

Below are a selection of swatches of stitch-hacking and re-knitting techniques that can be used to add detail to knitted garments, or to repair damage such as stains or holes.



A Swiss darning swatch



Needle felting onto knitted wool to cover holes



Swiss darning can be used to add design details



Crocheted flowers add detail to revive knitwear



Needle felting onto knitted wool to cover holes



The front of needle-felted stripes on knitted fabric



Swiss darning can be used to create pictures as well as cover stains or holes



A knitted patch can be inserted to add colour or mend a hole

We were very inspired by the work of Amy Twigger Holroyd. You can find out more about her work online at: [amytwiggerholroyd.com](http://amytwiggerholroyd.com)

On the Reknit Revolution website you can find detailed instructions for how to:

Replace cuff: [reknitrevolution.org/replace-cuff](http://reknitrevolution.org/replace-cuff)

Stitch-Hack: [reknitrevolution.org/stitch-hack](http://reknitrevolution.org/stitch-hack)

Cardiganise: [reknitrevolution.org/cardiganise](http://reknitrevolution.org/cardiganise)



## Designing a Sensibility for Sustainable Clothing



(De)Constructive/(Re)Constructive Knitting





## S4S – DESIGNING A SENSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CLOTHING

**'S4S – Designing a Sensibility for Sustainable Clothing'** is a ground breaking collaborative research project funded by the **Arts and Humanities Research Council**. It is co-hosted by academics from the Department of Politics at the **University of Exeter's** Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) in Penryn and the Fashion Department of the School of Art at the **University of Wolverhampton** in the West Midlands.

The **collaboration** has involved **community spaces, NGOs, local clothing brands, local designers and crafts people, film-makers and members of the public**. Between February and October 2018, it engaged **fifty members** of the public in **Cornwall** and the **West Midlands** in a series of **workshops** making fabric, and making, mending and modifying clothes.

A range of **innovative social science and arts methodologies** have been used to explore whether these **workshops** have **encouraged people to think, feel and act more sustainably in relation to clothing**. This set of leaflets shows a snapshot of the processes and outcomes from our **workshops**.

## (DE)CONSTRUCTIVE/(RE)CONSTRUCTIVE KNITTING

Knitwear and textile designer Pat Dillon (padandpawdesign.com) facilitated the workshop series exploring how to rework and re-appropriate knitwear by creatively deconstructing and reconstructing items. Nine people attended Saturday workshops in the café space at The Hive arts centre in Shrewsbury, with the assistance of Jack Roberts, an artist who works at The Hive. Pat developed a three-part scheme that was so successful we followed it in subsequent workshops. This involved:

- 1) Ice-breaker activity. Everyone knitted squares to use for experimenting with different stitches.
- 2) Two sessions of skills workshops enabling participants to learn new and refresh existing skills. Skills included stitches and approaches to constructing and deconstructing garments: crochet, felting, Swiss darning, stitch hacking, construction, 'cardiganising', adding pockets and unpicking seams.
- 3) Once everyone had established a 'stitch vocabulary' and 'knit syntax', participants selected a garment to update, deconstruct/reconstruct. Each person identified an item in their wardrobe to rework, up-date and make wearable, maximising the value of existing clothing.

***'I didn't realise that one could tinker with knitted fabrics before, so it's opened a whole new realm of possibilities.'***

Strategies for deconstruction/reconstruction were inspired by sustainable knitwear designer and researcher Amy Twigger Holroyd (amytwiggerholroyd.com) who had demonstrated a range of stitch hacking techniques to project participants at the West Midlands' 'S4S Stitched Up!' project launch in Wolverhampton School of Art.

As a designer, Pat emphasised the importance of design thinking, encouraging participants to assess their garment, consider what they did and didn't like about it, where and how they might wear it. The 'clothing diaries' were used to sketch, collage, record, reflect on and experiment with redesign ideas. These included unpicking seams, cardiganising jumpers by cutting into them, adding panels and knitted sections, pockets, button holes and crochet elements, and stitching in embellishment and decorative designs.

The film Jack's Jumper shows Jack's journey through this process ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=bonJ--Ci4G8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bonJ--Ci4G8)).

The group brought a range of skills to the workshops and were encouraged to support each other in peer-to-peer learning. Participants appreciated the open, flexible, non-competitive ethos of the workshops where they were supported to develop and realise their own ideas. Quotes from participants demonstrate the qualities, values, attitudes and insights that emerged as a sensibility for sustainable clothing gradually emerged through the process of making together.

***'Even though you've got the skills there's always more to learn, isn't there.'***

**Website:** [sites.exeter.ac.uk/s4s](http://sites.exeter.ac.uk/s4s) - **Twitter:** @S4sSensibility - **Instagram:** s4s\_sensibility - **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/S4sSensibility> - **S4S Shropshire and West Midlands:** <https://www.facebook.com/S4sStitchedUp>