

# Tips & Techniques!

## Tips & Techniques #13

### DOUBLE BED CAST ONS

One often heard complaint about ribbing is the flair out at the cast on edge. There are a number of contributing factors, the type of yarn and the stitch size, the use of the cast on comb and weights (which tend to elongate the first row), and the type of cast on used. If the cast on in the manual is the one that you use time and again, try the variation listed below. Then go on to make samples of the other types of cast ons. Make a notebook with each sample and the directions. Before you begin your next project choose the cast on technique that will produce the look you want to achieve.

#### GENERAL HINTS:

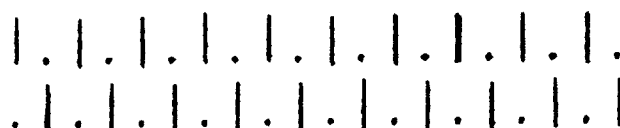
- 1) Always follow the needle rule unless otherwise indicated. (Furthest left needle on the main bed, furthest right needle on the front bed.)
- 2) To prevent elongation of the first row, using the open cast on method, rib with scrap yarn for several rows, knit one row ravel cord. Proceed with rib cast ons as if previous knitting was not there (ignoring the references to hanging combs and weights).
- 3) After the cast on is complete, before the first row of actual knitting, lay a piece of ravel cord across the stitches between the beds holding the tails down from underneath. Be sure the ravel cord is tight down against the stitches and comb, not knitting into the next row. If using more than 100 needles, use your latch tool to pull a loop of the ravel cord down from the center (0) and hold it also. After completion of the knitting, remove the comb and pull on the ends of the ravel cord gathering the stitches together as much as possible. Then proceed to pull lengthwise on the ribbing, snapping the stitches into shape. Afterwards, simply pull out the ravel cord. The cast on edge is as nice and tidy as the rest of the ribbing.
- 4) Use a bed spacing of 3 on the White machines. (This further decreases the amount of

yarn going into the first row.)

- 5) After hanging the comb, instead of hanging the weights as instructed, bring the needles up so that the stitches are just behind the latches, knit that row, and then hang the weights.

### CAST ONS FOR 1X1 RIBS

#### GENERAL SET UP:



#### NEEDLES OPPOSITE

OPEN CAST ON (Generally used for scrap, stitches will unravel if pulled on.)

- 1) At the smallest possible stitch size, knit a zigzag row.
- 2) Hang comb and weights.
- 3) Set the stitch size for ribbing and knit.

#### VARIATION TO THE MANUAL CAST ON

- 1) At the smallest possible stitch size, knit a zigzag row from left to right.
- 2) Hang comb but **DO NOT HANG WEIGHTS**.
- 3) Set carriages for circular knitting.
- 4) At the smallest stitch size for fine yarn, +1 full number for medium yarn, or +2 full numbers for heavy yarn, knit 2 passes (one row each bed).
- 5) Hang weights, lay in ravel cord as described in general hints.
- 6) The Cast on is complete. Set the carriages to knit both beds, at desired rib stitch sizes and knit the ribbing.

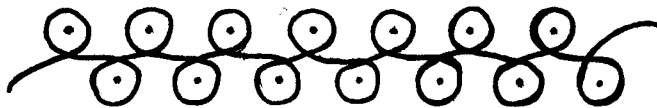
#### "BROKEN TOE" CAST ON

- 1) At the smallest possible stitch size, knit a zigzag row from right to left.
- 2) Hang the comb making sure the teeth of the comb are against the main bed and coming up through the V formed by the non-working needles of the main bed.

- 3) Drop the front bed stitches and hang the weights. If the comb was hung incorrectly, move your toes as it will drop off onto the floor.
- 4) Pull down on the yarn from the carriage before proceeding with the next step to create a loop.
- 5) Proceed with steps 1, 3, and 4 as described above.
- 6) The Cast on is complete. Set the carriages to knit both beds, at desired rib stitch sizes and knit the ribbing.
- 7) When the comb is removed, pull on the loop of yarn to gather up the stitches and elongate the ribbing. After completing the garment, pull the yarn out completely from the loop end.
- 8) If working with delicate yarns that break easily, use ravel cord for step 1 instead of the main yarn.

