



THE KNIT STITCH

This is so exciting! Our first newsletter! Welcome everyone to the Midwest Machine Knitters' Collaborative hereafter referred to in our newsletters as MMKC.

With spring nearly upon us, my thoughts are straying to cottons. I love knitting with cotton! Plying several ends together on the machine offers the ability to make things as heavy or light-weight as you'd like. This is a great time to make swatches and experiment... 3 or 4 ends of 16/2 make great dishcloths, hand towels, and sweaters. If using 16/2 in a tuck pattern, only use 3 ends as sometimes the 4th end will not catch in the tuck. However, four ends of 16/2 on the g-carriage works wonderfully at a tension 8 or 9. I make lots of baby afghans with the g-carriage using 4 ends of 16/2 cotton. It wears like iron, is soft, and can be washed, bleached (if needed), and dried in the dryer.

For those of you who are new to cotton coned yarn and are confused by the numbers, the first number is the size of the yarn and the second is the number of strands of that size. I've included an embedded file that you can open which gives more detailed information on yarn weights and calculating how much yarn you will need to complete a project.



Machine Knitting -
Yarn Counts.pdf

Another combination I use is 2 ends of 10/2 plus 1 end of 16/2 when I make g-carriage hand towels. Two ends of 10/2 make great tuck dish cloths. My absolute favorite is soft ball cotton which is combed cotton. Some can pill but this is incredibly soft and can handle just about anything – g-carriage, tuck, slip, stockinette, weaving. I absolutely adore this yarn for sweaters but it can also be used very successfully for baby blankets, dish cloths, hand towels, etc.

Just remember, cotton does not have any give. Loosely cast on and “error” on the side of having a looser tension. Now get out that cotton and have some fun!

Dee Kupka
President

TEXTILE CENTER – CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Textile Center will remain open during the light rail construction. As driving and parking changes occur they will be sent to members electronically prior to our meeting. If you have questions please contact the Textile Center, www.textilecentermn.org or call 612-436-0464.

PRESENTATION RECAP

January – Jane Niemi showed us “Cool Tools” and methods of organizing. She also demonstrated short rowing for the Hertha Wood Triangle Scarf/Shawl.

February – Terry Gale brought us color in February. This was an inspiring program and the lessons learned have already been implemented.

March – was Susan Hensel, who showed us how to combine fabulous yarns into new unique yarn to knit with on our machines. We saw locks from a variety of breeds of sheep as well as roving from merino, blends of a variety of natural fibers including silk and bamboo.

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

April	Beginnings & Endings (Casting On and Binding Off)
May	Slip Part 1 – Texture
June	Cascade Yarns
July	Slip Part 2– Multi-Color Slip Stitch Knitting
Aug	Color Discharge/Shibori
Sept	Socks – Short Rows on a Circular Machine
Oct	Slip Stitch Part 3 – Short Rowing
Nov	to be announced
Dec	to be announced

STATE FAIR

The 2012 Creative Activities Book will not be available until May 1. The list below is from the 2011, book, keeping in mind that there may be a change in categories.



STATE FAIR (CONT'D)

- ✧ Dress, coat, slacks, or suit, child
- ✧ Outerwear, adult: coat, jacket, poncho or shawl
- ✧ Fabric and knit combination
- ✧ Infant wear (size 0-2)
- ✧ Sweater, adult cardigan
- ✧ Sweater, child (size 3-12)
- ✧ Sweater, adult plain pullover
- ✧ Sweater, adult pattern, pullover
- ✧ Sweater, adult design pullover
- ✧ Toy
- ✧ Afghan (no larger than 50"x76"; no smaller than 45"x60")
- ✧ Vest or shell, adult
- ✧ Purses / tote
- ✧ Dress or suit, adult

Note:

- Pattern means one color yarn, different stitch on article.
- Design means more than one color yarn on article.
- Plain knit may include stripes.

