

THE KNIT STITCH

Minnesota Machine Knitter's Collaborative

Inside this Issue:

President's Message	1
Book Review	2-3
Miscellany	3
Patterns	4
Resources	5-6

MMKC Board

President: Jane Niemi

Vice President: Irina Bezoukova

Treasurer: Gretchen Funk

Secretary: Elektra Wrenholt

Events/Calendar: Cynthia Erickson

Member-at-Large: Rosemary Velez

Ex Officio: Karen Lehman

Advisor to the Board: Maria Ann Youngs

Appointees

Bundles of Love/Charity: Patsy Fisk

Newsletter: Cammy Johnson

Website: Elektra Wrenholt & Rebecca Yaker-Bird

Social Media: Gretchen Funk

Historian/Parliamentarian: Maria Ann Youngs

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

There is a lot going on in the world. This is however a machine knitting newsletter, so I will stay the course.

Recently someone mentioned to me that they have an issue with their stocking hat staying put – is it the back of the jacket pushing up the hat, that scarf or what. I quickly mentioned that I have short-rowed my hat to make it longer over my ears.



Hopefully you can see the curve that warmly covers my ears. This hat stays put! I have a neck gaiter of the same yarn that has been a constant companion this winter. Punxsutawney Phil said on February 2, six more weeks till spring, so we are almost there and it will soon be time to pack away the winter knits. Yeah. That means once again I will be knitting *for* the season *in* the season. Not the greatest at planning ahead!

April will bring an end to my term as president. It has been joyful to have so many visitors and members from afar come to our meetings and best of all join the fun and learning and sharing. Thank you to all for making this possible.

Happy knitting!

- Jane

Book Review by Rebecca Yaker-Bird

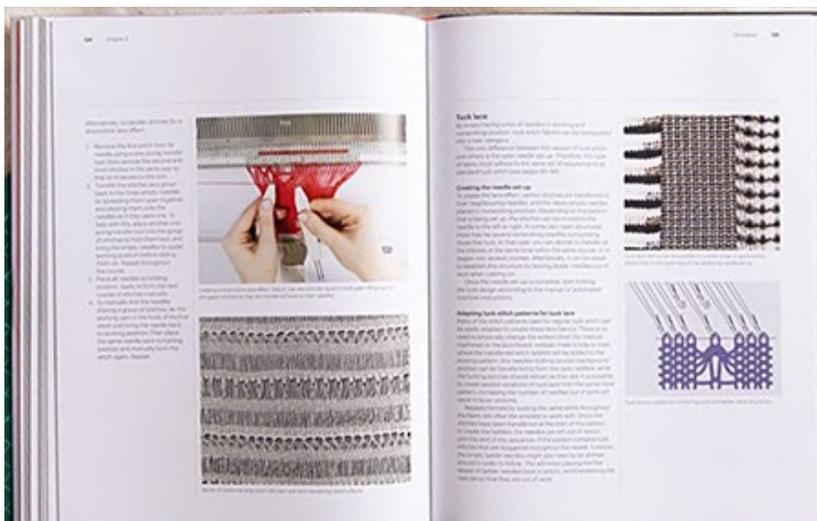
Designing Knitted Textiles, Machine Knitting for Fashion by Florence Spurling (2021 Laurence King Publishing)

This is the latest in what seems to be a wave of newly published machine knitting books. By far, this is my favorite. After a quick skim, I knew I needed to read this book cover to cover (which I have indeed done!). This is NOT a pattern book, but rather a clearly written reference book, with excellent illustrations and tons of inspiration to make your knitting unique, from start to finish.

Florence begins the book with an overview of the knitting machine: how the machine works; assorted tools, and set-up. She does differentiate between Brother and Silver Reed, making this a great resource for both machine owners. I particularly appreciated her large illustrations of fabric structure which helps give a clear understanding of the knit stitch row by row on the face and reverse sides of the fabric, as well as tuck and slip stitch.

Have you wondered about the attributes of different yarns? Florence has got you covered, as she goes through natural fibers such as silk, alpaca, angora, wool, cotton, and linen to name a few. You will also learn about synthetic fibers (ex: nylon and acrylic) and artificial fibers (viscose and lyocell).

The chapter entitled “Essential Skills” covers various methods of: casting on; binding off; when and why to use ravel cord and waste yarn; holding stitches; and everyone’s favorite: how to repair dropped stitches. The “Construction” chapter covers much of what you need to know about shaping (increasing, decreasing, and short rows). Florence also details a tried and true method of accurately swatching your yarns - the only way to a well fitting garment. She takes the guess work out of how to appropriately knit a gauge swatch, with directions given for four different machine gauges (fine, standard, misgauge, and bulky).



This book is incredibly thorough when it comes to explaining machine patterning - manual, punchcard, and electronic are all covered. Fair isle, mosaic, intarsia, weaving, lace, openwork, and textures (tuck, slip, ridges, aching, bobbles, cables) are explained in clear detail. The photos and illustrations accompanying these techniques are excellent and give way to further inspiration and ideas. Florence is really a master when it comes to decoration, and her specialty is embroidery and embellishment of her knitted textiles.

Continued on Page 3

Book Review continued from Page 2

How many times have we asked ourselves and one another "What edge treatment should I use?" We may (finally) find the answer in this book! Rib, picot, tucked scallop, I-cord, bias, rolled, folded, and more, all with steps to execute each type.

Don't worry, Florence won't leave you hanging - she'll walk you right through the finishing of your project: blocking, seaming, joining, and more. As an added bonus, there is a QR code in the back of the book that will direct you to on-line videos to accompany a handful of techniques in this book.

