

THE KNIT STITCH

I have lots to talk about in this issue so please forgive me for jumping from one topic to another.

Our tea fundraiser was great; many thanks to everyone who participated in coordinating this event, to those who supplied tea cozies for sale, and to those who attended. A special and huge thank you goes out to Patsy Fisk and Margaret Vartanian who led our efforts. We'll start planning for this event in January so if you're interested in helping out in 2013 let us know.

We need a Member at Large to represent our membership from January through April (our Board elections are in April). Basically this position is the liaison between the Board and the membership. This role brings concerns and proposals from the membership to the Board.

- Shall participate on the Executive Board
- Chair the Member Services Committee (coordinate volunteers and provide meeting hospitality)
- Plan and Chair Joyful Noise

Please reach out to Dee Kupka if you are interested in holding this position on a temporary basis until elections in April.

In the flurry of last minute gift shopping, think about some of the quicker knits that are always appreciated by the recipient. Cowls (which I thought would become passé) are still a favorite. Hats, scarves, shawls, mittens, wrist warmers, and fingerless gloves finish up that list. There's still time!

Included in this issue is the pattern for the distressed cowl with notes for the standard, mid-gauge, and bulky machines.

I regret illness prevented me from joining you for our end of year celebration. Thank you to everyone who has emailed me or called. I'm on the road to recovery and appreciate your concern. I've heard that everyone had a good time at the party. In fact, I've been asked to include a couple of the popular recipes from the party in the newsletter – Eggnog

Cookies from Maria Ann and Strawberry Daiquiri Fruit Dip from Linda McShannock.



Aliya models ear-flap Hat made by Patsy Fisk For her grandson



Crocheted afghan for Bundles

I look forward to sharing in your machine knitting success and challenges in 2013!

Happy Knitting!

*Dee Kupka
President*

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

All in all the presentations for 2012 gave us a good variety to peak our interest. Many presentations have been planned for next year with a few months yet to be determined: May, July, October, November, and December. If you have ideas for something you would be interested in or would like to present to the group, please contact me: jsniemi@comcast.net

Planned for 2013:

January 8 Make & Take Project
Please bring felting needles if you have them

February 12 Buttonholes

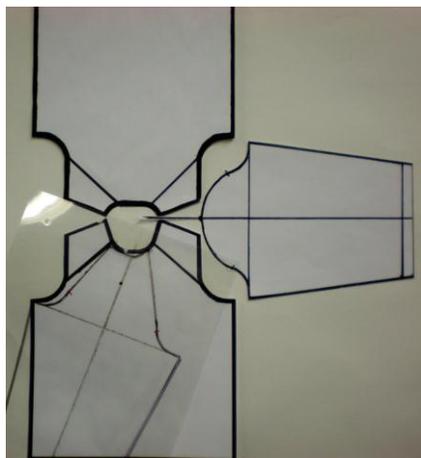


Midwest Machine Knitters' Collaborative

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- March 12 Pattern Interpretation & Abbreviations
- April 9 Polymer Clay Buttons make & take
- June 11 Critique for Fairs
- August 13 Sock Machine Adventure
- September Yarn & Wire Creations

I look forward to another year of learning and sharing. Thank you for your enthusiasm – it is contagious!



This picture shows the overlay of a raglan sleeve and how it relates to a set in sleeve. Joann did a wonderful job of explaining how sleeves fit into garments with emphasis on raglan sleeves. Thank you to our members: Rebecca, Dee, and Maria Ann, and Joann for their great presentations this year. We also were fortunate to host Terry Gale from Skeins; Susan Hensel of Susan Hensel Galleries; Shawn Dolan of Knit & Sew World; Shannon Dunbabin and Stacy from Cascade Yarns; and Carole Wurst of Rocking Horse Farm.



Aliya, our youngest visitor, made this darling ornament using spool knitting. She hosted a party and taught many of her friends how to spool knit. Another generation of knitters!

Jane Niemi
Vice President

 **FROM MARIA ANN YOUNGS...**

I have not been able to get at any knitting projects this past month as I have been kept busy with the preparations for the Holiday Season. I have, however, been looking through and organizing my patterns. I have come across several that made me say 'I want to knit that'. I am going to challenge myself to knit (at a minimum) one project each month. I plan to pick out 12 patterns and find the yarn I want to use before the year is over.

It's been a fabulous year! May 2013 find all of us at our machines creating lovely projects.

Wishing all a very Happy Holiday Season!

