



SOCK MACHINE CIRCULAR

Making Socks With Our Friends

August 2020

Volume 8 Issue 3

Prez Sez...

What a summer we have had and how quickly it is flying by. I suppose some will say good riddance what with all that has been happening. I tend to not want to wish any part of life away but this year sure has been something.

One thing though this year certainly has taught us – and that is not only are we very much an electronic group already communicating via email, Internet, Facebook, Ravelry, and teaching and learning through video tutorials, but we have other options and technology to *continue to deliver value to you*, our membership.

- Jamie Mayfield has done a wonderful job conducting Zoom sessions, providing demos and instruction. Zoom sessions are archived in the members only section of the CSKMS website for those who missed the live meeting or those who like to watch more than once.
- Kathy Roletter has done a fabulous job with the Skills Certification Program – also utilizing a private group on Facebook for the participants to ask questions and support each other.
- We will add to this the return of the **Annual Meeting & Member Event** – virtually that is – on Saturday, October 24. We are planning a day of fun mixed with business – providing some demos/instruction and business – as we have an election coming up. Stay tuned for more details. ***If you are interested in assisting in planning – let me know, as a committee will start to meet to firm up details.***

Updated Article: Where & How To Buy A CSM

<https://csmkms.org/resources/where-to-find-a-csm/>

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ON THE WEBSITE

- [Board Minutes](#)
- [Learning Resources](#)
- [Newsletter Archive](#)
- [Newsletter Pattern Index](#)
- [Zoom Video Archive](#)

If you have items for the Board to discuss, email Judy Weller at president@csmkms.org.

csmkms.org



Prez Sez, continued

Speaking of elections and society business:

- If you are or know someone who is interested to sit on the board – please contact me with your nomination or request to be put on the ballot. We are in need of a new Board Secretary – if that interests you – let us know. See more below
- If you are interested in serving on a committee – vs on the board, let us know.

I have not gotten a ton of sock cranking done even while sequestered at home. I started the year cranking on something a little larger than a CSM. I made a whirlwind trip to Germany to celebrate my Mom's 85th birthday and took the opportunity to pick up an Addi Express King Size circular knitter. They are quite expensive in the US – and available at about half the cost in Europe and since I was going anyway... long story short, I used it to crank hats for our homeless veterans. We have an annual event, called the VA2K where we collect new and gently used clothing and household items etc. I was able to deliver 50 hats, which was pretty awesome. I know many of you also crank for charity. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Happy Cranking!

Judy Weller, CSKMS President president@cskms.org

CSM Legends and Leaders

Who has inspired and nurtured your CSM journey?

Send your appreciation and praise to newsletter@cskms.org.

We will publicize your gratitude!

Greetings to all our members!

FROM CANDY TERRY, CSKMS SECRETARY

We soon enter the 2020 fall season and are fast approaching the Circular Sock Knitting Machine Society's annual event, on October 24, and election of the 2021 board members.

I encourage members to join the board to help continue our work toward making the CSKMS responsive to our changing needs.

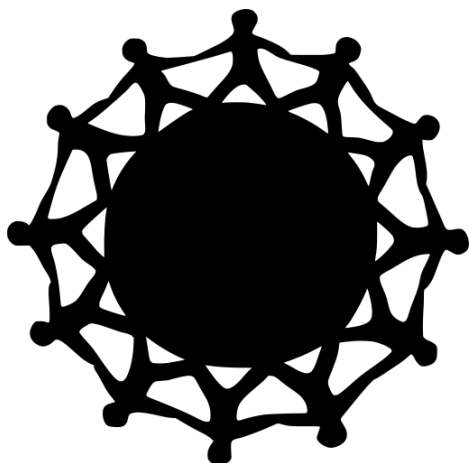
The Secretary position is open for nominations. Secretary duties include attending regular board meetings and documenting board meeting minutes. The Board typically meets monthly, in the evening. We are flexible to accommodate board member schedules.

No experience is required; you will not need rapid typing or dictation skills! Most note taking can be completed during a meeting and is complete when the meeting ends, so there is no need for added work time after the meeting.

Taking minutes begins with a simple outline of the meeting agenda provided by the President. The secretary uses the agenda as an outline to document the meeting details. Typical notes include attendees, discussion topics, motion and vote results, continuation topics, and noting the next meeting date. [See examples on the site.](#)

One of the best parts of being a secretary is the opportunity to listen during the meeting to better understand how a handful of members work together to create a society that remains flexible and able to meet the needs of its members, even in challenging times.

Interested in nominating yourself? Email Michelle Siegenthaler, Vice President, at vp@cskms.org. Questions about the role? Contact me at secretary@cskms.org.



Membership Milestone

Over 600 strong!

