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THE KNIT STITCH

Minnesota Machine Knitter's Collaborative

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Holidays are upon us! How does it catch us unprepared when we have a twelve month awareness! *The Sweepstakes Scarf* that Rebecca so meticulously wrote the pattern for has been knit and is wrapped! I knit it with Suri alpaca, knitting 4 repeats of the design to be about 70" - great for multiple ways to wear. For those of you who do not know, the LK150 is my favorite machine. Not only was this scarf knit on my standard bed, it required a ribber! Mine has been in its box for at least 5 years. We became friends again. Also knit and wrapped is a V-Neck cable - I showed parts of it at the last meeting. Next will be a hat and neck gator for me - Santa is bringing me snow-shoes so I will be bundling up.

If you are knitting presents for family and friends here's hoping they cherish your work and appreciate the time and effort you made for them.

With wishes for a calm, healthy, & happy Holiday Season for you all.

Happy knitting!

- Jane

**Camp WAPO News, from Maria Ann**

Camp Wapo (knitting or quilting) will continue. Deb O. turned the reins over to **Betty Speer**.

Ryan confirmed our Wapogasset camp dates for the fall of 2022. We will arrive on Monday, October 3rd and leave in the afternoon of October 6th.

The cost of camp is \$129 for these 4 days. Those attending this year's camp agreed that 2 meals per day was definitely enough to eat. (That has lowered the cost of camp). You can send a down payment of \$50 (or the total amount) to Betty. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Betty, either via email, phone or text:

Betty Speer
8030 Premo Road
Webster, WI. 54893

715-307-7841
gbspeer@gmail.com

A Cut-n-Sew Project

While at the Fall Fiber Festival, I chatted with Jason Wurst of Rocking Horse Farm about easy projects that can get us going on most machines without worrying about lots of detail. He shared this pattern, which you may recognize from their recent newsletter:

From MKI Autumn 2021, shared with permission

Felted Patchwork Placemats

CAROLE C. WURST copyright ©2004

Machine: any standard, mid-gauge or bulky machine or Circular Sock Machine, or Addi Express machine

Skill Level: beginner

Yarn: any feltable wool, yarn weight suited for the machine

Size: 10x17 inch placemat

Knit strips of wool fabric approximately 10 inches wide. Any length.

Strips can be knit flat, or in tubes and cut into 10 inch strips.

Combine similar colors. If stripes of colors are made while knitting the fabric they will felt into smooth color transitions.

Felt the strips.



Assemble the placemat:

Hold felted strips together so they are flush. Do not overlap.

Sew strips together with decorative sewing machine stitch that is wide enough to hold both strips together.

Do some strips combining two colors using smaller pieces.

After sewing pieces together cut into 10 inch x 17 inch placemats keeping edges perfectly even.

Use a saucer as a template to round the corners.

Felted Napkin Rings

CAROLE C. WURST copyright ©2004

Knit and felt 30 inch circular tubes.

Use Every Other Needle on a Circular Sock Machine or standard machine to prevent the felting from being too tight.

Cut the felted tube into 4 inch lengths.

Turn in both edges to make a ring.

Book Review by Dee Z.

I just received my copy of "Designing Knitted Textiles: Machine Knitting for Fashion" by Florence Spurling and I have to say it's an excellent reference book. I ordered this on June 1st and patiently awaited its arrival. The good news is that the price has gone down to around \$55. I did pay more (impatient me). There's 190 pages of great color photos and images/diagrams in this book. If you're not book crazy like me, go to the Hennepin County Library (or whatever county library is in your area) and reserve a copy so you can browse before you buy.

What I love the most is that there are new books being published on our craft. As much as the technical details can be found in many machine knitting reference books published 20, 25 and over 30 years ago, it's nice to get a fresh update. This book covers the following and more:

Part 1 - Preparation - types of machines, design, casting on, casting off, waste knitting, etc.

Part 2 - Materiality - colors, patterns, textures, cables, open work/lace, embellishments

Part 3 - Construction - shaping (increasing, decreasing, short-rowing), tension, trims, hems, edges, buttonholes, blocking, seaming

For those of you who attended the MMKC University classes when those were held, it's a one stop shop for what you learned. My favorite? Page 64 "Repairing a column of dropped stitches"! There's nothing like looking at your knit and seeing a dropped stitch 3, 4 or 20 rows down while the knit is still on the machine. Page 96 "Ridges and Ruching" goes into those fabulous textures like pin tucks, bobbles, and any fabrics created by gathers and folds. The "Intersect" cardigan photo on page 107 is fabulous! It's a hand-knit pattern from Brooklyn Tweed yarn company - <https://brooklyntweed.com/products/intersect>. It's from Norah Gaughan's Winter 2016 collection but I just love it.

