

THE KNIT STITCH

Where did summer go? It's time to put away thoughts of sleeveless tops and light lacy cottons. Get out the wools, wool blends, and acrylics. If you're like me, this is a good opportunity to look over hats, scarves, gloves/mittens and see what your family needs.

There are some new and older books available that I think are truly inspiring – Knit it Now (<http://www.knititnow.com>) has Tami Nobuyuki's Basic Techniques Workbooks – #1 which is for standard Japanese knitting machines (4.5mm), #3 which is for pattern knitting, and #4 which is for Bulky Knitting Techniques. These are excellent reference books.

Learn Curves and Contours takes your machine knitting to the next level. Entrelac for the Knitting Machine is lots of fun and brings that fascinating hand-knitting technique to our machines. Mid-gauge Pillow Workshop takes you through a multitude of stitch types and techniques while knitting pillows for yourself or as gifts. Finally Learn Contemporary Cables uses traditional cable examples and brings shows them with a modern twist (forgive the pun).

Visit your local dealer or reach out to Knit it Now if you're interested in any of these books. Some are downloads and some are paper copies. I have several of these books and am happy to bring them along to the next meeting so you can look them over.

Reach out to Patsy Fisk or Margaret Vartarian about the first annual Purl One Tea Too event which takes place on Sunday, November 4 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and it promises to be tons of fun.

Happy Knitting!

Dee Kupka
President

✚ TEXTILE CENTER NEWS

Textile Center News by Jane Niemi
Getting to the Textile Center is now a bit easier with Malcolm Ave open. The sidewalk in front of the building has been torn up, but access through the back door alleviates that problem.

Available at *The Shop* (and many yarn shops) is Jenny Wilder's third *Fiber Art Almanac*; this year featuring machine knitting. Yes, bragging rights for machine knitters! Featured is my knitting room with a few of my framed ribbons from various fair competitions. On my machine is shown a sample of knit weaving. The sweater shown is from Hazel Pope's *The Machine Knitter's Design Book*. It is the Chunky Jacket knit on my mid-gauge machine using super-wash wool. I did add a twisted cable in the body and eliminated the puffy cap sleeve. Many hand manipulated and reformed stitches throughout the project made it all the more special in my opinion.



✚ VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

CONGRATULATIONS! To all the Fair entrants – both County & State - a big shout out of thanks for show casing your talent. As Dee succinctly said “It’s all about the ribbon”; but really, it’s about the fun too.

Our July Presentation of Intarsia + Color Slip = Plaid was by Rebecca Yaker-Bird; she brought her machine and showed us a step by step method she



used to achieve a fabulous plaid. This was her interpretation of a technique that she learned at Yarnover 2012. I have since purchased an Intarsia carriage for my bulky so I can easily replicate the technique. Thank you Rebecca for adding this interesting technique to my want to do list! August brought Carole Wurst from Rocking Horse Farm in St. Cloud to showcase Sock Knitting Machines.

Though I understand the technique of short row, my brain has had difficulty in imagining turning a crank 'backward': if you are turning a crank clockwise, it has seemed counter intuitive to turn it counter clockwise – all the work would be undone or the tool would jam. Seeing it in action took away all my pre-conceived notions. How easy it was!
Thank you Carole!

October 9, **Nancy Docken** will show us what she has learned regarding **Weaving**. This is a wonderful technique that allows us to implement both small amounts of yarn as well as thicker yarns that are problematic to run through the carriage.

November 13, a presentation of **Finishing** will be by **Dee Kupka** (winner of 2012 Sweepstakes MN State Fair in Machine Knitting – congratulations!). Tips we can all use!

December 11, will bring us **Joanne Zutz** sharing her vast knowledge of **Garment Construction and Raglan Sleeves**. Joanne clarifies much of the mystery and explains the whys and wherefores of what is needed for the puzzle to fit together.

January 8, 2013. My inner Campfire Girl days must be coming out. We will have a **Surprise Make & Take It** project. Fit for the kid in all of us. Stay tuned for further adventures and learning in 2013!

Jane Niemi
Vice President

✚ *TEXTILE CENTER LIBRARY*

One Yard Wonders



Textile Center Pat O'Connor Library Gallery
September 13 - November 3, 2012

A collection of designs from the book *Fabric by Fabric One Yard Wonders*, edited by Rebecca Yaker and Patricia Hoskins. Nine local artists designed and created these samples, which represent just a few of the 100+ projects in the book.

