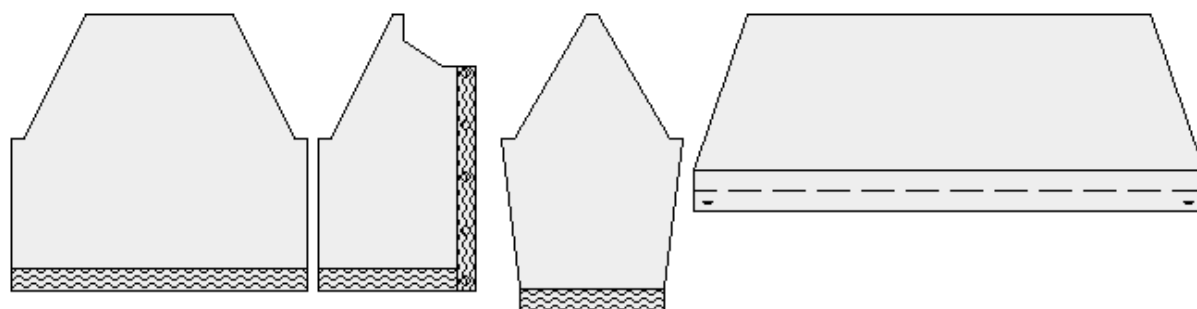


Long Buckby Machine Knitters

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 on a monthly basis.

June 2020



From the Editor



I hope you are all well and able to pass the time with knitting!

This edition is all about patterns and how to design them.

First, a section on finding and using ready-made patterns.

I admire those designers who make commercial machine knitting patterns, as I am increasingly aware of the time involved, and the paucity of the income. Therefore, I do urge all knitters not to breach copyright - if we want to have new patterns available, we must pay for them! Otherwise, those designers will abandon us.

But there is also scope for designing for yourself. You can design from scratch, adapt designs you see, or combine designs to make new ones. It can be lots of fun, and it is often the best way to make something really special.

Stay safe!
Lynda Fiendley

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Finding, Using, Making and Designing Patterns



Finding Patterns

Sources of ready-made patterns:

Free

<http://www.needlesofsteel.org.uk/freepatterns.html>

Our own website! www.longbuckbymk.com

<http://machineknittingetc.com/brother-knitting/patterns-and-magazines.html> is one page of a website which provides free resources: this one is full of Brother pattern books. There are similar pages for Silver Reed/Knitmaster and Passap. These are dated but could be a source for the Design section later in this newsletter!



https://www.jessica-tromp.nl/basic_machine-knitting_patterns_free_knittingmachine_patterns.htm is a Dutch website (in English) with lots of free patterns

Some Free, some not

Ravelry www.ravelry.com -search for MK patterns [here](#) some free

<http://diananatters.blogspot.com/> has some, but also lots of information

To buy

<https://houseoflavene.co.uk/> Anne Lavene has wonderfully different patterns in an original style

<https://www.machineknittingdesigns-by-clair.co.uk/> Clair Crowston

<https://www.knititnow.com/knit/> paid for site, but worth considering for patterns and instruction

<http://heniocreative.com/product-category/patterns/machine-knitting-patterns/> paid for patterns

<http://www.exclusiveyarns.co.uk/designs-and-patterns.htm> Nina Miklin
<https://www.facebook.com/JanineShepherdmachineknittingdesigns/> also on Ravelry, but [possibly] cheaper to buy direct

Sue Booth is still selling wonderfully practical and easy to follow patterns but does not do so online. Club members can ask the committee for contact details.

