

From the Editor



Happy New Year!

And we hope it is happier than last year. Not a great start, however, as cases continue to rise with a new variant, and now Northants is in tier 3! But vaccination hopes are on the rise, too, so hopefully we will come out of this nightmare one day.

There seems to be a better chance of meeting in person during the coming year, at least, and we are starting to think about what we will do when that happens.

This edition focuses on patterns again, and this time on reading them. We probably all have favourite formats, but it is useful to use different ones occasionally, and some patterns are easier than others, depending on the finished article.

So, I have tried to include a variety. As mentioned before, it might be a good thing if we demonstrate these pattern reading skills when we can meet again, but, for now, we will struggle on virtually!



Stay safe!
Lynda Fiendley

Understanding Patterns

In a previous issue we looked at where to obtain patterns, which formats were available and also software for producing patterns.

This time I hope to explain in more depth the differences and similarities between patterns, and how they can be translated into knitting.

The main thing to remember is that knitting patterns can either be written in great detail, in which case they will take a lot of space/paper, or in a kind of shorthand, in which case they are harder to understand. Most of what I will describe is the latter form.

Direction of pattern

This can cause confusion: most diagrammatic patterns start at the bottom of the page and work upwards, whereas textual patterns are more like normal text and you begin reading at the top and work down - they bear no relation to the direction of knitting. If you are unfamiliar with the format, you need to look for the starting point first.

Abbreviations

For beginners to knitting patterns, hand or machine, these can be a major stumbling block. Fortunately, there are online glossaries, and often patterns will have their own. If not, they are often [fairly] standard, so it is possible to fathom out what is meant. But that can be irritating if you want to get on with knitting!

Here are some links to guides:

These two are quite comprehensive and would be worth printing for reference
<http://www.sewwhatyvette.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Knitting-machine-Abbreviations.pdf>

https://www.jessica-tromp.nl/brei_machine_knitting/knitting_machine_abbreviations.htm

Yeoman Yarns have this for hand knitting, despite it having a machine knitting link
<https://yeoman-yarns.co.uk/pattern-abbreviations>

This one is an example of a glossary attached to a pattern [which is a free poncho pattern] and the author also offers pattern support, which is nice for a free pattern
<https://www.ravelry.com/projects/estherkate/drop-stitch-poncho-5>

And this is a shorter version of a general glossary
[https://www.eileenmontgomery.com/Freebies/Hints %26 Tips/machineknittingga.html](https://www.eileenmontgomery.com/Freebies/Hints%26Tips/machineknittingga.html)

©Long Buckby Machine Knitters, 2020

Symbols

Symbols are more often used in hand knitting and crochet, but you might find them used to represent stitch types.

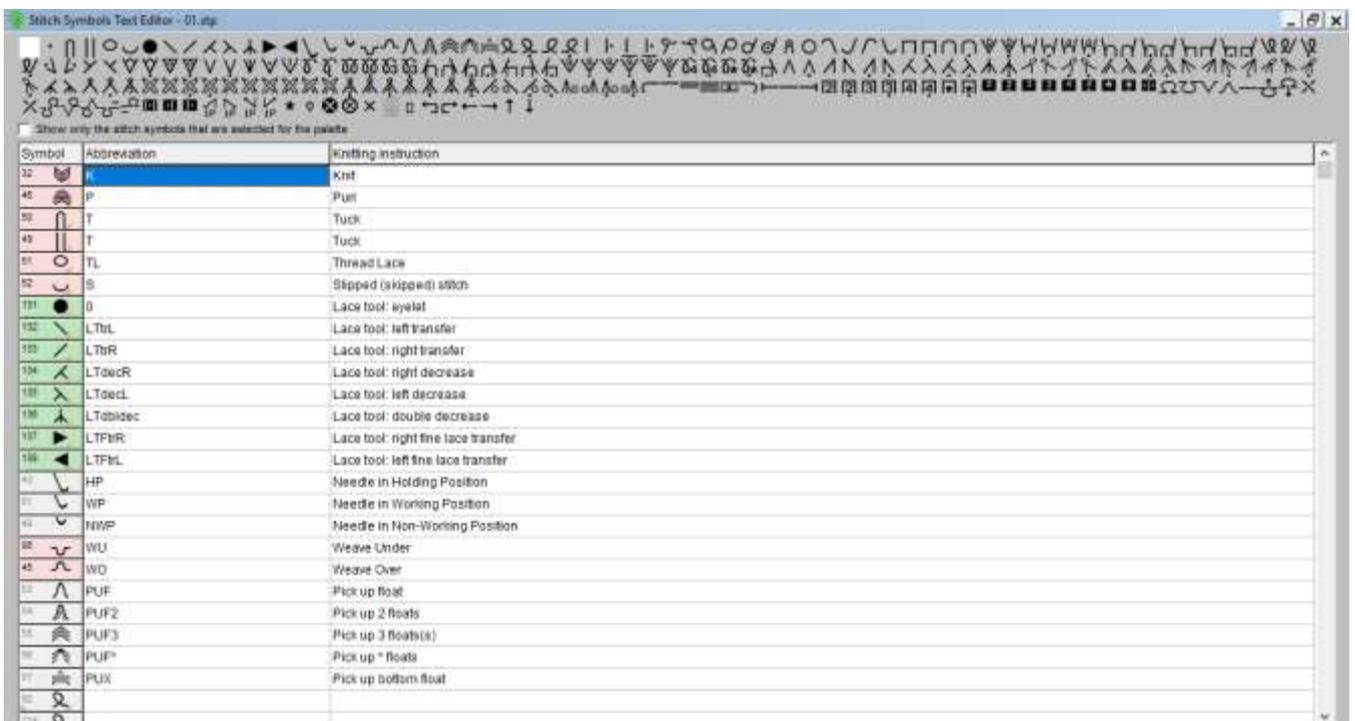
For knitting generally, this site shows some common symbols:

