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Knitting for Profit

Select a Band

By Sharon Nani

In this issue of Machine Knit America, I will discuss some bands (or trims) in a simple form. Bands can be attached to the knit by several methods: 1. Garment hung on the machine and the band knit to it; 2. The band knit, then the garment hung on and the two pieces seamed together with the knitting machine; or 3. The bands could be knit separately and attached to the garment by linking or by sewing.

Each method will give a different look to the garment. You will have to decide your method by taking time, equipment, yarn and appearance into consideration.

Let's take a look at method one. It is a good idea to make a permanent band sampler for your library following these directions.

The first step will be to knit a base rectangle. The bands will be attached to this rectangle.

Note: directions are written for Passap, Japanese machine directions are in brackets [] for the different terminology.

Material: 2 ends of a 2/24 acrylic or 1 end of a 2/12 (C1)

Pattern: Full needle rib.

$\frac{1111}{1111}$

N/N, orange strippers. [knit/knit, ribber sinker plate]

Handle down. [half pitch]

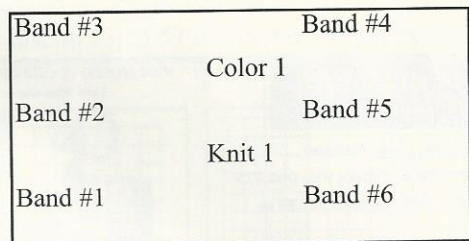
Stitch size 3.5/3.5 [1.5/1.5]

$\frac{13.5}{7}$ | 13.2

this means: a stitch gauge of 7 stitches per inch and 13.2 rows per inch is obtained from the given stitch size.

A. LTBO (2 sts through 2 sts)

160 R



#42L

#42Rt

Cast on 168 st (84 each bed).
12" wide by 12" long approximately.

B. Mark the base rectangle with pieces of scrap yarn as a guide for re-hanging the bands. The directions for six bands are given in this issue.

Each band will be hung on 20 ndls (3") with a 1" space

in between each band. Place 3 bands on each selvedge edge of the base rectangle. Label these bands so you have an immediate visual reference when you examine your sampler.

Knit each band with a contrasting color (C2) over a width of 20 needles. The contrasting color is so that you may observe the fine details of the seaming row.

Method 1: Garment hung on knitting machine and band knit to garment.

General Rule: Measure the neck, armhole or front opening where the band is to be attached. Multiply this measurement by the stitch gauge from the stockinette gauge. *Note: even if you did not knit the garment in stockinette, remember the band seaming row is a "knit" row. Therefore the stitch gauge that you use for your band must be the band stitch gauge. In these cases the yarn used gives a stitch gauge of approximately 7 stitches per inch.* This gives you the number of needles to be used in the band. Hang the garment (open sts or between the first and second row of knitting) onto these needles. Passap: with the right side of the garment facing you, hang the sts on the front bed needles. Or, with the wrong side of the garment facing you, hang the sts on the back bed needles. Sometimes the garment opening will not stretch comfortably enough to cover the given number of needles. If it is just a few sts, use less ndls. Or, you will have to knit the band separately and link it onto the garment. The first row - the seaming row - is knit the same for all bands. Knit one row on the stitch size that would be used for stockinette stitch. Use black strippers [main sinker plate]. After the seaming row, set up the needles for your specific type of band as follows:

Note: A general rule of thumb regarding stitch sizes: the comparison between Passap and Japanese machines is:

Double bed (including ribs): Japanese is 2 stitch sizes smaller than Passap.

Single Bed: Japanese is 1 stitch size smaller than Passap.

The following are Passap stitch sizes. Make the appropriate changes for your machine and yarn.

1. Single band done in 1:1 rib (or any other rib):

Transfer the appropriate sts to the opposite bed. Knit the number of rows for the band, gradually reducing the stitch size. The first half of the band is knit at the normal stitch size for ribbing. Then, decrease half of a stitch size for the last half of the band. Knit the final row at SS 8,[10] scrap off and latch tool bind off. [or bind off on the machine] For example: K 5R at SS 4.5, K 5R at SS 4, K 1R at SS 8. Scrap off and latch tool bind off.

