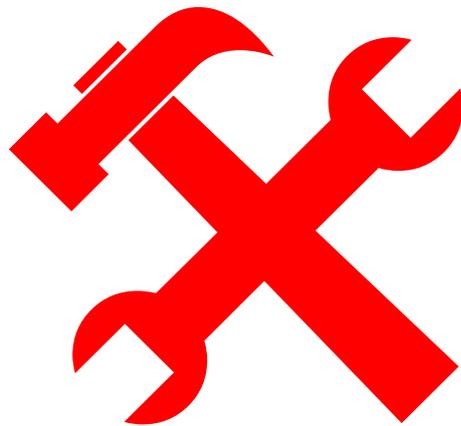


Long Buckby Machine Knitters

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.

November 2020



From the Editor



Welcome to the November special edition of our newsletter. Sadly I am publishing this just before another national lockdown, but hopefully an effective and shorter one - who knows?

As the end of our knitting club hiatus seems as far away as ever, I am continuing in my attempt to replicate our intended programme in virtual form. So this month we are looking at maintenance.

I am quite a hypocrite when it comes to looking after my machine: I know what I should do, and will tell others what they should do to keep it functioning well, but I am quite lazy about doing it. So, if you are like me, please don't feel guilty about it, but keep on trying to do the right thing!

I have helped a few people who had problems with their machines, and most problems were easy to solve with a bit of knowledge. Routine maintenance as described below should prevent most problems, and knitting will certainly be easier on a clean machine.

And time might not be a factor at the moment [although I fear I have adjusted to having more time, in the sense that I feel just as short of time as before - it is all a matter of managing it].

And if you enjoy reading this newsletter and are a member of the Knitting and Crochet Guild, you can read/download their online magazine Beyond the Needlebed here: <https://kcguild.org.uk/membership/> If you then use the drop down menu to open the Members' Area, you can find the magazine there - currently there are two editions.



Stay safe!
Lynda Fiendley

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Maintenance

Most experts [that is, not me] divide maintenance tasks into periodic categories:

Weekly/Monthly/Annually

which may be useful, but if, like me, your knitting is less regular than this, I would suggest the weekly maintenance happens each time you knit. This site describes it in a similar way <https://wickedwoollies.co.uk/knitting-machine-maintenance/> : it also has a downloadable reference sheet, which is very practical.

And this YouTube video is really good, though dated, and includes ribber adjustment <https://youtu.be/4W6TmbvEdD8>

My guide is much less detailed: much of the routine maintenance is fluff removal, and the light touch applied often [i.e. weekly/every time you knit] will make the deeper clean easier or not so essential, depending on how fussy you are!

Weekly

1. Remove surface fluff - I brush with a soft brush, either a paintbrush, or I have a car washing brush. A small vacuum cleaner is also useful. I brush along the needle channels from the back of the machine to the front, which brings out fluff from the needles, and then along the front of the machine. Wipe with a cloth to remove old oil if necessary.
2. Check the carriage for yarn/fluff caught underneath, especially on the brushes.
3. Check yarn guides for yarn and fluff.
4. If the machine is very dry, apply a little oil - I rarely need to do this, as my machine is in a very cold room, but this seems to be more necessary in heated spaces - beware!



Over oiling causes lots of problems - especially in attracting fluff, which then becomes sticky and hard.

Monthly

1. The weekly schedule above, items 1-3 should be done first.
2. Remove sponge bar. If this is difficult, I have found that a pair of long nosed pliers like these <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Needle-nose-Pliers/b?ie=UTF8&node=1938975031> work really well [you can get them cheaply in all DIY shops] Use the ends to push the bar out far enough to grip with the pliers. Check the sponge bar is still firm enough - this is a major cause of problems - when installed, it should hold the needles down flat on the needle bed. It should be about 1 centimetre tall, at least, and quite firm. If not, replace.
3. Use a long stem brush [I notice BSK <https://www.bsk.co.uk/long-stem-cleaning-brush---standard--knitting-machine-a589-1873-p.asp> are still selling them for £12.49] Insert through the sponge bar channel, and



gently twist before bringing back out. It is always a shock to see how much fluff comes out. When I bought a used machine once, I eventually got out about a tennis ball sized amount of acrylic fluff stuck with oil. Be warned if you let it accumulate- it does not facilitate knitting!