As of August 2020, we have 604 members. Since January, membership has increased by more than 10%.

Welcome to all new and returning members!

Treasurer's Report 8/11/2020

Submitted by Sheryl Campbell, Treasurer

Bank Ending Balance 8/10/20	\$5473.38
PayPal Beginning Balance as 7/6/20	\$15050.27
Revenue	
July Memberships	
Patricia Blomgren	\$30.00
Vanessa Wilson	\$30.00
Greg Garver	\$30.00
Connie Cobb	\$30.00
Margo Ketchum	\$30.00
Angelina Rafferty	\$15.00
Jill Jensen	\$30.00
Deborah Rohrbach	\$30.00
Laura Garza	\$15.00
Karen Brown Wheeler	\$30.00
Debbie Thompson	\$30.00
Sheila McLean	\$30.00
Jessica Moore	\$15.00
Lynne Miller	\$30.00
Evergreen	\$15.00
Janet Monahan	\$30.00
Sylvia Gauthier	\$15.00
Vickie Lachney	\$30.00
August Memberships	
Jason Barraclaugh	\$30.00
Adrienne Middlebrooks	\$30.00
Kristine Martin	\$15.00
Susan Moore	\$15.00
Lorene Marsh	\$30.00
Bonnie Hellmann	\$30.00
Carol Hoeckelberg	\$30.00
Caroline Morse	\$30.00
Juliann Klapp	\$30.00
Karanne Gonzalez Harless	\$30.00
Violante Fioravanti	\$30.00
Total	\$765.00
Expenses	
Ravelry	-\$8.31
Zoom	- \$15.83
Debbie Thompson Refund	-30.00
Ravelry	-8.29
<u>PayPal Fees</u>	<u>- \$31.16</u>
Total	- \$93.59

ADVERTISE HERE!

CSKMS members get free ads for their CSM-related businesses. Send your display ad in PNG, JPG, or PDF form to web@cskms.org.

[Click here for more information about ads](#)

WE NEED YOUR HELP...

for a fun and productive Annual Meeting & Member Event. The event is Saturday, October 24.

Email president@cskms.org if you are interested in joining the planning committee.

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

[Join the CSKMS Facebook group.](#)

Skills Certification Program Update

from Kathy Roletter, Member at Large and Past President

Our 2020 beginner class (March 15 - September 15) has about a month to go, and we have six (6) participants (out of 15) who have finished their knitted samples and essay questions, submitted their work, and endured having three judges evaluate their submissions. They all passed!

Despite a fair amount of nervous anticipation (judging from the posts in the private Facebook group), they rose to the challenge with skillfully cranked cast-on bonnets, "test tube" gauge swatches, scarves or cowls, and three pairs of socks (plain hem top, mock-ribbed, and striped). Cranking wasn't everything though—they had to explain in detail such topics as the various parts and the mechanical operation of the sock machine, the determination of tension and stitch/row gauge, managing yarn flow, and the origin and technique of the Kitchener stitch.

The accomplished and certified crankers from this class (so far):

- Dorinda Balanecki (Michigan)
- Kathleen Ducharme (Michigan)
- Kim Kieffer (Indiana)
- Annie Rieck (Illinois)
- Kerry Sheldon (Connecticut)
- Jane Stewart (Ohio)

Congratulations, ladies! You put a lot of study and effort into this work to achieve success, and you have proven your high level of competence in basic cranking skills and CSM knowledge.

As I write this, we also have several other participants with completed work and are in the process of being judged. No doubt, we will be able to report their success in our next update. Even though we planned to end this class mid-September, we are prepared to be generous with time extensions given how the COVID-19 pandemic has upended so many lives over the last few months. So far, only one class member has requested extra time, and several others think they can finish up within the next few weeks.

I want to thank our judges who have given careful attention to details, provided thoughtful feedback and comments, and shipped packages promptly. They have been so reliable and so willing to serve our members in this way! Current judges are Jenny Deters, Rosalyn Keys, Hope Martin, Jamie Mayfield, Sue Vunesky, and Judy Weller.

We hope to have the group all done by the end of October, just in time to start another beginner class in early 2021. If you are interested in being in that certification group, email Kathy Roletter (pastpresident@cskms.org) to be notified when applications open. And yes, we are working on the next level – Intermediate – that will focus on different types of heels and ribbing skills. More on that to come!

Level 1 Certification Program Report

Dorinda Balenecki writes about her experience.

As soon as I heard about the CSKMS Certification Program, I knew I wanted in! I was thrilled to find out I was accepted in the first group of this program.

