

# 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.

# September 2020



From the Editor

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Welcome to the September special edition of our newsletter. I can scarcely believe it is the 6<sup>th</sup> one already, but so much has happened since our last meeting in March.

I hope everyone is well - I live in Northampton, which is now under 'intervention' because of the incidence of Covid. This probably vindicates our decision not to rush back to face-to-face meetings, but it is also very sad. Hopefully, the intervention will be effective, and we can face the winter intact.

On a more optimistic note, I will continue to edit this newsletter and, I hope, cover topics we would otherwise have demonstrated.

This month we are looking at experimental uses of the machine. This is a grandiose way of describing 'playing' with stitch patterns, yarn and colour, but it is also quite difficult to discuss properly, by its very nature. It is up to you! But I hope to provide inspiration and a little direction.

I use a Brother KH891 standard punchcard machine, but I have tried to make suggestions which can be used whatever machine you use. Incidentally, I am still standing to knit, and found this video of it being used professionally!  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfW\\_pp9nd-Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfW_pp9nd-Q) as Kath requested a video of me, which is a horrible thought!

Stay safe!  
Lynda Fiendley

## Two virtual events you might like:



### Knitting and Crochet Guild

#### Un-Convention

Our Un-Convention will be held online [from 9 to 15 September](#) and has three primary aims:

1. to give something back to members in this unusual year
2. to show the wider public what the Guild can offer
3. to leave a legacy of digital material that can be used by Branches and members in the coming years

We realise that not all members will have the facilities to take part, but many will. And with public libraries re-opening, even those without internet connections at home will have access to some of what we do.

During the seven day event new content will be released every day and, where the provider of the content allows it, we will keep it available for as long after Un-Convention as we can.

Un-Convention will be open to all yarn lovers but interactive sessions will available to Guild members only. The event will include:

- presentations by keynote speakers (that will be recorded)
- videos prepared especially for Un-Convention that cover a wide range of topics about crochet, machine knitting and hand knitting topics
- interactive workshops that will allow people to learn new skills
- new demonstration and information videos that people can view when it suits them
- discussions with members in the Facebook Group and Instagram
- Show & Tell
- an area for members to link to their own web pages and for those without one to share their ideas through the Un-Convention web site
- recognising that these are difficult times, there will also be an area for members with yarn-related businesses to link to their business websites
- the AGM [on 12 September](#)

Access is described here <https://sites.google.com/view/kcguild/un-convention>

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**CLOTH#20**  
ONLINE

This is an online exhibition of textile artists, including one machine knitter [maybe more, there are a lot here] <https://pickoneproductions.com/cloth20>

# Experiment!

When I first started to use a knitting machine [a basic Knitmaster pre-punchcard], my main aim was to make knitwear which looked like commercial clothing. I did little experimentation, and often used it as a shortcut in hand knitted garments. I didn't really understand the machine, either.

I think that is the way many people begin, and that is fine. If you want to make basic items which are functional and well made, you don't need to change. But if, like me, you run out of things to make, become bored, or begin to realise the machine's potential, you might be ready to move on.

## Know your machine

Before you do your experiments, you should learn as much as you need to about your machine.

Most domestic machines, whatever the gauge or make, have needles which move into four different positions.

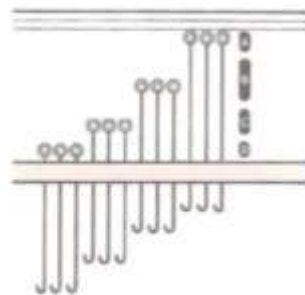
This is an example, on the LK150:

Although the labelling will be different on Brother machines, for example, the functions are the same.

[Brother machines use the H - holding button instead of Russel levers]

### Needle positions

The diagram shows the four positions of the needles. Each row denotes a different function for the needles.



