

# *A Treasury of Magical Knitting*



*by  
Cat Bordhí*

COMPLIMENTARY SAMPLE OF CAT BORDHI'S NEW KNITTING BOOK  
THE CHAPTERS IN THE SAMPLER ARE INCOMPLETE.  
TO SEE THE ENTIRE BOOK, VISIT YOUR LOCAL YARN SHOP OR BOOKSTORE.

*A Treasury of  
Magical Knitting*  
by Cat Bordhi



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*In magical knitting, thinking relaxes into "seeing". You allow yourself to be carried forward, one stitch at a time, with no effort or worry.*

Magical Knitting Workshop student, Seattle, WA

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the world of magical knitting, where graceful shapes flow from your needles – even if you're not quite sure how you got here from there.

I first encountered the form that inspired magical knitting while teaching elementary school, searching for ways to engage my youngsters with the beauty of mathematical shapes.

Once I brought this mysterious form into the classroom, it enchanted us all, and we spent hours exploring its nature. But we could only go so far, because we were making models with paper, pencils, scissors, and tape. It was not until years later, when I experimented with knitting this form, that it stretched and swayed and truly came to life, inviting me to enter its delightful dimensions with all my senses alert. After several years of playing with it, I can tell you it is mysterious and above all else, simple.

I'm going to introduce you step by step to this magical form as if you were one of my students. Later I'll tell you a story about the German man who discovered it over a century ago, and then you'll be ready to start knitting your first one.

Please find a pencil or pen, scissors, tape, and a sheet of blank paper.

Cut a long, narrow rectangle of paper.



Write “I love to knit because . . .” starting at the bottom left corner of the strip, along the bottom edge.



Hold the ends of the strip together so they resemble a ring.

Carefully turn one end over so that the “wrong side” meets the “right side.” Tape the ends together.



Now finish writing your sentence about why you love to knit, staying right along the bottom edge. Keep adding reasons you love to knit until something stops you.

Can you figure out what happened?

How many *sides* are there on what only moments ago was an ordinary, two-sided strip of paper?

Now examine the *edge* of the twisted ring. What does your long “I love to knit because . . .” sentence reveal? How many edges are there?

The strip’s two original sides have merged to become one side (one surface) and the two long edges are now one twice-as-long edge. Like magic!



Just for fun, try this: Can you color the paper blue on the outside and red on the inside? If you succeed, let me know, and I’ll send you a prize.

Just wait until we apply these mysterious qualities to knitting. In the first *Treasury of Magical Knitting*, we’ll knit scarves from the center out in one fell swoop, capes with transforming collars, hats with endless beginnings, and felted boots with no inside or outside, although your feet won’t know it.

*The Second Treasury of Magical Knitting* expands on what you learn in this book, and is filled with felted and unfelted bags, baskets, bowls, and cat beds, which I’m sorry to say, also have no inside or outside, but your cat will not fall out of them.



*This is what I've been waiting for! A way to knit a real Moebius that works!*  
Magical Knitting Workshop student, Gig Harbor, WA

*What's the big deal about Moebius knitting? You just knit a long rectangle,  
twist one end, and graft them together. Or is there something I don't know?*  
an uninitiated knitter

## CHAPTER ONE — TECHNIQUES, AND ONE TOOL

**I**n 1858, when Helga knit her Moebius scarves, she had to not only invent circular needles, but invent one with a long enough string, or cable, to make it possible to knit a Moebius in the magical way. She only grafted one Moebius scarf in her life – the one with August's formula on it. After that, she used her cello-string device to knit Moebius scarves in one fell swoop, just as we are going to. Something as flowing and graceful as a Moebius ought not to be interrupted by a seam.

I'd like to dispel a myth believed by many knitters somewhat familiar with Moebius scarves, who think they have knitted them on needles as short as sixteen inches.

Circular knitting instructions usually warn against twisting the stitches when joining. But if this dreaded twisting occurs, the curled piece of knitting you end up with is *not* a Moebius. If you've done the paper and tape exercises in the introduction, you may understand why this cannot be true.

A twisted line of stitches, joined and knit upward, has two separate edges – one cast-on (the bottom) and one bound-off (the top). It cannot be a Moebius, which has only one edge. In addition, this sorry



*Moguls Moebius Scarf, page 35*

piece of knitting will be found to have two sides, twice as many as the mysterious Moebius. It also has a 360° (full) twist instead of a 180° (half) twist. And it will not fall very gracefully, with such a lot of twist.