<https://www.craftyarnCouncil.com/standards/knit-chart-symbols>

And Designaknit uses them in its Stitch Design element - like much software you can re-allocate the symbols, but this should give a general idea:

You should be able to zoom this to read it better.

As you can see there are more symbols than are allocated. Unless you are doing



something with DAK yourself, or are into something extremely complicated, you will probably never encounter these, but it is handy to see them, I think, and perhaps to compare them to hand knitting stitches.

Instructions as text

These are often found in magazines and journals, and are probably the simplest form of instructions, but can be very lengthy.

BACK:

1. Cast on 26 sts in MY, using TD2 and closed edge method. Work in 1x1 rib for 4 rows. COR.
2. Change to TD3 and Stocking stitch, RC000. Work 8 rows.
3. Mark this row at both ends for armhole.
4. Work 16 more rows. Total 24 rows.
5. Back neck. Thread centre 16 sts onto WY. 5 sts each side. Knit 6 rows with WY.

FRONT:

- 1-2 Follow steps 1 and 2 as for back. COR.
3. Armhole. Mark this row at both ends for armhole. Work 8 rows (16 rows total).
4. Shape neck. COR. Thread centre 8 sts to WY. 9 sts each side.
5. Right neck. LH needles in HP. Dec 1 st at neck edge every row 4 times, until 5 sts remain.
6. Knit 4 rows even. Total 24 rows.
7. Cut yarn, leaving a 11.0 ins end. Knit 6 rows WY. Place sts in HP.
8. Left neck. COL. Work as for right neck, reversing shapings.

This example is part of a Knitware pattern for a baby jumper: most text patterns are not organised quite like this [in a numbered list] but are similar in most respects.

The instructions are quite straightforward, except for the abbreviations: MY = main yarn/ TD2 = tension dial 2/ COR = carriage on right/ RC = row counter/ WY = waste yarn/ LH = left hand/ HP = holding position/ COL = carriage on left

The instruction on the Front - number 6 - to 'Knit 4 rows even' is not usually seen in English [UK] patterns and means Knit 4 rows without shapings.

