



A community project in support of local crafty retail



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${\bf Special\ thanks...}$

- ... to Diana Schreiber, who generously designed the cute Knittn' Kitten graphic.
- ... to Lee Meredith, who took all the gorgeous photos of Knittn' Kitten craft supplies.
- ... to Ethel and Rome and The Knittn' Kitten, for fueling our crafty pursuits.

This ebook is free to share with others. The designs in this ebook are for personal enjoyment only.



Introduction



In Portland, Oregon, where we all live, there's a tiny shop called The Knittn' Kitten. It's a craft-supply thrift store, filled with vintage fabrics, sewing notions, yarns, beads, buttons, patterns, and lots of other treasures. It's owned by a mother and daughter team, who visit estate sales, take donations from local crafters, and occasionally travel overseas to find wonderful crafty things.

"The Kitten" (as it's affectionately called around here) has become a vital part of the Portland craft scene. Crafters from all over town visit the shop to find treasures for their handmade projects. And quite a few local artisans rely on the shop's low prices to keep their small businesses profitable.

But, as much as we all love The Knittn' Kitten, economic forces have us shopping less in general lately. And so, in early Fall 2009, we learned that our beloved Kitten was in some danger of closing for good.

A group of us got together to see what we might do to help. Christine Blystone came up with a great idea: what if we each donated a project sheet to the store? Then people could stop in, pick up the free project, and get all the materials they'd need to make it.

We took turns, offering up a new project each week and spreading the word on our blogs. It helped - it got people into the shop, and got them buying some things.

...And since our blogs are read by people who live far from Portland, and can't get to The Knittn' Kitten, we thought we'd also share our project sheets in this ebook - it's our gift to you.

All we ask in return is that you support your favorite local independent craft stores. They need you.

You can visit The Knittn' Kitten online at <u>www.knittnkitten.com</u>. If you're in Portland, stop by at 7530 NE Glisan, Tuesday - Saturday, 10-6.



Bib-Style Statement Necklace

by Heather Mann

The "Statement Necklace" is a key fashion accessory this season. Make your own bib-style necklace inspired by trendy boutiques, for a fraction of the price you would pay in stores.



Supplies Needed:

- Sequined appliques
- Cord or ribbon
- Hot glue gun
- Needle and thread (optional)

Scissors

How to Make:

Step 1: Arrange the sequined appliques as desired and hot glue them together.

Step 2: Cut the cord or ribbon to your desired length.

Step 3: Tie sliding knots in the ends of the cord, or if you're using ribbon, leave the ends loose for tying around your neck.

Step 4: Glue the cord/ribbon to the appliques.

Step 5 (optional): If you like, you can secure the ribbon to the appliques with a needle and thread, sewing around the glue (it's too hard to sew through!)

Wear and enjoy your necklace! It's a great way to dress up a plain t-shirt or top.









Crocheted Ribbon & Bead Necklace

by Heather Mann

Choose from Knittn' Kitten's selection of wooden beads and crochet up this quick and easy necklace with your choice of ribbons. Vary the ribbon, beads, and length for a variety of looks. A great holiday gift idea!



Supplies Needed:

- Wooden beads
- Ribbon

- Crochet hook
- Needle and thread (optional)

Scissors

To Make a Choker:

- **Step 1:** Leaving the ribbon attached to its spool, string 5 beads onto the ribbon.
- Step 2: Leave a 12" tail of ribbon, and then chain 6 stitches.
- **Step 3:** Slide one bead along the ribbon until it's at the edge of crochet hook, and chain one stitch around the bead. Repeat this step for the remaining beads.
- **Step 4:** Chain 6 more stitches and fasten off. Leave another 12" tail at this end of the strand.
- **Step 5:** Try the necklace on to make sure it is your desired length, and the beads are placed where you want them. (The ends of the ribbon tie in a bow at the back of your neck.) Undo the chain stitches and adjust if desired.
- Step 6: Use a match to gently melt the edges of the ribbon so they won't fray.

To Make Longer Necklace:

Adjust the number of chain stitches and beads as desired.







