

HANDCRAFTS MONTHLY



FEBRUARY at a glance

February 10 - Sewing World Gathering.

February 10 - Mini Demos on Jewelry.

February 18 - Button Bracelet Workshop

February 23 - Needle Felting Workshop

February 26 - Gathering at Roz Cooper-Key's.

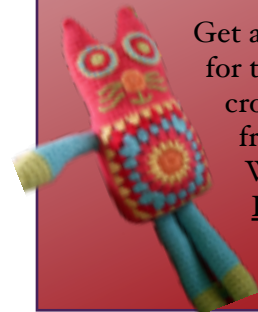
FEBRUARY GATHERINGS

FEBRUARY 10

10:00 to noon at Sewing World in the upstairs classroom, 136 71 Ave. SE
If you wish, please bring along a snack to share. Remember to park in the rear and to mention us when you shop. Jewelry mini Demo to follow.

FEBRUARY 26

1:00 P to 3:00 PM at Roz Cooper-Key's, 404 Silver Valley Blvd. NW.
Please RSVP to 403-286-9239 or by email at rozcooperkey@shaw.ca



Get a tutorial for this wild crochet kitty from Little Woollie [HERE](#)

NEWS FROM HANDCRAFTS COMMITTEE

DEMOS and WORKSHOPS

We have posted the Workshop and Demo Calendar for the first half of 2014. It is a great mix of both styles with featured mini Demos after the Gatherings and something for both those who knit and those who sew.

JEWELRY MIN DEMO

Patty Cucman will talk jewelry after the Sewing World Gathering. Get an idea of what was popular at the last sale and what to work on for 2014. I -cord is expected to come on stronger this year and how about belts? Belts are jewelry, right?

BUTTON BRACELET WORKSHOP

Join our very own Brigitte Launhardt to make her popular Button Bracelets. Room for 8.
Tuesday February 18 from 10:00 AM to noon.

NEEDLE FELTING WORKSHOP

Needle felting is a great way to make wool creatures and ornaments. It's also great for embellishment – decorate felted bags, hats, slippers -- once you start, it's hard to stop. Toys need eyes? Easy!

Join us for an afternoon workshop with Jill Nuckles, a local fiber artist who specializes in wool sculpture and needle felting.

Sunday Feb. 23 from 1:00 to 4:00

Cost is \$15.00 and will include all supplies.

Room for 12.

To register for either workshop click the link below.

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



WHAT SELLS - CHILDREN'S ITEMS

2013 sales in Children's were very successful and the creativity was truly astounding! We had many more different types of items this year, and sales were excellent in all categories. So what next?

Firstly, please consider product safety. Customers have become very savvy about this and are seeking safety-compliant articles. Refresh your knowledge of the Children's Safety Guidelines [HERE](#) under the CHILDREN tab of What To Make and ensure that your friends who are supporting us in this way are fully aware of them.

Check out the latest trends and fashions. Take a stroll through one of the many children specialty shops in the malls. What wouldn't have sold a few years ago may be all the rage now (and vice versa!)

Use your search engine to find websites for ideas and patterns. Remember sites such as [RAVELRY](#) for knits and [PURL BEE](#) for both knit and sewing ideas and patterns. [Ottobre](#) has given us permission to use the patterns in their magazines of children's clothes.

WHAT TO KNIT

The following items/characteristics appealed to customers in past sales:

1. Garments and blankets made from soft, pliable yarns. We have [posted](#) a sweet little hat pattern on the PATTERNS page. Use the password.
2. Sweaters with a neck opening that will accommodate a child's head. Use a stretchy bind off such as [THIS ONE](#) or incorporate an opening.
3. Bold colors - pink is a hard sell these days.
4. Toy animals and dolls.



Check [RAVELRY](#) for lots of free patterns like [this cute elephant](#). Be sure to check for any copyright issues. If need be, ask permission to sell the end product. Include a link to our website and stress that we are non-profit. No one has refused us yet.

5. Slippers with non-skid soles. Again, [RAVELRY](#) and [PURL BEE](#) are a great source of patterns.
6. Hand puppets. Refer back to [August 2013 Handcrafts Monthly](#) for for a versatile pattern. Colour and ear shape variations can result in several different animals.



SEW WHAT?

WHAT TO SEW

The following have all proved to be popular in the recent sale

1. Toy animals and dolls. Just search for free patterns for many cute examples.
2. Doll blankets & pillows. Consider matching blankets for baby and little moms.
3. Crayon wraps (pencil crayons and wax crayons have a longer 'shelf life' than felt pens). Check that same August 2013 Handcrafts Monthly for a pattern link.
4. Bibs - There are lots of good patterns on line but [this one](#) is very handy with the side opening. Use two layers of flannelette for extra absorbency. With or with out the pockets, it is great. Some customers have suggested they be backed with plastic.
5. Flannelette blankets. Make them double with a binding for extra coziness.
6. Aprons. Did you see the cute ones at the January Sewing World Gathering? It doesn't take much fabric. This is another opportunity to make matching items for big bakers and little bakers.



7. Little girls' purses. If you can make a matching skirt and purse like the one on page 1 then, even better. See [June 2013 Handcrafts Monthly](#) for the skirt pattern and a link to a tutorial.
8. T-shirts tend to sell better than dresses or pants. Use cute knits and try some contrast on sleeves or cuffs.
9. Headbands.
10. Growth charts. Watch for a Demo on growth charts after the gatherings in May.
11. Barrette holders.

These are just a few ideas to get you going. If you have more, share them at the next gatherings.