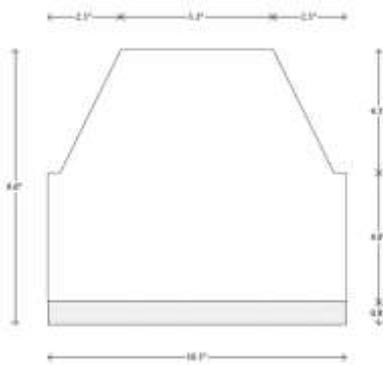
Another example comes from Designaknit, and is the text which would be used in interactive knitting, so is a line-by-line set of instructions, and quite unwieldy: I think this shows why we have abbreviations, symbols and schematics! This is for a baby sleeve.

```
Cast on 48
R1:      K48.
Rows 2-11: As row 1.
When knitting the next row: Inc 1 sts at left, Inc 1 sts at right.
R12:     K50.
Rows 13-23: As row 12 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Inc 1 sts at left, Inc 1 sts at right.
R24:     K52.
Rows 25-35: As row 24 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Inc 1 sts at left, Inc 1 sts at right.
R36:     K54.
Rows 37-47: As row 36 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Inc 1 sts at left, Inc 1 sts at right.
R48:     K56.
Rows 49-59: As row 48 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Inc 1 sts at left, Inc 1 sts at right.
R60:     K58.
Rows 61-63: As row 60 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 5 sts at left.
R64:     K53.
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 6 sts at right.
R65:     K46.
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R66:     K44.
R67:     As row 66 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R68:     K42.
R69:     As row 68 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R70:     K40.
R71:     As row 70 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R72:     K38.
Rows 73-74: As row 72 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R75:     K36.
Rows 76-77: As row 75 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R78:     K34.
Rows 79-80: As row 78 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R81:     K32.
R82:     As row 81 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R83:     K30.
R84:     As row 83 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R85:     K28.
R86:     As row 85 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R87:     K26.
R88:     As row 87 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R89:     K24.
R90:     As row 89 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R91:     K22.
R92:     As row 91 (without the shaping).
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R93:     K20.
When knitting the next row: Dec 1 sts at left, Dec 1 sts at right.
R94:     K18.
Cast off remainder. End of piece.
```

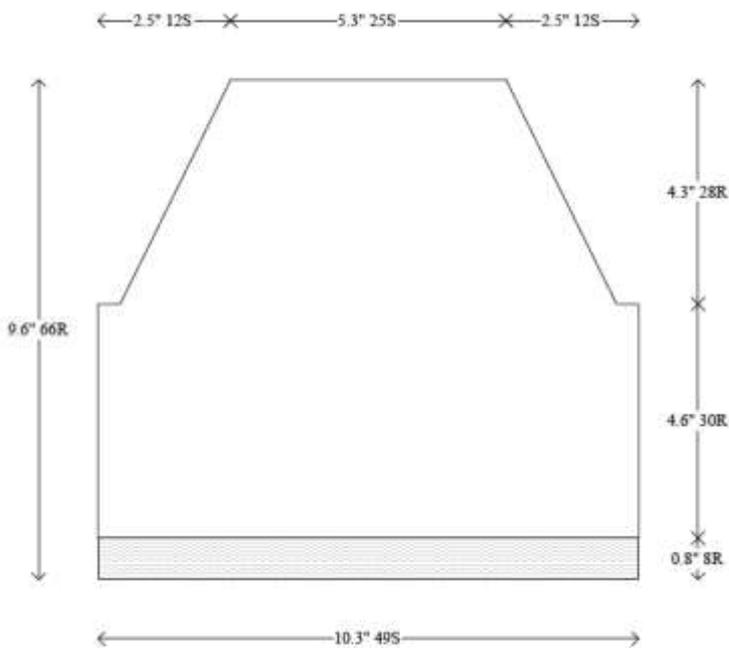
Schematics

I am including a range of these, but there are many formats.

The simplest type is often seen together with written instructions and does not include knitting directions. These ones are used to check measurements, but you can use them with charting devices.



The diagrams here are both from Knitware; this one [left] is the simplest with measurements only, and below basic stitch counts are included; to knit these some calculations would be needed, or further directions. But it is worth learning how to use them if you want an easy source of free patterns: often websites for yarns have lots of free hand knitting patterns which could be adapted, and these schematics are a starting point.



To knit this baby jumper back, you need to start at the bottom. Using the diagram [right], you can see that you need to cast on 49 stitches and knit and 8 row hem, followed by 30 rows straight up. Then do some armhole shaping which is not specified, but could be calculated: over 28 rows you need to decrease 12 stitches each side - possibly cast off 3 stitches, then decrease 1 st every 2nd row once, and every 3rd row 8

