

Long Buckby Machine Knitters

Special edition Newsletter

During the shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Long Buckby Machine Knitters will issue special editions of our newsletter. This can be found on the website and will be issued monthly.

December 2020



From the Editor



Welcome to the December special edition of our newsletter. As I am writing this, we are just out of a four-week lockdown, there is hope of vaccination, and Christmas is round the corner. And we are the lucky ones, as we have a hobby to get on with! And with possible vaccination in the New Year, which may mean that we can get back to our club in the spring - here's hoping! 🙌

This month is about hand manipulation on your knitting machine. Although the big advantage of machines is the speed with which we can knit, sometimes it is good to be creative using our hands and brains, rather than automatic patterning.

I am not the first one to do this myself, as I hand knit a lot, and forget that I can form cables, make lace patterns and many other fancy stitches on the machine.

If you want to start the adventure, it is good to have a few useful tools at hand, and I have looked at some of these and where to get them. But the really useful tool is the human brain - let us never forget that!

And before you start on that, take a look at this wonderful [short] video showing the action of an industrial knitting machine and explaining how it works, which is not actually that different to the domestic machines.



<https://youtu.be/NGLsnhnR7UU>



And here is a lovely Christmas message from Dorothy

I would just like to wish all members a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all (sometime) in 2021 - until then Stay Safe everyone, Dorothy Lord

Stay safe!
Lynda Fiendley

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Hand Manipulated Stitches

One of the criticisms I have heard about knitting machines is that using them is somehow 'cheating' - this is rubbish, although I do understand the desire to create using brain and hands, rather than complex machinery - a bit like the philosophy of the Arts and Crafts movement

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arts_and_Crafts_movement

My counter argument would be that most of the design work on a knitting machine is done by the user - the automatic patterning is the only part that is truly automatic, and often is not used [by me anyway]. And many machine knitters use hand manipulated techniques to produce texture, colour and shape.

If, like me, you think you do not do hand manipulation [I will now abbreviate this to HM] on the knitting machine, think again!

Routine hand manipulation

How do you cast on?

You can do a weaving cast on without using HM, or an open cast on, but, if, like me you use e-wrap or crochet cast on, you are already using HM before you begin to knit!

This is the e-wrap cast on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiCUKeH_oDA - and to be fair I include another video showing how you can do this without HM <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfndB2kt7tU> . I would not do it like that, takes longer in my opinion, but it is worth a look.

And the crochet cast on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMSNCWRwe_U .

How do you cast off?

If not by automatic linker, then, again you are using HM.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKFwrsKhmbo> shows two common methods.

Increasing and Decreasing

Another feature of most machine knitting, unless you are knitting rectangles and which is manipulated by hand.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-7CoDvLj4k> is Diana Sullivan's take on this <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LxWASoDSME> and this is Susan Guagliumi

These skills are used regularly, and few machine knitters think twice about them. However, you can do much more with your knitting machine if you are prepared to forego the 'automatic' parts of it and use your own internal technology [brain] - it is much more advanced than your machine.

First, though, you might consider your transfer tools:

The basic set, which comes with your machine: usually a combination of 1,2 and 3 prongs, as well as a latch hook

You can buy a 7 prong adjustable transfer tool for standard gauge machines. Readily available. <https://haguedirect.co.uk/adjustable-needle-transfer-tool-1-7-standard-gauge-4-5mm/> is one source. There are cheaper alternatives on eBay.

You can also buy more variations on the fixed transfer tools: <https://haguedirect.co.uk/knitting-accessories/transfer-pick-up-tools/?sort=featured&page=1> has them from 5 up to 60 prongs for standard gauge

For other gauges it is harder to find these, but <http://shop.sckmcl.com.hk/index.php?cPath=39> is the Hong Kong knitting shop run by Sunny Choi, and you can find tools for all gauges here. Just be sure which gauge you are ordering. I have bought large and small items from here, and have had no problems, but not during the pandemic. My items came quickly, and he often includes a small 'gift' such as a darning needle.

And for larger multiple transferring, you can use a garter bar - these can be quite expensive, even secondhand. You can use them to remove a whole piece from the machine, and turn it if you want to.

