all.

Erin Says:

April 17th, 2009 at 8:56 pm

☺ I support you 210%!!! FLS is adorable! (I haven't quite made it to sweaters yet, but when I do, I am sure it will be my very first one!) You have done some wonderful work, and it is absolutely NOT too much to ask for proper credit for your work!!! As a newer knitter, I find the support of LYS classes very helpful, other people in the classes often ask questions I may not have thought of, and a knowledgeable professional to advise and answer questions a treasure... So I find it incredulous that LYS may feel they need to "lure" me (and others) into taking the classes... I think bringing this problem to light is the only way to remedy the situation. It seems there is a seedy side to knitting, (who knew?!) and open dialogue is the only way to exorcise it. Stand your ground. You will change the system, not just for yourself, but all blighted pattern writers!

Twisted » Blog Archive » Just so you know Says:

April 17th, 2009 at 9:05 pm

[...] we ARE on FlintKnits' now famous List of Nine stores who DID request and receive permission for our February Lady [...]

pam Says:

April 18th, 2009 at 9:32 am

Hey Marianne. Thanks so much for the comment!

I think there's some conflation going on here between copyright and licensing/commercial use. I actually am not all that concerned with copyright in this instance. As I say in the post, I haven't made any great innovations here, so unless someone is taking my exact pattern and distributing it with someone else's name on it, you know ... shrug. (Though copyright is a serious issue for a lot of designers, so I can only speak here about my particular experience with this particular pattern.)

That said, one reason I'm barking so loudly about commercial use of the FLS is precisely *because* I recognize that EZ's concept is at stake here, as well as my own free publication. (I'm pretty clear in the post, I think, about the multiple reasons why the FLS pattern is free.) And yep, even though the construction of the FLS is completely different from the baby sweater (which is why, yes, it *can* legally exist), it is dependent on the recognizability and iconic status of the original. Right down to its silly name. 😊

So I absolutely do not have an "extremely rigid view of copyright" in this instance. I would, however, like to work toward a crafting culture that values designers' labor and effort even when there's not a price tag attached. "Ask and attribute," as one commenter so succinctly summarized it above, doesn't seem like a particularly tough principle to follow, especially when it's written very clearly into the terms of use for most folks' free patterns. (See the lovely pingback from TwistedPDX, above, about how this is their default policy, and why.) xo, Pam

marianne Says:

April 18th, 2009 at 3:17 pm

I completely agree with you on the need to value and recognize designers — your design is awesome and if I were running an LYS, I would absolutely ask for permission, and I think you're well within your rights to ask that shops do so, because it's essential that the pattern be attributed to you, and I know that many yarn shops are quite cavalier about designers' rights. And these copyright/licensing discussions can get complicated very quickly! That said, I'm still not exactly sure what you get from the shop asking permission, beyond a sense of pride/righteousness. If it were a pattern you'd published in a book, and the shop made everyone in the class buy the book, they wouldn't need to ask your permission, right? I guess what I'm interested in, from a community/sociological rather than legalistic POV, is what makes a free pattern, legally acquired and taught in a class, different from a for-sale pattern legally acquired and taught in a class?

Congratulations again on the wonderful pattern. It's adorable. I have some Sundara worsted in a surprise colorway coming my way later this month, and I'm not so secretly hoping it's a perfect match for the FLS.

Lia Says:

April 19th, 2009 at 2:14 am

Thanks for the most recent comment, Pam. I was a bit baffled, but that clears it up a LOT. I agree, stores should be clear on where they are getting the patterns, and make sure that credit is given to designers. I think most (especially older) knitters and LYS employees/owners are not acting out of malice, but from a complete ignorance of the intricacies around internet publishing and how designers make a living.

Mariannem, those are questions that could help clear things up even more, thank you.

deniasha Says:

April 19th, 2009 at 12:09 pm

How incredibly tacky and tasteless. You would think independent LYS would be some of the best of honoring the terms of your pattern. You gave of your time, energy, creativity and for people to take advantage of it to use for their profit is just disgusting. Unfortunately, it would be impossible to go after each and everyone but I'm starting to understand why Alice Starmore went 180 on how her patterns and her name were used years ago before the internet became commonplace.

This is a horrible attack against indie designers. I only hope there is a way to enforce credit of your work easily someday.

Barbara L Says:

April 21st, 2009 at 11:40 am

I'm sorry that you are not being appreciated properly because you certainly do deserve credit. You could have taken your pattern and made a heap of money but instead you offered it free. It amazes me that someone would abuse "free". Please don't let those few stores put you off your efforts at pattern designing. I'm currently knitting your FLS which I found a link to on the Yarn Harlot's website when she knit it this year. I'm knitting it with my very own homespun wool. So Thank You for offering this wonderful pattern for free.

thayer Says:

April 22nd, 2009 at 12:44 pm

First, let me start by saying that the considerate thing for these shops to do would be to attribute the pattern to you, and ask for permission before offering classes on it.

That being said, from a legal perspective (I'm an IP lawyer, though this certainly is not meant to constitute legal advice), I'm not sure that what they're doing is actually against the law. It would depend on the exact situation, but if a shop is advertising a class where they offer to teach students how to make the sweater, they don't suggest an affiliation with you, and they don't copy the pattern for their students (therefore not triggering trademark or copyright issues), they're not violating any IP rights.

As for the licensing issue—in order for someone to be bound by a contract, they have to actually accept the terms of the contract. I've looked at both the blog post where you posted the pattern, and the pattern itself, and I don't see any sort of language that even attempts to bind the person who downloads the pattern to any sort of license agreement. I see now that it's on your free downloads page, but it's entirely possible for someone to download the pattern without ever even seeing that language. It can also be downloaded via Ravelry without ever seeing that language.

There are legal arguments to be made for and against why such a license statement may or may not be valid, but regardless, if the people who are downloading the pattern never even see it, it would be hard to argue that they are bound by it.

So in short, is it the nice, considerate thing to do? Definitely. Is it legally required? Not necessarily.

In addition, I tend to agree with an earlier poster that what the shops are offering is not the pattern (which would obviously be a violation of the purported license), but the location and instruction that they are providing to the students. The student is making the sweater and using the pattern for their own personal use. The shop is teaching the student how to read a lace chart, or something like that, using the pattern as an example. With that in mind, I'm not sure that this particular situation, without more, is legally a violation of the terms that you've outlined. There are certainly arguments for why it wouldn't be.

Like most legal issues though, it's not cut and dried, and there are arguments to be made for both sides.

Michelle Says:

April 23rd, 2009 at 8:37 pm

I think your feelings are totally justified. I've noticed patterns that I've seen for free around and classes offered with no credit given to the designers, and have wondered why? I even asked at one shop oh who designed this sweater? and the answer was "Oh someone at the shop"... "I said are you sure? I thought I'd see this on Ravelry" "got uncomfortable silence after that. Knowing that I'd knit the very same FREE pattern I'd downloaded from Ravelry. (I wish I had been wearing it under my coat that day and could have whipped it off and said "OHHHH REALLY?") It bothered me and it wasn't the first time I'd seen that happen, and I'm not even a designer!

Ana Says:

April 28th, 2009 at 4:03 pm

You're totally right. You've said nice and clear and straight to the point.

As an independent graphic designer and illustrator, I've seen stuff very, very similar to my work reproduced. It doesn't happen often - fortunately - but it has happened often enough. And basically? It sucks. It sucks because sometimes those projects are made for a call for entries and end up being a source of "inspiration" for the ones who called for entries. So, in most of the cases, I didn't even get paid (it was a call for entries after all).

As a knitter, I ALWAYS, ALWAYS quote the source of the pattern I'm knitting and, when possible, link it. I try to thank the designer who designed it (except when no online identity is provided), something that is easy via ravelry, for instance.

I have no idea how the situation you described can be changed. It doesn't happen much here where I live because shops don't offer classes, but I sure hope it's just a question of LYS not knowing (or not realizing) that they must quote their sources. I mean, it's obvious, but giving them the benefit of the doubt, maybe they just didn't realize. So I think your email is the perfect way to educate them. You go Pam!

annmarie Says:

May 6th, 2009 at 4:34 pm

I knit your FLS during Ravelympics last summer and it's been faved on Ravelry a number of times, less a tribute to my knitting, I'd say, than the cleverness of your design. I've just dropped a modest donation in your 'tip jar'. and thanks for a great design.

Amy Says:

May 26th, 2009 at 5:50 pm

Disagree (1). When you set a pattern free, you have to accept that you are giving it up for people to teach, knit up and sell, whatever. You get to keep all of the love from knitters and good karma for yourself, however.

Cassy Says:

May 27th, 2009 at 8:46 am

I just want you to know how grateful I am that there are designers out there that are willing to share free and amazing patterns they have created. I love the FLS! I am shocked by the blatant abuses of the stores you mention. I'm sure some of the cases are about the LYS just being careless, but it sounds like some of them are outright devious about it.

Madknit Says:

June 15th, 2009 at 6:46 pm

I have read all the responses to your rant and I agree with your rant. I went to my LYS and saw this sweater and fell in love!! Unfortunately (or now Fortunately) I was unavailable for the class so I googled it and was shocked to see that it was a free pattern that you upsized from a baby one! You are ingenious!! I have shrunk ones. Like on purpose but never thought to upsize!!

I am so calling my LYS to make sure that they credit you with the original idea. I don't think that we need to go overboard with crediting free patterns but admitting that it is not ours is the first step. Oh wait is that the 12 step program?

Anyways back googling!!

courtney Says:

June 22nd, 2009 at 3:35 pm

I don't think you are crazy at all. They should give you credit and not profit from your IP. It's wrong that shops do this, and clearly, they know that.

I recently had a frustration of the same nature...when I was at Stitches last year I saw a beautiful pattern in a booth, and I fell in love. It was the Selbu Modern hat...and I just had to knit it. So I bought the yarn AND the pattern from this shop owner. Despite the fact that the pattern was FREE on the designers website. I can't remember the name of the shop, because I wanted to write to her and let her know it was happening...but it frustrated me that people are so comfortable profiting from other people's hard work.

I'm sorry so many have been jerks to you...I hope you can get at least some of it cleared up.

Taking the fun out of crafting « The little house by the sea Says:

October 9th, 2009 at 1:03 am

[...] I wish I could be more philosophical about this, and just shrug it off, but right now I just feel really sad, and bloody cross. I've been googling "etsy and copyright violations" for hours today to try to decide what to do, and came across some thoughtful posts from people on the same issue, such as this one from Melissa at tiny happy, this one from chile con yarne, and this one from Flint Knits. [...]

Jules Says:

October 20th, 2009 at 1:38 pm

thank you for taking the time to write about this. I'm launching a blog for our LYS and though I'm the type to issue credit where credit is due, I hope that we can help to set the standard.

kudos for raising your voice. and that is a totally rockin' pattern that I can't wait to dig my needles into.

Michelle Says:

December 26th, 2009 at 1:48 pm

I learned how to knit two years ago, but I stopped until about 2 months ago. I have to admit that what inspired me to get back into it was when I first came across your February Lady Sweater. I thought to myself, this is just too beautiful to ignore. I know how to knit, so what am I doing wasting my time not knitting! I have not attempted it yet, but I do plan to this year and since I stumbled across your blog I am proud to say that I have been knitting every day since. It's so upsetting to hear that yarn shops are not giving you the credit you deserve. Thank you for writing about this, I didn't think I could respect knitters and designers anymore than I already do but this blog post made me realize just how much more respect you guys deserve. If I come across a shop using your pattern without giving you the credit, I will be sure to inform you.

When I first read this post, I thought that this would prevent you from putting up free patterns, but then I realized that it didn't. As a student, I can't afford to buy yarn and patterns, so I also wanted to say thank you for not letting letting those jerks get in your way of posting other free patterns. I'm a big believer in karma, and though I too love and adore LYS's, it gives me a feeling of satisfaction to know that the individuals who are STILL trying to profit off of your hard work are going to get it bitten in the ass one day...

Flint Knits » Blog Archive » open source sweater design — pass it on! Says:

January 14th, 2010 at 4:36 pm

[...] handspun Xanadu [...]

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

« [some old mittens.](#)

[I made a quilt! with fishes.](#) »



Search this site:

Knitting & Crocheting Are Hot!

Julia Roberts does it, so does Vanna White, Cameron Diaz, Sarah Jessica Parker, Daryl Hannah, Hilary Swank, Julianna Margulies and many others. Knitting or crochet is one of their favorite hobbies, but these crafts aren't just for celebrities. Learn why 20 and 30 year olds are turning on to crocheting and knitting, joining the 38 million consumers who enjoy doing these crafts.

REPORT SPAM

User login

Username: *

Password: *

Create new account

Request new password

For more information, contact:
Mary Colucci, Executive Director, Craft Yarn Council,
212-570-9883 or 800-662-9999, email to address at [bottom of page](#).



Passionate Consumers Pass It On!

Gastonia, NC—Knitters and crocheters just can't keep it to themselves. We know they share a strong passion for their crafts, that's nothing new. It's been documented in research conducted by Research Incorporated of Atlanta for the Craft Yarn Council (CYC) since 1994. What's revealing in the 2011 research released earlier this year is how this enthusiastic group enjoys sharing their passion with others. One in ten (87%) surveyed have taught someone else to knit/crochet, which is up from 80% from the 2010 survey.

"In addition, for the first time we asked how many people have you taught," explains Mary Colucci, CYC's Executive Director. "The mean number was 8.5 people, which is amazing. It's like having an army of teachers helping us grow the industry." She also noted that while the number of people taught increased with the age of the respondent, and those 65 and over taught an average of 12 people, it was interesting to note that the 18-24 year olds surveyed taught 4.6 people.

