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WHAT IS KNITTING?

Knitting is crafting of yarn or woolen thread with the help of 2 needles. Knitting is not only a hand made craft but can also be done on a machine.

Hand knitting is the oldest and the most beautiful fine art of knitting. There are number hand knitting methods and styles .There are many innovative styling's that can be done in hand knitting.

Knitting produce some of the most unique designing, while in most cases the end product is usually the same types of styles you see (like in sweaters, scarves, etc) but in some cases innovative use of kitting can produce a very unique and extraordinary end product.

Knitting is an art in itself, a skill of crafting yarn or woolen thread into a piece of cloth. Knitting and crochets are nearly of the similar kind, in both these techniques stitches or loops are pulled through each other.

The only basic difference between knitting and crochet are the tools used in them, for knitting the minimum of two kitting needles are required, whereas in crochet, a crochet hook is sufficient tool required. In kitting multiple stitches or loops are used where as in crochet only single loop is made.

Knitting is a wonderful craft; it can not only yield lovely cloth but can be a pleasurable activity. Hand made knits are the most beautiful piece of fine art which ca be made for oneself as well as for your family and friends.

Knitting is a fine art of converting yarn into cloth, a knitted wear is a mixture of yarns its texture its color scheming and lots of time of the knitter.Knitting is a combination of yarn and handwork, the knitter hard work passion for knitting thoughts feeling everything together knit out a wonderful piece of knit wear.

Knitting is a passionate hobby, which needs the knitter to have fun while performing it. As with any other hobby one must enjoy doing it only then will you sustain the love for this new found pleasure.

Find a comfortable corner of your house with sufficient natural light, especially where you love spending time, settle down In a comfortable chair or sofa. Make yourself completely comfortable before knitting.

As with any new hobby, knitting too requires endurance and determination. If you go wrong anywhere, relax take a deep breath and start again.

As they say Knitting is an art, which needs to be done with love, so do, it with love and it will definitely show.

History of Knitting

For decades, we have seen our Grand mothers our Grand Aunts, our Mothers, sitting comfortably on the large sofas and knitting sweaters for us while chatting away or humming the sweetest of songs ever heard.

For the last 200 years knitting as a craft has been very popular, some time ago retailers tried ad venting machine knitted wear which were cheaper but as fashion comes and goes they too came and disappeared ,but could not counter any competition to this hand made art.

One of the earliest memories of knitting was in the end of millennium AD, a fine pair of well decorated and knitted socks in Egypt. Paris was the first country to recognize and honor this art, and started the first Knitting Trade Guild in 1527.

Hand knitting for many is more a social activity than a professional activity. In recent times a sudden resurgence of knitting, has led to a sudden rage where millions of women have now shown a sudden interest in this dieing art.

The Craft Yarn Council of America has announced an increase of 150% knitters comprising in the age group of 25-35 years in 2002 to 2004.

Numerous groups and communities have now surfaced to further strengthen the revival of knitting.

Online communities as well as social networking have introduced knitting as a modern art. Online groups like Yahoo! Are becoming quiet popular, here knitters are getting a chance to share tips techniques, patterns with their other fellow knitters spread across the Globe.

Suddenly people are discovering this art as leisure and taking pleasure in pursuing it as a hobby, which they can enjoy with their families.
Knitting get-together have become a sudden frenzy in some parts of America and Canada.

At times, this craft does look intimidating to a new learner, but if you see an experienced knitter you will realize once trained, this craft can be easily mastered and in no time you will be knitting as well as your Grand mothers and Mothers.

Introduction to Knitting

Knitting is easy, knitting is fun, Knitting is relaxing ……and loved by everyone. Here are the reasons why-

Knitting gives one a feeling of tranquil, it is a stress buster.
Knitting gives a beautiful feeling, the feeling of working with threads of lovely colors.

It is an expensive way to make attractive sweaters and accessories for one-self.

Knitting creates a sense of pride, when you gift your family and friends gifts hand made by you.

Knitting can be a fun filled activity which you can share with your friends, and knit while you have fun.

Knitting ca be carried everywhere with you, so where ever you are you can keep knitting .

Knitting gives a sense of achievement, especially when you create a beautiful design out of your imagination.

Knitting is the most inexpensive hobby, a hobby which can also help you earn once in while.

Knitting is an ages old tradition, our grandmothers did it our mothers are still knitting for us and our children, it's a tradition that one must continue.

Knitting and crochet can be done for charity too; we can bring a lot of warmth and smile on the faces of so many underprivileged.

Knitting is a creation of ones imagination, its an achievement to see your thought your idea turn into a reality and gain appraisal.

Knitting can help you achieve a lot of confidence; it gives you a sense of self pride.

Knitting is beautiful crafting which can help one enhance ones artistic skills, the appreciation for your craft will give you a remarkable feeling of success and accomplishment.

Tools needed for Knitting-

- **Knitting Yarn**
- **Knitting needles**
- **Stitch Holders**
- **Markers on Needle**
- **Gauge**

Knitting Yarn

Yarn is a term used for strands of spun fiber, which are twisted together into a continuous thread of the required thickness. Yarn can be of animal origin foe example-Wool, Angora, Mohair, Silk and Alpaca.

Yarn can be of vegetable origin example- Cotton and Linen.
Yarn can be man made like-Nylon, Acrylic and Rayon.
Knitting yarns can be made also from a combination of different fibers.

Each single strand of yarn is known as ply. A number of ply's are twisted together to form the yarn. The texture and the characteristics of the yarn may be varied by the combination of fibers and by the way in which the yarn is spun.

