

Long Buckby Machine Knitters

Newsletter

June
2022



From the Editor

Welcome to the June edition, where we welcome Erica Thomson back after 3 years! She is demonstrating pressing, which is an important part of the finishing process of knitting, and can make a real difference to your work. [<https://www.ericaco.uk/pressing>]



Erica is amazingly creative, and also a good source of goodies for knitting, sewing and jewellery making, which I am sure she will be bringing in her pop up shop - so be prepared if you would like to buy something at the meeting!

I have included in this newsletter several links and articles about finishing generally, including what you might do if your knitting does not turn out exactly as you planned [something which happens to me on a regular basis - I think it is part of the excitement, but others may be more disappointed....]

Looking forward to next month [July] we again have a 'forum' meeting, and invite members to make suggestions regarding mini demos. We are planning a session involving button making, but can easily accommodate members' needs.

Lynda Fiendley

Today's meeting

13th June***	Visiting Speaker: Erica Thomson Erica will demonstrate how to use pressing to enhance your knitting
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Future meetings

LBMK calendar 2022	<p>All meetings are from 2pm to 4pm, and doors are open from 1.30pm.</p> <p>Membership fee: annual £5, plus £3 for most meetings, £5 for those with visiting speaker [marked with ***]</p> <p>Guest fees: £5 most meetings, £7 for those with visiting speaker.</p> <p>Tea/coffee and biscuits included, please bring a cup, and take it with you for washing later [we are limiting use of the kitchen post-Covid]</p>
Date	Topic
11th July	<p>Machine Knitting Forum – a chance to catch up on skills and friends!</p> <p>Multiple rolling demonstrations, basic skills to more advanced, patterns, gadgets and garments. Also, software demonstrations.</p> <p>Bring your projects to show, work on or seek advice about</p>
15th Aug	<p>Holding Position How to use this simple technique for shaping and other effects. Please note change of date!!!</p>
12th Sept	<p>Edges [hems necks bands etc]</p> <p>Demonstration of edging techniques on the knitting machine, and other ways to finish your knitting</p>
10th Oct	<p>Machine Knitting Forum – a chance to catch up on skills and friends!</p> <p>Multiple rolling demonstrations, basic skills to more advanced, patterns, gadgets and garments. Also, software demonstrations.</p> <p>Bring your projects to show, work on or seek advice about</p>
14th Nov	Maintenance. DIY maintenance and tools
12th Dec	AGM/ COMPETITION, DISPLAY AND SALES. End of year celebration

Finishing your knitting



I have to be honest and say that I am like the hare in this story - I rush to finish my knitting, then find the final parts [making up] a bit underwhelming.

But I am trying to pace myself more as I get older, which means I may well take more time over the finishing touches!

Blocking

I have found blocking particularly useful with open structures [lace and loosely knit pieces] especially with wool - the shape is radically different after wet blocking.

The following describe blocking in a basic way:

<https://estherkateblog.wordpress.com/2016/06/30/how-to-block-and-press/>
<https://www.letsknit.co.uk/blog/tutorial-three-ways-to-block-your-knits>

Dry blocking would involve pinning your knitting to a set shape [maybe a schematic] and steaming it while in that shape.

Wet blocking involves pinning your damp knitting to the shape you want, in the case of a shawl, for example, it may mean stretching it to one and a half times its original size.

Pins to use:

You can use dressmaking pins, but much better for the purpose are these blocking pins:

[From Amazon](#) you do not need to buy them from Amazon, but it is easier for me to link you there!



Also recommended are these: [knit blockers](#) - they are quicker to use - see picture on left

You will need a surface to pin to. I use sectional play mats, which I bought from Aldi some time ago, but you can get dedicated knit blocking mats [[Amazon link](#)]

And Amazon also have [play mats](#), which are cheaper.

I have also dry blocked direct on to an ironing board.

Pressing

Erica published a booklet 'Pressing Matters', now out of print, but available in our members' library. I am not going to attempt a summary here! But I will just say that 'pressing' is a misnomer. Most knitting does not need pressure, but steam is good.....