Colucci also pointed out that in general, the survey results for 2011 were similar to those from the prior year. She said, "While we added some new questions, we focused mostly on adding more detail to questions we've asked before to better determine knitters'/crocheters' preferences."

For the third consecutive year, CYC conducted its research online in late fall of 2011. The sheer volume of respondents substantiates trends in consumers' perception of these crafts and their motivation to purchase yarn. All regions of the country were represented and the data is projectable to all online knitters and crocheters. Sixty-three percentage of respondents said they both knit and crochet, while 23% said they only crochet and 14% they only knit. The age range of respondents also represents a broad cross section:

- 18% were 18-34 years old
- 19% were 35 to 44
- 29% were 45 to 54
- 26 % 55 to 64
- 8% 65+

A Creative, Busy and Social Bunch

Creativity is, by far, the number one influencing factor that attracts women (28%) to the craft and it's most important to women in the 18-24 age group (31%). Creativity is followed by "keeping hands busy" at 15%, "making gifts" at 13%, and "stress relief" at 10%. Most respondents, 26%, spend 1–5 hours on their craft per week, 16% spend between 6–9 hours and 18% between 10–19 hours.

For 49% of respondents, part of their time is spent making charitable items. On average, they participated in knit/crochet charities on 5.5 occasions in 2011. As you might expect, older adults have more time to spend on charitable work but it's important to 35% of younger knitters/crocheters 18–34 years old as well.

Where did you find that project?

The Internet is still the number one source of finding patterns according to 89% of respondents and that percentage is consistent across all age groups. When they are searching on the Internet for project ideas, 70% said they go the yarn company web sites to find patterns. Magazines are another key resource for projects among 70% of respondents, followed by 62% who are inspired by free tear-off leaflets, and 51% from soft- or hard-cover books.

Smaller Projects Rule

Scarves continue to be knitters/crocheters favorite project. Seventy-seven percent said they made at least one scarf, 70% said they made a hat, 63% a baby blanket, 57% an afghans, and tied at 48% were ponchos and shawls, kitchen goods and other baby items.

What Excites Them to Buy Yarn?

What motivates this consumer to buy yarn? Across all age groups, knitters and crocheters alike said: seeing a yarn they like (74%), seeing a project they like (67%), and yarn on sale (63%). They shop at their primary retailer because the store has a good selection of yarn colors (63%), carries the brands they like (57%), has enough yarn in stock (47%), the yarn department is well organized (44%) and the store has the best prices (43%).

More Projects Completed and Planned!

In 2010 survey respondents said they planned to make more projects and they did! The mean number of projects made per knitter/crocheters increased from 26.6 in 2010 to 33.4 in 2011. CYC attributed this increase in part to the popularity of small, quicker projects such as scarves, hats and kitchen goods.

And what's ahead? Seventy percent of knitters and crocheters of all ages say they are planning to make more projects in 2012 and 28% said they are going to make the same number. They are planning more scarves (69%), hats (68%), afghans (53%), baby blankets (51%), shawls and wraps (48%), sweaters and vests (41%), mittens and gloves (41%), kitchen goods (41%), socks (39%), and other baby items (39%).

Knitters/crocheters continue to be passionate about their craft. They simply enjoy the creativity and gain great satisfaction from making gifts and teaching others. They are in stores frequently to buy yarn and an amazing 98% plan to make as many or more projects in 2012 as they did in 2011.

The members of the Craft Yarn Council, the industry's leading yarn, publishing, and accessory companies, are committed to continuing to inspire these enthusiasts with innovative products and fashion forward designs both in print and on the web, along with programs to reach and educate new consumers to the fun and beauty of knitting, crocheting and crafting with yarn.



2/2012

Knitters & Crocheters: Active Teachers & Internet Users

Gastonia, NC—In an online survey of 5,000+ knitters and crocheters conducted in the fall of 2010, an amazing 80% of respondents said they taught at least one person to knit or crochet last year, and many taught more, which in part accounts for the amazing growth of these crafts. These enthusiasts love what they do and share that love by teaching others.

This was the second online study conducted by Research Incorporated of Atlanta, GA for the Craft Yarn Council (CYC), the industry's trade association. Research Incorporated has been gathering intelligence on yarn trends for the Council since 1994. Many of the questions that were asked in previous surveys were included to establish a trend line. However, for this research, CYC added many new questions contributed by retailers.

The sheer volume of respondents substantiates trends in consumers' perception of these crafts and their motivation to purchase yarn. All regions of the country were represented and the data is projectable to all online knitters and

crocheters.

Northeast 24%
Southeast 23%
Midwest 27%
West 12%
Northwest 7%
Southwest 7%

Taking into consideration that this study reflects the voice of the knitting and crocheting enthusiasts who frequent the Internet, it is interesting to note the distribution of respondents across all age segments:

19% were 18-34 years old
18% were 35 to 44
32% were 45 to 54
25 % 55 to 64
7% 65+

Interestingly, throughout the survey, there were very few differences between knitters' and crocheters' responses. 65% said they do both knit and crochet; 21% said they crochet only, and 14% knit only.

Creativity Rules

What motivated the majority to pick up needles and hooks in the first place? Creativity is the one most important reason that influenced them. Once they learn, knitters/crocheters find them to be great stress relievers and great for making gifts.

Sources of Patterns & Inspiration

They are always looking for patterns and inspiration and the vast majority (93%), turn to the Internet to find patterns and get new project ideas (84%), which is unchanged from 2009. When searching for project ideas, yarn company web sites are the most popular (71%), followed by social networking sites (52%), pattern publishers' sites (44%), magazine sites (33%), and retailers' sites (30%). Younger consumers, 18-24 years old, are more likely to use the Internet to seek advice and to watch knit/crochet videos.

Online users still depend on a variety of print media for project inspiration. After the Internet, most use knit and crochet magazines (74%) as a source of project ideas, followed by inspiration from free tear-off sheets (59%) and soft and hard cover books (55%). Additionally, 60% subscribe to at least one e-newsletter.

What Excites Them to Buy Yarn?

Seeing a yarn they like is the biggest motivator to buy among 70% of knitters/crocheters, an 80% increase from 2009. That's why yarn departments are such an important factor in deciding where to shop in general. Most knitters/crocheters (73%) agree: "I visit stores just because they have a yarn department." Other motivators to buy are yarn on sale (66%) and seeing a project they want to make (62%).

Half (50%) of respondents buy yarn at least once a month, and most reported that October was the most popular month for buying yarn (53%), followed by November (48%), September (45%), and January (41%).

What They Make

Smaller projects—scarves and hats/gloves--continue to be the most popular projects made by 78% and 68% of respondents respectively, slightly up from last year. These are followed closely by baby (64%) and adult afghans (58%), shawls, ponchos and wraps (54%), and sweaters and vests (46%). In addition, 48% made at least one charity project in 2010.

When asked their reasons for selecting a primary retailer, they cited a good selection of yarn colors (64%) as the most important; followed by preferred brands (56%), carry enough yarn in stock (47%), and best prices (42%).

Future Plans

What are they planning for 2011? Seven in ten (70%) knitters/crocheters surveyed report they will make more projects in 2011 and 28% say they will make the same number. These percentages are the same for knitters or crocheters.

Knitters/crocheters continue to be passionate about their craft. They simply enjoy the creativity and gain great satisfaction from making gifts and teaching others. They are in stores frequently to buy yarn and an amazing 98% plan to make as many or more projects in 2011 as they did in 2010.

The members of the Craft Yarn Council are committed to continuing to inspire these enthusiasts with innovative products and fashion forward designs both in print and on the web, along with programs to reach and educate new consumers to the fun and beauty of knitting, crocheting and crafting with yarn.

2/2011



2009 Research: 5,000 Passionate Knitters & Crocheters Speak Out

Gastonia, NC— It's enjoyable! That's the number one reason that knitters and crocheters (59%) participate in these crafts, according to an online survey conducted in late 2009 by the Craft Yarn Council of America (CYCA). They also enjoy making gifts (47%). In addition, knitting and crochet remain great stress relievers and creative outlets according to 42% and 41% of respondents, respectively.

The passion knitters and crocheters have for their crafts has been well documented in surveys CYCA has conducted since 1994. As in the past, CYCA has commissioned Research Incorporated of Atlanta, GA, to conduct a market research study in October. Two things distinguish the 2009 study from those in the past:

- For the first time, research was conducted online, and
- A record number of 5,045 knitters and crocheters across the country participated in the survey.

Respondents were recruited from a FaceBook ad and from invitations posted on the home pages of leading yarn manufacturers and CYCA's home page. The sheer volume of respondents substantiates trends in consumers' perception of these crafts and their motivation to purchase yarn and results in a sample error of +/- 1%. All regions of the country were represented and the data is projectable to all online knitters and crocheters.

Northeast 24%

Southeast 22%

Midwest 26%

West 13%

Northwest 7%

Southwest 8%

Taking into consideration that this study reflects the voice of the knitting and crocheting enthusiast who frequents the Internet, it is interesting to note the distribution of respondents across all age segments:

18% were 18-34 years old

19% were 35 to 44

29% were 45 to 54

28 % 55 to 64

8% 65+

And 66% of respondents said they both knit and crochet, while 22% said they crochet only and 13% said they knit only. Following are more highlights.

One of the reasons the number of knitters and crocheters has increased exponentially is that an amazing 76% of respondents reported they taught at least one person to knit or crochet in 2009. This enthusiasm and passion to teach others is shared by knitters and crocheters of all ages.

As the survey response proves, knitters and crocheters are active on the Internet. The most common uses of the Internet for knitting/crocheting are to find patterns (93%) and get new project ideas (83%). These percentages are fairly consistent across all ages, regardless of whether the respondent knits or crochets. Their favorite sites are those offering free patterns, are easy to navigate and provide patterns for all experience levels. Additionally, 68% of the respondents use yarn company web sites and 40% use retailer web sites for project ideas.

Sixty–seven percent of respondents use social media, including FaceBook (67%), Ravelry(38%), YouTube (29%),Twitter (16%), and MySpace (14%). While they may be online users, they also depend on a variety of print media for project inspiration. Seventy–six percent use knit and crochet magazines as a source of project ideas, 67% say they draw inspiration from free tear-off sheets and 50% get project ideas from large pattern books, small–format booklets and hardcover books.

Two Projects a Month...Plus Charity Items!

Crocheters and knitters made an average of 24 projects in 2009, compared to 21 projects in CYCA’s 2007 survey. According to 76% of respondents, scarves are their favorite project. Baby blankets came in second with 64%; hats and gloves at 63%; afghans and throws with 60%; shawls/ponchos/wraps at 52%, followed closely by other baby items, sweaters and vests. The fact that consumers reported they made multiples of a project--at least seven hats, six baby items, six scarves and six sweaters and vests—accounts for the increase in project volume.

Scarves and hats/gloves are most popular among knitters/crocheters age 18-24. Baby blankets and afghans are most popular with the 45-54 age group. Crocheters tend to make more baby blankets and afghans, while knitters make more sweaters and vests.

On average, 48% made at least one charity project in 2009. While respondents 65+ made the most charity items (65%), 31% of knitters/crocheters 34 and under reported making at least one charity project in 2009.

Knitters & Crocheters Purchase Yarn Once a Month

Fifty–one percent of respondents buy yarn at least once a month. This trend is consistent across all age groups, with the exception of the 18-24 year olds who purchase yarn less frequently. Consumers are motivated to purchase yarn when they see a yarn they like (58%) and a project they want to make (54%). Yarn on sale as a motivator comes in third at 45%.

When asked to rate the attributes most important to them when shopping for yarn, good color selection ranked number one with 85% of knitters/crocheters rating it a top priority; enough yarn in stock came in second (80%), best prices ranked third (73%), followed by preferred brands (69%). When asked their reasons for selecting their primary yarn retailer, the top five reasons were good selection of colors (58%), yarn brands I prefer (46%), convenient location (43%), best prices (42%), and enough yarn in stock (39%).

Future Plans

Seven in ten (71%) knitters/crocheters surveyed report they will make more projects in 2010 and 27% say they will make the same number. These percentages are the same for knitters or crocheters. Interestingly, it’s the 18–24 year old group that says they plan more projects (75%)! And they plan more of their favorite things: scarves (65%), hats and gloves (64%), blankets and afghans (53%), shawls and ponchos (49%) and sweaters and vests (44%).

Conclusion

Knitters/crocheters continue to be passionate about their craft. They simply enjoy it and gain great creative satisfaction from making gifts and teaching others. They are in stores frequently to buy yarn and an amazing 98% plan to make as many or more projects in 2009.

The members of the Craft Yarn Council of America are committed to continuing to inspire these enthusiasts with innovative products and designs both in print and on the web, along with programs to reach and educate new consumers to the fun and beauty of knitting, crocheting and crafting with yarn.



2007 Research Knitters & Crocheters: Doing More & Planning More Projects

Gastonia, NC — Ask knitters and crocheters why they enjoy these crafts and you hear a variety of answers—for the sheer enjoyment, it’s a stress reliever, for gift giving or creativity—but they agree on one thing: they are making more projects than ever before. Research conducted at the end of 2007 for the Craft Yarn Council of America (CYCA) revealed that crocheters and knitters made an average of 21.2 projects in 2007, up from 17.3 projects in 2005, which results in an average of 7.4 yarn purchases a year. Scarves "tied" with afghans as knitters’ and crocheters’ favorite

projects, with 52% saying they made at least one of each. Coming in a close third were baby blankets, with 48% of respondents reporting they made at least one. Hat and glove projects were up 56%; shawls and ponchos up 43%, and holiday projects up 75%.