Wool and other natural fibers are often combined with man made fiber to make a yarn that is more economical and hard- wearing. Wool can also be treated to make it machine washable. The twist of the yarn is firm smooth and knits up into a hard wearing fabric. Loosely twisted yarns have a softer finish when knitted.

There are many kinds of yarn. Yarn can be light in weight or heavy, smooth or textured, thin or thick. Only an expert knitter should change the size or the type of yarn recommended, as per the design.

When buying yarn for a creation, it is recommended to buy all the skeins needed at one time, all with the same dye-lot number because different dye lots may have slight variation in color. The most pleasurable part of knitting is, you get to play with lots of beautiful colors, your imagination for a creation can be as colorful as you like.

There are basically five types of yarn, while designing a knitted wear it is essential to follow a particular design and its specification. Some patterns require a certain type of yarn; some patters even specify the brand of yarn, which is required.

Basic types of yarn are as follows-

- **Baby/Fingering**
- **Sport /Baby**
- **Worsted Weight**
- **Chunky**
- **Bulky**

Each yarn mentioned above has certain specifications, they differ from each other in thickness or in weight .The finest of the yarn is the Fingering yarn.
The content of the yarn is known as Fiber content, this tells us what materials have been twisted together to make this yarn.

Fiber content also specifies whether the yarn is made out of animal, vegetable or man made fiber.

Man made fiber or Synthetic Yarns such as acrylic nylon and rayon are easier to maintain more wearable, it is especially useful for people who have allergy reactions to wool.

Yarn Labeling

Each and every yarn is labeled, the labels on the yarns are listed with complete information about the yarn. The labels on the yarn provides complete information like the brand, what type of yarn it is ,the weight of the yarn ,the yardage of the skein, fiber content of the yarn as well as the instruction of how to handle and care for the yarn.

Many yarns labels also include a design, which is recommended by the company, the design printed on the label shows that particular yarn is best suited for that particular design. The design is printed in the inside of the label.

Knitting Needles

Knitting needle pairs are used to make a flat knitted fabric. They are thinly spiked at one end to form the stitches and have a loop at the other end to hang on to the stitches. They ma be made in plastic ,wood, steel or alloy and range in sizes from 2mm to 17 mm in diameter.

In England, needles used to be sized by the numbers- the higher the number, the smaller the needle. Metric sizing has now been internationally adopted. Needles are also made in different lengths. Select the length that will be convenient for you to hold the required stitches for each project.

It is useful to have a range of sizes so that tension swatches can be knitted up and compared. Discard any needles that become bent. Points should be fairly sharp, blunt needles reduce the speed and the ease of working.

Knitting instructions' always specify the type and the size of needle to be used . Give below are the different types of knitting needles one may require-

Circular and Double – Pointed Needles

Circular Needles

As you may be aware there are plenty of knitting needles that are available in the market these days. Circular knitting needles are one of them. The advantage of using this type of needle is that you can create seamless tube. Knitting with this kind of circular needle is also sometimes called knitting in the round.

Use of circular needles began in the beginning of 20th century and the long double pointed needles were getting out dated. With these circular needles you can do any knitting and need not restrict only to the circular types. Anything that can be knitted on two straight needles can be knitted back and forth on circular needles with very less strain on shoulder and wrist.

Circular knitting needles are lot fun to work with. You can do lot with this, sweaters, bags or you can do many other fun things with it. These needles can be made of many different types of materials like bamboo, resin, plastic or even metal. There are new glass circular needles they are many designer colors they look simply amazing.

Usually this needle has two hard tip joined with a flexible cord. Length of this circular needle is measured tip to tip which ranges from 12 inches to 60 inches. 12" is length normally used for socks and mittens and 60" can be used for knit entire bedspread in one piece; you just have to be strong enough to hold it up. For sleeves or caps you can go for 16" inches needles. For adult sweaters 24 to 32 inches are very good.

For getting started with circular needles; casting on process is same as straight needles. If you are knitting a round project; there are several different methods for joining a project in round. You can simply knit the first stitch very tightly, so there won't be any gap between first and last stitch in round. ; you can even cast one extra stitch and then just slip that stitch onto left hand needle ; after that just knit first and last stitch together before starting pattern.

When you knit with circular knitting needles you are knitting on only one side of fabric every time, which is not the case with straight needles so that means you have to change pattern accordingly.

Usually circular knitting is done using stokinette stitch; which makes circular knitting easier as you just have knit every row. For garter stitch instead of knitting each row you will need to knit one row just purl one row. If you purl every row it would be a reverse stokinette. These are some common stitches around.

While buying circular knitting needles the length of nylon cord between the needles. It can ranges from 6" to 40" inches. When you knit with circular needle; circumference is important. For adult sized sweater then go for longer cord.

You can use these circular needles for flat patterns too. Just like two straight needles, cast on and start knitting back and forth. Knitting with circular needles is great for knitting on the road.

Circular needle comes in 16 to 36 inch lengths and is made of nylon or metal. When you do not wish to make a seam, you cast your stitches on the circular needle, join them to form a circle and work round and round to form a tube. Sometimes a circular needle is used when a straight needle is not long enough to hold the required stitches, in which case the stitches are not joined but worked back and forth as for straight needles.

These needles are used to produce a tubular fabric or flat rounds. Many traditional fishermen's sweaters are knitted in the round. Double pointed needles are sold in sets of four or six.

Circular needles consist of 2 needles joined by a flexible length of plastic. The plastic varies in length. Use the shorter lengths for knitting sleeves, neckbands etc, and the longer lengths for larger pieces such as sweaters and skirts.

Straight or Single Pointed Needles

These needles come in pairs ,in lengths of 10inches to 14 inches .They are made of plastic, aluminum or wood, usually only large sized are made of wood. These needles are used on flat work, in which rows are kitted back and forth and the work is turned at the end of each row.