I am fairly new to CSM knitting. In August of 2018, after lusting for a machine I could afford, I found a rusty crusty old Gearhart. I spent the rest of the summer and fall refurbishing it to a beautiful running machine. At Christmas, I made wonderful lace ornament covers knit on my machine, which I gave to friends and family as gifts. Lots of tubes and gauge swatches were to follow. Fast forward to March 2020, I still had not made a pair of socks! I have made many tubes, heels, toes, and single socks. I studied hard to figure out the tension for each yarn and the correct number of rows to crank to get the best fitting sock for my feet. This info proved to be invaluable for the program.

The program started March 15 2020, just as the state of Michigan, where I live, went into lock down because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Michigan had become the second hotspot after New York City. I thought this is perfect timing, even though I had 6 months to complete, I got right into the program. I thought one project a week would not overwhelm me-at least this was my plan.

The first week I worked on my tension so I could get even stitches throughout and tube. A few tubes in I felt confident enough to make my first project of the set up bonnet. The first bonnet came out ok but my picots looked a little wonky. With my need for perfection, I made another. One project down five more to go!

Samples submitted for Level 1



I worked my way through the next three projects with confidence and ease, while the outside world was in pandemic mode. So I took a step back. And for the next 8 weeks, like so many of us did, I made masks for my family and dear friends. I am still making masks but not as often or as many.

Continued on next page

Level 1 Certification Program Review

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So back to the sock machine I went, in early June, trying to find my notes and remembering all the details I had learned before. I got stuck on the last project, which seemed easy enough but really threw me for a loop! Stripes! Seven, yes SEVEN samples before I was happy with the socks I submitted.



Now remember the only pairs of socks I ever made were the two pair I made for this program! In retrospect I was just WAY overthinking the stripes, I do that a lot. It really was not difficult, it was just different and a very good learning experience. June 23rd, the samples were nervously mailed off to the first judge.

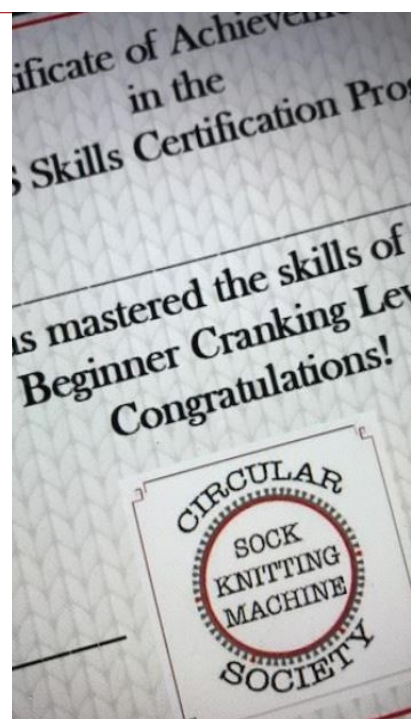
I received my samples back from judging on July 24. I passed! I passed at a “Satisfactory” level. I did not achieve the “Outstanding” level and it was my own fault for not reading the directions more carefully and executing the patterns as written. I had instead made socks I knew I would wear. I am still very pleased with my finished items and very proud that I passed and to part of this program.

A heart felt Thank You to Kathy Roletter for being so thoughtful in creating this program and a thank you to my judges you were very kind.

I loved every minute of this program in learning and accomplishing new skills. The Facebook group was a great help for all of us in the program to chat, share, and yes, commiserate!

I want anyone who is interested to PLEASE sign up!

Dorinda Balanecki - CSKMS Level 1



LEVEL 1 ALUMNI

- Dorinda Balanecki
- Allison Bush
- Zoe Cohen
- Jenny Deters
- Kathleen Ducharme
- Rosalyn Keys
- Victoria Jicha
- Kim Kieffer
- Kim Kulasa
- Hope Martin
- Jamie Mayfield
- Deb Oswald
- Annie Rieck
- Kathy Roletter
- Helene Rudolph
- Michelle Seigenthaler
- Kerry Sheldon
- Pat Sorraço
- Lani Sykes
- Candy Terry
- Debbie Thompson
- Sue Vunesky
- Judy Weller
- Valerie Witherington



Ask Jamie

Howdy CSKMS members! I'm Jamie Mayfield and I'm *not* a self-taught savant machine knitter. In the past 10 years, I've been taught by many wonderful teachers. And I've been schooled by the brand new knitters as well. But here's the thing, I've made every mistake in the book...more than once! I have gotten pretty good at fixing my mistakes, my machine, and maybe a few bad habits. I go around the country teaching, advising and giving lessons, some even travel to my home and get lessons from me.