- A..... Needles do not knit
- B..... Needles knit Stockinette and other patterns
- C..... Needles knit Stockinette only Brother D
- D..... Needles do not knit with Russel Levers at E  
Needles are knitted back to B position with Russel  
Levers at H Brother E

The patterning can be done by selecting which position the needles are in: on punchcard and electronic machines, this is done by the machine as the carriage moves over them; in other manual machines it can be done by the user.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCA-vfHv2PA> is KnitItNow explaining automatic patterning.

## Punch card use

For Brother machines, this is a guide to using punchcards

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JO6PGBaXOIC&t=87s>

For Knitmaster/Silver Reed likewise

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3\\_iCo\\_7KtM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3_iCo_7KtM)

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## Electronic use

Brother 910 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyPTsnpOFNI>

Brother 950i <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rHSttG54kw>

Brother 965 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5IxWfdvKKg>

Knitmaster <https://youtu.be/3ZRASDIMm84>

Silver Reed [using DAK on modular machine]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5aQklacDIc>

## Manual selection

Some information on the LK150

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xhsj3DR2HmM>

## Know Your Stitch Functions

### Fair Isle

Combines two yarns in a single row.

How to do it:

Brother: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xwRe1ADI-I>

Knitmaster/ Silver Reed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fv-5EszlHiQ>

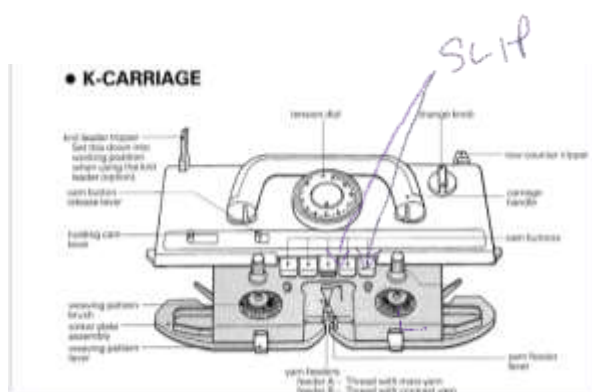
Manual machines: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_c3\\_CnCdRkU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_c3_CnCdRkU)

### Slip Stitch

Passes the yarn over the needles in B position and knits from needles in C and D/E position

How to do it:

Brother: I couldn't find a video for this, but it is really a case of using a punch card, and setting the carriage to slip in one or both directions [the buttons are on the right side of the carriage]



Knitmaster/Silver Reed: [https://youtu.be/838wem7NX\\_o](https://youtu.be/838wem7NX_o)

LK150: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYyny2AsL5c>

### Tuck Stitch

Passes the yarn over the needles in B position [catching them in the hook] and knits from needles in C/D and D/E position

How to do it:

Brother <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FOCH-4ovJI>

Knitmaster [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUbDw\\_S8kMO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUbDw_S8kMO)

LK150 <https://youtu.be/xXtpBKQ6Dpk>

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## Weaving [Knitweave]

Uses a second yarn to weave under and over needles to create a woven effect. The yarn is caught under the stitches in B position and remains on top of the ones in C/D and D/E position.

On manual machines [and/or those without weaving brushes] the second yarn can be moved under and over the needles to create the same effect.

## Lace

Can be knitted from cards, stitch patterns or manually by transferring. When using an automatic pattern, you need a different carriage. For the purposes of this newsletter, I am not including lace here, or using the ribber, but both are interesting in their own right.

## Automatic Patterns

Whether electronic or punchcards, these can be used in a 'locked' position, i.e. the needles remain in the same position on every row, or in a 'rolling' position, i.e. moving every row, and can move every other row [in elongated form]. Electronic machines can do other moves [inversion etc.]