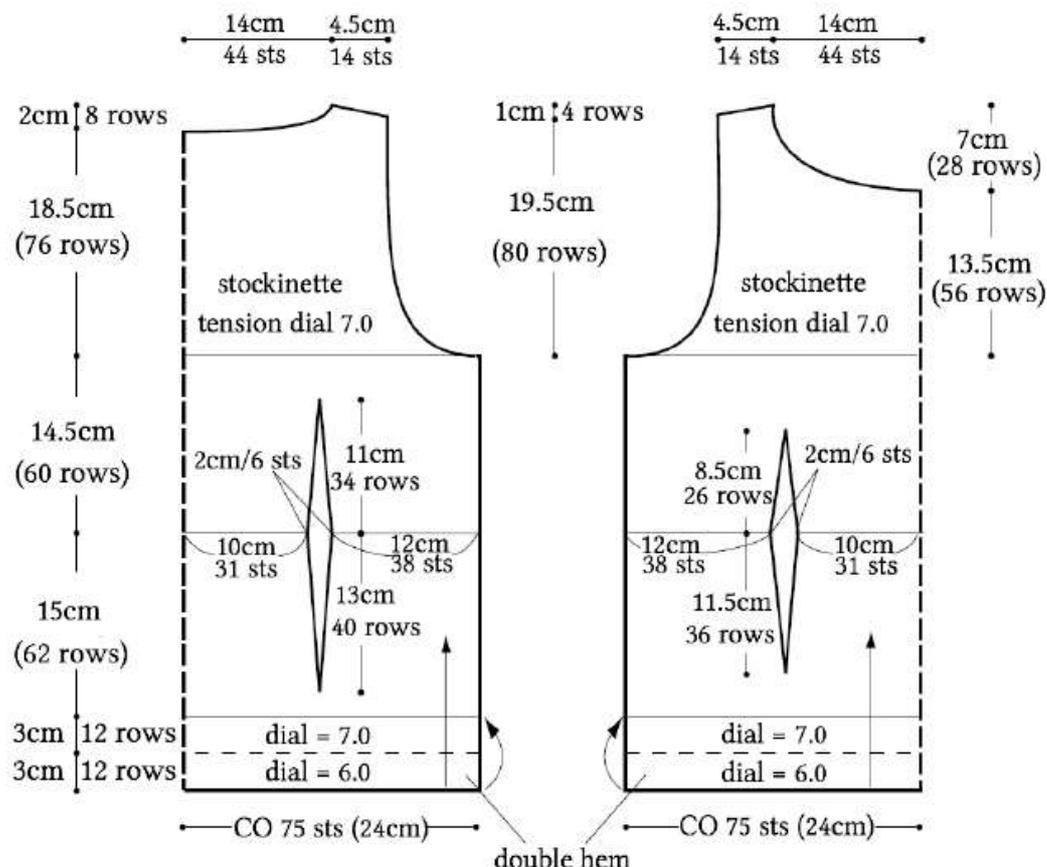
times, then cast off. This is assuming you know your tension etc. But it is possible, and you could calculate the number of stitches if they are not given on the diagram from the actual measurements which are.

A rich, and often untapped, source of knitting patterns comes from Japanese patterns. These are often overlooked. I found this link

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/1201fsp-french-sleeve-pullover>

Which leads to a library full of Japanese patterns, mostly hand knit and crochet, translated into English, but using schematics with Japanese notation. This is one

https://www.gosyo.co.jp/english/pattern/eHTML/ePDF/1006/3w/23-5_Bobble-sleeve_Sweater.pdf which is not typical in that, like the Knitware one above, it

