

## Next Level Knitting Conference 2024 Homework and Supplies

### Friday

#### **Writing Patterns – Donna Estin**

Learn the elements of a good pattern, industry standards in pattern-writing, charting, formatting, following templates, and more in this class designed for aspiring knitwear designers and those working through the Master Hand Knitting program.

Homework – None.

Supplies – None.

#### **Introduction to Argyle – Harry Wells**

Love those classic diamond shapes called Argyle, but are mystified about how to accomplish them? In this class, you will learn the classic technique of knitting Argyle flat, along with a seaming method that makes the seam nearly invisible and not bulky. Students will make an Argyle sample swatch, learning how to wrap yarns to prevent holes, how to add in bobbins, and other Argyle tips and tricks. You will also learn the calculations to design your own Argyle diamond patterns for different gauges. You'll discover the fun of watching these diamonds grow, but beware, Argyle can become addictive!

Supplies:

- Straight needles, U.S. Size 5.
- DK wool yarn, 4 colors. 20 grams of main color, 10 grams of CC #1 (for diamond), 10 grams of CC #2 (for diamond), 5 grams of CC #3 (for criss-cross--the criss-cross color should contrast with all the other colors),
- Highlighter tape or post-it notes,
- Locking stitch markers or knitters' pins,
- Tapestry needle that will work with worsted weight yarn.
- Five small knitting bobbins (EZ Bobs recommended, but any will do.)

Homework – None

#### **Ladderback Jacquard for Stranded Knitting – Amy Snell**

Once you add this technique to your knitting toolbox, you may never want to go back to any other method of carrying floats. The ladderback jacquard technique will improve the tension of your stranded knitting while allowing you to span much larger areas between stitches. This knitting method adds stretch to the floats while preventing the alternate color from peeking through, and can be applied to nearly any form of stranded knitting. In this class we'll explore several different options for setting up and resolving ladders, explore best practices for placement and charting, and talk about edge cases like single-row ladders and working with three or more colors. Whether you're interested in tweaking patterns or developing your own

colorwork designs, incorporating this technique means you can design without limits on the space between alternating motifs.

Supplies –

- Worsted to Aran-weight yarn in two contrasting colors and your choice of needles in a compatible size (US #7-9) suitable for working a small-circumference project in the round (dpns, magic loop, or two circulars),
- Stitch markers

Homework - Cast on 40 stitches and join to work in the round. Place marker. With the same color, knit 3 rounds of stockinette stitch.

## **How to Install a Zipper: Considerations and Techniques – Celia McAdam Cahill**

Does installing a zipper sound complicated? Learn how to do it like a pro.

Supplies:

- Homework swatch
- A 7" closed end zipper of any color
- Sewing needle and thread to match the zipper
- 5 yards of smooth lightweight (up to weight #3) Smooth cotton or linen yarn
- Crochet hook, sized appropriately for the yarn
- Straight pins
- Other standard knitting supplies including scissors and ruler

Homework: Directions for the homework swatches can be found [here](#).

## **Double Knitting Basics – Jennifer Kent**

Learn the basic techniques for double knitting including how to cast on, how to hold the yarn and knit two layers of fabric simultaneously, how to read and follow double knit charts, and how to bind off using 2 colors to create a reversible pattern.

Supplies - #4 Medium weight yarn and size 1-4 double point needles

Homework: None, but we will start to knit a practice swatch

## **The Art of Knitting Lace - Tonia Lyons**

Explore the intricate world of lace knitting with this beginner class focused on providing you with a solid understanding of lace knitting basics. Topics include reading and knitting from a lace chart, exploring the world of yarnovers and decreases, a look at the confusing 'no stitch' chart symbol, and basic fixes every lace knitter should know.

Supplies –

- Sport weight yarn [CYC 2 Fine]: at least 15 grams
- US 3-5 needles for knitting flat

Homework - None

## **A Deep Dive into Garter Stitch Tab Cast On – Debbie West**

In this class, we will discuss the garter stitch cast on and how it can be used, and modified. We will explore three methods to create this cast on both for ease and appearance. We will see, with small samples, how the pick-up affects the final outcome. Little changes can make aesthetic differences depending on the desired look.