4. Replace the sponge bar.
5. Check the carriage. Check that all the cams are moving freely, and that there is no fluff.
6. Clean and oil - wipe off old dirty oil, replace very sparingly with new oil - use a cloth to do this.
7. Clean the plastic parts of the machine with a cloth.

Annually

This is where I become hypocritical.....

Perform a monthly maintenance schedule, but add in the following:

1. With the sponge bar out, remove all the needles.
2. To clean the needles, you can use surgical spirit in a suitable container e.g. an old ice-cream tub. Immerse the needles and soak them. Use a soft cloth to wipe them dry - you will notice a lot of black oil and fibre comes off. Alternatively, you can use an ultrasonic cleaner like this <https://www.amazon.co.uk/600mL-Ultrasonic-Cleaner-Cleaning-Basket/dp/B011LG1P8M> which does a good job without the chemicals. I got one from Aldi, and have seen them often since [just ensure it is big enough if you get one]
3. After cleaning the needle bed, replace the needles, making sure each one is in good condition [otherwise replace] and then the sponge bar.
4. Check the carriage, gate pegs, yarn holders/guides and clean everything.

Extra

I have only done this once, at a workshop with Wendy Piper. We stripped the machine, did everything above, but also took the machine body apart. Wendy's husband used compressed air to blast the skeleton, and then we put everything back.

My machine had two punchcard clips in the bodywork - it wasn't a huge surprise, as I am always losing them, but it is amazing that it did not stop the machine working. But they were better out than in!

It is not hugely challenging to do this, but you need to have space and time. Make sure you have somewhere safe to put the screws, and try to organise everything so you get it back in the right order.

For Brother punchcard users there is visual help here.

<http://knittsings.com/how-to-take-apart-a-brother-punch-card-knitting-machine/>

Or consult this huge list of informational videos for all machines:

<https://www.theanswerlady.com/Youtubelinksaskjack.html>

And another source of useful information is found here:

