Part 1

A Quick Introduction to Ravelry

Q.   What *is* Ravelry?
A.   Ravelry is a website for lovers of fiber who knit and crochet (and weave and spin). There are currently 2,827,518 registered users worldwide.

Q.   How do I find it and sign up?
A.   http://www.ravelry.com is the web address (URL) for the site. A screen page will come up and invite you to become a member. Enter a unique "User Name" and a password. You may want to write these two items down until you get them memorized. **Do not** use a password that you use for other websites.

Q.   Why would I join?
A.   Wow, what a good question. And there are many reasons:
   1. Find patterns (both free and for purchase)
   2. Meet other knitters and crocheters
   3. Organize and keep notes on Project pages for items you make
   4. Organize your stash of beautiful fiber
   5. Learn about new techniques
   6. Join Groups who are interested in the same things you are
   7. Become involved and answer questions others ask or ask questions to get help
   8. Look up details for just about any yarn
   9. See Project pages for a pattern you may be interested in to see how others worked it up or what problems they came across in the process. (I love this one…saves LOTS of time is a pattern has problems.)
   10. For me it is also motivational – keeps me going on projects, or to try something new.
   11. Join our group on Ravelry to keep up with news, see what others are working on, and 'converse' about events, projects, etc.   Our group name/forum title is "Fiber Guild of Greater Kansas City".

Q.   Who are you on Ravelry, Terry?
A.   My name on Ravelry is **foxycrafters** .

So, come sign up, join the group (Fiber Guild of Greater Kansas City) and have some fun.

Part 2

How to Use Features of Ravelry http://www.ravelry.com #2
by foxycrafters (Terry Kuehn)

After you sign up for Ravelry the first screen you'll see is the Welcoming or Introduction screen.

At the far left at the top, that is the Ravelry logo, a ball of yarn; it is at the top of all screens and you can click your mouse on it anytime to return to this welcoming screen quickly.

Next to it, across the top are tabs, just like in a file cabinet:

My Notebook – this will be where your own information is entered and stored
Patterns – over 345,000 knit and crochet patterns
Yarns – over 80,000 yarns are listed with fiber content, yardage, wpi, where to buy
People – a page to find your friends, or new friends, even by location
Forums – these are where 'conversations' are held; there are six Main Boards and each
　　　　　Group you join will add a board for that group
Groups – whatever you may be interested in, there's probably a Group for it on Ravelry;
　　　　　spinning, a particular yarn, dogs, cats, birds, swaps, please be aware some
　　　　　Groups may have themes or conversations that are explicit, and they are
　　　　　labeled as such – I kinda stay away from them, I don't find them fun or
　　　　　enlightening
Shop – there are items sold by Ravelry, Yarnies and Patterns for sale
"?" – when you need help, click on the question mark!!!
🔍 -- magnifying glass – this will help you do a quick search

In the upper right corner is an acknowledgement of who is signed in (You?), and a link to log out of the site. If you click on your underlined name it will take you to your Notebook information page. When you edit your profile, please, please be aware and mindful of the information you share and the number of people who can read it. Take a look at my page if you want, I just put my first name and a general location. NEVER put your email address on this page or on any forum – that is just a world-wide invitation to Spam, viruses and trouble you don't need.

Okay, back to the Welcoming screen. Over on the right side of the screen the second box down says "Help, help! Where am I"? For a guided tour of the site, click on the second item "Getting Started" it will take you to a wonderful screen with tons of information.

One more quick thing: any word on Ravelry that is underlined is called a 'link' and will whisk you away to another place, or open a new window of information.

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Part 3

How to Use Features of Ravelry http://www.ravelry.com #3
by foxycrafters (Terry Kuehn)

foxycrafters

The above photo and my Ravelry name is called an **avatar**. Or some of us *clever* ones refer to it as a *Rav*atar. You are able to change the photo whenever you like, but your avatar name can (usually) only be changed once – through the 'powers that be' on Ravelry; Casey or one of the other code writers.

This time we'll take a closer look at your Notebook Pages:

* Projects: This page is where you can name your project, add photos, information about yarn and needle size (or hook size), make notes (I love that part), show your progress in the line chart and share it with the groups you choose. Another feature is being able to rate the yarn you've used, and rate the pattern and designate the degree of difficulty you found the pattern to involve.