Note: the seaming row is exposed in this band.

2. Double band done in rib.

Transfer the appropriate sts to the opposite bed. Knit the height of the rib gradually reducing the SS; knit the facing gradually increasing the SS. Scrap off. Finish by whip stitching or back stitching the open sts down on the inside of the garment. Or, overlock off the scrap yarn and blind hem or ditch stitch on a sewing machine. For example: Knit a band 30R deep. K 5R SS 4, K 6R SS 3.5, K 6R SS 3, K 6R SS 3.5, K 5R SS 4, K 1R SS 6. Scrap off.

Note: For your sample- on the inside, whip stitch 1/2 of the band down, back stitch the other half of the band down. Observe the difference in appearance.

3. Stockinette bands.

Knit the required number of rows for the band using the normal stockinette stitch size. Knit one row at one stitch size higher for a turning row. Knit the required number of rows for the facing at the normal stitch size if you want the band to lay flat (such as for the front of a vest). Or, knit the facing at 1/2 a stitch size smaller (such as for a neckline). For example: K 10R SS 6, K 1R SS 7, K 12R SS 6 or 5.5. Scrap off. Finish by whip stitching or back stitching the open sts down on the inside. Or, overlock off the scrap yarn and blind hem or ditch stitch the edge down with a sewing machine. Another way to finish the cast off is to pick up the stitches from the seaming row and hang them on the corresponding needles on the final row of the band. Now there are two stitches on each needle. Knit the final row on a very loose stitch size to give ample elasticity. Then Latch Tool Bind Off by the method of your choice.

4. Tubular band.

This is a double bed band. Racking handle down. [half pitch] After the garment is hung on the machine on the front bed, [main bed] bring the corresponding needles into work position on the back bed. [ribber bed]

N/N- orange strippers- SS 3/3- knit one row [ribber sinker plate]. CX/CX- SS 4/4- knit 2 rows. [tubular knitting: 2nd part button from right on main carriage, right part button up on ribber carriage for Brother]

Change to black strippers.

CX/CX- SS 5- knit the height of the band (example: 24 row counts).

Lock is on the left. [Carriage]

N/N- orange strippers- SS 8- knit one row (final row of band).

Scrap off and latch tool bind off, pulling 2 sts through 2 sts (the back bed st and its corresponding front bed st are treated as one st). This makes it look like a single crochet on the top of the band.

5. All bands can be knit by enclosing the seam allowance within a tubular cast on:

Racking handle down, hang the garment on the front bed. Bring the corresponding ndls to work position on the back bed.

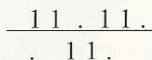
N/N- SS 3/3- knit one row.

CX/CX- SS 4/4- knit 2 rows. SS 5/5- knit 2 rows.

N/N- SS 4/4- knit one row to encase the seam allowance.

Proceed with the band of your choice.

For example: 2:2 rib.



Transfer the appropriate sts- SS

3.5/3.5- knit 8 rows.

SS 3/3- knit 7 rows.

SS 7/7- knit final row.

Scrap off and latch tool bind off one stitch through one stitch for ribbing elasticity.

6. Envelope band.

Same as #5 band except that when you knit the CX/CX rows at SS 5/5, you knit the height that you wish to form for the larger casing (or envelope) Passaps: remember to use black strippers in this tubular part. For example: Knit 16 rows tubular. Then, continue the same as #5 band, with band of choice.

Observe that bands 4, 5 and 6 look best on the inside. Therefore, hang the wrong side toward you when you knit these bands. Also, note in each case, you may choose to bind off either on the machine or by knitting scrap yarn, removing from the machine and Latch Tool Bind Off. This was discussed in a previous issue.

Be creative and inventive with your bands. This article showed you methods of attaching or "seaming" your band to the garment. You do not have to stick to traditional bands. It is fun to use different patterns, or fabrics for bands. Just remember to pick something that is suitable to the drape and stability that you need to accomplish. ■

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