

## A Simple(?) Plan

Ah, yes, my brain has fizzled in its desire to finish the Kiri shawl, shown here:



in the lovely Pansy Golightly colorway of Dream in Color Baby. I'm on the last repeat of the main lace pattern before the edging. It is sitting at the moment, and I've turned to a Sock for Soldier's sock as my mindless knitting. Why is my monogamous brain so diverted? Stitches West is less than 10 days away, that's why!

Last year, I didn't take any classes because I felt as though I was needing to apply things I had learned from previous classes, and I was only working very part-time, so cash was less available than now (I know, this is not what is happening to most people). So I went for Saturday only, and even that venture was less than successful. While I bought my awesome buttons for my cardigan,

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in terms of lovely yarn acquisition, I did less than wonderful -- two skeins of merino-tencel yarn from WEBS. No hand-painted yarn or other lovelies that I would enjoy during the year. When I gathered with other knitters, and they showed what they got, I wondered what on earth I had been doing in the Market. It was all a fog, I've concluded.

This year, there's a plan. First, I've printed out the [Market Map](#) (Rav link) that Erinn has put together (with a coupon from Llama Llama Knit - what a bargain!). Second, I've been keeping track in the Ravelry Stitches West Forum about vendors to check out. Third, I'm using the Stickies software on my Mac to keep a list of things I want to get (need a swift), books to look at, and the like. Fourth, I listened to [Episode 38 of the Knitmore Girls Podcast](#) about their own strategies for Stitches, which are quite sound and assure that your LYS will still get your business throughout the year and your credit cards will not max out. Sidenote: The gals will be at Purlescence Yarns booth on Saturday, February 28th from 2 - 4 pm.

Fifth, I'm biting the bullet and staying in a hotel nearby this year with a friend. I think it will be a good thing, I will not be sleeping on a blow-up mattress on the floor at a friend's house (two years ago), or driving in the rain there and back on the same day (last year). Breakfast will be made for me, and included in the roomrate. Restaurants will be nearby. I think I will greatly enjoy this and find more inspiration, and can congratulate myself that I am stimulating the economy.

How will the plan go? It remains to be seen. But I hope that I have a great time this year, with purchases that I do not regret, and yarnplay of the most delightful sort.