### Supplies:

- Smooth, light-colored yarn (DK or worsted)
- Corresponding needles - probably US 6 (4.0mm) or 7 (4.5mm) or 8 (5.0mm) needles, straight or 2 double pointed needles are usually easier to work with
- Cable needle, same size or smaller than above.
- Notetaking supplies.

Homework - none

## **Measuring Gauge – Arenda Holladay**

This class was originally taught in 2023 but there was a loud outcry to bring it back. Many people found it very helpful for their personal knitting or for the Master Hand Knitting program. This class focuses on measuring gauge for different types of stitch patterns-- (how to determine what to include in the gauge swatch, how to measure the correct portion of the swatch, how to count rows/stitches) and how to calculate the gauge. Anyone would benefit from this course but it uses MHK and PKC examples.

Supplies: bring samples of knitting to measure and a ruler

Homework: none

## **Brioche: Beyond The Basic Stripe – Amie Palmer**

Reversible brioche patterns can seem daunting but with a few extensions of knitting and purling skills, you too can be creating those irresistible two-color designs. In this extended session, dive into the increases and decreases that make the magic happen. Along the way, learn troubleshooting skills for the things that commonly happen with brioche. By the end of session, you'll have a firm understanding of the skills needed to tackle almost any brioche project.

Supplies:

- Two colors of DK weight yarn and circular needles appropriate for the yarn weight (usually around a US 7/4.5mm),
- Post-it notes,
- Copy of pattern (which is found in the handout – you download it when you get on Brella)
- Colored pencils or highlighters

Homework: None

### **Sock Heel Options – Heather Storta**

Did you know there are a TON of sock heel options out there? There are so many heels to choose from! Join us as we explore several different types of heels and analyze their pros and cons. We will cover cuff-down and toe-up options, so there will be a heel for every type of sock knitter!

Supplies:

- Homework on needles,
- Fingering-, or sport-weight yarn and
- Circular needles in size appropriate to yarn. (Yarn in a second contrasting color to the color used for homework is recommended, in addition to homework yarn.)
- Stitch markers,
- Removeable stitch markers,
- Tapestry needle,
- Scissors.

Homework: Using sport weight yarn and appropriately sized needles for weight and for small circumferences, cast on 40 sts and join to work in the round. Work about 1/2" in ribbing (either 1x1 or 2x2 is fine) and then 1" in St st.

### **Color Magic Challenge: Color Theory and Practice for Knitters – Yoriko Oki**

To create projects you are proud of, colors play a huge part. In this class, you will learn to identify your color preferences (if you don't know it already) and build a palette for a specific project and/or your entire stash, using the color wheel and modern color theory. It will also empower you to use up leftover yarns from your past projects. At the end of the class, you should be able to choose colors for your next project with more confidence with less swatching.

Supplies:

- Print the color wheel in the handout in color (preferred), or have a device ready to display it. (Handouts will be available on the conference site four days before the conference begins.)
- Scotch tape.
- Scissors.
- Notebook, pen or pencil.

Homework - Collect small snips (1" to 2" long) of yarn from your stash and leftovers from your past projects.

**Steeks - Mary Beth Jacobs**

Learn all about steeks- from what they are to how to have not only successful, but beautiful results. The class covers yarn choices, typical steek uses, steek stitch patterns, methods for securing a steek, tips for cutting open a steek, basting down a steek, and general information about modifying a pattern to include a steek.

Supplies: None

Homework: None

**Saturday****Designing Aran Sweaters – Donna Estin**

Designing an Aran sweater requires a different approach to traditional sweater design. This class will cover design decisions which need to be made early on in the design process, selecting and laying out cables, swatching, charting, and pulling it all together to create a balanced design that feels as good as it looks.

