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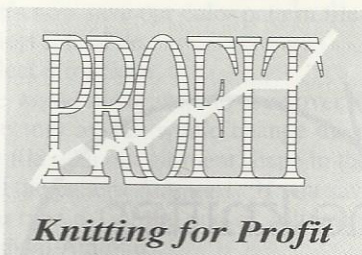
AMERICA

Design & Fashion for Today's Knitter

Vol 4, No 6



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Knitting for Profit

Travel as you Knit! (Pt 2)

Sharon Nani continues her Knitting for Profit series

I hope that all of you practiced the first steps of traveling. This is the road of the basic shoulder with no neckline. Refer to the last issue: **Vol 4, #5 of Machine Knit America**. I explained the foundation steps of "traveling". Therefore, at this point you should have a clear understanding of the terms or procedures involved in this shaping technique. This includes the rules of short row or graduation method of decreasing, the latch tool bind-off, and reading the knitting diagram. It also includes the explanation of the terms or phrases: "corner" means "done"; "done" means "travel". If you are lost, and don't relate to these terms: STOP!! Go back to Part I in the last issue and review. I will be using the same mini patterns throughout this series of studying necklines in conjunction with the "traveling methods".

Now, we are ready to turn into the second road. This is the sloped shoulder with the back neck scoop. Examine Diagram 1.

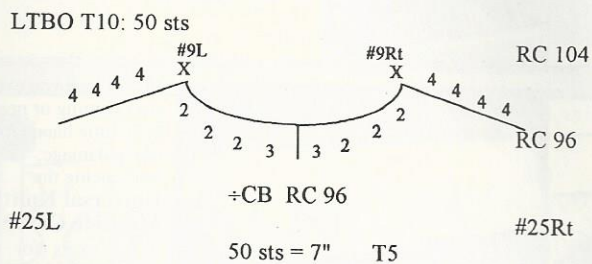


DIAGRAM 1

Diagram 1 shows the back neck/shoulder shaping as it would be shown on a production pattern. Remember: a production pattern shows only the necessary information in a non cluttered fashion. Observe these differences from diagram 1 of Part 1 (last issue).

1. The shaping symbols and directions which tell you to decrease the shoulder and neckline by the short row method are not shown. (▲ - 4 . 4x . 2R ▲) At this point it would be "unnecessary clutter" because it assumes that you know the professional rule: always use the short row method of decreasing

when you can. It is neater and faster! I know that "assume" is a nasty word and can get us in a great deal of trouble. But at this point in our progression of learning about professional techniques, pattern writing, etc. we will start to assume the necessary things.

At this point, training our mind to see the numbers which represent the needles or stitches on the knitting machine is an accurate and efficient way of interpreting the pattern. After all, the pattern diagram is only supposed to give the pertinent information. It is not supposed to explain the technique of how to shape unless something special is desired. Here I should side track and make an important statement. In professional knitting, one of the first steps between a designer and a person or contractor who is knitting the pattern is to go over all the standard and "assumed" knitting procedures to be followed. I always advise my clients to have this written out so that there is no room for error. Therefore, in the future, if I state that something is assumed, I mean that it has been explained at a previous time and preferably in print.

2. The total number of stitches in the shoulder and neck are not given. Instead, only the edge needle markers are given: #25L (left edge), #9L (shoulder point and neck edge which is marked - X- for sewing) #9Rt (shoulder point and neck edge) and #25Rt (right edge). Again, our mind is trained to see the numbers which represent the space we are working in. It is not efficient to count needles or stitches.

3. The stitches that you are to decrease in both the neck and shoulder are shown in pictorial form. The shape of the diagram shows you that the neck and shoulder are getting smaller and that the highest spot on the diagram is the shoulder point; therefore this spot (#9 left and right) is the last spot or last group of needles to be knit upon.

Let us knit Diagram 1: sloped shoulder/scooped back neck.

I will follow the format and rules that are explained in detail in Part 1. I will explain the new rules and added steps in detail as follows:

÷ CB RC 96. This direction tells you that a neck line has begun. It means "divide center back neckline". Note that at the same time, on RC 96 the shoulder shaping also begins. On the right edge, a row number is given to alert you that a new instruction is to be followed at that point. In this case, looking at the pictorial shape of the diagram pattern, you can see that this is the shoulder decreases. Upon further analysis, you can see that the requirement rule for decreasing by the short row method can be met in both the neck and shoulder decreases. (There is a decrease of 1 or more stitches every two rows.)