Elizabeth Zimmerman was the first person to introduce the charm and wonders of the Moebius to knitters, in her book, *Knitting Around*, in 1989. If you read her narrative, you'll feel her excitement, and see that she, too, quickly determined that this form could not be knit by simply twisting a join. Instead, she grafted a rectangular strip with a half-twist, thereby eliminating one surface and one edge. Her beautiful scarf has inspired thousands of knitters, and her graft is no doubt impossible to find. However, this practical method does not lead to the delightful knitter's playground of our magical one-fell-swoop Moebius.

When you knit a Moebius in one continuous flow of stitches, you find beautiful patterns emerging naturally and symmetrically from the center out, with very little effort or attention on your part. Since you have only one edge to finish, you'll never have a bound-off side tighter than the cast-on. And you'll never find your cast-on at all, because it's swallowed up in the center of the scarf. Beginning and end are swallowed up as well.

But most of all, and this is hard to explain, there is simply a joy and peacefulness in allowing the true Moebius to do all the work for you. You'll have to find this out for yourself, by knitting one.

### ONE EDGE, ONE SURFACE, & ONE TOOL

A long circular needle between 47" and 60" long is probably the only tool you need to buy for knitting the designs in this book. Addi Turbo needles, both metal and bamboo, are available in these lengths, Crystal Palace bamboo needles come in a 55" length, and you can purchase a Denise Needle Kit with additional longer cables which will give you all the sizes you need to knit everything in both *Treasuries*. Your knitting will be a little slower with the Denise needles because the cable is thicker, and you will have to frequently push your stitches around the long path they follow.

Why do you need such a long needle? Because it will work in a coiled position, like so:



The needle tips must be able to work together, and shorter needles simply do not offer enough cable length to permit them to work together. It is *possible* to use a 36" or 40" length to knit a Moebius, although they will push back against you, and if you have joint problems or arthritis, you should definitely not attempt a Moebius with this shorter length. I recommend them only for the hats, which are best done on a 40" needle. If you already have a 60" needle, you'll find it will work fine for everything in this book except for the hats and the felted boots.

*It's a miracle that simply knitting along, la-dee-dah, turns into this beautiful Moebius.*

Magical Workshop student, Menlo Park, CA

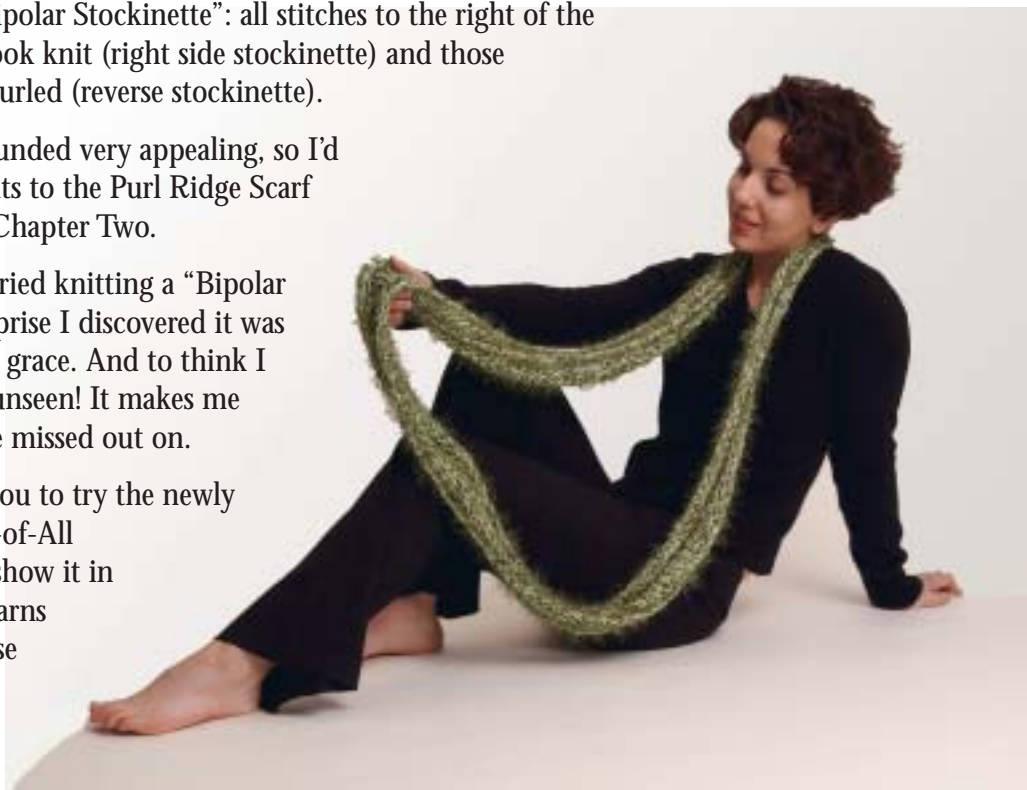
## CHAPTER TWO — SIMPLEST-OF-ALL MOEBIUS SCARF