<https://youtu.be/F4RHdVjiL5Y> is the first video from Diana Sullivan on the garter bar - there are follow ups as well, when you get started

If you don't need to turn it, the [up to] 60 prong tool from Hague might be an idea, or the Hong Kong knitting shop above has a simpler garter bar available for all machines - I think you would need several and connector strips to cover a whole bed. They also have 'transfer combs' which work in a similar way.

Or you can make your own!

<http://www.needlesofsteel.org.uk/files/makeagarterbar.pdf> has instructions for making one using a flexible plastic comb

Hand manipulated patterns etc

Books

First, I must mention some books:

Susan Guagliumi <https://quagliumi.com/> is an expert at this, and her books are a wonderful reference set https://www.amazon.co.uk/Books-Susan-Guagliumi/s?rh=n%3A266239%2Cp_27%3ASusan+Guagliumi you don't need to use Amazon, they are available widely, this is just a convenience!

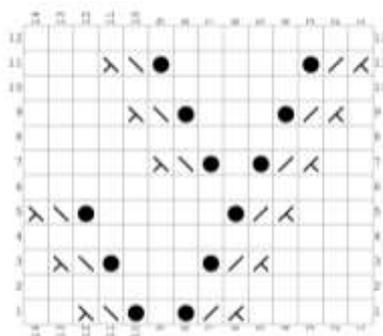
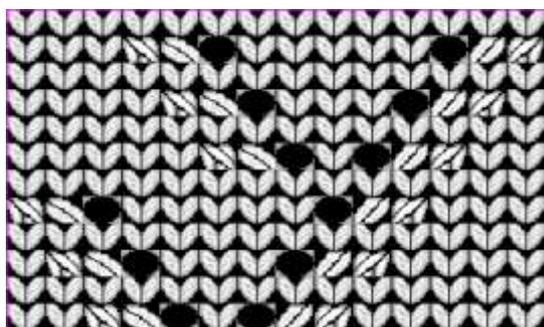
Vikki Haffenden <https://vikkihaffenden.wordpress.com/> who visited our club this year is worth a read https://www.amazon.co.uk/Translating-Between-Hand-Machine-Knitting/dp/178500431X/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&qid=1605964830&refinements=p_27%3AVikki+Haffenden&s=books&sr=1-4

These books are obviously far more detailed than this newsletter [!] but I am including a few more obvious hand tooling skills.

Lace

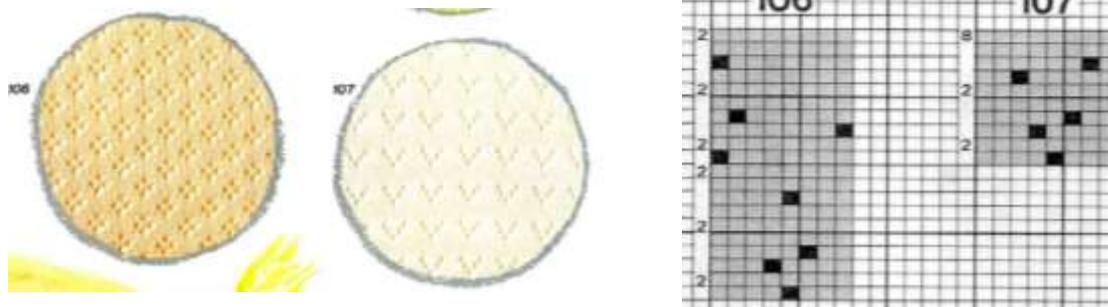
Even if you have a lace carriage, it might be worth trying a little bit of hand manipulated lace now and then. For example, a small 'single motif' of lace on a garment, rather than a whole section, would be easier to do by hand.

I have used DAK to illustrate this. The example shown is a Knitmaster/Silver Reed pattern, for use with a lace carriage, but, as these machines use simple transfers, they can be easily emulated by hand.



