

THE KNITTING GUILD ASSOCIATION

Master Knitting Programs

Hand Knitter, Advanced Beginner Level 1

REGISTRATION

Membership in The Knitting Guild Association (TKGA) is required in order to purchase the instructions and submit materials for the Master Knitting programs.

Call 1-740-452-4541 to join TKGA (\$25) and/or to purchase the Master Hand Knitting Program, Advanced Beginner, Level 1 (\$30).

Or, if you have Internet access, go to <http://www.tkga.com>, click on “Join/renew today”, fill in the information requested and say “I’d like to join TKGA and start to receive *Cast On Magazine*”. Scroll down and check the Master Hand Knitting Program, Advanced Beginner, Level 1 (\$30).

To view information about the program before signing up, go to the www.tkga.com page, click on “Association” on the left hand side, then on “Education”. Scroll down under “Master Knitting Programs – Hand and Machine Knit” and “Programs Available” and move your mouse so the arrow hovers above the words “Hand Knit – Advanced Beginner , Level 1 \$30”. A little red box will pop up on the right hand side with a brief description, and a place to click which says “Buy Now”, which brings up the order form to join and/or purchase the program.

GETTING STARTED

The package arrives in the mail with a set of instructions and a copy of “Standards and Guidelines for Crochet and Knitting”. Look at the revision date in the lower left hand corner of your instructions. If you take longer than a year from that date to submit your Level 1 materials, you will need to contact TKGA for an updated set of instructions in case some changes have been made. They will send them right out to you at no additional charge. I’ve done that twice now, and they’re very nice about it.

Make a copy of the instructions before you start writing on them or get them all bent up. You’ll need to submit a copy of the instructions along with your other materials, so you might as well make the copy right away and file it in your notebook.

RESOURCES

TKGA's Member's Only page

After you've become a member of TKGA, you can go to the "Members Only" section (click on the link on the left-hand side of TKGA's home page) to access "On Your Way to the Masters, Article Archives", which include:

- Pattern Writing (spring 2004)
- Why an Argyle Sock (winter 2003/2004)
- By Hand, a personal testimony (fall 2003)
- Focus on Fantastic (on photographing your knits) (summer 2003)
- Those Pesky Yarn Tails (spring 2003)
- Tension Problems (fall 2002)
- On-line Resources (winter/spring 2002)
- Choosing Your Yarn: Getting the Right Weight (summer 2002)

You will need to have Adobe Acrobat installed on your computer in order to read these files. If you don't already have it, you can download it for free using the button at the bottom of the TKGA Members Only page.

The log in i.d. and password for the Members Only page are printed on the front of your TKGA membership card, or maybe you can ask nicely and they'll tell you over the phone after you've paid for your membership.

Back issues of *Cast On Magazine*, from which these articles have been taken, are available for \$6.95 (includes shipping and handling).

TKGA Message Board

There's an on-line forum at TKGA's website, which you can get to by clicking on the button that says "Message Board" on their home page. You'll have to register to post anything, but you can read past messages without joining. Look for the forum called "Master Knitting Program".

Flory

Flory is one of the judges for the TKGA Master Knitting Program. You can access her website at www.geocities.com/akstadt. Click on "So you want to be a Master Knitter?" for some great hints and reassurances.

Masterknit-usa

There is an on-line forum called www.Masterknit-usa. This is a Yahoo Group – you'll have to join Yahoo Groups to access it, but that's free. The Masterknit-usa site is not affiliated with TKGGA, but at least one of the TKGGA judges answers questions.

To access Masterknit-usa, go to www.groups.yahoo.com. On the left, click to register or to sign in if you're already a member of Yahoo groups. The registration form is fairly clear, with helpful instructions on the right hand side.

Under "Join a group", type "masterknit" in the space and hit enter or click on "Search". Choose masterknit-usa. There'll be a box in the upper right hand corner that says "Join this group". You may have to sign in or re-enter your password.

On the "Edit my Membership" page, I strongly recommend you select "Daily digest" if you want to receive the messages that are submitted by other members. You'll get fewer e-mails that way, with a bunch of messages bundled into one package instead of a separate mailing for each message. You can choose "No email" if you just want to access the archives when you need to.

After editing your membership, there will be a big button to click to go to the masterknit-usa home page, or you can always click on the "Home" button on the upper left hand side of the page.

To search the archives, enter something in the space under "Message History", and press enter or click "Search".

Knitty

This is a free on-line knitting magazine, with patterns, essays and technique articles. To find it, go to www.Knitty.com. All of the past issues are accessible by clicking "archive" at the top of the page.

There is an on-line forum for a TKGGA Master Knitter knit-along which you can access by clicking on the word "coffeeshop" at the top of the page. Scroll down to "The Knitty" and click on "Knitalongs". Click on "TKGA KAL" (KAL stands for knit-along). You can read what others have written, but you have to register with a user name and password in order to post anything yourself. It appears to be more chit-chat than helpful, but that may change over time.

Handknitter

That's me! I'm hosting a TKGGA Level 1 knit-along on my weblog, and trying to keep a running record of my efforts at completing the Level 1 program. There hasn't been much going on so far, but I hope to change that now that I'm hosting a knit-along where knitters actually get together in person to work on their submissions.

You can access my weblog (or "blog") with www.handknitter.sarahpeasley.com, then click on the button on the top left that says "TKGA Level 1 Archives".

Master Knitters Webring

A weblog is like an on-line journal. A webring is a series of weblogs with a common characteristic. There's a Master Knitters webring which you can access by going to www.ringsurf.com/netring?ring=twocats;action=list.

As I write this, there are ten blogs listed in the Master Knitters webring, most of whose owners are working on their Master Knitting submissions (one of the sites is Flory's – see above). Click on any one of the listed sites to view them. There will be lots of other information, as these are personal (but for public viewing) journals of each knitter's work.

On each blog, you should find some text (usually on the left- or right-hand side of the page, in the area called the "sidebar") that says "Master Knitters Ring". If you click "Prev" or "Next" under that, you'll automatically go to the previous or next blog in the webring.

Other sites

This knitter successfully completed Levels 1 and 2, and posted the acceptance letters she received from the committee:

www.angelfire.com/wi/clayjar7/acknowledge.html

Knitter's Review Forums – go to www.knittersreview.com, then click on "Forums" at the top of the page. I did a "Search" on "TKGA" and found a few entries – maybe there will be more later.