Lined Zippered Knit Coin Pouch

by Lee Meredith

Combine a little knitting and a little sewing to make this adorable and useful carry-all. You can embellish your pouch with embroidery, buttons, or anything else you like.



Supplies Needed:

- 10-30 yards yarn, depending on gauge
- Knitting needles for your choice of yarn
- Emboidery floss or other embellishments
- 7" zipper
- Bias tape
- Scissors
- Sewing needle and thread
- 4" x 7" piece of fabric

How To Make:

Step 1: Knit a piece that measures about 4 inches wide by 7 inches long; the cast-on number will depend on your yarn/needles/gauge.

- •Using worsted weight yarn (JL Vega self-striping wool), for a gauge of about 5 1/2 stitches per inch, I cast on 25 stitches.
- Using 4 strands of bamboo (JL Bamboo Spica) held together, for a gauge of about 3 stitches per inch, I cast on 12 stitches.

Work in stockinette stitch (knit every stitch of the right side, purl every stitch of the wrong side) until the piece measures about 7 inches, then bind off.

Step 2: You won't be sewing the fabric on yet, but it'll be easiest to cut it to the right size now, before the zipper causes the knitted piece to fold up. Cut the lining fabric just a little smaller than the knit piece (about a quarter inch shorter on each side) so it'll cover the whole inside.





Step 3: Fold your knitted piece in half - the folded end is the bottom of the pouch. Sew the zipper to the knit piece so that it zips across the top, around one corner, and down one side. Make sure you fit the bottom around the zipper as you can see pictured.





Step 4: Open one crease of the bias tape, and line up the open edge with the bottom of the zipper. Stitch along the crease, using a backstitch. For the side with no zipper, stitch however will work best with your knit fabric - I used a diagonal kind of stitch to get a good grip on the bulky bamboo.



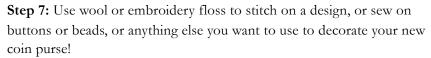


Step 5: Turn down the bias tape over the fabric, and sew a backstitch through the tape edge and the fabric. Fold the corners in neatly, first pulling down the center, then creasing the sides in.





Step 6: Use yarn and your yarn needle to sew up the knit edge, using whichever stitch you like. I like to start at the bottom, seam up to the top, then sew back down to the bottom, tying the two ends together, which makes a secure seam and prevents a knot at the top where it's noticeable.







Beaded Wire Flower Hairpins

by Teresa Sullivan

Adorn your hair with these cute little accents. They whip up quickly, and making them is very addictive!



Supplies Needed:

- 28 gauge craft wire
- Wire cutters
- Standard bobby pins
- Several size 6/0 seed beads or other larger bead, per flower
- Size 11/0 seed beads in lots of colors

How To Make:

Step 1: On a 12" piece of wire, thread 20 of the tiny beads and slide them to the center of the wire.

Step 2: Keeping the beads in place, carefully bend the wire so that the beaded section forms a loop, with the beads fitting snugly. Twist this loop a couple of times to hold the beads in place.

Step 3: Thread 20 more seed beads onto the wire, then bend another loop and twist a couple of times.

Step 4: Repeat this until you have 5 or 6 petals, making each new petal on either side of the first petal.

Step 5: Thread one or more 6/0 seed beads onto one of the remaining ends of wire.

Step 6: Slide this bead up the wire until it's resting against your flower. Bend the petals around this center bead until they form an even ring around it. Then take the remaining wire that's sticking out of the center bead and wrap it across the flower and between two petals, then behind the flower, to secure it. Match it up with the other loose end of the wire and twist them together twice.

Step 7: Wrap the two ends of the wire around the "elbow" of the bobby pin several times to secure it and trim off the excess.

(Some variations on the next page!)

Fun Variations on the Beaded Wire Flower Hairpin:

- Poinsettia or flowers with leaves: Pinch each petal at the tip to form a point (at the 10-bead mark).
- Butterflies: Make four "petals", two big and two small and arrange them in a butterfly shape.



atterns

· Skull and crossbones:

Step 1: with 18" of wire, string about 28 white (skull) beads onto the middle and bend in a "U" shape.