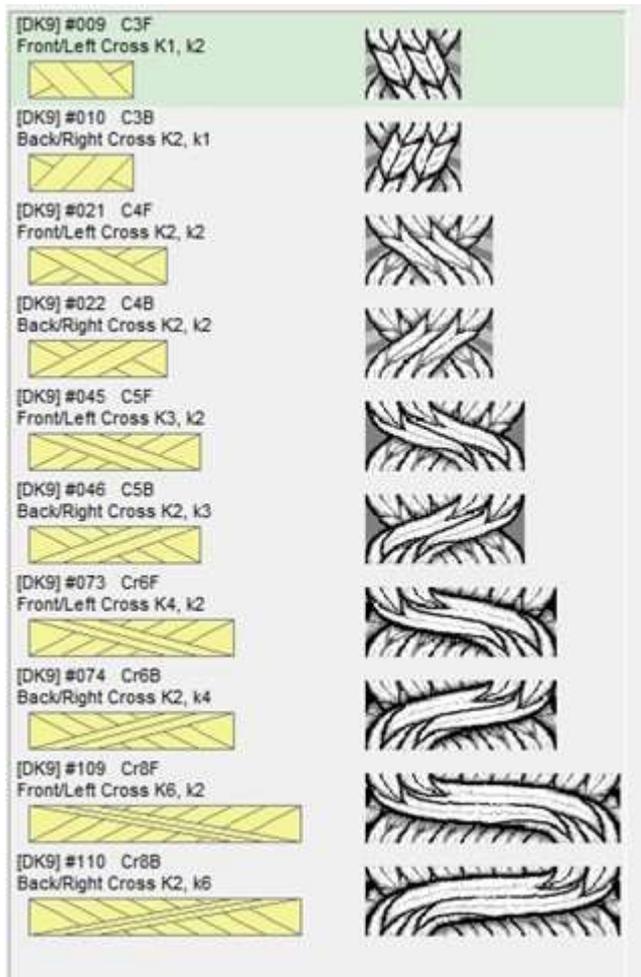
If you don't have automatic patterning, it is easy to follow these patterns, or even hand knitted lace - in this case the transfers are made using the double pronged transfer tool - the resultant holes shown by black circles on the diagram.

Brother lace patterns are more complicated, involving multiple transfers before knitting: the following two examples are taken from Stitchworld.



The transfers take place in the direction of the lace carriage, the numbers signifying passes of the main carriage. I think that it is perfectly possible to reproduce this type of lace with hand manipulation, but I would not try to emulate the Brother patterning - either use a hand knitted lace pattern or work out a pattern for yourself. I have done this with hand knitting with great success, making transfers randomly as I feel like it - but always in a repeating pattern.

Cables



Unlike lace, the only way to cable on the knitting machine is by hand transfer.

It is possible to simulate cables in other ways, but true cables must be transferred by hand.

This illustration, from DAK, shows some cables and how they are transferred: these are on the 'right' side, but the transfers can be made on the purl side.

You need two transfer tools, to take the stitches off the needles for crossing. The main issue is tension, and the stitches can be very tight after they are crossed.

This issue can be alleviated by having needles out of work either side of the cables, or by using

Susan Guagliumi's 'bridging' technique to knit the stitches to be cabled at a looser tension - <https://youtu.be/XrKtSvePQAQ> - and while you look at this video, you may well be led into others by her, most of which are about hand manipulation. She is also available on Craftsy [for payment].

Adding Beads

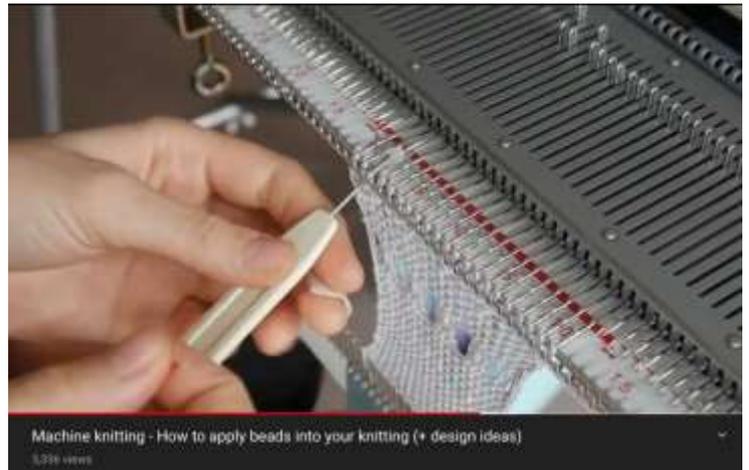
It is very easy to add beads to your knitting.