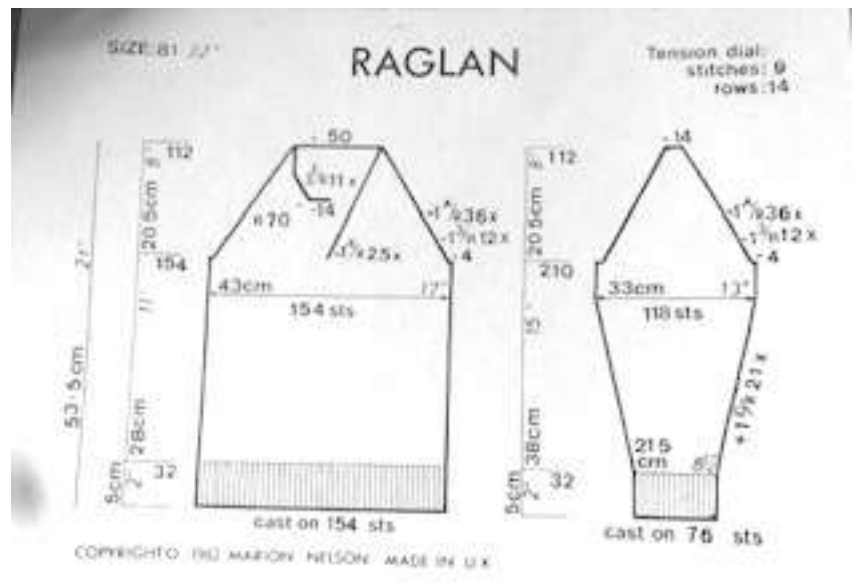
[Jigsaw Knits](#) has patterns and magazines with patterns to download

<http://metropolitanmachineknitting.co.uk/shop/> has patterns, books and other machine knitting treasures

<https://elainecater.com/patterns.html> for digital patterns [pdf]

<https://www.poshfrocks.com/> Ann Brown also still has patterns on offer

Also, there are past glories, such as the **Marion Nelson** pattern cards, which provide sets of patterns at different tensions: these were a predecessor to some software but limited to one tension to each yarn weight, may well need tweaking. I used them a lot until I discovered software, you can often find them on eBay.



Using patterns

In order to use patterns, you must understand the **language**:



www.getknitting.com/mk_0602abbrevs.aspx is a link to a guide to abbreviations commonly used.

And the **format**:

You may be someone who uses technology a lot, or never. I use the computer a great deal to make patterns, but, even if you hate the idea, the following pages may help you to discern differences in pattern formats, which is my reason for including them here. If you are interested in the software itself, I have included links to suppliers, but I am also open to any questions you may have. I am no expert, however, just a user!

I have used the software described below to provide examples of different formats. I have used a baby's sleeve as an example of output in each case, mostly a 6-month size with tension of 30sts/42rows per 10cm.

The 'printouts' I show may be rather small on your screen, but can be expanded: I have not shown them in great magnitude, for reasons of space. In reality, you can print them from the software in a variety of ways.

Software

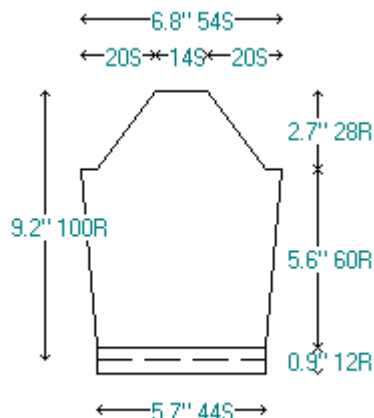
Software I use includes these:

Windows Programs [which can be run on Mac, with e.g. Parallels operating system - I am running all like this on my MacBook]



Basic Software

Knitware - this is now unavailable for new users, but club members are welcome to request patterns from me using this. It is a simple program, with many sizes.



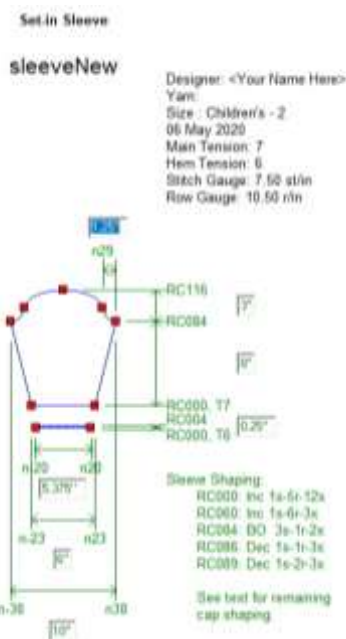
Knitware will produce a graphic outline with measurements on it, but, primarily, it produces a 'magazine style' text pattern.

