



- bond-buzz free e-newsletter
- product information
- free projects

online
store

what's new • for the cause • clubs • help • contact us

ultimate sweater
machine®

wyr knitr™

embellish-knit!™

cool corder™

pocket knitter™

Send Bond-Buzz to a
friend
Enter your friend's e-mail
address:

We will not share or
keep this e-mail address.

Share

Bond America
is a division of

CARON

www.caron.com

Proud sponsor of

Rwanda Knits

www.fiberandcraft.org

Bond Buzz, Issue #41

December 4, 2007

Free from [Bond America](#)

[Click here for
Printer Friendly
pdf version](#)

Welcome to another issue of Bond Buzz!

Vermont is looking like it may just be white for December – it certainly was white (but also wet) for Thanksgiving. But whether wet or white, this is also the perfect time to really get creative, planning those cozy USM-knitted gifts for friends – and yourself.

Gift Giving Ideas . . .

And, of course, we have some super suggestions for you – straight from Bond online store! The [Embellish-Knit](#)™, [Cool Corder](#)™ and [Pocket Knitter](#)™ make wonderful holiday gifts – as well as using them for making gifts with!

[Embellish-Knit](#)[Cool Corder](#)[Pocket Knitter](#)

This year, for those of you who are also crocheters, we have a very special gift idea: [Embellished Crochet](#), published by St. Martin's Press.

The book features 28 designs – and lots of techniques – all using Caron yarns. While I'm listed as the author (I have a few designs in it, but mostly I did the technique chapter writing and the organizing of the book), most of the designs came from your favorite Caron crocheters – many of whom are also Bond knitters. Even if you're not a crocheter, there are SO many embellishing techniques from embroidery to beads and beyond,

you can use these techniques to embellish your knitting! Just go to www.shopcaron.com to purchase online.

Free Online Patterns . . .

Crochet Squares Edged Jacket

For those of you who have read the most recent issue of Crochet! magazine, you've probably seen the ad for the draped-front, crocheted-edge jacket. With so many USM/Bond owners being crocheters, I designed this jacket to combine USM knitting with crochet to demonstrate to crocheters they can knit even more quickly than they can crochet – and have a very unique project as a result. [Click here to get to the pattern.](#)



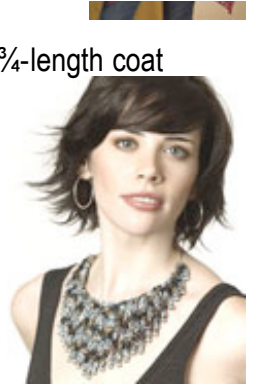


Empire Coat

Our good friend, Kathy Perry is at it again – this time with a $\frac{3}{4}$ -length coat (which could also double as a dress or long jacket) trimmed with seed stitching. [Find the free pattern here.](#)

Fabulous Cord Fringed Necklace

For all of you looking for more Embellish-Knit! projects, this newsletter is definitely for you! Kathy Perry has created a super one using Fabulous and beads, so get crankin' and you can make a few of these for gift-giving! [Find the pattern here.](#)



Tips and Techniques . . .

For this Buzz, I'd like to feature a technique using the [Embellish-Knit!](#) or [Cool Corder](#). It doesn't need a traditional pattern, as it's more of a technique that you can use to create all kinds of gifts and decorations. It uses a rug-hooking technique but one that brings through an especially long loop. I've found wreaths that are 14" diameter or less look best (of course, mine was 18" but that's another story.....)

And one of the best parts about making one of these wreaths is that you'll keep your kids busy for hours making the cording! (It doesn't matter if small sections of the cording have "the-weight-wasn't-hanging-freely" lumps in it, as you really won't see them. Ditto for shorter lengths of cording, as you will not need to finish off ends.

Here's how the wreath I made looks like on our office door here in Vermont.

Here's how:

Materials:

- 2 to 4 skeins of [Caron International's Simply Soft®](#) in Dark Sage (or color of your choice for making a wreath), the amount depending on the size wreath you want to make.
- Styrofoam® wreath form, 14" or smaller, preferably in green
- 3.75 (3 $\frac{3}{4}$ holes to 1") rug canvas the diameter of the wreath form plus 6"
- Dark green fabric marking pen (I found "Tee Juice" by Jacquard to be ideal)
- Permanent marker
- Spool of dark green floral wire
- Pinecones, red berries – whatever you'd like for decorating your wreath

Tools:

- [Embellish-Knit!](#) or [Cool Corder](#)
- Scissors
- Crochet hook size F or G



[click to enlarge](#)

Instructions:

Cord up one skein of Simply Soft.