Double – Pointed Needles

These needles are also called soc needles; they are usually about 7 inches long and come in set of four or five. They are made of steel, plastic or aluminum. They are used for work that is kitted in rounds, such as socks and mittens.

Cable Needles

Cable needles are short needles used to hold the stitches to the back or the front of the main body of the knitting.

Needle Gauges

Needle gauges have holes punched into them to indicate the corresponding needle size. They are marked on both the sides according to the old numerical sizing and the metric sizing so you can easily check the size of any needle.

Wool Sewing Needles

These needles are used to sew completed pieces of knitting together. They are pretty large and have a broad eye that can be used for easy threading. They also have a blunt point that will easily slip between the knitted stitches without fraying or splitting the yarn. Do not use sharp pointed sewing needles to sew up knitting. A tapestry needle is also suitable for sewing together knitted pieces.

Stitch Holders

Stitch holders are made of plastic or metal and are like large safety pins .They are used for holding a certain number of stitches which are generally held at the neck edge, then picked up later and worked into a neck band.

These needles with resemblance of a large safety pin are used to holding stitches while they are not being worked, for example, around a neckline when the neck band stitches will be picked up and worked after back and front have been joined.

As an alternative, thread a blunt-pointed sewing needle with a generous length of contrast – colored yarn, thread it through the stitches to be held while they are still on the needle, then slip the stitches off the needle and knot both the ends of the contrast yarn.

Entrelac knitting

Entrelac knitting is a very interesting type of knitting. We can create beautiful textured diamond patterns using this type of knitting. The knitted fiber made with Entrelac knitting appears as a basket woven with strips of knitted fabric. In this pattern basically there are interlocked pieces which are connected with each other.

Entrelac knitting can be used for multicolored patterns. You can have many different colors for single pattern but it is preferred to restrict the usage of colors to two or three as with the increase in the number of colors complexity of this increases.

For making Entrelac pattern you only require knit stitch and purl stitch and you must have ability to knit or purl two stitches together. You can even use garter stitch or stokineete stitch.

Entrelac knitting can be done on both circular and flat. There are many other techniques are there for getting textured fabric but Entrelac knitting allows you have multicolored knitted fabric.

First thing you have to knit first base triangle, cast on seven stitches then starting with purl stitch continue till 14 rows with stokineete stitches. Then for second block, use another color cast 7 stitches on another needle then repeat seven times for next row knit 7 stitches, after this row for next row 6 purl stitches and purl 7th stitch together with adjacent stitch of first block.

Then third block, across upper edge of first block pick up 7 stitches and then continue with yarn from second block, knit purl stitches for 1st row. And with stokineete stitch knit till next 14 rows.

For next block , use different colors again cast on 7 stitches repeat the 7 purl stitches and after that knit 6 stitches and after that 2 stitches together repeat this procedure for 7 times. Keep yarn as it is, don't break it. .

For 7th block pick seven loops along the left edge of block two onto left hand needle continue with yarn from fifth block and then knit stokineete stitch for total 15 blocks. And for last seventh block repeat the procedure of second block. And repeat this whole procedure for creating some specific patterns.

Amazing thing about Entrelac knitting is that row of knitting contain many small rows inside the blocks. If you wish to have square edges then Entrelac knitting is done with triangles. It is knitted same as squares but with decrease and increase of stitches.

Industrial Applications of Knitting Needles

Many industries use metal wire to knit a metal fabric. These are generally used as filter material in most of the cafeterias, or one could find them as catalytic converters which are used for the cars.

Markers on Needle

Markers on needles are sometimes used as guides or to separate sections of work. You can buy needle markers, they re like plastic rings or you can even make them by yourself. Markers created at home are made by tying a 4 –inch long length of different colored yarn around the right-hand needle wherever directed. Always slip markers from one needle to the other while working.

A Row Counter

The Row Counters are used to count the exact number of rows than have got knitted. It is a cylindrical device that has a number dial. The row counter has to be pushed on to the needle. After each row is completed, this dial is turned.

Gauge

A Measuring tape or gauge is essential for checking tension swatches and for measuring the length and the width of the completed knitting. For an accurate result, always smooth knitting out without stretching on a firm flat surface before measuring it.

You will notice a gauge given at the beginning of all knitting directions. To check your gauge, knit a 3inch by 3 inch using the yarn and the needles indicated for the article. Measure your sample with a ruler, counting the number of stitches in an inch, measured across and the number of rows in an inch, measured up and down. If you have more stitches and rows than the ones give in the gauge, it means that you knit tightly and need larger needles. If you knit loosely then you need smaller needles. Getting the correct gauge is very important .If you do not have the correct gauge, the knitted article will not be the right size.

Gauge is merely a dimension of the number of stitches and rows per inch of knitting. If you're a new knitter it is advisable to follow the gauge listen on the yarn as well as the gauge specified on the pattern, if both are the same then you can assertively start knitting.

Every knitter is dissimilar to each other, some stitch with a loose knot, while some stitch with a firm knot, if the same yarn and same sized needle is given to each of them, there is no doubt they will have different gauge on their articles, the gauge may even differ from the gauge specified on the pattern. It is very vital to confirm the gauge before starting to knit and keep comparing your knitting to the gauge specified on the pattern.

Beginning of Knitting

- **Holding the needle.**
- **Holding the yarn.**

Holding the needle

Method 1

The right needle is held I the same position as holding a pencil. For casting on and working the first few rows the knitted piece passes over the hand, between the thumb and the index finger. Let the thumb slide directly under the knitted piece while you still grasp the needle from below.

