

# The Slipped Stitch



Happy Easter

## Apr 2019

**Local Yarn Store Day** is Saturday, April 27. In support of this event several of our yarn companies have special offers. Berroco has a free packet of patterns that we will be giving to the first 20 customers and Plymouth yarns has a free pattern download code for six patterns. Be sure to come in and get your freebies! We will also be offering 10% off all yarns purchases for the day.

Spring means Easter, everything finally turning green, flowers blooming, and also Shearing Time. Cathie and Bob Wallick have a herd of alpacas to de-fleece and would appreciate any help from volunteers. This year it will be one day only – Sunday Apr 28. For more info please contact Cathie at [cathiewallick@mac.com](mailto:cathiewallick@mac.com) or 674-7204.

---

**NEW! NEW! NEW!**

In response to our recent yarn tasting we now have Berroco Spring/Summer yarns and pattern books in stock. Come check out the new yarns. *Mantra* is a 100% silk sport weight in solid colors. *Estiva* is a chunky cotton tape yarn in slow changing gradient color. *Linen Stonewash* (a name change from Indio) is a linen chainette yarn in solid colors. *Ultra Wool Fine* is a 100% superwash wool fingering weight in solid colors, and *Vibe* is a super soft chunky weight cotton/wool blend. Free patterns are being offered for these new yarns also, so be sure to check out the Berroco website.

---

**April Monthly Special-**

**10% off Cotton Yarns**

Summer's coming and cotton is the perfect yarn for light-weight, cool summer garments. It's also the perfect time to try out the new Berroco cotton yarns (*Vibe* and *Estiva*) and well as stock up on some favorites. We also have *Lisbeth*, a cotton thread, in four weights (size 10, 20, 40, and 80) in a ton of colors for thread crochet and tatting. To name just a few of the cotton yarns in stock: Sport weight cottons include *Catania*, the new gradient *United Foursome*, which can be paired with the solid colors of *United*. DK weight cottons include *Phoenix DK*, *Summer Silk* (a silk/cotton blend), *Corsica* (a cotton/cashmere blend), and *Cotton Fleece*. Worsted weights include *Fantasy Naturale* and *Cumulus*.

# The Slipped Stitch

## Weaving and Spinning News

Weaving and Spinning Group will be meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> (last Sunday instead of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday due to Easter) at the UU Fellowship Building in Sheridan. Everyone's welcome! We are also looking forward to a presentation from the Handweavers' Guild of America at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Creative Fiber Guild meeting at the Holiday Inn, Sheridan. Come find out what the Guild offers to members and bring a friend. This is open to everyone not just CFG members.

---

## Looking forward to . . .

### Apr Classes

Every Monday; 1-4pm- Back on Track Mondays

Every Thursday; 1-3pm - Knit and Crochet Class at the Hub on Smith

Other April classes: Twiddlemuffs for seniors charity project, Double Knit Baby Afghan, Entrelac Scarf, Waves of Color Shawl, and Tunisian Crochet Scarf. See the calendar for class dates.

### Coming in May:

Black Hills Fiber Arts Fair - Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3 (Dates changed!)

May 21; 10am - Handweavers' Guild Presentation at the CFG meeting.

The Second Annual Cowboy Yarn Crawl (starts Memorial Weekend).

### And June:

Rigid Heddle Weaving Class - Sundays June 2 and June 9 (note dates have changed!)

June 8 - Knit in Public Day - picnic on the front lawn.

---

## In Consideration of . . . (also known as - Donna's Soapbox):

### Stitch Markers

There are tools for every craft or trade and fiber arts is no exception. We have lots of cool tools and gadgets to work with and acquire. Some are boring and mundane (darning needles and stitch holders come to mind), some are pretty as well as functional (yarn bowls and caddies) and some are indispensable. Like stitch markers. These handy little items come in all shapes (triangles, circles, safety pin-type, split ring, etc.) and can also be pretty, like beaded ones and ones with fancy charms. You can make your own (cut up straws or ties from leftover yarns scraps) or buy them by the gross. However you acquire them, you need lots because they can be used in a lot of different ways - and also because they have a tendency to get lost. If you've ever used them, you probably have a dozen or more lurking in the couch cushions, or under the chair you've been sitting on. There are probably one or two under the table at the store right now (LOL).

And just to prove how big a job these little bitty things can do consider the following uses:

# The Slipped Stitch

- 1) Keep track of your stitch count – when casting on more than 50 stitches place a stitch marker every 10, 20, or 25 stitches. With knitting you can use any of the makers and place it on the needle. In crochet, use locking or split ring markers and place on the stitch itself.
- 2) Use to mark the beginning of the round.
- 3) Mark the right side of a project. The pattern usually tells you which side should be the right side. This may be important enough that you need a reminder (like in mosaic or slip stitch knitting) so sticking a marker on a stitch near the beginning of the round or row on the right side will be a nice visual clue.
- 4) Mark pattern repeats. Place a marker at the beginning of each repeat to keep yourself on track.
- 5) Mark pattern changes. For instance, if you are working a garter stitch border on a scarf or afghan square, knit your first border, place a marker, work across to the next border, place another marker and then knit that border. Place makers at the beginning and end of cables bands or any other pattern design.
- 6) Dropped a stitch? Slip a marker onto the stitch so it doesn't drop further, knit over to the correct place and pick up the stitch.
- 7) Use to mark each increase or decrease on a sweater sleeve, armhole, neckline, etc. This will help keep you on track so you know when you've completed all the required increases or decreases. It will also help you learn how to recognize these stitches.
- 8) Mark the middle stitch when you work a cable so that you can accurately count the rows till the next cable needs to be worked.
- 9) When you are doing short rows, if you use the "wrap and turn" method and need to pick up the wrap, slip a marker on the wrap itself to help pick it up later.
- 10) On a raglan sweater worked in the round, markers denoted the four points where decreases or increases are made in the yoke between the sleeves and the front and back.
- 11) On top-down socks, markers are used to indicate the gusset decreases.
- 12) Use locking stitch markers to pin separate pieces together before sewing.

Right now you're probably thinking you could have so many markers on a project you wouldn't know what any of them were for. That's why you need a lot of different ones in different colors. So for instance if you are knitting a sleeve in the round with a cable pattern, use a **green** round stitch marker for the beginning of the round, use **purple** round markers for the beginning and end of the cable band, use **orange** locking stitch makers on each increase row and a **green** locking stitch marker to mark the cable row, and a **blue** marker to mark the right side of the project. Easy peasy. ☺