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### Knitting and sewing continue to grow in popularity

By Erin McClam, Associated Press  
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NEW YORK (AP) - With the concentration of a pool shark lining up a shot, Prilya Pillutla leans over a broad sheet of green fabric, steadies a large pair of scissors and makes a cut.

"It's going to be a wool skirt," the 25-year-old medical student said. "And I got this stuff for just \$4 a yard."

Suddenly, sewing has joined knitting as a hobby for 20- and 30-somethings.

How-to books are selling well and instructors say classes are packed with young people from Los Angeles to New York. And stores that stock the tools of the craft - thick spools of knitting yarn to tiny sewing-machine bobbins - are doing brisk business.

"It's very 2003," said Elissa Meyrich, who teaches sewing and knitting five nights a week from a cozy studio in Manhattan's Garment District. "All of a sudden this stuff is cool - not fuddy-duddy anymore."

The crafts have gained steam in the past year. The sagging economy has dried up fat personal wardrobe budgets and the cable design hit "Trading Spaces" has helped create a new wave of do-it-yourselfers.

Meyrich said her two and half hour introductory sewing class is overflowing. She teaches it several nights a week for \$70. Sales of her book "Sew Fast Sew Easy," which was published last summer, have picked up.

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