Step 2: String 11 black (eye) beads on one end; twist just the black beads into a loop; repeat on the other end of the white beads.

Step 3: String 4 white beads on one end, then 5 larger black (mouth) beads. Bend the wire at a right angle where the black beads begin.

Step 4: String 4 white beads on the other end of the wire and pass the wire through the black mouth beads, going toward the other wire, so the wires cross over each other and each comes out the other end of the black beads.

Step 5: String 6 white beads (for the chin) on the ends of each wire, and curve them toward each other. Twist the wires together twice.

Step 7: To make crossbones, string a white bugle bead and 2 larger white beads (or about 8 larger white beads). Skip over the last 2 beads, and feed the wire back through the bugle or last 6 beads. Use needle nose pliers to pull the wire tight if needed. Twist the wire and repeat this step 3 times for the rest of the crossbones.

Step 8: Secure the remaining wire to the bobby pin as you did with the flowers.



Dress Up a Dish Towel

by Diane Gilleland

Turn a household necessity into a useful and affordable gift with some simple patchwork. This project is a great way to use up scraps of pretty fabric.

Supplies Needed:

- 4-5 coordinating cotton fabrics
- Cotton dish towel (flour-sack type)
- Straight pins
- Sewing machine and thread
- Scissors
- Ruler

How To Make:

Step 1: Pre-wash all your fabrics and dish towels. Then, cut 6" squares from each of your cotton fabrics. You'll need 3 or 4 squares of each fabric. Next, cut about half of these squares in half, so they measure 3" x 6". And then, cut a few of those pieces in half again, so they measure 1.5" x 6".



Step 2: Now, place these pieces side by side, mixing the different widths and colors. Sew them together with a 1/4 seam allowance. Keep sewing the pieces together until you have a strip that's a couple inches longer

than the width of your dish towel. Press all the seams open.



Step 3: Turn a 1/2" hem along the two long sides of the patchwork strip. Press the hem in place, but don't sew it.

Dress Up a Dish Towel, Cont'd

Step 4: Pin the patchwork strip along the bottom edge of the dish towel, measuring to make sure it's straight. (Mine is 1 1/2" from the bottom edge.)





Step 5: At the two ends of the patchwork strip, turn under the raw edge so the strip matches the edge of the dish towel.

Step 6: Sew close to the folded edge along all four sides of the patchwork strip.

Optional Step: You may also want to sew along the seams between the patches. This is called "Stitching in the Ditch," and it will help the patchwork lay flatter through future washing and drying.







Felt Halloween Bag

by Joelle Groendes,

This adorable bag is just the thing for Halloween! And it's easy to make with materials you likely have in your stash right now.



Supplies Needed:

- 2 large pieces of felt, same color
- Scraps of various color felt
- Scissors
- Needle and thread
- Beads, sequins, buttons
- Cord or yarn for strap

How To Make:

Step 1: Cut out the shapes on the next page and transfer them to the felt. Cut the Head shape from each of your two large pieces of felt. Cut the Eyes, Teeth, and Mouth from your scraps of felt, using colors of your choice.

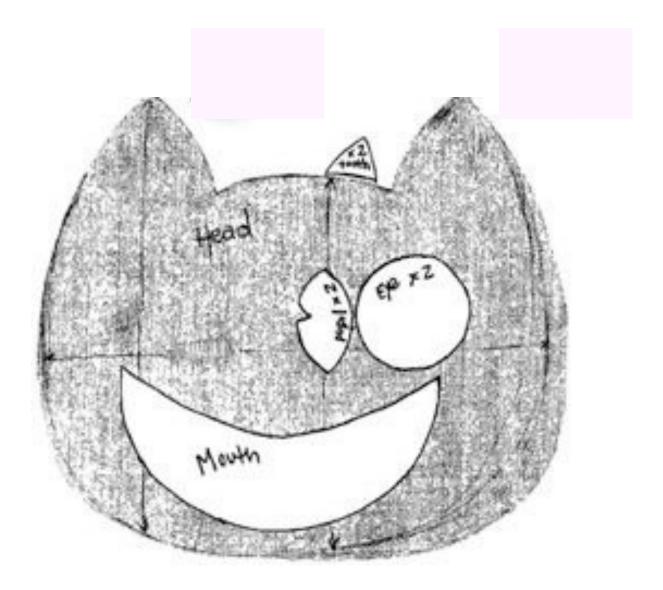
Step 2: Sew the Eye, Tooth, and Mouth pieces to one of the head pieces, using a blanket stitch or whip stitch. (You can also glue these down.)

