

The Knit Stitch

The official newsletter of the Midwest Machine Knitters' Collaborative



LEFT: DIAMOND HALO COWL; RIGHT: GLOWHAIR FROST COWL - DESIGNER: STEPHEN WEST

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Hiberknitting

We're nearly to the longest night of the year and I'm inspired to hibernate and knit; also known as "hiberknit."

If you haven't been exposed to the prolific work of Stephen West, I suggest you check out his series called Hiberknitting. He has five e-books full of cozy and colorful knits perfect for a cold winter night.

While some of the patterns may be challenging on a machine, there are a few fair isle patterns that would make for lovely cowls to block out the midwestern winter wind.

The Diamond Halo Cowl would be a good pattern to start with. For those that want a challenge, you could try some hand-manipulated stitches with the Glowhair Frost cowl.

I hope you find some time to hiberknit this winter!

Cheers,
Laura Heck, MMKC President

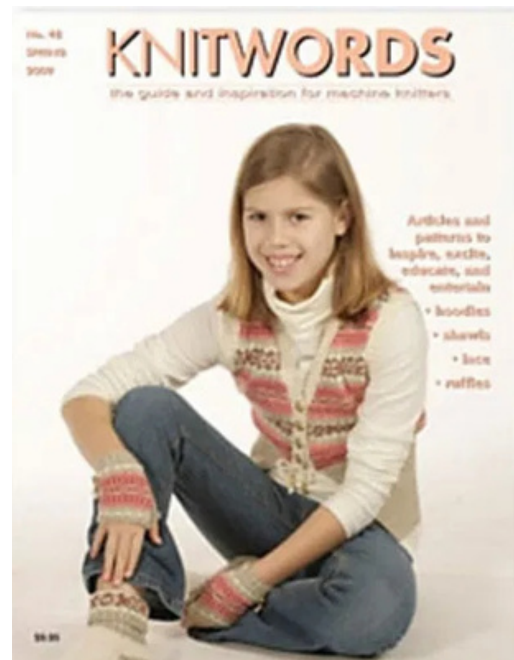
Inspired by Knitwords

by Jane Niemi

Recently being housebound for a period of time my intent was to explore all of the issues of KNITWORDS magazines – from issue 1, summer 1991 through issues 53, summer 2010 (tragically I am missing issues 48 & 49). Along with my inventory list of yarns on hand I embarked on craziness. At this writing I am through with all of the issues that I have and have only referred to my yarn inventory twice. I do have pages of patterns to re-visit, with great aspirations of finished projects. Along with patterns, there are MANY article of interest and inspiration and following are highlights of just a few.

Issue 30, Autumn 2004, Coping with Cotton by Kathryn Doubrey

Because of the shrink factor of cotton, the author recommends knitting a large swatch to give a better prediction of garment behavior. Then she advises to wash and dry the swatch as you plan to with the garment, but to do this twice. She actually soaks cotton swatches for an hour with lots of detergent, then washes and dries twice. She does not put cotton in the dryer, but lays flat to dry. If the swatch biases, she recommends tuck or slip stitch or double bed fabric – stitches that use yarn in different directions to help control the bias. Another method might be to double strand the cotton with another yarn. Cotton lacks the springiness of other fibers and ribbing tends to stretch out and not pull back in (the relaxed rib of my personal preference).



KNITWORDS ISSUE 48 COVER; 2009

Knitting cotton rib with a strand of lycra may help; otherwise circular, Fairisle and other double hems will add weight and help control the drape of the garment. As a last resort a double hem can be used as a casing for elastic to help the hem keep its shape.

Issue 32, Spring 2005, Reverse Dyeing by Kathryn Doubrey

Otherwise known as Color Discharge this technique can be dangerous if bleach gets on something unintended. Clorox Clean-Up Cleaner with Bleach Gel is the product recommend in

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Inspired by Knitwords, Continued from page 2 this article. I have use Clorox Bleach Pens with success, but am anxious to try the gel. Visit on the MMKC website under [Tutorials](#), [Color Discharge on Your Knits](#) for a quick lesson. This is an outdoor project that will have to wait until next spring/summer.