Some of the content in this book is basic, and some is incredibly eye opening. More than anything, I loved having so much material in one easy reference volume.

Before you run out and buy this book, it is available at the Textile Center and Hennepin County Libraries - try it before you buy it!

Tip from Dee K.

Dee says; "I found a video on double bed e-wrap cast-on for Japanese machines - Brother, Toyota & Knitmaster/Silver Reed. The young man doing the demo does a great job showing the double bed e-wrap cast-on on a Brother machine and ribber. I'll leave it to our European machine experts to tell us how this would work on those machines. The video quality is very good and he's very easy to follow."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDKMQfrGjok>

This videographer is known on YouTube as *The Sweater Factory*. This is his description:

"In this video I will show you a typical Japanese knitting machine cast on and then how to do a double bed e-wrap cast on. I compare the two cast on edges at the end, so you can see the difference and which would be better for your project."

A Gift from the Pandemic by Cammy

In our March meeting Jane mentioned that when we go back to onsite meetings at The Textile Center (TBD) we'll continue to have remote meeting capability. We've walked a strange path the past couple of years, and had the unexpected but wonderful benefit of connecting with folks outside our metro area. Our roster is international! I can't speak for anyone else, but I would likely have dropped my membership if not for Zooming.

Barb, a newer member, sent some info about joining her home group - Tech Knitters Machine Knitting Club in the Chicago area. You might recognize some names. Mary Slattery heads the group.

They now have a monthly roster of speakers by Zoom on the first Monday of each month at 10:00 am for a meeting and show and tell; the speaker usually starts at 11:00 am. Scheduled speakers for the rest of the year are: Cathie Sanders, Carolyn Barnett, Irene Wood - round yoke and KAL, April Mills, Milissa Dewey, Bill King- single bed, Bill King - double bed. Previous speakers have been Juan Ramon Alcantar, and Charlene Shafer. The speaker portion usually runs about 2 hours. Dues for Jan - Dec, 2022 are \$20/year. Send check, payable to Treasurer Sharon Sullivan, 16435 S. Arbor Dr., Plainfield, IL 60586. Email: sully141@ameritech.net. 630-471-9650. More info is available on their Facebook site.

Baby Mitts Pattern from MariaAnn

Patsy has often told us that Bundles of Love requests baby mitts. After doing a bit of research online to find the size of a baby's hand, I went with the 0-2 year old sizing (5" circumference X 4" length). Here is a pattern that you may use for Bundles of Love or any of your baby knitting.

Lined Baby Mitts

Standard machine Tension: 8 for lining, 8.2 for outer side

Yarn: I used Trenzado

Gauge: I got 7 stitches and 10 rows = 1"

Tension 5

Cast on over EON L20-R19 (20 stitches) using a weaving cast on
K4R

Tension 8

Pull all empty needles forward (39 stitches)

K34R

Transfer to EON

K20R

Pull empty needles forward and hang hem on these (cuff)

Tension 8.2

K34R

Tension 6

Transfer to EON

K4R and gather off

Seam. Hide ends. Tuck lining inside of outer side.



Stitch Pattern from Barb

During Show-n-Tell at our March meeting, there was a lot of interest in a stitch variation Barb used to make her lovely sweater. She generously shares the instructions here.



This is a staggered pattern of mini-cables - 2 x 2 stitch cross, every 10 stitches across every 10th row. It adds some nice texture to a flat stockinette stitch project.

To make it simple, I marked the needles on the bed, using 2 colors of washable markers. For Pattern row A, centered at 0 and marker color A, mark 4 sts where you will do a 2 x 2 cable cross. Count 10 sts either side of these center sts and mark the next 4 stitch cable cross. Complete the marking of the row, both sides of 0. (When you are knitting, you will knit 10 rows before you start Pattern row B.)

To set up Pattern row B, using marker color B, working on the previously unmarked 10 sts, mark the center 4 for the 2 x 2 cable cross - (3 - 2 x 2 - 3). Knit 10 rows and go back to Pattern row A for the cable cross stitches.

You can check out her project on Ravelry:

<https://www.ravelry.com/projects/barb3040/wa-raglan-in-sunset-gold>

Tutorial Resources on our Website

For the benefit of visitors to our website we have included some freely available educational materials on this page. Go to <https://www.midwestmachineknitters.org/tutorials> and click on the descriptive link for a pdf of that technique.

- Machine Knitting Abbreviations
- Burn Test for Yarn
- Color Discharge on Your Knits
- Converting Patterns for Different Gauge Knitting Machines
- Working with Cotton Yarn
- How to Make a Double Marker Row
- Magic Formula to Determine Project Increases or Decreases
- Placket Edge
- Short Row – Partial Knitting
- Stockinette Button 3-stitch Buttonhole Band
- How to Make a Perfect Gauge Swatch
- How to Make a Gauge Swatch for Standard (4.5mm), Mid-Gauge (6.5 or 7mm), and Bulky (9.0mm) Machines
- Calculating the Amount of Yarn Needed for a Project
- Single Bed Brioche Stitch

A huge **Thank You** to everyone who contributes to our newsletter. We hope it enhances your practice in machine knitting and strengthens our community. Suggestions and submissions can be sent anytime to Cammy Johnson camillaJ19@gmail.com.

Remember to check out the Available Tools, and more in the Members Only section of our website: <https://www.midwestmachineknitters.org/available-tools-accessories-yarn-etc>