Step 3: Decorate the face with beads, sequins, ric rac - anything you like! You can sew or glue these embellishments in place.

Step 4: Sew the two Head pieces together along the sidea, leaving an opening between the two ears. You can use blanket stitch or whip stitch. At the top opening, you might also want to stitch along the edge of each layer of felt, to give the bag a more finished look.

Step 5: Attach the ends of the strap to the inner corner of each ear, using the photo above for placement. Secure it with small whip stitches.

Felt Halloween Bag Pattern:



Feel free to increase or decrease the size on a copier.



Cute Cupcake Iron-On Patch

by Christine Blystone

What a cute embellishment for any garment, bag, or pillow! (And you can probably find a whole lot of other places to use it.)



Supplies Needed:

- Felt in three colors of your choice
- Red felt (for the cherry)
- Straight pins
- Sewing machine & thread
- Ric Rac, 3 1/3"
- Embroidery thread, several colors (see below)
- Scissors

- Heat-n-Bond Ultra Hold
- Embroidery needle
- Iron & ironing board

How To Make:

Step 1: Use the pattern pieces on page 15 to cut the following pieces out of felt:

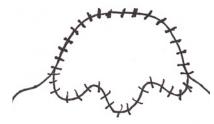
- Pattern piece 1: Cupcake wrapper (Color C)
- Pattern piece 2: Cake (Color A)
- Pattern piece 3: Frosting (Color B)
- Pattern Piece 4: Cherry (Red)



Step 2: Using your sewing machine, sew lines onto the front of the felt cupcake wrapper (Pattern piece 1), using this image as a guide.

Step 3: Pin the felt cake (Pattern piece 2) to the front of the felt cupcake wrapper (Pattern piece 1). Pattern piece 2 should overlap Pattern piece 1 about 1/4". Using an embroidery needle and the embroidery thread that matches Color A, hand-sew the cake in place using a Running Stitch. Stitches that appear on the front of the cupcake should be small (about 1-2 cm long), so they can be covered later by ric rac. the goal is to baste the cake in place so it doesn't shift, using the fewest visible stitches on the front as possible.

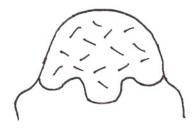




Step 4: Pin the felt frosting (Pattern piece 3) to the front of the felt cake (Pattern piece 2), lining up all edges on the top curve of the cupcake. Using an embroidery needle, and embroidery thread that matches color B, stitch the frosting into place, using an Overcast Stitch. To make an overcast stitch, make diagonal stitches over the raw edges of the felt, spacing them equally. Be careful not to pull these stitches too tight. Use the diagram as a guide.

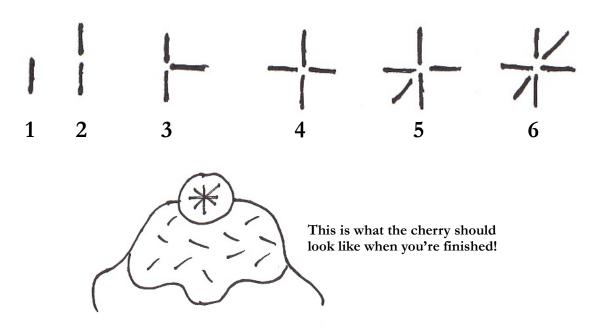
Step 5: Pin the ric rac over the seam that connects the felt cake (Pattern piece 2) to the wrapper (Pattern piece 1). Using an embroidery needle and the embroidery thread that matches Color C, hand-sew the ric rac in place, making sure to fold the ends of the ric rac behind the seams as you sew. Use the diagram as a guide. (Note: a basic Strsight Stitch will work for this step.)