Method 2

The needle in your left hand is held lightly over the top, using the thumb and the index finger to control the tip of the needle.

Holding the Yarn

Method 1

While you hold the yarn in your right hand, pass it under your little finger, then around same finger, over your third finger, under the centre finger and then over your index finger. Here use your index finger to pass the yarn around the tip of the needle. The yarn is circled around the little finger creates the necessary tension for knitting evenly.

Method 2

Holding the yarn in the right hand, pass under the little finger, over the third finger, under centre finger and over index finger. The index finger is used to pass the yarn around the needle tip. Control the tension applied to the yarn by gripping the yarn in the crook of the little finger.

Steps in Knitting

- **Casting On**
- **Slip Knot Method**
- **Thumb Method**
- **Cable Method**

There are two best ways of casting on, each serving a rather different purpose. Thumb method is used whenever an extremely elastic edge is needed or when the rows have to be cast on the edge immediately so that they can be worked into a stocking stitch or garter stitch.

The second method is the cable or between the needles method. This gives a very neat as well as firm finish that is ideal for use before ribbing or any different firm stitch.

These methods commence with the slip knot and this is the starting-off Point for almost everything you do in knitting.

Slip Knot Method

Loop around your two fingers the yarn, then over the same in the direction of the back side of the first thread.

Use a knitting needle to pull the thread back into the front one to form a new loop.

Pull end to tighten the loop.

Thumb Method

In this method you could make a knot from say 1m towards the end piece of the yarn. With the slip knot on the needle , hold it firmly in the right hand ensuring the end of the yarn over your finger. Now you can twist the loose end of the yarn fabric around say the left thumb and the direction should be from front to back.

After this process is done , then put the needle through the yarn fabric on your thumb. You would now be able to take the fabric with the forefinger or your right had over the needle point.

Pull a loop through to form the first stitch. You can now remove the left thumb of yours and pull the loose end to ensure that the stitch is secure. You may repeat the whole process till the time the necessary number of stitches has been cast on.

Cable Method

This method requires the use of 2 needles. Make a slip knot and place on left hand needle. Now, insert the needle which is on your right hand through the slip knot .Now you will be able to pass the yarn fabric over the needle on the right hand.

Pull this loop through. Place this loop on the left hand needle. Insert the needle on the right hand through the 2 stitches on the let hand needle. Wind the yarn in a way that is around the needle on the right hand.

Draw a loop through, place this loop on the left hand needle. Repeat the above steps until the required number of stitches are on the needle.

Another Method of Casting on stitches

When you must cast on stitches in the middle or end of a row as for a buttonhole or underarm, you only have one strand of yarn to work with. You must then use a method known as **Knitting on,** this is done as follows.

Turn work- the right hand needle is now the let hand needle and vice versa. The yarn is now on the left side.

Insert the right hand needle into the first stitch on the left hand needle.

Draw the loop through stitch but do not drop old stitch off needle. Instead , transfer the new stitch just made back to left hand needle.

Make next cast on stitch in the new stitch just completed. Continue working Steps given above until the required number of stitches is cast on. Then turn work and resume regular knitting.

The Basic Stitches

- **Knit Stitch**
- **Purl Stitch**
- **Knit Stitch or The Garter Stitch.**

Knit Stitch

The Knit stitch is the second step in knitting, also known as the Garter stitch. In Knit stitch leads to creating the body of your project, by increasing the number of stitches on the needle. Garter stitch or knit stitch can be done solely on your design or it can be combined with purl stitch to add pattern to your finished product.

Knit stitch steps given below-

With the yarn at the back of the work insert the right hand needle from the left to the right through the front of the first stitch on the left hand needle. You can now wind the yarn fabric over the right hand needle; hold it decisively though not too tight. By holding it firmly, you will be creating tension in the wool which will in turn result in a well tight knitted piece. Holding it too tight can lead to difficulty in knitting.

With the help of the left hand index finger, move the needle slowly back to the opening stitch. Put the needle through the opening of the stitch, pull the other side out. The needle should now be pointed in the descending direction.

Next push the left needle downwards with the help of your right thumb. Remove the needle from the stitch; you will see you have created one stitch on the right needle.

Continue knitting the rest of the stitches, just the way you made the first stitch. Keep repeating this until all the stitches have been transferred from left needle to the right needle. Knit Stitch or Garter Stitch look like rows of a ridge.

Purl Stitch

The Second basic stitch in knitting is the Purl stitch. When used in combination with the garter stitches a beautiful piece can be created .The combination of these stitches are mostly used for making Blankets for children, as well as Single Blankets and Double Blanket for adults.

With the yarn at the front of the work, and then insert the needle which is on your right hand to the right to the left through the front of the first stitch on the left hand needle. In purl stitch the yarn needs to be kept on the left side of the needle.

Try to wind the yarn counter clock wise round the right hand needle, which has been put through the stitch. Draw a loop through to the back.

Take the needle back towards the original stitch, with your left thumb holding as firmly as possible.

In dissimilarity to the Garter stitch, in this case the needles will be pointing upwards. With your right thumb push the needle downwards, slip the original stitch off the let hand needle with your left thumb.

You will now have one stitch on the right hand needle. Repeat this until nearly 20 stitches have been transferred to the right hand needle. Knitting is an art that needs to be practiced as much as possible, only then will you reach a comfort level with it.

Making a Cable

Cables-

They are very easy to make. In cable, the method is simply transferring of stitches on to a third needle and knitting them with different sequences. There re 6 kinds of stitches you can use to make a cable. Cable is usually made over any even number of stitches for example 4 stitch 6 stitch 8 stitch or 10 stitches. A cable row is normally knitted on the right side row of the article (you can see it below). A cable needle is used to hold the stitches firmly as the other stitches are being transferred.