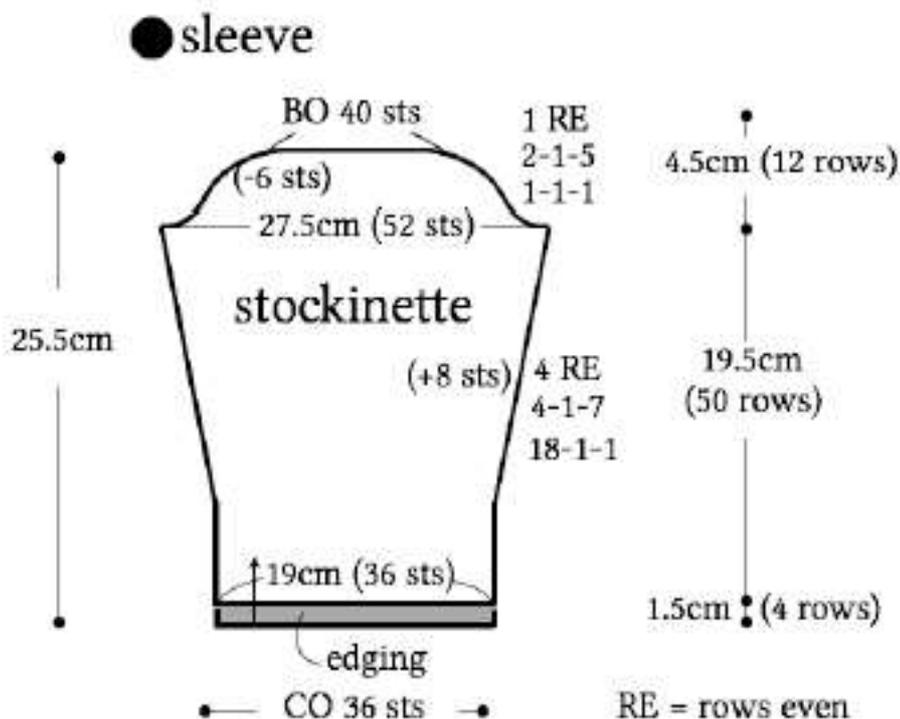


has limited instructions, and is for machine knitting. It, too, does not show you how to decrease for the armhole, but you could work it out. I think the darts would be challenging, too. You could use holding position to knit the sides separately, decreasing according to your own calculations, then sew up the hole, or do a garter bar decrease, moving lots of stitches to decrease in the middle.

More typical is this child's 'pocket sweater' from the same site

https://www.gosyo.co.jp/english/pattern/eHTML/ePDF/1004/29-40_Pocket_Sweater.pdf which is a hand knit.

