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Bond Buzz, Issue #42

January 17, 2008

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Welcome to another issue of Bond Buzz!

What with all the storms barreling across the country, I'm sure there are lots of you who have barricaded yourselves in your homes (until it's time to take out the shovels and snow blowers). But there IS an upside to this time of year – loads of time to knit!

Sharing

I encourage you, our readers, to [write to me](#) with your variations on a stitch featured in any of the Buzz issues. Or stitches you've come up with. I'd love to post photos of your projects in upcoming Buzz's. With this being the 42nd issue (can you believe it?!?), I'd love to do more sharing through this newsletter.

Friendship Shawls . . .

In keeping with the new [Friendship Shawls project](#) of the Craft Yarn Council, I thought it might be nice if Bond/USM owners had a Friendship Shawl too (the ones on www.friendshipshawl.org are hand knitted or crocheted only). So for this month's free project, our friend, Kathy Perry, has designed one with just enough lace to keep you interested but not enough to slow you down.



[Click here for free instructions](#)

Learn Online . . .

Did you know there is now a complete video library on www.bond-america.com? If you don't have your VCR or DVD player handy but you do have your computer or hand-held in your knitting room, you can now download video sections of the instructional video that comes with your machine.

Tips and Techniques . . .

I was going through some of my old (no, ancient) issues of Keyplate News, Bond and Beyond, Bond (UK) newsletter and other machine publications to list what I'd like to feature this year and came upon this very interesting way of combining the Fair Isle technique with a tuck (lift-up, as if you were making a hem) stitch. Let's call the stitch "Fair Isle Tuck Ridge Stitch" for lack of a better word. It's actually what you're not supposed to do when working

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traditional Fair Isle patterning. For the Fair Isle Tuck Ridge, you will want long floats that you do not catch in on the second row. As you'll see, the floats become "filler" for the ridge.

This stitch would be great on borders of baby blankets, edgings of kids' sweaters, purses and, as shown below, glovelets (not sure that's a word, but it describes long gloves that are minus the fingers).

For this technique, it's fastest to do using a [3-prong transfer tool](#) and you'll want a couple [claw weights](#). But it's really easy to do and gives you lots of opportunities.

For those of you who have not yet done a hem, now's a good time to review your video or DVD or book, as we'll start from that point, after doing the hem.

Note that the actual pattern for the glovelets will follow the technique description directly below. The glovelets are knitted from the cuff to the palm. They are knitted in one piece until the side shaping, then the back and front are knitted separately. And the Plum Heather color would coordinate beautifully with the [Friendship Shawl!](#)

With MC, knit number of rows in st st as called for in pattern. Work Fair Isle Tuck ridge:

Counting in from both side edges, bring forward needles #10 & 11: 4 ndls in HP. Note you can position the Fair Isle sts wherever you like as long as there is at least 8 sts separating each Fair Isle group.

With Color A, knit row 1.

With Color B, manually knit the Fair Isle sts.



[click to enlarge](#)

Catch in the end of the float at each end by looping the yarn around the last needle.



[click to enlarge](#)

Continue in Fair Isle until there are a total of 4 rows. They should look like the above.



Starting from the LHS, insert the 3-prong tool into the far



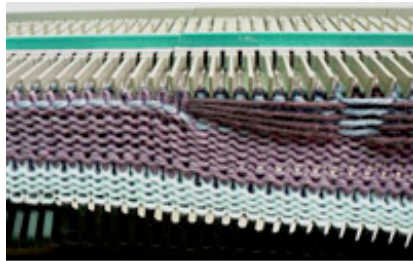
[click to enlarge](#)

left 3 sts from the last row of the MC (so the bumps you pick up with the tool are in the MC) and release them onto their respective needles above. Note you may need a claw weight to hold down the sts to the LHS.



[click to enlarge](#)

As you continue lifting the sts across the row, you will see how the floats from the previous 4 rows are enclosed.



