



THE KNIT STITCH

We've already had an eventful first quarter of 2013 with the MMKC University Freshman Program and Joyful Noise. Many thanks to all who attended and provided valuable feedback so that future sessions can be more seamless.

Our Annual Meeting, normally scheduled for April will be pushed back to May this year. The Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 6:45 p.m., just before our general monthly meeting. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to vote on the Board for the coming year, by-law changes, and any changes which will require membership approval.

Slate of Board Members for 2013-14

- President Dee Kupka
- Vice President Jane Niemi
- Secretary Maria Ann Youngs
- Treasurer Debbie Reese
- Member at Large Joanne Zutz
- Parliamentarian/Historian Patsy Fisk
- Web/Info Master Dee Kupka

Several of us have taken our New Year's resolutions seriously. For example, I've joined the Make 12 in 2013 challenge in Ravelry, resolved to enter the State Fair this year, and I've resolved to purchase no yarn but to use my extensive stash in 2013. It's mid-March and I can't believe I've lasted this long! I'm the most successful at the most difficult challenge!

MMKC University Sophomore Program has been scheduled – May 4/5 at the Textile Center. Our instructors are working diligently making swatches, testing patterns, and writing/clarifying patterns for our sophomore students. New techniques will be taught and students will have finished projects to show for their efforts.

A syllabus will be published next week. Registration is based on a first paid/first confirmed registration. Payment can be made via check payable to MMKC or an email can be sent to mmkc.mn@gmail.com requesting a PayPal invoice if you would prefer. Again, until payment is made, registration is not confirmed. If the first class fills we will offer a second

session. Please contact Maria Ann Youngs if you have questions about where to mail payments, etc. The cost for the MMKC Sophomore Course is \$135 for MMKC members and \$185 for non-members. Class begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. each day and goes to 4:00 p.m. with a one-hour break for lunch. Lunch is on your own. Please arrive at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday to set-up your machine and be ready to start when the class begins.

Recommended yarns, a supply list, and pre-class preparation details (Yes, you will be making swatches!) will be available to registrants.

We have a couple of patterns provided by Jane and Maria Ann in this issue. Also included are some good instructions on the Bickford seaming technique and some guidelines on swatches.

Happy Knitting!

*Dee Kupka
President*

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Presentations: We began the year with a Make & Take Project of needle felting around a bar of soap. No bandages were needed and I hope all had a bit of fun to start off the year. It was interesting that the 'teacher' learned from the students. Rebecca needle felted a design onto roving and then wrapped that around the soap. Kris asked if I were the type to insist things be done my way. Well, in this instance no. 😊 She wanted to wet felt onto the soap. It was slick; pardon the pun. More than Kris tried the technique and it proved to be less hazardous than the felting needles.

In February we saw first-hand a demonstration of a few buttonholes. There was a bit of a snafu for one of the buttonholes and a corrected version of the handout was sent via e-mail. Dee was great under pressure, and others who had also done the double band buttonhole had mental blocks. It was quite funny and Dee (who hates making button holes by the way) laughed along with the rest of us.



Nonetheless, buttonholes are a nice segue to the polymer clay button make and take event in April.

March found mini chocolate candy bars thrown to responders with correct answers to Maria Ann's quiz on abbreviations. What a fun way to begin her presentation! She also had examples of patterns that had confusing directions and helped those with questions on better understanding patterns and abbreviations that can be quirky at times.

Joanne talked about pattern re-calculations when you don't get gauge. She will share details with us in July. She uses a calculator, implementing the memory buttons to the utmost. This will be a must see presentation.

In April we have a "make and take" Polymer Buttons. Our meeting will begin at 6:45 in April to ensure we have enough time to finish our projects. There will be a brief meeting and then play time. If you do not want to make buttons, a shawl pin could be an alternative – bring one or two "wood" double pointed knitting needles, the shorter the better (size depending on thickness you want for the stick) to decorate. If any of you has a dedicated toaster oven for crafting please bring that to the April meeting to help speed along the baking process.

The other presentations for the year are listed on the Ravelry MMKC home page and on our website. If you would like to conduct a presentation, please contact me to schedule your presentation.