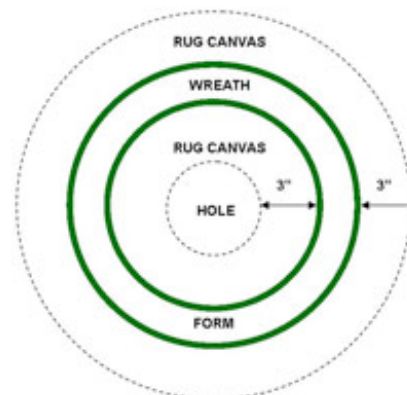
With the permanent marker, mark the center of the rug canvas.

Lay the wreath form over the center of the rug canvas.

Trace a circle inside and outside the foam form.

Draw another circle 3" from both traced circles, the inside one to the center and the outer one toward the outside.

[see illustration at right]



[click to enlarge](#)

Cut out the wreath and its center.



[click to enlarge](#)

Using the fabric marker, color the wreath. This is in case the canvas shows through the cording just a bit, but is optional if you don't mind the off white showing a bit. Let the canvas dry.



[click to enlarge](#)

Holding the cording on the underside of the rug canvas and the crochet hook on top, starting 2" in from the edge of the cut-out circle, pull through a 1½" high loop.



[click to enlarge](#)

Skip 1 hole and repeat pulling a loop through. Tip: make sure you have enough cording on the end closest to the last loop to be sure you don't pull out cording from the loop you just made.

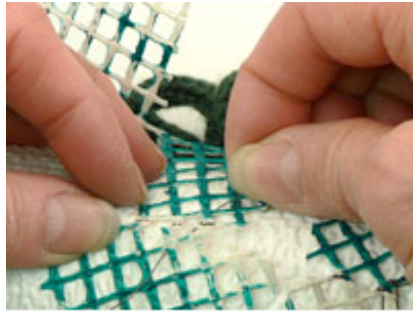
1. Continue pulling up loops around the wreath. If you prefer, you can also go back and forth across the wreath rather than in circles. Or you can do a combination.



When the loops have been pulled through to your satisfaction, cut into the wreath at approximately 2" intervals to about a half inch from the corded section. Do this both around the outside and inside.



[click to enlarge](#)



[click to enlarge](#)

Place the foam form in the center of the wreath and pull up two of the cut sections. Using the wire (you can also use yarn and a tapestry needle if you prefer), tie the two sections together. Continue bringing up the cut sections and wiring or sewing them together on the back of the wreath.



[click to enlarge](#)

Here is what the original wreath looked like on the back. Mine would've been better using a foam wreath, but there wasn't one large enough so I used a metal form and stuffed the back with foam rubber before joining the cut sections. I also used yarn, but I think wire might be better – and easier to secure section by section.



[click to enlarge](#)

Lastly, here's a close up of the front of the wreath.

Suggestions: try using two different greens for a really natural look – or two different purples for a non-traditional look. And have the older kids help out with the hooking – and/or let them make their own wreath for the door to their room. Make ornaments using the same technique – or make the tops of Christmas stockings or the edging to a Santa hat using white Simply Soft.

But most of all, have fun! It's these kinds of family crafts that bring families together. Shopping is fun – but crafting is better!

Happy Knitting!

Cari Clement
[Bond America](#)

P.S. As a subscriber to Bond-Buzz, I'd like to invite you to subscribe to the FREE e-mail newsletter—[Caron Connections](#) from Caron® International. Just visit the [Caron site](#) (<http://www.caron.com>) and enter your email address. It's that easy. As a subscriber to Caron Connections, you'll receive monthly emails filled with the latest inside scoop on Caron's new fashion yarns and free patterns.

b o n d - b u z z • Sign up for Bond-Buzz, our free e-newsletter!

Enter your e-mail address:

[online store](#) • [products](#) • [projects](#) • [what's new](#) • [for the cause](#) • [bond-buzz](#) • [clubs](#) • [help](#) • [contact us](#)

© Caron International 2003-2006