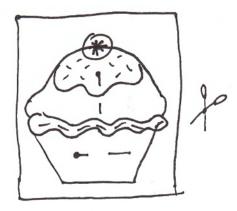
Step 6: Using an embroidery needle and embroidery thread, stitch sprinkles into the felt frosting. You can stitch as many sprinkles as you like, using as many different colors as you like. I like to keep my sprinkles about 1/4" in length, but feel free to experiment!

Step 7: Take the felt cherry (Pattern piece 4), and center it on the top of the cupcake. make sure the bottom half of the cherry is overlapping the top of the cupcake. Pinch the cherry in place using your thumb and index finger. Now, stitch the cherry in place using an embroidery needle and red embroidery thread. For this step, use a Starburst Stitch. The steps are outlined below:



Step 8: We're almost done! Set up your ironing board. Set your iron to the Wool/Cotton setting. For this project, do not use steam. Place a scrap piece of fabric a little larger than the finished cupcake on your ironing board.

Now take your cupcake and pin it to the rougher side of the Heat-n-Bond that's not covered in paper. (Leave the paper backing in place on the other side of the Heat-n-Bond.) Cut the Heat-n-Bond as close to the edge of the felt as possible. Once you've finished cutting the Heat-n-Bond, keep the cupcake pinned to it. Bring the whole thing to the ironing board, and place it face up on the scrap piece of fabric. Gently remove your pins, taking care not to disturb the alignment of the Heat-n-Bond.



Place the iron on top of the cupcake. Don't wiggle the iron - just leave it in place for 10 seconds, using firm pressure.

CAUTION: The cupcake will be extremely hot! Allow it to cool for two minutes before you handle it. Not all of the Heat-n-Bond will be attached to the cupcake after ironing. Gently flip the cupcake over so the paper backing of the Heat-n-Bond is facing up. Using firm pressure, iron all over the cupcake for about 20 seconds, making sure to iron over all the edges. Again, the cupcake will be extremely hot after ironing! Allow it to cool for a full 10 minutes before handling it.

Step 9: Once the patch has cooled, inspect it. If there are any extra bits of Heat-n-Bond sticking out from the edges of the patch, carefully trim them away with scissors.

Congratulations! You've just made a cupcake iron-on patch! Now you're ready to attach it to something!

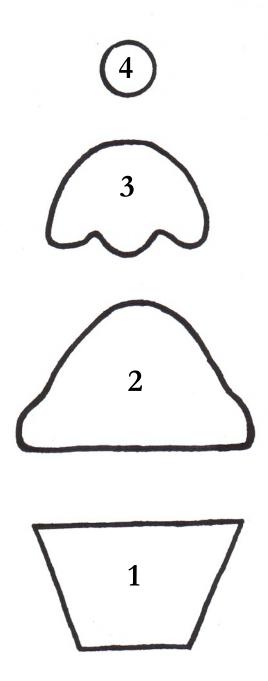


ATTACH YOUR PATCH:

- **Step 1:** Remove the paper backing from your patch by gently peeling the paper off.
- Step 2: Preset your iron to the Medium (Cotton/Wool) setting. Do not use steam.
- Step 3: When your iron is completely heated, place your patch where you want it on your garment or bag.
- Step 4: Place the iron on top of the patch and hold it there for five seconds to lightly secure the patch in place.
- **Step 5:** Gently but firmly iron all over your patch for 30 seconds.
- **Step 6:** Allow the patch to cool completely (2 to 5 minutes).
- Step 7: Carefully turn the garment inside out, and then iron the back side of the patch for another 30 seconds.
- **Step 8:** Allow the patch to cool completely (2 to 5 minutes).
- **Step 9:** Turn your garment right side out, and inspect your patch. If there are places that are not fully secured to the garment, iron them again for a few seconds each until they are firmly attached. Let the patch cool again (2 to 5 minutes).
- **Step 10:** Be the coolest guy or gal on the block with your new custom garment!