State Fair: The Premium book is not yet available online; it should be posted late April/early May as May 6th is the first date for online registration for Creative Activities entries.

I did find, for cat lovers, that on August 28 in the Grandstand, the Walker Art Center will present the Internet Cat Video Festival. Last summer this was a hit for an outdoor adventure at the Walker so fairgoers will have an opportunity to join the fun.

TC: Textile Center Board and Staff members have been visiting with member organizations to re-discover the importance of the member organizations and to become better acquainted with us and to forge a synergistic relationship.

Jane Niemi
Vice President

✚ *FROM MARIA ANN YOUNGS...*

What a great start we have had to the year so far! I recently came across this alternate way for gathering stitches off (i.e. top of hat): Pull all needles to hold position, thread needle with length of yarn and starting at the first stitch pull the needle through every other stitch. Once you have reached the end, reposition your needle back at the side you started from and, catching the 1st stitch again, pull the needle through the opposite stitches that were not caught on the first pass. Remove piece from machine and pull yarn tight. Keep those carriages moving!

Maria Ann Youngs
Secretary/Treasurer

✚ *HAPPENINGS*

Thursday, April 11-14

Yarn Shop Hop – Information can be found on Ravelry –

<http://www.ravelry.com/groups/minnesota-yarn-shop-hop>

Saturday, April 13

Textile Center Garage Sale \$1.00 admission
At the U of M Reuse Warehouse
Flyers available at the Textile Center

Friday, April 26 & Saturday, April 27

Purls of Joy
Machine Knitting Seminar
Rhealene Whimberly is the featured demonstrator

Saturday, April 27

Yarnover – details on Ravelry or knitters.org
<http://www.ravelry.com/groups/yarnover>

Saturday, May 4 & Sunday, May 5

MMKC University – Sophomore Course

Saturday, May 11 & Sunday, May 12

Shepherds' Harvest – Washington County Fairgrounds

Saturday, May 19

Rocking Horse Farm, St. Cloud
Circular Sock Machine Gathering



Happenings (continued)

- Saturday, May 25
Rocking Horse Farm, St. Cloud
Sock Yarn Dye Class
- Saturday, June 8
Rocking Horse Farm, St. Cloud
DAK 8 Workshop
- Thursday, June 13 through Saturday, June 15
Rocking Horse Farm, St. Cloud
Knitting Machine Camp
- Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21
Rocking Horse Farm, St. Cloud
September Seminar
- Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12
Cindy's Knitting Room, Princeton
Rochelle Moffitt Green Demonstrator

participating textile guild organizations have full check out privileges. All items may be checked out for 35-day period. A maximum of 10 items per member may be checked out.

Shop online and use Textile Center website for Amazon.com purchases. Textile Center participates in the Amazon.com Associates Program. When you use the Amazon.com link at 222.textilecentermn.org/library.asp, a percentage of your purchase goes to support Textile Center Library.

Library Volunteers keep the Textile Center Library open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 5 to 7; and Saturday's noon to 4. Contact the Librarian to train to be a library volunteer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget that we're starting the April and May meetings at 6:45 p.m.! April is our Polymer Clay Buttons make and take so we need some extra time that night. May is our Annual Meeting (moved to May for 2013).

ALWAYS SWATCH

The subject of tension swatches comes up quite frequently. There's no way to emphasize enough times how critical a tension swatch is to your knitting.

TEXTILE CENTER OF MN LIBRARY

The Textile Center Pat O'Connor Library is the largest circulating collection of fiber art resources in the country, honoring textile traditions and promoting excellence and innovation in fiber art.

Hours:

- Monday: 9 to 1 and 5 to 7
- Tuesday: 9 to 5 and 5 to 7
- Wednesday: 9 to 1
- Thursday: 9 to 1 and 5 to 7
- Friday: 9 to 1
- Saturday: noon to 4
- Sunday: closed

It's rare that two machines will get the exact same gauge – even with the same yarn, dye lot, and tension. The speed with which you knit, the tension at the mast, and the weight you add also contribute to variables in machine knitting from one knitter to the next.