"Scarves continue to be a favorite entry-level project, and appropriately so," comments CYCA Executive Director Mary Colucci, "but we are also seeing increases in the number of knitters and crocheters making sweaters and vests. There was a 40% increase in the number of these items made in '07 compared to 2005." CYCA commissioned [Research Incorporated](#) of Atlanta, GA, to conduct its eighth study to reveal current and projected consumer activity. Interviews were completed in October and November of 2007, and the survey questions closely paralleled those asked in the previous study, though several new questions were added. In-depth telephone interviews were conducted with 400 active knitters/crocheters who purchased yarn AND knitted or crocheted a project during the past year. Random calls, supplemented with a list of consumers interested in needlecraft from Experian's nationwide BehaviorBank database ensured that data collected in this research is projectable nationally.

Project ideas come from a variety of sources, but knitters' and crocheters' top choice in 2007 (with 47%) was magazines. This represents a 34% increase from 2005. Coming in second with 40% were friends and family. Small/large format pattern books followed with 31%. Projects are the key motivation for purchasing yarn according to 68% of respondents. On knitters' and crocheters' wish lists: Stock project resources near the yarn! While the Internet did not rank in the top three as a source for project ideas, of those who use the Internet, 18% use it to find patterns or (17%) use it to get new project ideas. "We know the influence of the Internet is growing, especially among younger knitters and crocheters," says Colucci. "Four in ten knitters/crocheters say they would be likely to access free online help from knit/crochet experts if available, while 65% of younger consumers less than 35 years of age claim they are likely to access free online help."

CYCA's tracking research, which was initiated in 1994, has documented knitters' and crocheters' passion for their crafts, and their enthusiasm is continuing strong in 2008. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of crocheters and knitters interviewed reported they would make at least as many projects in 2008 as they did in 2007; 39% plan to make more projects in 2008. All ages plan more projects, and women less than 45 years of age are more likely than older women to say they will make more projects. "These enthusiasts love to share their talents and time to help others," points out Colucci. "One-third made a project for charity last year and they told us what they'd like to see more of. For instance, they like gathering together with other knitters and crocheters to share ideas and network. Sixty-five percent of respondents surveyed were very or somewhat interested in attending free yarn events. CYCA is working on programs such as its popular Knit-Out & Crochet events to provide a meeting place for these devotees. Twenty-one percent also told us that easier patterns would inspire them to do more projects, and this is an area that CYCA's Standards & Guidelines Committee is now addressing," concludes Colucci.

2/2008



2005 Research Shows: Younger Consumers Spur Increase in Yarn Projects

Gastonia, NC — The latest numbers from Craft Yarn Council of America's (CYCA) 2005 Consumer Tracking Study show that knitting and crochet project numbers were up 13% last year, and the biggest increases in activity were in the under-35, 55-64 and 65 and older age groups. Spurred by the dramatic increase in activity in 2005, CYCA decided to break its traditional bi-annual study schedule to get a more current look on activity and preferences. "What we found was a rapidly growing younger group of consumers, and dramatic increases in the purchase of fashion yarns," says John Laurie, chairman of CYCA. "Coupled with the projected increase in number of projects, this all indicates a continuation of the growth with new, younger consumers who will be with us for many years to come."

CYCA commissioned Research Incorporated of Atlanta, GA, to conduct its seventh study to reveal current and projected consumer activity. Interviews were completed in October and November of 2005, and the survey questions closely paralleled those asked in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2004. In-depth telephone interviews were conducted with 400 active knitters/crocheters who purchased yarn AND knitted or crocheted a project during the past year. Random calls, supplemented with a list of consumers interested in needlecraft from Experian's nationwide BehaviorBank database ensured that data collected in this research is projectable nationally. "Our goal was again to describe yarn usage and shopping patterns, identify the most popular projects and expenditures, track changes in basic

and fashion yarn usage, and provide information on future plans," says Mary Colucci, CYCA's Executive Director. "Most important, the results always show us the important opportunities for both retailers and suppliers."

Reflecting hot trends in fashion and home dec, scarves and afghans were among the most popular projects. This latest survey showed increases in the number of projects in every project category, an average of 17.3 projects, versus 2004's 15.3, with afghans, blankets and throws remaining the favorite project among all crocheters and knitters (55% made at least one). Baby blankets and scarves were made by 50% of respondents. This last figure marks a 14 percentage point increase in the number of scarves made in 2005.

This trend fueled a huge increase in sales of fashion yarns (defined as yarn with interesting textures, such as fur looks, metallics, chenilles and boucles), as 42% purchased fashion yarns in 2005, compared to 27% in 2004; a 56% increase. These increases were across all age groups, although knitters tended to purchase more fashion yarns than crocheters.

Most respondents spent between \$2 and \$7 per skein, mirroring the 2004 results. However, while only 11% or respondents purchased yarns between \$7-\$9.99 in 2004, this number increased to 14% in 2005. Knitters and crocheters spent the most money on afghans and throws in 2005 (\$36.07 average), followed by sweaters and vests (\$34.77), ponchos (\$26.61), shawls (\$22.28), baby blankets (\$20.42) and scarves (\$16.85).

Respondents got their project ideas from many sources, but the top choice with 39% was small format pattern books, an increase of 63%. This was followed by magazines, with 35% (a 40% increase), and friends with 24%. Another popular place for ideas and networking was the Internet, where 31% went to get ideas, find patterns, purchase yarn and supplies, and network with other knitters and crocheters. In particular, they were more than twice as likely to use the Internet to find patterns and purchase yarn and supplies in 2005 than in 2004.

Indicative of the continuing excitement, 80% of crocheters and knitters interviewed were planning to make as many or more projects. This response was unanimous across all age groups."The research shows women are spending more money on knit and crochet projects, and doing more of them, but the challenge is to keep our customers returning for more to maintain this level of participation and enthusiasm," comments John Laurie. "There are three significant opportunities for our retailers: offering classes (since only 17% of respondents are very satisfied in that area), having knowledgeable employees (only 27% are very satisfied), and stocking up-to-date patterns (54% are very satisfied)."

The changing sophistication of the craft yarn consumer is reflected in the types of classes they'd like to see. While 23% are looking for basic knitting and crochet classes, 28% want a general, less-structured clinic, and 29% were interested in advanced techniques.

"Armed with this information, the industry can move forward with even more innovative programs in the future," says Mary Colucci. "We've already got a craft that offers stress relief, creativity, beautiful materials and a social atmosphere. We nurture that community through CYCA's web sites and message boards, and will continue to introduce programs such as 'Progressions' to stimulate excitement at retail. We all know that working together is the key to taking this industry to even higher levels of success."

A summary of CYCA's 2004 consumer research follows.



CYCA Study Shows Younger Women Fuel Yarn Evolution

Gastonia, NC — Young women ages 25–34 are the secret spark that's fueling knitting and crochet yarn sales across the country, according to research commissioned in Fall, 2004, by Craft Yarn Council of America (CYCA). Since 2002, participation in these crafts increased more than 150% in the 25–34 age category, jumping from 13% to 33% and representing 6.5 million. The 18-years-and-under age group increased 100%, growing from 8% to 16% or 5.7 million women. Women ages 55–64, followed by a 74% increase in participation, or 7.8 million. Overall, 36% of American women—53 million-know how to knit or crochet, a 51% increase over the past ten years. Coincidentally, 13% of those surveyed can do both crafts.

The two-part market research study conducted for the Council by Research Incorporated of Atlanta, GA, closely paralleled research conducted by the CYCA in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002. The 2004 study was designed to

measure the incidence of U.S. women who know how to knit and crochet; describe yarn usage and shopping patterns among these women; identify which projects are popular and expenditures; and track changes over time. During October and November, 2004, Phase I of the study conducted 1200 telephone interviews from a random, nationally projectable sampling of U.S. households; and Phase II involved in-depth phone interviews among active knitters/crocheters (those who purchased yarn AND knitted or crocheted a project during the past year), again a nationally projectable sampling.

Not only is the incidence level up, but activity also is holding strong, as yarn purchasers made an average of 15.3 projects in 2004, virtually unchanged from 2002. Boding well for the future is the fact that 85% of crocheters and knitters interviewed said they will make as many or more projects next year. More than half of those under 35 years of age plan more projects in 2005.

The Craft Yarn Council's own programs may be a secret weapon in the growth of this lifestyle trend, as its marketing and promotion efforts have produced a steady stream of editorials on knitting and crochet, and a strong Internet presence in the form of message boards, free instructions and helpful hints.

The new research indicates that 30% of women who knit or crochet refer to pattern books for project sources, 25% refer to magazines, 20% get their ideas from friends, while one out of 10 use the Internet to find project ideas. A growing number are using the Internet to find patterns, seek advice, purchase supplies and chat with or meet other knitters and crocheters.

Up-to-date patterns are of major importance to respondents, as only 47% said they were "very satisfied" with up-to-date patterns available at their primary yarn retailer. More than 25% said they purchased "fashion yarn" in 2004 (defined as yarn with interesting textures, such as fur looks, metallics, chenille and boucle). The majority of knitters and crocheters, 37%, spend between \$4–\$7 per skein/ball of yarn, followed closely by 35% who spend between \$2–\$4 per skein/ball. 11% spend \$7–\$10 per skein/ball, and another 11% spend \$10 and up per skein/ball. CYCA's Chairman, Richard Brown, confirms that, "The investment that has been made in new yarns, new magazines and new patterns by our members is phenomenal, but it has paid off."

Throws and afghans continue to be the favorite projects of both knitters and crocheters, with 53% reporting they made at least one in 2004, followed by baby blankets at 42%, and scarves at 35%. The top expenditures, however, were for shawl and poncho projects, which averaged \$36, an increase of more than 60% from 2002, followed by throws/afghans at \$32.40, and sweaters and vests at \$31.30. All project expenditures, except those for bazaar items, increased since 2002. These customers make an average of 2.8 visits to their primary yarn retailer per project, and buy other items when they're in the store as well.

What research has shown over time is that knitters and crocheters are passionate about their crafts and grow more so with age. "It's not a fad," says Richard Brown, "it's an evolution, a lifestyle phenomenon. And we at CYCA are committed to encouraging and developing this burgeoning craft network of devoted enthusiasts."



CYCA Chairman Looks to Strong 2005 Sales & Beyond

Gastonia, NC — "It's been a phenomenal, record-breaking year for yarn sales," relates Richard Brown, Chairman of the Craft Yarn Council of America (CYCA), the yarn industry's trade association. "By applying research, pursuing more ways to educate consumers, and using common sense, we can predict sales continuing strong for years and years." Brown credits the focus and commitment of CYCA's members to fund an expansive promotion campaign and then backing it up with exciting yarn, patterns, publications and accessories, for the boon. But, he's quick to point out, "This was not an overnight occurrence. It was really an evolution-- a gradual process that we started in 1998."

Brown, buoyed by consumer research conducted for the Council at the end of 2004, comments, "Looking ahead, the opportunities are immense. Here's what we know:

- More people know how to crochet and knit than ever before. Fifty-three million or 1-in-3 women know how, and there are 94 million more potential consumers.
- 85% of current crocheters and knitters plan to make as many or more projects in 2005.
- More younger women are crocheting and knitting than ever before and we know from previous research, passion

for these crafts will grow with age. 52% of the under-35 age group said they were going to make more projects in 2005.

- ◉ We are just beginning to see the impact of fashion yarns on our marketplace. There are 42% of consumers who do not know about these yarns."

What the numbers do not track is the evolution of these crafts from hot, fashionable hobbies to cultural phenomena. "There's a social aspect which is driving this trend," continues Brown. "More and more people want to be a part of the communities of knitters and crocheters and that's true for adults as well as children." He also points to the growth of the industry charity, the Warm Up America! Foundation, as another indicator of this trend. "Warm Up America! has galvanized hundreds of thousands of crocheters and knitters to use their crafting talents to help others. CYCA is proud to be associated with this nonprofit," says Brown.

Frequently asked about the next big thing, Brown says that ponchos and wraps are the latest hot projects but that scarves will always be popular as first projects and for gift giving. "The broader trend is blending of yarns," he points out. "Mixing old favorites with the new; basics with the novelties, combining fashion yarns with their exciting textures with richly colored traditional, smooth yarns." The other trend is the increasing importance of the category of crochet, which is being driven by lacy, feminine ready-to-wear fashions. (2/05)



KNIT-OUT & CROCHET EVENTS

Create communities of crocheters and knitters

New York, NY — Plans are underway to make Knit-Out & Crochet 2005, scheduled for Sunday, October 2nd, even bigger and more fun than the 2004 event, which attracted more than 30,000 people to New York's Union Square Park. Richard Brown, Chairman of the Craft Yarn Council of America (CYCA), the yarn industry's trade association and Knit-Out sponsor, commented, "Every year since 1998, we have expanded our Knit-Out program because people return to learn new crochet and knitting techniques and to see the latest fashions. This year's program will be rich in education, fashion and fun components."

While the FREE, one-on-one knit and crochet lessons will continue to be the cornerstone of the fair, new this year will be the Crochet & Knitting Olympics, a series of yarn-related competitions to spark the competitive juices in all ages. There will be a new design contest, following up on last year's successful first-ever scarf contest. Back by popular demand are the demos, Beyond the Basics technique lessons, fashion shows for people and dogs and Show & Share segments.

Activities are not limited to adults. Children are invited to take lessons or enjoy the Yarn Make It/Take Table to complete quick, easy projects. Authors and editors will be on hand to meet and greet, as will the "Yarn Doctors," who will be available to answer crochet and knit questions. All this, plus giveaways, displays and special events.

"Knit-Outs have brought together communities of crocheters and knitters," says Brown. "Consumers want to connect to fellow enthusiasts. They cheer and applaud at the Show & Share and wait in serpentine lines for lessons. And they introduce their friends and children to the pleasures of their passion."

The New York event is just one of dozens of Knit-Out & Crochet events held around the country. The fifth Washington, DC, Knit-Out is scheduled for October 23rd, and others will be posted at the CYCA's web site: www.knit-out.com as the information becomes available.



