

MACHINE Knit AMERICA

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- **MACHINE KNITWEAVING**

It's not just for coats!

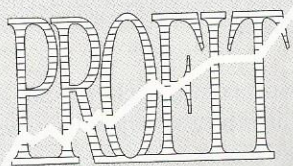
- **WORKSHOPS**

with Susanna Lewis

- **EMBELLISHING**

*Beginner's Guide to
embellishing using a Sewing Machine*

PATTERNS and Articles inside



Knitting for Profit

Control your Bind-offs

Sharon Nani continues her Knitting for Profit series

One of the first things you learn as a machine knitter is how to begin and end your project. Each method that you are introduced to gives a different appearance to your knit and affects the finished characteristic of that product. I never like to say that there is a right or wrong way of accomplishing a procedure. Each way you learn serves a purpose. The important thing is that you learn the best time to use a particular procedure.

In this article, I introduce you to a method of finishing or binding off the knit project from the machine. This technique might be used in a production situation where one wants to limit the amount of time spent on the knitting machine. For example, if the knitting machine operator is paid at a higher wage than a "trim person" and the volume of work being produced warrants the need of "trim people," the latching-off procedure may be shifted to the trim department. Another example found in cottage industry – a knitter may prefer to do all latching off while he or she was knitting yardage on a machine with a motor. Finally, a knitter may find it relaxing to "latch off" while watching television or riding in a vehicle.

Latch Tool Bind-Off A Technique Finished Off the Machine

I. Single Bed Knitting

The rules are:

a. The final row of knitting, which is the actual row "to be latched off" must be

knitted at 3 to 5 stitch sizes larger than the main knitting, depending upon the elasticity of the yarn. I have found that Passap is generally 3, and Japanese machines 5 stitches larger.

b. The final row of knitting is worked from left to right.

c. If you are already using Stitch Size 5 or bigger in your project, you can get a bigger Stitch Size than 8-10 by using the back bed [ribber bed] to help. Proceed as follows:

Racking Handle Down [half pitch].

Bring corresponding needles to work position on the back bed [ribber bed].

Do not change the Stitch Size on the front [main] bed. Set the Stitch Size on the back [ribber] bed to 2-3, dependent on the elasticity of the yarn.

Set locks [carriages] to N/N [knit/knit]

Passap – you can leave the black strippers in for this one doubleknit row because the stitch size is large enough to allow the black strippers to work properly for 1 row. KNIT 1 ROW, slowly. Notice that the back bed [ribber] needles caught an extra "loop" of yarn.

Release the loops on the back [ribber] bed by pushing the needles all the way upward, then downward out of work. Then pull down on the stitches on the front [main] bed. The extra loops of yarn will now become part of the "big stitch."

Remove these big stitches off on scrap yarn as follows: change to scrap yarn, GX/N, knit 8 rows. Put the yarn away so that no yarn is in the lock [carriage].

Remove weights. Pass the locks over the

needles in working position with no yarn in the lock. This will drop the knitting from the machine.

d. Proceed with the Latch Tool Bind-Off off the machine as follows – with the purl side of the knitting facing you and the end pieces of yarn that you broke off to your left, bend the scrap yarn over in such a way as to put the last row of knitting of the Main Yarn (the row that was knit on the big stitch size) on top. This exposes the "purl bump" that is the top of the Stitch Size 8 or larger row.

e. Using the latch tool as a crochet hook, pick up the first stitch on the right, leave this stitch in the hook. Pick up the second stitch. It is in the hook with the first stitch. Push the latch tool forward in such a manner that the first stitch goes behind the flap of the hook and the second stitch still remains in the hook. Then pull the second stitch through the first stitch. Now one stitch remains in the hook. Pick up the third stitch. Now there are two stitches in the hook again. Repeat this process until you have pulled the last stitch through. Then to lock the latch-off row, pull the yarn through this final stitch.

2. Double Bed Knitting Full Needle Rib

The rules are:

a. The final row of knitting, which is the actual row "to be latched off" must be knitted at 3 to 5 stitches larger than the main knitting, depending upon the elasticity of the yarn. I have found that Passap is generally 3 and Japanese machines 5 stitch sizes larger.

b. The final row of knitting is worked from left to right.

c. Change to scrap yarn. Change back to the Stitch Size that you were using in the project. For example, 4/4. Knit 4 rows. Put the yarn away. Remove weights. With no yarn in the lock, pass the locks over the needles in work position and drop the knitting from the machine.

d. Proceed with the Latch Tool Bind-Off off the machine as follows – (directions are for a right-handed person – work in mirror image if you are left-handed.) If you want the bind-off to be elastic, such as for ribbing, afghans, or stretch fabrics:

