

Machine knitting with Worsted Wool

We were delighted that Trish Vickers, a machine knitter with years of experience, volunteered to test out our worsted wool. We sent her some Medium 1 (9.5/2) yarn and she ran it through several machine knitting processes. Here is her summary:

“When I started I had high hopes because it went through the machine really well, no twisting or anything. It seems the best weight for a standard gauge machine; just one end knitted well at a fairly standard tension.

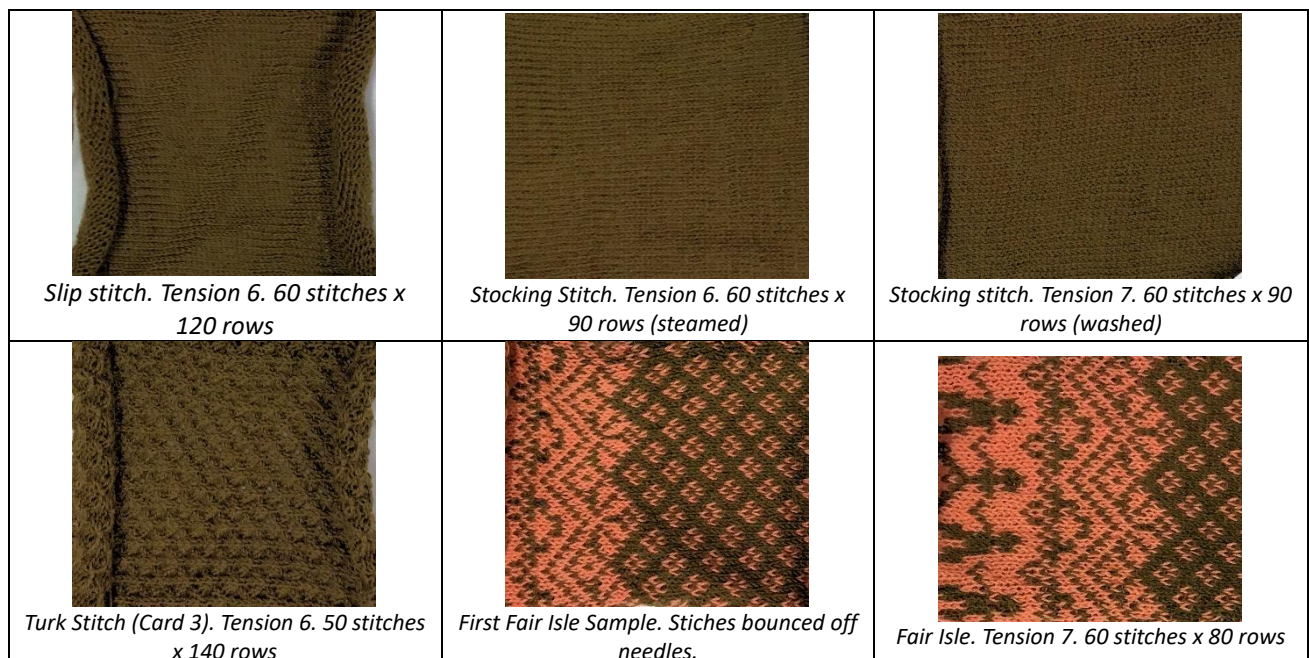
The plain stocking stitch looked fine although it was very hard to the touch. When I got on to the textured pieces it really held the texture. It reminded me of the work of Alison Ellen who, I believe, gets her yarn specially spun for her. The springiness (new technical expression!) really showed off the texture.

The Fair Isle sample took several attempts for exactly the same reason, but not in a good way. The fabric kept bouncing off the needles and it took a lot of weights to keep it on the machine.

When I tried to steam the pieces it just didn't work; I couldn't get the samples to flatten at all despite having a steam generator iron.

I tried to knit another stocking stitch sample at a looser tension and washed it, but it just collapsed and lost all its bounce.

I really can't see the yarn being suitable for garments, but it would be good for non-wearables for example accessories and furnishings. The way it holds texture is the best bit about it.”



Above are the photos of her samples. We really appreciate Trish’s assessment of our worsted wool as a machine knitting yarn – it adds to our better understanding of how it can be used to best effect. This information will be uploaded to our Knowledge Zone>Knitting page for future reference.