The pandemic is starting to get to me. Ok, well, it's either that or menopause. Until about a week ago, I thought I could possibly be the only one who has had a great time during quarantine. It's been a 24/7 craft fair for me...like the gates of heaven swung wide open and gave me permission to do nothing but craft (and chores, never ending chores, that's how I know this isn't really heaven). It seems that this week, I have lost focus. Every other post on Facebook is political and I don't care which side you're on, you're bound to be offended. Storms have wreaked havoc on my yard and garden. My niece is terribly ill and we can't go see her because of COVID-19. The news is always so bad that it's hard to remember to positively identify the good things. So....with that being said, all you all who are growing weary of the COVID-19 news and numbers, let's take a deep breath and contemplate. Count some blessings, because even in the darkest of days, there ARE blessings. So, here's my list.

I am thankful for being alive and healthy on this beautiful sunny day as I sit here sharing my feelings, with a view of my pasture and I can see my ponies grazing and my husband and kids...the standard thankfulness, right? But here's something that we can all be thankful for. We are all part of a community of people who are as diverse as any group can be, but we can come together and support each other even when this world is so divided. Think about it, if someone needs help and they post a question, my goodness, look how we all come to their aid. It's pretty awesome if you stop and think about it. Even though some answers to questions are incorrect or not how I would do it, look at the amount of support we have. We are not alone on an island. We don't think twice about leaping in to help. We have each other and that's a pretty big blessing if you ask me. As far as sock machine advice, I did a demo for a fiber arts guild the other day and they had good questions for me....I thought I would share their questions:

How do you set the ribber timing? Well, that's all in how the latches close. Go very slowly and watch the latches close. If you don't know what I am talking about go very slowly until your eyeballs see the needle latches closing. they should close in succession with a steady rhythm. cylinder ribber cylinder ribber cylinder ribber NOT cylinder ribbercylinder cylinder ribbercylinder NOT cylinderribber cylinder cylinderribber

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Ask Jamie, continued

If your rhythm is off, your timing is off. If your timing is off you will need to adjust the screw on top of the tappet plate. "Which way?", you ask. Well, you either screw it in or screw it out. Try both ways and see what makes your timing better.

How do you know if you've dropped a rib stitch? (the most asked question ever) Well, that's all in how the latches open. Whereas on question number one we watched latches close, now we must get our eyeballs to see the latches opening. Go slow and let your eyes get used to watching the latches open. If the ribber needle coming out has a stitch on the needle, the latch will open because when the needle goes out, it slides the latch open. the new yarn lands and the ribber needle goes back in and at the same time closes the latch. If there is no stitch on the needle the latch will not open. Peewee's words ring in my ears: "If the latch opens, the stitch will make". Go slow and train your eyeballs to watch for latches opening. Do not worry, no one is watching you knit so slowly. Soon enough you will knit faster, but you have to crawl before you run, right?

How to I tie off a dropped ribber stitch? If the stitch is dropped in an area that is not where you do the increase/decrease for the heel and toe, all you need to do is open the latch back up, knit slowly until you figure out why that stitch dropped and knit the rest of your sock. When the sock is off of the machine follow the stitch down to the waste yarn after the toe and drop that one stitch, running it all the way back up to the loop that was dropped in the first place. Then latch is up all the way to the toe* and there will be no error at all in your sock. *when you get to the row where the purl stitch turns to a knit stitch, put the loop on the outside of the sock and continue latching.

Well, that's all the advice for this newsletter. I look forward to getting to advise you in the next one.

Remember, you can always take my advice, I'm not using it!

—Jamie

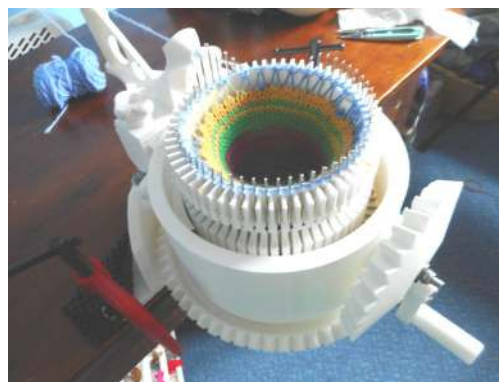
What do you want to know?

Email your questions to jamie@cskms.org.

Ashcroft 3D Printed Circular Knitting Machine Review

BY MARY HAWKINS

Partly due to Lockdown boredom, partly due to curiosity, because it is made in the UK, and could be a useful addition to the Framework Knitters Museum where I volunteer, I ordered a machine in April, and it arrived at the end of June. I chose a 60-slot cylinder, at a package price of £260, which has since gone up to £345, and with the extra shipping would be around \$475 to the States. This machine is made from PLA plus Filament, or Polylactic Acid - a compostable bioplastic derived from plant sugars, and comes with a warning not to leave in direct sunlight. The combined weight of the two packages was just less than 3kg, which includes the weight of 500 grams, so you can tell how lightweight the machine is.



