



THE KNIT STITCH

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2019 Dues (\$31) are now being accepted. Please bring your check or cash to the January meeting.

From our President

by Patsy

Greetings Fellow Machine Knitters,

We have had a busy, fun and rewarding year of machine knitting.

Now, as we finish up 2018, let us look backward with gratitude and forward with anticipation.

We will have some new and some same old problems next year. Let's work together to come up with new and wondrous solutions.

The Board has been very active this year, and most of them plan to stay on to guide us through the upcoming year.

I wish you all the timeless treasures of the holidays, the warmth of home, the love of family, and the company of good machine knitting friends.

Keep Casting on!
Patsy

Upcoming Events:

- January 8 - MMKC Meeting
7pm Cut and Sew hats
- February 12 - MMKC Meeting
7pm Punchcard Info
- March 12 - MMKC Board Meeting, 6pm/MMKC Meeting
7pm Accessories and Tools
- April 9 - MMKC Meeting 7pm
Ravelry/Instagram/Facebook
- May 14 - MMKC Meeting 7pm
(Presentation TBD)
- June 11 - MMKC Meeting 7pm
Annual Picnic
- July 9 - MMKC Meeting 7pm
Ribbers
- August - MMKC Meeting 7pm
(Presentation TBD)
- September 10 - MMKC Meeting
7pm State Fair Review
- October 8 - MMKC Meeting
7pm Surprise Presentation
- November 12 - MMKC Meeting
7pm Holiday Patterns
- December 10 - MMKC Meeting
7pm Holiday Party

Snazzy Snoopy

by MMKC Members

Recently several MMKC members collaborated with The Textile Center and Crochet Twin Cities to create this Holiday sweater for the Snoopy statue at the MSP airport:



Joyful Noise

Bundles of Love:

MMKC members are encouraged to knit baby items for Bundles of Love all year long.

Items that can be knit:

sweater

hat

bootie

blanket

thumbless mittens

bib

toy

By Maria Ann

In late October, several MMKC Members met at the Textile Center for 2 days of knitting items for Bundles of Love. Also present were some of the Crochet Twin Cities members who were working on Snazzy Snoopy



Besides knitting, there was seaming, snacking, visiting, pattern writing, and a sponge bar replaced. All in all, 51 items are ready to be donated.

Picot Cuff Baby Bootie Mid-Gauge 6.5 or 7 mm Knitting Machine

Lion Baby Soft; Bernat Baby Softee, Lion Pound of Love; or similar weight yarn.

T 2- RC 000 Carriage on right: e-wrap onto 23 needles. Knit 11 rows - adding weights as necessary.

Create a picot hem by transferring every other stitch to its neighbor, starting at the 3rd stitch from the left side (10 stitches transferred). Knit 1 row at T 4 (optional: manually knit this row as it might be hard to push the carriage across), over 23 stitches.

T 2. - knit 11 rows. Carriage on left, RC023 Hang hem. T 3 knit 2 rows.

Create an eyelet row by transferring every other stitch to its neighbor, starting at the 3rd stitch from the left side (10 stitches transferred). Knit 2 rows over 23 stitches. Carriage on left, RC027

RC 000 **Heel Shaping:** Carriage on the Left

Set carriage to hold and begin to decrease the stitches in work by short-rowing with an automatic wrap: *bring the end needle on the carriage side into hold and knit 1 row*. Repeat *to* adding a stitch into hold on the carriage side and knitting 1 row. Move and add weights as necessary.

Repeat to RC 14 carriage on left, 9 stitches still in work.

With the carriage still in hold, begin to increase the stitches in work, by reverse short-row, bringing the inside needle opposite the carriage carefully into work, and knit across.

Continue in this manner until all needles are in work RC 28 with carriage on the left. The heel is complete.

Toe Shaping: Carriage on the Left

RC 28: repeat above short row; *bring the end needle on the carriage side into hold and knit 1 row*. Repeat * to * adding a stitch to hold on carriage side, knit 1 row. Move and add weights as necessary.

Repeat to RC 42 carriage on left, 9 stitches still in work.

Continue in this manner until all needles are in work RC 56 with carriage on the left. The toe is complete.

RC 56: Starting at the 2nd stitch from the end on the left, transfer every other stitch to its neighbor **AND AT THE SAME TIME**, bring up the first stitch on each side of the eyelet row, and place onto the end needles and pull needles all the way out to facilitate knitting. Take carriage off hold. Knit 1 row, over 12 stitches, ending on RC 57, carriage on right.

Cut a long tail of yarn and thread onto a tapestry needle and remove open stitches onto a doubled yarn end, pull tight to gather, leaving yarn ends on both sides. Gather ends, pull tight, and tie a triple knot. Weave in ends.

I-Cord Tie

T 2 - RC000 Knit a 3 stitch I-cord to RC162. Hide ends. Insert into eyelet row and tie a bow. Seam edges of picot cuff.

