

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.

October 2020



From the Editor



Welcome to the October special edition of our newsletter.

This month we are looking at finishing touches, in the form of edges, including hems and bands. Along the way I have found other things to share, as ever.

I visited a lady in Oxford recently, having been offered a Brother electronic machine for sale, and I have listed other items she would like to sell at the end of the newsletter. I did list them via Facebook in September, too. She has not priced them but is open to all reasonable offers. Contact me in the first instance if you are interested.

So, my knitting has been largely getting to know the new machine. I have had an electronic before, but this one is in better condition, and I am trying to use Designaknit with it effectively.

Pat gave me the idea for a bag pattern, and I have made that my first project on my new-to-me machine.

Two of our members shared their thoughts for this month, which is wonderful, too.



Stay safe!
Lynda Fiendley

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THE KCG UNCONVENTION 2020 – by Audrey Stevenson

I have been a member of the KCG since 2013 but have never attended the Annual Meetings for various reasons. So I was pleased to be able to take part in this year's On-Line event. There were various speakers, and workshops that you could sign up to. As nearly everything was recorded, you didn't have to make a decision which to go to and which one to miss, as happens when you go to a live show.

There were several machine knitting contributors including Jane Harrisson, Ann Levene, Viv Haffenden, both of whom visited Long Buckby MK last year., and others.

To take part in a "live" session meant coming to grips with Zoom, that worked out OK. The first one was Kaffe Fassett Q and A. He isn't everyone's cup of tea, but you have to give him credit for his vast collection of patterns and colours. Apparently he was taught to knit on a train journey. The second session that I took part in was a Show and Tell. It was quite amusing when people disappeared off screen to go and fetch something to show.

There were a lot of varied talks on all aspects of hand knitting, crochet in different forms, one lady had been to Estonia, and was now knitting their version of fair isle, a bit too much for me.

The most interesting for me was an hour long talk from Jane Crowfoot, who specialises in those lovely, crocheted blankets. She started out as a machine knitter. After getting her degree in textiles at Winchester, she said she didn't want to go down the fashion route but was more interested in developing colour and pattern. She was sending loads of swatches off to manufacturers, (I remember Bill King was doing the same) but it was financially unsustainable. Imagine spending all your time working these out, then out of dozens of swatches maybe only selling one. She was introduced to Rowan and became an in store consultant at the John Lewis stores. the only problem with that was that she couldn't knit! she quickly learned and was involved in designing kits, but these were too expensive. She was at some stage going over to crochet, and was offered a contract with Stylecraft yarns, and this is how she came to produce the lovely blankets that you see pinned up at the Black Sheep yarns stall at the craft fairs and at a much more affordable price. But each blanket is a bit more difficult, so unless you are an experienced crocheter, it would be better to start with one of her earlier ones.

There was a link to her video on You Tube, called A Beaded Flower. On this she goes into every detail on how to attach beads and explains every step twice. I shall be having a go at that as soon as I can get hold of some beads.

All in all I really enjoyed being able to catch up on the various recorded talks. I don't know how long they will still be on the website. I know many people who regularly go to the conventions probably have missed not being able to go, but for many members who live too far away and find it too expensive, the Un-Convention has been a revelation.... Audrey Stevenson

On the Edge

Hems

What is your favourite way to start a garment? I would use the term 'hem' loosely, and to mean the bottom edge of a jumper, for example.

Ribs

I rarely use my ribber, so even more rarely start with a rib. But for those who like to, a 1x1 or 2x2 rib is fairly easy to do, and probably a neat way to cast on. If you haven't got a ribber, you can do a mock rib, or a reconstructed rib.

Folded Band

This is my hem of choice, and I have had non-knitters admire such hems, as they are unusual in commercial knitting. Which may be a sign of the times, as, at one time, it was an ambition to make knitting look like commercial knitting!

I usually knit mine with T-1 [i.e. T6 when the garment is knitted at T7] and include a loose row on the fold [e.g. one row at T10].

Another way of knitting it is to cast on on alternate needles and knit across these for the inside fold of the band, then add the rest of the needles for the outside fold. This makes a less bulky band.

Picot Edge

This can be an adaptation of the folded band, or an edge in its own right.

<https://youtu.be/cs7vorCGSAI> shows the folded band style.

<https://youtu.be/I-8n2X8vlGo> Shows a scalloped edge, also fold over but not a hem.



I have used tuck stitch to make a double scalloped hem. Cast on the required number of stitches. *Knit 2 rows in a T-1, then set carriage to hold, and put every third needle to holding position. Knit 4 rows. Cancel hold. Using a transfer tool, pick up the cast on row and place it on the needles to make a shallow hem.* Knit 2 rows, then repeat from * to *. Cancel hold and continue knitting at normal tension.

Frill



This is a different way to cast on, or off - it is quite easy, but probably more time consuming than other edges.