Assembled with a cast on bonnet mounted

The needles are Brother flatbed knitting machine needles cut off below the butts. The hooks on these are slightly larger, so may be useful for knitting two strands of 4ply together if wanting to make dye blank tubes. The needles fit very, very loosely in their slots. If nudged by a sleeve when reaching across to change yarns, for example, the needles readily jump up and the stitch descends below the open latch – every time. Due to the way the needles enter the cam, that would cause a dropped stitch, so it must be picked up over the latch again. This lengthens the time of to and fro, heel turn, or flat web work involving raised needles - a simple elasticated band holds needles up out of work.

The handle has been placed at the front. It is short, and only the forefinger and thumb tend to rest on it. Cranking is easy but a bit clattery/noisy, even after the recommended specialist dry PTFE lubricant was applied (not supplied, and brand name not given, but I can tell you it is made by the WD40 company and easily obtainable. (And it smells awful).

The yarn threader guide is not sufficiently tall enough to allow working from cones if placed on the same table. The tension adjuster for this has again been taken from a flatbed machine and I found the numbers on it irrelevant. Although the cams can theoretically be lowered or raised to alter stitch length, my machine would not tolerate this, and only works at the lowest setting. I eventually found the correct tightness of the yarn adjuster. The standard tube I am getting is very much like a hand knit one on 60 stitches: a gauge of eight (8) stitches per inch and a pleasant feel to the fabric.

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Ashcroft 3D Printed Circular Knitting Machine Review, continued

BY MARY HAWKINS

I had no problem with the rigid cast on basket, then I made a cast on bonnet simply to put the machine through its paces (picot line, turning up a hem). I also later made a cast on bonnet with the picots made every 4th stitch for use in mock rib – see below for further notes.

The cylinder rotates. Therefore, the knitting underneath the machine rotates as well. Two revolutions of the crank handle are need for one turn of the cylinder. I decided to count mentally by “turns” whenever the handle was at the lowest point, and to put a marker thread in every 20 turns.

Changing colours? No problem. Just need to make sure both yarns are behind a single needle, “hugging” the join, and up over the latch and under the hook, so I found the ideal change point was 3 or 4 stitches to the right of top dead centre.

When using my Cymbal machine, I do not re-start after each project but s keep a long line of work going – that machine is rarely empty. On the Ashcroft and using a mock rib start I found this method easier: From an empty machine, remove every other needle and use the mock rib cast on bonnet (which only has 15 loops), placing it on every other needle now left. Work several rounds of waste/scrap yarn, and change to project yarn when handle is at lowest – I call this the change point. For a small hem with mock rib only on the inside, I crank 11 and a half turns, then put needles back into empty slots starting at the 9 o'clock position and working back round to 3 o'clock. I crank another half turn and put the rest of the needles in, then crank 19 and a half turns. The greater number is to balance the mock rib rows, as those stitches will elongate. Then I pick up the hem, which is only half the stitches. It has actually been a delight to be working on a 60-slot cylinder for a change. And I found I could get this hem easily over my foot or hand. This type of hem does not appear in Kathy Roletter's excellent CSM Selvages book, but you may like to try it.



Top of tube with inner mock rib and “automatic” picot edging

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Ashcroft 3D Printed Circular Knitting Machine Review, continued

BY MARY HAWKINS

Heels. After several attempts to knit back and forth and wrap stitches, putting both stitches and wraps back into place inside the hook when putting raised needles back down, I have concluded it is simply not worth the bother. You may find different. There is a growing list of tube knitted items I am adding to on my Ravelry project pages. I have successfully made mittens to fit either hand, Comfort dolls, a Santa sack, tube socks by hand knitting the toes, etc.

Conclusion

I have tried very hard to assess this machine on its own merits and capabilities. Yes, I will keep using it, but probably not for socks and I think that word should be moved from its title, as there is not even a picture of a finished sock in Version 3 of the manufacturer's booklet to encourage you, let alone instructions. 3D printing is one way forward, but there may have to be some design changes from this particular model. This machine will eventually find its way to the museum, but because of the light sensitivity will not be out on the bench alongside its heavier cousins.



This is an abbreviated version of my assessment. I am far more interested in what the machine can knit than what goes on under the cam, and will leave technical comparisons to other people. For a fuller version of these notes email me at maryhawkins1589@gmail.com, and look up my Ashcroft [projects on Ravelry](#) under [MaryTheKnit](#).

Baby Bunting adapted from several Comfort Doll patterns

Web Page Updates on Media & Video links

Help us keep videos fresh and relevant! Our Web team will be updating the CSKMS web pages to make it easier to find the videos that meets your sock cranking needs. YouTube is also updating requirements, and they have new rules to safely and fairly keep our cranking videos free off offensive content.