SLEEVES:

1. Cast on 44 sts in WY, using a tighter gauge than for the body and open edge method. Work 6 rows, ending COR. Change to MY. Work even for 12 rows. You may wish to work a turn or picot row halfway. To complete the hem, graft the cast-on sts to the last row worked.
2. Change to TD7 and Stocking stitch, RC000.
3. Inc 1 st at each end of every 10th row 5 times to 54 sts (50 rows total).
4. Work even to total 60 rows. COR.
5. Shape cap. Cast off 4 sts at beg of next two rows (46 sts rem). Dec 1 st at each end of every row 3 times, then dec 1 st at each end of every 2nd row 10 times,

SweaterMaker - <https://www.seedlingsoftware.com/>

This one is relatively inexpensive, and, like Knitware, it has multiple sizes and produces quite simple designs. Unlike Knitware, it does not produce text



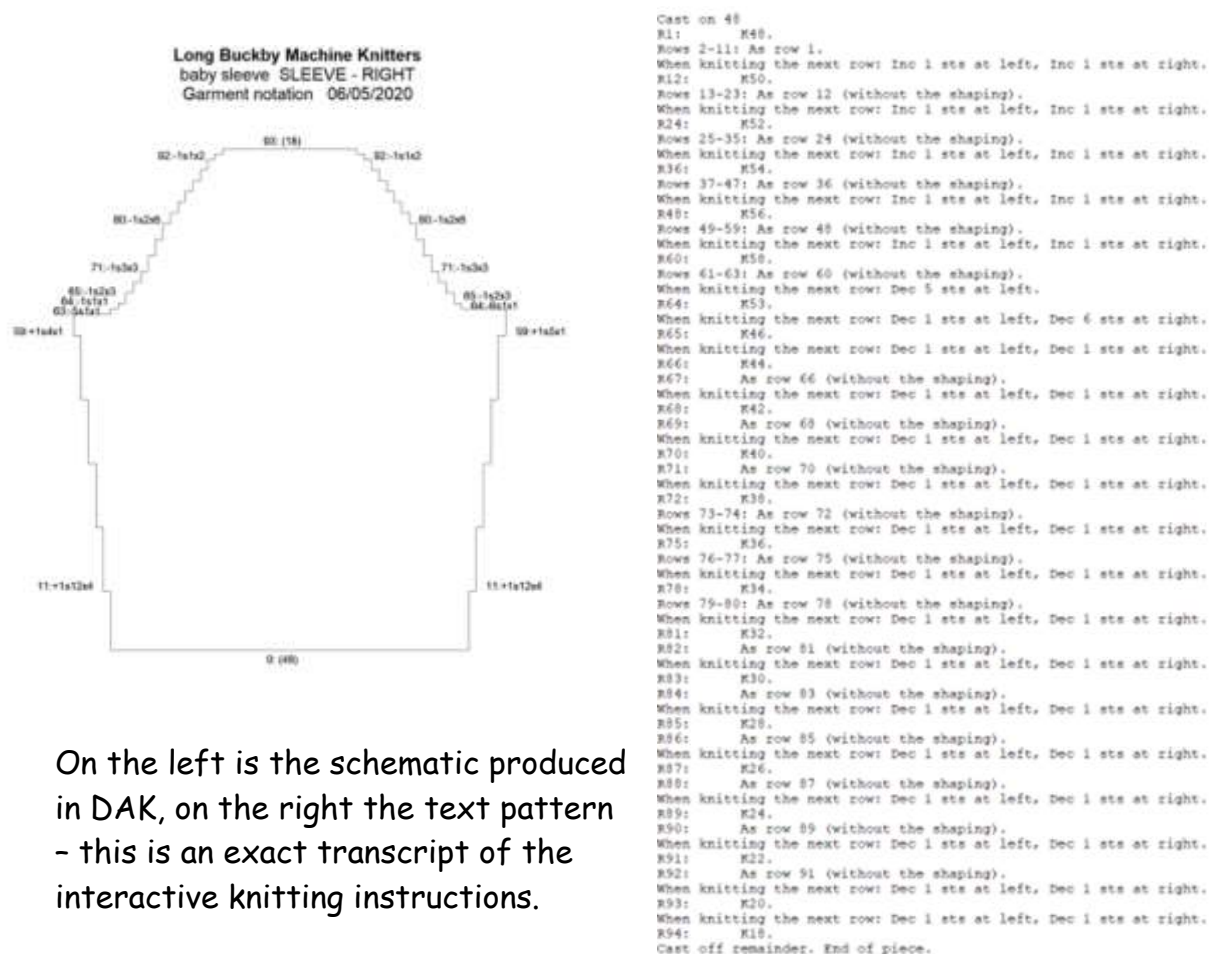
instructions, but the schematics produced are much more knitter-friendly! Also, there is a little ability to change the shape - you can see the red squares on the schematic, which can be moved in the program.



