

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.

May 2021



From the Editor

Welcome to the May 2021 edition of the newsletter: and, at last, our committee are looking forward to face-to-face meetings.

We have been discussing the possibility of re-opening in July, although, as yet, we have not heard from the government regarding the June part of the roadmap, or from the Long Buckby community centre. Fingers crossed!



In the event that we are able to meet, we will be cautious and require masks and social distancing.

Meanwhile, we are continuing with these extended newsletters. This one has the theme of summer knitting, although I almost feel that I have picked the wrong year for it - the weather in April has been decidedly less spring-like than last year, and the beginning of May is threatening to be similar.

But here we have a set of patterns within a pattern, which I have concocted from Knitware, with a few modifications along the way. I have knitted one example for myself, as has Pat, and our experiences should be used as a 'caveat' to following this, or any other, pattern too slavishly.

In addition, I have used cut and sew to make a cardigan; and I include a few links to summer patterns.

Hopefully we will be having face-to-face meetings soon, but until then....

Stay safe!
Lynda Fiendley

Knitting for Summer

I began my preparations for this newsletter with an internet search for patterns: and, as is often the case, I fell down the rabbit hole that is the Ravelry Pattern search function. Here are my results:

Free patterns:

Dinan: a short sleeved top for the LK150

Not so free patterns:

Isabella top: for £3.50 an 'easy and versatile' summer top, 4 ply, standard gauge, 3 sizes <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/isabella-top>

Simple Summer vest top: £8.99 from Marianne Henio

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/simple-summer-vest-top>

Libra Top: also by Marianne Henio for £8.99, a looser sleeveless top

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/libra-top>

Stripy Top: for \$4.50, 4 ply standard gauge, a really interesting use of stripes and multi-directional knitting. I have bought this pattern, and it is waiting for me to use it!!!! [along with many others]

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/stripy-top>

Lace cardigan: \$7 a long line cardigan knitted in 3

ply <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/dusty-blue-lace-cardigan>

Lace Collar cardigan: \$8 a 4 ply cardigan with a lacy shawl

collar <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/lace-collar-cardigan-3>

Projects

In this section, I am including the garments knitted by Pat and me for the following pages of patterns, as well as my cut and sew project.

The Cut and Sew project:

As ever, apologies for poor photos, I do my best....



This was my attempt to make a cardigan for my daughter-in-law's birthday. She likes the style, waterfall, but wrapping around as in the first picture.

The yarn was a cone from my large pile,

I think it is acrylic, and it is very soft and not very stable. However, I thought she would like the colour [dark grey with white flecks], and it was a large enough cone for the project, I thought.

I knitted it at T5, 200 needles and about 1700 rows, until I ran out of yarn.

I had a pattern, the Fairy Jacket from Ellie and Mac:

<https://www.ellieandmac.com/products/adults-fairy-jacket-pattern> - I bought it for \$0.99, a special offer, the current price being \$9.99.

I managed to cut out most of the pieces, the sleeves came out a little short, as I could have done with an extra 6 inches. I stitched it altogether on the overlocker, then crocheted round all the edges with black cotton, 3 rows of dc. I pieced together cuffs and sleeves with crochet.

I am happy with the result - and so is my daughter in law, most importantly!

The summer knitting projects.

Pat and I agreed to try different iterations of the pattern. Pat chose to knit a sleeveless top with a V-neck.



Like me, she used Panama 4 ply cotton/acrylic. She found the pattern straightforward but had issues with the V neck opening [too wide at the bottom, so she reduced the width by 2 stitches] and the back neck, again too wide, she felt. But it looks good, and she used a mitred V to finish the ribbed neck: the picture on the right shows the rear side of it - she has folded over the straight end of the rib to make a diagonal edge.



My project was a cardigan. I tend not to wear knits close to my skin, not because of allergies, but because of vanity! I feel that t-shirts are more flattering, so my knits tend to be cardigans.

I chose a scoop neck and set in sleeves: I also chose to have a fitted waist, which I later felt was a mistake. And I panicked over the yarn quantity [unnecessarily] so I made a different yoke.

The details I added were: a crochet band [6 rows of dc] a crochet neckline [3 rows of dc].

The hems and yoke are thread lace [Stitchworld pattern 402], the hems

being folded bands. The 'thread' is a supported Lurex thread.

The cardigan will be useful for me as a cover-up, but I won't be using the buttons: I found this garment a bit 'snug' when buttoned up. It doesn't bother me, because I rarely wear cardigans buttoned up anyway - but be aware that the sizing is not loose. Pat, on the other hand, found it loose - it might be our perception of our size!