Casting Off

Casting off n knitting is the final step in the entire process using needles. Always cast off the patter. This means that in stocking stitch you cast off knit-wise on a knit row and purl-wise on a purl row

Knit-wise

Knit the first two stitches of you completed patterns. Using the left hand needle lift the first stitch the one closer to you from top to bottom facing you. Pull the Stitch over the needle and push it off the left needle .This way you have created one cast off in knit-wise

Knit another stitch, repeat the earlier step of lifting the first stitch over the second and drop it off the needle.

Purl-wise

Purl the first two stitches, then with the help of the left hand needle you could take the first stitch over the second one and later drop it off the needle.

We could repeat the process of Purl once again. Cast off the stitches in the above ways; keep repeating this process till you are left with only one stitch on the right hand needle.

Cut the yarn, and insert the last stitch on the needle into a loop. Pull tightly, sewing the ends of the yarn with a daring needle.

Casting off is the last process in the knitting procedure. This ends the knitting section.

With the help of a crochet hook to cast off one can find it to be extremely time saving.

Now you can pull the second stitch through the first, then choose to knit or purl the next stitch and repeat the process till all stitches are completed. This method can be extremely beneficial in situations when loose elastic cast off is required so that the elasticity is retained.

Knitting Yarns

Yarn is referred to the material used for knitting. Yarn is made available in the market as ball or skeins. It may be also wounded in spools or cones for hand knitting.

One can find the Yarn-band, a label around the balls or skeins, which describes the length, weight, and fiber content etc. It also suggests which needle size will gel well with the yarn.

Sometimes even after you get the required yarn for you project it may happen that you fall short of during the process of completion. Then the yarn label would be helpful for us to get the same shade.

Knitter uses the yarn from a single dye lot. If the skeins are used from a different dye lot even if the color is same, it produces a slightly different stripe which is visible when it is knitted together.

If the knitter has the dye lot information they can buy the same yarn to complete the fabric. Thicker knitting needles are used for thicker yarns and thin needles are sufficient for thin yarns. When thicker yarn is used, the stitches are fewer and it takes less time to knit the piece.

Bold patterns and motifs are produced with thicker yarns and the finer patterns are made with thin yarns. The thickness of the yarn is categorized as superfine, fine; light bulky, superbulky and medium.

The knitters usually transform a hank into a ball. The yarn is emerged from the center of the ball and this prevents the yarn from tangling. This can be either done by hand or by using a device called ballwinder.

Some knitters put this ball in a close jar and takes out the yarn through a small hole made in the lid of the jar. The elasticity, loft, softness, durability, fuzziness, tendency to twist, weight, color, smoothness, washability are factors taken into account before using the yarn for knitting.

Knitting is mostly done with the yarns that are made by spinning fibers. Z-twist or S- twist yarn direction does either the twisting of fiber. The yarn becomes smoother if the fibers are combed and yarn becomes fuzzier if the fibers are not combed. The fibers can be either continuous filament fibers or staples.

The different spun fibers are animal fibers, plant fibers and synthetic fibers. Generally the long hairs of animals such as sheep, goat, rabbit, and yak are used for fibers. Plants like cotton, flax, bamboo, jute, raffia, and yucca are used for fibers.

Polyesters such as nylon and Dacron are the common synthetic fibers. Yarns may be dyed for one color or for variety of colors. Dyeing is done by hand or by industrially. Natural dyes are often used for dying.

Huge varieties of yarns are sold in the market. Knitters can also have their own collection, which is called stash.

Cashmere Knitting Yarns

There are different types of the knitting yarns available in the market. One among them cashmere is a light weighted and soft yarn. This yarn is obtained from goats and these are knows Pashmina. This yarn is the softest wool among all the yarns and therefore it is the most expensive yarn. This yarn got name as cashmere from its origin ‘Kashmir’ which is located in the northern region of India.

One can find a variety of sweaters, shawls, gloves and socks made up from this Cashmere yarn. Generally we get this wool in the annual molting season of goats by shredding or shearing of their down.

As this yarn is luxurious , most of the designers tend to opt for cashmere yarn. Not only is this the cashmere knitting yarn warmer than any yarn form. As this yarn is obtained from goat they generally get in natural colors like white, brown and gray. Generally it is assumed that this cashmere yarn is almost eight times warmer and softer than any other type of yarn. Because of this it is the most expensive knitting yarn and fabric in the market.

The different types of the cashmere yarn are as follows:

Cashmere Merino Silk DK Yarn

This yarn has a superb blend for skin caressing fiber. One can find amazing results from this yarn as they are completely interchangeable by gauge and needle or hook size.

Therefore this is the best for your crochet as well as light weight knitting. Because of this it is most suitable for children's and adults outfits. You can get this yarn in different colors pellets which will include earth tones, classic and bright. This yarn is crafted with Italian ingenuity of about 75% of merino wool, around 20% silk and cashmere for about 5%.

Cashmere Tweed Yarn

When the fanatic yarn of RYC is combined with the cashmere yarn then Cashmere Tweed yarn will get, which will give touch of silk and furry softness and the texture in woven fabric.

Because of this yarn is the best for lavish sweater, shawls and sensational hats. This yarn is crafted with around 90% of cashmere and around 10% silk. You will find brown, black, gray and white color in it as the cashmere used is more.

Cashmere 5 Yarn

This yarn have five side by side work the name cashmere five is given. This yarn id delicate hand as well as it is most light as each strand is unplied which will demonstrate wonderful texture and blossom. This is 100% cashmere and the best yarn for knitting and crochet like sweaters, shawls, hats, and all that which skin needs. Appearance f this yarn is best suited for adult's garments, as well as heirloom baby gifts.

