

Knitting Challenge 2019



The Guild encourages all machine knitters to use their knitting machines to be creative, both to develop their own individual style in design and also in the way they adapt patterns written by others. The Judges will be looking for this as much as technical ability.

The Knitting Challenge this year is slightly different. It doesn't matter what the item is, which machine you use, the colour you choose or whether you use merino or 2/30 acrylic. The choice is yours. But...

You only need one! We want you to knit one item on one machine in one shade of one yarn.

(For items only usable in pairs – for example, a pair of gloves or socks – the pair is one item. If in doubt, please ask!)

Depending on who you are and what you submit, you may be eligible for one or more of the following:

- A **garment of your own design** is eligible for the **GMK Award**. It may be for an adult, child or baby. You can use built-in patterns and pre-punched punchcard designs or design your own. You must calculate the stitches, rows and shaping yourself, and you may use accessories such as a charting device or computer programme such as DAK.
- A **garment from a published pattern** (please send a scan or photograph of the pattern with the entry) is eligible for the **Fiskerton Trophy**. You must work from any published pattern for an adult, child or baby garment. You may add little touches, but the pattern must not be altered substantially.
- A **wearable item that is not a garment** (such as a scarf, tie, gloves, jewellery or hat) is eligible for the **Silver Cup**. This can be your own design or knitted from a pattern (see above).
- A **non-wearable item** is eligible for the **Alison Lee Award**. Anything not classed as 'wearable' counts, including bags, blankets, cushion covers, children's toys, book covers, mats, wall hangings, decorations, sculptures, flight-of-fancy or machine-knitted art. At least 75% must be machine-knitted.
- If you are a **member of the Guild**, you are eligible for the **Creativity Cup**. This is awarded to a creative entry that demonstrates good use of the stitch structures that can be achieved on a knitting machine together with good finishing techniques and presentation while working within the criteria.
- If you are a **member of the Guild entering for the first time**, you are eligible for the **Long Buckby Award**. This is awarded to an entry showing the highest standard of workmanship and presentation. (Note: The same entry cannot win both the **Creativity Cup** and the **Long Buckby Award**.)

Judging: Three Judges will be chosen from College/University Tutors, Designers, previous winners and qualified machine knitters/assessors known to us. In all cases, the Judges will be looking for:

- creativity – innovative use of yarn, patterning, decoration (max 25 points)
- finish and tension, including the suitability of the yarn for the item and its purpose – style of finish including seams and ends, blocking/pressing, suitable and even tension, weight and type of yarn for the style and purpose of the item (max 25 points)
- presentation and visual appeal – neatness, good use of stitch type, design features (max 20 points)
- choice of techniques – suitability and combination of patterning and finishing (max 15 points)
- degree of difficulty – taking into account the length of time you have been knitting (max 15 points)

Please do not attach any identification or labels to your entry. **The Judges' decision is final.**

Closing date for submission of entries: **Friday 3rd May 2019.**

Please **send your entry** to: Guild of Machine Knitters 2019 Challenge c/o Alison Peck, 48 Elm Avenue, Sandiacre, Nottingham, NG10 5EJ

The results will be announced, and all entries displayed, at the 2019 National Guild Day and AGM. They can then be collected from the AGM venue, returned by post or donated to a nominated charity of our choice. For postal returns, enclose a cheque/postal order or stamps to cover return postage.

We regret that we cannot forward Cups and Awards to overseas winners; however, certificates and prizes will be forwarded where practical and suitable.

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Please submit this form with your entry. (Use one form per entry – photocopies accepted)

Please do not attach any identification or labels to your entry. There is no entry fee. (Please print clearly)

Name: _____ Guild Membership No: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

How many years (in total) have you been machine knitting? _____

This is the first time I have entered the challenge I have entered the challenge before

About your entry:

Tick the appropriate box then complete everything else. You may be eligible for more than one award.

I designed the item myself. Tell us how... Did you use a charting device, some software or some other way of calculating? Did you use built-in or pre-punched patterns or design your own stitch pattern? Tell us something about the expected use of the item. For example, who is it for?

I followed a pattern. Tell us what pattern you used. Include the publication and issue, designer, or other identifying information. Don't forget to send a copy (photocopy, scan or photograph) of the pattern.

Tell us more (see above): _____

Machine used (make, model, with/without ribber): _____

Yarn used (composition, thickness, brand if known – for example, 100% acrylic 2/30) _____

Techniques used _____

(If you need more space, please use a plain piece of paper, or write on the reverse.)

I will **collect** my entry/my entry will be **collected by**...../please **post back/donate** to a charity nominated by the Guild. (Complete/delete as appropriate)

I agree that my entry may be exhibited and that my name and a photograph of the entry placed in Guild publications, on the Guild website and in other material used to promote the Guild (printed or online).

Signature **Date**

Closing date for submission of entry: **Friday 3rd May 2019**

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Remember to enclose sterling cheque/postal order/stamps to cover the return postage costs for your entry if it is to be posted back to you. If sent separately, please clearly indicate your name and address so that we can match it to your entry. Please make cheques payable to '**Guild of Machine Knitters**'.

PLEASE NOTE: Cups and Awards cannot be forwarded to overseas winners.