



# THE KNIT STITCH

Gotta knit  
Gotta knit  
Gotta knit

This chant rumbles through my brain all day, making it difficult at times to focus. Honestly, I dream so much about knitting during the day that by the time I'm done with work I'm exhausted and think I've knit! Not so! Based on this vicious circle, I figured that maybe I'm not the only one. So... here are some suggestions to getting those machines going (try any of these techniques that appeal to you):

1. Set aside knitting time as you would any other appointment. Whether it's once or twice a week or each day of the week for 1 hour.
2. Make a day swatch day – that's right, make swatches of the projects you want to be making. This allows your swatches the 'rest' time needed. Just be sure to indicate your stitch size and antenna settings in the swatch **or** take really good notes!
3. If you're a stress junkie like me, then set deadlines for your knits! "Have to make it by..." My production is amazing when I'm under pressure. When I have lots of time, not so much.
4. If you've not knit for a while and are feeling unsure, knit a scarf, a hat, an applique, whatever that's small and gives you a quick success.
5. If you don't like small projects, make a large one!
6. If you don't know how to recalculate a sweater based on your gauge **ASK!**
7. Organize your machine knitting area. You'd be surprised by the yarns and books you forgot you have. And I don't know about you but when my room is organized I do knit more.
8. Get inspired with a new magazine or technique. If you want to try a new technique, make some samples; don't even do a formal swatch. That's a great first step! Just play!
9. Go to seminars, take classes, have knit-ins with friends!

There's always been an excuse... when the children aren't so little, when I'm not working as much, when there's time. Really?! I've waited for the kids to grow up but now my eye sight is horrible, I work longer hours than ever, and and and... do you see the pattern here? I'm not trying to be a downer, I'm trying to show that excuses are plentiful

but we can make time for the things we truly want. We've got a fabulous group that loves to celebrate your successes and help you with your challenges. What are you waiting for?

All those demonstrators you've seen or have heard other members talk about have one thing in common. They took some time and played with the machine and had fun. Get it? Play results in Fun. So here's my challenge for Spring 2014 – PLAY & HAVE FUN!

Happy Knitting!

*Dee Kupka*  
*President*

## VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

MMKC represented machine knitting on Saturday, March 15, at Gale Woods Farm during their annual sheep shearing event. The theme of the day was "From sheep to sweater".

The Textile Center Garage Sale is Saturday, April 12. Drop off for items to donate is Thursday, April 10. The event and drop off is at U of MN ReUse Program Warehouse, 883 29<sup>th</sup> Ave, SE, Minneapolis. Details available: <http://www.textilecentermn.org/garagesale/>

Saturday, April 26, is MKG's Yarnover. Shopping is open to the public with generally over 40 vendors at your service. This event takes place at Hopkins High School.

'Purls of Joy' is a two-day machine knitting seminar, Friday & Saturday, May 2 & 3, in Princeton, MN. The guest demonstrator is Diana Sullivan. Local knitting machine dealers will also be demonstrating at this event. For more information go to: [www.cindysknittingroom.com](http://www.cindysknittingroom.com).

Your Minnesota and Wisconsin State and County Fair knitting should be under way. Minnesota offers online registration for the Minnesota State Fair beginning May 5 <http://www.mnstatefair.org/>.



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Google your county fair to get their needlework / machine knitting rules and check out your surrounding counties as well to see if you can enter more than one county fair.

Planning for the MMKC Tea "Purl One Tea Too" is underway for September – stay tuned for details.



If anyone is interested in a magnetic name badge please contact me. The cost is \$3.00, prepaid and delivered at the next meeting after payment.

Jane Niemi  
Vice President

**PRESENTATIONS**

January's presentation had Maria Ann and Jane demonstrating a few different methods to make twisted cord followed with a tassel making demo to go onto the twisted cords. A few of the members shared their favorite hat patterns that can easily have a cord and tassel added.

In February, Nancy Docken showcased her Knitters' Tool Chest software program. She did a walk-through of the program that she has developed as an aid to designing and converting patterns to make your gauge at the click of a mouse – well almost. She has spent much thought and time into the program and only briefly touched on its highlights. Thank you Nancy!