You need to put a bead on a crochet hook or latch tool, remove a stitch from a needle, pull the stitch through the bead, then replace it on the needle.

<https://youtu.be/fwRnWvfyFd0> shows you how,

as does

https://youtu.be/_pNLJABCYjo



I think there are three issues that need consideration:

1. You need a very fine crochet hook, or a very fine latch tool. Either need to be under 1mm in size, preferably 0.5mm. The latch tool is available [here](#) [amazon link] but I prefer a small crochet hook, readily available.
2. You need beads! Size 6 seed beads work well, one shop is here <https://www.totallybeads.co.uk/glass-seed-beads/size-6> but there are many more. The hole on these is quite big, which definitely helps. But any bead with a big enough hole would be good.
3. My last consideration is that, during knitting, you need to pull the knitting down so that the bead is away from the carriage, otherwise, like me, you will smash it to pieces, and worry [needlessly] about the carriage.

Projects and Tips

I have been knitting this month, both with the machine and by hand. Neither was an unmitigated success, but it keeps me busy!

First, on the machine: I made a lambswool version of the Cascade cardigan from a couple of editions ago. I also added a tuck lace scarf as a 'collar'.



I think it looks better in real life, because it is quite hard to photograph, but I am not 100% happy with the bottom, so may yet crochet an edge.

I am working on this pattern, with modifications, in DAK9, as an exercise. I also realised that the published pattern is missing a page! It is possible to knit from it, but I will get round to a properly finished version soon.



Second, by hand: I made a favourite of mine, an all-in-one bottom-up raglan sleeved shawl collar cardigan, this time from one of my 'surplus' cones.

Again, a rotten photo, and the purple colour range is very hard to photograph. It is not pink!

My large cone of DK yarn disappeared quickly and ran out before I finished the collar [the band and collar were knitted alongside the body]. I substituted it with a bit of sock yarn combined with a strand of lamb's wool, i.e., a strand of 4 ply and one of 2 ply, which worked well. It is quite loose, but my husband thinks it is stylish, so I suppose it is successful. My lockdown present to myself was a set of Knitpro interchangeable needles, which are lovely to use.

Another, quicker, machine knit project [about 2 hours start to finish] was this headband pattern, free on Ravelry

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/turban-knot-headband-3> , which is suitable for any gauge of machine.



However, I followed the lead of a project from the pattern page and used the basic features of the pattern to make a larger version as a neck muff. My hair is

too thick to wear anything warm on my head, but my neck always feels the cold! The pattern is very simple, but the sewing up is clever and neat, even for me. Mine was made in 4 ply sock yarn, T7 on standard gauge, 60 stitches and 260 rows.

I have been wearing it virtually non-stop for a week now!

I think this would also make a good neck edging for a jumper, and I will be trying that sometime soon!

And another use for sock yarn, either hand or machine knitted.

My headphones used to have foam covers on the ear pieces: they began to rot [rather like sponge bars!], so I knitted small squares and used a gathering stitch to attach them to the ear pieces. The result is much more comfortable than foam.



Wanted

Margaret and Byron Turner in Rushden ask if any members have a Suzuki garter bar and/or a KR10/11 knit radar that they want to sell. Contact Byron Turner on byronldturner@hotmail.com or [07986611002](tel:07986611002).

Items for sale -

Brenda in Peterborough is selling lots of knitting and sewing related items, including machines and accessories. Amongst many other pieces there are:

Knitting machines

Brother 940

Brother 950i

Frister and Rossman overlocker

Sewing machines [electronic and embroidery]

Bernina

Husqvarna

Pfaff

And loads of accessories and other items - more details later

If you are interested in the items, contact Brenda via email - email address mailto:fearon_b@yahoo.co.uk - she checks once daily, so be patient!