My sample was knitted in 4 ply superwash wool at T7, as described below.

Cast on

1. Cast on 6 stitches on needles on the right side of where you want your cast on edge to be. For example, if you want to cast on 40 stitches [L20-R20] cast on over needles R15-20].
2. Set carriage to hold.
3. Knit 2 rows, or 3 if you need to, now with the carriage on the left. Then put right most needle to holding position and increase 1 stitch at LH. Repeat this until you have L20-R20 in holding position.
4. You should also now have L21-26 in work. Cast these off, and cancel hold.
5. This will give you your cast on stitches, with a slight frill. If you want to, you can e-wrap cast on over these needles to firm it up, or just continue knitting. If you want a 'frillier' frill, you can knit more rows in between increase/decrease.

Cast off

1. This works in a similar way to the cast on edge. You will have live stitches to cast off. This time they will all start in holding position, with the carriage set to hold.
2. Carriage on left, cast on 6 stitches to left of needles in holding position.
3. Knit 2 rows, decrease 1 stitch on left side, put 1 stitch on right side back into working position.
4. Continue step 3 until all stitches have been cast off.
5. In both cast off and cast on edges you can vary the number of stitches in the frill - I have used 6 as an example.

On the edge

1. You can also add a frill to an edge. Use the cast off method but pick up the stitches from the edge of the knitting first - you can e-wrap over them if you want a firm edge. I have used this method round a shrug, and it is possible to do it in stages, so that you can use more needles than you have on the machine.....
2. Pick up as many stitches as you can from the edge but leave at least 6 needles free on the left side.
3. Continue as for the cast off edge. When you have only 6 stitches left, transfer these back to the left hand side of the needle bed, pick up more

stitches from your garment, and continue. Repeat as often as you need for the whole edge.

4. There is a demonstration of a similar technique on YouTube, but it is not exactly the same <https://youtu.be/wMuLNeClXfo>
5. And this pattern, available for free, is the one referred to in the video, which also uses the similar technique <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/wildhoneys-machine-knit-shawl-kate>

I cord edge

I cords can be used to start knitting, and make a cast on edge very neatly, as well as decorative.

To start knitting with an I cord, first make the I cord by casting on 4 stitches. Set the carriage to slip in one direction, then knit until the cord is long enough.

Pick up stitches along the cord, using a transfer tool, then use this as your cast on edge.

https://alessandrina.com/category/machine-knitting/i_cords/ Has information about knitting I-cords!

Using commercial lace

Similar to using an I cord, the cast on is done using the lace like a cast on rag. It is best to use stretch lace, and to use an e-wrap cast on after placing the lace on the needles [pushing the needles through the holes in the lace].

Various edges from the virtual world

I have included the images from YouTube so that you can see what is behind each link: however, the images do not link to the videos, please use the hyperlinked text!



[No roll edging](#)



[Slip Stitch Edging for Machine Knitting](#)



[Knitting Machine Edging for "Over the Top in Lace" Pattern by Carole Wurst](#)



[Machine Knit Cabled Edging by Diana Sullivan](#)



[Machine Knit Braid Trim](#)



[Duffy Edging](#)



[Knitted Ruched Cable Trim by Diana Sullivan](#)

<https://machineknittingmonthly.net/> Contains lots of tips from readers, including a longer contribution somewhere down the page with hints on edgings.

<https://cckittenknits.wordpress.com/2015/04/29/non-roll-edge-for-machine-knitting/> Is from a blog on machine knitting, and, apart from this article, it is well worth trawling through the other issues for tips.

Bands

Searching on YouTube for 'machine knitted bands' brings up plenty of alternatives, including this one for buttonholes. Others show how to pick up for bands, how to knit in various ways, and how to make other kinds of buttonhole.

With buttonholes



[Kitchener Buttonhole in Vertical, Folded Band by Diana Sullivan](#)

Using I-cords

You can make a I cord as a band, or double/treble it. Knit the first one, then pick up a stitch at a time on alternate rows, while knitting the second one, and put that stitch on an end needle. You can also make vertical buttonholes by 'missing' the pick-up for a few rows, then continuing to pick up.

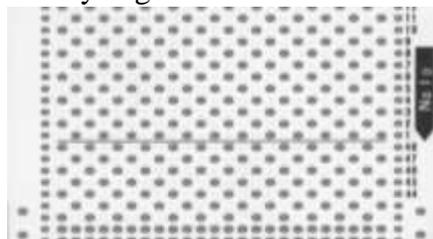
And thanks to Kathy for these:

Tuck Stick Faux Rib Bands

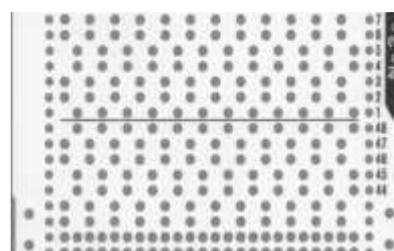
Tuck stitch can be used to create a band that looks like a one by one or two by one rib, however it is quite firm and lies flat especially after a light steam. Normally with Tuck stitch you would use a tension 1 or 2 numbers lower than for Stocking stitch, for this band you need to lower the tension further: 3 – 5 numbers lower, make sure you add weight though.