Anytime you come to a neck line, the first step is to divide your work in one half. Since a neckline makes a hole in the middle of your knit in some shape (this case, a scoop neck), you must finish knitting the right side first. Then go back and knit the left half. Whenever possible, we do not want to break the yarn and have loose ends to weave in. Therefore, the preferred and "assumed" method is to decrease with short rows, incorporating the traveling technique. Now, here is another rule. In order to use the traveling technique in a neck line, you must be able to

decrease with short rows all the way to the shoulder point. Since this is a high neckline, it meets this criteria.

Side note: an example of a neckline that would not meet this criteria would be a V-neck.

Other neck lines, such as a jewel neck line, would use an advanced variation of the traveling technique. We will travel that road in a future issue.

Procedure: Set the lock [carriage] to slip stitches. ÷ CB. Put all pushers to the left of center to rest position [ndls to left of center to E or holding position]. Now, if you cover the left half of the neckline with a sheet of paper, follow the 3 steps of decreasing by short rows.

1. Make the decrease on the opposite side of the lock.
2. Knit 1 Row .
3. Wrap the hole on the same side of the lock.

Repeat these three steps until you reach the 'corner'. Corner means done (with right side). 'Done' means travel. Travel where? To the left side. Detail up to this point as follows:

RC Reads	Pushers to rest [Ns to hold]	K1 row, Wrap Hole*
96	3 on right neck	K1 row, Wrap Hole
97	4 on right shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
98	2 on right neck	K1 row, Wrap Hole
99	4 on right shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
100	2 on right neck	K1 row, Wrap Hole
101	4 on right shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
102	Corner means done, done means travel:	

Only the right half is in working position at this point.

When the last neck and last shoulder stitches are still in work position, you are at the highest point of the neck line – the "corner". Therefore you are "done" knitting the right side and it is time to "travel" to the left side in order to finish the neck line. Reset row counter to 96. At this point the 6 corner needles are in work position (Passap:corresponding pushers are also in work).

Travel to left by bringing all pushers to the left of the ones still in work position to work position [needles to D or C position]. But remember that you must still apply the 3 steps of short rowing, the decrease must still be made on the opposite side of the lock. In this case this is the left shoulder edge. Therefore leave the last 4 pushers on the left side in rest position [last 4 ndls on left side in E, holding position]. Knit 1 Row to the left side. Row Counter Reads 97.

After traveling to the left, which you just did, you must prepare to finish knitting the left side only. Therefore the following steps are always taken:

1. You are done knitting the right side. Therefore, all pushers to right of center are put to rest position [ndls to hold].
2. You do not want the center of your neck to be lopsided, therefore the pushers representing the first number that is left of center (3 in this case) are also put in rest position [3 ndls to hold].

3. Now you must still apply the rule, making the decrease on the opposite side of the lock, in this case 2 more pushers are put to rest position. Knit 1 row and wrap hole. Continue knitting short rows until you reach the left corner.:

RC Reads	Pushers to rest [Ns to hold]	K1 row, Wrap Hole*
98	4 on left shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
99	2 on left neck	K1 row, Wrap Hole
100	4 on left shoulder	K1 row, Wrap Hole
101	2 on left neck	K1 row, Wrap Hole
102	Corner means done, done means travel:	

Travel Where? From the corner to the left edge of the knitting so that you can knit the latch tool bind-off. Bring all pushers that are to the left of the corner to work position. Knit one row to the left edge. Knit the Latch Tool Bind-off row on T10 from left to right.. and remove on scrap yarn. Remember if you wish to bind off on the machine: Stop on row 101 and "travel" to the right instead, so that you can knit your final large stitch size from right to left.

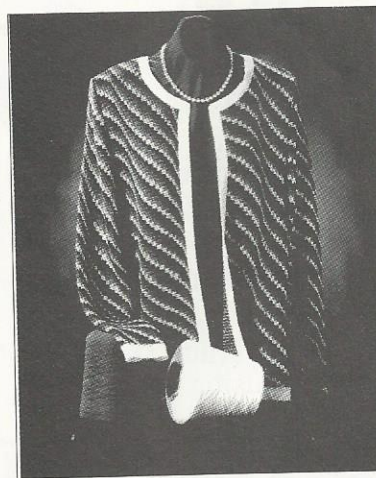
Practice this mini piece until the light bulb of understanding goes off. In the next issue, I will take you down the road of leaving the neck stitches "open" so that a band or collar can be attached neatly.

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