

THE KNIT STITCH

Book Review:

by Maria Ann

“Blocking for Everyone”

by Michael Becker (Distinctive Knits)

Although a short book (26 pages), Michael is very thorough in describing the various topics related to blocking. The basic information on blocking with a steam iron should translate easily enough for those of us who own a steamer.

In each section you will find tidbits of information, from what blocking is to useful tools, yarn fibers, blocking wires, how to block and more.

I thought the chart at the back of the book for adjusting for row gauge difference when you knit the stitch gauge accurately was clever.

I am sure I will be referring back to this book when I am ready to block my next project.

Happy reading.

From our President

by Heather

Greetings, fellow knitters. I write to you as I take a break from my knitting machine. I've committed to an hour a day of knitting this month as part of an idea we call “Choose 1 Lose 1”. You choose one thing, something to make yourself better in some way, and also give up something that isn't so good for you. Some people choose to drink more water and give up soda pop. Some choose to turn off the TV and go to bed an hour earlier. Whatever you choose is totally up to you. My “Choose 1 Lose 1” was to make sure I'm knitting at least an hour a day. I've been very productive now that I've deliberately set aside time to do what I love most. I have 3 afghans that need edging completed, and several hats that need seaming (if I seam them it will take away from my knitting time!).

Congratulations to every one who entered a machine knit item to the Minnesota State Fair this year! It takes some courage to submit yourself to criticism on something you believe to be wonderful. I recognized several members' names with gorgeous items on display with winning ribbons on them. Congratulations to all of you!

We are knocking on Fall's door, which means the holiday season is fast approaching. I am encouraging you all to continue knitting as many hats, booties, sweaters, and afghans for our charity Bundles of Love. Feel free to use holiday colors, bright colors, dark colors, pastel colors. Babies are stimulated by sharp contrasting colors. I hope each member will continue to make at least one thing to donate each month.

Thank you to the Founders and MMKC for hosting Founders Fest 2016! Our presenters were fantastic and I learned so much from each of them. There were a few times I shouted, “Really? It's that easy?” at an idea they were demonstrating. I will be putting some of those ideas to use in this next month of hourly knitting.

Keep up the good work and happy knitting!!

Upcoming Events:

9/20 MKG
State Fair Review

10/1-2 North Star Farm Tour
northstarfarmtour.com

10/7-8th Cindy's Knitting Room
Eileen Montgomery

10/11 MMKC, Knitwear Design
by Caroline M

10/18 MKG
monthly meeting

11/4-6 Vogue Knitting LIVE!
Minneapolis Convention Center

11/5 Upper Midwest Fall Fiber Fest
Hopkins

11/8 MMKC, Knitwear Texture
by Caroline M

11/15 MKG
monthly meeting

12/13 MMKC
End of Year Celebration

12/20 MKG
Annual Silent Auction

The Red Scarf Project

by Patsy

Last year Mary Anne Oger was here at Founders Fest and at September Seminar. She talked about her blog "Needles to Say" (knitwords.blogspot.com). On the blog, she mentioned that her knitting club was making red scarves for The Red Scarf Project.

We mustered some scarves together and sent them off. We even got written up on the front page of her local newspaper! I challenged her to come up with a new pattern for this year.

She has done me one better and has come up with a new pattern each month. She uses different machines and different techniques, and explains how to knit each of the patterns.

Please see her blog and knit some wonderful red scarves for this year. Then bring any you have knit to the October meeting so that they can get to Canada in time for the celebration (they are due November 1st).

Thank you again this year for helping make red Scarves.



Ramblings:

by Maria Ann

Someone recently said they wanted to knit up the yarn they had at home before buying anymore. This made me laugh, as I believe our yarn stash multiplies when we are not looking.

This is especially true for me, when I have just a few ounces left. I think I will use up all these odds and ends by making hats with stripes or short patterns. But it seems I still have odds and ends no matter how many hats I knit...

Could it be the only way to truly use up what we have is to get rid of everything and start over by buying the yarn for one project at a time? (and then donating any leftovers before purchasing more).

Happy Knitting!