One by One Faux Rib

This uses the 1 x 1 alt row punchcard shown. I did this over 11 stitches on T -4. I prefer to use the pattern setting that patterns right to the edge as opposed to the one that always knits the end stitch. Always knitting the end stitch gave a slightly bobbly edge.

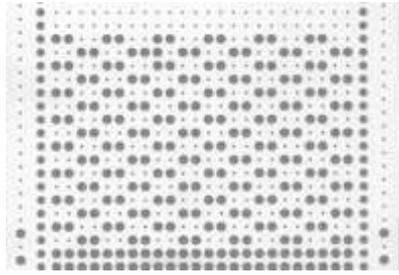


You can also use the double length version of this punchcard, which gives a slightly textured finish.



Two by Two Faux Rib

This breaks the rules for Tuck Stitch. Normally you always have at least one stitch knitting between stitches that Tuck. As you can see from the punchcard below this pattern tucks over two consecutive stitches. This was done at T-4., so quite tight. Even more than the one above this needs weighting and the use of tuck wheels if present on your machine.



Buttonholes

I was able to do a two stitch buttonhole by transferring two stitches to the adjacent stitches. For a 10 stitch band transfer stitch 5 to 4 and stitch 6 to 7, make sure the empty needles are returned to the working positions and correct for the pattern. As the stitches knit and tuck alternately they will knit back ok, first 1 stitch and then the other. When creating a buttonhole in the two by two rib you should choose the two stitches so that one is set to knit and one is set to tuck.



Do not choose two that are set to knit or two set to tuck, this way they will knit back without intervention. If you need to choose two knit (or tuck) then you must return one to working position in pattern, knit a row then return the 2nd stitch to working position in pattern and knit a second row.

Borders

I have already mentioned an edge or two above, but for further edges this is a good source

http://www.needlesofsteel.org.uk/tech_garment.html

Hand finishes

Crochet

I use crochet very often in my finishing. Double crochet stitches work well, and after a single row of these as a base, you can increase the number of stitches and make a frill if wanted, or continue for a row or two for a stable edge. You can also intersperse the double crochet stitches with alternate slip stitches for a looser edge. You can also join knitting together like this.

Hand knitting

Hand knitting finishing is also one of my favourite ways to finish, and you can pick up stitches from the edge of machine knitting, or take stitches off the needles directly on to circular needles.

Sewing

You can finish edges with machine stitching for stability, or add fabric edges. You might use bias binding in certain circumstances, either commercial or home made. I have used hand woven fabric as an edge, but any fabric could be used. It would also be possible to cast on with fabric being used like a cast on rag.

Projects and Tips

Links and tips

Thanks to Liz for supplying this link

<https://mkgmn.blogspot.com/2012/10/pattern-conversions-between-machine.html>

And this tip

USING A LIFELINE

Adding a Lifeline is easy. Just use a tapestry needle to thread a spare length of smooth contrasting yarn through all live stitches on the needle (but not the stitch markers). If you have to rip back you have this safety net to pull back to - your stitches will all be safely on your Lifeline.

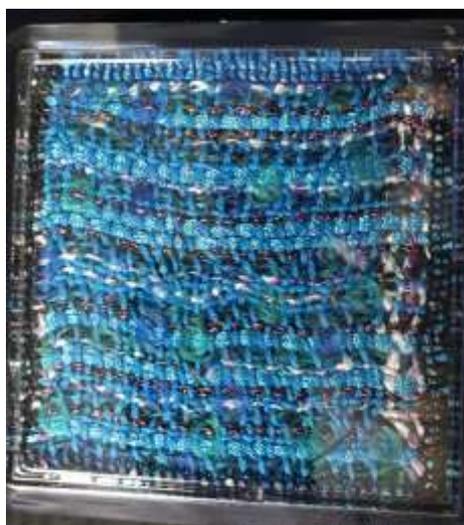
Insert a Lifeline as often as you like - if everything has gone as planned you can pull out and re-insert the same length of yarn as you go along. Life happens - even to experienced knitters so give it a try, you may be glad you did.

Christmas Presents

Thinking ahead, why not make some of your presents. On our website you will find lots of accessory patterns and a few others, e.g. pin cushions and soft toys. Most take little yarn and not a huge amount of time and are often appreciated.



I looked at a supplier of cross stitch templates etc. for placemats and coasters, which you can fill with fabric. I wanted to use them for my weaving, but they would suit knitting, too. I was somewhat inspired by our Long Buckby Award coasters, which a friend of Pat made in fused



glass with a knitted wire insert.