It wasn't until this book was almost finished that I decided I'd better check that something I'd been telling my Magical Knitting Workshop students was actually true. You see, if you just knit every stitch of a Moebius as it rotates into place between your needles, which every stitch will do without any effort on your part, it ends up as something that one of my students, Morgan Hicks of Seattle, cheerfully labeled "Bipolar Stockinette": all stitches to the right of the Moebius spine will look knit (right side stockinette) and those to the left will look purled (reverse stockinette).

I didn't think that sounded very appealing, so I'd always steered students to the Purl Ridge Scarf which you'll find in Chapter Two.

But when I actually tried knitting a "Bipolar Moebius," to my surprise I discovered it was blessed with a special grace. And to think I had rejected it sight unseen! It makes me wonder what else I've missed out on.

And so I encourage you to try the newly christened "Simplest-of-All Moebius Scarves." I show it in three very different yarns to give you some sense of its range.



## CHOOSING YARNS FOR MOEBIUS SCARVES



If you'd like a lively scarf that sways as you move, look for yarns that have some weight to them, like alpaca, rayon, silk, linen, lustrous wools, and some synthetics. You can also use two strands of yarn, one of them with good drape, the other

one less so. When you knit your swatch, keep going up needle sizes until your fabric is as drapery as you wish. If you'd like your scarf to nestle against you, and stay put, try yarns that are bulkier, fluffier, or a little firmer. When in doubt, go up a needle size, since in general a scarf ought to be loose enough to have some movement.

In the yarn information for each pattern, I include the “wraps per inch” (wpi) of the yarn so you can compare the diameter with other yarns. To measure the wpi of any yarn, simply wrap it around a ruler and gently push the strands together until they cover one inch. The number of wraps in one inch is your wpi. Wrapping a thick rubber band around the ruler at each side of one inch will help make your count more accurate, so that you are sure you are covering exactly one inch.

I recommend you make a gauge swatch approximately 6” wide and 4” inches high. Your swatch will tell you if your fabric feels right, and also give you the number of stitches-per-inch of knitting so you can determine how many to cast on.

### HOW MANY STITCHES SHOULD YOU CAST ON?

I've provided a table on page 20 so you needn't calculate the number of stitches to cast on for knitting a Simplest-of-All Scarf, but it's very simple to do yourself. Just hang a tape measure



*Magical knitting lies somewhere between Star Trek and  
The X-Files – keep knitting, Scully, all will be revealed!*

*Magical Knitting Workshop student, Anacortes, WA*

## CHAPTER THREE – PURL RIDGE MOEBIUS SCARF

**A** Moebius scarf will stay put in a windstorm, and always drape beautifully, flowing around your neck with the sort of graceful curves we normally associate with a stream of water or honey. So here's another basic design for you to try. The Purl Ridge Scarf is nearly as mindless as the Simplest-of-All Scarf, and so beautiful that I happily knit a dozen in a variety of sensual yarns before it occurred to me to explore other designs. One day I was wearing my own favorite, done in Mountain Colors Moguls, when a businessman passed me in a bakery doorway, then wheeled around. "That's a fantastic scarf!" he shouted, and set out into the rainstorm.

### **HERE ARE THE BASIC DIRECTIONS:**

Step 1: Do a Moebius Cast-on.

Step 2: Knit for 1, 2, or 3 rounds.

Step 3: Purl the same number of rounds as above.

Step 4: Repeat steps 2 and 3 until your scarf is wide enough.

Step 5: Bind off.



## SANDSTONE AND SKY FELTED STRIPES

### INTRODUCING THE GLORIES OF FELTING!

Here is a scarf that has been lightly felted in the washing machine. Even if you've never felted before, this is a great first project. In fact, the resulting fabric is so captivating that I often pick this scarf up and begin dreaming of an entire



jacket or vest made of it. It is soft and pliant, like a baby's blanket.