Repeat for second bootie.

Jane Niemi, 2014 for Service Projects Maria Ann Youngs 2018





Laundry Camp Notes

by Cindy

Notes from Laundry Camp held at Mona Williams at the Mall of America

Laundry Camp is a free educational program offered by the Mona Williams clothing store at the Mall of America. Instruction is given on how to launder clothing, effectively, faster, with fewer chemicals, for longer wear. The seminar was presented by Patric Richardson. He holds a degree in fashion merchandising, apparel and textiles from the University of Kentucky. While there he learned the best ways to care for clothing. Here are his fundamentals of doing laundry.

Sorting

Begin by sorting your laundry into the following separate groups:

- Any garment with comprised of 3% or more wool
 - These garments should be separated because of the fabric
 - Do a dark and a light load
 - Turn inside out before washing
 - Place each garment in a mesh bag that is tightly secured. Use a safety pin to get the bag as small as possible for the least abrasion
- Silk or silky - polyester types
 - These garments should be separated because of the fabric
 - Do a dark and a light load
 - Turn inside out before washing
 - Place each garment in a mesh bag that is tightly secured. Use a safety pin to get the bag as small as possible for the least abrasion
- Whites
 - Include beiges
 - Include lemony yellow
 - Include Khakis
- Blacks
 - Gray goes with Black or Blues group depending on size of wash load
 - Navy blue can go with Black or Blues group depending on size of wash load
- Cool colors - Blue, green purple
 - Gray goes with Black or Blues group depending on size of wash load
 - Navy blue can go with Black or Blues group depending on size of wash load
- Warm colors - Red, orange, yellow, pinks
 - Golden toned yellows should be in this group
- Active Wear - Polyester, Spandex, Lycra
 - These garments need a separate load due to treatment for odors and body soil



- Active wear/polyester attracts oils (skin, perspiration etc.) and needs an anti-microbial and enzymatic detergent to get stains out of that fabric and also to retain the quality of the fabric

A note on Multi colored fabrics

- Stripes or patterned non Wool or Silky fabrics should be washed with the load of the color you want to protect
 - Example. White shirt with black stripes, protect the white so wash with whites. Black with pink florals protect the pink and wash with the reds.

Stains:

Pre-treating your laundry just before washing was recommended, so the fabric will release the stains more easily.

There are three basic types of stains:

- Oily - butter, oils, grease
- Inorganic - dyes, mascara, chemical based stains
- Organic - wine, fruits, grass, blood

And two combination type

- Oily inorganic - makeup
- Oily organic - food - prepared with oil

Always try and figure out what the stain is before you treat it so you use the correct product.

If you're unsure what it is, in general:

- Oily stains have a feathery outline
- Organic stains have sharp outline

Always test for colorfastness in an inconspicuous area to ensure it will not harm your fabric or carpet.

The following products were recommended for pre-treating stains:

Rubbing Alcohol - used for inorganic and oily inorganic stains

- Example: ink stains, mascara
 - Place a towel inside garment directly behind the stain. Spritz with rubbing alcohol, and scrub with a small soft brush. As you scrub, you should see the residue of the stain on the towel as it is "pushed" out. Repeat as needed, using caution so you don't abrade the fabric with the brush on the front side of the garment
 -

Vodka - used for odor elimination and spot cleaning

- Example: Silk ties, scarves, carpeting
 - To pretreat a spot, place a small amount of plain vodka on a clean towel. Place another towel behind the garment and daub the stain, until lifted. Vodka does not need to be washed out of clothing!
- When misted, you can use Vodka like Febreze



- Using a very fine mist sprayer, lightly spritz clothing or fabric with plain Vodka. To eliminate many odors
- To denature Vodka add one tablespoon of rubbing alcohol per pint of Vodka. This renders it undrinkable and safe to carry in your purse or car as a spot cleaner

Vinegar - used for organic stains and oily organic stains

- Example: Organic stains, food, grass and blood. Oily organic stains, foods prepared with oils, such as salad dressings
 - Prepare a mixture of 50% White Vinegar and 50% water to create an All-purpose cleaner for most stains. Pour into a spray bottle for use
 - Place a towel inside garment directly behind the stain. Spritz with Vinegar/Water, and scrub with a small soft brush. As you scrub, you should see the residue of the stain on the towel as it is “pushed” out. Turn the garment inside out and repeat the spraying and scrubbing from the backside. When the stain appears at least 90% gone, the wash cycle should remove it completely. Use caution when scrubbing so you don’t abrade the fabric with the brush on the front side of the garment
 - To treat a chocolate stain, use a combination of vinegar water and soap. Make a paste and follow the scrubbing directions above
 - Vinegar/Water solution will cut through oils
 - Vinegar/Water solution will work on Black Mold
 - If you purchase a new white shirt, it was recommended to spray the inside collars and underarms with a fine mist of vinegar water before it is worn for the first time. It help to prevent perspiration stains from starting