Dee Kupka showed some highlights in navigating the ins and outs of Ravelry.

March was an exercise in getting me to use my ribber. A few cast on methods were shown and discussed as well as showing the difference between English and Fisherman's rib. Thanks to Dee for her demo and help with the hand out and thanks to all in attendance for your patience.

**RAMBLINGS OF AN EASILY DISTRACTED KNITTER**

Keep those Show and Tell items coming! I would like to make a request that if you are willing to have your project(s) featured in our Group's Forum on Ravelry, please put them on our "Show and Tell" table in order for me to get pictures. (I was unsuccessful in March because the projects were passed around the circle and then went right back into the owner's bag when they got back to them).

*Happy knitting to all!*

*Maria Ann Youngs*

**EVENTS & FUNDRAISING...**

"Founders Fest"  
July 12, 2014 – 9:00am-4:30pm  
Hopkins Center for the Arts  
Cost \$50

Come for a day of learning! The focus will be on getting your machine knitting questions answered – each attendee is to provide at least 5 questions (each registrant will be given index cards to submit questions). The Founders will select one card from each attendee and once those questions are answered or demoed, then a second card from each attendee will be selected, and so on. The goal is to answer as many questions as possible and give the opportunity for each attendee to have his/her questions answered. Three machine gauges will be represented (4.5mm, 6 or 7mm, and 9mm). If there is interest and any attendees have Circular Sock Machines, we will provide one for demo purposes as well. There will be a break for lunch on your own (brown bag, Jimmy John delivery, nearby restaurants).

Fundraiser – Sunday, September 14, 2014, - Purl One Tea Too – more details to follow.

Workshop – Dates to be announced

**HAPPENINGS**

Saturday, April 26, 2014, - Yarnover

Friday & Saturday, May 2 & 3, 2014, - Purls of Joy



### *SCANDINAVIAN STOCKINETTE HEM*

The following is the basic technique used on many Nordic sweaters with a purl turning row.

For either method indicated below, begin with carriage on the right. With waste yarn knit 9 rows on the required number of garment needles.

Knit 1 row with ravel cord.

#### **For a garment with the knit as the fashion side:**

Hem Facing: carriage on the right RC 0

At garment tension knit 1 row.

At garment tension minus one full tension, knit 9 rows.

Turn the work:

With waste yarn knit a few rows and remove from the needle bed. Turn the work over and rehang.

Or

With a garter bar remove the work from the machine and turn and replace onto the needle bed.

Purl Turning Row:

Knit 1 row at garment tension or one full tension above garment tension.

Turn the work as above.

Hem:

At garment tension knit 10 rows.

Pick up the open stitches above the ravel cord and hang onto each needle.

Knit 1 row at 2 – 3 tensions above garment tension to encase the hem.

At garment tension knit.

#### **For a garment with the purl as the fashion side:**

Hem: carriage on the right RC 0

At garment tension knit 10 rows.

Turn the work as above.

Purl Turning Row:

Knit 1 row at garment tension or one full tension above garment tension.

Turn the work.

Hem Facing:

At garment tension minus one full tension knit 9 rows.

At garment tension knit 1 row. Pick up the open stitches above the ravel cord and hang onto each needle

Knit 1 row at 2 – 3 tensions above garment tension to encase the hem.

At garment tension knit.



***DEAD FISH HAT FOR THE MID-GAUGE MACHINE***

by Maria Ann Youngs

Yarn: Liberty Plus, Orange and Winter White or any yarn that knits to gauge  
Tension 5, approximately 5 stitches and 7 1/2 rows = 1"

Cuff

Pull out 99 stitches (L52-R51)

Push back EON

With orange, E-wrap cast on and knit 16 rows

Bring empty needles into work and place heel of the stitch on the empty needle beside it  
Knit 1 row, increase one stitch on the right (52-52)  
Knit 1 row

Short row in sections; put all other stitches in hold:

1st section – manual wrap, middle stitches 20-20, COR

RC000 hold 4 stitches opposite carriage, knit wrap

RC001 hold 4 stitches opposite carriage, kw

RC002 hold 4 stitches opposite carriage, kw

RC003 hold 4 stitches opposite carriage, kw

RC004 hold 3 stitches opposite carriage, kw

RC005 hold 3 stitches opposite carriage, kw

RC006 hold 3 stitches opposite carriage, kw

RC007 hold 3 stitches opposite carriage, knit across, break yarn, put stitches into hold