Quip:

"Respect your inner compass - it points to yarn"

10 Reasons Not To Machine Knit

by Dee

1. I don't have the right "type" or "color" yarn
2. I don't want to buy yarn because I have such a large stash... but I don't want to knit with anything in my stash.
3. Even if I do knit the sweater, hat, scarf, whatever it won't fit right and I'll just have to give it away.
4. Just what the heck is the magic formula?
5. I've made a mistake! Oh no, it's on the front of the sweater. Maybe no one will notice?? But I would so I'll never wear it. Guess I shouldn't even bother trying. Toss the failed/frogged project into the corner and walk out of the room.
6. I'm going on a diet and I don't want to make a sweater that won't fit me.
7. I hate making swatches. It's a waste of time and yarn (\$\$). But Dee will yell at me if I don't make a swatch. So I just won't knit that way I won't waste time or money and Dee can't yell at me.
8. I don't have knitting software or a calculator so I can't chart a sweater.
9. I just don't have the time.
10. My knitting machine hates me.

I mean... really????!! How about we turn this around and look at this from a different perspective?

10 Reasons To Machine Knit

1. It's fast and with a little effort I can get a sweater done in 1 to 2 weeks.
2. Look at all the gorgeous yarn I have in my stash... let's see how this would look as a sweater, hat, scarf, etc.
3. It's okay if I make a mistake and it doesn't fit. I was able to practice and give away a really nice gift to someone who appreciates my efforts.

continued on page 4

Musings By Jane:

Fall is looming and so many



things are over...Founders' Fest, State Fair, but fall and winter knitting are calling! Keep those carriages humming.

Founders' Fest was incredible! I recently spent a day with friends, all of us playing with the different techniques in the FF Seminar book. Three wonderful instructors opened up so many new possibilities. And yes, plans are afoot for Founders' Fest 2017 – Save the date for Saturday & Sunday, July 29 & 30.

by Jane



Remember there will be a surprise / contest presented at the October meeting for a December finale. It's still a secret but be sure to come to the October meeting for the reveal and to be able to participate.

4. That magic formula is something! I can't believe how well it works and how easy it is to manually chart a sweater, skirt, etc.

5. I've made a mistake! No worries, it only took me "x" time to knit the front of this sweater. I can unravel it and reknit it. It will go even faster the second time and I can ensure I don't make the same mistake again.

6. Yes, I need to make sweaters a bit larger right now but as I lose weight, I can make more sweaters in those styles I really like. It also gives me a good excuse to buy more yarn. Yippee!

7. Gauge swatches are fun! Now I know how the design will look and what my gauge is so that I can accurately calculate my sweater and actually save money because I won't be wasting yarn. A gauge swatch also helps calculate if I have enough yarn to finish my project so I can adjust what I'm doing to suit the project. AND DEE WON'T YELL AT ME! She'll praise me and brag about how wonderful I am at MMKC meetings.

8. I may not have DAK or other knitting software but I do have a calculator, paper, pencil, and eraser so I can chart my garment. I know if I get stuck that I can call one of the more experienced machine knitters at MMKC for some guidance and they'll help me.

9. By taking an hour here or there each week I'm so surprised how quickly I made all the pieces for my garment. I can take the pieces with me to appointments so I can seam instead of having wasted dead time waiting.

10. My machine is just that... a tool to help me achieve my machine knitting goals. I'm project oriented. I can wear knits that are flattering and give knit gifts that are truly appreciated by family and friends.

And now for a challenge!

I challenge each and every MMKC member to knit at least one item for the 2017 Minnesota State Fair or Wisconsin State Fair (or wherever you live). It doesn't need to be complicated. It doesn't need to be fancy. It needs to be knit! And I'm telling you all now that I'm going to win the machine knitting sweepstakes for 2017 at the Minnesota State Fair.

Prove me wrong!

ATTENTION:

by The Minnesota State Fair

Notice: Registration Changes for 2017

Creative Activities Department

Beginning in 2017 Creative Activities will discontinue walk-up registration on delivery dates.

Going forward, entries MUST be registered online or by mail.

Be sure to check our website in the spring for 2017 registration deadlines

We look forward to another year of wonderful entries!

Minnesota State Fair Competition Department

651/288-4417

competition@mnstatefair.org

Aug. 25-Labor Day, Sept. 5, 2016

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

by Jane

Congratulations to all who entered State Fair competition. It was a great surprise to see names identifying all the ribbon winners. A first this year, with a few hiccups, but so many people were thrilled and many thanks expressed to the Fair staff for the additional work this had to have been. Next year all registration must be done online or by mail – no more walk-up registration. If you did not notice another lot was lost to us – *Fabric & Knit Combination*. A few years ago we lost *Dress or Suit, Adult*. That last lot did return after entries for that lot did not have a home. Yes, the lot of *Socks* was added this year, but this does prove that we will lose lots if items are not entered. There are a total of only 16 lots in Machine Knitting; as opposed to 47 in Hand Knitting, or 31 in Crochet. Please enter! It really is fun.