## Plating

Plating is worth playing with too. Using two yarns, one is knitted on the plain side, the other on the purl. You will get interesting effects with stitch patterning, especially with tuck stitch. The combined thickness of the yarns is a consideration i.e. expect two 4 ply yarns to be a like Aran weight and therefore too much for a standard gauge machine. There are videos on plating here:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=plating+knitting+machine+](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=plating+knitting+machine+)

Brother: you will need to change the yarn feeder on the carriage to a plating feeder

**plating yarn feeder**

APPROXIMATE TENSION CHART		
YARN	VERY FINE	TENSION DIAL
Fine	very fine	4-5
Fine	very fine	6-7
Fine	fine	8-9

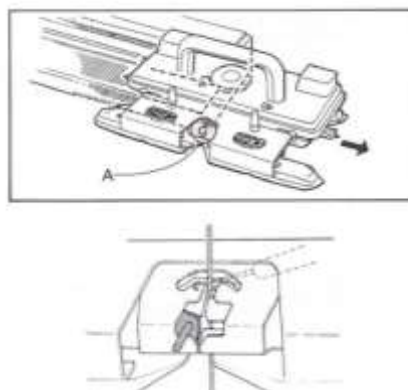
• The setting for the K carriage is the same as for stocking stitch.  
Pressure (not foot) setting – consult your knit yarn.

- Remove the two screws and the yarn feeder from the slider plate assembly.  
▲ To work to keep the screws safely.
- Take the plating yarn feeder out of the accessories box and fit it into the slider plate assembly as shown above.
- Fasten the two screws.
- After you have changed the yarn feeder, insert the slider plate assembly back on the K carriage.

- Thread the yarn into the yarn feeder, just as shown.
- Thread the main yarn into the main yarn hole.
- Fit a few rows in stocking stitch, working with the K carriage on the right of the machine.
- Set the tension dial according to the yarn you are using. Refer to the approximate tension chart on P.52.
- Place the end of the plating yarn behind the main yarn.
- Thread the plating yarn over the plating yarn hole. There is an opening at the side and you can pass a yarn through the slit.
- Place the end of the plating yarn with your left hand, as near the K carriage to the left. Close the needles to catch the yarn. You can release the yarn and do backstitching in this way. You are now knitting plating.

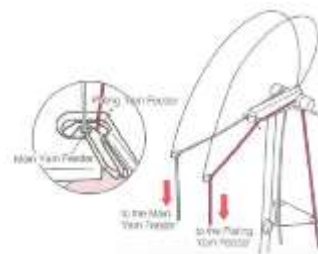
▲ Make sure the two yarns are not crossed.

Knitmaster: the plating yarn is fed in the back of the normal yarn feeder.



- Move the Carriage to the right until the Yarn Feeder "A" is off the edge of the Needle Bed.
- Remove the second yarn (plating yarn) from the Yarn Clip and pull it down to the Carriage.
- Place the plating yarn into Yarn Feeder ①.
- Thread the Plating Yarn Feeder as follows:
  - Insert the Tappet Tool into the Plating Yarn Feeder from behind and catch the plating yarn in the hook.
  - Pull the plating yarn through and fasten the end to the Clamp.
- Replace the main yarn into Yarn Feeder ②.
- Close the Yarn Feeder Gate.

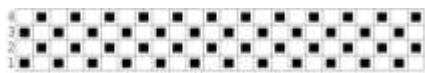
LK150: the yarns are fed into the different slots in the normal yarn feeder.



## PLAY!

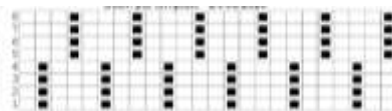
Much of the rest of this article was inspired by three booklets:

- 1) Card 1 by Kate Armitage



<http://metropolitanmachineknitting.co.uk/shop/card-1.html>

- 2) Card 3 by Kate Armitage



<http://metropolitanmachineknitting.co.uk/shop/books/general/card-3-by-kate-armitage.html> This refers to Knitmaster or Silver card 3 - Brother 2 is similar

These are both £6.20 plus postage

- 3) Pick A Card by Maggie Andrews <https://country-knitting-of-maine.dpdcart.com/product/157847> a pdf download for \$10

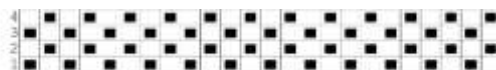
This is a similar idea based on an original card, which is a diagonal stripe pattern.