More complicated software

Designaknit - www.softbyte.co.uk

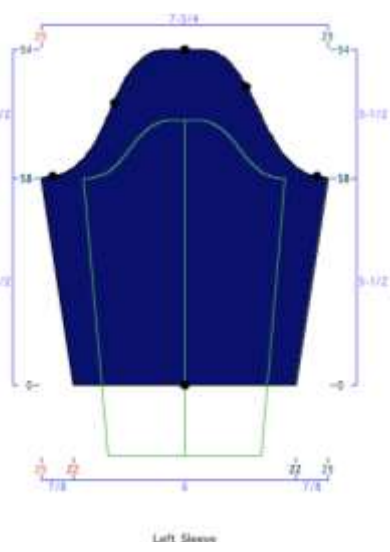
Designaknit [DAK9] does lots of designing jobs: it has a limited number of built in shapes, lots of sizes; but it also allows the user to modify these at will or create entirely new designs. On top of that, there is a stitch pattern design part, a facility to translate online graphics into stitch patterns, and, of course, interactive knitting. Output includes the following, as well as charting device templates.



On the left is the schematic produced in DAK, on the right the text pattern - this is an exact transcript of the interactive knitting instructions.

Garment Designer - can be either Mac or Windows, and makes dressmaking

patterns as well as machine knitting ones. www.cochenille.com . Loads of in built designs which can be adjusted and transformed. Can print out dress patterns [for charting devices and cut and sew] in various proportions.



The schematic it produces is, like the Knitware one, just a summary.

Unlike all the other programs, it produces a block pattern, which looks different. It is not a representation of the garment, but an instruction split into sections of the garment.

Garment Designer

Size: Standard Infants' 6 mo. (Simple Fit)
 Top: Basic (Average); Sloped; Round (Standard)
 Armhole/Sleeve: Separate (Set-In Standard); Standard; Tapered (Long)
 Garment Options: Armhole Depth Average; Wearing Ease Average
 Optional Square Angles: Neckline/Shoulder, Armhole/Side Seam

Part: Left Sleeve
 Length: 9 in
 Area: 3/8 sq ft
 Yarn: 4246 stitches
 Horizontal Gauge: 7-5/8
 Vertical Gauge: 10-5/8
 Shaping: Alternate Rows

Inches	Row #	-- Shaping --	# Stitches	
9	97	-13		Top of Cap
8-7/8	96	-1 -1	13	
8-3/4	95	-1 -2	15	
8-3/4	94	-1 0	18	
8-5/8	93	0 -1	19	
8-1/2	92	-1 0	20	
8-3/8	91	0 -1	21	
8-3/8	90	-1 -1	22	
8-1/8	88	-1 -1	24	
7-7/8	85	-1 -1	26	
7-5/8	82	-1 -1	28	
7-1/4	79	0 -1	30	
7-1/4	78	-1 0	31	
7	76	0 -1	32	
6-7/8	75	-1 0	33	
6-3/4	73	-1 -1	34	
6-1/2	71	0 -1	36	
6-1/2	70	-1 0	37	
6-3/8	69	0 -1	38	
6-1/4	68	-1 0	39	
6-1/8	67	-1 -1	40	
6	65	-1 -1	42	
5-7/8	64	-1 -1	44	
5-3/4	63	-1 -3	46	
5-3/4	62	-1 0	50	
5-5/8	61	0 -2	51	
5-1/2	60	-4 -1	53	Bottom of Cap
5	55	+1 +1	58	
4-1/8	45	+1 +1	56	
3-1/8	35	+1 +1	54	
2-3/8	26	+1 +1	52	
1-3/8	16	+1 +1	50	
1/2	6	+1 +1	48	
0	1	+46	46	Bottom Sleeve Center, Bottom Sleeve Side

Takes a bit of getting used to but is flexible.

