

## Knitting Diversions

On my trip to Mendocino, in addition to seeing all the beautiful things in the area, I did happen to stop at the Mendocino Yarn Shop, which is adorable.



Alynn has lovely yarn, and a beautiful store. Even though I'd brought enough yarn to knit for three times the length of my stay, the shine new yarn soon consumed me, to the exclusion of a lot of other things I should have probably been doing. Yes, forgive me, knitting Gods, for I have lusted after other projects!

First, there was the Regia North Pole Color, which is a DK weight of their sock-blend yarn. This colorway is so cheerful it immediately turned into slipper socks that I wear around the house:



In fact it is so cute that I also made a brioche baby hat for the June Afghans for Afghans "baby shower" - some infant's head will be warm and cozy too!

While I was up in Mendocino, my eye also caught the lovely The Fiber Company Meadow, in

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the colorway Cornflower. This is a lovely light fingering weight yarn with wool, silk, llama and linen! It has a bit of bounce, but also lovely drape and a bit of shine. Rosemary Hill had just published a new to us lace shawl pattern (I saw it at Stitches West in the A Verb for Keeping Warm booth) for the Year Four of her shawl series, and this yarn was a perfect match.

I might have gotten a little addicted to this pattern, even though it was a rather challenging knit at first.



Romi charts differently than most of her colleagues in the US - it's a knit what the chart says for *that stitch*, not a knit what you see (what matches the actual knitting). Here's my take on this: if you are a forest person, who looks to see how all the stitches interact with one another, then this type of charting might be less appealing. But if you are a tree kind of knitter - just tell me what stitch to knit next, exactly as I will do it, this is a perfect version for you - you will never have to translate in your head the mark on the page to what you need to do to have it match in your knitting.

Unluckily for me, I am a forest knitter (which is no surprise to folks who have test-knit for me - LOL!).



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While I knit a shawl of Romi's way back when I had the chicken pox, I actually had no memory of her charting method. It was like I was doing this for the first time. Guess I was pretty sick then. So in dealing with this charting method, I might have ~~definitely~~ whined a bit about this, especially because I was also coping with using the KnitCompanion version of the pattern, and you'd think with all the technology brought to bear on knitting patterns with this software, you could toggle this to make it look like you would prefer. You would (and I was) wrong about that.

Nevertheless, I was really happy with knitting something big and lacy and just for me. So it went pretty fast, and now I have this too!

Blocking was fun!



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And I am thrilled with the finished shawl - light, airy, and just perfect as an additional layer when it cools off or gets chilly in the evenings!



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Of course, all this means that I've been diverted from other projects. Which I now return to with pledges of fidelity.

What are your "knitting diversions?"