Supplies: None

Homework: None

**Colorwork the Easy Way: Mosaic Knitting - Harry Wells**

Mosaic slip-stitch patterns can boast amazing colorwork without the hassle of stranding or working with multiple colors in a row! Along with the basic mosaic knitting technique for garter and stockinette, learn to predict when combinations of variegated and solid color yarn work together and when they will not, how charts are written and read differently for mosaic knitting, and practical tips about navigating the technique. Also covered are examples of adding slip stitch to basic garter and progressively adding one, two, and three colors to achieve stunning colorwork results with so little effort!

Supplies:

- Straight needles, or 16" circular, Size 6 or 7
- Two to four small balls (25 grs each) of worsted weight wool yarn in contrasting colors for swatch practice in class
- Stitch markers
- For scarf project (to start in class if time permits), worsted weight wool or wool blend yarn, 2 colors, highly contrasting (MC and CC), 100 grams each.

Homework: none

### **Fix Your Knits – Tonia Lyons**

Learning to fix your knitting mistakes begins with reading your knitting and having a clear understanding of how knitted fabric works. The first part of this workshop thoroughly explores knit and purl stitches (including stitch anatomy, stitch mount, Eastern, Western, and combination knitting, and twisted stitches) and how those two stitches create a variety of fabrics. Part two explores how to fix dropped stitches and sections of stitches in those various fabrics (Stockinette, Garter stitch, 2x2 rib, and Seed stitch), as well as the basics of tinking, frogging, and adding lifelines.

Supplies: Worsted weight yarn [CYC 4 medium]: at least 20 grams US 7 or 8 needles for knitting flat

Homework: Using worsted weight yarn and US 7 or 8 needles, cast on 27 sts.

Row 1 (RS): K12, (k2, p2) twice, (k1, p1) three times, k1.

Row 2 (WS): (k1, p1) three times, k1, (k2, p2) twice, p6, k6.

Rep Rows 1 & 2 until swatch is approximately 4" in length.

Note: Swatch includes sections of Garter stitch, Stockinette stitch, K2P2 rib, and Seed stitch (from right to left).

Don't Bind off. Keep stitches on the needle. Cut yarn, leaving a 12" tail.

## **One Color, Two Layers – Jolie Elder**

Monochromatic double knitting is an alternative to working in the round on double-pointed needles. The magic is the fabric is created by knitting flat on two needles. This is great for making arms and legs for knitted toys, fingers for gloves, or large i-cords like purse handles. You can also make reversible items with knit-purl patterns or make “quilted” items if you are willing to stuff the pockets as you work. This technique is based on the work of Beverly Royce.

### Supplies:

- Class yarn (smooth, non-splitting, light or bright or medium color),
- Needles you like for working that yarn one size smaller than what you would typically choose,
- Possibly needles a size larger or smaller for casting-on or binding-off

Homework: None

## **MHK Level 1 The Preliminary Swatch – Laurie Gibson and Joyce Jones**

The Preliminary Swatch is a powerhouse swatch! It teaches how to select yarn and needles, cast on and bind off, measure your work, and determine stitch gauge before and after blocking. From this swatch, you will learn to evaluate drape and tension. These are the criteria by which all the swatches and project in Level 1 are evaluated by the reviewers, and a thorough understanding of the Preliminary Swatch helps ensure success in the program.

Supplies: None

Homework: None

## **Upper Body Posture and Hand Ergonomics for Knitters – Andrea Lui**

Aches and pains while knitting or crocheting? Feeling sore after all your crafting time? Having difficulty holding your yarn and needles pain-free but not sure what to do? Come join us for a class on posture and ergonomics with Andrea Lui. Andrea is an orthopedic physical therapist, and avid knitter, spinner, and occasional crocheter. The class will begin with an overview on correct and optimal ergonomics for crafting, and common posture pitfalls to avoid. There will be a section on hand ergonomics specific to small circumference knitting. We will also review simple stretches and exercises to keep your muscles and joints healthy and happy.

Supplies: bring a WIP to work on; if possible, sit where you usually craft, and also have a small pillow handy

Homework: None

## **Row and Stitch Equivalency – Suzanne Bryan**

Learn how to compensate for differences in stitch and row gauge across a fabric.

