

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 3
NOVEMBER 2010

knitting Yarns



NOVEMBER 17: MINI-WORKSHOPS

November will see the return of our annual Skills Exchange Mini-Workshops. You will have the opportunity to learn a number of new skills in short 15 minute sessions taught by guild members. It's a fun evening out, with many fun and valuable skills being shared by DKC Members.

The following topics will be offered. To get the most out of each workshop please bring the items suggested:

- ▶ **Understanding Make One (M1)**
with Gloria Williams
This method of increase can be used as left or right leaning increase. No supplies necessary.
- ▶ **Knitting Illusions (Shadow Knitting)**
with Krystyna Perron
Bring two balls of either worsted or sport weight yarn in a high contrast such as dark blue and white and knitting needles appropriate to yarn. Homework: cast on 31 stitches with dark colour and knit 4 rows. Handout provided.
- ▶ **One-Row Buttonholes**
with Diane Martin
Homework: with light coloured yarn and appropriate needles cast on 20 stitches and knit (stocking stitch) about 1 inch of fabric. Leave on needles.
- ▶ **Toe-Up Cast On With Two Circular Needles a la Cat Bordhi**
with Trish Denhoed
Bring 2 circular needles the same size (4mm will be easiest to practice with) and a plied light-coloured DK weight yarn. Double pointed needles can work if you don't have two circulars the same size.
- ▶ **Long-Tail Cast on for Ribbing**
with Mary Pat McDonald
Please bring yarn and needles.
- ▶ **Knitting Below the Elise Duvokot Way**
with Bonnie Jull
At this demo learn how to get started using Elise's method of cast on and set up rows for the Column Pattern. Please bring a few meters of two colours of high-contrast worsted weight yarn and the appropriate-sized needles.
- ▶ **Short Cut for Kitchener Stitch**
with Cristina Simionovici
Bring a blunt wool needle and homework swatches. Homework: Knit 2 light coloured swatches in DK yarn as follows – Cast on 20-30 stitches (same number for each swatch). Knit in stockinette stitch for 3 inches. Break yarn leaving a tail long enough to graft with (4x width of knitted swatch). Bind off all

stitches using a contrast colour yarn (cotton works best) as follows – knit first 2 stitches with waste yarn, pass first stitch on right needle over second stitch, * knit a stitch, pass first stitch on right needle over second stitch **, repeat * to ** until all stitches bound off, secure yarn and break.

▶ **Cabling Without a Cable Needle**

with Denise Powell

Bring a non-slippery light colour medium weight yarn and cast on a multiple of 6 sts, plus 2 (minimum 20 stitches). Knit one set up row as: *K2, p4, rpt from *, end k2.

▶ **Magic Loop**

with Linda Illidge

Homework: with worsted weight yarn cast on 40 stitches onto 32 inch circular needle. Longer needles can also be used.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Work of Our Hands Fashion Show

Whether you're a newbie or a pro at knitting, we want you to strut your stuff at the annual "Work of Our Hands" fashion show on December 15. This meeting is always the highlight of the year, and a ton of fun for the models and audience alike. Details on back page.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Location

Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave.

NW corner of St. George St. and Sussex Ave.
on the University of Toronto campus.

TTC Access

Five-minute walk south from St. George subway station.

Parking available at several nearby locations.

Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.

Doors Open: 6:45 p.m.

Admission

\$6.00 for guests and Newsletter Only Subscribers

Free to Full Members (please show card at door)

All Downtown Knit Collective meetings, functions and events are governed by the Rules of Conduct as determined by the Executive.

To read a copy of the Rules, please visit

www.downtownknitcollective.ca/dkc_conduct.html

The order of events was altered for the October meeting to allow both guest speakers ample time for their presentations. Pre-empted Show-and-Tellers can display their creations at the November meeting, or why not submit them for the annual Fashion Show?

Announcements

Let's talk Fashion Show! Fiona Ellis has agreed to MC once again. She urges everyone not to be shy—your work is wanted and needed! For full details, see the “upcoming events” column on the back page.

The “Snow Day” holiday market will be held December 5 at the Gladstone Hotel. Contact them if you'd like to be a vendor, or just go and shop from noon to 5 p.m.

An amazingly large number of DKC members have adopted the electronic version of the newsletter. If you'd like to be added to the list, please contact a Wendy (treasurer@downtownknitcollective.ca)

Raffle

Judi Hanninen won a book, *Design It, Knit It* by Debbie Bliss.

Kelly Cooke won a Cat Hat kit by Estelle and two skeins of Cascade yarn.