4.5mm machine: Measuring 40 Stitches and 60 Rows

- Cast on 100 stitches
- Knit 6 rows
- Make one eyelet for each number on the tension dial. If your tension is 6.2 then make 6 eyelets, move over about half a dozen needles then make 2 more eyelets. Dee makes eyelets on the right hand side; Jane makes eyelets in the center. It doesn't matter where you make your eyelets, just that you be consistent.

The library is free and open to anyone to browse and conduct research. Members and

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Winter Bandana 3



Rebecca Yaker-Bird & Jane Niemi
Inspired by Purl Soho's Bandana Cowl

Yarn: Wool Ease
Machine: Bulky 9mm or other to gauge
Gauge: 5 stitches / 7 rows per inch
Tension: 2 or other to gauge

RC 0: Carriage on right. T 2. Bring 103 needles, L51 – 0 – R 52, all the way out. Latch tool / crochet cast on from left to right onto the thickest part of the needle. Knit 1 row to the left. Move the carriage to the right side of the needle bed. If doing a free pass, adjust the row counter.

RC 1: Move stitches L1 and R2 to R1, which will be the center stitch throughout. Move all stitches on the left in one needle toward the center and put the empty needle on the end out of work. Repeat on the right. Latch tool trim between the work on the needles and the machine, so the trim will be on the stockinette side. Knit 1 row to the left. Move the carriage to the right side.

RC 2: Move L1 and R2 to R1. Move all stitches on the left over one needle toward the center and put the empty needle on the end out of work. Repeat on the right. Latch tool trim as above. Knit 1 row to the left. Move the carriage to the right side.

RC 3 and 4: Repeat as above. Eight stitches have been decreased to 95 stitches in work.

RC 5: Move the stitches in as above to 93 stitches in work. Bring needles R3 – R47 into hold. Set the carriage to hold; knit to the right and wrap the last stitch in hold on the right.

RC 6: Put needle L46 – L2 into hold. L1, R1, & R2 are in work. Knit to the left and wrap the last stitch in hold. Bring 2 stitches into work opposite the carriage, knit and wrap. Continue bringing 2 stitches from hold into work opposite the carriage until all stitches are in work on RC 52. Knit 4 rows.

RC 56: Move L23 to L24 and then all needles on the left in one space toward the center and put empty end needle out of work. Move R24 to R25 and then all needles right in one space toward the center and put the empty needle out of work.

Continue decreasing one stitch on each side as above, on rows 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, and 72 (77 stitches are in work). Knit 4 rows.

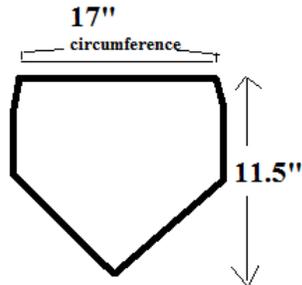
RC 76: Free pass the carriage to the right. As in the beginning, latch tool trim between the work and the machine, and knit one row. Repeat three more times, ending on RC 80. Bind off. Mattress stitch back seam, and tie in ends.

For hand knit trims:

Size 8 needles, cast on 103 stitches.

- Row 1: K51, pm, K1, pm, K51
- Row 2: K49, SSK, pm, P1, pm, K2tog, K49 (101 sts)
- Row 3: K48, SSK, pm, K1, pm, K2tog, K48 (99 sts)
- Row 4: K47, SSK, pm, P1, pm, K2tog, K47 (97 sts)
- Row 5: K46, SSK, pm, K1, pm, K2tog, K46 (95 sts)
- Row 6: K45, SSK, pm, P1, pm, K2tog, K45 (93 sts)

Hang 93 sts on knitting machine and proceed with machine instructions from RC5...when done machine knitting do as follows: Place 77 stitches back onto size 8 needles and knit 6 rows in garter



stitch and bind off.

Some fun images from Google...

Instead of fingerless gloves, how about toeless short socks to make those flip flops fit more comfortably?



It is never too early to think about decorating for the holidays - <http://slisen.blogspot.com/>



Mug Cozy with Flowers



Flower design courtesy of Marcia Hauser, "Over the Shoulder...Scarves and Wraps" published with permission for MMKC newsletter – March 2013.

Machine: Mid-Gauge (sample on Silver Reed LK150) with 4/9 wool at Tension 3.