How do you felt? Just knit the scarf, and then put it inside a pillowcase and secure the top shut with one of those big rubber bands that come on broccoli. You want to protect your washing machine from swallowing too much fiber fluff. In Vancouver, British Columbia, long ago, a company that did commercial carding of fleeces actually stopped up the Vancouver sewer system after many months of sending fluff down the drain. Your washing machine feels the same way. So keep that fluff in the pillow case.

Just fill your washing machine with hot water to the low water setting. Add a little bit of laundry soap – about a quarter of what you'd normally use. Add a few other things to bat the pillowcase around (jeans, tennis shoes, or what I use, a half dozen big rubber bouncy balls) and set the dial to agitate. Because the scarf only needs to shrink a little, check it every two minutes. Take it out as soon as the colors merge enough to blur the purl bumps that show on one side of a color change.

Gently rinse the scarf in warm water (not cold, or it will shrink more), and either put it through the spin cycle or just go outside and spin it wildly around your arm, sprinkling the lawn and your dog and making it necessary to wash your windows again. It's more fun to do this but easier to put it through the spin cycle. Then push, pull, and pat the scarf flat and beautiful and lay it somewhere to finish drying, perhaps over the end of the ironing board so the Moebius twist can hang free.

*I don't know what it is about the knitted Moebius, but it keeps recreating itself – there's definitely on-going energy – in perpetual motion.*

artist viewing the Magical Knitting collection, Vancouver, British Columbia

## CHAPTER FOUR – MERCURIAL SHAPES

**A**mong the greatest joys of designing are those sudden Eureka! moments when a window swings open to reveal a whole new realm of possibility. One day a window blew open to show me that the Moebius scarves wanted to leap out of the straight sides I'd kept them in so far, and swell and curve and swim. It's just a matter of sequencing increases on one side of the spine and decreases on the other.

The first “Shaped Moebius” I made was so mesmerizing that I vowed I'd never make a straight one again. Well, I was wrong – but as you will see, these shaped Moebii are absolutely enchanting and they fall in the most unpredictable ways.

I actually came up with the name of the second wrap in this chapter – the Mercurial Moebius – very late one night in December while staying in West Seattle with Virginia Bowen, owner of the Seattle Yarn Gallery, where I was teaching workshops. My students had been urging me to write a book about the magical knitting they were learning, and that night I decided that indeed I would write this book.

I actually had an Ott light beside my bed (such luxury!) and until the wee hours I kept having to hop up and turn it on and write down or draw the designs that were flooding through my head. It was like one of those newsreels of the



*There's linear logic in straight needles, and circular logic in circular needles, but this is something different. It's getting your mind to dance in space, and it feels fantastic.*

*Magical Knitting Workshop student, Anacortes, Washington*

## CHAPTER FIVE – MIRRORED DIAGONALS

You're about to “double your money” as you knit the designs in this chapter. For the “price” of knitting a simple diagonal line of yarn-overs, you'll create a mirror reflection of that diagonal line – and it will become an arrow design, growing from the spine of your Moebius. Yet this intricate-looking scarf has only two pattern rounds to repeat!

It's essential to start with an exact stitch count for the designs in this chapter, so turn off the phone while you cast on and establish the first round. Many of my workshop students have found it helpful to place a marker between each pattern repeat until they become more obvious.

Before beginning this scarf, make a paper Moebius (see page 7) and draw a line around the spine (the midline lengthwise). Now draw diagonal lines from the spine out to the right edge and continue around until you meet your first line again. Examine the other side of the paper, where your diagonal reverses all by itself (if you hold the paper up to the light, you can see the arrow pattern better). This reveals how your arrow will magically appear. The Moebius form is very generous with its gifts, and this is one of them.



## Edging

Continue working with coral.

## Yarn and design suggestions

If you wish to make the scarf longer or shorter, add or subtract 28 stitches from the MCO at a time. This is because the Moebius nature of the scarf requires an odd number of repeats for correct placement along the spine, and a single repeat is 14 stitches. If you were to add 14 sts, the odd number I have established would then be even, so you have to add 2 repeats at a time instead, which is 28 sts. You could make a lovely shorter Moebius – something that would lie around your neck like a loose, lacey collar – on 98 stitches (which is 7 repeats).