Got Questions? Get Help! Go to....

Knit911.com & Crochet911.com

Gastonia, NC — How can I make my edges look straighter? What's the best way to start a new color yarn? Do you have a complete list of abbreviations? These are among the most frequently asked questions at the Craft Yarn Council of America's (CYCA) bulletin boards, and just three of the many questions answered at the Council's new web sites: www.Knit911.com and www.Crochet911.com .

"As millions of new knitters and crocheters advance to more complex projects, we want to provide them with problem-solving tips and helpful information," explains CYCA's Executive Director Mary Colucci. "We received input from CYCA members, talked to numerous teachers, plus regularly monitored the Council's bulletin boards to develop this web site. It's rich with FAQs, facts, and tips, and we plan to add content to it on a regular basis. The Internet is a wonderful medium to reach consumers and research shows more and more crocheters and knitters are turning to the Internet to find answers to their problems."

In 2003, CYCA introduced its first shelf talker: www.learntocrochet.com/www.learntoknit.com, targeted at beginners, which now is used widely throughout the industry. "The new space-saving retail shelf talker," says Colucci, "is targeted at the crocheter or knitter who has progressed beyond a first project." The new web site also will provide links to the learntoknit.com/learntocrochet.com site, as well as the CYCA regular web site: www.knitandcrochet.com.

The colorful shelf talker is two-sided, showing the www.Knit911.com web site address on one side and the www.Crochet911.com web site on the other. Retailers can order quantities through their CYCA yarn resources or by contacting Council offices.



Mizrahi, Klass & Brown Join Warm Up America! Board

Gastonia, NC - Warm Up America!, the national charity program that has provided hundreds of thousands of hand knitted and crocheted afghans to people in need, recently announced the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors: celebrated ready-to-wear designer and television personality Isaac Mizrahi, noted pediatrician and writer Dr. Perri Klass, and Dr. Joyce Brown, president of the Fashion Institute of Technology. They join Jane Chesnutt, Editor-in-Chief of Woman's Day Magazine, and Debbie Macomber, best-selling women's fiction writer.

"We are delighted to welcome Mr. Mizrahi, Dr. Klass and Dr. Brown to Warm Up America!," says David Blumenthal, president of the Warm Up America! Foundation. "Mr. Mizrahi's design inspiration and positive comments about knitting will be invaluable to helping spread the word about the program. Dr. Klass's expertise, coupled with Dr. Brown's knowledge of educational channels, will be instrumental in guiding the Foundation's efforts to bring the program to schools around the country," explains Blumenthal.

Blumenthal also recently announced the availability of public service ads to help promote the Warm Up America! program. Digital artwork, in different file formats, is available by contacting the Foundation office.

Knitters and crocheters across the country came together twelve years ago when Warm Up America! asked them to stitch afghans for the homeless, and their numbers have been growing ever since. This national charity program, started in Wausau, WI, in the early 1990's by Evie Rosen, now provides hundreds of thousands of hand knitted and crocheted afghans to people in need. The Foundation's goal is to motivate, train and coordinate volunteers to knit and crochet afghans and clothing for people in need. It's a wonderful program for groups to adopt, no matter what their age.

For more information about the Foundation and ways to contribute to this program, log on to: www.WarmUpAmerica.org or write to: Warm Up America! 469 Hospital Dr., 2nd Floor Suite E, Gastonia, NC 28054, 704-824-7838.



'Each One Teach Two' Doubles the Fun!

Gastonia, NC — The yarn industry has a secret weapon. It's the millions of passionate crocheters and knitters, 53 million to be exact, who love to share their craft. The new "Each One Teach Two" program appeals to crochet enthusiasts.

"The idea evolved from our Crochet Committee strategic initiatives," explains Craft Yarn Council of America's Executive Director Mary Colucci. "Research shows that people usually learn to crochet or knit from friends or family. That's when the committee came up with the idea of mobilizing current crocheters to help us teach others and the idea for the www.eachoneteachtwo.com web site was born."

With the guidance of industry crochet guru Jean Leinhauser, who prepared the content, the web site contains

everything anyone interested in sharing her or his love of crochet would need. For instance, there are helpful teaching hints, diagrams which can be downloaded, and even an easy first scarf project. "We stress that you do not have to be an expert crocheter to teach the basics," continues Colucci, "Whether you've been crocheting for two weeks or 20 years, you can be a part of our 'Each One Teach Two' campaign."

As an extra incentive, participants who have taught at least one person to crochet can sign up for the Teacher's Award Program. Every month their name is added to a drawing for a basket of yarn. Hundreds of "teachers" have already signed up and activity at the web site is growing. The Council plans to expand the program to knitters.



CYCA Education Program Offered at FIT

New York — The Craft Yarn Council of America (CYCA), the yarn industry's trade association, recently announced that beginning in February, 2003, its Certified Instructors Program (CIP) will be offered in association with the Center for Professional Studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology's (FIT). As part of this training course of study, students who successfully complete the program will earn continuing education units (CEUs) for the first time.

"We are pleased to be associated with FIT," says Mary Colucci, CYCA's Executive Director. "The college's reputation for training professionals in the marketplace and providing ongoing training to advance careers and businesses is respected nationwide. FIT is also affiliated with the State University of New York. The Center for Professional Studies is a unit of FIT's School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

"Our goal with the CIP program," continues Colucci, "has been to train knitting and crochet teachers and to raise these studies to a more professional level. Now students who are able to take the courses through FIT will obtain nationally recognized validation of their training at an internationally respected institution. We are pleased that Arnetta Kenney, an adjunct professor in FIT's Textile Surface Design Department and a CIP teacher who helped to forge this new affiliation, will teach the first courses."

Joan Volpe, Managing Coordinator for The Center for Professional Studies, commented, "We have seen a resurgence in quality hand crafted item demand, coupled with a renewed interest in obtaining high level artisan skills. The Craft Yarn Council's program insures quality instructor training and through our partnership, people who wish to learn knitting and crochet will have the benefit of knowing that their instructor has nationally recognized credentials."

Since the Council created its CIP program in 1981, it has trained thousands of teachers around the country. The program includes technique and teacher training in both knitting and crochet. Both courses require 17 hours of class work, the completion of projects and student teaching. More details about the program can be obtained from the Council's web sites: www.teachknitting.com or by contacting Council offices.

[Go to Top](#)

Craft Yarn Council, 469 Hospital Dr., Suite E, Gastonia, NC 28054
Tel: 704-824-7838 | Fax: 704-671-2366 | [E-mail us](#)

Web sites addresses:

www.craftyarncouncil.com
www.cycdiscoverknitandcrochet.org
www.YarnStandards.com | www.Knit911.com | www.Crochet911.com
www.knitandcrochet.com | www.learntoknit.com | www.learntocrochet.com
www.warmupamerica.org | www.eachoneteachtwo.com | www.FriendshipShawl.org
www.teachknitandcrochet.org



If you experience problems, visit our [Troubleshooting](#) page.
[Our Privacy Policy](#)





[Home](#)[Alliance Info](#)[Resources](#)[Community](#)[Press](#)[Marketplace](#)

[You are here >](#) [Community >](#) [Handmade Pledge](#)

[Login](#) | [Register](#)

Pledge to Buy Handmade

Buying local, living within our means, supporting small business and the US economy – these are all things that many of us are doing more and more often these days. With money being so tight, we are all living with less, and putting more thought into the purchases we do make.

So, this lends the question, what are we doing to improve all of our situations, build up American businesses and put our money where our mouth is (literally)? What can each of us do to help charge up the economy and support each other? We certainly have less than we did this time last year, so how can we look ahead to the future and still buy, well, things?

Buy handmade – it’s as simple as that. We can’t afford to buy as much as we used to, but we can make conscious choices to support specific businesses. We can go to the local mom and pop toy shop, rather than the big box store. Sure, we might only get 2 items, rather than 4, but those products will generally be better made, more thoughtful items. And, a local company will benefit from your choice, rather than a large corporation. We can choose to frequent farmers markets and craft shows. These events allow us to meet the maker and hear the story behind the product. It instills the value of American craftsmanship in our families and our children. We can choose to look to Etsy and the Handmade Toy Alliance for gift items. Our product options and the sheer beauty of the items we find will be multiplied ten fold to what we find in large department stores.

If everyone made the pledge to buy just one hand crafted product for someone on their gift list this year, think of the thousands of businesses that will grow and nourish our communities. It may mean reframing how we go about our purchases, taking a little more time to choose what we need, or want, going back to a simpler way of life. But, it will be so worth it.

Join the business members of the Handmade Toy Alliance and pledge to buy handmade. It will be the easiest choice you made yet!

Sign the Pledge

Name	City	State	Created at ▼
Ian Wallace	Limerick	Pennsylvania	3/10/2011 10:43 PM
Kathy	Long Beach	CA	3/1/2011 11:41 AM
Susan Warner	Fredericksburg	Virginia	2/15/2011 10:05 AM
Holly White-Wolfe	Santa Rosa	CA	2/13/2011 12:30 PM
Heather Saiki	Midvale	Utah	2/9/2011 10:13 AM
Lisa Jaramillo	Berkeley	CA	1/30/2011 1:28 AM
Randy Wakefield	Mountain Home	ID	1/21/2011 1:59 PM
Caryn Stockwell	Vancouver	Washington	1/13/2011 1:34 AM
Amy Tabarly	Paris	France	1/11/2011 12:13 PM
megan carman	greenwood	nebraska	1/10/2011 1:31 PM
Janie McQueen	Cumming	Georgia	1/8/2011 1:30 PM
Patrick	Centennial	Colorado	1/4/2011 8:13 AM
Susan Zimmerman	Ijamsville	MD	12/26/2010 6:50 PM
Margery Groten	Poughkeepsie	New York	12/25/2010 10:28 AM
Kim Swiczkowski	Moody	Alabama	12/21/2010 5:39 PM
Katheryn Poco	Plant City	Florida	12/18/2010 8:43 PM

Jacqueline Olson	Saint Petersburg	Florida	12/12/2010 9:12 PM
patricia howard	st. petersburg	florida	12/12/2010 9:10 PM
Olga Bof	St Petersburg	FL	12/12/2010 4:06 PM
Katie Anderson	Lafayette	Indiana	12/10/2010 10:49 PM
Kiley ayliffe	asheville	nc	12/8/2010 11:05 PM
Kelly Smith Janowiec	Carver	MN	12/8/2010 9:24 PM
Margaret Bonham	Bolton	VT	12/8/2010 8:40 PM
Thomas Oliver Kopian	Glen Head	New York	12/8/2010 4:52 PM
diana Howard	Adairville	KY	12/8/2010 4:28 PM
Julie Howard	Fuquay Varina	North Carolina	12/5/2010 1:09 PM
The Fuentes Family	Portland	Oregon	12/2/2010 5:29 PM
Chris and Ami Maes	Carbondale	CO	12/1/2010 9:04 PM
Deb Ross	Laramie	Wyoming	11/30/2010 1:28 AM
Jill	Pleasant Ridge	Ohio	11/29/2010 10:53 PM
Julie Zacharias	Niwot	CO	11/29/2010 4:24 PM
Kelsey Sapp	Palm Coast	Florida	11/28/2010 7:34 PM
Rebecca S	St. Cloud	MN	11/28/2010 10:35 AM
Weili Gray	Essex	Vermont	11/27/2010 11:31 PM
Megan Nelson	Falls Church	VA	11/27/2010 12:34 PM
Michael Secore	Craftsbury	VT	11/27/2010 1:02 AM
Beth McQuillen	Iowa City	Iowa	11/26/2010 7:21 PM
Willow Moline	Spokane	WA	11/26/2010 3:42 PM
Cecilia Leibovitz	New York	NY	11/26/2010 9:19 AM
Dona Lopez	Conroe	Texas	11/25/2010 8:03 PM
Aelfie	San Jose	CA	11/25/2010 1:26 PM
Joy M.	Barrington	NH	11/25/2010 12:25 AM
wagzfuia	New York	NY	11/23/2010 11:31 PM
Jennifer Cole	Bowling Green	KY	11/23/2010 11:04 AM
Priscilla S. Aguilar	Montebello	CA	11/23/2010 12:15 AM
Sofia Wakabayashi	Aliso Viejo	CA	11/22/2010 11:42 PM
Senna Wakabayashi	Aliso Viejo	CA	11/22/2010 11:42 PM
Kamie thornton	Houston	Texas	11/22/2010 1:46 PM
Michelle Morra	Washington	DC	11/22/2010 12:41 PM
Kerrie McNay	Heath	MA	11/22/2010 11:04 AM
Emily Alberini	Littleton	NH	11/22/2010 9:07 AM
Paula Rhodes	San Jose	CA	11/22/2010 8:33 AM
Jane Atchison-Nevel	Miami	FL	11/22/2010 8:12 AM
Shannon Frazee	Akron	Ohio	11/22/2010 12:32 AM
Joan Scherry	St. Louis	Missouri	11/21/2010 11:39 PM
Erika Richie	Missouri City	TX	11/21/2010 11:11 PM
Yoshie Wakabayashi	Aliso Viejo	California	11/21/2010 11:08 PM
Leslie Stevens Suhy	Los Angeles	CA	11/21/2010 11:03 PM
amanda	kent	ohio	11/21/2010 10:26 PM
Jasmin Kellison	Grass Valley	CA	11/21/2010 10:18 PM
Lisa Regula Meyer	Kent	Ohio	11/21/2010 9:52 PM
Autumn	Bar Harbor	Me	11/21/2010 9:39 PM