Cashmere Canapa Yarn

This is the perfect yarn fiber for sensitive skin for knitting. This will augments cotton and keeps it soft because of luminescent halo cashmere. Hemp will give strength and durability. This cashmere Canapa is tremendously well with wonderful swathe and stitch definition.

These all are the different types of the Cashmere knitting yarn which are available for you for knitting purpose.

How to Attach Yarns

Always start a new skein of yarn at the beginning of a row. Tie the old and the new ends into a neat row. When the item is completed, either thread ends separately into a darning needle and darn in neatly on wrong side of knitting, or darn into seam.

Modular knitting

Knitting is done by stitching those threads into each other by stitching. Knitting may be hand made or machine made. By hand there are many styles and ways. So many different fiber and needles are used to make those different varieties of cloth piece such as table cloth, handkerchiefs and etc.

According to the research results it has been found that a woman of Virginia, her name is Woods Bellamy has invented type of knitting in year 1940 it was “number knitting” later known as “modular knitting”. In this method with the use of small knitting pieces you can combine to get a single large piece. She used different shapes for knitting such as square, triangle, parallelogram, and rectangle.

For this type of knitting she was using graph paper on that first all plots were made, these all lay outs are then converted to the fabric pattern in succession and knitting creates parts one by one, beginning of each knitting part by knitting it to preceding part.

Bellamy obtained just an idea and few patterns of modular knitting not a full modular knitting concept. Bellamy may know some another inventor of modular knitting, at that time there was not that much growth for knitting so her interest bring her to the level where she known as inventor of “number knitting”

If you know the basics of knitting and you know cast on, blind off, knit, increase and decrease, all the twists and turns are used in modular knitting, it may happen sometime that you stitching is complete and there remained a gap in between these stitches then you can easily add some more stitches or even release those stitches two make them equal in numbers.

So this is the advantage associated with modular knitting, this method is flexible as compare to others so you don’t have to waste your time in rearranging the stitches.

Modular knitting normally involves creating individual patterns which are squares, triangles, diamonds and combination of them to create fine piece, then stitching another piece, then all are combined together create beautiful modular pattern. By using modular knitting techniques you can knit skirts, scarves, art of yarn can be used here to create hexagonal shape and that too in many different colors.

Even if you are beginner modular knitting will be comfortable for you. The new techniques that are used nowadays will help you to knit shapes continuously without cutting yarns and picking up stitches very easily as compare to old methods.

So by using this kind of knitting you will be able to create your own funky clothes, for your family members like kids, husband, and grandparents, all of them will look extraordinary in these clothes.

They are also better options for gifts, anyone will be happy to receive such beautiful gift.

Knitting Designs

Cape let is most demanded design in modern times. There are different patterns of this caplet. Cape let is also called as cape or collar. If you want to knit capelet then you can design your own type of capelet by your favorite yarn, color. In this you can vary the length of the capelet or you can add the collar to any capelet and you will get the different type of it.

This pattern is hand knit capelet pattern. For this you have to knit from neck to ham down. For this purpose make use of the circular needle. if you wants the collar caplet then you can attach roll collar of about 1.5”. To design this capelet you have to measure basically three lengths which are neck opening, shoulder width and front length.

This caplet needs approximately 20 gram balls of mohair yarn in which each ball had about 90 meters of yarn. For knitting you should have minimum one circular needle which must be sufficiently long so as to hold all the stitches at the hem of the cape. For this purpose you need 16” near the neck and around 24” near the hem.

The main characteristic of this caplet are as follows:

While knitting you have to knit from neck to hem in down word direction with the help of circular needle. For this cape collar is optional if you want collar for your neck then attach near about 15”. Now close it tightly close with idiot cord. Stitch the ending of edge, front and border. Level front and back by short shaping near the border. The back neck must be raised with the same shaping method. According to your body or fitting you have to take proper measurements.

To give the pattern or shape to your caplet enter your stitch as well as row gauge. When you are well worth with the knitting the try for these patterns but yet this is the simplest pattern among the all.

This pattern has around 8 increased rays and about 2 shoulder darts. On back side also you have to knit around 4 decreased rays. Place around 10 stitch markers to locate the rays. For further reference label them as 1f, 2f, 3f for front side and same for back side as 2b, 1b, etc. while knitting down you have to increase about one stitch on both the sides for each stitch marker for every 6 rows.

For this just go on stitching across the unit on stitch lefts before the marker. Skipping this marker again go on stitching and continue it. For this learn to stitch odd number now increase knit from both the sides as well as purl side of the fabric. For purl the same procedure you have to repeat as mentioned above.

When your cape become sufficiently long so as to cover up your shoulder then stop it increasing further. Except this keep knitting for border side. But just before hem you have to work for the short rows so as to level back and front properly. In this pattern the back is longer than front.

After completing this short row you will complete the knitting for your capelet and your new pattern caplet is ready to use.

There has always been a creative appetite in mankind. To unfold this creativity, one could create thousands of designs which are really eye catching. One may mix and match the diverse colors of yarns available in the market and create their unique designs. These designs should move with the current fashion trends and at the same time easy to understand and create.

Quality of Yarn

If we want to knit a good sweater what anybody needs is a good yarn.The quality requirement for yarn changes everyday and also different for different nd users.Good quality yarn can be used by high end users.However the key is to concentrate on the quality of yarn and one can have a good idea on the same once the yarn is washed

What Type of Needle Should I Use?

You are on the way of trying to knit a new sweater using cotton or woolen yarn but unable to make the stitch appear even??