If you have a YouTube video listed on the CSKMS site: Update your title, subject content, and listing choices on the new YouTube video upload site. Doing so will insure its continued inclusion on the CSKMS site. [See the list of member submitted videos here.](#)

Let's give our Tech team the help they need by updating our YouTube CSM video lessons and demos so we can all benefit from a society web site filled with web pages full of reliable circular sock machine wisdom!

CSKMS Online Submission Forms

CSM Event Submissions

Use the online form to list Regional & Local Events on the site: <https://cskms.org/events/csm-event-submittal-form/>.

Please check your existing events to verify listings are correct and complete: <https://cskms.org/events/>.

Use the form for corrections and additions.

Newsletter Content Submissions

The newsletter is only made possible by content from YOU.

[Use the form](#) to submit:

- Ads
- Articles
*You do not need to be a professional writer.
The newsletter editor can help you!*
- I D E A S
- Patterns
- Photos/Videos
- Tips

Cuff-Down Ribbed Socks

BY KAREN RAMEL

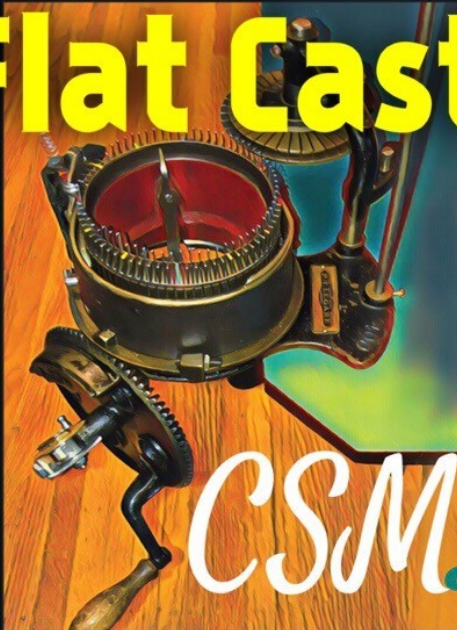
Looking for a detailed tutorial and pattern for a cuff-down ribbed sock?

Description: Sock construction from start to finish using the “No Wrap” heel and toe with ribber needle “park & rest” method, on a 72 slot cylinder/36 slot ribber combination. Same method may be used on other cylinder and ribber combinations.



[Download this step-by-step written pattern](#) and watch the accompanying [video tutorial](#). For more inspiration and detailed tips, [see this Ravelry project](#).

Universal Split-Ring Flat Cast On Bonnets



For sale CAD\$32
(Includes S/H)

Learn more at...
CSM Love.com

karenramel@yahoo.com

Member Bio

CAROL ANNE CALDWELL

Mentor, Ohio

Ravelry name: cckittenknits

Started cranking: 10 years ago

Favorite item to make: Socks and more socks. Love all the colorful yarns.

Favorite yarn: I only bought serenity sock yarn but now I have a stash of opal and regia and some odds and ends of others. Will let you know more when I make more.

Can you knit with sticks? Yes

How did you find out about circular sock machines?

I have had a knitting blog for flat bed machines for years . I made socks on them....but of course, the rib had to be seamed. Then my brother in law bought a sock machine because he wanted to make socks. Well, he tried and then gave up and let it sit for years. I offered to buy it and learned how to knit socks on it. It is an auto knitter

How did you learn to use a CSM?

Reading the manual believe it or not! hahaha

What do you like most about this pastime?

I love socks and have not bought a pair in a store for years. They are fun to make. I love everything about the process including the kitchener stitch to close the toe.

Ribber slot preference: I have thin ankles so always do rib. I just bought the Erlbacher Speedster with the equal dial and have yet to try it. So I can't answer this one yet. :)

Have you attended a crank-in? No

Give your younger self (and new crankers) some advice.

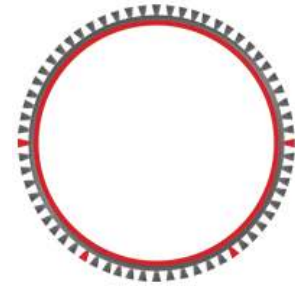
Carol Anne stop filling the house up with yarn and looking at it . Use it up, you can always buy more! And more, and more.

Any pet peeves or turn-ons?

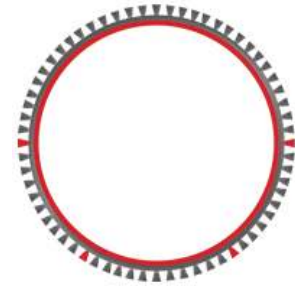
Learning different designs and figuring patterns out is a turn on. So are the beautiful yarns. Turn off, starting the ribbing. I am hoping with my new machine that I will be more successful. Will let you know when I get the ribber on.