Suzanne Lamb	Central City	KY	11/21/2010 9:38 PM
Christina C.	Columbus	MS	11/21/2010 9:32 PM
Susan Blood	Charlotte	VT	11/21/2010 9:23 PM
Suzanne Barker	Paradise	CA	11/21/2010 9:21 PM
Marina Alonso	Los Angeles	California	11/21/2010 9:16 PM
Stephanie Rutger	Milan	OH	11/21/2010 9:04 PM
Vanessa Lopez	Boston	MA	11/21/2010 8:57 PM
Ashley Phillips	Columbia	Mo	11/21/2010 8:54 PM
Marlo Smi	Hartly	DE	11/21/2010 8:51 PM
Andrea Thatcher	West Chester	PA	11/21/2010 8:51 PM
Christine Schreier	Kelseyville	CA	11/21/2010 8:43 PM
Jenn	Winooski	VT	11/21/2010 8:43 PM
Jillian	Milwaukee	WI	11/21/2010 8:42 PM
Jennifer Willamson	Berwick	Maine	11/21/2010 8:42 PM
Sara Hernstrom	Chesterton	Indiana	11/21/2010 8:38 PM
Alice	Pensacola	Florida	11/21/2010 8:36 PM
Natanya Helak	Shelburne	VT	11/21/2010 8:21 PM
Jennifer Williams Pavich	Minneapolis	MN	11/18/2010 2:48 PM
Ana	Lake City	Florida	11/17/2010 8:41 PM
Danielle	Stayner	Canada	11/15/2010 11:08 AM
Angela Wolff	West Orange	NJ	11/11/2010 3:42 PM
Penny	Menlo Park	Ca	11/10/2010 11:34 AM
Sid Ackler	Castle Rock	Washington	11/8/2010 10:46 PM
Cari	Eagle Creek	Oregon	11/8/2010 12:04 PM
Kathryn Perreault	Alton	NH	11/5/2010 2:01 PM
Yvette Moreau	Wareham	Ma	11/4/2010 11:15 AM
sarah setran	Huntington	wv	11/3/2010 2:56 PM
diana howard	adairville	KY	10/29/2010 4:33 PM
Diana Perry	Muncie	Indiana	10/27/2010 11:22 PM
Linda Hague	Denver	COLORADO	10/27/2010 4:58 PM
Andrea Ballard	Anderson	Indiana	10/25/2010 2:43 AM
Julie Humphrey	Ithaca	NY	10/23/2010 4:46 PM
Mary Newell	Eugene	OR	10/23/2010 1:08 AM
Valerie Schirmer	Hammonton	NJ	10/19/2010 12:21 PM
Shauna	Berwick	Pennsylvania	10/19/2010 11:51 AM
Mary Budge	North Oaks	MN	10/19/2010 9:21 AM
allison bozeman	Lyons	Colorado	10/18/2010 4:06 PM
Mike Davis	Westfield	NC	10/18/2010 2:14 PM
Joanne Bagshaw	Amesbury	MA	10/18/2010 1:39 PM
Jackie Manno	Brookville	PA	10/18/2010 1:19 PM
chloe jenkins	newport	uk	10/17/2010 6:07 PM
Nuntyia Mills	Troy	MI	10/17/2010 4:37 PM
Danielle Boccher	Sandy Hook	CT	10/16/2010 4:30 PM
Debra Amon	San Antonio	Texas	10/16/2010 12:47 AM
Alison Relyea-Parr	Stoughton	Wi	10/14/2010 1:15 PM
Katie W.	Dayton	OH	10/14/2010 10:45 AM

rebecca b	laguna niguel	california	10/14/2010 10:03 AM
marcy	hillsborough	CA	10/13/2010 5:07 PM
Ann A.	Boston	MA	10/13/2010 4:13 PM
Krista S.	Kentville	NS	10/13/2010 11:32 AM
Dana F.	Pennsauken	NJ	10/13/2010 9:52 AM
Lisa W	Carol Stream	IL	10/13/2010 7:00 AM
Heather M.	Brooklyn	NY	10/12/2010 7:07 PM
Aimee Souza	Lebanon	OR	10/11/2010 7:59 PM
Carla M.	Saint Augustine	FL	10/11/2010 1:29 PM
Alison A.	Minneapolis	MN	10/11/2010 10:05 AM
Lisa C.	Jacksonville	FL	10/11/2010 9:49 AM
Deanna A	Jersey City	NJ	10/11/2010 9:28 AM
Sherry H.	Jacksonville	Florida	10/11/2010 8:23 AM
Melissa Bennett	Chattanooga	TN	10/11/2010 6:56 AM
karina edwards	decatur	tn	10/11/2010 12:05 AM
Diane Duda	Monongahela	PA	10/10/2010 11:12 PM
Rebecca Holzman	Toronto	ON	10/10/2010 10:57 PM
Anna Miller	Dunlap	TN	10/10/2010 10:03 PM
Christina Schriver	Orange Park	FL	10/10/2010 9:57 PM
Katherine Kelly	Chicago	IL	10/10/2010 9:52 PM
Jessica Evans	Rocky Mount	NC	10/10/2010 9:01 PM
Rose McCracken	SEATTLE	WA	10/10/2010 8:51 PM
Erika Olson Gross	Minneapolis	Minnesota	10/10/2010 6:26 PM
Shannon E.	Duluth	GA	10/10/2010 4:56 PM
Amy Cairns	Tampa	FL	10/10/2010 12:38 PM
Beth Flumignan	Onsted	MI	10/10/2010 12:23 PM
Glenda Shank	Wichita	KS	10/9/2010 10:42 PM
Paula Livingston	Renovo	PA	10/9/2010 9:39 PM
Lee L	Fort Worth	TX	10/9/2010 4:02 PM
Beth Ritzman	Fort Wayne	IN	10/9/2010 11:15 AM
Shara	Pine	Arizona	10/9/2010 1:33 AM
Sarah M	Colfax	CA	10/9/2010 1:24 AM
Tanja Martinson	Auburn	WA	10/8/2010 11:12 PM
Sarah Natividad	Tooele	UT	10/8/2010 7:14 PM
Alexandra Tower Ewers	Mill Valley	California	10/8/2010 3:10 PM
Jennifer L.	Eagle Point	OR	10/8/2010 2:30 PM
Sarah G.	Lake Oswego	OR	10/8/2010 1:54 PM
Lisa Kalberer	Austin	TX	10/8/2010 1:45 PM
Samantha Johnson	Edmonton	Alberta, Canada	10/8/2010 1:05 PM
Suzi Lang	Conway	AR	10/8/2010 12:52 PM
Rebecca Bednarz	Lincoln	NE	10/8/2010 11:04 AM
Lukas Mueller	Guthrie	OK	10/8/2010 10:45 AM
Carrie Ruter	Coudersport	PA	10/8/2010 10:07 AM
Carole	McGranahan	Colorado	10/8/2010 8:36 AM
Lynne Webb	Orlando	FL	10/8/2010 8:01 AM
Joanne Thompson	Farmington	N.H.	10/8/2010 6:29 AM

Jessica Coates	Salt Lake City	UT	10/8/2010 12:25 AM
Tori Andersen	Logan	Utah	10/7/2010 11:39 PM
Jeen-Marie Belson	Washington	DC	10/7/2010 11:04 PM
Ann Razonski	Savage	MD	10/7/2010 10:25 PM
Amy Moore	Fort Worth	Texas	10/7/2010 10:21 PM
Deanna Hammel	Potsdam	NY	10/7/2010 9:05 PM
Penny Thomas	Coudersport	Pa	10/7/2010 9:02 PM
Danielle Galindo	San Jose	CA	10/7/2010 7:27 PM
Nicole Elliott	Peabody	MA	10/7/2010 6:55 PM
Jahje Ives	Philadelphia	PA	10/7/2010 3:39 PM
Carol Summers	Lewisville	Texas	10/7/2010 10:39 AM
Pam Gorder	Columbus	Ohio	10/7/2010 9:18 AM
Brad Michael	Doylestown	PA	10/7/2010 9:11 AM
Jennifer Zmarzlak	Stamford	CT	10/7/2010 9:01 AM
Danyel P.	Raeford	NC	10/7/2010 8:53 AM
Jeremie Beth Harris	Glen Ridge	NJ	10/7/2010 12:38 AM
Suzanne Remington	Carson City	Nevada	10/6/2010 11:06 PM
Karen Averill	Applegate	OR	10/6/2010 11:04 PM
Andrew Chuckas	Stamford	CT	10/6/2010 10:20 PM
Brie Sloan	Neptune Beach	Florida	10/6/2010 12:46 PM
Sarah Donaghey	Bedford	TX	10/6/2010 12:16 PM
Tina S.	Kensington	Maryland	10/5/2010 9:26 PM
Trey Burley	Atlanta	Georgia	10/5/2010 8:57 PM
Angela Roussell	North Attleboro	MA	10/5/2010 7:48 PM
Amanda Marks	Savannah	GA	10/5/2010 7:46 PM
Brandi Hussey	Dallas/Ft. Worth	Texas	10/5/2010 7:17 PM
Candis Hidalgo	Arroyo Grande	CA	10/5/2010 7:09 PM
Julianne Alvarez-Wish	Colorado Springs	CO	10/5/2010 6:54 PM
Crystal Junkins	Bedford	NH	10/5/2010 3:55 PM
Wendy O'Laughlin	Cary	Illinois	10/5/2010 3:34 PM
ana erb	tallahassee	fl	10/5/2010 3:12 PM
Carol L.	La Crosse	WI	10/5/2010 2:29 PM
Korrina Robinson	Felt	Idaho	10/5/2010 2:28 PM
Ashley Eaton	Phoenix	AZ	10/5/2010 2:28 PM
Evelyn Reeve	Columbus	OH	10/5/2010 1:55 PM
Kristin Kottwitz	Largo	FL	10/5/2010 1:34 PM
peter kropf	san jose	ca	10/5/2010 12:31 PM
Deb Stahl	Rockville	MD	10/5/2010 12:30 PM
Jenine Herrell	Austin	Texas	10/5/2010 11:42 AM
jennifer pruet	toledo	oregon	10/5/2010 11:25 AM
Penny Tingley	Hinsdale	NY	10/5/2010 9:31 AM
Cathy Khoury	Ottawa	Ontario, Canada	10/5/2010 8:50 AM
Brenna Burke	West Linn	OR	10/4/2010 11:52 PM
David Hensel	Prospect Park	PA	10/4/2010 6:34 PM
Teresa Kisiel	Coudersport	PA	10/4/2010 5:09 PM
Katrina Rimel	Coudersport	PA	10/4/2010 3:51 PM

Cynthia Taylor	Coudersport	PA	10/4/2010 3:43 PM
Tony and Jennifer Fuentes	Portland	Oregon	10/4/2010 3:18 PM
Carrie Morley	Coudersport	PA	10/4/2010 3:06 PM
Kate Marsh Lord	Niceville	FL	10/4/2010 3:06 PM
Kevin Cracknell	Coudersport	Pennsylvania	10/4/2010 2:58 PM
E. Summers	Fort Mohave	AZ	10/4/2010 2:57 PM
Maureen Cracknell	Coudersport	Pennsylvania	10/4/2010 2:56 PM
Marianne Mullen	Barre	VT	10/4/2010 2:41 PM
L Gartner	Durango	CO	10/4/2010 1:19 PM
Shannon N	Las Cruces	NM	10/4/2010 12:53 PM
Charissa	Florence	SC	10/4/2010 12:46 PM
Nicole	Minneapolis	MN	10/4/2010 10:57 AM
Caroline M.	St. Paul	MN	10/4/2010 10:33 AM
Marie Ljosenvoor	Maple Lake	MN	10/4/2010 10:29 AM
Kim Shipley	Boston	MA	10/4/2010 10:13 AM
April Hannon	Old Forge	PA	10/4/2010 9:07 AM
Mary Hamel	St. Paul	MN	10/4/2010 8:15 AM
Katie	St. Paul	MN	10/4/2010 1:25 AM
Burge	Wallick	GA	10/3/2010 9:08 PM
Abbey Fatica	Columbus	Ohio	10/3/2010 8:33 PM
Jill Bates	Nashua	NH	10/3/2010 11:04 AM
Jenelle Little	Savannah	GA	10/3/2010 10:57 AM
Scot C Morgan	Fort Worth	Texas	10/3/2010 10:30 AM
Lisa Martin	Orlando	FL	10/2/2010 11:31 PM
kristin loffer theiss	Mount Vernon	WA	10/2/2010 10:15 PM
Heather Mentzer	Denver	Colorado	10/2/2010 10:13 PM
Sieglinde Peterson	Minneapolis	MN	10/2/2010 9:47 PM
Willow Baus	West Linn	Oregon	10/2/2010 8:43 PM
Beccijo Neff	York	Pa	10/2/2010 7:21 PM
Roger L Lundblad	Chapel Hill	NC	10/2/2010 5:39 PM
Jaclyn Baker	Cleveland	TX	10/2/2010 4:38 PM
Ashley Lostetter	St. Paul	Minnesota	10/2/2010 3:17 PM
Connie Krebs	Lakewood	OH	10/2/2010 3:07 PM
Erika Journey	Palo Alto	CA	10/2/2010 12:19 PM
Rusti Sidel	Lansing	MI	10/2/2010 12:04 PM
Heather Slater	Puyallup	WA	10/2/2010 12:03 PM
Liz Gumbinner	Brooklyn	NY	10/2/2010 11:42 AM
Pat Margulies	Thousand Oaks	CA	10/2/2010 10:59 AM
Alexis Wright	Temecula	CA	10/2/2010 9:55 AM
Bill Wilkinson	Rochester	NY	10/2/2010 9:53 AM
Melissa Floyd	St. Louis Park	Minnesota	10/2/2010 9:52 AM
Terri Thompson	Owatonna	MN	10/2/2010 9:12 AM
Traci Porczynski	Quakertown	Pa	10/2/2010 9:11 AM
Tracy Cornell	Spring	TX	10/2/2010 8:47 AM
Laney G	Jacksonville	FL	10/2/2010 3:39 AM
Carrie Nardini	Pittsburgh	PA	10/1/2010 8:53 PM