www.mnstatefair.org

KNITTIN' PURLS

This year we'll be making shawls for Wrapped in Care, providing support to mothers who have suffered infant loss, and Bundles of Love, an organization that provides basics for babies, the Prop Shop, and the Leprosy project. Here's a list of things needed:

- Dish Cloths (Prop)
- Shawls (Wrapped in Care)
- Receiving Blankets (Bundles of Love)
- Bibs (Bundles of Love)
- Burp Cloths (Bundles of Love)
- Baby Cardigan (Bundles of Love)
- Knit Hat (Bundles of Love)
- Knit Booties/socks (Bundles of Love)
- Washcloths (Bundles of Love)
- Mittens (Bundles of Love)

Please bring your knit items to the monthly MMKC general meetings. One of our Committee Chairs will ensure the items get distributed to the appropriate charity.

Jane Niemi collecting for Wrapped in Care
Patsy Fisk collecting for Bundles of Love
Maria Ann Youngs collecting for Prop

Contact Jane Niemi (jsniemi@comcast.net) for the Triangle Shawl pattern (for Wrapped in Care) or the Baby Kimono pattern (for Bundles of Love). Be sure to indicate which machine you have so the correct pattern instructions can be sent.



JOYFUL NOISE

What a fun time! Thanks to everyone who attended our first annual Joyful Noise event. Although due to timing our event was only one day this year, we were able to fit in lots of knitting, learning, and a good time.

ANNUAL MEETING

The MMKC Annual Meeting takes place as part of our April General Meeting. However, this year no elections will be held as this is our "building" year for our founders to lay the groundwork for the Collaborative.

DEALER'S CORNER

Dorothy Rosman – Custom Knits & Mfg.
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Lake Park, MN 56554
218/238-5882
Email: cknitmfg@tekstar.com
Website: <http://www.customknitsmfg.com>

Dorothy has been in business for 29 years. Her shop, Custom Knits & Mfg sells Silver Reed Knitting Machines, accessories, and parts as well as previously owned Studio and Brother knitting machines, parts, manuals and accessories. She is the US Distributor of *Machine Knitting Monthly*.

Dorothy is primarily known for her fabulous Norwegian sweater designs. Many are two-color designs that are perfect for new machine knitters who want to make a Norwegian sweater.

She has blocking equipment available including blocking boards, wires, kits, and steamers. Dorothy also has her patented g-carriage monitor which shortens the time the g-carriage crosses the main machine bed by shortening the mount of stitches the g-carriages travels beyond the knitted piece.

The yarn pleyer is a great tool to use multiple strands of yarn without the yarn catching, tangling and cones tipping over.

Dorothy's husband, Bernie, designed and builds all the wood products sold in her shop. The most well known is the Yarn Tree.

These are just a few of the machine knitting goodies you'll find on Dorothy's website. Please visit her site or call and say 'hello' to Dorothy. She's a fabulous dealer who is a wealth of knowledge.

FROM MARIA ANN YOUNGS...

I have struggled in the past with inspiration and keeping motivated. I'd like to share with you some tips that I've found useful.

First, I keep my knitting area (which is in my family room) organized. I've found the messier the area the less likely I am to want to go there to knit. This means I have to make an effort to put away yarn, patterns, etc. when I'm done with them.

Working on too many projects at the same time is also a huge distraction. If I "ready" the yarn and patterns for no more than 3 projects I can work without becoming overwhelmed.

I created a chalkboard tile to post a list of future projects I'm excited to work on and I put it up near my knitting machine. When I first put up the board, my list was over a dozen items long. I found this was too much and was causing me to avoid my knitting altogether. Now I list a maximum of 2 future projects to stay focused. Any other ideas for projects I keep tracked in a journal. Once I complete a project, I erase it off the tile, add a new project to the tile, then add the finish date to my project in the journal and check it off.