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Using Patterns [continued]

Not everyone will want to use software to design or produce their own patterns, but you may find some commercial patterns using these formats. It may be a matter of choice, but it certainly expands your pattern horizons if you can adapt to reading a variety of patterns.

If anyone wants further information about the software, obviously look at the websites, but you can always contact me too. Administrator@longbuckbymk.com

If members want us to demonstrate reading different patterns at a club meeting in the future [when we get back to 'normal'] please let me know.

Cut and Sew

For Cut and Sew, you can use any dressmaking pattern, including the ones produced in DAK and Garment Designer, as well as existing garments, which you can trace around.

My experience with Cut and Sew, as well as with handwoven fabric, is, that despite it being an unnerving thing to cut into fabric which might disintegrate under a hard stare, I have had very little unravelling occurring.



Use sharp dressmaking shears [with angled handle] for cutting - I have a pair of [Fiskars Soft Touch Fabric Scissors](#) which are excellent, as they are spring loaded and reduce the stress on your hands.

Some people machine sew round the pieces before cutting - I confess that I do not, as I find it less hassle to quickly take the cut pieces to the overlocker and run it round them.

A good website for Cut and Sew, and sewing jersey and stretch fabrics in general, is <https://www.ojolly.net/>

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Making and Designing Patterns



Four ways to design:

1. From scratch - you think of a new concept and calculate how to make it

And the following methods - be careful not to breach copyright by using an original pattern and replicating it exactly, and/or passing it on as your own. Professional designers put a lot of time and effort into creating patterns, and deserve the small rewards they get!

2. By imitating an already existing garment and reverse engineering it - either literally by taking one apart, or by doing it virtually in your head or on paper.
3. By amalgamating parts of a pattern or garment to make a new one
4. In the case of machine knitting, translating a hand knit pattern, or a dressmaking pattern, into a machine knitting one - not so much a design as an outright copy! [but in changing the medium, you are developing it]

There may be others, but these are ones I have used so far.

Completely original design

This is the most difficult one to do, and probably most time consuming. You might need good maths skills, or good software [see above], as well as good design awareness! If you are at this stage you probably do not need my advice though!



But you might look at:

<https://www.mybluprint.com/article/designing-your-own-knitwear> for a brief summary of how to approach it

or this book <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Writing-Knitting-Patterns-Learn-Others/dp/1632504340>

or this series of articles <https://knitting.today/creating-knitting-patterns/>

or this course <https://www.arts.ac.uk/subjects/textiles-and-materials/short-courses/textile-design/knitwear-for-fashion-beginners-csm> which is on knitwear design; and it outlines what is taught, which gives an idea of what you need to know, perhaps - there is also a distance learning course

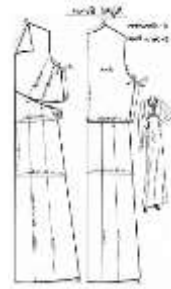
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Imitating existing designs

Probably the simplest way of doing this one is to take apart an existing garment, make a pattern on paper from the outline and use a charting device to knit it. [or cut and sew]

But this means you need to have the garment in the first place, and the charting device etc.

So, if you only had a picture [even a mental picture] what could you do?



Analyse the garment

Look at the features:

- Body shape - fitted/ straight/ length etc.
- Sleeves and armhole - set-in/ drop shoulder/ raglan/ square etc. and sleeve shape, as well as cuffs.
- Any bands or collars - neck/front
- Other design features: e.g. peplum/ shawl collar etc.
- Direction of knitting - bottom up or side-to-side

One piece of advice offered by Susan Lazear, author of *Garment Designer* software, is to describe the garment in words, including all the features you like. This will help to analyse the style.

Check whether you have any patterns which come close to these features in any way: for example, you might have a straight pullover with raglan sleeves, when you want a fitted one. Easy to modify the shape with a bit of decreasing/increasing.

