**Subject:** News from Double Ewe - Issue 7

# News from Double Ewe

October 1, 2007

Happy October! Today I'm going to skip my little intro, and get right to it because this newsletter is a long one!

**In this issue:**
- Spooktacular Special and Yarn of the Month
- October Classes still open
- New Stuff
- My Favorite Blogs
- Upcoming birthday celebration
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## October's Yarn of the Month: Frog Tree Merino Melange

October's Yarn of the Month comes to us from Peru. **Merino Melange** is a worsted weight 100% merino wool. Super soft, luxurious, it's like knitting with butter and so soft against the skin. Excellent for gift knitting: the warmth of wool with no itchies. Beautiful scarves, mittens, hats, gloves, and so on. Regularly priced at $7.40, get it during the entire month of October for 10% off! And when you're in the shop, take a moment to read Frog Tree's mission statement: you'll feel even better supporting them.

## Spooktacular Special

During the month of October, all orange yarn will be 10% off (while supplies last). So, get ready to knit some pumpkins!

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## October Classes

We still have openings in the following classes in October:

Knitter's Choice (Tues mornings)
Hats & Mittens on Straight Needles (Weds evenings)
Knitter's Choice (Thurs evenings)
Handknit Socks (Thurs mornings)
Knitting 102 - Getting Fancy (Fri mornings)
Knitting 102 - Getting Fancy (Sat afternoons)
Knitting Pure & Simple Sweater (Mon evenings)
Hats for Everyone (Weds evenings)

For details about the classes, visit our website at http://www.double-ewe-yarn.com/Calendar.htm, or give me a call at 763.780.2465.

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## More New Stuff

**Frog Tree Merino Melange** - 100% merino wool (worsted). This months YOTM, so you can read about it above. Love it.

**Frog Tree Alpaca Fingering** - 100% alpaca (fingering). Alpaca fibers are called the "Gold of the Andes" because of their silky feel and lustrous tones. Great for lace, lightweight garments, heirloom baby items, even mittens; the very soft fibers make it easy to work with.

**Life Style from Zitron** - A buttery-soft, self-patterning 100% merino yarn (fingering). Makes beautiful socks or other fine-gauge garments. Or try a pair of mittens carrying along a strand of Kid Merino - beautiful! My supply of this yarn is going fast, but more is on the way!

**Cleckheaton Country 8-Ply** - 100% superwash wool (worsted). It knits up beautifully, and is smooth and comfortable against the skin. Great if you like natural fibers but also want easy care. Light-weight sweaters, children's & baby garments, accessories, etc.

**Sox Appeal** - 96% superwash merino with a touch of nylon & elastic (fingering). This is a springy & subtly textured sock yarn that makes cushy & comfy socks that hug your feet.

**Patterns**
I've been building up my pattern stock, and this month I've brought in a few more independent designers:
**Hyphen Boy Designs** (www.hyphenboydesigns.com)
**Knitting at KNoon** (www.knittingatknoon.com)
**The Heritage Knitter** (www.heirloomknitter.com)

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## On the Internet - Knitting Blogs

Last month, I shared some of my favorite online pattern resources. (Did you see the new October Magknits.com?) This month, I thought I'd share a few of my favorite blogs with you.

What is a blog? To paraphrase Blogger.com, a blog is "a personal diary ... a daily pulpit ... your own private thoughts ... memos to the world ... there are no real rules ... In simple terms, a blog is a web site, where you write stuff on an ongoing basis. New stuff shows up at the top, so your visitors can read what's new. Then they comment on it or link to it or email you. Or not." And a knit blog is all of the above, with knitting content. And usually photos, too.

It's fun to see what other knitters are working on, and they're nice enough to give us a peek into their lives. Some of them are nationally popular, but then a lot of them are more local or obsure. When I first started putting together a list of my favorites, it very started getting very long very quickly. I had intended to write a little description for each of them, but I've changed my mind; I'll let them speak for themselves:

http://www.masondixonknitting.com/
http://mysteryhouse.typepad.com/miss_ts_mystery_house_of_/
http://www.modeknit.com/blog/
http://wendyknits.net/
http://www.yarnharlot.ca/blog/
http://www.claudiasblog.net/
http://www.crazyauntpurl.com/
http://www.grumperina.com/knitblog/

And if you want to stay local, here's a list of Minnesota knitters with blogs: http://www.ringsurf.com/netring?ring=mnknit;action=list - as of today, there are 66 on the list!