#### "eee" WRAP CAST ON

- 1) Bring all needles out to the highest position.
- 2) Starting from the left, with main yarn, eee wrap the needles as they present themselves. Main bed needles are always wrapped counter-clockwise and front bed needles are always wrapped clockwise.



- 3) Push the loops of the eee wrap back against beds.
- 4) At the smallest stitch size for fine yarn, +1 full number for medium yarn, +2 full numbers for heavy yarn, knit 1 row.
- 5) Hang comb and weights.
- 6) The Cast on is complete. Set the carriages to knit both beds, at desired rib stitch size and knit the ribbing.

#### RACKING CAST ON

- 1) Select needles as in general set up. (Be sure to observe needle rule.)
- 2) Rack the front bed 2 full needles to the left.
- 3) Stitch size 3/3, knit zigzag row left to right.
- 4) Rack back (2 full needles to the right).
- 5) Insert comb and weights.
- 6) The Cast on is complete. Set the carriages to knit both beds, at desired rib stitch size and knit the ribbing.

#### FAVORITE QUICK CAST ON

- 1) Bring needles on both beds to the highest

- position. Loosen the upper tension on the yarn mast (you may even need to pull a little extra slack). Carriages on the right.
- 2) Set the carriages so that only the main bed stitches will knit, the front bed stitches will remain in holding position.
- 3) At the smallest possible stitch size, knit 1 row. (Only main bed needles collect the yarn.)
- 4) Set the carriages to slip the main bed and knit the front bed needles only.
- 5) Knit 1 row. (Make sure all needles on the front bed knit through and actually made a stitch.)
- 6) Hang comb and weights. Bring up needles so that the stitch is just behind the latch.
- 7) Cast on is complete. Set stitch sizes for ribbing and knit. (Note: If the main bed needles are not catching the yarn; check the Bed Spacing on the White, it must be at 3. On the Studio machines, the ribber is not properly connected and aligned.)

#### ALTERNATIVE "eee" WRAP CAST ON

- 1) On main bed only, bring up total number of needles needed for the ribbing, knit 9 rows waste yarn and one row ravel cord, ending with the carriage on the right.
- 2) Still on the main bed, with main yarn "eee" wrap across.
- 3) Knit 1 row to the left at ribbing stitch sizes.
- 4) Using the double eye tool, transfer the appropriate stitches to the ribber. (This is great for 2X2, 2X1, 3X3, ribs etc., also.)
- 5) Hang the comb and weights.
- 6) Cast on is complete, continue ribbing.

#### CAST ONS FOR 2X2 AND WIDER RIBS

##### GENERAL SET UP:

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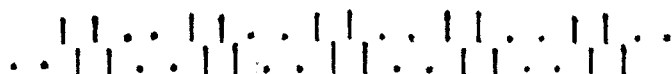
##### NEEDLES OPPOSITE / FULL PITCH

All of the above cast ons for 1X1 ribbing can be used for the 2X2 and wider ribbings. At the point where the cast on is complete, using the double eye tool, transfer the stitches to appropriate needles to obtain the set up as shown above.

##### 2X2 RACKING CAST ON

- 1) Select needles as shown the above set up.
- 2) Rack the front bed to alternate position or

half pitch and left one full needle. Your needles should now look like this:



- 3) At the smallest possible stitch size, knit a zigzag row from left to right.
- 4) Hang the comb and weights.
- 5) Set carriages for circular knitting.
- 6) At the smallest stitch size for fine yarn, +1 full number for medium yarn, or +2 full numbers for heavy yarn, knit 2 passes (one row each bed).
- 7) Rack the front bed back 1 full needle to the right and back to opposite or full pitch position. (The needle set up should be as shown in the general set up.)
- 8) The Cast on is complete. Set the carriages to knit both beds, at desired rib stitch sizes and knit the ribbing.

