

In a twist!

Views from the knitting front line. This month: CABLE KNITTING

Sandra Hill is one of the braidy bunch

I love to knit cables – I could go on about them for hours and not get bored... You should see my husband's eyes glazing over!

Cable designs are so versatile and look great on everything from hats and scarves to chunky winter jumpers. I love the way the stitches appear to twist around themselves, especially on an intricate pattern where there are several cables crisscrossing your work.

Traditionally cables have called for neutral tones, but I've just started a gorgeous RYC cabled cardi in a lovely pale lilac yarn. It really suits the pattern and shows how you can update a long-established technique with colour.

Plus, the person who invented the cable needles with a bend in the middle deserves a medal as it's made the process so much easier. I used to get pretty fed up when my straight needles repeatedly slipped from the stitches at a crucial point of the pattern. I just knew they were doing it on purpose.

If you haven't tried cables before, stick with it. It often takes two or three pattern repeats before you can really see the textures coming through. Once you've mastered the technique I guarantee you'll be hooked.

My most recent knitting purchase has been a couple of knitting stitch books. They contain an amazing variety of cable patterns and I'm itching to get started on them. I particularly like the idea of using cables on furnishings and am planning a couple of cushions with cable panels on them out of some left over yarn that was used for... yes, a cable jumper! The only danger there is that I might disappear into the cushions when I'm wearing the jumper. Still at least I'd be left alone to get on with my knitting!



But Stephanie Mann is at cross purposes

This year I have learned how to knit both socks and lace. For this reason, I believe I am exempt from learning how to do anything else new; namely cables. I don't think I could put my hamster through another round of swearing just yet.

There are other reasons cables don't appeal. They don't suit me for one, as they make me look, ahem, 'chesty'. Not a good look. I won't recount how I found this out, but believe me – *I just know*.

Therefore, I will not be tempted by the great cardigan pattern I found in a recently published book.

Secondly, cables are traditionally the stalwart of many a cricketing jumper.

Despite my other half regularly playing cricket in the summer and owning a couple of cricket jumpers, he has no interest in me knitting him a new one. And quite frankly, in me knitting him anything at all. So there goes that idea.

Thirdly, if I was even considering having a go at cables, the only way I would consider them is if they were part of some small item, say, a sock or a pair of gloves. However, I get impatient enough, faffing about with a killion needles (ok, three), without worrying about taking another section and adding even more needles to the equation. My hand-eye coordination is not good and this convinces me that this would not be a fruitful exercise and so would waste valuable other-knitting-stuff time.

And finally, I suppose I am being a bit of a scaredy cat. It looks too complicated, and, like making sushi, wearing high heels and taking up kickboxing, I think it'll be one of those things I appreciate other people can do but I'm too intimidated to try. Unless someone comes up with a really good reason for me not to be...

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON PLUNTER



Do you agree or disagree with our knitters? Email katiea@thegmcgroup.com