

Saving the planet can be a tough job. Why not refuel with earth-friendly knit lit?



THE YARN LOVER'S GUIDE TO HAND DYEING

By Linda LaBelle
(Potter Craft, \$30)

Projects: 21 heavenly-hued hats, scarves, socks, baby knits, leg warmers and more.

Color me natural: DIY yarn-dyeing diva LaBelle delves into a variety of fiber dyes, everything from Kool-Aid and food coloring to acids, dissecting their properties and presenting an array of techniques that any

crafters can master. Interviews and savvy advice from some of the industry's top professionals give experts and newbies alike an all-access guide to the colorful world of hand-dyeing.

Editors' pick: Start Baby off on a green foot with a precious pair of eucalyptus-dyed booties.



TOILET ROLL COVERS

By Pat Ashforth and Steve Plummer
(GMC Publications, \$14.95)

Projects: A wide-ranging 30 **The roll-istic approach:** Considering all that toilet paper has done for you, don't you think it's time to return the favor? Keep your Charmin snug—and

dust-free—inside a skillfully stitched cozy. Featuring funky patterns (as tasseled monkey, for one) for both knitters and crocheters, this quirky collection boasts clear illustrations, easy-to-follow instructions and a comprehensive techniques section, making it 100 percent beginner-friendly.

Editors' pick: A springtime cozy adorned with crocheted flowers—because an embellished TP roll is a happy TP roll.



BAG STYLE

By Pam Allen and Ann Budd
(Interweave Press, \$21.95)

Projects: More than 20, from the traditional to the innovative

Tote-ally eco-friendly: Bag ladies, this one's for you. With tempting, trend-conscious designs from the likes of Norah Gaughan, Kristin Nicholas and Véronik Avery, *Bag Style* indulges knitters with a gamut of stitch-worthy carryalls. Balance your

chakras with a colorful yoga-mat tote; a linen tube clutch will keep your nightlife natural; and the beautifully cabled Zenith carpetbag can go casual or corporate. The Design Notebook section explains the principles behind all the basic shapes, so don't be intimidated—this one's in the bag.

Editors' pick: Paper or plastic? Try hemp! Stash your whole foods in a super-green market bag.

VOGUE KNITTING ON THE GO! FELTED CROCHET and CABLES: MITTENS, HATS & SCARVES

(Sixth&Spring Books, \$12.95 each)
Projects: 20ish fab portables in each **Going...going...green!** Whether you're carpooling, riding the subway or catching the bus, a conscientious commute is the perfect time to catch up on your stitchery. Chock-full of the thorough

how-tos you've come to expect from the On the Go! series, these two new installments will have you crocheting and cabling with ease. Choose from fingerless gloves, quick and easy caps, a fashionable neck warmer and even a set of baskets. These pint-sized tomes pack a mean punch.

Editors' picks: Felt yourself a super-sturdy messenger bag, stitch up some self-striping gantlets and hit the streets in style.



THE KNITTER'S BOOK OF YARN

By Clara Parkes
(Potter Craft, \$30)

Projects: 40 from the industry's finest **An inconvenient truth:** You think you know—but in fact you have no idea if that new skein of yarn will end up looking (or feeling, or fitting) fab when your project comes

off your needles. Knitting maven Clara Parkes, editor of the influential *Knitter's Review*, is here to teach you some yarn sense. This bible on yarn and its behaviors will school you in selecting the perfect fibers with confidence. Plus, 40 must-make projects are specially designed to showcase each yarn type's best qualities.

Editors' pick: Jennifer Hagan's whisper-soft cardigan looks and feels lush in organic cotton.



KIKI'S HATS

By Warren Hanson
(Tristan Publishing, \$16.95)

Looking ahead: What could be better than hand-stitching a cute-as-can-be knit cap? Giving it away. This endearing story stars spunky Kiki, who cheerfully knits mountains of hats and, with the help of neighborhood kids, donates them to people around the globe. Kiki's tireless spirit reminds kids of all ages that taking

care of our planet means taking care of each other. The story is based on the author's real-life neighbor, whose knitting and giving is nothing short of inspirational. Visit kikishats.com for more info on how you can give back.