I will give some starting points, you can play around with it yourself, or seek further inspiration from the above!

## Find a Stitch Pattern to use

I picked Card 1 to use initially, because it is easy to find and also easy to hand manipulate: however, some effects are better with other patterns. Elongated card means you will have to repeat each row selection if you are doing it by hand. If you choose a different card, you might need to check if you can use it for all the stitches [this one is good for all, except lace].



### Fair Isle

Try using this for Fair Isle in the following ways:

Locked card - you will get vertical stripes.

Rolling card

Rolling card elongated

Then try changing the colours as you go along.



## Tuck Stitch

Try basic tuck stitch with a rolling card, then with elongated rolling card.  
Try stripes with the card rolling, then elongated.  
Try tucking in one direction only.



Try leaving some needles out of work. [tuck lace - experiment with which needles to leave out - be mindful of where the tucks are - they are often best when 1 stitch in the centre of a group of 3 tucks,]  
An example of this is in our Tuck Lace scarf pattern

<http://www.longbuckbymk.com/images/stories/patterns/tuck%20lace%20scarf.pdf>

## Slip Stitch



Try basic slip stitch both ways, then one way [see below for my project/pattern]. Try with locked card, rolling card, elongated card.

Try stripes with varying numbers of rows.

[This cardigan](#) was knitted in stripes with slip stitch - not Card 1, but you can see how the yarn 'moves' with the slipping

## Tuck/Slip stitch

Try the variations above when tucking in one direction and slipping in the other.

## Knitweave



Try with different yarns, weaving every row [not too thick a weaving yarn], weaving alternate rows or less often.

I used card 1 on this pattern: the base yarn was a fine 1 ply and the weaving yarn a slightly thicker boucle

<http://www.longbuckbymk.com/images/stories/patterns/fringed%20cowl.pdf>

## Projects

My pattern this month was my main [only?] knitting project. [see below]

Pat has a busy building project at her home now, and found a by-product from it:

### How to stop your cones falling over

For many years I have treasured a heavy weighted cone (See photo 1) which probably came with a job lot of yarn. When placed inside the cone I was using I found it helped to keep cone of yarn upright in use.



Fast forward several years and we've got builders who often leave some mixed cement at the end of the day. Not wishing to waste this I decided to have a go at making some more weights. I found the easiest way was to put a thin polythene bag inside an empty cone pushing it into place with another empty cone and then fill the lined cone. I filled several cones putting them in an ice cream box to stop them moving before they set and left them overnight to dry. The next morning the plastic bag pulled out of the cone easily and hey presto a new weight! (See



photo 2). On reflection it might have been a good idea to put a cork inside the cone before the plastic bag as this would have made my cone less pointed and more like the original. I've yet to paint my new weights but am looking forward to using them, especially when I wish to combine several yarns together for machine knitting or crochet.

I wonder if anyone else has come up with a useful hint to share with our readers.

Pat Banyard Smith

### Off topic [a bit]

A few years ago, I decided that I was fed up with buying ill fitting clothes, and I decided to make as many of my own as possible. I started with knitwear, and I have not bought any ready-made knitwear since then and would not do so again. Then I moved on to other clothing.

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I have been sewing/dressmaking since I was a child, initially for dolls, and as a teenager for myself. I would not say I was super skilled, but I have gained confidence [and superior equipment] as I have gone along.

I have used commercial patterns and have made my own from existing clothing, adapting both to my body shape, not in any really sophisticated way, but to suit me. I think you have to be prepared for a bit of honesty [my abdomen is always a negative feature, particularly since several bouts of surgery in my childbearing days] and good measurements, but the results are worth it. The trouser pattern I am currently working on [have already made about 4 pairs of light cotton ones this summer] involved me in adding about 3 inches extra height at the waist to compensate for my extra body length/size at this point.