Tell us more.

After 30 some years of knitting and 21 bins of yarn in the house, I want to give it up. I bought two new sewing machines and I am loving quilting, especially doing the free motion design when the quilt is finished. I want to focus more on some other crafts I have tried and liked. I would like to focus mostly on quilting and the sock machine. I am retired and I love staying home and keeping busy.



Member Bio



PAMELA CHIANG

Valdosta, GA USA

Ravelry name: pamchiang

Started cranking: Spring 2019

Favorite item to make: Socks

Favorite yarn: Opal

Can you knit with sticks? Yes

How did you find out about circular sock machines?

John C. Campbell Folk School

How did you learn to use a CSM?

Classes with Lucy Best, Eric Wolff, Jamie Mayfield, Erlbacher Homecoming

What do you like most about this pastime?

Being able to give socks away

Ribber slot preference: Equal

Have you attended a crank-in? Yes

Give your younger self (and new crankers) some advice.

A closed latch = a dropped stitch. Be patient with yourself, your skills will come with time and practice.

Any pet peeves or turn-ons?

Pet-peeve - knots in a cone of yarn. Turn-on - learning a new skill.

Tell us more.

CSM crankers have been so helpful and generous with their time helping newbies. Erlbacher's staff at Homecoming were patient and knowledgeable. Getting past being afraid of my machine was my biggest hurdle but once there, the process went much smoother. I turned out 300 pairs of socks in about nine months when I first learned to crank and gave them all away. Now I try to crank a pair a week to keep my skills but also hand-knit, do some spinning, and weave lots of towels. Only a couple of other people I know knit. And as if that were not weird enough, the other fiber skills probably put me in the class of super-strange. But to have some of the same skills as fiber folks long, long ago feels very special.

Member Bio

LARRY GRIFFITH

Provence, France

Started cranking: 2018

Favorite item to make: Ribbed socks

Favorite yarn: Opal

Can you knit with sticks? I plead the 5th.

How did you find out about circular sock machines?

My wife has one

How did you learn to use a CSM? From my wife

What do you like most about this pastime? Making socks

Ribber slot preference: Equal

Have you attended a crank-in? Yes

MARC TRUDEL

Montreal, Québec, canada

Ravelry name: Marctrudel63

Started cranking: Jun-19

Favorite item to make: Socks

Favorite yarn: Anna Fisher

Can you knit with sticks? Yes

How did you find out about circular sock machines?

By a friend who is doing It

How did you learn to use a CSM? Youtube

What do you like most about this pastime?

Fun and fast but can be very frustrating

Ribber slot preference: I don't rib.

Have you attended a crank-in? Yes

Give your younger self (and new crankers) some advice.

Have some real class... and a magazine

Tell us more.

I found easier toe up ...

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The Sock Machine Circular is a quarterly publication that supports community building and education. And the “Member Spotlight” section lets other CSKMS members get to know you—especially if you can’t attend a crank-in.

Let us know what you think of the new member bio section. Email newsletter@cskms.org with questions or comments.

FILL OUT A [MEMBER BIO QUESTIONNAIRE!](#)



Member Bio

JANET J ROBERSON

Mounds Illinois (USA)

Ravelry name: JanetJ54

Started cranking: i just stated still learning

Favorite item to make: if i could make socks it would be a plain socks

Favorite yarn: hand dyed self stripping yarn

Can you knit with sticks? Yes

How did you find out about circular sock machines?

Watching a Podcast

How did you learn to use a CSM?

still trying to learn to use it.

What do you like most about this pastime?

It would be great if I could knit socks on it.

Ribber slot preference: I don't rib.

Have you attended a crank-in? No

Give your younger self (and new crankers) some advice.

Learn about the csm and how to use it sooner.

Tell us more.

My goal is to learn how to crank socks and make socks for my whole family. Which is a lot. Also to attend a Crank In, and meet other CSM users.



Cast-On Bonnets

54, 60, 64, 72, 80
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Kathy Roletter
kr2409@gmail.com



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Contact Mollie O'Neal
mollie@myninestar.net

Member Bio

CONNIE VAIL

Neodesha, Kansas

Ravelry name: clvail

Started cranking: 1998

Favorite item to make: Socks, Xmas Ornaments, dolls

Favorite yarn: Anything I can knit!!!!!!

Can you knit with sticks? Yes

How did you find out about circular sock machines?

I belong to an antique tractor/equipment club and one of the other members had an old LeGare and a Gearhart he had purchased for his mom before she passed away. He was looking for someone to use them to demo. I bought my first machine, a Canadian Auto Knitter.

How did you learn to use a CSM?

Self taught until attending crank-ins and learning from online videos etc.

What do you like most about this pastime?