Supplies: none

Homework: none

## **Stranded Colorwork: The Next Steps – Varian Brandon**

This class is for the knitter who wants to continue the journey into stranded colorwork knitting. You know the basic concepts. Two colors per round. Following a chart. But you've seen some basic Fair Isle motifs and want to put them to use. And how do you work simple increases and decreases and maintain the colorwork pattern? These questions and more will be covered in class. Students will work on a headband with a classic Fair Isle motif which can be expanded into a hat...for those who just can't stop this addictive form of knitting. Covered in class: pattern overview, review of reading charts, review of adding new yarns and securing old yarns, adapting classic Fair Isle motifs, exploring color placement in Fair Isle motifs, increasing and decreasing while maintaining color pattern.

Supplies:

- For Headband 3 colors...Main Color 70 yds, Contrast Color 50 yds, Accent Color (25 yds). DK weight yarn...solid or tonal colors, no novelty yarns
- For Hat - 3 colors...Main Color 80 yds, Contrast Color 80 yds, Accent Color (120 yds). DK weight yarn...solid or tonal colors, no novelty yarns
- 2-24" circular needles OR 1-16" circular needle OR 1 set double pointed needles in appropriate size for yarn selected.

Homework: With Main Color, cast on 140 sts. Join to knit in round. Place marker. Knit 3 rounds.

## **Three Methods of Joining: Improving Your Shoulder Joins – Arenda Holladay**

Want to have better looking shoulders? This class will cover three methods: seaming, grafting and three needle bind offs. We'll explore how short rows can also improve the look of your knitting.

Supplies: This class requires several swatches for homework. All swatches should be knit using a LIGHT, solid-colored, worsted weight (Medium) wool and appropriately sized needles. Do not use novelty, heathered, tweed or overly fuzzy yarns. Knit the swatches using appropriately



sized needles. Block the swatches, taking care to flatten the selvedge stitches. You will also need:

- Contrasting color worsted weight yarn for seaming
- The needles used to knit the swatches
- One needle of the same size
- Stitch holder or waste yarn
- Tapestry needle and scissors

Homework: The directions for the swatches can be found [here](#).

### **Sweater Hacks - Safiyyah Talley**

There's nothing worse than finishing a sweater and not liking the fit. And I'm sure a lot of us have been there! In this class I created several tried-and-true sweater hacks that you can plug into any sweater pattern. Though these no fuss techniques require little math and time, they make a huge difference in sweater fit.

Supplies: None

Homework: None

### **Scandi Style - Bonnie Franz**

Scandinavia has always been associated with beautiful knits. Join us for a look at the history of colorwork and texture knitting across the region and specific to each country, as well as a look at some contemporary designers moving the traditions in new directions.

Supplies: None

Homework: None

### **Taming Tension – Binka Schwan**

Struggling with uneven stitches, rowing out, wonky edge stitches? Binka is our resident expert on diagnosing and fixing your tension issues.

Supplies: None

Homework: None

## **Sunday**

### **Introduction to Short Rows - Dawn the Stitching Coach**

Don't shy away from short rows, make them simple with The Stitching Coach! Short rows give shape (especially in busts and heels) and interest to our knitting. In this class you will learn five short row methods (Wrap & Turn, Yarnover, German, Japanese and the Twin-Stitch methods) and end the class with a favorite to add to your knitting "playbook." Our project can be used as a decorative flower, coaster, face or dish scrubber. This class is appropriate for advanced beginners to intermediate knitters who know how to cast on, knit, purl and bind off.

Supplies: Worsted weight yarn in two high contrasting colors, US8 circular or double pointed needles, 5 stitch markers, and darning needle.

Homework: None

### **Unlocking Raglan Fit - Jennifer Parroccini**

In this class, we'll unpack the nuances of designing truly size-inclusive raglans. More than other constructions, raglan design requires subjective decision making, and understanding how the pieces come together will give designers the tools to confidently write these patterns. We'll talk about front neck depth, yoke depth vs. raglan depth, compound shaping, considerations for flat vs. in the round, short row location, and more.

Supplies: Students will get the most out of class if they have a size chart and a sketch for a raglan they're planning. Previous experience knitting raglans is helpful.