This is the sleeve from the pattern, and it has typical Japanese notation

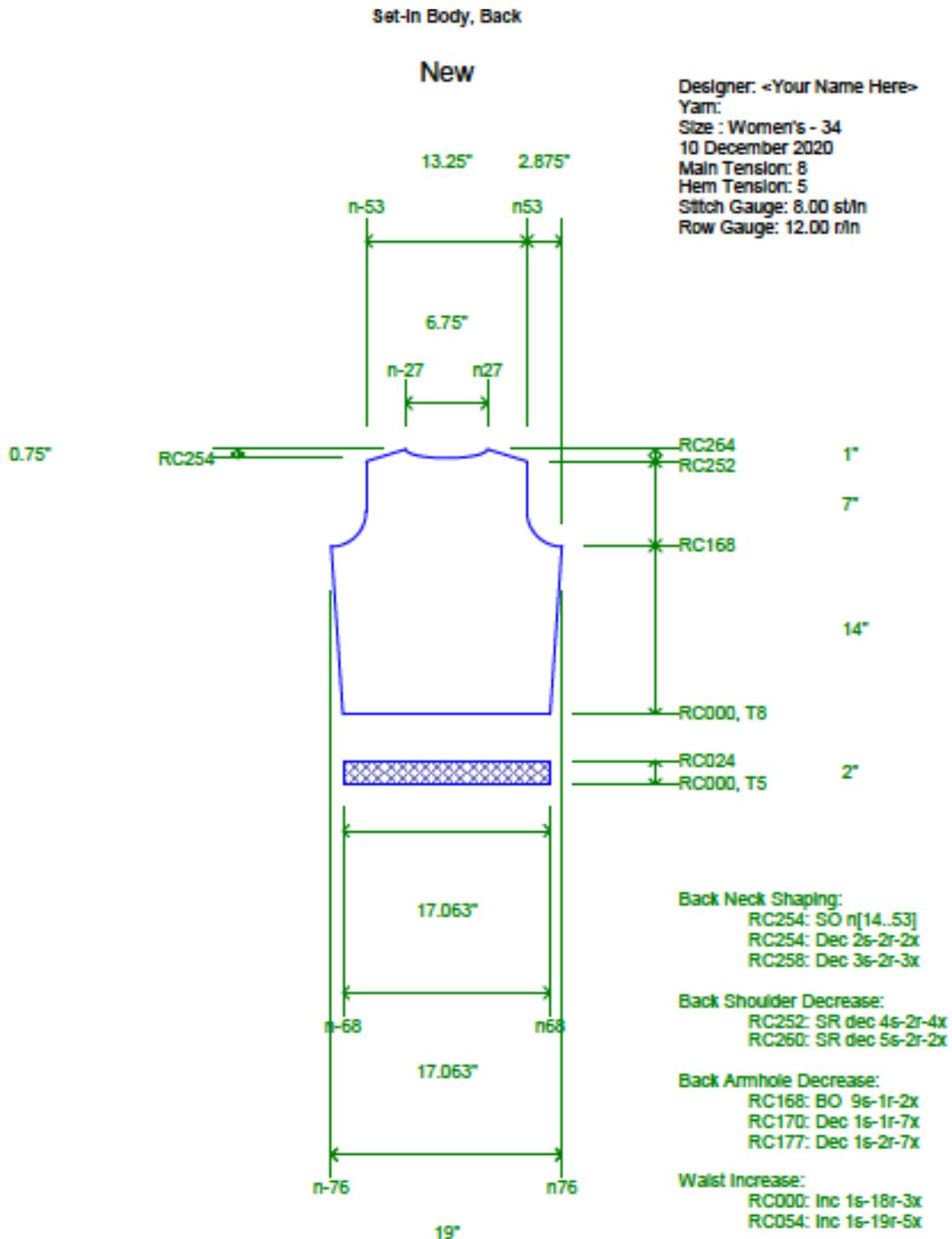


https://dancingbarefoot.files.wordpress.com/2011/07/japanese_shaping_draft_2.pdf is a resource which is helpful in reading Japanese notation, which is the major stumbling block for most people [including me] but it is just a matter of decoding it.

Working from the bottom, you would cast on, knit 4 rows, then increase like so: 18-1-1 means every 18 rows increase 1 stitch once, then 4-1-7 every 4 rows increase 1 stitch 7 times, then 4RE means knit 4 rows even, or without shaping. Likewise, at the sleeve head, 1-1-1 means every row decrease 1 stitch once, then every 2nd row decrease 1 stitch 5 times, then 1RE knit 1 row, then cast off 40 stitches. The shaping you can see should be at both sides.

And, as long as you can match the tension, you should be able to knit this on a machine.

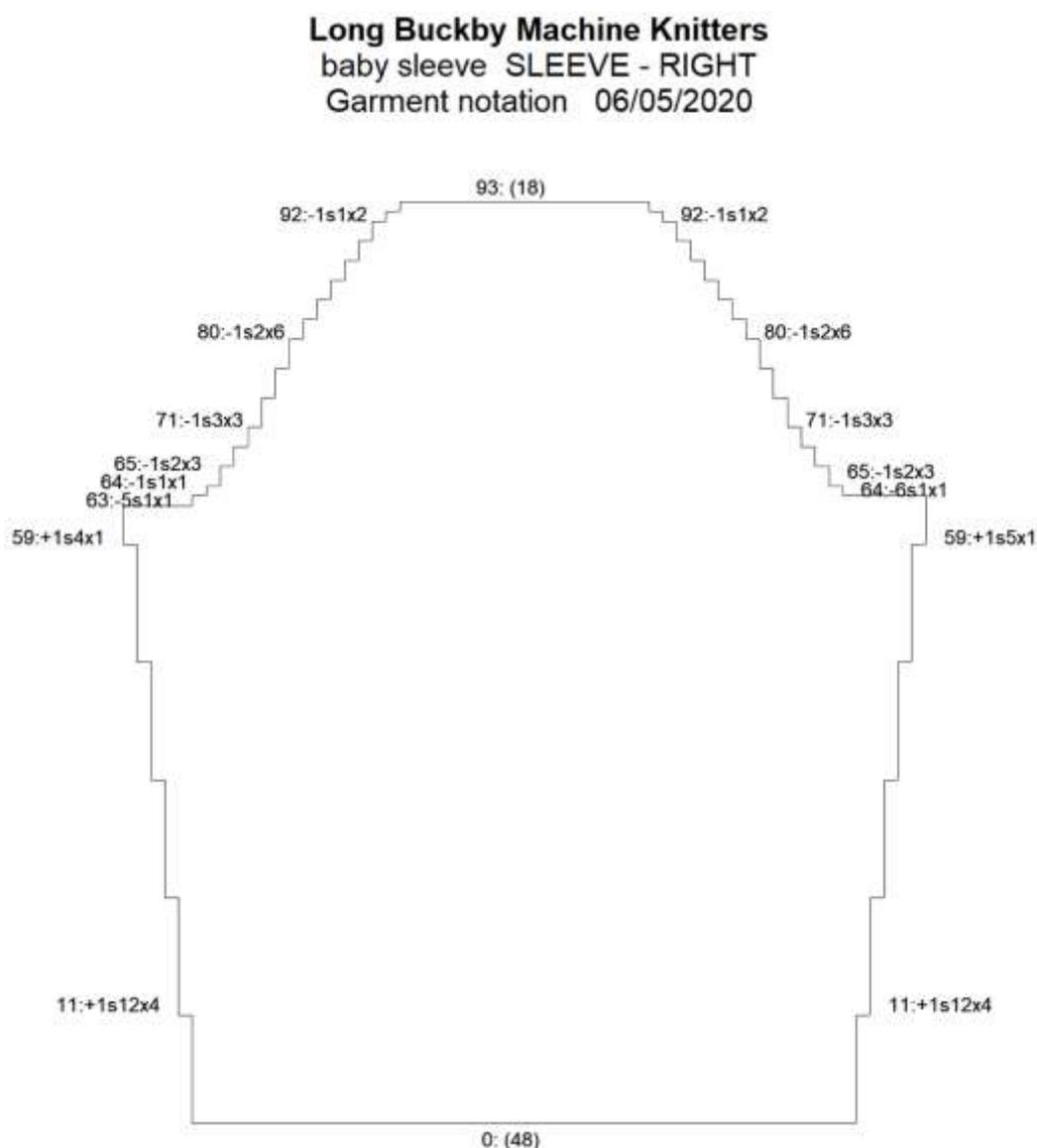
Finally, SweaterMaker software uses schematics with minimal text instructions. If you find these clear to follow, the software is reasonably priced, \$39 for a download, and can be run on Windows, or Mac with a Windows virtual machine. <https://www.seedlingsoftware.com/sweatermaker.htm>



