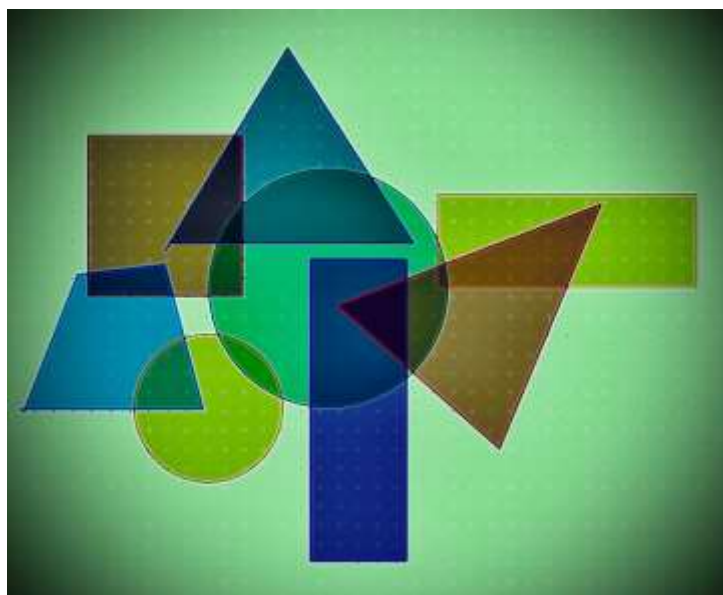


Long Buckby Machine Knitters

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.

August 2020



From the Editor



This month we are focusing on shapes. Our August meeting was to have been a demonstration of using holding position, so this is a central part of the discussion.

But I remembered that last year we introduced the idea of using basic shapes to produce garments and other knitted items, and it resulted in an interesting meeting, so I have also tried to develop that further here.

Along the way I am trying to further my skills by using Iris Bishop's Evolution design to knit a jacket - very much an adventure for me.

And I am still knitting for my baby grandson, who has managed to flourish under lockdown, and is now nearly six months old and huge [into 12 months+ clothing], hence more knitting!

Developing other skills has also not been neglected: I have indulged myself in a new iPad, complete with Logitech Crayon, an electronic pencil which works with drawing apps. This does not make me a better artist, which you can clearly see, but does mean I can illustrate some of my ideas!



Stay safe!
Lynda Fiendley

Shapes



The easiest basic shape to knit must be the **rectangle**. Just cast on, knit a number of rows, then cast off. A basic tension square is an example of this, but rectangles can be so much more.

- Scarf - knit longer and thinner and you can easily knit a scarf quickly. Try a [Tuck Lace scarf](#) from our website
- Cowl - knit and join the end to the beginning [on the machine is easy] and you can make a good neck covering. [The Fringed Cowl](#) on our website is a variation of this.
- Mittens - wrist warmers - each one made of one rectangle, folded over to make a tube, with a hole in the seam to make a thumb hole.
- Cushion covers
- Blanket

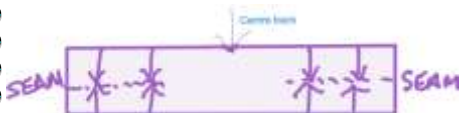
And why not join squares together to make something larger?

<https://www.knittingparadise.com/user-page?upnum=3707> is a really good source of [hand] joining methods.

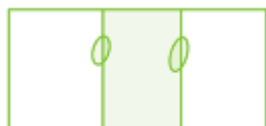
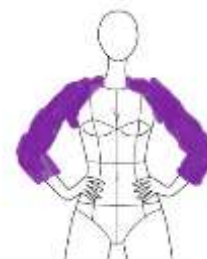
Garments can be made of rectangles, with a bit of imagination.



Two identical rectangles, loose tension, seamed at the top to make shoulders and seamed at the side below the armholes, could make a loose summer top.



More complicated is a shrug, made from a long sided rectangle: at each end fold the long side together to make sleeves.



And a larger wrap cardigan can be made from 3-5 rectangles, depending on whether sleeves are needed.

The 3 rectangles are seamed with holes for the sleeves, the sleeves can be rectangles themselves, or shaped. The centre rectangle can be made taller to form a collar.

This example has the extra height, and was knitted with knit weave.

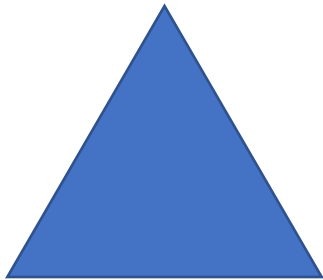
Or it could be knitted sideways as one rectangle, with armholes cut later, or made within the knitting [although exact positioning would then be an issue].



The front will hang in a waterfall way, the back will flare a little.

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If you want to shorten the front, so it does not hang a long way below the back, consider the triangle:



Triangle

Knit a triangle by casting on at the base of the triangle, then knitting while decreasing each side up to the point.

Or cast on at the top, then increase each side while knitting towards the bottom.