The coaster 'blanks' I bought are in two materials - glass [quite expensive at 4 for £9.95] and acrylic [much lighter and cheaper at 10 for £10]. The weaving was fairly fine, perhaps equivalent to a four ply knit - I wouldn't want to use anything thicker - but it only took a minute to press it into the acrylic blank. Not perfect, but excellent for my scraps, and I can see it being used for knitted swatches etc.

<https://www.stichtastic.com/store/acrylic>

And Christmas cards can look good made with small swatches of knitting as the 'picture'. It is always good to get personalised presents like these!

Punchcard patterns

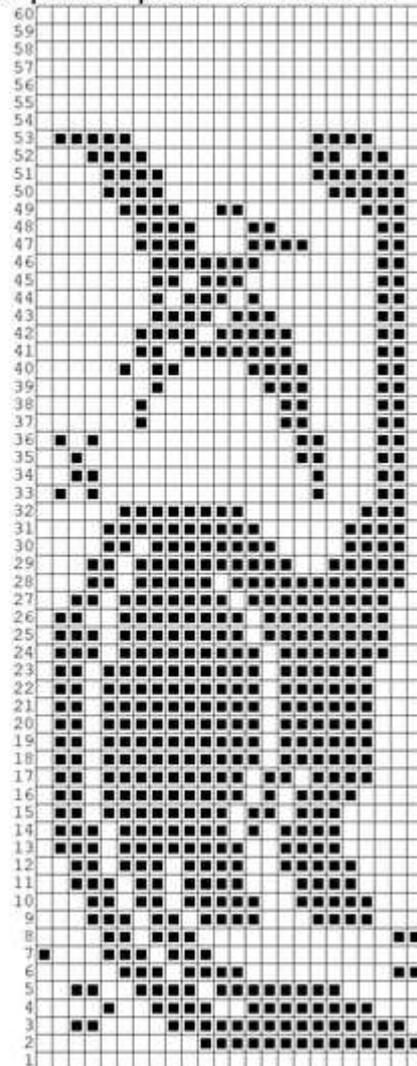
Because of my gradual transition to electronic, I have been looking through my punchcard collection. Some years ago, I bought a huge number of cards from a retiring knitter, including lots of single motif designs. I am going to transfer them to Designaknit and will include them in this newsletter from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

So, my first is a Dinosaur.



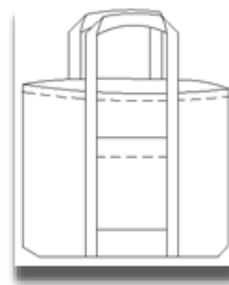
This is the pattern as it appears on my DAK screen, and below is the punchcard template

Long Buckby Machine Knitters
dino (Knit method=F)
Stitch pat template 05/10/2020



Shopping Bag

Pat suggested I make a bag shaped rather like this: she has made fabric bags, with straps attached at the top of the bag, rather than all round as illustrated.



I decided to use the stitch pattern from last month's bag pattern [card 1 locked and carriage set to slip in one direction - I used Stitchworld 234 for the same effect, as I used my electronic machine for this].

I have not completed this bag, although that was my intention. The basic shape, supplied by Pat, is fine, but my measurements were a bit out. I have adapted the pattern to compensate, and include the adapted pattern, but I did not re-knit it, as I ran out of time! It was a useful introduction for me to my new-to-me machine, but I have other projects waiting for me.



Yarn used: King Cole Zigzag 4 ply at tension 4



Cast on over 140 needles: I e-wrapped over alternate needles, and knitted 10 rows in plain knitting before bringing the alternate non-working needles into working position and knitting 1 row.

Knit 1 row to set pattern: locked card 1, carriage set to slip in one direction.

Knit 150 rows in pattern.

Cast off 14 stitches on next 2 rows.

Knit 50 rows.

Cast on 14 stitches on next 2 rows.

Knit 150 rows.

Transfer alternate stitches to adjacent needles.

Knit 10 rows plain.

Cast off.

This will give you the bag body. You need to sew the side seams, then the seam between the bottom and the edges of the sides. Then overlap the 'hem' and stitch in place. I would put a tape in this hem for stability.

For bag handles, I would knit them in the pattern over 10 needles.

If you wanted to line the bag, you could use the body as a template before stitching it together. The template pictured shows the counts I used, which produced a much smaller bag.

Request for help

I have been asked to include this

**Restore Northampton**
2 d · 

Calling all knitters, crocheters and sewers!
Could you support children in need in Northampton this autumn by making woolly hats, gloves and blankets? We would love to give these out in our Growbaby bundles for the autumn and winter for children aged 0-5. If you would like to help please send growbaby@restorenorthampton.org.uk an email to request all the info!



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!

<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.