



September 2022
Volume 10, No. 3

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THE KNIT STITCH

Midwest Machine Knitter's Collaborative

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Well, after Alice's extensive and deep dive into *Variables that Affect Swatches*, I have had to do some re-thinking. On our website in the Member Only section and under Tutorials are the following:

How to Make a Perfect Gauge Swatch:

https://www.midwestmachineknitters.org/_files/ugd/a61a4f_97f4145c43b047f6894b0ed6f7542d35.pdf

How to Make a Gauge Swatch for Standard, Mid-Gauge, Bulky Machines:

https://www.midwestmachineknitters.org/_files/ugd/a61a4f_a2d857f24722431a84540ca5b3a3b4f8.pdf

These are primarily worksheets to use to make notes along with the recommended sizes by machine. Refer to your manual for specifics and remember all the tips that Alice mentioned - one side of your machine may knit looser or tighter than the other side and Alice gave compensation recommendations for these variables. Measuring within marked margins is imperative as well. Although I did do some hand knitting prior to my machine knitting, the 4" x 4' swatch that seems prevalent in hand knitting seems minute compared to 100 stitches x 100 rows! The large swatches, and measuring 40 stitches x 60 rows, as I remember comes from the use of Knitleaders / Knit Radars. The large swatch also can be held up to your body to get an idea of size for finished garment as well as a better idea of drape.

CONGRATULATIONS to the members who entered the MN State Fair. The September meeting shall be fun to see what was entered and to hear the score card comments.

In Minnesota we are still immersed in 80° days, so it is hard to think about brisk and cold days ahead, but it is time to begin thinking about new winter knitting.

May all your stitches be well behaved!

- Jane

Remember to check out the Available Tools, and more in the Members Only section of our website:
<https://www.midwestmachineknitters.org/available-tools-accessories-yarn-etc>

The following pattern was generously donated by Jason Wurst, of Rocking Horse Farm. It was originally published in the Spring 2018 issue of their newsletter, 'Machine Knitting Inspiration'.

Carole's Country Knits at Rocking Horse Farm

25636 County Road 74 - Saint Cloud, Minnesota USA 56301-9293 - store hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10-6 - phone: 320-252-2996
e-mail: knitshop.rockinghorsefarm@gmail.com website: facebook.com/knitshop.rockinghorsefarm

Timidity Doily

CAROLE C. WURST

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information.

Machine: any bulky gauge machine
This pattern can be adapted for a Mid-Gauge
machine by raising the Tension 2 whole
numbers.

Yarn: 1 strand Timidity by HiKoo,
doily requires approx. 2 ounces of
yarn. \$6.95/skein
1 skein will make this doily. Order this
yarn from our shop. We will wind the
skein onto a cone for a \$1 fee.

Suggested Tension: 6

Upper Yarn Mast Tension: loose

Skill Level: intermediate



Needle set-up: with scrap yarn E-wrap cast on needles L15 -0- R15.

RC000 Tension 8, knit 10 rows of scrap yarn ending with carriage on the right. Knit 1 row of ravel cord. Change to main yarn. Knit 1 row. Set carriage to hold.

Place 6 needles on the far left. Knit 4 rows. Adjust weights so stitches don't come off the needles.

Carriage on right, place another 6 needles in hold. Knit 4 rows. Continue this short rowing method until 6 stitches remain in work. Knit 2 rows over all needles, ending with carriage on the right. *The first section is complete.*

Make 13 more sections for a complete circle, but on last section knit 2 rows instead of 4. Hang hem to bind off, or scrap off and graft seam.

Attach fringe. Steam hard to lay flat, especially the center.

Fringe: Starting at one end of the doily, with wrong side facing, pick up two loops and hang on needles. Using fringe yarn, E-wrap over these same two needles, skip 6 empty needles, and E-wrap two more needles. *The empty needles create the fringe.*

Carriage on the right, thread carriage with fringe yarn. Tension 6, knit 2 rows. Hang two more loops from doily and hang on the same original needles. Knit 2 rows. Continue in this manner all the way around the knit piece.