When I have finished knitting the garment or item piece(s), I take them upstairs to seam. This is where I do most of my finishing work. Because they are not out of sight (in the basement) I am more likely to pick them up and work on them and complete the item.

Wishing you all Happy Knitting!





FASHION TRENDS – SPRING/SUMMER 2012

INDULGENCE

1950's clean and preppy looks, slightly shrunken for a modern twist
Boat necks and slight nautical detailing
Short sleeves in men's wear and half sleeves for women's wear to update a classic T shape
Exaggerated bows and ties
Fit and flare shapes.
Playsuits and mini dresses.
Deep saturated shades of petrol blues
Fiery reds and pinks
Vibrant orange
Palm greens
Colors are used in large blocks of a single tone to create beauty of pure color.
Silhouettes are floaty, open and shapes with drape and fluidity.
Exaggerated ruffles, bows, and exploding corsages.
Tiered looks of total knit dressing.
Wraps and belt cardigans that are sheer and light
Elegant dressy menswear with semi-tailored looks
Bold exaggerated sleeves

MODERNISM

Strong monochromes of blacks, grays, and soft blues alongside crisp white and silver
Silhouettes are clean, bold and very simple shapes
Layering in different finishes in one tone
Oversized shapes and wide-open necklines and sleeves
Dresses and fluid shapes
Boxy and cropped with lean and long underneath
Sleeveless pullovers and cardigans both fine and chunky
Slightly tailored approach to jackets in wovens and refined knits

CONTRADICTION

Warm browns and beige continue with unusual brighter accents to add contrast and quirkiness to the neutral feel
Pink, green, sunny yellow and touches of gold add unexpected contradiction.
Reinventing 'grunge' with salvaged, thrift, and the rescued is revived
Silhouettes are slim and fitted; in women's wear styles are cropped or waisted
Peasant looks and gathers
Long and lean cardigans for both men's wear and women's wear
Feminine details such as crochet belts and corsages
A slight nod to utility or safari looks using crisp linens and pocket detailing
Sleeveless tunics are belted and relaxed



MID-GAUGE/BULKY DISH CLOTH X 3

#1 Mid-Gauge Dishcloth

Yarn: Sugar & Cream or comparable Cotton – use 100% cotton for dish cloths

Tension: 10 (or largest Tension on your dial) – Tension 6 on the Bulky

Bring 4 needles to E position (all the way out), latch tool cast on. Knit 1 row manually. Increase 1 stitch on carriage side by pulling one out of work needle closest to the carriage into work position. Knit 2Rows.

Increase 1 stitch on the carriage side by moving 2 stitches out by one needle. Leave the empty needle in work. Knit 1 row. Note: Bring the 3 needles closest to the carriage all the way out to facilitate knitting those stitches.

Repeat between * * until there are 43 stitches in work. RC 041

Decrease on the carriage side using a 2-prong transfer tool. Move the 2 edge stitches in one needle. (The end needle is empty, the next needle has 1 stitch on it, and the following needle has 2 stitches on it.) Push the emptied needle next to the carriage out of work (A position). On the carriage side transfer the stitch on the 3rd needle to the 4th needle. Leave the empty needle in work position. Knit 1 row. Repeat between * * until there are 4 stitches remaining in work. RC078.

Bind off 5 stitches.

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#2 Mid-Gauge Dishcloth II

Yarn: Sugar & Cream or comparable Cotton – 100% cotton only for dish cloths

Tension: 10 (or largest Tension on your dial) – Tension 6 on the Bulky

Bring 6 needles all the way out to E position, e-wrap cast on. Knit 1 row.
Increase 1 stitch on carriage side. K2R.

Increase 1 stitch on the carriage side by moving 2 stitches out one needle and leave the empty needle in work. Knit 1 row. NOTE: bring the 3 end needles on the carriage side out to E position to facilitate the knitting.

Repeat between * * until there are 37 stitches in work. RC033.

RC034 – opposite carriage do a picot, keeping all needles in work.