To create button loops:

Beginning with needle L13, crochet cast on 11 stitches. Latch tool bind off 10 stitches (going around 1 gate peg). Remove the 10 bound off stitches from the gate pegs and hang the right end on the remaining needle in work (needle L13). This forms the first button loop.

Bring next 35 needles into work (L13 to R23 are in work). Crochet cast on over needles L12 to R23 (35 needles). Latch tool bind off 10 stitches from the right. Remove the 10 bound off stitches from the gate pegs and hang the right end onto needle R13. This forms the second button loop. Put the 10 empty needles out of work – there are now 26 needles in work (L13 to R13). K1R from right to left.

Remove yarn from carriage. Slip carriage to right. Crochet cast on over the 26 needles in work. Rethread carriage and K1R. Repeat from * to * to RC 003.

Knit to RC 16 (read edge options).

Edge Options:

RC005: Do a 2X2 cable on each of the 4 edge stitches on each side (L13/L12 x L11/L10 and R13/R12 x R11/R10). Repeat every 6 rows.

If you do not wish to do the cabled edges you can do a 3-stitch by 6-row pie crust trim or a crochet trim along the edges after you have completed the cozy.

RC016: Carriage is on right. Set carriage to hold, **turn off row counter**.

Flower Instructions:

Put L13 to L4 into hold. Knit 1R.

Put R4 to R13 into hold. Knit 1R.

On center 6 stitches with a 2nd ball of the same yarn or a contrast color, Knit 20 rows.

On next 2 rows, wrap the first needle at center in hold on carriage side.

Knit 10 more rows.

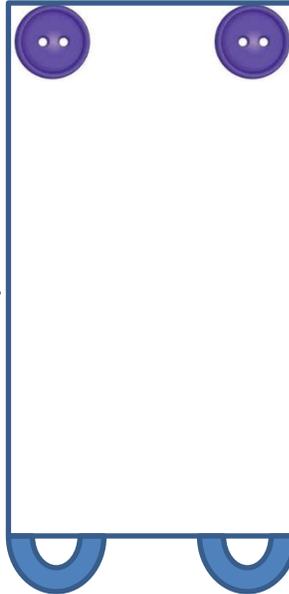
Return 10 stitches opposite carriage to work. K1R. Release hold on carriage. Knit 1 row over all stitches. Turn on row counter.

Knit to RC040. Repeat flower instructions.
Knit to RC062. Repeat flower instructions.
Knit to RC079.

*Remove yarn from carriage. Slip carriage to the right.
Crochet cast on over all needles behind the knitting.
Rethread carriage. Knit 1 row*

Repeat from * to * until you have 3 crochet cast on rows.

Bind off. Attach buttons to edge opposite button loops.

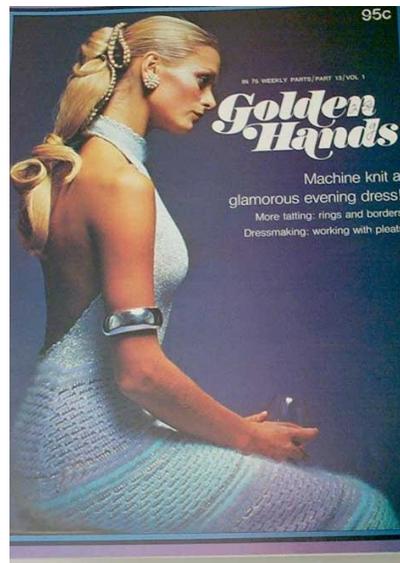


(Basic schematic shows button loops and button placement)

More fun images from Google...



The site is no longer available but aren't these machine knit scarves fun!



This vintage magazine cover (1971). It's the very first dress I was asked to make!!



4.5 mm Tension Swatch (continued)

- Dee also makes an eyelet on the left hand side for each click on the tension mast. If the tension mast doesn't have numbers, you can assign a number for each position (i.e., +=1, and so on until you get to the "–"setting).
- Knit to RC 18. Remove main color from feeder; put in contrast color yarn of same or similar weight, knit 2 rows. RC is 20. Put main color back in feeder.
- Knit to RC 35. Hang contrast color yarn on needles 21 on each side of 0.
- Knit to RC 50. Hang contrast color yarn on needles 21 on each size of 0.
- Knit to RC 65. Hang contrast color yarn on needles 21 on each side of 0.
- Knit to RC 80. Remove main color from feeder; put in contrast color yarn. Knit 2 rows. RC is 82. Put main color back into feeder.
- Knit to RC100. Bind off.