Choose yarns which allow you to show off the Arrow Lace pattern – in other words, fairly smooth and not wildly variegated yarns, which may obscure stitch patterns. I plan to try one in Euroflax linen, another in a cotton-rayon blend, and maybe someday, Qiviut!

You could also make the scarf wider so that it is more of a shawl-wrap, or add beads to the little fingertips. I've often thought of running several strands of complementary yarn through the yarn-over holes and knotting the ends into fringe instead of knitting the little fingers. This is a playful scarf – have fun being creative with the basic design.

If you want more mirroring diagonals, there's one appearing as the scarf-collar of the Rimrock Cape in Chapter Nine. Feel free to simply knit the scarf and complete the edging, ignoring the cape directions.

A note for the inquisitive knitter: It *is* possible to knit a diagonal line which remains diagonal *almost* all the way around the Moebius, not becoming an arrow – until it inevitably collides with itself to make a series of stacking arrowheads!



*I love how the lace motifs arrange themselves perfectly around the Moebius. Somehow it reminds me of birds flying in formation.*

Magical Knitting Workshop student, Friday Harbor, WA

## CHAPTER SIX – LACE REFLECTIONS

**A** Moebius scarf lends itself naturally to lace, for even the simplest lace becomes elegant when it blossoms into a mirror reflection of itself. Here you will find two airy shoulder wraps knit in summery fibers. Should you wish a winter Moebius lace wrap, both patterns will do just as well in wool, alpaca, silk, or another warm fiber.

Like the rather lacy diagonal scarves in the previous chapter, you must begin with a precise stitch count for these patterns to come out right. So give yourself uninterrupted time to establish the pattern in the first few rounds. You may want to place a marker between each pattern repeat until they look familiar to you.

Both wraps are shown worn as shoulder wraps, but look beautiful worn as scarves as well.



## REVERSIBLE LOTUS BLOSSOM

*This richly textured hat seems almost sculpted, although it truly is not difficult to make. It is completely reversible, with the design different on each side. Both designs have a lotus-like quality to them. The alpaca yarn comes from Honey Lane Farms on San Juan Island, Washington.*



**Materials:** Honey Lane Farms Alpaca (100% Alpaca, 50 g/ 110 yds, 13 wpi) cinnamon or heathered lilac, 3 skeins

**Needles:** (you may require a different size to get correct gauge) circular size 9 (5.5 mm), 40" length, plus 16" circular or a set of double-pointed needles in same size

**Notions:** tapestry needle, 2 stitch markers in contrasting colors

**Gauge:** 13 sts = 4" (10 cm) with 2 strands of yarn held together, in slightly stretched stockinette

**Finished size:** adult - head circumference 20-23"

**Stitch guide:** See page 111 for abbreviations. See page 60 for how to work with two circular needles.

### **Beginning – Moebius hat-band**

MCO 60. Place marker. Knit 3 rounds. Purl 3 rounds. Knit 3 rounds.

### **Finishing Moebius hat-band**

*Loosely* bind off 60 sts, or use the elastic bind-off: Knit 2, \* replace 2 sts on left needle and knit them together from right to left through back loops, k1, repeat from \*. Bring needle ends together with band pushed below, so needle tips join in a simple circle as shown on page 60.

### **Begin crown**

With 16" circular needle (or set of double-pointeds) and with 3 k rows facing you, p 1 round (use 16" needle to p sts from 40" needle, then put 40"

\*Knit 6, k2tog, repeat from \* 10 more times. (77 sts) Knit 3 rounds.

\*Knit 5, k2tog, repeat from \* 10 times. (66 sts) Knit 2 rounds.

\*Knit 4, k2tog, repeat from \* 10 more times. (55 sts) Knit 3 rounds.

\*Knit 3, k2tog, repeat from \* 10 more times. (44 sts) Knit 2 rounds.

\*Knit 2, k2tog, repeat from \* 10 more times. (33 sts) Knit 3 rounds.

\*Knit 1, k2tog, repeat from \* 10 more times. (22 sts) Knit 2 rounds.

\*Knit 2tog 11 times. (11 sts)

Knit 1, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k2. Cut yarn and thread through final sts, then weave in ends.

#### **Make and attach 15 beaded tresses**

With sandstone and 16" circular or 1 double-pointed needle, cast on 3 sts, leaving 8" tail.

