

Contributor Guidelines for *Interweave Knits*

Updated May 2010

Thank you for your interest in designing and/or writing for *Interweave Knits*. Following are our submission guidelines and deadlines.

About *Knits*: *Interweave Knits* is a quarterly publication of Interweave Press for all those who love to knit. In each issue we present beautifully finished projects, accompanied by clear step-by-step instruction, and stories and articles of interest to knitters. The projects range from quick but intriguing items that can be accomplished in a weekend, to complex patterns that may take months to complete. Feature articles (personally arresting but information-rich) come from around the country and around the world. Fashion sensibility and striking examples of craft technique are important to us. *Interweave Knits* is published quarterly. Issues are planned six to twelve months in advance. All written queries and all submissions for the magazine should go to:

Editors, Interweave Knits
Interweave Press
201 East Fourth Street
Loveland, CO 80537

PLEASE NOTE: Do not send submissions to Eunny Jang.

Hard-copy submissions to the address above are strongly preferred. Do not send email submissions without prior notice.

All Submissions Packages: We expect that the project you ask us to consider has not been published nor is it presently submitted elsewhere. If any part of your submission has been published previously, please let us know when and by whom (this includes photographs on your blog or on social networking sites). If we have not worked with you before, please include a few knitting-focused words about yourself (this is to help us to get a feel for your sensibilities; if you are a new designer, don't worry—we're always looking for new talent and will not turn you away because you don't have a lot of professional experience). Please label each sheet in your package with your name and all forms of contact information.

Remember that your submission is a representation of who you are and how you work—if you send us a thoughtful, neat, and well-organized submission, we are likely to be intrigued.

Knitted Designs: Send a detailed proposal—generous swatch, written description, and sketches—that will give us a clear idea of what to expect in a finished piece. If we accept your proposal, and once we've discussed any editorial adjustments to the project concept and agreed on the details, you will begin work on the project and instructions.

We are always looking for designs that represent the intersection of the following: what

we love to knit; what we love in fashion; and what we love to wear or that with which we love to decorate our homes. We would like to see projects in all types of fibers at all levels of challenge, for women, children, men, and the home. We are captivated by projects that teach us something new and also by projects that are ingenious in some way (an interesting closure, a deceptively simple stitch pattern, an unexpected colorway, etc.). Most importantly, we ask you to use your imagination and to submit ideas that you believe in strongly.

Specific pointers for crafting a design submission:

- Let our storyboards inspire you, but please do read them carefully first. Each issue's stories are knitting-driven, inspired by a single technique, yarn, textile effect, or tradition rather than a fashion trend or palette. Stories may have additional aesthetic guidelines, but the knitting is first and foremost.
- Your swatch should be of a healthy size, and in a yarn appropriate to the design. Some words about the yarn choice (i.e., "This top relies on an open stitch and a fluid, inelastic yarn to make the blouson waist drape properly. A linen or bamboo in worsted or lighter weight would be ideal") makes the package feel well-thought out and cohesive, and helps in making editorial yarn choices. **Do not send finished garments or projects that need to be returned.** (*Submission materials for projects that are accepted for publication do not get returned.*)
- Include a realistic schematic, or at least a list of key measurements for one size. If a garment employs a unique construction or shape, be sure to illustrate how the pieces go together and how they work on the body.
- Submission materials for projects we cannot accept will be returned, but we may not be able to make a decision right away. Please do not send full garments or prototypes that need to be returned immediately.

Articles: We are interested in articles of all lengths on a broad range of topics, including technical pieces; profiles of inspiring knitwear designers and others in textile industries; and features about regions of the world where knitting has played or continues to play an important role. We take knitting seriously and want articles that do the same. The best way to understand what we're looking for is to read a recent issue of the magazine carefully. For all article queries, send a detailed proposal: For shorter submissions, a brief description will do; for feature articles, send an outline and a sample paragraph or two. If the proposal is accepted, and once we've made any adjustments to the concept and agreed on the details, you will begin work on the article.

Departments open for submissions:

- **News and Views** presents readers with a *Knits* guide to all things new and notable in knitting. N&V covers a wide spectrum of topics, from products and yarns the knitting consumer should know about, to news items and short articles that

educate and inform, to pieces that highlight and build the *Interweave Knits* community. Consider submitting for:

- **Knitted Artifact**—this short column examines a knitted artifact, exploring the societal and cultural importance of the craft, and at the same time provides historical technical information of interest to handknitters. Simultaneous submission of a modern interpretation of the artifact as a knitted design project is a major asset. Image sourcing is a plus. 250-300 words.
- **Where it Comes From**—this short department informs and educates readers about fiber and yarn; topics covered may include manufacture, processing, or even fiber growing or raising. Select one focus. 250-300 words.
- **Yarn Review** is a guide to a fiber or type of yarn and what it can do. Broader in scope than shorter departments about yarn, Yarn Review is about yarns and the actual experience of knitting with them. 1200-1400 words.
- **Profiles** usually showcase a designer, providing insight into his or her design process and giving biographical context to his or her designs. Consider handknitting designers; textile artists who use knitting in an interesting way; fashion designers with strong knitting backgrounds. Being able to take or source photographs is helpful. 1500-1800 words.
- **Beyond the Basics** serves readers with useful, accurate, high-quality technical information they will refer to for years. You may highlight new or esoteric techniques or provide a new way of approaching an old one; write a heavily technique-driven article with step-by-step instructions or a more concept-driven article that provides insight into how to *think* about knitting. Both new and long-time knitters should be able to benefit from the article; even if a technique is already familiar to a reader, the presentation or approach might interest him or her. Simultaneous submission of a project that uses the techniques described is a big asset. 2000-2200 words.
- **Ravelings** is a look at the personal side of knitting. Share funny, sad, quirky, or otherwise interesting insights that readers will intrigue readers; we look for clear, engaging writing that avoids cliché. Send whole articles, please. 700-750 words.
- **Other features** might include historical pieces inspired by an artifact, story, or photograph; coverage of the handknitting industry that is of interest to knitters; conversations with interesting figures in the knitting world; or anything else that you think will capture readers' interest.

Acceptance and Payment: Receipt of your submission will be promptly acknowledged, but we may not be able to make a decision about its use right away. Please be patient. At

the earliest, expect to hear from the *Knits* editors approximately six weeks after submissions materials are due. Submissions for both articles and projects are sometimes held for future issues; you will be notified if this is the case.

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Upon acceptance of your work and before your work is published, you will receive a contract stating the terms of acceptance for you to sign. All payments are made upon publication.