6.5 or 7.0mm machine: Measuring 30 Stitches and 40 Rows

- Cast on 70 stitches
- Knit 3 rows
- Make one eyelet for each number on the tension dial. If your tension is 6.2 then make 6 eyelets, move over about half a dozen needles then make 2 more eyelets. Dee makes eyelets on the right hand side; Jane makes eyelets in the center. It doesn't matter where you make your eyelets, just that you be consistent. Dee also makes an eyelet on the left hand side for each click on the tension mast. If the tension mast doesn't have numbers, you can assign a number for each position (i.e., +=1, and so on until you get to the "–"setting).
- Knit to RC 8. Remove main color from feeder; put in contrast color yarn of same or similar weight, knit 2 rows. RC is 10. Put main color back in feeder.
- Knit to RC 20. Hang contrast color yarn on needles 16 on each side of 0.
- Knit to RC 30. Hang contrast color yarn on needles 16 on each size of 0.
- Knit to RC 40. Hang contrast color yarn on needles 16 on each size of 0.
- Knit to RC 50. Remove main color from feeder; put in contrast color yarn. Knit 2 rows. RC is 52. Put main color back into feeder.
- Knit to RC60. Bind off.

9.0mm machine: Measuring 20 Stitches and 30 Rows

- Cast on 50 stitches
- Knit 3 rows
- Make one eyelet for each number on the tension dial. If your tension is 6.2 then make 6 eyelets, move over about half a dozen needles then make 2 more eyelets. Dee makes eyelets on the right hand side; Jane makes eyelets in the center. It doesn't matter where you make your eyelets, just that you be consistent. Dee also makes an eyelet on the left hand side for each click on the tension mast. If the tension mast doesn't have numbers, you can assign a number for each position (i.e., +=1, and so on until you get to the "–"setting).
- Knit to RC 8. Remove main color from feeder; put in contrast color yarn of same or similar weight, knit 2 rows. RC is 10. Put main color back in feeder.
- Knit to RC 20. Hang contrast color yarn on needles 11 on each side of 0.
- Knit to RC 30. Hang contrast color yarn on needles 11 on each size of 0.
- Knit to RC 40. Remove main color from feeder; put in contrast color yarn. Knit 2 rows. RC is 42. Put main color back into feeder.
- Knit to RC50. Bind off.

Jane Niemi does use the same tension swatch directions for the mid-gauge (6.5/7.0mm) as she does for the bulky (9.0mm). Be consistent regardless to avoid mathematical errors.

BICKFORD SEAM – captured from: <http://knittings.com/step-by-step-fairy-easy-passap-tuck-hat/>

This technique works when both edge stitches to be woven are plain knit. You need matching sides of knots and loops. I weave up the side by going through the knots and edge loops in a specific order, pulling my weaving thread tight as I go along. The join is basically flat so regardless of which side is chosen, no ugly ridge sticks out. I've seen references calling this type of seam a Bickford Seam. I learned how to do it a machine knitting seminar several years ago with no name attached.

Starting at the bottom, line up the two pieces to be seamed by putting the knot from the knot from the left piece of knitted fabric next to its corresponding knot on the right piece of fabric. Loops will automatically align if knots are aligned.

You will be seaming right knot to left knot, then left loop to right loop. Where you start in the sequence doesn't really matter, as long as you follow the sequence.

- 1) Thread a tapestry needle with yarn.
Go up through a left edge knot.



- 2) Down through a left edge loop.



- 3) Up through a right edge loop.



- 4) Down through a right edge knot.



Repeat these four steps until you reach the end. This seam can still be seen, but it is the best one I've found when you want a truly reversible fabric.

Knit side



Purl side



Even with a dark green yarn for purposes of demonstration, the seaming thread is almost invisible.