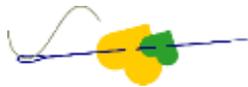
It is also worth thinking about the yarn you are pressing. [also relevant to blocking].

Wool, especially, but also other animal fibres, will stretch to the shape you want, and can be encouraged to do so by steaming and blocking. But it will also go back to its original shape and size when washed.

Plant fibres can take more pressing than others, and may need hotter treatment.

Man made fibres, especially petro-chemical products like acrylic and nylon, will need special care when pressing - they will stretch further and not come back, as they will change shape permanently. This can be an asset, if you want to produce a flat, flowing fabric, but it can also wreck your knitting if that is not what you want.

Seaming



Mattress stitch is great for seaming - you seam on the right side and can therefore see how it is going.

<https://www.yarnspirations.com/gb/how-to-sew-a-mattress-stitch-seam.html> shows how to do this.

Backstitch can also be used, especially when joining pieces knitted in different directions: this page shows how, and describes other ways of doing that too

<https://knitty.com/ISSUESpring06/FEATspr06TT.html>

Machine stitching can be done with a sewing machine

[<https://annsroost.wordpress.com/machine-knit-techniques/misc-techniques/sew-knitted-pieces-on-sewing-machine/>]

or using a linker e.g. Hague linker.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCyhcXYRadg&ab_channel=HagueKnittingAccessories

Both options will speed the process, but need a bit of practice.

Susan Guagliumi also has a handy sheet on finishing. <https://guagliumi.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/TT38Finishing.pdf>

Edging



We will focus on this in our September meeting. You can use your knitting machine to make an edge, use crochet or hand knitting, or even use bias binding or other commercial edgings.

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

has a section on edgings - lots of links from there!

Care

Washing

wash by hand
maximum temperature
40° C



After you have finished your knitting, including joining it together, you might like to consider other care issues.

Some of these might be intentional, others the results of disappointment or accident - I have experienced all of these!

Dye

See below for my project, where I attempted to overdye a garment - successfully really, but I am still not sure..... I think it is worth a try if you are not going to wear it otherwise. The Dylon method I used is only suitable for plant fibres - for wool, use acid dyes - they are quite simple: for more information I recommend <https://www.debbietomkies.co.uk/>

Felt

I have done this both intentionally and by accident. Either will give you usable results - you can use felt in embellishments and bags, or even garments [see below for cut and sew]

Cut and sew/ Repurpose

If you have knitted something you don't like, it may be possible to repurpose it via cut and sew. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2jgKVUqp40> is worth a watch.

And do check out <https://reknitrevolution.org/> which is a result of Amy Twigger-Holroyd's project to recycle knitwear. It includes lots of tips on how to do this.