RC035 – opposite carriage do a picot, keeping all needles in work.

RC037 – *Decrease on the carriage side using a 2-prong transfer tool. Move the 2 edge stitches in one needle. (The end needle is empty, the next needle has 1 stitch on it, and the following needle has 2 stitches on it.) Push the emptied needle next to the carriage out of work (A position). Then on the carriage side transfer the stitch on the 3rd needle to the 4th needle. Be sure to leave the empty needle in work position. Knit 1 row.* Repeat between * * until there are 6 (previously, it was 4) stitches remaining in work. (If you didn't knit one row after your last decrease, be sure to do so.)

K1R. Dec carriage side and K2R

RC070 - Knit 1 Row. Bind off 6 stitches
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#3 MID-GAUGE DISHCLOTH

Yarn: Sugar & Cream or comparable Cotton – 100% cotton only for dish cloths

Tension: Largest on your machine's dial – Tension 6 on the Bulky

E-wrap cast on 35 stitches. K3R

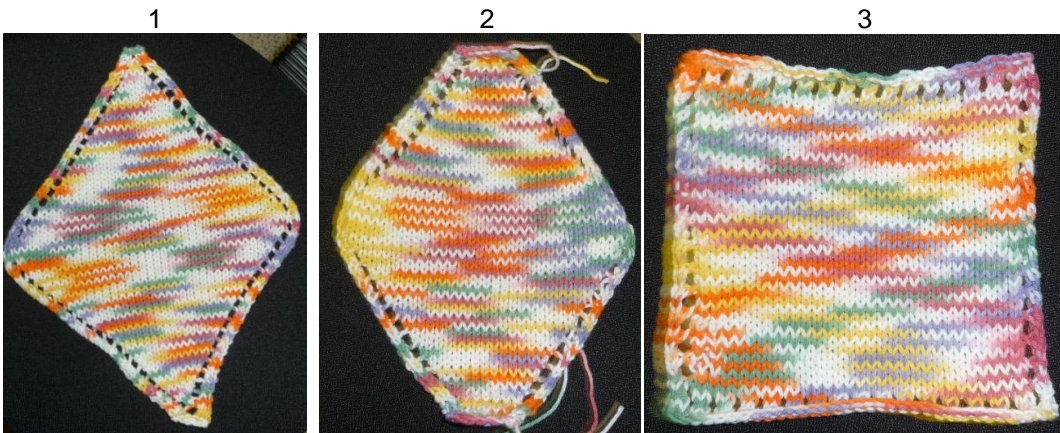
Transfer EON starting at the 3rd stitch from the carriage side (2 stitches should be in work before the 1st and last picot hole made). Pull all needles to E position. K3R

Transfer the 3rd stitch in from each side, keeping all needles in work. K3R
Repeat between * * to RC042. K3R

RC045 – transfer EON starting at the 3rd stitch from the carriage side (2 stitches should be in work before the 1st and last picot hole made). Pull all needles to E position. K3R.

Bind off.

Adapted from a pattern by ++MaGic PiXie KnITter++





STANDARD BED (4.5MM) DISH CLOTH

Tension 7/Gauge – unimportant

3 strands of 16/2 cotton (or your preference) – can also use 1 strand 10/2 + 2 strands 16/2 or 2 strands of 10/2.

E-wrap cast on 70 stitches. Knit 1 row. Set machine to tuck

Knit 30 rows

Set carriage to slip stitch – knit 6 rows

Set carriage to tuck stitch – knit 116 rows

Set carriage to slip stitch – knit 6 rows

Set carriage to tuck stitch – knit 30 rows

Knit 1 row plain. Bind off.

Brother Electronic Knitting Machines – stitch world #30, double high setting (example Figure 1). If you are using a punch card machine you will need to repeat the design across and down the punch card – design shown in Figure 2. For a punch card you may need to punch additional rows to facilitate the card repeat.

Figure 1

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Figure 2

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