This gives you a wonderful preview of what the projects in Rebecca's & Trish's book look like in real life.

Check out the samples before our next meeting.

Also, soon available in The Library, Lori Ihnen has a new book *Colorwork for Adventurous Knitters*. I have seen an early edition of this book and the photographs are wonderful and the color combinations featured have a contemporary look. A color block Intarsia pillow featured was actually knit on my mid-gauge machine for Lori's book. Fortunately my gauge matched her pattern so I was able to make this contribution to the book. Also, Karen Lehman knit the floral Intarsia purse, and it is her idea that all the contributing knitters should sign the book – just like a yearbook! Fun idea.

✚ *MMKC EVENT – PURL ONE TEA TOO!*

Tea Cozy Project

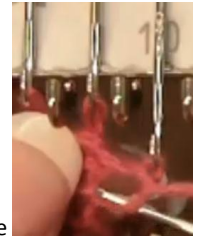
For the November 4, *Purl One Tea Too* fundraising event, that MMKC is hosting, members are encouraged to knit a tea cozy for display and for sale. Wool or cotton yarn should be used as synthetic fibers may be adversely affected by heat. Lining a tea cozy is optional, but may be preferred if a Fairisle technique is used. Insul-Brite is a material that reflects heat or cold back to the source and can be used between a cozy and a lining; it is available at most fabric stores. There is some debate over whether handle and spout (sing along here) openings are preferred. Designer and maker get to choose! The committee would like completed cozies brought to the October 9, meeting to make better event planning possible. Thank you for your participation!

 **KNITTING MATTERS**

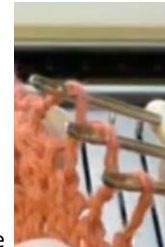
The December 2012 issue of my subscription to *Knit 'n Style* just arrived. Mary Anne Oger, who used to publish *Knitwords*, has been a contributor to this magazine for some time. This issue has her article of finishing on the knitting machine as well as a pattern for a mid-gauge tunic with hand manipulated lace designs. There are five other patterns in this issue that also have hand and machine directions. Most generally the featured patterns in this magazine are very wearable and I am glad I have added the subscription to my library.

Re-useable scrap rags or cast on rags are a wonderful tool and over the years there have been many variations as to how they can be made – from crochet to a simple stockinette. Scrap rags, along with one row of ravel cord, is a quick way to begin many projects that you may want open stitches to use to hang a hem, add crochet trim to after knitting. They can also be used to place over work that is hold to protect the knit.

Recently *Knit It Now* featured a diagonal knit version. For this (or any) a strong, tightly twisted yarn is recommended. With carriage on the right cast on 4 to 5 stitches on the left side of your machine and knit 5 rows. On the left decrease one stitch with a two prong transfer tool and put the empty needle out of work; on the right right bring a new needle into work - all the way out and knit 2 rows. This automatic increase will form a loop which is what you will use to place on the needles when you use this tool. Continue to decrease on the left and increase on the right with an automatic increase across the needle bed. If you want a longer scrap rag when you get to the right side of your machine, move your work back to the left side of the machine and continue. It can be very helpful to have scrap rags in a variety of lengths, and for each of your machines. I am in the process of making a few on my mid-gauge that hopefully will work for all my machines (only 3). I found that starting with 10 stitches would give me more of a base to hang weights onto or just hold on to. Aunt Lydia's crochet thread #3 is my choice of material to use to make them.



The loop formed by the automatic increase



Hang loops onto the machine



Loops on the machine

The scrap rag with a row of ravel cord



Crocheted scrap rag



Crochet, ravel cord, and main yarn



+ DEALER'S CORNER

Cindy Schmatz – Cindy's Knitting Room
110 13th Avenue S
Princeton, MN. 55371
612/390-1279
Email: cschmatz@nsatel.net
Website: <http://www.cindysknittingroom.com/>

Cindy has worked in the machine knitting business for over 30 years. Her shop, Cindy's Knitting Room in Princeton, Minnesota carries Silver Reed Knitting Machines, accessories, and parts as well as previously-owned knitting machines (contact Cindy directly for a current list of what is available), as well as accessories, and parts. Cindy also provides a regular newsletter.