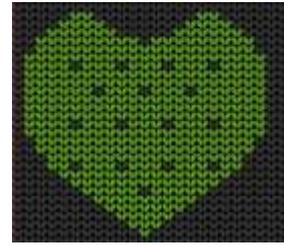


Projects

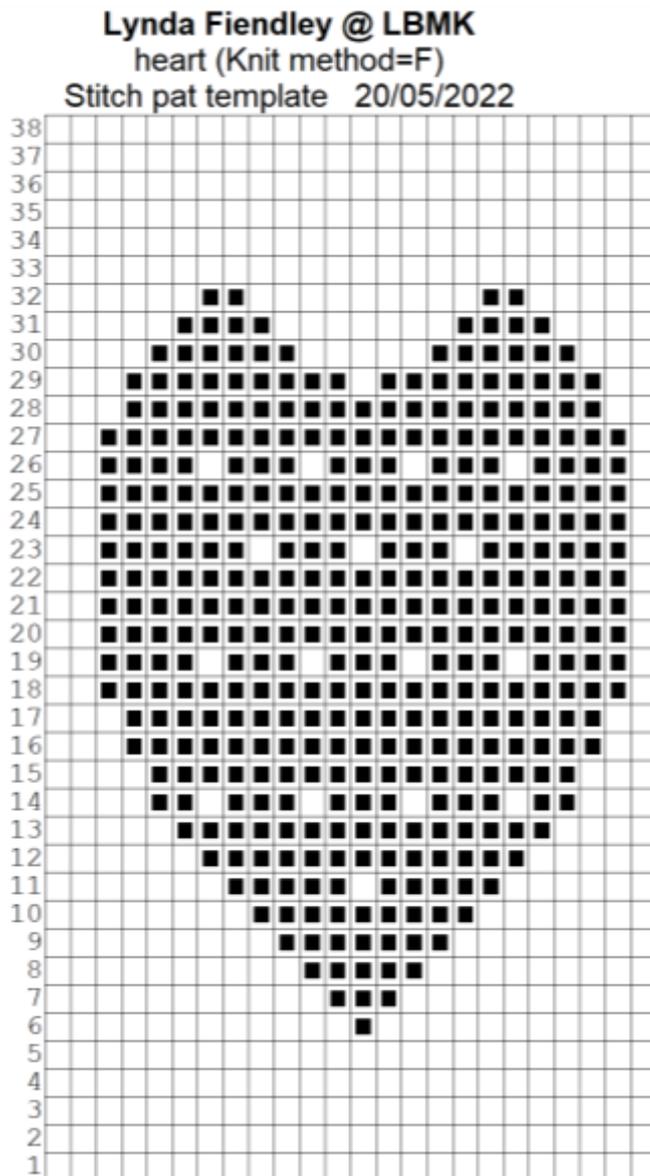


I have something of a green theme going on this month - not to do with the environment, but the colour.

The picture on the left is a green heart I downloaded from <https://openclipart.org/> and which I



put into Designaknit to convert to a punch card - the result is edited heavily, but, for what it is worth, here is the punchcard template



It doesn't have to be green!

On the other hand, my two projects with knitting this month are.



I decided to knit my pattern *Cascade* [from last year] again, as it is one I wear a lot. This time I used a cone of Yeoman Panama in bottle green, which was part of my overloaded yarn store.

I am happy with the result, but realised that the pattern needed a bit of TLC, as I had described how to knit the first half, alluded to the second, but did not actually specify how to do it. A bit of brain fog, I think. By the time this is published, I will have altered that!



The second project is a carry forward from the last newsletter, when I included a pattern for *Little Dipper*, another garment in Yeoman Panama. This time it was in a pale green from my store, but, I confess, the colour does not suit me.

So, I decided to dye it. I used a Dylon washing machine dye in Emerald Green, which is actually more jade, I would say.

The result was not quite what I expected, as the yarn is a blend of cotton and acrylic. The cotton takes the dye, the acrylic does not. Even though I knew this beforehand, I was expecting a different type of blend.

I found dyeing in the washing machine very easy, but heavy on the water and time - not particularly environmentally friendly! I could have used a Procion dye and hand dyed it, but I was hoping for a smoother result with the washing machine - I think that was true, but I am unconvinced about the process.



Suppliers

These are still operating an online supply

www.wools.co.uk - Uppingham Yarns

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

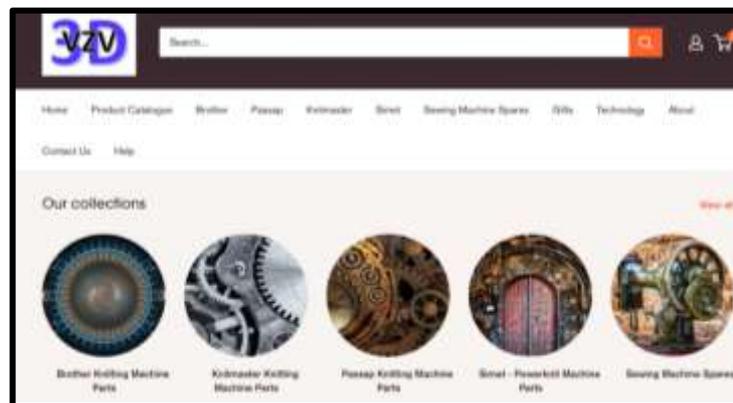
<https://www.yarnoncone.co.uk> Yarn on Cone

<https://woolyknit.com> Woolyknit

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

For 3d printed
try

<https://vzv3d.com/>



parts

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/channel/UCSDxy6pQHAs4gd5XBztYWmw>

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.

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