These items are from a lady in Oxford. Please contact me if you are interested - she has not included prices but is very open to offers!

Knitting Machine products

Hague Linker plus stand.

Colour changer main bed KHC - 820A

Brother Intarsia Carriage

Brother Floppy Disc Drive and discs.

Weight hanger set (particularly useful for lace knitting)

Brother transfer carriage [ribber to main bed; or vice versa]

Brother garter carriage, with instruction book

spare garter carriage needle — 9

garter bar

tricot antiloop yam control

Carl Boyd cut and sew template — neckline

DesignaKnit instruction file plus discs.+

Shadow pleated skirt kit.

Weights with bars — Sue Woolley

Sponge bars -2- Brother

Blocking mat

Knitting Machine Books and pamphlets.

Everything you need to know about the 965i
Elaine Cater
Automatic hats
Hats in a Hurry
Tuck Stitch Baby Collection
Elaine Cater & Caroline Nelson.
Treasury of garter stitch patterns
Slip stitch patterns
Making a fresh start — garter carriage
Simply garter stitch
Fair Isle Fabrics for Skirts

Janet Spink
Neckbands
Ribber Workshop
Machine knitted babywear by Christine Eames
PPD- 1 10 Instruction Book for pattern programming device
Kate Arklay
Winter Warmers
Kate Arklay designs MARY
Simply Skirts Kate Arklay
Patons Machine Knits 3
Patons Introducing machine knitting
Garter Carriage Design Collection for Men. Busy Bee
Fair Isle Sweaters for men Busy Bee
Modem Tuck Stitch designs for ladies Busy Bee
Lace Cardigans extra special Busy Bee
Garter carriage design collection for ladies Busy Bee
Dual Carriageway for men and women Busy Bee
Cardiff Castle — garter Busy Bee
Beaumaris Castle — garter Busy Bee
Longline Waistcoats Busy Bee
Designed for Summer extra special Busy Bee
An illustrated handbook of Machine Knitting Janet Nabney
Mary Weaver
Machine knitting Technology & patterns
Machine knitted skirts
The Ribbing Attachment part 1
The Ribbing Attachment part 2
Easy Fairisle for the Brother Ribber
The Machine Knitting Book - John Allen

Treasury of Machine Knitting Stitches John Allen
Kathleen Kinder
Electronic knitting
A Resource Book for machine knitters
Dianne Bennett
Double bed colour changer
Single bed colour changer
Designaknit a sweater
Computer Graphics and DesignaKnit '
DesignaKnit original shaping
50 ways to love your knitter Mary Anne Oger
Electroknit Patterns
Jones Knitting pattern
Sue Woolley
Beading No.2 and a little bit more
Double bed techniques
More double bed techniques
Machine Knitting maintenance Peter Free
Single and Double Bed collars for the V neck.
machine Knitting handbook Michael Harvey & Rae Compton
Jacquard for all Wendy Damon
Machine Knitter's Dictionary Linda Gartshore
Machine Knitting Hand tooling techniques Susan Guagliumi
Ann Durkan Cameo Collection
Dimensional Knitting Sylvia Wynn
Bramwell garter carriage designs Eileen Metcalf
Making Garments book
Pressing matters Erica Thomson
Folk & Fairisle Wendy Phillips

Suppliers

These are still operating an online supply

www.wools.co.uk - Uppingham Yarns

<https://yeoman-yarns.co.uk/> Yeoman Yarns

<https://www.yarnoncone.co.uk> Yarn on Cone

and this one deals in recycled fibres <https://www.iinouiiio.com/>

Other information

Sally Butcher has a [Kalamunda Crafts](#) page on Facebook. Sally is an inspiring machine knitter, with lots of ideas and videos to keep you busy! And now she has her own YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sally+butcher+machine+knitting which is well worth a visit. Well done, Sally, a marvellous resource.

<http://handymachineknitting.libsyn.com> is a regular podcast

<http://knitwords.blogspot.com/> is a blog

And Finally

I would like to involve others in this newsletter, so please let me know of anything I can include

Administrator@longbuckbymk.com is my club email address.