I am retired now so I stay busy. I make gifts and demo at our Old Iron Club Show where we have about 2000 students visit each year as well as we are open to the public. I also demo at other places occasionally.

Ribber slot preference: I have both.

Have you attended a crank-in? Yes

Give your younger self (and new crankers) some advice.

Get to know the parts of your machine and learn how it works. Don't get in a hurry to make your first pair of socks. Practice heels and toes before trying to make socks. Don't be afraid to ask for help. The CSM community is a wealth of knowledge.

Tell us more.

My family keeps me busy. I have 7 grandchildren. I help with 4-H projects, judge fairs and Club Days. I crochet, cross stitch, knit, tat, some beginning bobbin lace and just about anything else that pops up for fiber arts

LOOKING for CSKMS SWAG?

Find it at the CSKMS CafePress shop: <https://www.cafepress.com/cskms!>

For every item purchased, the CSKMS gets a small commission. We use those funds to help offer grants and services to members. So we think you should go shopping right now for all your cranking friends. Find t-shirts, totes, aprons, notion bags, mugs, water bottles, key rings, car magnets, buttons, and charms to use as stitch markers.

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Newsletter Pattern Index on the Website

Find a [searchable and sortable index of patterns and techniques](#) that have been published in our newsletters .The index includes the pattern category, author, and link to the newsletter. Note that this is a members-only benefit. Here's a listing of the patterns and techniques, to date.

ACCESSORIES

CSM Pouches

Drawstring Bags

Hand Warmers

I-Cord Nametag

Knit Bag (Purse)

Mary's Cast-On Beret and String Bag

CSM ACCESSORIES

Cast-On Bonnet with Weight Stack Ring

Cast-On Sack with I-Cord Tie

Portable Stand for CSMs

Weight Stack Cozy

HATS

Baby Hats: Dolls, Preemies, Newborns

Child's Toque

Newborn Hat Pattern

Snow Beanie

HOME

CSM Checkerboard Afghan

Pincushion from Heels

Water Bottle Cozy

SOCKS

Beaded Valentine Socks

Bubble Stitch

Cuff-Down 3 & 1 Mock Rib Sock Pattern

Curly-Que Panel Socks (Lace)

Heel-less One Size Really Does Fit All Socks

Hung Hem Sock Step-by-Step Directions

Lace Heart Socks

Lemonade Socks

My Favorite Sock - Scalloped Selvedge

Ribbed Socks Step-By-Step

Shortie Sox with Ribbed Hung Hem

Shortie Sox with Ribbed Hung Hem

Shortie Sox with Ribbed Hung Hem - Revised for Multiple Cylinders

Sock Blanks for Beginners

TECHNIQUES

Band Heel

Cord Stitch

Cranking Lace 101

Emergency Cast-On Trick

Felting Socks

Felting Socks

Gauge Matters

Get Your Crank ON! (Checklist)

Herring Bone Stitch

Kitchener Stitch

Lattice Stitch

Ruffled Selvedge on a 3/1 Ribbed Cuff

Swatching for Gauge

TOY

Gus the Cat

The CSM Cookbook



12 checklist style patterns
and more for your circular
sock machine

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2019-2020 Board of Directors

With the new specialized Board positions, it is easier for you to direct questions and feedback about the [Newsletter](#), [Membership](#), and [Website](#).

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Crank In Resources

Do you know about the CSKMS Grant Program?

Grants are just one way we are here to support you and the growing CSM community. Find detailed information about grants for local events on the website:

- [Grant application requirements](#)
- [Grant application form](#)

Get Packed for An Event

[Download a Crank In Checklist \(PDF\)](#)

Organizer's Planning Manual

A planning and operations manual for organizing a local or regional crank-in is in development.

Email web@cskms.org if you have suggestions or questions.

Need a Zoom Meeting?

Request a Zoom online video conference for a virtual crank-in or to facilitate organizing your event.

Email info@cskms.org with your meeting dates.



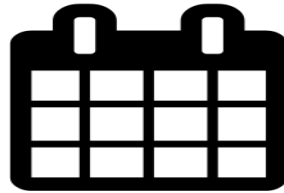
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Email Judy Weller at president@cskms.org if you are interested in serving on the planning committee.

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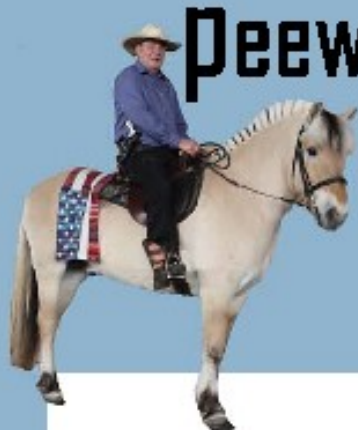
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