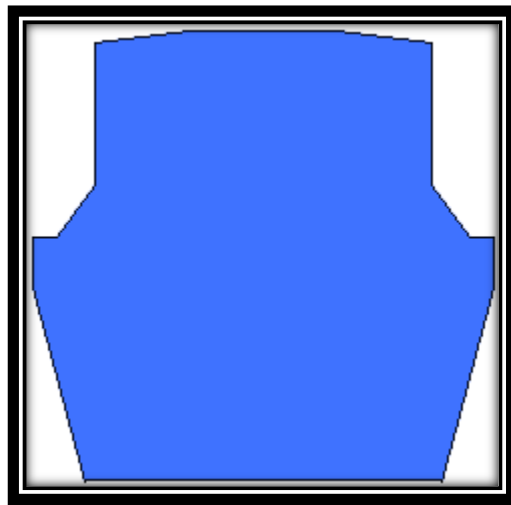


Long Buckby Machine Knitters

Newsletter



April 2025

From the Editor



Welcome to our April newsletter.

This month we are focusing on cut and sew techniques, and I will be demonstrating projection of patterns for cutting out. Please bring your projects/ insights and experience - I am no expert [see below] but will start the discussion and see where it leads!

The community centre now has a policy of keeping the doors locked, and has a doorbell at the entrance for users to alert the group inside so that they can let people in. Our meetings take place in the Upper Hall, and there is a doorbell labelled as such, on left side of the door. They also ask for your care as you leave, as the white button operates the door, but the emergency exit button is also there, which you should not use.

In May we have an extra meeting, on the 19th, which is a sew-along session on overlocking. Members who would like to attend should note that:

- If you bring electrical equipment to the meeting, it needs to be PAT certified - we have arranged for this at the May 12th meeting - you need to bring your overlocker power lead to be checked.
- We would like to know who is coming - please let us know if you wish to attend.
- The session is between 10.30-14.30 on May 19th and will be an informal one - we hope to assist each other with techniques. There will be some printed information available at the session.
- The cost is yet to be determined - it depends on numbers but will not be over £10 [to pay for the room]

And, for those who like to use a cast on rag, here is a link to instructions on making one [Ravelry: ItMakesYouSmile's My Favorite Cast On Rag](#)

Lynda

[and Pat]

Contacts:

Lynda administrator@longbuckbymk.com

Pat chairman@longbuckbymk.com

Calendar 2025

LBMK calendar 2025	<p>All meetings are from 2pm to 4pm, [except where stated] 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</p>
Date [all Mon]	Topic
13th Jan	Felting
10 th Feb	Machine Knitting Forum - buttons + knitting to fit
10th March***	Bill King basic cards/jacquard/brioche/lace + taster sessions in Dorset buttons, drop spindle spinning, crochet bunting, jewellery making, raglan top down + bring and buy 11.00-16.00
14th April	Cut and sew, inc projector cutting
12th May	Machine Knitting Forum - crochet/ hk /mk borders
19 th May	Overlocker group sew – bring your machine and share the experience – 10.30-14.30
9th June***	Erica Thomson - embellishment
14th July	Finishing – edges, seams , steaming
11th Aug	Machine Knitting Forum – crochet/hk/mk embellishments e.g. flowers
8th Sept ***	Claire Newberry – design process
13 th Oct	Making patterns from different sources – HK patterns/dressmaking patterns/existing garments
10th Nov	Machine Knitting Forum – wire knitting
8th Dec	AGM/ COMPETITION, DISPLAY AND SALES. End of year celebration

Last Month



We had an extended meeting in March, with various taster sessions before another wonderful presentation by Bill King. It was lovely to see familiar faces from a wider area than usual, and Bill did not disappoint with his plethora of patterns and explanation of techniques. Below is a tiny selection of the designs he shared with us:



April Meeting

Cut and Sew

Cut and sew knitting is a technique often used in garment construction, where pieces of knitted fabric are cut and then sewn together to create the final product. This method allows for more structured and tailored designs, as the fabric can be manipulated to fit precise shapes and sizes.