If this all seems so overwhelming, check out Bloglines.com. It's a free website that will let you know when your favorite blog has been updated.

There's so much more I could say about blogs, but I shouldn't take up any more of your time; you've got reading to do. (Oh, and I have a silly little blog, too, at www.double-ewe-yarn.com/blog.) Remember: Anyone can have a blog. Even you.

Next month: Ravelry.com (that is, if I get my invite! I've got 2,004 people ahead of me.)

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## One Year?

We're coming up on our first anniversary. I've been calling it an anniversary, but I think I'll start calling it a birthday. The shop is more like a baby than a marriage to me: I quit my job to stay home with it, I don't get enough sleep so I'm tired all the time, and it's growing. (Plus, calling it a birthday opens up the opportunity for all kinds of fun puns, like "Happy birthday two ewes", and dumb stuff like that.)

I'm working on planning a One Year Extravaganzapaloozathon. OK, maybe it won't be *that* big of a deal, but I know it will involve food, prizes and probably balloons. Beyond that, I still have some details to work out. Our actual anniversary is November 1st, so we'll be celebrating that whole week (October 30th - November 3rd). More info to come...

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## Guest Columnist

And last, but certainly not least, I'm adding a new feature to my little newsletter: Guest Columnist
Each month, I'd like to feature a guest columnist. Maybe you like to write, but don't have the time to commit to a knit blog. I'd love to to see personal essays, technique articles, and book reviews. Tell us about your visit to a woolen mill or to an alpaca farm. Share your personal knitting trials and successes. If you're interested in contributing, just email me at kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com. Don't be shy!

This month, Sharon Knutson tackles sock knitting...

**The Quest for the Perfect Pair of Socks**
**by Sharon Knutson**

My knitter's quest is to one day make the perfect pair of socks. I'm new to sock knitting, actually relatively new to knitting in general. I learned to knit and crochet years ago, made scarves but that was it. Early this year I re-discovered knitting and threw myself whole-heartedly into sitting with sticks and string and creating "things". I made baby hats, baby sweaters, booties, thumbless mittens (funny thing is, I don't have a baby!) and shawls and was oh so pleased with myself.

I kept hearing about making socks, but thought it was beyond my skill level. Until one day I stumbled into my LYS's sock section. Who knew? The colors were amazing: variegated, solid, self-striping and more. Wool, cotton, bamboo (who knew?). I was hooked. I bought a simple sock pattern and some pretty squooishy sock yarn and what looked like the TINIEST needles (FIVE? At the same time?) and went home.

My first pair of socks was thrilling and I felt oh so clever. I knit, I measured, I knit some more, I followed the directions carefully, marveling at what was coming off my needles row by row. It looked like a sock! I finished and chortled as I slid it on only to discover somewhere between the measuring and the knitting I made a sock for a giant! Now, I do have big feet but these were flapping duck feet!

Undeterred, I tried again. My oldest daughter picked a soft creamy peach and green sherbet yarn. I measured her feet, then traced her foot, marking her toes, knit, re-measured, knit more, had her try them on and believed I was on my way to that perfect sock. I finished the second pair, gave them to her with joy, knowing I had made her the perfect sock. She took them, said they were nice and gave them to her little sister. Sigh, a second pair of flapping duck feet in the family.

I am stubborn; I will make a perfect pair of socks! So I started a pair for my five-year-old daughter, since the flapping pair of duck socks from her sister overflowed out the tops and sides of her shoes. I'm feeling more comfortable if not confident in my measuring and so I threw caution to the wind and made a few changes to the pattern. The socks she picked out used 3 different sizes of needles, I went down a size in each since she is just five and I wanted them to fit. NO DUCK FEET this time. I slowly and methodically worked on one, had her try it on several times (broke one needle when I forced it over her foot only to hear a snap as I slid it on, foot was fine, but needle was in two pieces) finished the

first sock, she tried it on and IT FIT!  Curved around her toes, hugged her heel snuggly, but not too snuggly.  Not a flap around any portion of her foot.  I'm so excited I immediately start the second one.  I finished in record time, put them side by side, and looked carefully...and it dawned on me, one was fatter than the other; I had not written down when I changed to each different size needle.  Clearly one foot was done in a different size needle than the first one.  But I'm triumphant...NO DUCK FEET!

Although I have conquered the duck foot syndrome in our family, I'm still on the quest to achieve a PAIR of perfectly knitted socks.

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Thanks to all of you for supporting Double Ewe in it's first year.  What a blast it's been!

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