Also in this same issue is Leaf It To Me by Mary Anne Oger. This is an article regarding painting on knits which is also a very fun way to enhance projects. In the past I have used Jacquard Fabric paints. Plaid Decorator Glazes was the paint mentioned in this article. Another project to revisit for fun and creativity.

Save the Date!

February 21 - 23, 2025

MMKC In-Person Knit Together
at the Saint Paul Yacht Club

Calendar of Events



Now through December 21	Narrative Threads Exhibition at the Goldstein Museum
Now through December 24	Holiday Gallery Shop at the Textile Center
December 21 @ 9am, 1pm & 4pm CST	Knit-in
January 14 @ 7pm CST	Member Meeting: Hand Manipulated Stitches by Alice Adams
January 18 @ 9am, 1pm & 4pm CST	Knit-in
February 11 @ 7pm CST	Member Meeting: Knit Materials in Architecture
February 15 @ 9am, 1pm & 4pm CST	Knit-in
February 15-17, 2025	Machine Knitting Camp at Rocking Horse Farm
February 21 - 23, 2025	MMKC Knit Together Weekend
February 22, 2025	Fiber Art for All at the Textile Center

Shaping Dilemma

by Alice Adams


Machine, full fashion decreases are not equivalent to hand knit, full fashion decreases. Both methods combine two stitches, one or two stitches in from the edge in order to preserve edge integrity for seaming. The methods differ in how the two stitches are combined.

The swatch shows both hand and machine, full fashion, decreases done on 4 edge stitches, (labeled 1-4 from each edge) every 4th row. The columns of knit stitches (left side needles 3-11) have been colored.

First: The machine knit decreases made according to machine manual protocols on rows 4, 8, 12, and 16. “With a three prong transfer tool move three edge stitches, (1, 2 and 3) in one needle (towards the center), to needles 2, 3, and 4, and take needle 1 out of work. Knit one row.” This is a single step decrease placing stitch 3 in front of stitch 4 on needle 4. When viewed from the stockinet side, the orange column of knit stitches has been terminated and stitch columns 4-11 continue. The symbols ( , ) are as defined by the LK150 Instruction Book.

Next: Hand knitting decreases made by machine according to symbols defined by “Vogue Knitting”:



 : k2tog or p2tog



 : k2togtbl or p2togtbl
(refer to next page for abbreviations)

This is shown on rows 20, 24, 28, and 32. “With the single eye end of a 2-1 transfer tool, move stitch 4 to needle 3 and then return both stitches to needle 4. With the two prong end, transfer stitches 1 and 2 to needles 2 and 3, and take needle 1 out of work. Knit one row.” This is a two step decrease placing stitch 3 behind stitch 4 on needle 4. Stitch 3 is thus nearest to the needle bed. When knit and viewed from the stockinet side, three columns of stockinet selvage stitches remain parallel to the edge and the next (green) column of perpendicular stitches ends.

What is the dilemma?

The figure clearly shows that hand and machine symbols for both left and right shaping decreases are not the same.

 machine ≠ hand 





 machine ≠ hand 

Shaping Dilemma continued from page 4



The hand symbols and method of making the decreases are from Vogue Knitting [Vogue Knitting (1989) ISBN 0-394-57186-X or Vogue Knitting (2018) ISBN 978194202169].

The machine symbols and the procedure to make the decreases are from the knitting symbols table on page 56 of LK150 Instruction Book:

<https://silverviscount.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/LK150-Instruction-Manual.pdf>

Both Vogue Knitting and the LK150 Book use similar symbols for a double vertical decrease ( , ) defined as transferring two adjacent (left & right) stitches to a central needle. I suggest that half of this symbol be used to signify a left and right single step decrease. For transfer of left stitch to right needle use  symbol and for right stitch transfer to left needle use  symbol. With regard to side shaping this would still leave needle 3 on each side empty. Moving stitches 1 and 2 to needles 2 and 3, and taking needle 1 out of work will result in identical side shaping as defined by the single step decrease symbols in the LK150 manual.

I have limited experience with a Brother lace carriage but am aware it can potentially do both left and right single step decreases.

Can any machine do two step decreases? If not are other machine manuals incorrectly using these two ( , ) symbols?

I hope to have my version of a “machine to hand - hand to machine” stitch dictionary available on our members only section of the MMKC web site in January.