2nd section – automatic wrap, left side stitches 52-31, COL

RC000 knit across

RC001 hold 1 stitch carriage side, knit

RC002 hold 4 stitches opposite carriage, k

RC003 hold 1 stitch carriage side, k



*DEAD FISH HAT FOR THE MID-GAUGE MACHINE (CONT'D)*

RC004 hold 4 stitches opposite carriage, k  
RC005 hold 1 stitch carriage side, k  
RC006 hold 4 stitches opposite carriage, k  
RC007 hold 1 stitch carriage side, k

3rd section – automatic wrap, right side stitches 31-52, COR

RC000 knit across  
RC001 hold 1 stitch carriage side, knit  
RC002 hold 4 stitches opposite carriage, k  
RC003 hold 1 stitch carriage side, k  
RC004 hold 4 stitches opposite carriage, k  
RC005 hold 1 stitch carriage side, k  
RC006 hold 4 stitches opposite carriage, k  
RC007 hold 1 stitch carriage side, k  
Short row complete

Body of Hat

RC000 begin stripe sequence: 6 rows orange, 6 rows white

AT THE SAME TIME

RC036 Decrease 2 stitches, each end, EOR, with 12 stitches between them (ie 1st time double up stitch 50 and 37, 2nd time stitch 49 and 36, etc)

RC060 evenly decrease 4 stitches each side  
RC064 evenly decrease 4 stitches each side  
RC066 end stripe sequence  
40 stitches remaining

Tail

Scrap off outer 10 stitches on each edge  
Fold over and rehang these stitches on 10 stitches each side of zero  
Working with orange:  
RC000 knit 1 row  
RC001 decrease 2 stitches each end (next to each other)  
RC002 decrease 2 stitches each end (next to each other)  
RC003 decrease 2 stitches each end (next to each other)  
RC004 e-wrap 3 stitches on carriage side  
RC005 e-wrap 3 stitches on carriage side  
RC006 e-wrap 3 stitches on carriage side  
RC007-012 knit over 26 stitches  
RC013 hold stitches L5-R13, knit  
RC014 hold 1 stitch carriage side, k  
RC015 hold 2 stitches opposite carriage, k  
RC016 hold 1 stitch carriage side, k



*DEAD FISH HAT FOR THE MID-GAUGE MACHINE (CONT'D)*

RC017 hold 2 stitches opposite carriage, k  
RC018 hold 1 stitch carriage side, k  
Put these stitches in hold, move carriage to right

Reverse short row shaping for R6-13

Using a double strand of yarn, bind off using latch tool.

Side Fin (make 2)

Using orange,  
RC000 double strand e-wrap 14 stitches  
RC003 begin decreasing 2 stitches each end  
repeat every row until you have 4 stitches left  
bind off with latch tool, leaving an end for attaching

Middle Fin (make 1)

Using orange,  
RC000 double strand e-wrap 14 stitches  
knit 3 rows  
RC003 working on left half, shape like side fin (right side needles are in hold)  
Repeat shaping for right side

Eye (crocheted)

Using white  
Hook I  
ch 3, slip in 3rd chain to form circle  
ch 3 and then work 11dc in circle  
slip in beginning 3rd chain to close  
finish off, leaving a tail for attaching  
Cross stitch an 'X' in black before attaching to hat



***BEADED VALENTINE SOCKS***

By: Jenny Deters

Reprinted with permission

Sock Yarn: Deborah Norville Serenity  
 6mm beads  
 Crochet hook 11  
 Pattern  
 1x1 rib 15 rows (with heel spring)  
 All needles 10 rows (no spring)  
 Point of heart should be row 40  
 Begin 2nd heart at row 50  
 80 rows total for leg  
 Pre-heel 20 rows (with heel spring)



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1		♥		♥				♥		♥		
2												
3	♥				♥		♥					♥
4												
5	♥					♥						♥
6												
7		♥										♥
8												
9			♥						♥			
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