

collaborate with other designers, sample knitters, test knitters and more retailers worldwide as well. Quite a lot to get on with...

What do you most enjoy knitting?

I love experimenting on new designs and how to manipulate colour in them. I try to work simultaneous contrast into my designs: that the appearance of a colour is affected by its neighbour. I'm currently working on a new 3D design which is complex and slow to work through, but very rewarding.

What's on your needles right now?

I've designed a new beginners' pattern to work with *Colour Theory*, my gradient triangle. It involves using lots of colour, but only working with one yarn at a time in garter stitch so that you can enjoy the softly changing gradient without having to think about intarsia or stranding. This is great TV knitting, if you're comfortable with garter stitch, so I'm really enjoying knitting up this sample.

What do you love about knitting?

I love how it's so creative, therapeutic and yet useful. To be able to wear something truly exceptional that you've actually made – wow! I love the germ of an idea, thinking through colour palettes that are mostly influenced by colours in nature, and then thinking about stitch patterns to enhance the colours. It really does tick all the boxes.

What do you do when you're not working or knitting?

I walk my ex-racer greyhound on Wimbledon Common, watching the seasons pass by. I get a lot of inspiration from really observing nature and the weather. I spend time with my family and friends. I play a lot of chamber music and also play in a great orchestra. When I ever have a little extra time, I love spending time in the garden, encouraging bees and insects, providing for birds.

What are your top tips for readers to become better knitters?

Invest time in getting your tension consistent between different stitches, for example with stocking stitch, take time to match up your knit and purl gauge. Knit yourself a simple stocking stitch dishcloth by casting on a number of stitches and begin knitting a square. After a few rows, have a look and see whether the rows are neat and even, or whether there are alternating rows that seem a bit tighter than the others. Trace back to see whether that's a purl or knit row and try to loosen your tension.

How? Pay attention to how you're holding your working yarn. If you wrap it around a finger and your tension is too tight, try not wrapping it around your finger. Start to notice what it is you're doing that makes that working yarn tight, and try to loosen it. Conversely you may want to tighten your gauge, so you can play around with how to hold the working yarn to introduce tension.

Having a consistent tension will allow you to create uniform fabric. For example, if you've been knitting stocking stitch in the round, and you then have to work some short rows or knit back and forth for a bit, it will be even and no-one will be any the wiser that you've been purling.

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