Heather Flottmann	NYC	NY	10/1/2010 8:35 PM
Natalie Griffith	Wilmington	Delaware	10/1/2010 5:55 PM
Jesse Lott	Jamers Island	South Carolina	10/1/2010 5:39 PM
Shannon King	Fuquay-Varina	North Carolina	10/1/2010 5:30 PM
Darya Gardecki	West Reading	Pennsylvania	10/1/2010 4:42 PM
Bonnie Hogan	Gray	Tennessee	10/1/2010 4:14 PM
Melissa Miller	Ballwin	MO	10/1/2010 2:48 PM
Amy M.	Central	NJ	10/1/2010 1:11 PM
Erika Pitera	Orlando	FL	10/1/2010 11:50 AM
Amanda T.	New Castle	IN	10/1/2010 11:34 AM
CASUDI	Lopez Island	WA	10/1/2010 11:09 AM
Tracey Rediker	Eatontown	NJ	10/1/2010 10:59 AM
Michael Estrin	Cedar Park	Texas	10/1/2010 10:52 AM
Stephanie Estrin	Cedar Park	Texas	10/1/2010 10:52 AM
John Greco	Sewell	NJ	10/1/2010 10:36 AM
Brenda Hess	Harrisburg	PA	10/1/2010 10:06 AM
Jennifer Angerame	Wilton	CT	10/1/2010 9:18 AM
Cristina Nolan	Chicago	IL	10/1/2010 9:06 AM
Staci Downs	Philadelphia	PA	10/1/2010 8:14 AM
Tricia Hicks	Fleetwood	NC	10/1/2010 8:08 AM
Roselyn Mendez	shepherdstown	WV	10/1/2010 7:20 AM
Lennore Merz	Walnut Creek	CA	10/1/2010 12:51 AM
Claudia Towles	Baltimore	MD	10/1/2010 12:36 AM
Kimber Christensen	Boise	Idaho	9/30/2010 11:26 PM
Lori Taylor	Salt Lake City	UT	9/30/2010 8:56 PM
Angela Escobar	Burnsville	MN	9/30/2010 8:55 PM
Sarah Nassif	Minneapolis	MN	9/30/2010 8:45 PM
Sue Lappan	Hubbardsville	NY	9/30/2010 7:49 PM
Jerry Brown	Milwaukee	WI	9/30/2010 7:47 PM
Chris Grant	Saranac	MI	9/30/2010 6:46 PM
Steffany Carrabino	San Jose	CA	9/30/2010 6:44 PM
Jill Chuckas	Stamford	CT	9/30/2010 5:16 PM
Nick Mohler	Lancaster	PA	9/30/2010 10:31 AM
Fran Johnsen	Concord	MA	9/30/2010 9:18 AM

 **SHARE**    ...

wise craft

31 October 2008

Portland, I should really see you more often...



I'm back from my whirlwind trip to Portland, made it in time for the school Halloween parade and party. I wasn't even away 24 hours, but it was nice.



The 3191 party was beautifully done, the series of photo diptych prints from the book are gorgeous. They have an acrylic front that I really didn't even pick up on until I saw them in person, but its a cool way to do them.



Finally meeting Maria, after talking to her online for such a long time (years? in a way that's true) was great. It was so much fun to share such a special evening with Maria and Stephanie. It makes me all mushy and happy about this whole blogging community we share.



I kept Melissa and Paul up way too long last night, trying in vain to cram a whole bunch of blathering into one night. I barely even scratched the surface.



Till I started yawning too much and they pointed me towards the comfiest bed in town.

I feel like there's just tons more good Portland food to eat, Portland shopping to do, Portland people to see. But I couldn't help it, I was a wee bit distracted, you see...



Hannah, he's mine...

Thank you Portland peeps.

Posted on 31 October 2008 in [family](#) | [Permalink](#)

Favorite

[Reblog \(0\)](#) |

| [Tweet](#) |

|  | | [Digg This](#) | [Save to del.icio.us](#)

Comments



jen j-m said...

lucky duck!

i am looking forward to celebrating with them next week in this portland.

glad you had such a great time.

xo

Reply 31 October 2008 at 05:01 PM



Kirsten said...

I love Portland too! We just went for an overnight last weekend of shopping, eating, shopping and eating. Love it.

Our favorite local getaway. Augie is getting so big!

Reply 31 October 2008 at 08:41 PM



Sonya said...

Sounds and looks like a wonderful trip and that Augie, he is one cute little morsel.

Reply 31 October 2008 at 09:04 PM



shari said...

sounds like so much fun blair. xo

Reply 01 November 2008 at 06:22 AM



Anna Willett said...

okay, i would have definitely taken that little cutie home with me. he is as cute as a bug!

Reply 01 November 2008 at 08:52 AM



collette ~ all over the map said...

how much fun to be a part of 3191 gathering. i have that book on my wish list.

did i ever say welcome back? i can't remember as it's been a while since i've commented. i know you've been back for a while, and i'm so glad, but i was late discovering you and it was right before you took your hiatus. smiling

that it was only a hiatus.

that wee boy is scrumptious. i want to eat him up. :)

Reply 01 November 2008 at 04:33 PM



Renna said...

What an ADORABLE little boy!

Glad you had a good time, but home's always the best place to end a trip. :-)

Reply 01 November 2008 at 10:53 PM



RID said...

Sounds so friendly and fun...

Have a nice week.

Saludos desde Barcelona

Reply 02 November 2008 at 01:43 PM



Simone said...

That trip sounds so lovely... thanks for sharing those great pics!

Reply 02 November 2008 at 03:57 PM



amy h said...

This looks like such a wonderful trip! I'm glad you had a good time.

Reply 02 November 2008 at 06:35 PM



melissa f. said...

we have to make the next trip (either direction) LONGER. that would be the only thing making it better. thank you for staying with us and for all the rest of it... we have loads more to talk about. i've already started on the list for next time.

Reply 02 November 2008 at 06:48 PM



christina said...

Sorry your time here was so short but it was wonderful to get to meet and talk with you that evening.

take care

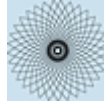
Reply 02 November 2008 at 09:02 PM



Suzie sews said...

what a great time, oh my I so love that book its really going down well here in the UK

Reply 03 November 2008 at 01:44 PM



hannah said...

we'll just have to work out some sort of joint custody, even though you have geographical advantage. dang.

Reply 03 November 2008 at 08:46 PM



andrea said...

blair! it was soooo great to meet you. how lovely are you? very. looking forward to some ttv time with you, friend.

xo

Reply 05 November 2008 at 02:43 PM

Comments on this post are closed.

Etsy

Register

Sign In

Search

Cart

The Etsy Blog

[Read](#) [Watch](#) [Make](#) [Shop](#) [About Us](#)

Quit Your Day Job: BreadandBadger



Story by [marymary](#)
Published on Mar 23, 2009 in [Shop](#)

Photo by [BreadandBadger](#)

I've been looking forward to bringing you the story of Amanda and her significant other, Sean, who have both been able to [quit their day jobs](#) in order to successfully earn a living running their Etsy shop, [BreadandBadger](#). Soon after Amanda quit her day job the budding success of her glass business presented a similar opportunity for Sean to help her run the show. After chatting with Amanda, I know you will appreciate her insightful tips for running a successful business, right down to how to work with a significant other without being at one another's throats!

How did you originally get into the business of making things?

I've actually been trying to find a way to make a living with my artwork my whole life! It's just one of those things I knew I was born to do, without a doubt. I remember selling art in high school to my friends, like t-shirts that I'd drawn on with puff-paint. I've gone through a number of phases and false-starts (tattoo artist, children's book illustrator, web comic creator, beaded jewelry designer/lost-wax caster) before finding a hit with etched glass. Sean had been scheming to work for himself for a while, but neither of us ever thought he'd be working for me! It was a bit of a surprise, the way it happened.

Search the Blog

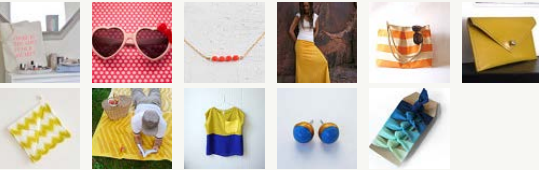
What You're Saying

Gossamer531 says: on "[Short Stories: Cheshire Cat](#)"

“ I find that, for me, any time some form of limit is placed on a creative piece, it just reveals itself in a richer form. Art is not a race – it is an adventure. Don't rush or you'll miss something!

[Read more](#)

Recently Featured Items



Other Etsy Blogs

- [Etsy News](#)
- [Seller Handbook](#)
- [Blog Français](#)
- [Deutscher Blog](#)
- [UK Edition](#)

Blogs We're Loving

- [Anthology Magazine](#)
- [Canal House Cooks Lunch](#)
- [NPR Radio Pictures](#)
- [The Field Trip Podcast](#)
- [Two Nerdy History Girls](#)
- [Wilder Quarterly](#)

Stay in Touch

- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [iTunes](#)
- [Pinterest](#)
- [Flickr](#)
- [Tumblr](#)
- [RSS](#)

Etsy Finds

Get our daily email of hot products and gift ideas.



[See our other newsletters.](#)

When you first started selling on Etsy, did you have dreams or goals of eventually quitting your day job?

I actually quit my full-time job before officially starting my business back in 2005. I just couldn't handle working in a retail store while I was trying to draw a web comic and learn about business. I opened my first Etsy shop, [SilverSquirrel](#), in 2006, but it never really took off — mostly because my heart wasn't really in it. I had to get a part-time job shortly after, but I was lucky enough to get a gig working for a local designer who worked with vintage accessories, so I learned a lot about business from her. I experimented with other art mediums, read lots of books on business and marketing, and basically absorbed everything I could. I opened [BreadandBadger](#) in the summer of 2007 and dove right in — I finally felt confident about my new glass products. I only had this shop for about two months before it needed my full attention, but I'd been doing craft fairs and promotion for a while before that.

When Sean quit his full time job last fall, it was completely out of necessity. I was so swamped with orders that I basically had to hire someone to help me, so there wasn't much to think about. We bought equipment so we could start production work — I had been hand-engraving each item before that. We knew the holidays would be even busier, so Sean just went for it. We were both scared at first, because we'd just spent a bunch of money on the sandblasting equipment and a rented studio space, but everything quickly paid for itself. I never could have made that many glasses on my own, not to mention packing them and keeping track of everything!

Did you do anything to prepare ahead of time?

Sean and I are incredibly frugal, so we worked to create a nest egg to fall back on before I initially quit my job. My endeavors were doing a little better than breaking even until last fall, when it really exploded. With the money we'd kept saved up, we were able to buy the equipment we needed to expand the business when the time was right. I like to be legit and keep detailed accounting records, which has been invaluable for budgeting. I'm a firm believer that if you're serious about something, you should do everything properly from the beginning and you won't have any regrets. I don't like to falsely exaggerate how low our

income is, or it could effect our ability to get a loan if we needed it. We have plans to buy a house as soon as possible, and we'll have to prove our work history and show steady income for that.

What are the most effective ways you have promoted and marketed your Etsy business? What's your best marketing tip?

- I believe in my products, so I've gotten used to shouting about them. Sean gets more excited about the business, the more he's involved and the better we do. No one will pay attention to your products unless you're really excited about them, either in person or online. *I recommend always presenting yourself professionally in the public eye, and people will respect you and take you seriously.*
- This might seem silly, but Sean and I always try to look happy when we're doing craft fairs, even if it's a bad day. I had to actually ask my parents to leave the booth at our first outdoor event, because it was freezing cold and they looked miserable. No one wants to shop from someone who looks unhappy, even if they're just chilly! *Putting a bright face on things will help with your sanity, and it makes you more approachable from a customer's standpoint.*
- Sending press releases have opened up so many doors for me! Some press releases are just duds, but I've learned that there's an art to it. You never know if one blog feature is going to spread into 20, or a local paper's article is going to create a frenzy for your products. *Press begets more press, and blog features can spread like wildfire online.* I'm actually teaching a workshop next month on writing press releases (based on Grace Bonney's [strategies from design*sponge](#)). The workshop is hosted by Trillium Artisans (<http://trilliumartisans.etsy.com> or <http://trilliumartisans.org>), which is a non-profit that helps low-income "green" businesses in Portland, OR.
- Contributing to [The Sampler](#) is one of the first things I did to promote my business, and it's been a great way to get the word out. I try to contribute a couple times a year, and it always brings at least a few sales and press features. Plus, people who receive the Sampler LOVE what they get, so I hear from people at craft fairs and those who order online.

What have you found to be an unsuccessful promotion?

1. I'm a big fan of social networking, mostly because it gives me an excuse to play on the computer all day for "promoting." I've only had luck when I use sites really frequently though. If I don't update them, they're easily forgotten and pretty useless.

2. It's good to take note of which products are selling well, because sometimes it's not the ones that we expect! I've had to drop products and designs that I really liked, because they just weren't selling. Being able to let go of something that I personally like is a big step, but it's the smart thing to do.

Walk us through your typical workday.