[click to enlarge](#)

Continue across the row. About half way across, your knitting should look something like this.

When the ridge row (actually 4 rows) has been completed, with MC, knit the number of rows required until the next Fair Isle Tuck Ridge. Tip: vary the colors you use for the ridge and Fair Isle sts for a more interesting look.

GLOVELETS

SIZE

One Size

MATERIALS

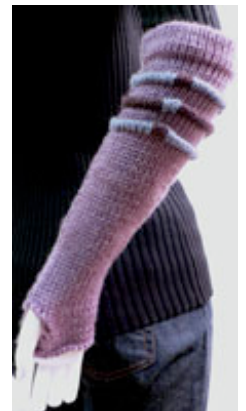
[Caron's Simply Soft® Heather](#) (5 oz/142 gr skeins, 100% acrylic):
1 skein each Plum Heather #9505, Denim Heather #9504, Deep Plum Heather #9506.

GAUGE

Using KP #2 in st st: 17 sts & 23 rows = 4"

Glovelet (make 2, reversing shaping for second)

1. WY CO 40 sts.

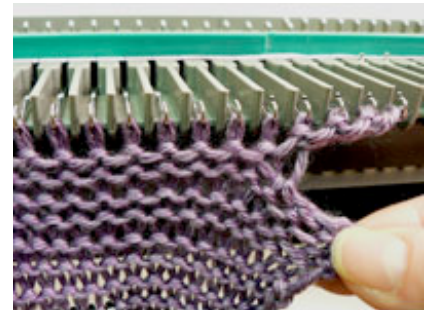


[click to enlarge](#)

2. K 4 R. Break off.
3. With MC, K 10 R.
4. Form hem by lifting up sts of first row MY to respective needles in WP as for technique description above.
5. RC = 0.
6. K 6 R.
7. Using Colors A & B, work Fair Isle Tuck Ridge as described above.
8. RC = 0.
9. Repeat Steps 6-8, reversing the placement of Colors A & B.
10. Repeat Steps 6-8 as described.
11. K 10 R.
12. RC = 0.
13. COR. Push all ndls on LHS up to HP. Use 2-3 claw weights to hold down knitting as you work. Place a marker at both ends of work.
14. K 2 R.
15. Dec 1 st each end of sts in WP.
16. K til RC = 18.
17. Repeat shaping of sides: 16 sts.
18. K til RC = 34. COR.

Shape thumb opening:

1. BO 4 sts, then e-wrap them again to cast on. Push these sts into FWP.
2. K 1 R. COL.
3. Hang claw weight onto sts cast on.
4. K 6 R.
5. BO in backstitch.
6. Remove these sts from machine.
7. Push ndls on LHS back to FWP.
8. Shape as for side just completed, but form thumb opening on LHS of bed.



[click to enlarge](#)



[click to enlarge](#)



[click to enlarge](#)

Here are photos of the unfinished gloves, both the right side and wrong side so you can see the Fair Isle Tuck Ridge off the machine.

Finishing: Sew side seam to marker, then sew front to back at sides. Tip: when seaming the one side (to marker) then both side seams, rather than enclosing a full stitch when doing

the invisible or mattress stitch, just enclose half of the stitch. This will make for a flatter seam.

Rwanda Knits . . .

For those of you keeping up with the [Rwanda Knits](#) project, I'm heading over again this Friday to help the knitting groups register as for-profit knitting cooperatives, demonstrate a new lace ruffle technique and meet with officials who can help the groups in registering. Three groups have already registered, a long and challenging process, so we'll also be throwing them a party. The women have been working hard knitting and I'll be sure to share with you photos of what they've been making. We're also taking a couple days "off" and traveling to one of Rwanda's national parks, Akagera, where (I've been told) we will see giraffes, hippos, rhinos, antelope and other safari-type animals I've only seen in zoos.

Happy Knitting!



Cari Clement
[Bond America](#)

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