Now, Florence doesn't make swatches like I do but she does give guidance for swatches. Got to give Kudos for those who remember to talk about swatches and measuring swatches. I will say that I don't measure rows on the knit side, I find the purl side better, but love that she's got good photos of how to measure. And she talks about schematics! About translating measurements into stitches and rows. And... drum roll please..... she has the magic formula on pages 152/153!

Well thought-out book. If you have lots of technical books, you don't need to add yet another one (especially if you don't use what you've already got). But if you don't have any reference books or what you've got in your home library is not inspiring, this book is good!

Happy Knitting!

Dee

PS -Since writing this article in September 2021, Amazon refunded \$10.71 to Dee off what she paid for this book. Unexpected but it makes her happy; she now has more \$\$ to spend on yarn!

PPS - I searched the MELSA system for the book and found only 1 library with 1 copy (Hennepin County); not yet available at Textile Center Library. -Cammy

Make a Yarn Cone Christmas Tree!

Maria Ann shares this fun holiday knit with us. She adds garlands of strung buttons for decorations but you can let your imagination guide you!



Yarn Cone Christmas Tree
by Maria Ann
based off a pattern by Barb Smith

Standard Machine
Gauge: 8 stitches and 12 rows = 1"
Yarn: Trenzado at Tension 5

E-wrap cast on 56 stitches and knit 2 rows

RC000
begin short rowing, by putting 5 stitches opposite the carriage into hold
Knit, Wrap, Knit (KWK)

*continue holding 5 and KWK 2 rows until there are 6 stitches left next to the carriage
set carriage for plain knitting and Knit 6 rows* (RC should read 26 after the 1st section)

Repeat * to * 3 more times, to create 4 sections, but ending the last section with only 4 knit rows (RC should read 102)

Hang cast on e-wrap and knit 1 row loosely. Chain cast off.

Finishing:
Gather top of tree to close hole. Turn tree so purl side is public side. Slide onto cone. Make a running stitch along the bottom edge, pull snug to gather underneath cone and fasten off.

Decorate as desired

(If you have a different size cone: the height of the cone determines the number of stitches you need to cast on and the circumference of the base determines the total number of rows you will need to knit)

Bundles of Love Charity Needs, from Patsy

Bundles of Love Charity is a volunteer driven non-profit that partners with community organizations to assist Minnesota families in need by providing handmade items for newborns.

Afghans/blankets need to be in the range of 32" x 36" to 36" x 36".

Currently they have bags of stuffed animals that need to be sewn shut.

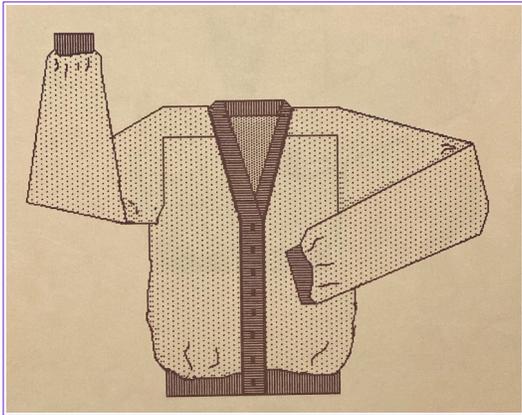
They need new sets of five 5/8 and 3/4 buttons for sweaters.

Please contact **Patsy Fisk** for more information, 952-977-9900 or pfisk1947@gmail.com.

They really appreciate us and all we do to make moms and new babies feel blessed.

Check out their website for more information on what they do, patterns, and group volunteer locations at <https://www.bundlesoflove.org/>





*Mary Moeggenburg Saddle Shoulder Patterns**

If you are interested in knitting either a cardigan or a pullover, Maria Ann will be glad to e-mail you a pattern. Options are:

Woman's size 36", 40", or 44"

Men's size 42", 46", or 50"

Please e-mail her your choice of pullover or cardigan and the size you need.

Contact Maria Ann at:
maria.ann5@gmail.com

**Discussed at our December, 2021 meeting.*



Holiday Bingo!

Our December Zoom meeting felt almost like a normal in-person party with 5 fast and furious rounds of Bingo! Gretchen emailed us randomly-generated, unique Bingo cards the day before. Suspense was high and competition ruthless as we discovered Patsy's talent for calling machine knitting terms in the categories of Machine Parts, Types of Fiber, Weights & Forms, State Fair, and Knitting Methods. Holy Cow – I didn't realize that we know so much! Lucky folks won MMKC-provided \$50 gift certificates for local, independently owned shops. Many thanks to everyone who made this happen and provide a joyful end-of-year esprit de corps.

- Cammy



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>