Work free I-cord: \*Slide 3 sts to top of needle, so working yarn comes from bottom of 3<sup>rd</sup> st. Knit 3. Repeat from \* until 7" long. Cut 8" tail, use crochet hook to draw tail through 3 remaining sts. Use crochet hook to draw same tail through a bead, then through bottom of I-cord, through bead again, then weave tail up and down through center of I-cord. Attach beaded tresses: Use remaining tail to sew first beaded tress to inside of hat-band, 4" from center of twist. Sew second beaded tress 4" to other side of center. Sew remaining beaded tresses evenly distributed between the first two.

#### **Yarn and design suggestions**

The Incanto yarn which inspired this hat shimmers with glints of light. As you

ponder other yarn choices, consider doing the hat in one variegated colorway with contrasting-colored beads – perhaps a lavender-hued colorway with snow white beads? Experiment! A winter version could be done in fine wool. The beaded tresses may also be knit shorter or longer, as you wish. You might also layer the tresses, make them a lot longer, then pull them into two braids. Have fun with your hand-knit hair!

In *The Second Treasury of Magical Knitting*, the techniques from this chapter evolve into felted bowls and feline bliss beds, like the one shown below. Here's Shey, a fine fellow from British Columbia, demonstrating correct paw placement (right on the Moebius twist).

*Shey is having happy dreams in a feline bliss bed knit of Philosopher's Wool, ringed with Cat's Paw Fair Isle*



## SOPHIE'S MERMAID FEET

*I think these boots would look so natural on a mermaid, with their undersea colors and seaweedy fringe. The first pair of felted Moebius boots I made, they are utterly enchanting. Right now I have one on my table holding a bouquet of yellow tulips streaked in pink. The exquisite, hand-painted yarn comes from two magical women in Pennsylvania, who offer this particular yarn only in "Lottery" colorways, allowing themselves to create new color combinations at whim. But I suspect they'd be willing to make more of something similar to this colorway if enough yarn shops ask for it.*

**Yarn:** Wool in the Woods Sophie (50% wool, 50% llama, 200 yards, 9 wpi), 2 skeins for small and medium, 3 skeins for large, in Lottery colorway dark brown, olive, mummy, dark green, bright green. Less than 1 yard smooth waste yarn in a contrasting color.

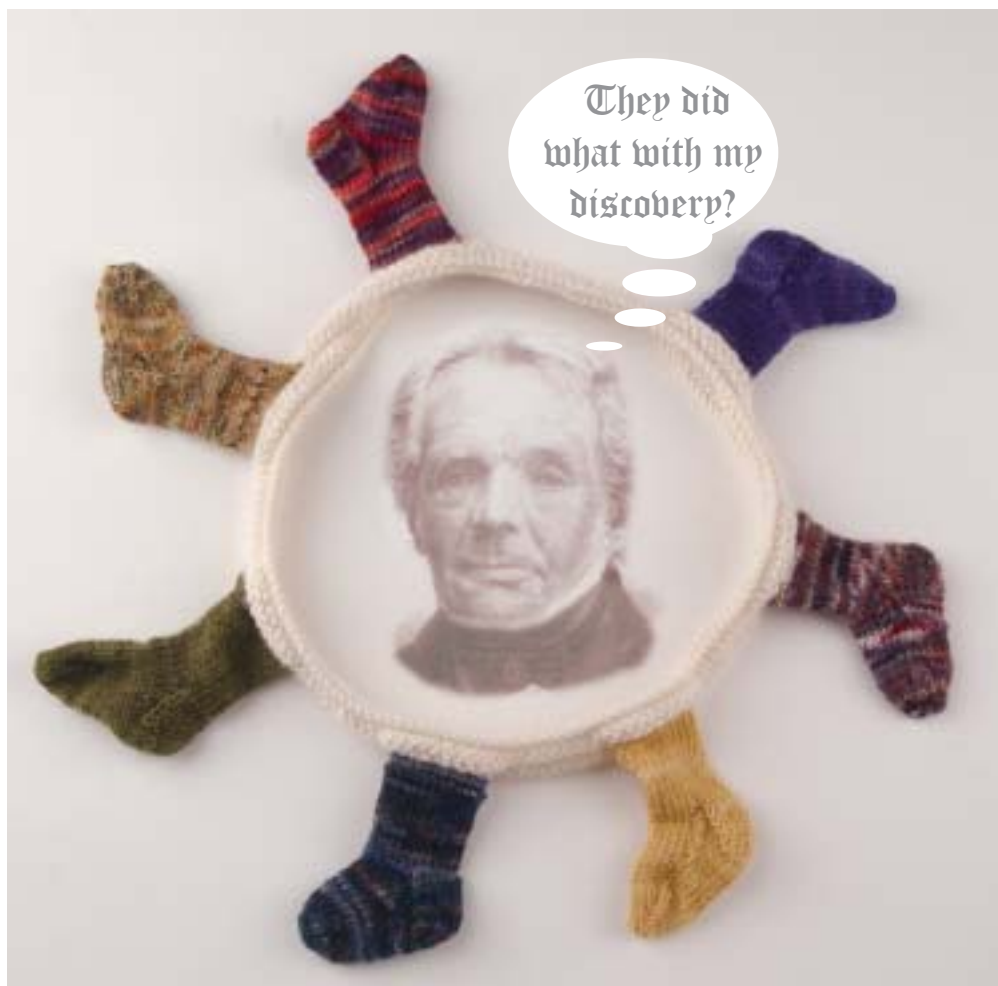
FOLLOW THE FELTED MOEBIUS BOOTS, BASIC VERSION ON PAGE 72, AND MAKE THE SIZE YOU WISH. BOOTS SHOWN ARE SIZE MEDIUM.