Felt Cupcake Pattern Pieces:

Feel free to increase or decrease the size on a copier.





Jersey Doily Scarf

by Bridget Benton

I can't crochet, but I can sure as heck buy crocheted doilies from the Knittn' Kitten, and experiment with 100 ways to get them off the couch and onto my clothes. I heartily encourage you to do the same!



Supplies Needed:

- 3-6 doilies in a variety of sizes
- 3 large T-shirts or 1.5 yds jersey fabric, coordinating colors
- Scissors

- Sewing machine, thread
- Straight pins
- Tape measure

How To Make:





Step 1: Fold the fabric over double, and pin doilies to the fabric. Use the doily as a pattern to cut out shapes from the jersey. For a 6.5 foot scarf, you will need approximately 6 large shapes, 15 medium shapes, and 15 small shapes.

Step 2: Using a tape measure as your guide, lay out all of your large pieces and as many of your medium pieces as needed on either end to reach your desired length. Overlap the pieces by about an inch





Step 3: Now, add a layer of small and medium shapes on top of your first layer. Arrange them in a way that is pleasing to you. You will be sewing a long seam down the center, so try to ensure that you have at least two layers of jersey in every spot that you will be sewing.



Step 4: As a final touch, incorporate some doilies into the design. Soft, draping ones will work best. Pin the pieces in place down the center. If you know the fiber content of your doilies, you might even try dyeing them to match your fabric. (Most fabric paints will make them too stiff) Or, pick your fabric to match the doilies!

Step 5: Using a sewing machine, stitch a single seam down the center of the scarf. Back-stitch the beginning and end of the seam to secure the thread. And you're done! Or, you're only just beginning...



More options: using doilies (or lace!) as stencils...



As part of my doily love, I played with using a spray-on fabric paint called "Simply Spray Stencil Paint" that I found at Jo-Ann Fabrics.

I just laid the doilies down on a t-shirt in the desired pattern, and sprayed the stencil paint over the doilies per the instructions on the can!

With gloved hands, I lifted the doilies off, and they left a beautiful pattern behind! I let it dry, and poof, I had an instantly cooler t-shirt. I encourage you to try this with lace and other odd bits you find!



The only bad news? The stencil spray renders the doilies too stiff for putting into clothes. Good news? You now have reusable stencils!







Fabric & Button Pincushion

by Susan Beal

This is a quick, easy, and inexpensive holiday gift that's perfect for all the seamsters and seamstresses on your list! Try making it with different fabrics for the front and back and using contrast thread and button colors for a fun effect.



Supplies Needed:

- Piece of woven cotton fabric
- Piece of corduroy fabric
- Sewing machine & thread
- Two buttons: one small, one medium
- Polyfill batting
- Scissors

- Pinking shears
- Straight pins

How To Make:

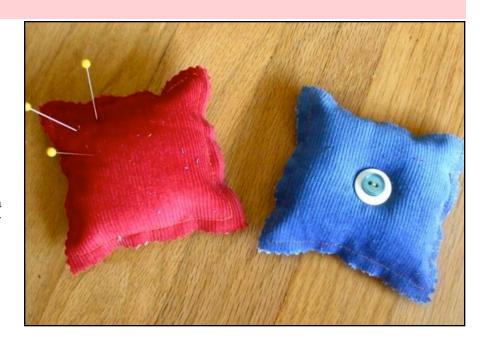
Step 1: Pin the two layers of fabric together, right sides out, and cut out two approximately 4-inch squares. Sew (by hand or with your machine) around the perimeter of the square, about 3/8 inch in from the edge. Leave a 2-inch opening in the center of one side. Backstitch at the beginning and end of your seam to hold it.

- Step 2: Stuff the pincushion full of batting, using a chopstick to push it into each corner if needed.
- **Step 3:** Pin the opening together and stitch it securely closed.
- **Step 4:** Trim the edges of the pincushion with pinking shears.
- **Step 5:** Stick a few pins in it and you're done!