Sodium Percarbonate/color safe Bleach Alternatives - sold at the Mona Williams store, or OxyClean type products. Used for particularly stubborn organic stains

- Example: Organic stains, Mustard, Red Wine, Pet stains
 - Prepare a solution according to the package directions. Soak the item for 20 minutes. Do not scrub the stain. Wash with the appropriate load
 - Depending upon the stain the color will change, but should wash out with laundering
 - Red wine will turn blue or yellow
 - Mustard will turn red.
 - Pet stains will turn yellow
 - These products can be used on carpet. Note that if the carpet is white or light color, it may appear that the color has faded, but it will come back over a short time. Follow label directions for use

Mona Williams Stain Solution - a proprietary product sold at the Mona Williams store is used for complex stains

- Example: Stubborn organic and inorganic stains or stains which have not been removed by other products
 - Coffee/Tea
 - Combination stains of both organic and inorganic product
 - Unknown stains



- using a few drops of stain solution and a small amount of bleach alternative make a paste and rub it into the stain. Let sit for 20 minutes or so then rinse out with hot tap water
 - If the unknown stain is on a wool or silk garment, DO NOT leave paste on the stain for more than 20 minutes, rinse as above
- Perspiration stains
 - Using the same directions for unknown stains, rinse the spots using very hot water (from a tea kettle about 200 degrees). The stain will break up with the very hot water. Spray with vinegar/water right before washing and the perspiration stain will never come back
 - Note that the fabric must be able to tolerate the hot water!

Anti-Microbial Enzymatic Detergent - made specifically for sports fabrics. Mona Williams has a proprietary product, or use specialty detergents found in the laundry aisle or online

- Example: Sports uniforms, Yoga clothing, running wear
 - Follow the directions on the specific product for use
 - These products are specifically manufactured to protect the fabrics used in the clothing

Washing

Water is the key to clean clothes. Stains rinse out with water when they are washed in the appropriate temperature. It is recommended that you never wash in cold water. Detergents do not dissolve in cold water and therefore do not get clothes clean. Warm or hot water washing was recommended only. Warm water (70 to 100 degrees) helps to dissolve the soap which releases the oils that hold the cleaning agent in suspension. Warm water with the soap lowers the viscosity of the water which gives better cleaning. Hot water has an even lower viscosity which cleans clothes the best, but can damage synthetic fibers. Use Hot water on plant based fabrics only.

Soap was preferred over detergent for cleaning. Follow label directions for the amount of soap to use per load. If you use a detergent, use half the recommended amount. Detergents contain petroleum, which lingers on clothing. Read the label ingredients to check for petroleum.

Always add one half of a Shout Color Catcher or Carbona Color Grabber to each cycle. These are available in the laundry section of the grocery store. Cut each sheet in half for economy. The sheet will absorb any dyes, coloring agents from the stains removed, (i.e. caramel coloring from soy sauce) or iron and minerals from the water in your area.

A short washing cycle of eight minutes should be used with a regular agitator and the fastest spin cycle, which lessens the abrasion of your clothes.

Front loading machines can be filled as directed. Top loading machines should not be overfilled, so that the load stays below the top of the basket for balance.



Drying

- Use of the dryer is recommended only for sheets, towel, underwear and socks
- Wools and knits should be dried on drying racks and gently shaped
- Wovens should be hung to dry
- If desired, throw items in a cool/low dryer for five minutes to ease out the wrinkles
- The dryer setting should never be above warm
- To eliminate static add an aluminum foil ball to the load
 - Take a one yard piece and crumple it into a 3 inch ball and toss it in the machine
 - Repeat with many loads
 - When the aluminum ball has compressed into a 1 inch ball, toss it in the recycling bin and start over

Products to avoid

Dryer Sheets - Never use them again

- They contain Thylates, which are allergens
- They destroy up to 80% of the absorbency of your clothing and household fabrics (dishtowels and towels)
- They make it harder to remove stains
- They coat your fabric, lint trap, dryer vents and dryer with a silicone film, which gets sticky and traps lint. The lint clogs up and can catch on fire. The US had 12,700 dryer fires in 2017.

Chlorine Bleach

- It is very hard on clothing
- White as we know it is actually a dyed color. Using bleach on a white item actually makes the fabric grey
- It is hard to control when you need to. Woven fabrics draw it in and you can't stop the absorption as it wicks
- Really removes dyes, especially those you don't want to remove!

Washing Soda

- It can irritate skin
- Can fades colors
- Very hard on clothing

Borax

- Very hard on clothing
- It can irritate skin
- However, Borax can be added to loads of clothing used for gardening or for grubby kids clothing. Follow the package directions to be sure and do not wash other clothing items with this load

FelsNaptha

- Has Lye in it
- Very hard on clothing

Household Laundry products

- Some contain Lye
- Some contain Bleach
- Read the labels to be sure