One of the main reasons to use cut and sew is to avoid issues with Fair Isle around necklines - the front is knitted as for the back, then the neckline is cut to shape. This video shows the neckline being finished with overlocking:

<https://www.facebook.com/jason.lighttoller/videos/995340305879619/?idorvanity=148091455684118>

My reason for cut and sew is, however, because I like the idea of creating a fabric, and this gives me more freedom to experiment, and less time on the knitting machine, which suits me better.

This link covers most aspects of cut and sew when treating the knitting as a fabric: [O! Jolly! Crafting Fashion: Sewing a Sweater](#) , and the following is a description of my personal experience when using a fabric I knitted on the LK150.

A Cut and Sew project

My aim with my project is to make something I will wear from a cone of Mohair yarn in a shade of grey that I am not sure about.

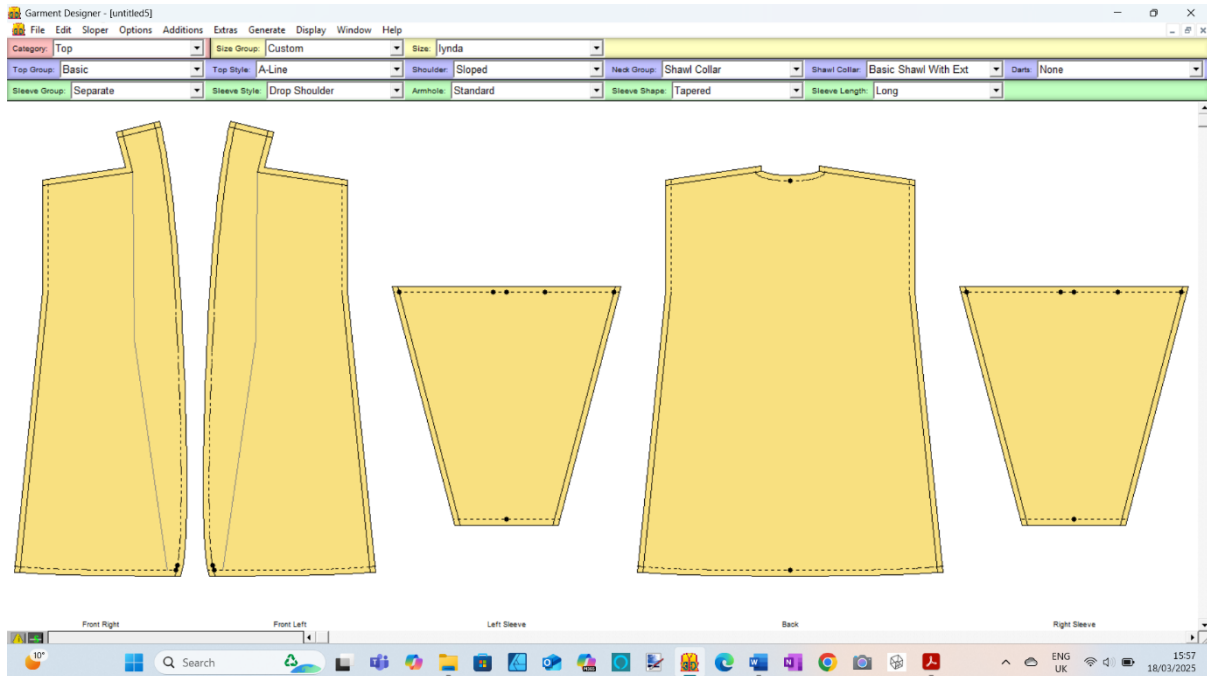
Knitting

I decided to knit the mohair yarn [called Jacky by Yeoman Yarns, now obsolete] on the LK150, as this machine has no gate pegs for the hair to catch in. I mixed it with a fine cotton in blue to make the grey shade more palatable [for me]. If I had been cleverer about it, I would have plated it, as this is very easy on the LK150 and the yarns would have mixed more consistently - it was fine, though. I knitted across 130 needles at a tension of 6 and completed knitting in stocking stitch when the whole cone had gone. [about 30 minutes knitting]

