



THE KNIT STITCH

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From our President

by Patsy

Hello fellow Machine Knitters,

What a winter it has been! Seems like we have been stuck in the house for a long time. It has given me extra time to do some knitting, both by hand and machine. I have started keeping a record of "My Knitting Projects." I am taking a picture of the finished project and writing the yarn, needles or tension and machine and a short description of what I did. I am putting this in a three ring notebook making it easier to keep track of what I have accomplished. I am putting the ball band with the project in the notebook. There are ten projects so far this year.

The other big thing I did this winter was purchase a ROWENTA steamer for my birthday present. Now I can block my projects. It was tricky getting it started but, now the baby sweaters can look completed and finished.

Keep Casting On,
Patsy Fisk
President



Upcoming Events:

April 1 - Textile Center 25th Birthday Celebration (see article, page 3)

April 6 - RHF monthly meeting

April 9 - MMKC meeting (see article)

April 13 - Textile Center Garage Sale

April 27 - Yarn Over

April 28 - MKG meeting

May 3-4 - Purls of Joy

May 9 - MMKC meeting

May 11-12 - Shepard's Harvest

May 21 - MKG meeting

May 25 - RHF Sock Blank Dyeing

June 9 - RHF Spin Fest

June 12 - MMKC potluck

June 18 - MKG meeting

April Meeting News

by your MMKC Board

At the April meeting we will have our general election for the Board. Below is the slate of officers and members who are willing to fill the position. If anyone is interested in running for an office, please contact Patsy before the April meeting.

President...	Patsy
Vice President...	Karen
Treasurer...	Elektra
Secretary...	Gretchen
Member at Large...	Linda M
Events/Fundraising...	Cindy
Ex Officio...	

At this meeting we will also be voting on new By-laws. A copy of the proposed amended By-laws were sent to your e-mail. Please review before the April meeting.

Cables - with Susan

Guagliumi, sort of :)

The May Presentation will be run a bit different from the usual format. Please view the video and read Susan's blog "Introduction to Cables" February 21, 2019 (<https://susanguagliumi.com/introduction-to-cables/>).

Then knit some samples and bring these to the May meeting, where we will discuss what we learned, trouble shoot if needed, compare results, etc.



Textile Center Celebrates 25th Birthday!

by Maria Ann

On April 1, the Textile Center (TC) will be hosting a Birthday Celebration from 11am - 3pm at the Textile Center.

Members, both Guild and Individual, have always been at the heart of the TC. As a gift to the TC, please mark this special day by “wrapping” yourself in a scarf for the open house. MMKC members are encouraged to wear something they have knit - which could also include the scarf.

There will be cake and refreshments, Guild displays, a brief program at 12:30pm, and time to mingle with other attendees.

MMKC will have a table top display, so please stop by and say ‘hello’.

Finally, mark your calendar for October 21 to attend the TC Birthday Gala to be held at The History Center. More details to come...

Upcoming 2019 Presentations:

April...Social Media

May...Cables (see article, page 2)

June...Annual Picnic Potluck

July... *

August...Ribbers

September...State Fair Review

October...Sleeve Styles

November...Holiday Patterns

December...Holiday Party Potluck

*We are looking for someone to be the Presenter for July. If you are interested, please contact Karen





Questions about the mittens:

How do I get the mitten to HCMC?

Mittens can be sent to:
Hennepin Healthcare Foundation
LSB 3
701 Park Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55415

or
Contact Karen at
612-870-1013

or
kberylmpls@gmail.com. I will see that they get to the HCMC representative.

Why thumbs-they seem pretty useless with all the bandages?

HCMC says that burn/frostbite patients are concerned about how their hands look. Having thumbs is more natural and less embarrassing

Why not just make a knitted rectangle and cut the whole mitt out in an oven mitt shape?

By using a few decreases and adding on the thumbs, the only raw edges are at the top of the mitten and at the end of the thumbs. Sewing is easier, and stronger, with finished edges.

Burn Mittens for HCMC

by Karen

My friend Jean first introduced me to BIG knitted mittens. These silly looking mittens are the size of oven mitts. They were a beginner knitter's "oops" that turned from an embarrassment to a coveted item when a member of the HCMC Burn Unit saw them and knew their potential. Burn patients, with bulkily bandaged hands, need the warmth and protection that a BIG mitten can provide.

Jean hand knits these over-sized mittens using either bulky or two strands of worsted yarn. This winter she got an urgent call from HCMC. The extremely cold winter had resulted in a large number of frostbite victims. They too needed the warmth and protection of the BIG mitts.

I thought I could perhaps produce a machine knitted mitten. I was inspired by Gretchen's demonstration of "cut & sew" knitting. It seemed to me that this technique could be employed to make BIG mittens. My goal was to make a mitten as quickly and easily as possible. Towards this end, I decided the majority of shaping would be done with the sewing machine. The only knit shaping would be a series of four decreases to create a slanted platform for attaching the thumbs.