- We're both late risers! It's a perk of working from home. First thing, I check my email and convos, and write down any orders I have on post-it notes (this is the best organizational idea I've ever had!—I can see everything I need stickied to the desktop, and then label boxes once they're packed up). I relist anything that sold overnight so that we can make again.
- I feed the cat, then breakfast and coffee in front of the computer for social networking and reading updates in Google Reader. I couldn't live without programs like this! They really streamline my life and allow me to keep up with a lot of blogs and news that I'd miss otherwise.
- If it's Thursday, we head out to PDX Etsy Tea Time! Otherwise, I usually get Sean set up with a project to do, or he'll do the weekly accounting. We look at what inventory we need, and he starts making it.
- I'm always working on some kind of promotional thing, whether it's writing a new press release, or updating the website and Etsy shop. *I try to list new items as often as possible, and take new photos of older items to "freshen" them up.* I listen to audio books while I work, since I don't have much time for reading.
- Lunch, usually eaten while working. Sometimes I read while eating, if I'm sick of sitting at the computer.
- If I'm done with all my projects early, I'll sit down and help Sean mask glasses. Sometimes we play tennis in the afternoon, or I'll go for a jog. If Sean's done working early, he likes to work on his planted freshwater aquariums. We have three in the house, and he's always working on them.
- One of us cooks dinner at some point, which we both enjoy doing. Sometimes dinner time is the only time we really see each other during the day, since we tend to have different projects to work on.
- After dinner, I head back to the computer and deal with any new orders/emails/convos and networking things. I might write a blog post or check out the forums.
- This is about when we'll go to the studio to sandblast everything. After blasting, the glasses get hand-washed and I date and initial all of them.

- Sean and I pack up the orders that will go out the following day, and request carrier pickup. We plan what we need to make, then create the stencils for tomorrow (since they need to dry overnight).
- We both tend to stay up past 1am or so, reading, updating things, tweaking stuff, and generally being geeks. Sometimes we play video games for a little unwinding. This is also when the cat likes to tear around the house and be a spazz, so we indulge him.

What do you enjoy most about not having a day job? Is there anything you miss?

I don't think there's anything that we miss about working for other people! I used to miss the social aspect of going to work, but I have lots of business-owner friends now that I've met through Etsy Teams. I actually have more friends now than ever before! Sean is still figuring out how to be social while working at home, but he enjoys setting his own hours and spending more time on his aquariums.

We've both worked a variety of jobs, from food service to retail to construction. We've worked for big corporations, small businesses, and family friends. There just wasn't really anything satisfying about doing work for someone else and following another company's dream, even when it was paying well. We've definitely taken some big risks, but we've always come out ahead, and the business is constantly growing. It would be nice to have a steady paycheck, but even those aren't sure bets in an economic situation like this.

If you're thinking of working closely with your significant other, we'd both recommend keeping your own space. Don't try to work too close to each other in the same room, or you'll be at each other's throats. Be honest and open with each other, and keep your expectations reasonable. You might both have very different schedules or techniques that work best for you.

If you could go back in time, what advice would you give yourself? What advice would you give someone else?

If you have a local [Etsy Team](#), join it and get together! I've gained boatloads of knowledge from my local Teams (PDXEtsy, PDX Indie [the cooperative that I helped found!] and Trillium Artisans). Talking to real people about their Etsy businesses is invaluable, and you really need a support group who'll understand you. Friends and family can be very negative

about your new business (from jealousy, or just from not understanding it), so you may need to stop relying on them for awhile. I wish I hadn't waited so long to do this. Sean is actually an employee of my company now, and I wish we'd known more about how to set that up before we did it. I would have found a trustworthy accountant before we tried to do that ourselves, and made sure we knew what we were getting into. It's not that hard (and it has its own tax benefits!), but it was really intimidating.

What goals do you wish to accomplish in the coming year for your Etsy business?

- Sales-wise, we'd like to see growth over last year, which has been pretty consistent. I'd like to finally get up to 100 listings in the shop. I'd like to sell more internationally, but I haven't figured out a really affordable shipping method for that yet. Glass is heavy!
- Aesthetically, I'd like to have better photos across the board, since there are always a few listings that I dislike. I'd like to narrow the color scheme a little more, to keep things cohesive.
- We're hoping to build up enough inventory this summer that we'll be really prepared for the holidays. November always catches us off-guard, and it would be nice to be a little less stressed. We both hope to plan our days better so we have more free time. We recently moved to the west coast, and there's so much to explore still!

Is there anything else you'd like to share?


Thanks for having us! Neither of us would be working at home full time without Etsy. You can see more photos of our studio and etching techniques on [Flickr](#). You can follow me on [Twitter](#) and read more about us on our [blog](#).

Please join Amanda and Sean for a follow-up Question and Answer session this Tuesday, March 18th, 2009 at 3pm EST in the [Auditorium](#) room of the [Virtual Labs](#) (the VL schedule is magically in your local time). See you there!


You can find some of our previous [Quit Your Day Job](#) posts [here](#).

Discuss: [197 comments](#) Share: [✉ Email](#) [f Facebook](#) [t Twitter](#) [t Tumblr](#) [su StumbleUpon](#)


Posts You Might Like:



Featured Seller: [The English Dept.](#)



Quit Your Day Job: [Quernus Crafts](#)



Featured Shop: [Sea & Asters](#)



2 Mustache Rocks Glasses
BreadandBadger



2 Bicycle Pint Glasses
BreadandBadger



Knitter Coffee Mug - bl...
BreadandBadger



Mustache Rocks Glass
BreadandBadger



Mustache Teacup with Sa...
BreadandBadger



2 Anatomical Heart Pint...
BreadandBadger



2 Straight-Sided Rocks...
BreadandBadger



Anatomical Heart recycl...
BreadandBadger



2 Mustache Champagne Fl...
BreadandBadger

197 comments [Sign in to add your own](#)

EyePopArt says:
Great article! Bread and Badger rocks. Amanda, you are quite an inspiration!
[3 years ago](#)

PoleStar says:
Great team effort with these two. Fantastic article!
[3 years ago](#)

arcanearts says:
Great article Amanda!
[3 years ago](#)

catrocks says:
Y'all rock...big time! Congrats and thanks for the article!
[3 years ago](#)

EJPcreations says:
I love them so much!!! Such a great article!!!
[3 years ago](#)

beatricestudio says:

How inspiring! Thank you!

3 years ago

paintmywords says:

Awesome. Beer and Cycling. Two things i love.

3 years ago

FlanneryCrane says:

Inspiring article! Much continued success...

3 years ago

AwApplesauce says:

As always, so informative and a pleasure to read. Thanks for sharing, Amanda and Sean!

3 years ago

gildem says:

What a great etsy couple!

3 years ago

courtmeleon says:

I think this may be my favorite QYDJ article yet! Thanks Amanda for being so detailed, positive & so inspiring. Best of luck to you both. <3 Court

3 years ago

LaveMeSoapCo says:

woot awesome!

3 years ago

StephanieFizer says:

really fantastic interview, thanks so much for sharing :)

3 years ago

yaelfran says:

adorable article and great shop!

3 years ago

eyeful says:

Wow! Congratulations! I will read this over & over again with high hopes. :) Thanks for all the info and encouragement! :)

3 years ago

specimen7 says:

This was a really awesome and inspiring article. Rock on!

3 years ago

maybeads says:

Great story! And what a cool shop -- love it!

3 years ago

BlueTerracotta says:

Inspiring! Thanks!

3 years ago

OhFaro says:

How exciting to be able to work together at something you love. AND -- In Portland too! I love Portland. Nice pieces guys. Cheers!

3 years ago

evesimone says:

coolio

3 years ago

autumncomfort says:

You two are rock stars! I have learned so much from you in the last year, and we fight over our mustache pints all the time in this house! Great article!

3 years ago

uncharted says:

It's always great to hear others' success stories! Thanks!

3 years ago

popsiclestick says:

Super informative - great shop - inspiring people. Thanks a ton. I'd like to point out the whole Priority Mail thing, too. If you're new to Etsy, this is a lifesaver for figuring out how to send. Order free supplies, figure out weight range and you're on your way.

3 years ago

4TheSparrowsNest says:

I love what you two say about staying positive...even if it's a bad day. Whether you're in the public eye or not, I believe trying your best to stay happy and optimistic will ultimately transfer to your product and will effect everything you do. Great article!

3 years ago

duewell says:

Congrats on your success, and thanks for sharing!

3 years ago

amyrwyatt says:

Lucky you two!! Congratulations on all the hard work, its great to see a couple share such a successful dream, I wish you lots more growth!

3 years ago

mmmfiber says:

I *heart* Bread and Badger!

3 years ago

sean11 says:

Great article. I bought a set of Bread and Badger's mustache pint glasses for my dad, who sports the largest handlebar mustache in the state of Rhode Island. He loves them.

3 years ago

enhabiten says:

wow. great information here. congratulations to them for their success and ability to work together!!

3 years ago

gloilocksandbody says:

Always love reading these! Congrats on the success!! Reading these always gives others great hope! <3

3 years ago

SeaFindDesigns says:

Way to go you guys!! Love the teamwork!!! Hey Sean... Do I know your handle bar dad!?

3 years ago

zombuki says:

Always a great read and I had to favorite that heart soap dispenser = yes!! ;D

3 years ago

makepienotwar says:

i love it! i quit my day job too! good luck to you guys! great products!

3 years ago

squareware says:

great tips and thanks for sharing your experience so generously.

3 years ago

Minnie829 says:

Great job!

3 years ago

Admin

discomedusa says:

congrats, amanda & sean!

[3 years ago](#)

ModFarmgirl says:

Very inspiring!!! Thank you for sharing! Congrats on quitting your day job. Wishing you continued success!!!!

[3 years ago](#)

Mod3rnArt says:

Best of luck to you and all the Etsians!!!

[3 years ago](#)

bbbennyandthejet says:

Sweet!!! Love the pic of you both with the masks on.. hot pink is such an "in" colour right now... *grin*.. keep up the fantastic work!

[3 years ago](#)

sherrytruit says:

Nothing better than working for yourselves! Good luck to you both.

[3 years ago](#)

Blubeary says:

Yeah that is such an inspiration to us all!

[3 years ago](#)

undertheroot says:

I am down with your realism and nomenclature! You rock and spread the knowledge like wildfire with this one. Thank you and thank you Etsy.

[3 years ago](#)

gypsywoman says:

Great working together story...it can work...they are the perfect example

[3 years ago](#)

BabbidgePatch says:

What a great story ~ love your work ~ especially all things knitting :)

[3 years ago](#)

f2images says:

Very inspirational, and what cool products!!

[3 years ago](#)

whichgoose says:

AH! So jealous!! :) WAY TO GO!! Love the mustache collection...

[3 years ago](#)

amyolsonjewelry says:

great article! congratulations Bread and Badger!

3 years ago

baconsquarefarm says:

What a great couple and the story is incredible. Thanks for sharing with all of us. Congrats to you both on your success and quitting those day jobs. Wonderful products, got ya in my favorites now, great gifts for others or treat myself. You guys rock. Thank you again and Etsy too~!

3 years ago

waikikidragonfly says:

1+1= True Teamwork and Love! Your article put me in a very good place that I needed to be at. Without Teamwork, there's no foundation, and you both show me that, yes, we Etsy people are the Best of the Best because we have excellent support! You both inspire me! Mahalo (thank you) from the Island...Maui!

3 years ago

pioupioukids says:

It's great to read such success stories and oh so inspiring!

3 years ago

aimeesarmoire says:

Congratulations, BreadandBadger! My parents managed to work together in the same house (different floors) on the same product (different ends of the production line!) for DECADES... and my sister and I were involved in the product as well. May you continue to share studio space AND a business vision successfully for many years to come!

3 years ago

octavineillustration says:

congratulations!~ so exciting to see PDX artists in the news. you guys are amazing....

3 years ago

orangepoppy says:

such a wonderful, insightful article! Thanks so much for sharing such great insight and knowledge!!

3 years ago

ModernMetalJewelry says:

Congratulation to you both! These success stories always inspire and have great tips!

3 years ago

TheBearAffair says:

What a great story. You are my inspiration and I look forward to following your success. Cheers and thanks for sharing.

3 years ago

vibedesigns says:

congrats, always nice to hear of success stories

3 years ago

littleputbooks says:

Awesome Amanda and Sean!!!!

3 years ago

dragonhouseofyuen says:

what a great interview! and all that sandblasting!! it's great that you both work together well! congratulations!

3 years ago

MyJunkyTrunk says:

Very inspiring!

3 years ago

OceanGrrl says:

your glasses are my favorite to give as gifts, thanks breadand badger

3 years ago

ReThread says:

Great story, great shop I love the heart soap bottle!

3 years ago

ampm says:

Great interview. Very encouraging and nice to see that folks can turn a hobby into a career!

3 years ago

heidiburton says:

Well done folks! I really enjoyed reading about your path to success. I also started out with puff paints on t-shirts hehe :D Love your products!

3 years ago

glass2 says:

Hi, We are new to etsy and this is a great inspiration for myself and better half. We have sold on ebay for years but need to go into another dimension that seems to be profitable for us.

3 years ago

surly says:

I love you guys... (reminds me of me and Surly Johnny, yay for teamwork)!
Wishing you continued success! Hooray!!!

3 years ago

PearlyGrey says:

So Proud to know you Amanda! See you soon.

3 years ago

realisationcreations says:

Fabulous article! Now I'm off to follow you on Twitter! :)

3 years ago

luckykat says:

I bought a shot glass from you at Urban Craft Uprising in Seattle.... I love it!

3 years ago

worksandfinds says:

Congratulations. I love "quit your job" articles they are so positive and encouraging.

3 years ago

Waterrose says:

What a great success story! Good luck with all of your goals!

3 years ago

notmoira says:

I've had the mustache glasses hearsed forever... love this shop! So great to see you doing so well. :)

3 years ago

michelemaule says:

awesome!Great work! I'm hoping to get out to some of those PDX Etsy Tea times :)

3 years ago

dogties says:

Looks like fun. Great stuff.

3 years ago

globalcoolo says:

so inspiring! thank you!!!

3 years ago

isewcute says:

I love hearing such fabulous stories of people making work out of what they love!

Congrats BreadandBadger on your success! It's well deserved! ;o)

[3 years ago](#)

cefische says:

Congrats, I have had my eye on the mustache glasses for a long time!