  The information you enter can help other Ravelry members when they are deciding on a yarn or pattern.

* Stash: This is the yarn you own. Take a photo of each one, enter the info and when you're looking at patterns, you can refer to your stash to see which yarns you have enough of to make it! Quite handy. If you wish, you can list the yarns you would like to Trade or Sell – put the price in the Notes area, or ask them to send you a PM (private message) if they are interested.

  You can click on the Excel icon and a window will come up listing each yarn you've added, the yardages and all the information. Fun to see how many yards or ounces are stashed.

* Queue: A listing of things you'd like to make. When looking at a pattern, in the upper right hand corner of the screen is an icon you can click to add that pattern to your Queue. There's another icon to add it to your Library – more on that in a bit.

  Your Queue can be rearranged, items deleted, printed, and you can add notes, like what yarn is planned, or who you'd gift an item.

  My personal goal is to keep my Queue to a reasonable length – two pages worth. I use Favorites for things that appeal to me, but may not ever get onto the needles.

* Favorites: This is to designate items you like and can be a pattern, someone's project, an ad, a post comment or hint in one of the forum conversations ~ you

just click the little pale pink heart, it becomes brighter and that item is saved in your Favorites list. You can even add a tag to help you find it later.

- Friends: If you enjoy sharing information with a member, you are able to go to their Profile/information page and in the upper left corner is a 'button' you can click to add them to your friends.

Some people will just collect 'friends', I like to keep mine to those who have helped me in some way, have similar likes, or who I've helped in the past.

Then, if you need to contact a friend, you can go to your Notebook, look at your Friends page and locate that person quickly.

The rest of the features will be discussed in future issues of the newsletter. If you use the above features, you'll be prepared for upcoming items!

So, come sign up, join the group (Fiber Guild of Greater Kansas City) and have some fun.

Part 4

How to Use Features of Ravelry http://www.ravelry.com #4
by foxycrafters (Terry Kuehn)

Again we're taking a closer look at your Notebook Pages:

Groups and Events: Mostly self explanatory. The Groups tab will show a screen with all the logos of the groups you've joined.

Events tab – I'm still getting the hang of this one. Have added a few events just to see how it works. More on this one later.

Needles and Hooks: Here you can inventory all of your knitting needles and hooks and actually print it out and take it with you when shopping so you won't buy another pair of size 9s when you need 8s and 10s.

Library: I LOVE THIS FEATURE!!! Enter all your patterns and magazines and books and when you do a search in Ravelry's Pattern department you can narrow the hunt to your currently owned patterns if you want. It is wonderful. I don't know how, but if you enter a magazine, Ravelry knows all the patterns in it.

You can also add free patterns from Ravelry to your Library. This is a good idea because sometimes the designers will offer them free for a while, then when they get popular they begin charging for them. 'A free pattern saved is a penny saved' in this case.

Message Box: This is a way to send a PM private message to another Ravelry member.

Blog posts: I don't have a blog, so can't say much about this. Maybe a blogger can write a short article about this one sometime.

Contributions: Here's where you can add one of your design patterns or a yarn you've spun and maybe sell a few.

This is another area I'm not very involved with on Ravelry. So more to come in the future on this one, too.

Purchases: This page lists any items, patterns or features you've paid to have added to your Ravelry account.

One feature I purchase only costs $5 a year and gives me the ability to zap photos into a Post in a Topic Thread on any Forum. You can do this for free using several steps and a Flickr account, but for the small amount I love to upload the pics directly from my computer into the text of my post.

Patterns that are gifted to you are listed on this page, too. I've done some test knits for designers, so when the testing is complete and they have the pattern finalized, they send a copy to those who have tested and given feedback as a token of appreciation.

Advertising: One other thing I want to mention is about Ads on Ravelry. There are ads paid for by the advertiser; these show up at the left side of most screens and at the bottom of Forum Topic Threads. If you see one and are interested in finding out more, just click on the ad. If you see one and then the ad changes to a different one, you can place your cursor (via your mouse) over the current ad and options appear at the bottom of that little space allowing you to go to the previous ad if you wish.

Ravelry is so much fun, but be forewarned, it is possible to get so engrossed you forget to cook dinner!

So, come sign up, join the group ([Fiber Guild of Greater Kansas City](#)) and have some fun.