Often the design features you really like are just simple additions, but sometimes you might need to alter the entire concept to adapt to the knitting machine.

These books may be helpful to adapt your machine knitting:

[Translating Between Hand and Machine Knitting - Vikki Haffenden](#)

[Hand Knits by Machine - Susan Guagliumi](#)

But really, it should be possible to reach a compromise: you need to be able to analyse what it is about the garment that really appeals.

Knitting the garment

It is likely, unless you are lucky, or wise, in your choice, that your available yarns are not exactly what is needed. In which case, you need to be a little cautious in your choice of yarn and stitch pattern. Look at the original:

- Is drape an important factor? If so, choose a yarn which drapes well, usually one of the heavier ones e.g. linen/viscose. Swatching comes into the picture here, and it is worth trying different tensions - sometimes a looser tension works, especially with textured or woollen yarns.
- Colour might be difficult if you do not have the one you like - dyeing might be considered, in which case, start here: <https://www.dtcrafts.co.uk/> but there is lots of information on dyeing yarn on the web.
- And, sometimes, it is stitch pattern which attracts us. You might need to compromise on this, but you need to consider what is important. If you like lace, but do not have a lace carriage, or find it difficult, you might consider an alternative e.g. tuck lace. The following links may help <https://cutlermac.wordpress.com/2013/05/06/tuck-lace-using-the-knitting-machine/> on a Knitmaster/Silver Reed https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on_CsmQ4yMo video of Brother tuck lace but both machines do this. And, if you have no ribber, you can hand manipulate a rib as per [this video](#), or even do mock ribs as in [this video](#).

Amalgamation

This is like parts of the previous one, but instead of starting with the concept, the idea is to create a new one from what you have to hand.

Patterns to use

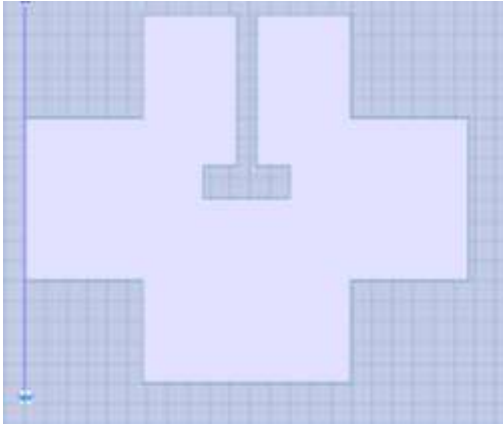
You may well have a stock of patterns which fit well: if not, perhaps now is the time to build one. Sometimes it is worth using one as a base while adding features from another one. You can mix stitch patterns, yarns, tensions and even colours like this. A simple example is the project I described in the May newsletter, which was a basic cardigan with an attached skirt/peplum, the stitch pattern of which was taken from a scarf pattern.

[Designing with Colour](#) by Alison Dupernex gives advice on working with colour and texture, as well as patterns.

[Artika](#) has many punch card designs for sale, which are original and creative.

Projects

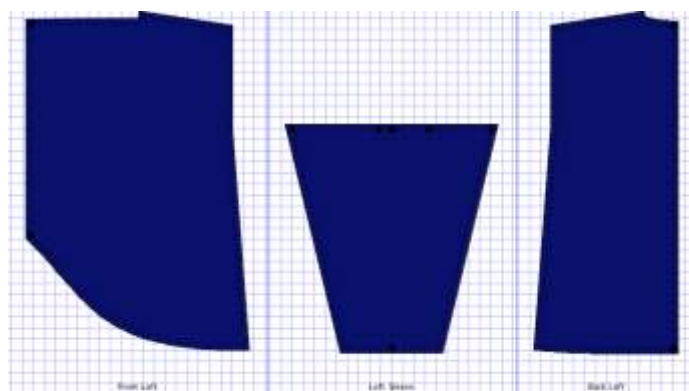
Project number one: not so much a project as another request from daughter-in-law for baby cardigans.