Maria Ann

 **KNITTING MATTERS**

Converting Patterns for Different Gauge Knitting Machines



Standard Machine = 4.5 mm
Mid-Gauge Machine = 6.5 mm or 7 mm
Bulky Machine = 9 mm

The formula:

Multiply the number of stitches in the pattern by the gauge of the machine for the pattern.
Divide that result by the gauge of your machine to determine the number of stitches to cast on and rows to knit.

Example: mid-gauge to bulky
100 stitches to cast on for the pattern
X 7 gauge of machine for original pattern
= $700 \div 9$ gauge of machine going to use = 77.78
is the number of stitches to cast on.

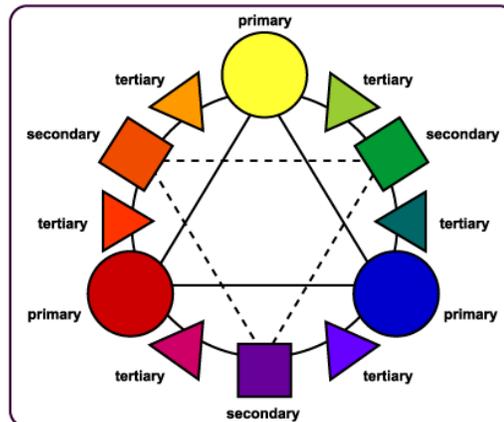
In the case of fractions, as above, rounding up or down would depend upon the pattern and stitch pattern repeat.

The same formula is used to calculate rows.
Example: mid-gauge to bulky
168 rows to knit in the pattern
X 7 gauge of machine for original pattern
= $1176 \div 9$ gauge of machine going to use = 130.67 rows to knit in converted pattern

The same formula must be used to make the calculations for a gauge swatch to determine the stitch and rows to match the pattern gauge.

Example for a swatch:
5 stitches & 6 rows = 1" on a bulky to convert for a 7 mm machine
 $5 \times 9 = 45 \div 7 = 6.43$ stitches per inch
 $6 \times 9 = 54 \div 7 = 7.71$ rows per inch

Color Wheel



This color wheel shows the primary, secondary, and tertiary colors. Primary colors are those that cannot be made from mixing other colors, but are the source of many other colors. Secondary colors are made by mixing two primary colors in equal parts. Tertiary colors are made by mixing one primary color with a secondary color, or by mixing two secondary colors. This wheel shows the relationships between complimentary colors across from each other on the wheel, such as blue and orange; as well as similar colors next to each other. This information is critical if dyeing yarn and mixing colors but a knowledge of color and the relationship from one color to another will make a difference in an end product. The video at the following site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuggwdwGyQs> is an interesting take on organizing yarn according to the 'weight' of the color in the yarn.

 **HAPPENINGS**

Saturday, January 5
Saint Distaff's Day at Rocking Horse Farm
Knitting & spinning circles, demonstrations, and snacks – call 320-252-2996 for details

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



 **RECIPES FROM 2012 CELEBRATION**

Strawberry Daiquiri Fruit Dip Recipe

Ingredients:

8 oz. light cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup non-alcoholic liquid strawberry daiquiri mix
2 drops red food coloring, optional
1-1/2 cups light whipped topping

Directions:

Beat the cream cheese with an electric mixer until smooth and creamy. Add the strawberry daiquiri mix and food coloring (if desired) and blend until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Serve with fruit and/or crackers.

Adapted from Easy Margarita Fruit Dip Recipe by Courtney Horan from Celebrations.com. Accessed 12/11/12.

Double Whammy Eggnog Cookies

From Taste of Home November 2012

Ingredients:

1-1/3 cup butter, softened
1 cup packed brown sugar
4 egg yolks
2 Tbsp. eggnog
1/2 tsp. rum extract
3 cups all-purpose flour

Frosting Ingredients:

2-1/4 cups confectioners' sugar
6 Tbsp. butter, softened
1 tsp. rum extract
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
2 - 3 Tbsp. eggnog

Cookie: In a large bowl, cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg yolks, eggnog and extract. Gradually beat in flour. Refrigerate, covered, for at least 2 hours

Shape into 1-inch balls; place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 325° for 13 to 16 minutes or until bottoms are brown. Remove to wire racks to cool completely.

Frosting: In a large bowl, beat the first 5 frosting ingredients until blended; beat in enough eggnog to reach spreading consistency. Spread over cookies; sprinkle with additional nutmeg. Let stand until set.