## SEVEN SOCKLINGS NECKLACE

*It seems like there ought to be a fairy tale about the Moebius necklace of the seven socklings! I finished the prototype just in time for Stitches West. I had it on my head like a wreath until Ann Bourgeois of Philosopher's Wool graciously hinted I might like to wear it as a necklace instead. Either way, you'll turn heads and gather smiles. An elementary school teacher could wear it every day; the rest of us will have to be more patient.*

*I must point out that the necklace, like Moebius boots, has no inside or outside. The socklings are simply extensions, or stretchings, of the Moebius they grow from. Yet, magically, even without an inside or outside, you may safely store your jewels, keys, or grocery list in them, and they will stay put unless you turn the Moebius sockling itself upside down. You see, we have no inside or outside, but we do have an upside and downside, and of course, a oneside. Such are the marvels of Moebius knitting.*



**Yarn:** Get out your stash of left over mini-balls of sock yarn. You will need a small amount of one color for the Moebius “scarf” which serves as the necklace “chain”, and a small amount of sock yarn for each of the 7 socklings. You’ll also need about 2 yards waste yarn.

**Needles:** 40” circular in size to suit your yarns, and a pair of circulars or set of double-pointeds for knitting the sockling siblings.

## RIMROCK CAPE

*The Rimrock Cape was my first, and a vision of it incubated in my head for several months before I found just the right yarn. Mountain Colors Mohair and Moguls are a delicious combination when knit together on large needles, two rows of each alternating. The Mohair surrounds the lustrous, bumpy Moguls and allows its curled knots to shine, and the two together make a surprisingly elastic fabric so that your arms can do what they want. In fact, it's a bit chilly this morning, and I am wearing it as I type. The center of the cape's scarf is knit in Merino*



*Ribbon, sending a never-ending Moebius flow of this soft yarn around your neck. The neck opening is deep, and the scarf is wide, so if you would like to close the neck a little, find one beautiful button to sew on one side, and add a button loop on the other.*

**Yarn:** 1 skein Mountain Colors Merino Ribbon (80% Super Fine Merino Wool, 20% nylon, 100g/ 245 yds, 10 wpi); 3 skeins Mountain Colors Moguls (98% wool, 2% nylon, 100g/ 65 yds, 4.25 wpi); 1 skein Mountain Colors Mohair (78% mohair, 13% wool, 9% nylon, 100g/ 225 yds, 8 wpi); all in Rimrock colorway.

**Gauge:** Merino Ribbon - 14 sts = 4" (10 cm) on size 10 needle; Moguls - 9 sts = 4" on size 13 needle.

**Needles:** (you may require a different size to get correct gauge) size 13 (9 mm) circular 47"– 60" length, size 10 (6 mm) circular 47"– 60" length

**Notions:** tapestry needle, 2 stitch markers in contrasting colors

**Finished Size:** Moebius collar is 42" circumference, 12" wide at neckline and 14" wide at bottom of front opening, cape is 26" from back neckline to hem.

**Stitch Guide:** See page 111 for abbreviations.

### Moebius Collar

With mohair ribbon and size 10 needle, MCO 130. Place marker. Knit 1 round, p 1 round.