My latest venture is into underwear - I downloaded a free pattern from Megan Nielsen <https://megannielsen.com/collections/free> for underpants, and have made some successfully and simply. I used the scraps left from making T shirts. The hardest part was adding the elastic trims, but not really too bad. I have yet to try bras, which are the bane of my life in terms of fit, but I have found plenty of patterns and instructions, so might yet do that.

I have made shoes from kits from Simple Way <http://www.simpleway.co.uk> who also do kits for bags and other leather goods.

I also knit socks and wear them in winter. But, since I had an unfortunate bout of insect bites round my ankles, I no longer wear them in summer, despite wool being quite comfortable then!



## Pattern



This was my prototype bag for this pattern. I got the idea from a hand knit bag

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/treat-bag-2>

I have adapted it quite a bit, and there is very little sewing. I used four ply yarn, knitted at T3 on a standard gauge [i.e. very tight] but it could easily be done with different yarn on a different gauge of machine. The prototype was the smallest size, and measures about 4 inches square.



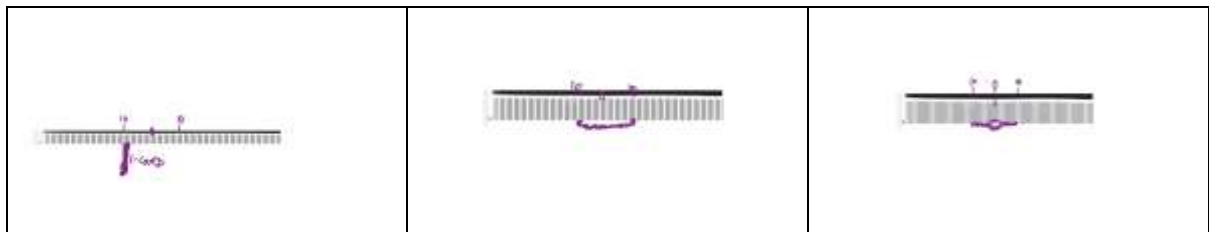
The second version is the middle size, and I knitted it in sock yarn. It is about 6-7 inches wide. My smart phone and purse fit nicely inside.

### Instructions [3 sizes]

Start by knitting an I-cord. It needs to be cast on over 4 stitches - L7-10/12-15/17-20. Slip in one direction, knit in the other. Knit it long enough to stretch over to R10/20/30 then stop and pick up the end of the I-cord and hang it on needles R7-10/12-15/17-20. [You now have a loop

under the needle bed.]

You are now going to cast on over 20/30/40 needles [L10-R10/L15-R15/L20-R20. In addition you should pick up from the I-cord, so that it forms part of the cast on - leave a section in the middle to form a buttonhole [or two sections for two buttonholes if you prefer].



You should now have a cast on edge of 20/30/40 stitches.

Now you will change to patterning. You need the Card 1 pattern illustrated above, locked on one row. You will knit one way, and slip the other. If you are manually selecting, you may wish to just select the needles on alternate rows which you then slip.



## Flap

Increase 1 stitch each end on alternate rows until you have 40/60/80 stitches. If you do the increase on the slip rows, you may find it easier, as the next row is then straight knitting and will incorporate the new stitches more easily. Finish with 2 plain rows.

## Back

Knit 60/80/100 rows in pattern.  
Knit 2 rows plain.

## Base

Knit 30/40/50 rows in pattern.  
Knit 2 rows plain.

## Front

Knit 60/80/100 rows in pattern.  
Cast off.

## Side [knit twice]

Pick up 30/40/50 stitches from the side of the back, with the wrong side [slipped side] facing you - make sure you pick up right to the base.  
Knit 15/20/25 rows in pattern.  
Knit 2 rows plain.  
Knit 15/20/25 rows in pattern.