Then you may try using BAMBOO needles for knitting cotton fabric. This is so because the tooth of the bamboo stick will be helpful in controlling the size of each stitch.Cotton is generally a material which is smooth and very good to the skin.

Metal needles can be restricted to wool. Wool is good enough to hold onto the surface of the needle and stays even easier.

Blocking

A swatch of knitting dries after being blocked using the wet blocking method.

For good fit and a professional looking finish, block the separate pieces of your work before joining them together. Blocking is a professional method of elongating and contouring a finished article to reach the suggested measurements I the pattern.

Knitted Lace always needs to be blocked. Wet Blocking is the perfect way for blocking synthetic fibers. Please check the instructions on the yarn label before blocking. In wet blocking the article is dampened not completely wetted, spread it on a sheet or towel so that excess water is absorbed, carefully stretch the garment as per the measurement given, the use of a gauge or ruler would be appropriate as the measurements would be perfect , once stretched to size wanted leave it to dry undisturbed , as the garment dries it will gain its wanted size and pattern.

Do not dry in direct sunlight. Pin piece with rustproof pins to ironing board, wrong side up, to the proper shape and measurements given in the instructions.

For wool, steam with a steam iron or through a damp cloth , allowing steam to go through piece, but never letting full weight of the iron rest on the knitting.

For synthetics or blends, do not use iron but dampen and allow natural drying.

Ribbing is never blocked.

Gauge or Tension

The correct tension or gauge is the most important contribution to the successful knitting of a garment. The information under this heading given at the beginning of all patterns refers to the number of stitches required to fill a particular area, for example, a frequent tension indication would be'22 sts and 30 rows= 10 cms square measured over stocking stitch on 4 mm needles.

This means that it is necessary to produce fabric made up of the proportion of stitches and rows as given in the tension paragraphs in order to obtain the correct measurements for the garment you intend to knit, regardless of the needles you use.

The needle size along with the gauge is important to achieve the necessary tension while Knitting.

The way to ensure that you do achieve a correct tension is to work a tension sample or swatch before starting the main part of the knitting. Although this may seem to be time consuming and a big nuisance it can save the enormous amount of time and aggravation that would result from having knitted a garment to the wrong size.

It is most important to get the width measurement correct before starting to knit. Length measurements can usually be adjusted during the course of knitting by way of adjusting these measurements in relation to sleeve length or the underarm.

INCREASING AND DECREASING

There are various methods of increasing and decreasing and they serve two purposes. The first Is to make the knitting wider or narrower, and to shape it.

The second purpose is to create the decorative effects in lacy or in textured patterns.

Using Increasing and Decreasing to Shape

When knitting the various parts of the garment, increases or decreases are worked impairs at each end of the row. While working on the symmetrical pieces-back, as well as sleeves to give a balanced shape. The fronts of a cardigan however are shaped differently on each side to give the correct shape for the armhole on one side and the neck shaping at the other.

It is very important to follow the instructions given in the knitting pattern very carefully. The designer will have worked out the various shaping to give the best possible results for each piece of material, and to ensure that the pieces fit together correctly when made up.

Slip Stitch Decreases

Slip next stitch onto the right hand needle without knitting it then knit the next stitch

Lift the slipped stitch over the knitted stitch and drop it off the needle. The abbreviation is **sl 1 kl psso**, it means slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over. On a purl row the abbreviations are **sl 1 pl psso**, which means slip 1,purl, pass slipped stitch over.

Working Two Stitches Together.

This decrease is worked simply by inserting the needle on the right hand through the two stitches instead of one followed by knitting them together as one stitch.

On a purl row, insert the needle purl-wise through the two stitches and purl I the usual way. The abbreviation is **k2tog** or **p2tog**. The abbreviation means knit 2 stitches together or purl 2 stitches together.

Method to avoid Dropped Stitches

.

It happens that in most cases the dropped stitches are the resultant of picking up the needles of a work in progress that has been left off in the middle of a row. Then the stitches could slide off the needle tips.

You may notice this sometimes after you have completed the whole sweater when you suddenly notice a hole

Increasing - The Yarn Over Increase

Yarn Forward Increase

Knit Row

To make the yarn forward increase in a knit row, bring the yarn to the front, take it over the right hand needle and knit the stitch. The completed increase creates a visible hole and is often used in lace patterns. The increase abbreviations in knitting patterns are, **yf** or as **yfwd** both meaning yarn forward.

Purl Row

In a purl row, take the yarn over the right hand needle to the back of the work, then under the needle to the front .The abbreviation is **yrn** meaning yarn round needle.

Yo that is yarn and is most commonly used as general term .It is also used for purl rows to reflect the fact that a stitch needs to be increased at a particular position by the method of winding the yarn round the needle or not.

It is however necessary to make sure that when we wind the yarn fabric correctly; as to whether the next stitch is worked on and that we have not just carried the yarn from front to back and back to front.

Increasing - Making a Simple Increase

(knitting into the front and back of a stitch)

Working into the Front and Back of a Stitch

Knit Row

Knit into the stitch and before slipping the stitch off the needle, knit again into the back of the loop. This is the abbreviation in patterns as **Inc 1**or **Inc in next st.** Meaning increase one stitch or increase in next stitch.

Purl Row

The method on purl row is very similar to knit row. Purl into the front of the stitch then purl into the back of the stitch before slipping the stitch off the needle.

Increasing Between a Stitch (‘Make One’)

Make 1

This increase is known as Make One. Work on the place where the increase needs to be made. Lift the yarn lying between the stitch just worked and the next stitch and place it on the needle on your left hand, then knit from front to back horizontal strands between two stitches.

Knit the stitch into the back of the loop as shown.

For the Purl stitch, insert the needle from the front to back of the stitch and then purl the stitch into the back of the loop.

