

MACHINE Knit AMERICA

\$6.50 (USA)

Design & Fashion for Today's Knitter

Vol 5, No 1



INTARSIA KNITTING

CK 35 SPECIAL FEATURE

SUSANNA LEWIS SHARES HER KNOWLEDGE

INTERFACING WITH YOUR COMPUTER SOFTWARE

MANY PATTERNS & ARTICLES INSIDE

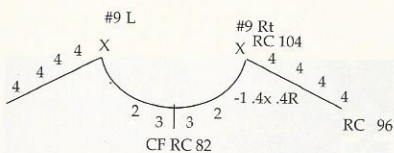
Knitting for Profit Series Travel as you Knit: Part 3

By Sharon Nani

I covered the basic rules and principles applied to shaping the straight and shallow back neck opening in Parts 1 and 2 of "Travel as you Knit". Please refer to the previous two issues of **Machine Knit America** for this information. In this article, I discuss how to apply this information to another neckline.

The example is a crew neckline. Remember, I am using mini patterns. See Diagram 1 below.

LTBO T10: shoulders only



The first step is to examine the knitting diagram. Look at all the shaping directions. Decide what techniques you can apply for each direction. Think about how each technique will affect the appearance, quality, and efficiency of the project. Choose the procedures you will use. I stress the importance that this thought process should be done before any knitting begins.

EXAMINE

The first direction I come to tells me to divide the center front neckline on row 82 and shape the front neckline.

TECHNIQUE POSSIBILITIES

1. Transfer Stitch Bind Off the neck stitches. This is shown in every knitting machine instruction manual and is usually referred to as "how to decrease several stitches at a time, such as at an underarm armhole shaping.
2. Decrease the neck stitches by the short row, or graduation, method. This is the method we have used in the last two articles

of "Travel as you Knit".

AFFECT

1. The transfer stitch bind-off is simple in procedure. It leaves a "stair steps" appearance. It is more difficult to seam a neckband to these stair steps.
2. Short row decreases are neat and efficient. They can be left as open stitches or bound off all at one time.

Before you can come to the third step of choosing the techniques, you must examine the rest of the instructions to see if any of them will affect each other. I see two other instructions that do just that. First, as part of the neck decreases, the instruction "-1 . 4x . 4R" is given. This means decrease one stitch, four times, every four rows. Now, this complicates your choice of "short row" decreases. Remember, the rule in the last article: In order to use the short row technique of decreasing (or increasing), you must be able to add or subtract at least one stitch every two rows. Second, the instruction is given to leave the neck stitches as "open", not bound-off, stitches on scrap yarn. Now, this complicates matters even further because it rules out the transfer stitch bind-off which is "closed stitches".

CHOOSE THE PROCEDURES

I would choose the short row technique to decrease the first five neck stitches. This would bring me to the point of decreasing every four rows. Now, I would make a "simple" decrease for the final four neck stitches. A simple decrease is made by simply moving the edge stitch over onto the adjacent needle and putting the needle out of work that had the stitch on it that was moved. A special procedure must be done when the neckline is complete to "give open stitches" to this area of simple decreases. Detailed instructions are in the knitting portion of this article. I would choose to decrease the shoulder stitches as we did before, by the short row method. See the new way of "traveling" with the open stitch neckline in the following knitting directions.

KNITTING DIRECTIONS

Divide Center Neckline

If necessary, park the left half of neck on scrap yarn or by method of choice. I usually find this necessary in necklines with a depth of more than four inches. It should be done if the yarn is delicate enough to be frayed or discolored by the strippers (Passap) or sinker plates on the left side, when the right side is being knitted. I will discuss this further with V necklines.

Adjust weight system or heel grips as you knit.
Knit right half.

Procedure: Set the lock [carriage] to slip stitches. CF. Put all pushers to the left of center to rest position [needles 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 three steps of decreasing by short rows.