Summer Knitwear Collection Pick and Mix!

Six steps to make a pattern: choose your size and style.

Basic patterns to knit to fit chest sizes 32/34/36/38/40/42/44/46.

These are all based on Knitware patterns - any restrictions on the designs are made by the software [probably advisedly!]

Knit on standard gauge, tension 7, 4 ply e.g., Panama, 30 sts and 42 rows to 10cm.

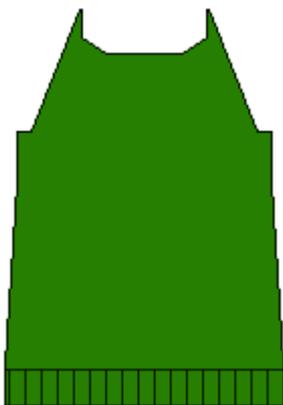
The length given is a low hip length, between 27 - 30 inches depending on size, but obviously can be altered.

No ribs etc are mentioned in the pattern explicitly, they will need to be added by the knitter - although are shown on the pictures. Suggestions are given in step 6.

Start knitting at the bottom of each diagram and follow the instructions upwards

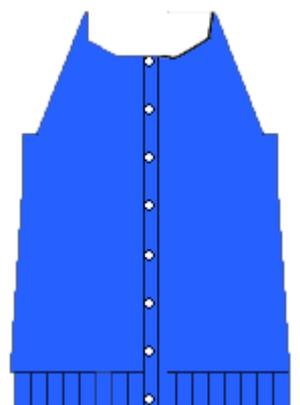
1. Choose sweater or cardigan.

The instructions for number of stitches are in the form e.g., 60:60 meaning 120 stitches altogether, 60 left and 60 right.



To make a sweater, just complete the front as a single unit.

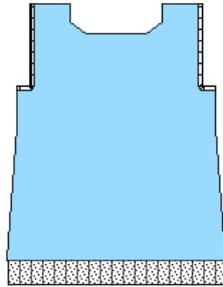
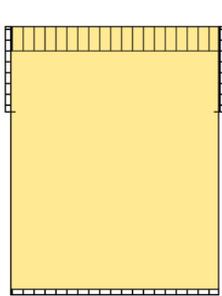
To make a cardigan, use one side of the stitch count for each front piece. Shape on one side of the piece, instead of both sides.



Bands are not included. To make a band on the machine, hold the front edge up to the machine without stretching, and use the transfer tool to hook the edge on to the needles with wrong side facing. Knit at a lower tension, e.g., 6 rows, then 1 row loose, then a further 6 rows before casting off. The band can then be sewn down to complete.

2. Choose a body style: straight, A-line, or Fitted waist

The straight style has a little more ease than the others.



The instructions given are for the body from the top of the hem [if wanted] to the bottom of the armhole.

The hem can be made as a rib or a folded band, for example, by using the cast on stitch number supplied, and knitting an appropriate number of rows before following the main instructions. Alternatively, it can be left as a cast on edge, to be finished with crochet or other edge later.

3. Choose an armhole style: set-in, raglan, drop shoulder, square.

This will also depend on the sleeve style you choose: set-in and square armholes might work as sleeveless styles; raglan will work with very short sleeves as a cap, or longer sleeves; drop shoulder without sleeves is really cap-sleeved; and all will work with short sleeves [or longer].

4. Choose a neck finish: round, scoop, ballerina, V-neck, or boat.

5. Choose sleeveless, cap sleeve, short sleeve or long sleeve.

6. Choose the finish: edgings, embellishments, motifs.

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Body

A line style

Knit to row 170/172/178/180/180/182/182/182

Decrease each side by 1
stitch on 2nd row and then
every
26th/22nd/23rd/23rd/20th/
19th/17th/17th row.
To stitch count
65:65/69:69/73:73/77:7
7/81:81/85:85/89:89/93:

Cast on 71:71/75:75/80:80/84:84/88:88/93:93/97:97/100:100

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straight style

Knit to row 180/182/186/190/190/192/192/194

Cast on 70:70/73:73/77:77/81:81/83:83/87:87/91:91/95:95



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Fitted Waist

Knit to row 170/172/178/180/180/182/182/182

To stitch count

65:65/69:69/73:73/77:77/81:81
1.01/05.05/00.00/02.02

Increase:

Knit 10/10/10/10/12/10/10/14 rows.

Then increase 1 stitch at each end of the following row, and each end of the

8th/7th/7th/7th/7th/7th/8th/7th row

8/9/9/10/10/9/9/9 times

Decrease:

Knit 10/12/16/14/14/16/12/16

rows.

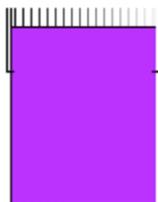
Then decrease 1 stitch each end of following row, and each end of the

Cast on 70:70/73:73/77:77/81:81/83:83/87:87/91:91/95:95

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Armhole

Instructions given for armhole - neckline shaping will need to be included for fronts, where appropriate



Drop Shoulder *[and set in sleeve with cap sleeve]*

Mark armholes, then knit 62/64/66/66/70/72/74/74 rows to shoulder.

Picture shows finishing separately.



Square/ modified drop

Cast off 8/8/9/9/10/10/11/11 stitches each side, then knit 62/64/66/66/70/72/74/74 rows to shoulder.

Knitware says it cannot be sleeveless or cap, but:

A cap sleeve would be the same as the drop shoulder without a sleeve.

Sleeveless would, I think, be acceptable with a crochet finish.

Set in



Cast off 10/11/11/12/12/13/13/13 at beginning of next two rows.

Dec 1st each end of every row x10/alt rows x10/alt rows x12/alt rows x14/alt rows x16/alt rows x17/alt rows x19/ alt rows x 21.

Knit to row 264/268/272/280/282/286/290/ 292.

Cast off shoulders:

8 stitches on each of next 4 rows/

8 stitches on each of next 2 rows, then 9 stitches on next 2 rows/

9 stitches on each of next 4 rows/

6 stitches on each of next 4 rows, then 7 stitches on next 2 rows/

6 stitches on each of next 2 rows, then 7 stitches on next 4 rows/

7 stitches on each of next 6 rows/

7 stitches on each of next 6 rows/

7 stitches on each of next 6 rows.

60/62/64/64/66/68/72/74 stitches left for neck.

Raglan



Cast off 7/7/8/8/9/9/9/10 sts at beginning of next 2 rows.

Dec 1 st at each end of every 4th row 14/10/6/1/30/28/24/22

times, then dec 1 st at each end of every 3rd row

10/16/22/30/3/8/14/18 times./

68/72/74/76/78/80/84/86 sts left for neck.

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Neckline

The instructions given are for the front of the garment: you will need to add them in to the other [armhole] instructions as you knit the front.

Round



Knit from beginning of armhole to row **58/60/60/60/62/64/64/66**.
Cast off the centre **22/23/24/26/25/26/27/28** stitches. Work each side separately.

Decrease 1 stitch at neck edge every row **11/12/12/12/14/14/14/15** times, continue straight up to shoulders.

Scoop



Knit from beginning of armhole to row **38/40/40/42/46/46/46/48**
Cast off the centre **18/19/20/22/23/23/24/25** stitches. Work each side separately.

Decrease 1 stitch at neck edge every row **10/10/11/11/11/11/12/12** times, and then alternate rows **10/11/11/11/11/12/12/12** times, continue straight up to shoulders.

Ballerina



Knit from beginning of armhole to row **60/62/62/64/66/68/68/70**.

Cast off the centre **40/43/44/44/45/47/50/51** stitches. Work each side separately.

Decrease 1 stitch at neck edge every row **11/12/13/13/14/14/15/15** times, continue straight up to shoulders.

V-neck



Divide for neck. Cast off centre **8/8/8/8/8/8/10** sts.

Dec 1 st at neck edge of next row, then every 4th row **6/9/7/13/11/12/17/15** times, then every 5th row **12/10/12/8/10/10/6/8** times.

Then continue straight up to shoulders.

Boat



Knit to shoulders, then add a rib or finish of your choice.

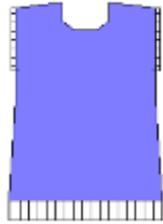
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Sleeves



Sleeveless

As stated earlier, the set-in sleeve and square armhole styles are suitable for sleeveless - finish as you wish, with a rib or band on the machine, or crochet.



Cap sleeve

In Knitware, the cap sleeve is provided as an extension of the armhole - meaning that, at the beginning of the normal armhole, shaping stops and the 'sleeve' is knit straight up to the shoulder. If you want a seam - possibly only in the raglan version, you could knit a normal armhole, with a short sleeve as below, but start the sleeve at the armhole shaping.

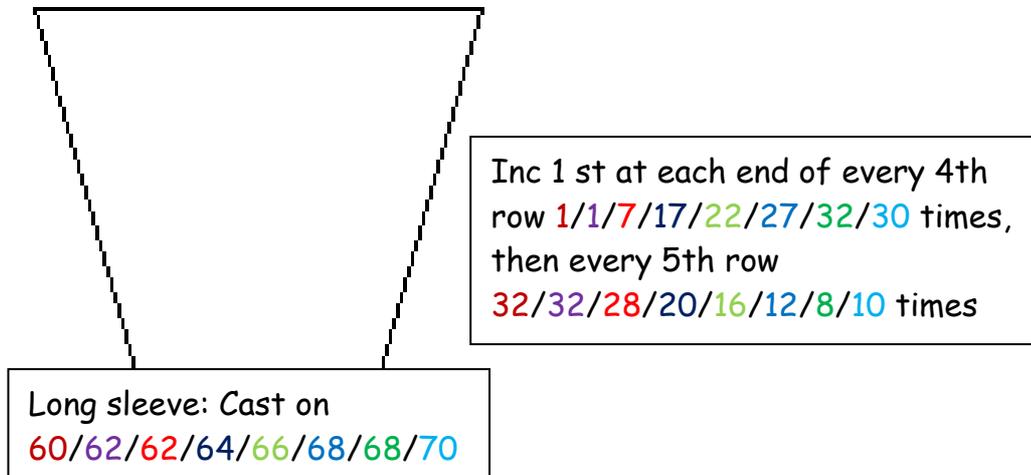
Short sleeve/ long sleeve

As we have different armhole styles, so we need different instructions for the sleeve types. I have used the tapered sleeve, but it could be adapted to suit.

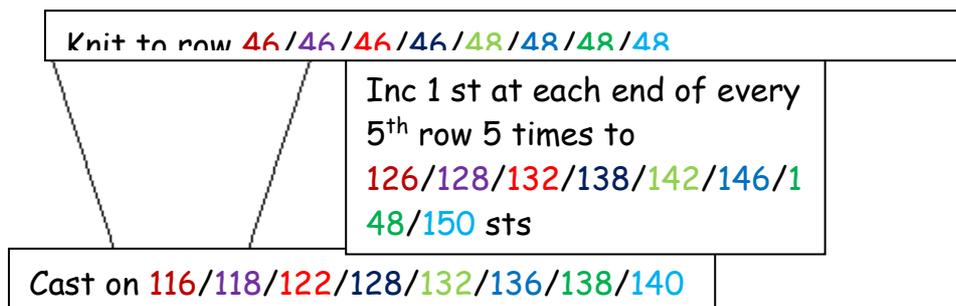
Drop shoulder.

Long Sleeve:

Knit to row



Short sleeve:

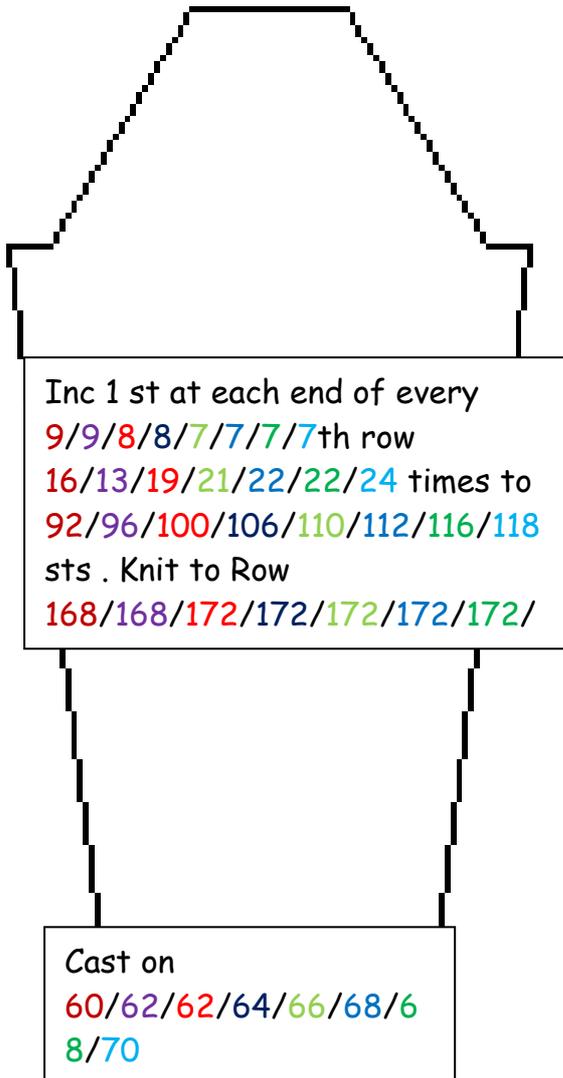


Square shoulder

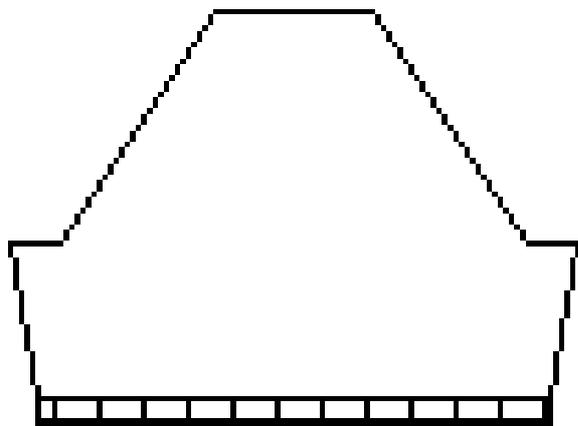
As for Drop shoulder but

Knit a further 10/10/12/12/14/14/16/16 rows straight at end of sleeve

Set-in sleeve
Long sleeve



Sleeve Cap
Cast off 7/7/8/8/9/9/9/10 sts at beg
of next two rows
(78/82/84/90/92/98/98/98 sts rem).
Dec 1 st at each end of every 2nd row
9/11/12/14/30/14/32/15 times, then
dec 1 st at each end of every 3rd row
6/4/4/2/0/2/0/2 times, then dec 1 st
at each end of every 2nd row
9/11/11/13/0/14/0/15 times. Total
224/226/232/234/234/236/238/242
rows. Cast off remaining
30/30/30/32/32/34/34/ 34 sts
loosely.



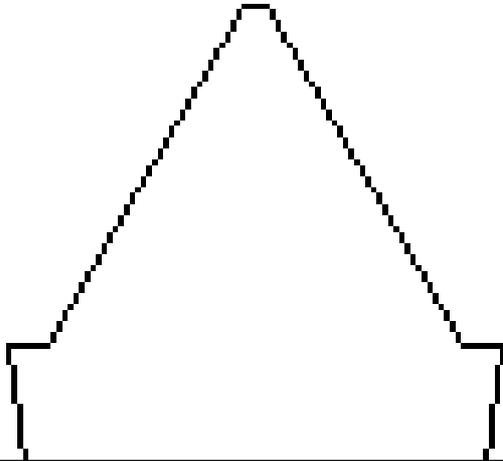
Short Sleeve

Shape cap as Long Sleeve

Cast on

84/86/90/94/98/100/104/108

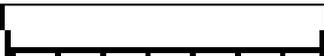
Raglan sleeve
Long Sleeve



Inc 1 st at each end of every
9/9/8/8/7/7/7/7th row
16/13/19/21/22/22/24 times to
92/96/100/106/110/112/116/118
sts . Knit to Row
168/168/172/172/172/172/172/

Cast on

60/62/62/64/66/68/68/70

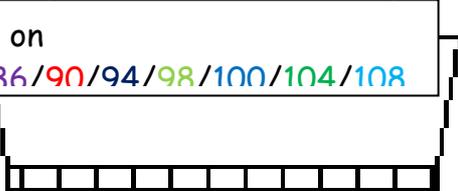


Short Sleeve

Shape cap as long sleeve

Cast on

84/86/90/94/98/100/104/108



Knit to row

46/48/48/48/48/48/48/48

Inc 1

9/8/8/7/7/7/7/8th row

4/5/5/6/6/6/5/5 times to

92/96/100/106/110/112/116/118

8 stitches

Shape Cap

Cast off 7/7/8/8/9/9/9/10

sts at beg of next two rows

(78/82/84/90/92/94/98/9

8 sts rem). Dec 1 st at each

end of every 3rd row

14/12/14/12/12/14/10/14

times, then dec 1 st at each

end of every 2nd row

22/26/24/29/

30/29/35/30 times. Total

256/258/264/268/270/274

/274/278 rows. COR. Cast

off remaining loosely.

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Finishing

Finishing can mean adding an edge. Pat used her ribber to create her edges. I used crochet - in this case double crochet, which I found quite satisfying as an edge [3-6 rows].

As mentioned above, I tried thread lace as a hem, folded band style, and we thought it worked very well.

Previously, I have used a lace edging to my summer knits. As a fairly new knitter I knitted short cardigans with lace up to the armholes, then stocking stitch, on both body and sleeves. It looked good, but I did use Panama for that too, and found lots of dropped stitches and split stitches - I think wool and acrylic work better for machine lace, but I did manage it [and knitted about ten of those garments for various people].

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I hope this pattern [collection] is of use. It could equally be used in winter clothing - the difference is the yarn used.

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! And now she has her own YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sally+butcher+machine+knitting which is well worth a visit. Well done, Sally, a marvellous resource.

<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.