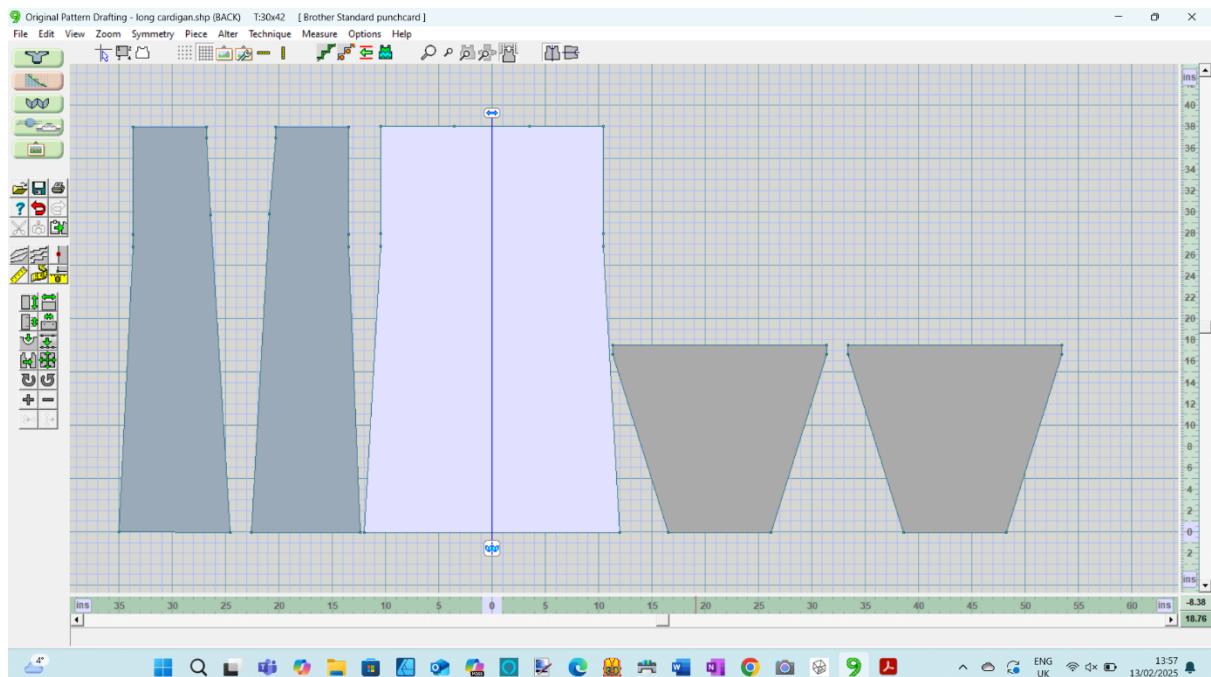
I had a piece of fabric measuring about 60 cm by 5.5 metres.

Making the Pattern

I found a free pattern for a long cardigan, [[Long open cardigan - Free sewing pattern download PDF #UP1016 - Unfettered Patterns](#)] and was going to use that, but I wanted to use a projector pattern and failed to convert this one. So, I made my own using Garment Designer software:



As I know that most members do not use Garment Designer software, I also tried Designaknit:



The results of which were remarkably similar. GD is more geared to dressmaking shaping, which I prefer, but Designaknit is also pretty good.

©Long Buckby Machine Knitters, 2025 [Long Buckby Machine Knitters](http://longbuckbymk.com)
(longbuckbymk.com)

I found that I could print out [to pdf] from either program to A0 size, which I can use to project and cut. I used the Knitleader feature for Designaknit, which, like GD can print to A4 then sheets can be stuck together.
[I use the free [BullZip](#) printer to print to A0]

Cutting out

As mentioned before, I prefer to use a projector for cutting out. There is a lot of information about this on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ProjectorsForSewing/> or at [Projector Sewing - Projector Sewing](#).

Copilot produced this about projector sewing:

Projector sewing has revolutionized the way many sewists handle their cutting process. By projecting digital patterns directly onto fabric, one can bypass the need for paper patterns entirely. This method not only saves time but also increases accuracy and reduces paper waste.

The first step in projector sewing is ensuring that your projector is properly calibrated. This involves adjusting the projector so that the projected image is the correct size and shape. Many sewing communities online provide resources and guides for achieving this, making it easier for beginners to get started.