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

Repeat these three steps until you reach the directions to decrease one stitch every four rows, four times.

RC Reads	Pushers to Rest [Needles to Hold]	
82	3 on right neck	K 1 row, wrap hole
83	No shoulder dec until row 96	K 1 row
84	2 on right neck	K 1 row, wrap hole
85		K 1 row
86	Simple dec neck edge	K 4 rows
90	Simple dec neck edge	K 4 rows
94	Simple dec neck edge	K 2 rows
96	(start shoulder shaping)	K 1 row
97	4 on right shoulder	K 1 row, wrap hole
98	Last simple dec neck	K 1 row
99	4 on right shoulder	K 2 rows
101	4 on right shoulder	K 2 rows
103	Corner, done, travel All right shoulder pushers to work [right shoulder needles to D position.]	K 1 seaming row (joining shoulder decreases.
104	K 1 row on right shoulder stitches on T10, LTBO these stitches, break yarn and put right shoulder stitches out of work.	

Start with lock (carriage) on left side of knitting so that the yarn end is not in the neck line. Unravel the scrap yarn that was holding the "parked" left half of knitting (if you did this). Reset row counter to "83". Now proceed knitting the left neck line in mirror image to the right side. See details above until you reach the "corner" on row 102.

102,	Corner, done, travel All left shoulder pushers to work [left shoulder ndls to D position]	K 1 seaming row (joining shoulder decreases.
103	K 1 row on left shoulder stitches on T10, LTBO these stitches. Do not break yarn. Hang the last open stitch from the left shoulder on approximately needle #16 left. *Put right shoulder sts out of work.	

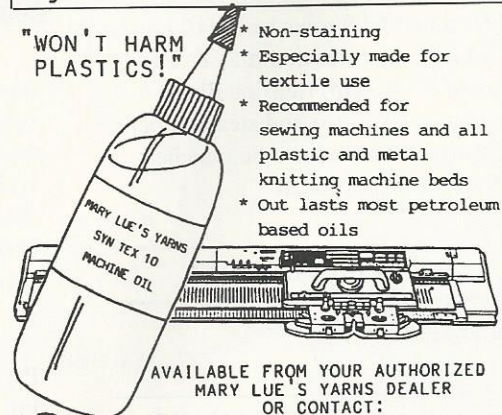
At this point, there is one stitch on needle #16 left, needles 15 left to 6 left are empty, and there are the 10 open stitches from 5 left to 5 right still on the needles. It is time to make a nice seaming row for the front neck stitches and, at the same time, this row becomes the foundation row of open stitches of the neckline. Hang the selvedge neck edge (the 16 rows where the four simple neck decreases were made) on the empty needles from 15 left to 6 left for the left side of the neckline. Hang the right selvedge neck edge on needles 6 right to 16 right. Now there are 32 needles in work position with yarn on them. The lock is still at the left. Use the stitch size used in knitting the garment and knit one row. *Special note: if you were not going to put a neck band or collar on open stitches and you want to have a "finished" neckline, this final row would be knit on T10 and LTBO.* Finally, knit approximately 6 rows of scrap yarn and remove from machine. The neck line is prepared to be rehung on the machine, with the back neck line to knit the band of choice.

As you can see, there is rarely a case where just simple rules are applied. The more you learn about the various techniques and how they affect your knitted product, the more confident you will become about your decisions. I hope that through these articles, I can give you more insight into the various elements that influence knitting for profit.

Syn Tex 10

Synthetic Textile Machine Oil

"WON'T HARM
PLASTICS!"



- * Non-staining
- * Especially made for textile use
- * Recommended for sewing machines and all plastic and metal knitting machine beds
- * Out lasts most petroleum based oils

AVAILABLE FROM YOUR AUTHORIZED
MARY LUE'S YARNS DEALER
OR CONTACT:



Mary Lue's Knitting World
101 W. Broadway St. Peter, MN 56082
507-931-3741*1-800-622-5433