Homework: none

### **Repairing Stranded Knitting: In Progress and Finished - Cherie Cornick**

This class is a demonstration of the problems unique to stranded knitting when fixing a few dropped or mis-knit stitches, ripping back to repair larger mistakes, and replacing a section in a finished piece because of wear or knitting errors. The class handout will include a chart and directions for the swatch used for demonstration. Participants might choose to knit the swatch and, at a later date, watch the video again to try the techniques.

Supplies: Optional - Crochet hook, US 1 or smaller DPN, removable stitch markers

Homework: None

### **Confident Cocksleshell – Helen Robertson**

The versatile Cocksleshell stitch is tricky to master but so satisfying to knit. After this class you will knit it with ease.

Supplies:

- Lace weight yarn
- US 3 (3mm) needles to knit flat
- One stitch holder
- One darning needle.

Homework: None**Knit Faster with Combination Knitting – Jolie Elder**

Do you dread 1×1 ribbing? Are your ssk decreases less tidy than your k2tog? Are you a continental knitter who hates purling? Do you have trouble working make1-left and make1-right? Do you know all four needle positions? Do you know the difference between left-facing and right-facing stitches? Combination knitting exploits stitch facings and needle positions. Learn how to combination knit and when to use it to make your knitting both more pleasant to do and more beautiful as a finished product.

Supplies: two homework swatches in class yarn still live on needles, needles to work both flat and in the round, possibly extra sizes of needles

Homework: You can find it [here](#)

**MHK Focus on Success Level 2: Argyle Sock – Cathy Berry and Claire Morson**

Learn tips for success on the argyle sock for level 2.

Supplies: None required.

Homework: None.

**Full-Fashioned Shoulder Shaping – Leslie Gonzalez**

Full Fashioned Shoulder Shaping is a couture method for creating comfortable, flattering sloped shoulders. The seam sits behind the shoulder to work in harmony with the shoulder's anatomy. In this class we will discuss the method, its benefits, and design particulars. As you work a miniature version of the shoulders, you'll become comfortable with the method and practice the cable decreases characteristic to this look. You will leave with the tools to design or modify a pattern to use this method. And if you don't want to design or modify a pattern, you will have the skills and confidence to be successful following a published pattern.

Supplies:

- Yarn used for homework swatches as described in the homework

- Needles used for homework swatches
- Cable needle
- Tapestry needle
- Scissors
- Tape measure or ruler
- Calculator (optional)

Homework: We will be working a mock (miniature) shoulder. You will be making two swatches a front and back of the upper part of the sweater beginning at the armhole.

Both swatches should be knit using the same yarn in light or bright, solid-colored, worsted weight (Medium) wool using needles sized to produce a stitch gauge of 5 sts per 1 inch (20 sts per 4"/10cm).

#### **Swatch A (Front):**

CO 24 sts work in St st until piece meas 1.5" from beg ending with a WS row.

Next row (RS): K7, join a second yarn and BO 10 sts, k to end. Each side should have 7 sts.

Working each side separately, cont in St st until each side measures 2.5" from bottom of swatch ending with a WS row. Place and interlocking stitch marker into the outside selvedge stitch of each side. Place each side on waste yarn. Cut working yarns leaving a 24" tail.

#### **Swatch B (Back):**

CO 24 sts work in St st for 1" ending with a WS row. Leave sts on needle ready to work a RS row.

If you have any questions about the swatches, please contact me at [lgonzalez@tkga.org](mailto:lgonzalez@tkga.org)

## **The Cowlette Class - Safiyyah Talley**

Let me introduce you to my latest obsession, cowlettes! Cowlettes are shawlettes that are knit in the round to create a unique accessory that can be worn and enjoyed by everyone. In the winter time, they can be used as a warm layer, or you can knit a lighter version to be draped over a summer outfit. In this class, we will cover how to knit and customize our own cowlette using my handy dandy Cowlette Workbook. If desired, you can even cast on in class!

Supplies: If you wish to cast on in class, 100 g of dk fingering weight yarn and needles that are 1-2 US sizes larger than what the yarn ball band suggests.

Homework: none