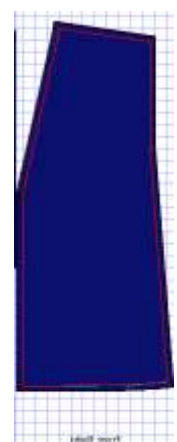
This one was machine knit, according to a dynamic pattern from Knit It Now. I have shown the pattern in DAK form above. I knitted it in one piece, easy and quick [less than 1 hour], and then sewed it up along sleeve and side seams, before a bit of crochet to finish.

My main project for May was to make a pattern for a waterfall jacket; I wanted to make one each in woven and knitted fabric. These have been around for a while, and I have a commercial dressmaking pattern - [Style Arc Harper Jacket](#) - but I wanted to make my own, for two reasons:

- I am trying to use my *Garment Designer* software for more ambitious projects
- The Harper Jacket was not exactly what I wanted - I could have adapted it, but I wanted to challenge myself a bit more!



So this is the pattern I came up with. It is longer than the Harper and simpler, with the drop shoulder making for fewer problems with fraying of pieces, or shaping, I thought. Although not a fan in



general of drop shoulders, I thought it would be fine in this style.

The pattern piece on the right is the original front, which I changed to include the waterfall section.

I decided to try a woven jacket first. I am not fond of making patterns in a test fabric first [as a toile or muslin], so I decided to weave a loose fabric, which would drape well. My warp had lots of ribbon yarn in it, with a bit of cotton and a boucle yarn. My weft was cotton. The weaving was quite annoying, the ribbon caused quite a few problems. But I coped!

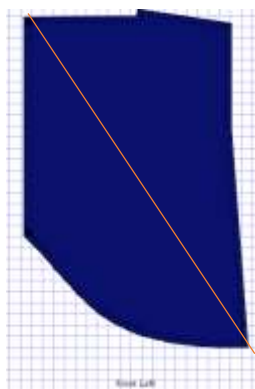


The result gave me lots of food for thought [including about myself!]. I realised that I am a very experimental knitter and designer [if that is the correct term for me]: I am not claiming to be particularly innovative, but I do like to get on with a project and see how it turns out. Mostly I come up with something wearable, but sometimes not - I am really interested in the learning experience.



My finished article had a lot of alterations to the pattern: it was too big for my tastes, so I cut it down quite a bit. It did not help that I sewed the front shoulders to the back bottom edge initially by mistake! But the final shape was fine, the fabric is quite itchy, so I will probably try a partial lining for once.

And then I tried to decide whether to knit it as a shaped garment or cut-and-sew. When I have this sort of dilemma ongoing for a few days or more, I usually give it up, or, as in this case, have a real re-think.



I decided eventually to use the idea from Garment Designer, but simplify it using Knitware. In this case, Knitware is not flexible enough to do the whole design, but I chose a simple cardigan in an A line shape, and extended the front neckline as in the GD pattern, but reduced the bottom front hem to the minimum, and created a diagonal line across the front, shown here on the original pattern. I decided to use a set-in sleeve, too.

And I had got this far when I found a hand knit pattern for a waistcoat which looked much more interesting. And it is a free pattern

http://newtons.startlogic.com/NewtonsWingVestSS_HK.pdf

So, I thought about using design features from it to construct a machine knitted cardigan. I kept the Knitware set in sleeves, and used the dimensions in Knitware for the shoulders, back and armholes. The final version is sideways knit for the body.



My first attempt looks like this, and I was quite pleased with it. However, I used fine cotton with plating to make a double sided fabric, and the plating yarn slipped quite a bit. As a result, it is quite inconsistent in texture, and I also found it difficult to graft the back together because of the plating, and I finally gave that up, and cast off by hand. I will use it as a foundation for embroidery, and report back next month!

Then I developed it further. I decided to do the body all in one piece, instead of grafting the back. I changed the armhole shape slightly too. And I used Panama, which was easier.



I

The first version weighed 350g, the second nearly 500g. I have decided to make a pattern for it, Cascade, which I will have ready for next month.

Pattern



Pat has been working on a pattern for a child's pullover.

It is a great design, incorporating an innovative armhole, with good fit and easy stripe matching. And suitable for beginners!

[Find it here](#)

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

<http://www.knitbritish.net/ep-111/> is an article on machine knitting and a podcast

<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.