

MACHINE *knit* AMERICA

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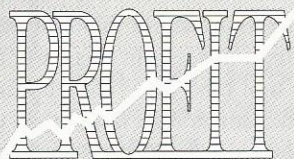
Design & Fashion for Today's Knitter

Vol 4, No 5



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Knitting for Profit

Travel as you Knit!

**Sharon Nani continues her
Knitting for Profit series**

I am going to take you a step further down the road of basic techniques which are used to give your knitted products that polished look. In this issue, I will discuss “traveling.” The term travel as related to knitting is simply a method used in shaping your product. It is used whenever you must get your yarn from one point on your knitting to another point, without any breakage of the yarn. One of the most common applications of this procedure is used in the shaping of a neckline at the same time as the shoulder line. Therefore, the easiest way to illustrate this procedure is to walk you through the thought process and steps of knitting this application. I work with “mini” patterns to keep the details as brief as possible.

First, let us examine Diagram 1.

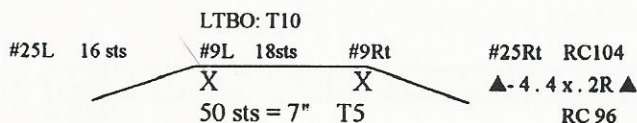


Diagram 1: shoulders/straight Back Neck

1. Summarize in your mind the techniques you are going to apply in the project. This diagram shows two techniques:

a) On row 96, the shoulder shaping begins. The symbol ▲ tells you that you are to use the “graduation, or short row” method of decreasing these stitches.

b) On row 104, you are to perform the steps used to finish, or bind off the back. LTBO: T10 is telling you to use the latch tool bind-off method on stitch size 10. (Refer to the last issue of **Machine Knit America** for the explanation of this procedure.) It is your choice if you finish this bind-off on the machine or off scrap yarn.

2. Look for other important information on the pattern diagram.

a) #25L and #25Rt tells you that you are working in the space of these needle numbers. This eliminates the confusion that sometimes develops when knitting double bed, or patterns not using every needle in the set-up.

b) 50 sts = 7” at T5. This is important and I will elaborate on it

following this summary.

c) The “X” under #9L and #9Rt tell you to mark the neck shoulder point stitches to help in sewing. Since the shoulders and neckline are all bound off within the same row, it would be hard for the sewer to find the exact shoulder point.

Now let’s take a break from these details and discuss why they are important in the first place. This column includes topics that are related to knitting for profit. Different techniques accomplish a different appearance and can affect the drape or flexibility of a knit. A designer picks the techniques that fulfill the requirements that he/she desires on a particular knit. If this knit is to be reproduced, the “production pattern” must contain the instructions for those details in the simplest, non-cluttering manner.

The biggest room for error falls in misunderstanding the relationship between the stitch size used on each individual knitting machine, and the stitch and row gauge that the fabric needs to be knitted at to produce the correct drape. This can be a topic for another article. For now, know that if a knitter is reproducing a written pattern, the stitch size (in this case T5) is only a ballpark reference. It is what the pattern drafter, or designer used on their machine to obtain a specific number of stitches and rows per inch. To reproduce the pattern with the same yarn, each individual must come as close to the given stitch and row gauge by adjusting the stitch size, then fine tune by adjusting a “few needles or rows” to come up with exact measurements.

Finally, let us knit Diagram 1.

Note: directions are in Passap terms, machines with holding position terms are in brackets [] where appropriate. In addition to the following instructions, refer to your instructions manual for details on the graduation, short row method of decreasing stitches. Refer to the last issue of Machine Knit America for LTBO details.

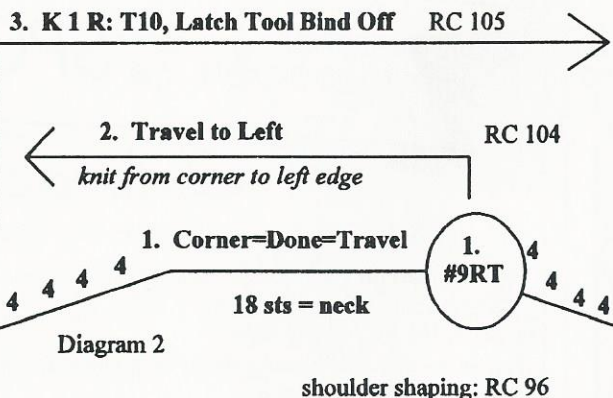


Diagram 2 shows the summary of steps for taking the garment off on scrap yarn and finishing off the machine.

If you wish to LTBO on the machine: knit to the left corner (#9L), RC 103, travel to right. Then K1 row on T10, knitting right to left. LTBO.

RC96: Start Shoulder shaping by the graduation method. The graduation method of decreasing is the preferred method over the "transfer stitch bind-off" which is shown in all instructions manuals. The transfer stitch method gives a stair-step appearance when completed. These stair-steps are not as neat in assembly. The graduation method is also faster to accomplish. In order to use the more desirable graduation method of decreasing, a **requirement** must be met. **You must be able to make a decrease of 1 or more stitches every two rows.**

Procedure: **Set the lock [carriage] to slip stitches.** This would be BX on Passap DM80, LX on Passap E6000 [HP, Holding position]. Passap: Remember your basics; a pusher in working position makes its needle knit. On DM80, a pusher in rest position will make its needle hold of "slip" the stitch. On the Passap E6000, whenever the directions say to put a pusher in rest position, you must put it totally out of work, back in the blocking rail, as the electronics will automatically bring these pushers back into work position when you are knitting without the console. Machines that use "holding position": Each time the directions tell you to put a pusher to rest, put those needles to E or holding position.

There are three steps whenever this method is used.

1. Make the decrease on the opposite side of the lock [carriage]. In this case the decrease is 4 sts. Put 4 pushers on the opposite side of the lock – left side of the knitting – to rest position [4 needles to E position].

2. Knit 1 row.

3. Wrap the hole on the same side of the lock. A hole forms at the spot that separates the working needles from the slipping needles. Refer to your manual. Repeat these 3 steps until you reach the "highest point" which is the "corner" or shoulder/neck point. Details steps as follows:

At this point, the neck stitches (18) are still in working position. You are finished at this point. It is time to prepare to bind off your back according to the technique you have chosen. In this case, the latch tool bind-off. The rule for latch tool bind-off is that the final row of knitting must be worked at 3 to 5 stitch sizes larger than the size at which you were knitting. It must also be knitted on all the needles at one time. Therefore, the first step is to get your yarn from the right shoulder point to the left edge of the knitting without breaking the yarn. I use the word "travel" because travel means to get from one point to another. You must knit on all the needles from the corner to the left edge. The neck stitches are still in work. Bring the pushers that are to the left of the neck to work [C or D position]. Knit 1 row. Now prepare to knit the LTBO. Set lock [carriage] to N [knit]. Set stitch size to 10 (Passap use back bed, see Machine Knit America, last issue). Knit 1 row. Remove on scrap yarn, or latch off on machine if you prefer.

In the next issue, I will travel further down this road by showing applications of more involved necklines.

RC Reads	Pushers to rest [Ns to hold]	K1 row, Wrap Hole*
96	4 on left shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
97	4 on right shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
98	4 on left shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
99	4 on right shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
100	4 on left shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
101	4 on right shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
102	4 on left shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
103	4 on right shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
104	Corner means done, done means travel:	*Mach. with holding position can make an automatic wrap, refer to manual.



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