Irene Reed won a bag with 10 balls of Alessandra Filatt “Gemma” yarn.

Mary Moreau and Mary-Cate Garden each won a SOAK prize pack featuring the “Carrie” basket and a container of “Heel” foot cream.

DKC tote bags are still available, though Carole decided to give us “a night off” at the October meeting.

Guest Speakers

Our DKC double-header kicked off with a presentation by **Jacqueline Sava**, founder of SOAK. Launched in 2005, SOAK started off as a sideline to Jacqueline's knitted hat business, Jacq's Hats. The ‘wash’ soon overshadowed the ‘washables’ in popularity and became her primary business. She has the office, warehouse and forklift to prove it.

DKC members were treated to a preview of new SOAK projects, including a blog (soakworthy.com), Labels of Love, Phil and

Carrie basins, and Heel foot cream (“for feet worthy of handknit socks”).

The Labels of Love are particularly clever, serving to teach recipients of handknits how to care for the items properly (and possibly better appreciate the work that has gone into them). Jacqueline stated that though ‘handwashing’ is erroneously considered a bit of a chore, what's so hard about soaking something in the sink and then rolling it in a towel... is that really more work than doing a load of laundry? A bottle of SOAK packaged along with a handknit item will ensure that it's properly cared for. A nice way of saying, “I spent 100 hours on this, please don't ruin it.”

SOAK has also been busily collaborating with Ravelry and Louet North America, bringing forth an exclusive Ravelry scent (Unleashed) as well as a Ravelry-inspired line of yarns (the Creative Juices collection) and SOAK-worthy patterns.

Another recent addition to the SOAK family are Phil and Carrie (a play on “fill” and “carry”), a series of brightly coloured collapsible totes which can be used for soaking, dyeing, or anything else you can think of (and the perfect solution for those who have ever faced household conflicts over bathroom sink usage). A number of totes were available for sale after the meeting, and a great many were “carried” right out the door.

Another new SOAK innovation is “Heel” foot cream. As a rather unique twist, for an order as small as 25, the label can be customized for a specific group or fundraiser. Larger customers can even order up a custom fragrance (they recently concocted one for The Loopy Ewe).

Finally, Jacqueline reminded us to keep an eye out for her second appearance on this season of the CBC show *Dragon's Den*. Truly, she is a brave woman.

After a question and answer period, our second guest, **Elise Duvokot**, took to the podium. Her talk (as well as her rather mesmerizing slideshow featuring several hundred images of knitting through the ages) thoroughly engaged her audience.

Elise stated that her book, *Knit One Below* (K1B), has a strong Toronto association for her. Though she divides her time between

Canada and the Netherlands, it was here that she wrote the book and found her test knitters (including several DKC members). Her inspiration for the book, as with pretty much every other aspect of her life, she says, is yarn. She always asks herself, “What am I going to do with it?” and thus Knit One Below was born. Elise says the best way for her to come up with an idea is to simply start knitting, and see where it takes her, adding that in knitwear design there are no failures—only prototypes.

So, a whole book based on one stitch? Absolutely! K1B is simple, but powerful. All ears in the audience perked up as Elise listed the many benefits of the K1B fabric. For one thing, the unique structure created helps knitters make something really nice out of those variegated yarns that look so good on the skein, but like “the dog's breakfast” once knit up. The stitch forms columns rather than stripes, which eliminates streaking and pooling in self-striping yarns like Noro. When combined with a complementary solid, the colours really pop. When used with solids alone, the stitch provides visual interest and textural contrast.

K1B (and its counterpart, P1B) is related to Shaker Stitch, but lies flatter. It's similar to Brioche, but easier as there are no YO's involved.

Elise continued her list of K1B features: the edges do not roll. It tames stockinette when used as bands and edgings, and it's the perfect complement to garter in terms of appearance, drape and thickness. It works well with every kind of yarn but bouclé, which is just too fuzzy and bumpy to make the effort worthwhile. It works very well with cables, and can provide the look of a rib without the trouble of switching back and forth between knit and purl (K1, K1B is a very easy rhythm to fall into). Shaping is not difficult, but increases and decreases must be done in pairs to maintain the structure.

Elise encouraged the audience to go out and create with her technique, to use it as a starting point rather than a destination. Judging by the fondling of the samples at the end of the meeting, that is certain to happen.

Thanks to both our speakers for a truly enjoyable evening!

KNITTING FOR A CURE by Joan Kass

Wannietta Prescod, a popular workshop instructor for the DKC is currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer. As a good friend, what should I do? She lives in Angus so I couldn't run over for a cup of tea. Of course, a chemo cap!

Here is a picture of Wannietta proudly wearing her cap and the lovely thank you note she sent to me.

Thank you so much for taking the time to knit such a thoughtful hat Joan. The yarn is soft (especially important as my scalp is becoming more sensitive) and it's snug enough to stay on nicely. Especially as a knitter it's a comforting thing to know that another knitter has taken the time & care for such a special gift. It will be loved for a long time!!

-Wannietta



STITCH OF THE MONTH by Diane Martin

Twice-Knit Knitting

Both stocking stitch and garter stitch are easily worked (that's why I used the term, "work 2tog" in the instructions). The fabric formed—unless a ridiculously large needle in comparison to the yarn is used—is very dense and has limited stretch. For the sample I used a 15 mm needle with worsted weight wool, so that the stitches would show up when scanned. This stitch has its own cast-on and cast-off. Twice-knit knitting will not snag, and can be cut without fear. It will not stretch. The stitch is as wide as the yarn, and as high as the needle used—so larger needles can be used.

Twice-knit cast-on

Two needles, one strand

Work loosely on very thick needles. Whatever the selvedge, always work the first stitch of the first row.

1. Make a slip knot
2. Cast on one stitch, using the knitted method
3. Continue as for knitted cast-on, but always K2tog and put new

stitch on the left needle (insert right needle into the last 2 stitches made, from left to right)

Twice-knit Fabric

Cast on using twice-knit cast-on.

*Work 2tog. Drop only the first stitch. Repeat from * with the stitch not dropped and the following stitch, across row. The last stitch is worked once by itself.

Twice-knit cast-off

Knit 3, and pull first stitch over other two. Repeat across row. (The cast-off really "pulls in." You might need an extra thick needle.)

The sample is done as stocking stitch.

Source:

Stanley, Montse, *Knitter's Handbook, Reader's Digest, 1993.*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Purple Purl 3rd Anniversary November 14-15, 2010

Can you believe it's been three years already? The Purl is having a Customer Appreciation day on the 15th (there will be cake!) and a Purple Sale all weekend (every skein of purple yarn is 25% off.) See thepurplepurl.com for more details.

Amy Singer Author Talk Tuesday, November 13, 2010

7 p.m. - 8 p.m., Taylor Memorial Library,
1440 Kingston Road.

Amy Singer, author of *No Sheep For You*, will be giving a presentation as a part of the library's Author Talks & Lecture series. Learn the ins and outs of fibres that aren't wool, and never had four legs! Learn about cotton, linen, hemp, bamboo, lyocell, rayon, soy, silk and more. Come and learn how to substitute non-wool fibres when the pattern calls for wool, and still get great results. Here's a secret... there's a lot more to it than simply getting gauge.

Work of Our Hands Fashion Show December 15, 2010

The annual Work of Our Hands Fashion Show is a celebration of all things knitted by us, the DKC members. Having fun is the focus! This isn't a juried show or a competition—every submission will be accepted because they are all undoubtedly labours of love. Every year, knitters marvel at the diversity and talent of our members.

We're looking for up to 30 people to strut their stuff. Whether you're a newbie to knitting or the next Sally Melville, whether your pattern is from the web, your favourite book or right out of your head—if you made it, we'd like to see it in the show! We welcome all knitted (and finished) items, including hats, scarves, sweaters, vests, sculptures, shawls, toys, afghans, jewellery, bags and wigs!

If you're shy about strutting and can't find another person to model, we have a solution—stationary displays of knits (on tables or otherwise) so that they can still have their moment in the spotlight. Admission is free, so it's a great way to introduce your friends to the DKC.

Please contact our MC, Fiona Ellis (fiona.ellis@sympatico.ca) if you'd like to be a part of this year's show.

THIS AND THAT

Are you a new member? Forgetful returning member? Here is a quick guide to some DKC institutions.

Dr. Knit: Denise Powell is available in the auditorium before meetings to help you untangle your knitting problems, starting from 7 p.m. She is the one in the white lab coat.

Raffle Table: Stop by this table and check out the prizes before each meeting. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5, and must be purchased before the start of the meeting. Place your ticket in the appropriate prize bag.

Donation Table: As a part of our Knit For A Cure initiative, we gladly accept any colour of yarn for charity knitting. Looking to start a KFAC scarf or other project? Pick up some yarn at the table. Got a finished item? The table is the place to drop it off and fill out a garment care tag.

Dollar Table: If you've got some vintage patterns, magazines or other knitting-related items sitting around doing nothing, feel free to drop them off at the Dollar Table. If you're looking to buy, every item is yours for the low low price of \$1.



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