An example of its schematic pattern style:

Working from the bottom, it shows you that you need to cast on 68 stitches each side of 0. You then knit to row 168, but on the way you use the Waist Increase instructions, then the Armhole Decrease instructions etc., which are similar, but slightly different in order, to the Japanese instructions.

And, likewise, Designaknit uses Japanese notation styles to label its schematics. Below is the schematic matching the text instruction I quoted earlier. I find it much easier to follow. Again, working from the bottom upwards.



Other pattern formats

My first example of these is, again, from a baby pattern [because it is shorter!] It is printed out from Garment Designer software.

Size: Standard Infants' Newborn (Simple Fit)
 Top: Basic (Average); Sloped; Round (Standard)
 Armhole/Sleeve: Separate (Set-In Standard); Standard; Tapered (Long)
 Garment Options: Armhole Depth Average; Wearing Ease Average
 Optional Square Angles: Neckline/Shoulder, Armhole/Side Seam

Part: Front Left
 Length: 10-1/2 in
 Area: 3/8 sq ft
 Yarn: 3366 stitches
 Horizontal Gauge: 7
 Vertical Gauge: 10
 Shaping: Alternate Rows

Inches	Row #	-- Shaping --	# Stitches	
10-3/8	105	-16		Top of Shoulder, Bottom of Shoulder
10-1/8	102	-1 0	16	
9-3/4	98	-1 0	17	
9-1/2	96	-1 0	18	
9-1/4	94	-1 0	19	
9-1/4	93	-1 0	20	
9-1/8	92	-1 0	21	
8-7/8	90	-5 0	22	
8-3/4	89	-1 0	27	Bottom of Neck
7-5/8	77	0 -1	28	
7-1/8	72	0 -1	29	
6-3/4	68	0 -1	30	
6-5/8	67	0 -1	31	
6-3/8	65	0 -5	32	Bottom of Armhole
0	1	+37	37	Bottom Side, Bottom Center

Knitting from the bottom, you can see that you cast on 37 stitches, on the left of centre [hence the red arrow]. Then you shape according to the instructions in the yellow box, at either side of the knitting, and on the rows indicated in green. The diagram shows you how many stitches you should have on each row, but it doesn't look anything like the finished piece. It works!

Anne Lavene produces fantastic and original patterns in a diagrammatic form.
<https://houseoflavene.co.uk/>

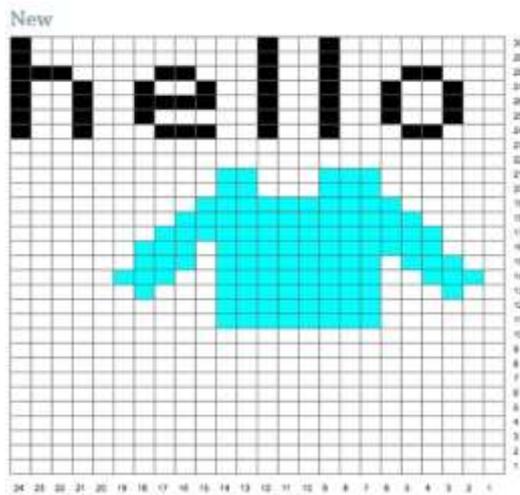
I find her patterns very accurate and relatively easy, **but** you need to have the concept in your head before knitting. She has a YouTube channel and the link above takes you to a page with various videos listed, including how to knit and read her patterns. No excuses, a good challenge and wonderful designs.