Triangles can make

- Shawls - very wide base and lots of decreasing, or start at one side point, increase on one side to the apex of the triangle, then decrease back to a side point. A more complicated version is the [Crescent Shawl](#), which links two triangles together to make a slightly different shape
- Joined together might make clothing, but using holding position triangular wedges make a more interesting proposition [see below]
- Or combine with rectangles, as mentioned above to make a wrap cardigan - the armholes would be made in the seam between the back and the triangles.



Circle

Knitting a circle is not difficult, although getting it to lie completely flat may be a slight challenge.

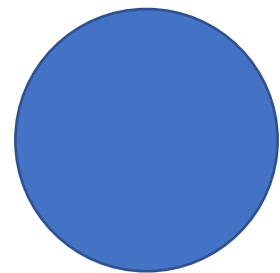
Start by casting on a radius for your circle [half the diameter].

Decide which end is to be the centre of your circle: that end will be held [holding position] for most of the knitting.

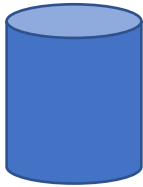
Knit with the carriage set to hold, and, starting at centre circle, knit back and forth, putting more needles into hold at the centre end each alternate row.

After a while you will have made a circle, which can be completed by seaming start and finish on the machine. [more information on holding position below]

Circles can make



- Cushion covers
- Place mats
- Berets - free pattern
<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/tam-take-two>
- Baby blankets
- Pin cushions This [pin cushion](#) pattern uses this technique.



Cylinder

Can be made by using slip stitch in one direction [i-cord, using only a few needles], or by using the ribber, slipping one way on the ribber and the other on the main bed.

Cylinders can make

- Scarves - e.g. [Football scarf](#) A striped scarf.
- Soft toys e.g. [Teddy](#)
- Cushion covers
- And I-cords can be used for many things - ties, embellishment, jewellery [especially when knitted with wire]
 - Boob tube - make the tube using both beds as described above and then make I-cord straps. Perhaps only for the brave or the young!



Shaping

Whilst it is great to knit fabric on the knitting machine without thinking about shaping a garment, the machine lends itself to shaping, particularly short row shaping.

Holding position/ Short rowing/ Partial Knitting

These are all terms used for the following technique, which I will refer to as holding position.

When needles on the knitting machine are pulled out to their most extreme position, they are in holding position. Depending on your machine, the carriage is then set to hold them there, whilst continuing to knit those needles in other positions. This can help to create various interesting effects.

http://www.getknitting.com/mk_holdposition.aspx is a web page on this subject
<http://www2.rgu.ac.uk/subj/ats/TeachingWeb/textiles/knit/k2.htm> as is this also

<https://youtu.be/xIxZKUAzrW4> shows the basic technique
http://www.needlesofsteel.org.uk/tech_garment.html#short has lots of links to different uses of this technique

Slopes

The most common use of slopes is when you are finishing shoulders on a pullover or cardigan.

Instead of casting off stitches on successive rows to create a slope, the needles/stitches are put progressively into holding position, and finally cast off or knitted off in a straight line.

<https://youtu.be/QxcAg28qeGc> this video shows how to knit a basic slope
<https://youtu.be/TyAwG4MRifs> Marianne Henio shows a technique for knitting a neckline, which is a little more complicated.

Holes and Slits

You can create these effects quite easily with holding position. The following videos show different ways of doing this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIxZKUAzrW4&feature=youtu.be> is making a basic slit

These two videos are a good example of what can be achieved, but are more complicated

<https://youtu.be/rnvFWCEiudE>
<https://youtu.be/SfacxQoGpYc>

Colour

You can add colour to projects without floats by using holding position

<https://youtu.be/VdmMA03IJyc> is a Diana Sullivan video that shows diagonal stripes, but which also gives inspiration for other patterns!

Other effects



I am leaving this to you! Once you start to use holding position, you will find that you will make your own.
However, this pattern, although knitted with a punchcard, is a good example of shaping to bear in mind.

<http://www.longbuckbymk.com/images/stories/corkscrew%20scarf.pdf>

Projects

This month has seen fewer projects for me, possibly because of the easing of lockdown and family commitments. I have sewn a few light cotton trousers, but knitting has been scarce.

However, I have managed to raise the height of my knitting machine to standing operation. I mounted it on a plank of wood, which is now on top of two IKEA storage boxes, which are on top of the original table. Although that sounds unstable, it isn't, and I didn't even have to secure anything but the clamps on the plank.

I find it easier on my back to work like this, and when I made the tunic, offered as a pattern below, I found that the energy I used was far greater than sitting down, as well as a bit of a workout on my side waist [since I was using the full needle bed].

I am now going to do the same for my sewing machine!

Pattern



This month we have a new pattern, a collaboration between Pat and me.

Tabitha is a sideways knit, with plenty of holding position godets, and is knitted in one piece.

I knitted it with about 400g of Yeoman Panama, but it could be done with any 4 ply. I have included sizes 10-22. If anyone wanted sizes out of that range, I could easily do it, just ask.

I used a bit of handwoven fabric for the pockets, but I have included instructions for a knit-in version.

I might try this again with vertical stripes of different colours or knitweave.



[Link to pattern](#)

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.