

Long Buckby Machine Knitters

Newsletter

September
2021



From the Editor

Welcome to our September newsletter!

I am gradually returning to production, but am a part time carer for my grandsons, so time is sometimes limited - fingers crossed, later editions will expand.



Last month we had our first actual meeting in nearly 18 months, and, although we had a small turnout, we really enjoyed being back.

This month, the meeting is planned for September 13th, and we are planning a [slightly] more formal one. In case you find my oblique, pictorial way of describing the meeting topic a little cryptic, we are focusing on the start of a new project [for beginners as well as others]

Note to members: I will continue to produce this newsletter online and will endeavour to publish online on the Sunday before the meetings. I will only print out extracts for those who are unable to access online versions.

Stay safe!
Lynda Fiendley

Today's meeting

Demonstration: starting a new project including:

- Choosing yarns and patterns
- Making a tension swatch
- Casting on [including using a cast on rag, comb, ravel cord, e wrap etc]

Future Club meetings

Demonstration meetings will be a single demonstration in front of all attendees:
Open Forum meetings will be multiple small demonstrations in a 'marketplace' style

We may adjust these to fit members' preferences

- October 11th - open forum, setting up ribber and other equipment in mini demos
- November 8th - demonstration [knitting for Christmas]
- December 13th - open forum

Starting a Project

Choosing yarns and patterns

This past year has been a challenge in many ways, and a [fairly minor] one was the absence of sales outlets, although online sales picked up substantially during the pandemic crisis.

So, the choice of yarns has been largely from our own stocks or buying from online retailers.

I have been trying to reduce my huge pile of yarn by thinking of ways of using it, rather than buying more, but the same considerations apply whatever the source:

The composition of yarn makes a difference to the finished project.

This might seem obvious, but we often try to substitute yarns which are substantially different to the one mentioned in a pattern.

It is better to think carefully about the nature of the yarn.

Synthetic yarn is often lighter in weight than natural yarn - acrylic is lighter and airier than wool, generally, and this is both an advantage and a disadvantage. It is easier to wash, it does not irritate, and is often cheaper. But it will not drape as well, because it is light. If you need drape, you need a heavier yarn.

Cotton, linen, and hemp yarns, amongst other similar fibres, are rigid in texture, do not stretch well, but do drape. Structured and flowing garments might be better with these. They are also cool and may not be suitable for winter.

I wanted to knit a cardigan from The Knitter, which was hand knitted in Debbie Bliss Piper DK yarn [50% cotton 50% viscose]. I substituted it with Drops Belle yarn [53% cotton, 33% viscose, 14% linen], which was roughly half the price, and on sale at the time. It worked fine, but I was careful in my choice.

Patterns

I rarely buy machine knitting patterns, as I use software to make my own. I find most patterns to be a variation on simple pattern shapes, which are quite easy to generate. However, some designers have a little 'something else' in their patterns e.g., [Anne Lavene](#).

If you use Ravelry, you can find patterns there - [this search](#) will bring you the most recent publications. Some are free, but not all.

Choosing patterns is a different issue: various style factors apply, including what is fashionable, seasonal and flattering to one's own shape.

There is a lot of advice about clothes that flatter online, but these two specifically deal with knitwear

<https://www.interweave.com/article/knitting/focus-fit-sweater-silhouettes/>
<https://asksuzannebell.com/finding-the-most-flattering-sweater-for-your-body-type/>

Making a tension swatch

I am told this is essential, but I am not going to be hypocritical and insist that I always swatch, because I do not. However, I do recommend it for others, particularly if you are keen on good fit or are a nervous knitter.

How to videos on swatching:

[Sally Butcher on the LK150](#)

[The Knitting School](#)

[Diana Sullivan](#)

Casting on

In our demonstrations, we will use the following methods [if members want to see them!]

- Using a comb - this is really for Brother machines, as the combs were made for them - this [video](#) shows you how
- Using a cast on rag [including using ravel cord] : these are links to various sites and videos on making and using these

<https://knitalongcafe.com/make-cast-on-rag/>

<https://wickedwoollies.co.uk/making-a-cast-on-rag/>

<http://diananatters.blogspot.com/2010/12/new-video-make-cast-on-rag-for-your.html>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzYnUTvRHss&ab_channel=SallyButcher%E2%80%99sKalamundaKraftsMachineKnitting

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OIRR6JIOs&ab_channel=PurlaGoose

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

You can also make an effective one by crochet: Pat discovered that a 5 mm crochet hook produced a good one for the LK150 if you make a chain corresponding to the number of needles, then work two rows of trebles.



- E-wrap

Video [The Knitting School](#)

- Weaving cast on [if we can do it successfully - I have to confess it works for me most of the time, but often not in demonstrations!]

Video [The Knitting School](#)

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.iinouio.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.