#### DOUBLE BACKED "eee" WRAP CAST ON

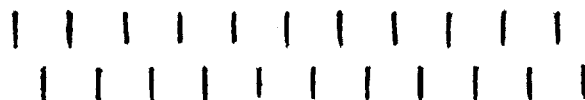
This cast on forms a tighter more stable edge than other cast ons. Great for yarns that don't have much elasticity and tend to flair out. It is difficult to explain and a little tricky to do, but well worth the effort in a few cases. Basically, each needle is e wrapped, but before the next needle is wrapped the yarn is knit through the previous one.

- 1) Bring the needles to holding position in set up as shown above.
- 2) Starting from the left, e wrap the 1st needle on the main bed. Bring the yarn up under the second needle and back over it into the hook of the first needle. With your left hand, pull back on the butt of the 1st needle knitting the loop through.
- 3) Now take the yarn under the second needle and wrap the 3rd needle (on the front bed) in a clockwise direction bringing the yarn back to the 2nd needle and knit through.
- 4) Wrap the 4th needle (on the front bed) in a clockwise direction bring the yarn back to the 3rd needle and knit through.
- 5) Now bring the yarn under and around the 5th needle (on the main bed) in a counter clockwise direction bringing the yarn back to the 4th needle and knit through.
- 6) Continue in this manner across all the needles. The e wrap is not actually completed on each needle but rather a loop is placed on each needle then the previous stitch is knit.
- 7) Hang the comb and weights. Bring the needles up so the stitches are just behind the latch.
- 8) The cast on is complete. Set stitch sizes for

ribbing and knit.

#### CAST ONS FOR FULL NEEDLE RIB

GENERAL SET UP:



NEEDLES ALTERNATE / HALF PITCH

The Variation to the Manual Cast On, and the "Broken Toe" Cast On as described under 1X1 Cast Ons are also applicable to Full Needle Ribs with the set up as described above.

#### RACKING CAST ON

- 1) Select needles as shown in the set up above.
- 2) Rack the front bed one full needle to the left.
- 3) At the smallest stitch size +1 full number, knit one row from left to right.
- 4) Rack the front bed back one full needle to the right.
- 5) Hang comb and weights.
- 6) The cast on is complete. Set stitch sizes for ribbing and continue.

#### TUBULAR HEM CAST ON

- 1) Select needles as shown in the set up above.
- 2) At the smallest possible stitch size, knit 1 zigzag row.
- 3) Hang comb and weights.
- 4) Set carriages for circular knitting.
- 5) At a stitch size one full number smaller than for stockinette in your chosen yarn, knit 4 to 6 (or more) rows (remember 1 row = 2 passes)
- 6) Reset carriages for desired full needle rib technique and stitch sizes and continue.

#### FULL NEEDLE "eee" WRAP CAST ON

- 1) Bring required number of needles on main bed to the highest position and eee wrap across.
- 2) Put corresponding front bed needles in working position having the last needle on both sides on the front bed (contrary to the rule).
- 3) At the smallest stitch size +1 full number, knit one row.
- 4) Hang comb and weights.
- 5) The cast on is complete, set carriages for desired type of knitting.

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## INDUSTRIAL 2X2 CAST ON

This is a ribbing that is widely used at the beginning of full needle rib fabrics, including double bed jacquard. The set up is two in work, one out of work on both beds. The secret is to make sure the two needles in work straddle the opposite bed out of work needle. You will have an odd number of needles working, therefore you may need to increase or decrease one stitch at the end of the ribbing before starting garment.

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### NEEDLES ALTERNATE / HALF PITCH

- 1) Select needles as shown above.
- 2) Rack the front bed 1 full needle to the left.
- 3) At the smallest possible stitch size, knit a zigzag row from left to right.
- 4) Hang the comb and weights.
- 5) Set carriages for circular knitting.
- 6) At the smallest stitch size for fine yarn, +1 full number for medium yarn, or +2 full numbers for heavy yarn, knit 2 passes (one row each bed).
- 7) Rack the front bed back 1 full needle to the right.
- 8) The Cast on is complete. Set the carriages to knit both beds, at desired rib stitch sizes and knit the ribbing.
- 9) Upon completion of the ribbing, bring up the out of work needles and knit one circular row (2 passes) still at the ribbing stitch size. Set carriages for desired type of stitch and continue.