

## Wages in Wool

A paycheck of yarn: how irresistible to knitters, that's what Susan Wolcott of Funkshouse, Maryland's Y2Knit was counting on when she e-mailed her **Wool Knit for Yarn** proposal to customers, offering a Spanish spend-to anyone who'd volunteer to knit store-models.

When Wolcott gets trunk-show requests for her Y2Knit Collection, "I empty the shop of samples. Because I have more projects than I can possibly handle, I decided to seek out knitters who could help me create duplicates," she explains. "I also get requests around the holidays from non-knitters who want to purchase scarves and fitted bags. We have more yarn than cash, so **Wool Knit for Yarn** seemed like the best way to go. It provides an opportunity for knitters to use really nice yarns and build their stash when they otherwise might not be able to afford to.

"The response has been overwhelming," says Wolcott, who sent out the plea in June. Thus far more than 20 people have expressed interest, and 14 (ranging in age from 13 to 70-something) have picked up projects, all of which are Y2Knit patterns. Wolcott starts the knitters with small items—novelty scarves, say—"to see how they like knitting for someone else and to give me a chance to assess the quality of their knitting." Among the pieces being stitched are the store's hot-selling fitted Fiesta bag, knit in **JeppC's** Karaoke; a lace-toe hat in a Claudia and Co. finger-weight hand-paint; and a simpler alghon out of Castori 2-ply. Wolcott is handling the finishing and fitting herself, "which seems to be a relief to the knitters."

Wolcott has her knitters sign a contract that stipulates an agreed-to value and time limit, with yarn payout determined by the project's size and complexity. She calculates the value using industry standards (taking into account a payment of 15 cents per yard knit and the fiber's cost). "I live in a rural area with a fairly low cost of living," she says, "so what I pay may be less than what someone in a more urban area might." Whatever the standard gauge, Wolcott's idea is proving truly bankable. View the Y2Knit Collection at [www.y2knit.net](http://www.y2knit.net).