*My whole take on knitting is completely transformed.  
I don't usually think of it as being this creative and playful.*  
West Coast Knitters Guild member, Vancouver, British Columbia

## CHAPTER TEN – UNDULATING ADVENTURES

This chapter welcomes the kind of knitter who might go bungee jumping in her spare time. It contains two beautiful scarves which can never be reproduced – any more than a stream of water can hold the same rivulets and waves twice. But you will learn to swim, I mean knit, your own Moebius stream, and it is remarkably easy.

These scarves are not designed to be knit by the perfectionist, unless you are a liberated perfectionist who knows that the most exquisite beauty comes from allowing nature to take its course.

I am not going to give you stitch by stitch instructions, because to do so would be not only laborious for both of us, but the result would be static instead of as exuberant and alive as a raven playing in billows of invisible air.

The scarves in this chapter are knit using a series of shortening and lengthening rows. I will teach you the technique of building swells and crossing narrows, and then abandon you to knit your own unique sequence of stream-like shapes as you slowly work your way back and forth, yet around and around, the Moebius spine of your own one-of-a-kind scarf.



### **Rolling along**

If you feel moved to do another round of knit and purl just to remember what it was like to be a normal knitter, go ahead. Then keep making one never-before-seen shape after another, and when you have enough scarf to make your neck happy, bind off. If you want to do some decreases in the dips and increases in the humps to accentuate their contours, just bind off sts together for decreases or bind off things that aren't even sts for increases. Or invent another way.

**I think you're done.**

### **Yarn and design suggestions**

This also looks glorious in a lush single-color yarn. But a hand-paint with colors that change several times every yard give you truly mesmerizing results. I'm still dreaming of finding just the right yarn to knit my original undulating vision: a rippling stream of hand-painted yarn in the myriad colors of running water, with rocks of mossy granite-colored yarn double-knit here and there in the stream, lightly stuffed with wool, so that they rise above the water rushing past them. Maybe a few fern fronds drifting along the edge . . . possibly a half-visible fish somewhere . . . I hope to have the yarns and time to sit and midwife this into being one day.



*Seeing your Moebius experiment that didn't work freed me to trust my own mistakes. The way your messiest mistake of all turned out to lead you to so many new discoveries and designs . . . I'm no longer afraid of making mistakes.*

Magic Knitting Workshop student, Friday Harbor, WA

## CHAPTER ELEVEN - QUESTIONS ANSWERED, & MAGIC TRICKS

**H**ere are answers to some of the questions I hear from my inquisitive and clever workshop students. If you don't find your own burning question down below, check [www.catbordhi.com](http://www.catbordhi.com), where I'll post new questions and answers.

**I dropped a few stitches of the MCO. Do I have to start over again?**

No, you don't. Just look at the MCO stitches that are still on your left needle, then slowly lift the dropped stitches back onto the left needle one at a time, so they are leaning the same way. Each time you lift a dropped stitch back onto the left needle, the matching stitch will appear on the cable below. They are very cooperative.

**I'm a really tight knitter and the first few rounds are a struggle.**

Here is where the Denise Needle Kit can help. Just use the correct needle size on the right, because the right needle is the one that determines gauge. Use a needle tip several sizes smaller on the left. This will allow your stitches to slide right along the left needle without any struggle, and your gauge ought to remain consistent. You can go down as many sizes on the left



*This magical being is a cria (baby llama).*

*33 projects from simple to sublime - scarves, hats, capes & footwear*

“Cat’s magical designs are so intriguing, you want to get one on the needles – and try to catch up with figuring it out! And all you need to do is start right and the rest takes care of itself.”

*Wilma Peers, Knitter’s Studio, Menlo Park, CA*

“I love Cat’s ideas and her skill at sweeping up readers and engaging them in her wonder and excitement. It’s hard to imagine a knitter who would not be tempted to venture into her newly charted territories, where the Mercurial Moebius and Undulating Adventures beckon us all tantalizingly...”

*Debbie New, author of Unexpected Knitting*



Cat Bordhi writes novels (*Treasure Forest*, Namaste Publishing, 2003) and knitting books (*Socks Soar on Two Circular Needles*, Passing Paws Press, 2001). She likes nothing better than to have a knitting experiment go awry because it means very interesting, possibly never-before-seen things are probably hiding nearby. She leads a quiet and blessed life tucked away in the woods on a remote island in the Pacific Northwest.



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US \$26.95 Canada \$36.95

ISBN 0-9708869-7-7



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