Free Design Software

<https://knitbird.com>

This software, Knitbird, is a free download for Windows or Mac. It is not complicated or particularly sophisticated, and is meant for hand knitting, but I think it could be used to design punch cards for those who don't have DAK.

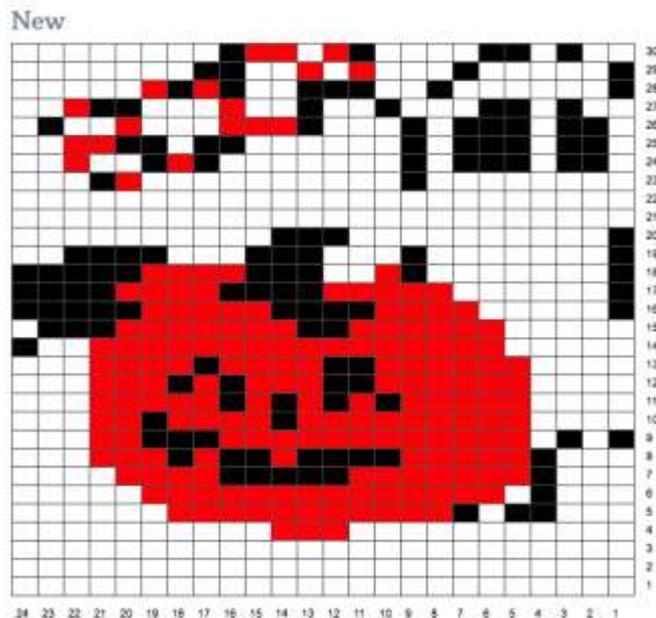
I tried it out in a very basic way, but it could get much more intricate than this. My cover image was made using the software, and the next picture too:



You may be able to make out that it is 24 squares wide. I was able to insert the picture from an image file [not the best example] and also the write the text using the keyboard.

Apart from that you can use colour to designate individual stitches, or use symbols such as the knitting ones above [included in the menu].

Not ground-breaking, but might be useful!



This was an import of a simple picture of a pumpkin for Halloween.

Projects

I have slowed down considerably in my craft work this month, as I found I have an eye condition for which I am receiving treatment, thankfully. But I have managed one or two things.

First, a machine knitting project - not finished, but a design idea I obtained from a woven project, with sections knitted as multiple columns, some of which



are twisted. The slits in between the columns could either be decorative or used to put the scarf end through. On the left is my first draft

of a pattern, which is not quite right. The slits are too large, so I need to adjust it. I think the basic concept will work, but the slits in this version need to be half the depth - so around 14 rows, and, whilst I thought the twisted sections would need to have extra rows, I found that not to be so. I am also thinking that these should be done over 7 stitches, making it possible to transfer/twist them using a multi-prong tool.



And my other activity on the knitting machine this month was trying to get my five year old grandson involved: he wanted to knit squares to insert into coaster blanks, as a present for his teachers. He chose this



stitch pattern, I threaded the machine, and set up the pattern, and off we went, with him pushing the carriage. Then he got his sweatshirt caught in the gate pegs, started crying, told me to do it alone, then recovered and found the machine fascinating - he

thinks it is too dangerous for him, though, prefers to watch. I think he will return to it, however. I failed to get a picture of the finished coasters, as it was all done in a hectic rush!

Just to show previous activity in the festive spirit, here is a picture of our festive 'twig' as my son calls it, complete with knitted handmade Christmas baubles, both on the machine and by hand.



Machine knit version here

<http://www.longbuckbymk.com/images/stories/nov2011/christmas%20tree%20bauble.pdf> yes, it is too late, but perhaps save it for next year!

©Long Buckby Machine Knitters, 2020

In my quest to tame my yarn mountain, I have been combining some 2 ply acrylic yarn with 2 strands of 2 ply lambs wool, hand knitting it as chunky on 6mm needles, and have produced one jumper already, with another in the pipeline. The lambs wool fluffs up and makes the finished jumper really light.



On the left is the finished jumper, below is a close-up of the next iteration of yarn:



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 -

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yj49XJPHtK8udGSXEo-AA7CyrEV4y1Q> - takes you to a large collection of photos of everything

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.