[3 years ago](#)

UglyBaby says:

This is awesome. I love Bread and Badger!

[3 years ago](#)

PipocaHandmade says:

What a fantastic story, awesome shop and designs! Congratulations and continued success!

[3 years ago](#)

Piggy says:

Great article and story! Very inspirational. Great tips. Wonderful products!

[3 years ago](#)

lapetitevie says:

I love their shop - so fun to read this article. Thanks and congrats!

[3 years ago](#)

bohemianchaos says:

wow, what a great article :)

[3 years ago](#)

bellasparty says:

Awesome article, very inspirational! Great tips on marketing your business. I love the mustache collection!

[3 years ago](#)

angie180281 says:

What a sweet article, and they look like a lovely couple - best of luck to them!!!

[3 years ago](#)

cherdak says:

great article !

[3 years ago](#)

tickledpinkpaperink says:

thanks for the inspiration! great marketing ideas too!

[3 years ago](#)

sandali says:

I love to hear stories like this !!! This is life -- living & loving the art of being free ;)

[3 years ago](#)

tumbleweedstudios says:

What a great team you guys make! Congrats on your success!

[3 years ago](#)

badhannah says:

Awesome! My husband & I read the article & are so inspired. So happy to see smart, creative people finding success! Thanks for sharing!

[3 years ago](#)

piddix says:

Yea! Such a great couple. So nice you meet you both the other day. Yea!

[3 years ago](#)

Mattamorphis says:

Very inspiring. -Matt

[3 years ago](#)

littlepaperhome says:

Love your stuff! So happy to see your business working! -chelsey

[3 years ago](#)

ameliesilks says:

Good read! Never heard of the sampler.

[3 years ago](#)

Caracarmina says:

I looooooed their story..... not only is full of commitment but full of reality and effort!!!! great story!

[3 years ago](#)

JLynnCreations says:

Wonderful story! Great job guys :)

[3 years ago](#)

SoSheSews says:

So lovely! I just quit my day job today! *fingers crossed*!!!!

[3 years ago](#)

IceCreamCandy says:

what a great story!!!!

3 years ago

Pauleridu says:

Love your positive attitude. Keep up the wonderful, inspiring work. Can't wait to see what's coming next.

3 years ago

FlanneryO says:

Thanks for introducing me to a brilliant shop that I hadn't discovered yet! Cheers!

3 years ago

vintagedecadence says:

Good luck to this enterprising couple!

3 years ago

MeAndBoo says:

Nice stuff!! There is a lot of good info in here. I'd love to work at home with my hubby, that's our dream.

3 years ago

empapers says:

The info on how to work with your partner was especially helpful. Thanks!

3 years ago

dreamerchar says:

you guys are a real inspiration! its made me feel so much more positive and get more pro-active!! All the best! :)

3 years ago

EpicBones says:

this is so inspiring!! i'm working on quitting my day job too this summer, yikes! so scary!

3 years ago

L1zW says:

These articles are always invaluable. I am constantly learning and getting great advice for the day when I take the plunge with my own venture!

3 years ago

LeftHandHats says:

Thanks for all the tips! I'm making the leap, and need all the help and encouragement I can get! Knowing there are people out there who are living the life I want and doing it well helps keep my spirits up. Oh, and your glasses are great!

3 years ago

crowseyestudio says:

Thanks for an encouraging article and detailed responses to the questions-- it's nice to see that one *can* work with yer sweetie daily if you plan it right.

3 years ago

galit says:

Amazing! I really love this shop!

3 years ago

lydialayne says:

Great article and great shop!

3 years ago

PhineasandLou says:

Great profile. Thanks for sharing your wisdom and inspirations :)

3 years ago

Fantasticfigments says:

I really think this was one of the most informative articles that I have read thus far! Great knowledge and I am so glad you guys are living the dream! Good luck with future sales!!!! Smooches Steph

3 years ago

RoyalPrincess says:

Great article!!

3 years ago

lucywallis says:

love the reclaimed knitters tea cups - very English!?! Thanks for sharing your story. Lucy

3 years ago

brezomayo says:

awesome! congrats on your success!!!

3 years ago

pouch says:

the workshop on press releases sounds great and I love the work of Trillium Artisans, it's always good to see 'green' business getting support :)

3 years ago

DoraArtDesignStudio says:

Thanks for the great article. What cool items!

3 years ago

manfredmonkeys says:

that's a really inspiring article!

3 years ago

sweetestpea says:

Yay Amanda and Sean! We miss you on the East coast, but I'm so happy to see how well you've done! :)

3 years ago

thetapeliacompany says:

Wow, what an operation! I love those glasses, especially the octopus ones.

3 years ago

PrettyPaintings says:

wow. . . I'm brand new to etsy and really appreciate all the detailed info . . . and I love your glasses!

3 years ago

elodee says:

I love you guys! You're one of my favorites! Keep up the good work.

3 years ago

bittersweetboo says:

Great article! I love reading these :) Cute glasses too!

3 years ago

catsongstitchery says:

Very inspiring!

3 years ago

NanLawson says:

i love this series and i especially love this shop!

3 years ago

PoorRobot says:

Great article! Amanda and Sean, you are an inspiration.

3 years ago

MinaLucia says:

"There just wasn't really anything satisfying about doing work for someone else and following another company's dream, even when it was paying well" This is what I have had in my head for so long! Thank you for saying this for me and so many of us. No matter what "job" I had, big or small I have always felt this way. Now that I am on Etsy (although BRAND newbie) I have hope. Thank you for all the great info and your generous spirit. Shows in your work. Bravo and best!

3 years ago

courtneyannedesigns says:

Very inspiring! I hope to quit my day job someday!!!

3 years ago

acormier77 says:

Awesome article! I appreciate the very realistic advice on the marketing techniques! Great job you two!

3 years ago

BabyDragonsLair says:

Very down to earth people. Im am BEYOND happy at the people Ive met here on Etsy over the past 2 years. These 2 are a good example. Thanks

3 years ago

anicastillo says:

wow, tons of advise, thank you guys!! :D :D

3 years ago

WhatsYourAnimal says:

This article is full of important information to be successful. Thank you for bringing it to the our attention! Continue success Amanda and Sean!!

3 years ago

JujuBySarah says:

I'm so happy for you guys! Every one loved the wedding favors you did for us!

3 years ago

sloeginfizz says:

Really great interview! Very inspiring, insightful and fun at the same time. I just forwarded it on to my man and told him to get ready! Thanks for your advice, generosity and time, and best of luck with your goals for this year!

3 years ago

MBraze says:

I love this article! Truly inspiring and I learned a thing or two or three! Congrats on all your success BreadandBadger! I'm a true believer in FUN and you guys certainly are! =)

3 years ago

TheDizzyPixie says:

I absolutely love the mustache glasses! Such an inspiration, I hope someday I'll get there.

3 years ago

Squier says:

Cool article! Thanks for sharing!

3 years ago

Tweethouse says:

Thank you for your inspirational article! Your product is fantastic! Best of luck with your sales!

3 years ago

LibbyRyan says:

Congratulations to all your success and thank you for the post! I'm originally from Portland so this makes me extra proud!

3 years ago

SnuggleHerd says:

great article! cute couple! fabulous products! so inspiring.

3 years ago

heatherwangjewelry says:

Such a great article, very inspiring for this Etsy newbie :)

3 years ago

Perceptions says:

Best of luck to you for continued success! Thanks for sharing your story and business tips!

3 years ago

blackeyedsuzie says:

Yay! Great story and advice...this is such an inspiring series - keep them coming! Three weeks til I quit my day job!

3 years ago

cheriebeadle says:

So very inspiring! Thanks for being so honest and open with your answers. Good luck and happy selling!

3 years ago

CutieDynamite says:

Love it! Great article, great shop!

3 years ago

AnvilArtshop says:

Great article, they've been in my favorites almost from Day One. :)

3 years ago

ireneplummerart says:

Thanks for all the great advice. Really helpful!!

3 years ago

SweetEventide says:

This was so inspiring, I really liked hearing how you had a first shop that wasn't very successful because your heart wasn't really in it. That would be me too. I'm really fired up about my new shop and I know it will take some time but I truly believe in it this time. Thank you for the advice to join a local Etsy team, I wouldn't have thought of doing that so early in the game but I'm going to look into it now.

3 years ago

SEOWebDesign says:

You sound very committed and are working hard at making your dreams come true. Congratulations on your own successful path of creative endeavors.

3 years ago

GentreeStudios says:

Great article. Very nice product. Nice to see that your able to live the dream of working for yourself. We have been doing this for 10 years and couldn't see having to work for big industry again.

3 years ago

artbymsr says:

Wow, some awesome tips. Thanks for sharing. Wishing you continued success!

3 years ago

EarthWrappedJewelry says:

Awesome!! What an inspiration you two are! Best of luck!

3 years ago

CharlotteRice says:

Thanks for sharing your tips and ideas! Love your work too.

3 years ago

moonangelnay says:

Thanks for the great story and advice! I wish you both all the best!

3 years ago

karenfieldsgallery says:

Very informative and interesting article. Going through false starts is so true for so many of us. Thanks for sharing.

3 years ago

poppyswickedgarden says:

great article! It is so nice to be able to quit your day job and work on ETSY instead(though I think I work atleast twice as many hours LOL!)

3 years ago

ConMisOjos says:

Great article!

3 years ago

behjat says:

Congratulations....thanks for sharing your story.

3 years ago

blondebeauty says:

Its great to see someone doing so well. I still need a boost.

3 years ago

missmiayeahyeah says:

It sounds like they've got things figured out. Definitely something to strive for!

3 years ago

DaisyChains says:

Congrats!! You soooooo deserve it. ;O)

3 years ago

BeeGracious says:

Great story ~ thanks for sharing!

3 years ago

CeeLou says:

Whoa, you have sure inspired me to make my move. Just what I needed to read, a realistic success story. Enjoyed the article.....much appreciated!

3 years ago

SoulyStones says:

Congrats, you two are awesome!!

3 years ago

SouthwestFlower says:

Store is adorable, can't wait to purchase some mustache glasses!

3 years ago

rocksn twigs says:

love th mustache glass...great article hope you two the best. great advice , esecially for anewbie like me, hope to join you some day soon

3 years ago

stoneandbone says:

Wonderful story, congrats on all the success and rock on.

3 years ago

Jenifersfamilyjewels says:

Thanks for sharing this marymary! Another inspirational story and so cool to hear

about couples working together!

3 years ago

FluteTeacher says:

Great! Thanks for sharing.

3 years ago

Elizaveta says:

Goshdamnit! I want EVERYTHING in this shop Right Now!!!

3 years ago

jackbear says:

I've ordered from them..they do great work and are speedy and when I had a problem with my order, they made it totally right. Thanks and good luck to you both!!

3 years ago

wristcandycreations says:

Thanks for sharing your inspirational story! I think it's fabulous you and your significant other get to work together doing something you both love, and working towards the same goal. Best wishes for continued success!!

3 years ago

Jujie says:

Such a great story... You both make lovely items :)

3 years ago

coltsgroovies says:

Very Inspiring Story! I need to do more advertising & networking for my shop. Thanks for the tips!

3 years ago

flauntdesignsjewelry says:

Great story, to read of artists being in charge of their own destiny, taking a bold step, having success - and being willing to share their advice & experiences :) Thanks!

3 years ago

digitalmisfit says:

Great article! It is inspiring to read such a wonderful success story. I have 2 fabulous pint glasses (robot & mustache) - Bread and Badger rocks!

3 years ago

SalmonStreetStudio says:

Nice replies Amanda! I have to say that you guys rock and we are glad to be able to know you irl -and we love your work too. You guys are inspiring :)

3 years ago

Karramandi says:

Fantastic article. Very inspiring. Thanks and may your success continue :)

3 years ago

Danikamon says:

i love reading success stories. Thanks for sharing.

3 years ago

youngsoap says:

Loved this article!

3 years ago

adorabubblejewellery says:

This was a really insightful article. I love the mustache glasses! Long may your success continue.

3 years ago

jodieflowers says:

so inspiring!

3 years ago

easelarts says:

Love these articles. I'm definitely sending the knitting motif samples to a great knitting store I'm fond of here in Toronto.

3 years ago

SupplyRiot says:

You guys are awesome!!

3 years ago

DoodlebugAccessories says:

Fantastic couple and loved the article.

3 years ago

RenJewels says:

This is such an inspiring story and I am very envious. I am a teacher but would love to be a full time jewelry maker and crafty person. Or maybe a part time teacher and part time jewelry maker. One day...SIGH!

3 years ago

BabyBeesBoutique says:

I love your story! Love the masks!! lol I hearted your shop...we are moving soon and will get some new glasses for parties very soon! Good luck in all of your endeavors.

3 years ago

BloomAndCo says:

Oh Joy! Everyones dream set-up. Good for you. You took a big risk and its paying off. Its really inspiring to hear success stories like this. Well done and best wishes for continued success.

3 years ago

JLMould says:

Good Job!!!! I hearted your store.. great items!! Jessica Lynn

3 years ago

metrostation says:

wow good job!

3 years ago

ksickles says:

So glad to see them featured - great products and so fun!

3 years ago

BusyBeeBumbleBeads says:

AWESOME!!!

3 years ago

artbytrudy says:

Great article..Love your inspiring story! Hard working and playing couple! Trudy

3 years ago

karinapotestio says:

Amanda and Sean you both rock!!!! good job! see you soon

3 years ago

foxtrailgeneralstore says:

I love these products! These articles always inspire me.

3 years ago

caoihamarie says:

i love this article and that shop!

3 years ago

tumbleweedstudios says:

So inspiring!

3 years ago

blithedgardens says:

Great article- interesting to see how you handled your growing business.