I worked up a sample mitten and showed it to HCMC. They thought it would be just fine. Now I just have to crank out more and figure others might like to make some also. I'm including some pictures and the "recipe" I created for making my mittens.



knitting finished



ready to sew

Questions Cont.:

You don't bind off the ends —Don't they ravel?

This hasn't seemed to be a problem, but you can add a couple rows for safety sake if you'd like

What's the best yarn to use?

I used Caron One Pound acrylic yarn. This yarn has more body than many acrylic yarns. Any synthetic will do, but the fabric should be thick and firm

What if my mitts aren't the same size as yours?

Patients come in lots of sizes. A variety of sizes are useful, so don't worry if it's a little different. To match your mitt shape, you may need to make adjustments to accommodate your yarn and machine. It's better to go too large than too small.

I only have enough yarn for one mitten

HCMC prefers pairs, but singles can be useful too.



sewed mitten



finished mitten

Recipe for a BIG Mitten

Karen B. Lehman

I worked on a Brother Bulky KH-26

Tension 5--I went as tight as I could go and still push the carriage.

The finished fabric should be as tight and firm as possible.

Gauge—4 sts = 1" 8 rows = 1"

BODY

CO 54 sts

K42 rows

(Dec 1 on each side, K6 rows) 4 times—46 sts

K48 rows (TOTAL 108 rows knit)

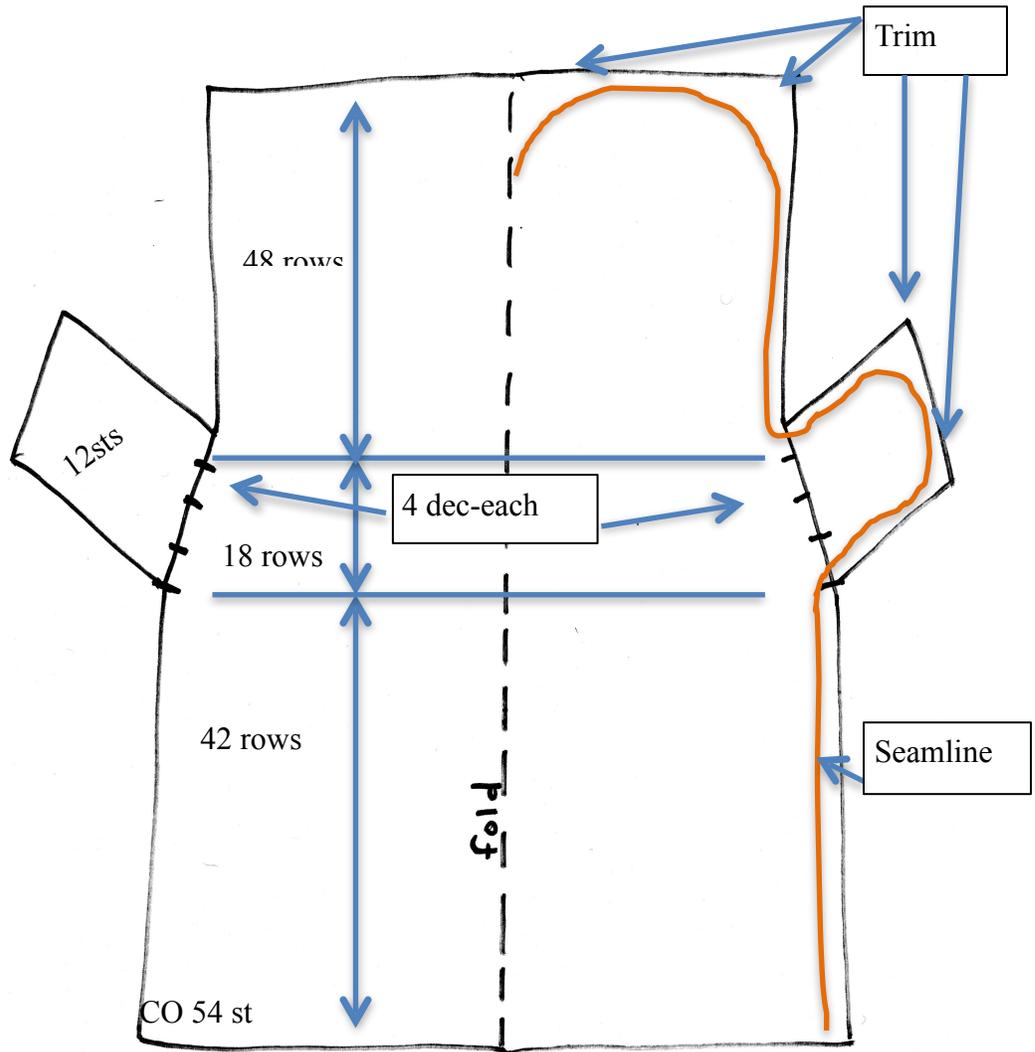
Remove

THUMBS

Rehang 12 sts at side of mitten. Start at the 1st decrease and just add on the rest of the stitches.

K25 rows

Repeat on other side



FINISHING

Fold mitten on fold line-purl side out, matching thumbs.