Along with machines, accessories, and yarns, Cindy also gives lessons and has a monthly knitting club that meets the 2nd Saturday of the month. Please contact Cindy if you are interested in joining.

On October 12 & 13, Cindy's Knitting Room is hosting Loretta Warner, knitwear designer/artist to conduct a two-day workshop. There are still openings for anyone interested in attending. There are hotels in Princeton if you'd like to stay overnight on Friday night (several MMKC members are going and will be staying the night Friday).

Visit Cindy's Knitting Room in person if possible and online if you can't make the trip. Details about knit-ins, events, yarn, machines, etc. are all detailed on her website.

+ FROM MARIA ANN YOUNGS...

Memories from the Fair

Demo day at the Fair was a wonderful experience. All who stopped seemed intrigued at what we could do. By the end of the day we had quite a collection of baby hats and bootie sets. Thanks to all who volunteered!

My favorite memory occurred early on in the day when two young men came up to the demo area and were fascinated with what I was knitting. They

struck up a conversation, and questioned me as to whether or not I could knit a Hacky Sack. I was up to the challenge. I knit a rectangle that could be gathered at both ends.

I cast-on then had both of them run the carriage to complete the straight knitting part. Then I gathered up one end and seamed the side. It became apparent right away that I was going to end up with a hot dog shape. Even though they were ok with this, I knew it wasn't what they wanted.

I started again with more stitches and less rows. Again, one of the young men "manned" the carriage. The end was gathered and the side seamed. The top was left open and I gave them instructions on how to close it once they had it filled. Off they went, as happy as could be.

About 45 minutes later they were back at my side, having bought a soup mix that contained beans. They used the beans to fill the Hacky Sack and then I helped them close the ball. The ball is very small, maybe measuring 2" in diameter but they were thrilled!!!



*Happy Knitting!
Maria Ann*

 **PATSY'S PINWHEEL BABY AFGHAN**

(With Collaborative help from Jane, Maria Ann, Dee, Margaret and Debbie)

Pattern by Patsy Fisk



Yarn: **3 LIGHT** Bernat Baby Softee 20 ounces
Mid-Gauge Machine: Tension 2

Note: 12 short row wedges total – approximately 1.6 ounces of yarn for each wedge.

Bring 113 needles into work position 57-0-56. On the right leave 3 needles in work and put the next 10 back to non-working position. Knit 6 rows with scrap yarn and 1 of ravel cord; or hang a cast on rag onto these needles knit 1 row of ravel cord ending with the carriage on the left.

Knit 1 row to the right with main yarn. Set your carriage into hold position.

Put 98 needles on the left into hold position (57-0-41), leaving 2 + 3 in work position. Knit 2 rows. Do not wrap the needles, (this leaves a decorative hole). Put 2 needles from hold into work and knit 2 rows. Continue to add 2 needles into work and knit 2 rows until only 2 needles remain in hold. Then knit only one row to the left including these last 2 stitches. This completes one wedge.

Change color here if desired. It is not necessary to cut the yarn. When beginning a new section pull up slightly on the yarn as you begin to knit to the right to help keep the center tight.

Repeat from * to * 11 more times – 12 sections in all. Knit a row of ravel cord and a few rows of waste yarn. Either Kitchener the first section to the last or replace them back onto the machine right sides together (be sure not to twist) and bind off using 4 times the length of the needles in work. Do not bind off the fringe stitches as you will unravel the knitting; after unraveling, untangle and knot the fringe close to the body of work.

Run yarn in and out of center stitches and draw up tight and secure.

Block the blanket lightly; blocking the fringe will help it look better longer and help to keep it tangle free.

If you elect to eliminate the fringe, crochet around the edge to prevent curling.



Off the machine



Proud knitter!!

 **TIPS & TRICKS**

Getting to the beginning of a skein of yarn without tangles is always a challenge. Try the following tip.

If the yarn label is printed with the text running from left to right going around the ball, then you reach in from the bottom and pull the end out that way.

If the label is printed so that the text runs along the length of the ball, then hold the ball so that the words are right way up and then pull from the end on the right.

Also, if you put your index fingers into the ball (one on each side) meet at the middle and rotate your fingers around each other until you “catch” a strand of yarn, you then pull that strand and it should get you to the yarn end.