To finish: ravel down and cut loops. Tying is not necessary unless an unusual amount of rough handling is expected.



"This yarn is timid and doesn't know what it wants to be. In one section it is thin and fine. In another section it is plump and thick. On top of this, the colors are constantly changing, creating a hypnotic effect."

40% Wool, 43% Acrylic,
17% Nylon

245 yards/50 gram hank

**Order today!
Timidity, \$6.95**

Meet the Members

In June I sent our members a survey in which you could answer various questions about your machine knitting adventures in hope that we can get to know each other a bit better. Here are responses from a newer member and one of our founders. I'll be sending out that survey again soon; we've gained a few members since the first time. Enjoy!

Nakisha

How many years have you been machine knitting, and what brought you to this craft?

I've been machine knitting since Feb 2020. Several injuries to my hand forced me to give up hand knitting and I'm so happy to have found machine knitting.

How many days/month do you knit?

Probably 4-6 (right now).

Who do you knit for?

Myself! I do plan to knit a ton of the grandsons.

What do you most like to knit on machines?

Scarves and now that I've learned to make socks on my machine, I'm going to make a bunch for winter.

What is your favorite machine knit item, and/or the thing you're most proud of?

A black 2x2 ribbed scarf. It is so nice and I wore it every chance I got last winter.

What is your favorite fiber/color/weight to use, and why?

My favorite right now is a cashmere/cotton blend. It knits so effortlessly on the standard gauge.

I own mid-gauge and bulky machines, but I haven't become proficient yet. So I still lean toward fingering weights on the std.

Tell us about your biggest machine knitting disaster(s):

I haven't been at it very long, but I've had a couple of projects go haywire. From forgetting to close the yarn gate, to forgetting to change tension settings, there have been some hiccups!

Do you have a particular goal or aspiration to achieve in machine knitting? Something to overcome or learn more about?

I would love to complete a 3 or 4 color fair isle project. I hope to do something this upcoming winter.

Any advice for newbies to machine knitting or to MMKC?

Just do it! There are so many resources available and people who graciously give their time showing techniques and tips, and answering questions when you get stuck.

Is there anything else you'd love to tell us about yourself?

I am so excited to have found this hobby and will continue to attempt to recruit others! :)

Maria Ann

How many years have you been machine knitting, and what brought you to this craft?

46 years. I crocheted through my teens and had the idea I couldn't hand knit (not really sure where that came from). Then my mom got a machine, and I learned from her - this opened up knitting to me.

How many days/month do you knit?

I am lucky enough to get 18-20 days/month (up to an hour each time)

Who do you knit for?

Mostly myself. Family, when they have requests. Gifts

What do you most like to knit on machines?

Sweaters and toys

What is your favorite machine knit item, and/or the thing you're most proud of?

Tuck, the bison and the dress I knit many years ago

What is your favorite fiber/color/weight to use, and why?

Super wash wool. Royal purple. My standard bed is my favorite machine and I have some sock yarn that I want to work with.

Tell us about your biggest machine knitting disaster(s):

- 1) a giant Christmas stocking with our name. It took me 3 tries to get it to read correctly
- 2) a sweater with purl and stockinette stripes. My placement of the stripes was not flattering at all
- 3) the sweater I knit out of 100% wool, forgot that fact, threw it in the machine and shrunk and felted it. It is some lovely coasters now
- 4) the sweater I designed with square tabs around the bottom hem and cuffs. Another unflattering look on me

Do you have a particular goal or aspiration to achieve in machine knitting? Something to overcome or learn more about?

I would like to knit another dress. I have several UFO's I would like to finish. I have many project ideas (set aside) that I would like to get to.

Any advice for newbies to machine knitting or to MMKC?

I feel most members are willing to help - don't be afraid to ask questions.

Is there anything else you'd love to tell us about yourself?

I also love to bake!