The September meeting gave us a chance to see all the beautiful things up close and personal. Sharing the scores and judge's comments really does benefit all of us to become better knitters. Thank you all for sharing!

Machine Knitting Demo Day garnered 31 hats and 14 pair of booties for Bundle of Love – well okay most of the hats were knit prior, but seamed at the Fair, and a few booties went home with the kids who knit one. It is so much fun to see youngsters interested in machine knitting. Plans are under way for next year with some changes in mind. Stay tuned.





Machine For Sale:

ElectraKnit- Model KH-910

Ribbing Attachment Model KR-850

Color changer Model is KRC-830 and a few other extra's.

\$750.00 for everything or best offer

Jann

jann doss@aol.com

Correction:

Jane Niemi was incorrectly quoted in the June newsletter article regarding the June pot luck. The quote should have read "Even though there weren't 13 chocolate *cakes*, I was still happy to be there"

Membership Dues

by Jane

Membership dues can be paid now for 2017. To pay online via Pay Pal go to <http://www.midwestmachineknitters.org/> our home page, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on [Membership Dues](#) which will take you directly to Pay Pal. If you prefer to pay with a check you can make payment to Midwest Machine Knitters' Collaborative and send check to 3000 University Ave. S.E. #10, Minneapolis, 55414; or give to Jane at the next meeting. If duplicate Pay Pal dues are paid, reimbursement will be made via check. Dues are \$31.00 per calendar year. Please provide the following information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Ravelry ID _____
Telephone (____) _____
E-mail _____

Thank you for your continued support!!



Bundles of Love

by Patsy

The BOL Fact Sheet for 2015 shows that 4,992 families were served, with 3,745 receiving complete Bundles. The total number of items donated by Bundles of Love for 2015 was 124,159. Bundles were delivered to 101 agencies in 25 counties in Minnesota.

Pilar, a mother of Aria posted these words on the Facebook page "Words cannot express how amazing BOL is! My precious Aria was born not breathing at 27 weeks. I wasn't allowed to hold my sweet 1 lb 13 oz baby for the first couple of days. Heartbroken, stressed and beyond exhausted I came back into our room in NICU...and to my surprise there was a giant bag sitting there. I opened it to see a bag full of wonderful little outfits, hats, sweaters, blankets and other gifts from BOL...Of course I cried, Like really cried. I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful gifts and the hope you gave me that day. Our sweet Aria is home now and doing great and is 9 lbs 4 oz. Thank you again."

As of August we have donated 322 items. Our goal is one item per day or 366 items this year. We can get it done if each of us makes just a couple more items.

The babies and their moms thank you very much.

Please help us make a difference in the life of a newborn.

Web site: www.bundlesoflove.org

Voicemail: 952/808-6882

Midwest Machine Knitters Collaborative contact: Patsy Fisk

952/977- 9900

Mock Rib Cuff & Hat for Baby

Mid-Gauge Knitting Machine



Bernat Baby Softee; Lion Baby Soft; Lion Pound of Love or similar weight yarn

T 3: Carriage on the right. E-wrap onto every other needle: 39 – 0 – 40.

Knit 1 row, hang weights. Knit to RC 18 on every other needle.

Remove weights; fold the hem up and place the loops formed from the cast on onto the empty needles – 79 needles in work.

T 4: Knit 1 row to enclose the hem.

RC 19: Beginning with left needle 35, transfer this stitch and every 7th* stitch to its neighbor, and move the empty needles out of work.

*Transfer needles: Left 35, 28, 21, 14, 7 &

Right 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 36

In work: 4 stitches on each end and 6 stitches between the needles out of work.

T 4: Knit to RC 50.



Pull all needles into work position and then transfer every other needle to its neighbor and move the empty needles out of work (some needles will only have one stitch on them).

Knit 2 rows.

Gather all stitches onto a doubled strand of yarn; pull tight and knot, making sure to close the hole at the center of the gather.

Seam the hat and hide all yarn ends.