(Some variations on the next page!)

Fun Variations on the Fabric & Button Pincushion:

Tufted Pincushion: For the tufted version, stitch through the center of the pincushion and double back through to draw the fabric together there. Now place one medium-sized button on the first side and stitch it on. When your needle comes through to the other side, stitch on a second matching button there. After a few stitches through, layer smaller buttons on the medium-sized ones and stitch those on as well if you like!



Button-Adorned Pincushion: For the button-ornamented version, just choose a couple of favorites and sew them onto the front of the pincushion wherever you like, attaching them to the surface instead of stitching all the way through to form a tuft, leaving the back plain.

More customizing ideas:

- Embroider a friend's initial or add a felt appliqué to your fabric squares before you start sewing.
- Add lavender flowers to the batting and it can double as a sachet for clothes.
- Make pincushions in different sizes or shapes—five or six inches across for a heftier version, two inches across for a teeny-tiny one.



Meet Our Contributors

A little background on the folks who donated these projects to The Knittn' Kitten:





Heather Mann is the founder of Dollar Store Crafts (www.dollarstorecrafts.com), a daily blog devoted to hip crafting at dollar store prices, and editor and publisher of CROQ Zine (www.croqzine.com), a print zine about hip crafting and indie business. She is the founding editor of CraftFail, a community blog devoted to sharing our not-so-successful crafting attempts (www.craftfail.com).



Lee Meredith is the woman behind <u>www.leethal.net</u> - a maker of things who designs knitting patterns, makes yarn and more, writes about craftiness, and takes tons of photos. She loves small, quick projects and has a monthly club with mini-skeins of recycled yarn and knitting patterns which use 15 yards or less. She has also released plenty of larger knit accessory patterns, as well as a full ebook about a new knitting concept she created, called *Game Knitting*!



Teresa Sullivan has exhibited her unique beadwork nationally since 1995 in juried exhibitions and galleries, and took part in an invitational exhibit at Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2008. In 2009 she was awarded a solo exhibit at Mesa Arts Center and is one of 18 artists selected for Interweave's *Beadwork VI: The Beaded Book*. Her work has been published in Lark Books' 500 Beaded Objects, Beadwork magazine, CRAFT magazine, the Dairy Barn's Bead International exhibit catalogs, and 1000 Ideas for Creative Reuse. Visit her online at www.teresasullivanstudio.com.



Diane Gilleland is a crafter, writer, and independent publisher. She produces CraftyPod, a blog and podcast about making stuff. She has published a number of craft-related ebooks, including *Making a Great Blog: a Guide for Creative People*. Visit her online at www.craftypod.com.



As a kid, **Joelle Groendes** had a big orange Kinney's shoe box where she kept all her cherished scraps: felt, googly eyes and pipecleaners. As she got older, she made beaded jewelry for about 8 years. Then she found Craftster.org, which rekindled her love affair with good ol' arts and crafts and helped her rediscover her secret orange craft box. She uses anything she can get her hands on that will stay glued, stitched or hammered together, and has endless hours of fun and excitement seeing what she can come up with next. Visit her online at www.addiepearl.com



Christine Blystone spends most of her time either combing through vintage treasures at antique malls and thrift stores, or expressing her creativity though sewing, embroidery, and jewelry design. Blystone brings these two passions together with Flapper Girl (www.flappergirl.org), a line of cute, retro, and well-crafted designs that are inspired by fabulous second-hand treasures and life in lovely Portland, Oregon.



Bridget Benton loves making stuff, and loves helping other people make stuff. For more about Bridget's artwork and her classes, visit her website at www.eyesaflame.com or her blog at www.eyesaflame.blogspot.com.



Susan Beal is a crafter and writer in Portland and the author of *Button It Up* and *Bead Simple*. She writes about things she likes and projects to make at West Coast Crafty (www.westcoastcrafty.com). Her all-time favorite find at the Kitten is a hot pink vintage sewing box.