<http://www.needlesofsteel.org.uk/maintenance.html>

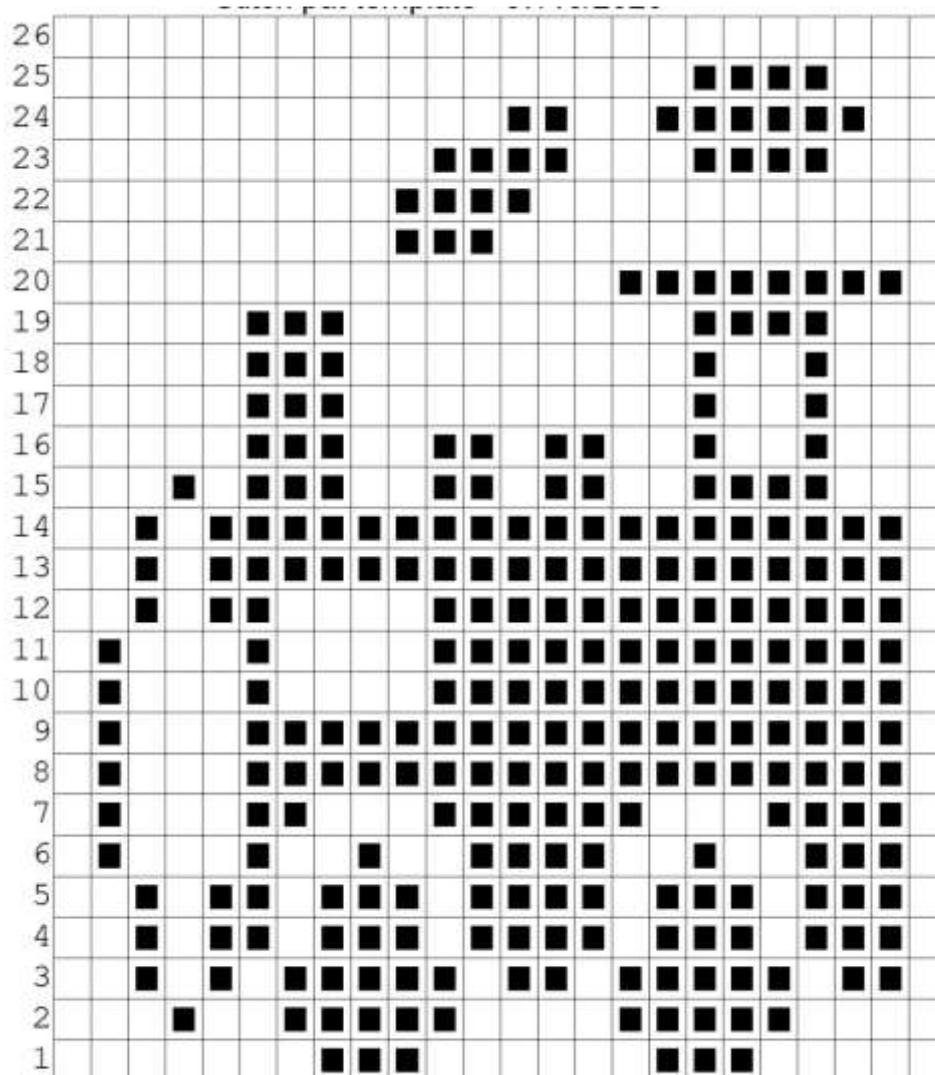
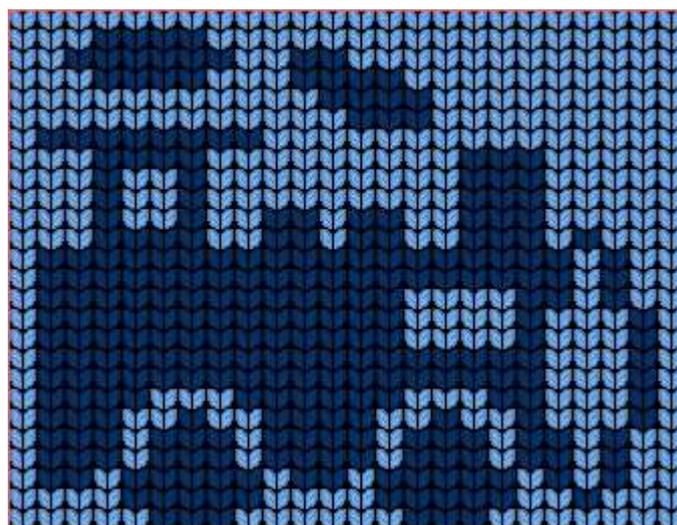
And Diana Sullivan shows how, too

<https://youtu.be/s42phJw39Co>

Stitch patterns

Because of my gradual transition to electronic, I have been looking through my punchcard collection. Some years ago, I bought a huge number of cards from a retiring knitter, including lots of single motif designs. I am going to transfer them to Designaknit and will include them in this newsletter from time to time. If anyone wants them as Dak files, please get in touch.

Steam Engine - I am sure someone could use better colours!



Projects and Tips

I have not been knitting much this month but have increased my to do list!

I did knit this lambswool garment from a paid-for pattern:

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/jumper-cape>

As I have masses of lambswool, this straightforward pattern was just the thing - apart from a couple of typos it was really easy, and has a different kind of construction from patterns I have used before.



I have bought two more patterns online recently - not knitted yet, but soon to be, I think:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Mallyknits/posts/?ref=page_internal is a sideways knitted jumper called Circle of Lace. It is shaped to flare at the hips and has panels of lace between plain knitting.

<http://www.marciahauser.nu/page2.html#HARMONY> the Harmony Jacket is one of Marcia Hauser's designs. I like the look of it but may alter the length. The website is not the easiest to work through, but her designs are 'different', not all to my taste!

Items for sale -

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

Modern Tuck Stitch designs for ladies Busy Bee

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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.