Maria Ann Youngs, 2012

What is a Sweater (appeared in The New Yorker, reprinted from Journal World):

A sweater is a state of mind, a moment of truth, a promise. A sweater is an extension of the woman who wears it. The appreciation of the man who sees her in it. The creative expression of the one who made it.

For the one who wears it, it is a status symbol, a social commentary, an emotional facade, a self revelation, a pride of individuality, a proof of taste, a yearning.

For the one who sees us in it, a sweater is an embellishment, a pitfall, an ambush. A subtlety, mirage, camouflage, persiflage, and intoxication.

For those who make them, a sweater is an evolution, a sign of the times. A symphony of lines, a harmony of tones, a tribute to skills, a drip-dry, hip-tie, a zip-shy masterpiece.

A sweater is an art and a craft. A pull-on, a slip-on, a cardigan, a shirt.

A one-piece, a two-piece, three piece. A no-peace. It is a vision, a trend, an interpretation. A guess, a hope, a prayer. A sketch, a swatch, a sample. It is 2 or 200 needles and 12,345 stitches.

It is the livable, breathable, wearable offspring of the shearer, the carder, the spinner, the dyer, the knitter, the designer, the pattern maker, the button maker, the order taker.

It is snips of yarn. Sips of coffee. It is a bid for mortality. It is the star to which hitch the dreams and schemes of fashion writers, advertisers, buyers, merchandisers.

And ultimately, the one who wears it.



Brother Electronic 930-970 Extra Hidden Patterns

The following 'hidden patterns' were primarily programmed for factory use, and many are test patterns, but here is the information. All pattern variation switches may be used to enhance these patterns.

Pattern #	Stitches	Rows	Design
627	10	12	a
628	10	16	b
629	10	12	c
630	10	16	d
631	10	12	e
632	8	16	f
633	10	14	g
634	10	16	h
635	6	16	i
636	8	16	j
637	8	16	k
638	6	16	l
639	10	12	m
640	10	12	n
641	10	12	o
642	10	12	p
643	10	12	q
644	8	12	r
645	10	12	s
646	8	16	t
647	8	12	u
648	10	12	v
649	10	12	w

650	10	12	x
651	10	12	y
652	10	12	z
653	1	2	. (a period)

Pattern #	Stitches	Rows	Design
701	114	30	Brother Logo
702	56	14	KH930
703	10	5	Idiot's Delight **
881	2	2	1x1 alternate (seed stitch)
882	10	10	5 stitch diagonal stripe With mirror image is a chevron
883	16	16	1 stitch diagonal stripe
884	4	5	Triangle
885	Yellow – 176 then E (error) light goes on		

**Idiot's Delight Braid:

930, 940, 965 # 703 / 970 #665

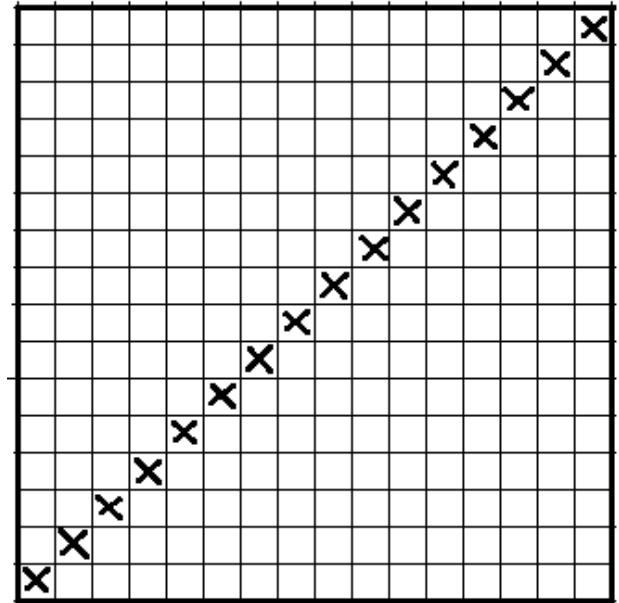
Needle Set Up:

Bring into work 11 needles – 5 – 0 – 6 and arrange as follows:

111001001111 [1 = working needle / 0 = out of work]

Cast on with waste yarn, knit several rows, and 1 row of ravel cord. E-Wrap with man yarn. Carriage outside the turn mark, KCII & Selector 1. Program 703. Make one pass to select needles, push in both tuck buttons and knit the braid. A bead can be put in the middle each time only one needle is forward.

883



881



884



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