At this point you need to remove the stitches from the needles - you can do this on Waste Yarn, but it is quite easy to do this with a garter bar, or a long transfer bar. [video on how to use garter bar here <https://youtu.be/1Q8e0CQvXxk> Or here <https://youtu.be/F4RHdVjiL5Y> ]. You don't need to turn the stitches, they will be rehung facing the same way. I used a long transfer tool available from Hague <https://haguedirect.co.uk/knitting-accessories/transfer-pick-up-tools/?sort=featured&page=2>

You then need to pick up the corresponding stitches along the front side, right side facing, then rehang the back side stitches, knit across and cast off.

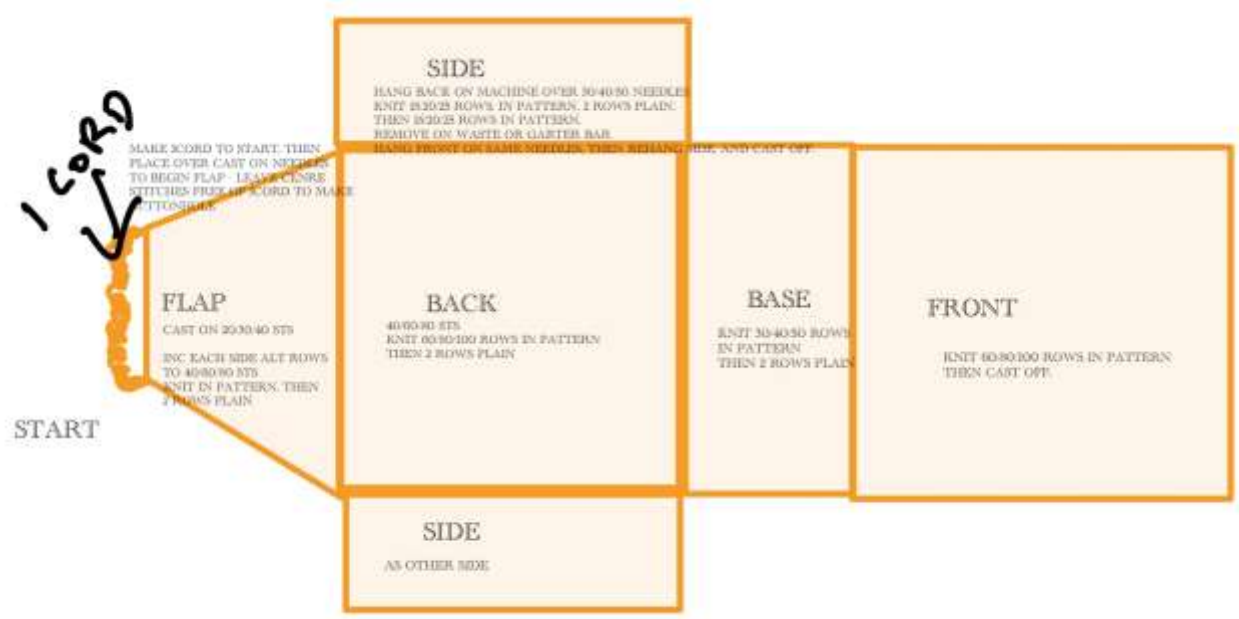
## Strap

Cast on 10 stitches and knit in pattern for as long as you need. It depends whether you want a short handle or a long strap.

To finish, stitch the bottom to the sides, and add a button or two. Sew the strap appropriately for your use. My prototype had a short handle [attached at the back], whereas the second version had a longer shoulder strap [attached at the sides].

I did find the edges curled a bit and stitched them to help that: I could have added another I-cord as an edge [and might in future]. The buttonhole was 3 stitches wide, and quite small.

Below is a graphic of the instructions.



## Suppliers

These are still operating an online supply

[www.wools.co.uk](http://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](mailto:Administrator@longbuckbymk.com) is my club email address.