Once the projector is calibrated, the digital pattern can be loaded and projected onto the cutting surface. Using the magnets or weights to hold the fabric in place ensures that it remains smooth and flat during cutting. The clear projection allows for precise cutting along the pattern lines.

Another advantage of projector sewing is the ability to easily tweak and customize patterns. Digital patterns can be adjusted and resized on a computer before being projected, giving sewists the flexibility to make alterations without the need for redrawing or reprinting.

While some may find the initial setup of projector sewing a bit daunting, the long-term benefits in terms of efficiency and precision are well worth the effort. As technology continues to advance, projector sewing is likely to become an increasingly popular method among both amateur and professional sewists.

I started out with a used Epson UST projector, which I bought from eBay for around £100. This projector is sited next to the cutting surface and beams almost horizontally and can create quite large images. It is especially good for cutting with a rotary cutter, but less so with scissors, as the beam is distorted by movement.

So I also have a mini projector mounted on the ceiling. It is a Magcubic one which can be bought from [Amazon](#) or [eBay](#), but I bought mine from [AliExpress](#), which was cheaper [it varies but mine was just over £30]. The benefit for me is that it projects downwards, so I can cut with scissors more easily, but it is also a bit clearer. It has a much smaller image because my ceiling is low, but I still have a large enough surface to cut most pieces.

My cutting mat is A0 size, and I have it set up on top of a magnetic whiteboard, so that I can use magnets as weights to hold the fabric in place while I cut. I cut using sharp scissors [likewise rotary cutters are fine]. As soon as I have cut the pieces, I overlock the edges. I could equally well sew them with a sewing machine/ zig zag stitch.

Sewing

I began to sew the pieces together using a walking foot on my sewing machine, but despite this being usually a good idea, my machine did not like it and it was a real struggle, so I reverted to a narrow zigzag with a regular foot.

And the pieces went together, but I did not like the shape - I think maybe the fabric was too loose, but the sewing machine distorted the vertical seams. In my efforts to correct this with overlocking, just about everything went wrong [might be because I am suffering with allergy to tree pollen!].

So, eventually, I decided to remove the sleeves and make a waistcoat.

Conclusion

Not a successful project, but I learned a bit about sewing and knitting. I will get something wearable out of it.

The moral: cut and sew is not an easy option, but needs the right fabric/design etc. I will persevere....

Suppliers

www.wools.co.uk - Uppingham Yarns

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

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

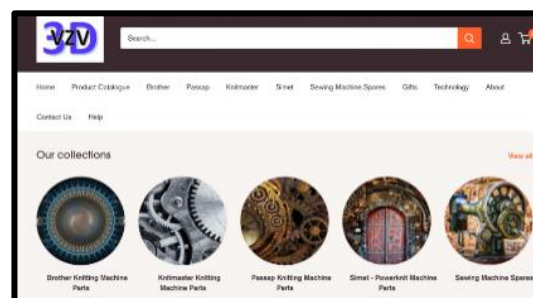
<https://woolyknit.com> Woolyknit

and this one deals in recycled fibres

<https://www.iinouiiio.com/>

For 3d printed parts try <https://vzv3d.com/>

[Buttons - High Quality Buttons For Sale - Totally Buttons](#)



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 find her on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDxy6pQHAs4gd5XBztYWmw>
Well done, Sally, a marvellous resource.

Claire Newberry is also fantastic - [Claire Newberry's Knitting School | creating knitting machine, DAK9 tutorials & patterns | Patreon](#) for DAK tutorials, and [Claire Newberry - YouTube](#)

<http://handymachineknitting.libsyn.com> is a regular podcast

<http://knitwords.blogspot.com/> is a blog

www.twam.uk is a good place to offload unwanted yarn, machines and accessories - they will send them to Africa to help people start up small businesses. Local centre in Rugby.



KNITTING &
CROCHET GUILD

The Knitting and Crochet Guild is also a good source of information and much more:

www.kcguild.org.uk

And Finally

I would like to involve others in this newsletter, so please let me know of anything I can include

administrator@longbuckbymk.com please include LBMK in the subject

©Long Buckby Machine Knitters, 2025 [Long Buckby Machine Knitters \(longbuckbymk.com\)](http://Long Buckby Machine Knitters (longbuckbymk.com))