This increase is abbreviated as **M 1** meaning make 1.

Yarn over (yo)

A “Yarn Over” is made the following way:-

On a knit row, now try to bring the yarn to front, then over right- hand needle t back of work and knit next stitch.

On a purl row, when yarn is n front yarn over right hand needle to bank of work, then bring to front of work and purl next stitch. After the yarn over is completed, one extra loop is now on right hand needle. When this loop is worked on next row as a stitch, a space has been made.

Knitting instructions

Knitting instructions can always guide you on the complete process of knitting and you can explore your creativity with a pair of needles and a bunch of yarn.You can knit wonderful patterns and sky could be the limit.

There are basically five basic instructions;

- **Making Slip knot**
- **Cast on,**
- **Knit stitch**
- **purl stitch**
- **Binding off**

Making slip knot is very easy, this knot is tied for secure knitting to ensure that the stitches do not open up at the beginning as you proceed upwards. This slip knot is very easy just have to pull some yarn and make one loop.

Now to start knitting you have to cast on stitches. So for Cast on, make a slip loop over left needle then pass right needle through loop from left to right yarn under and over right needle then draw yarn through loop and transfer loop to left needle, continue this till you get number of stitches on left needle. Now your stitches are ready. You may decide on a pattern you want to knit and start knitting.

Before this you must have the basic information on the two stitches –

- **Knit stitch**
- **Purl stitch**.

Knit stitch is very basic stitch. Insert the right needle through the first stitch on the needle on your left hand. Then wind yarn over cross of two needles over right hand needle. Just gently pull through loop. After that just slip over first original stitch from left needle to right hand needle. Just repeat the whole until you transfer all stitches from left needle to right needle. This is the way to complete row with knit stitches.

Second most basic stitch is Purl stitch. First you have to take yarn in front of the needle, then insert right hand needle in first stitch on left hand needle. Wind yarn around back of right hand needle from right to left, then just draw loop backward which will allow stitch to sleep off left needle to right hand needle. With purl stitches you can create pattern which look like brick face.

With variations and combinations of these two stitches you can create many different types of patterns very easily. For example if you want pattern to look like twisted rib then just knit from back side of knit stitches. This will definitely give you even textured pattern.

Once you are done with knitting then you have to seal the ends of knitted fabric for that binding off is done. For this bind off, first knit two stitches; then slip off first stitch over second needle; knit another stitch and repeat the same procedure till only one stitch remains. Break the yarn and just draw it from last loop.

So with this basic information you can create almost any patterns you want. Select yarn very carefully as the final look of knitted fabric also depends upon thickness and type of yarn. Selection of type of knitting needles is also very important as it decide thickness and quality on knitted fabric. Also choose appropriate color depending on what you are knitting and for whom you are knitting.

Correcting Errors

Dropped stitches-

Use a crochet hook to pick them up. Catch the loose stitch and draw a loop through, using the horizontal thread of next row above until you reach the row on which you are working.

When Putting the stitch back on the needles- after ripping and also after picking up dropped stitches

–left needle must be inserted from front to back through each loop, or the knitting will be twisted.

Picking up Stitches

Stitches are most frequently picked up around the neck or armholes so that a narrow band of ribbing may be added. In order to pick stitches we need to hold the yarn on the right side towards you.

Attach a skein of yarn and insert the needle in the first stitch. Bring yarn around needle and draw loop through as if to knit, making a stitch on the right hand needle.

Repeat until required numbers of stitches have been picked up within the space directed.

When picking up stitches it is not necessary to pick up every, picking up the stitch depends entirely on the pattern, the pattern will tell you how many stitches are required to be picked up.

You needn’t pick up stitches of the same row either. This will let you start a new part of knitting for example a collar which would be joined in the round to several rows, which is very well joined to the

other piece.

Picking up stitches along an edge

Once the main body of the knitting is complete, it is often necessary to add some extra rows to finish the work, to make a border or an edging.

Along a cast off edge to pick out stiches, for example, to work the button band on a cardigan, insert the point of the needle between the first and second rows 1 stitch or ½ stitch in from the edge, pass the yarn over the needle and draw a loop through.

Often, the number of stitches that must be picked up are not the same as the number along the edge or the number of rows.

Mark the divisions with a pin.

Before you pick up the approximate number of stitches in a section, you should divide the estimated

number of stitches that are to be picked up by a count of eight.

Grafting (Kitchener Stitch)

Grafting invisibly joins two pieces of knitting. In this Kitchener Stitch a large –eyed blunt needle is used to join two pieces of knitting, the needle is sewed in a matter that replicates knitting.

Grafting is used mainly to adhere the toe end of the socks in such a way that no seam is left to rub toes on.

Cut the yarn leaving a long tread ,long enough that you may need to finish off the row.

We will have two pieces that need to be joined, one o each of the needle. Hold the wrong side of the needles parallel to each other.

Thread the last part of the yarn into a large-eyed blunt needle, these large eyed blunt needles are known as tapestry needle.

Insert from right to left, in a interleaving the large eyed, blunt needle from the first stitch on lower piece as if purling and drawing the thread all through. The tread your working with should be kept under the needle at all time

Interleave the needle in the first stitch from front to back, and second stitch from back to front. Heave the yarn, and remove the stitches off the needle.

Replicate till the stitches remain, pass the tail towards the inside of the work and tighten off.

Grafting invisibly joins two pieces of knitting. The edges are not cast off, and the knitting can be joined either while it is still on the needles or after it has been taken off. Place the two pieces to be joined with right side facing and hold the knitting needles, in the let hand.

Pass the wool needle knit-wise through the first stitch on the front needle and then try to slip the stitch off the knitting needle. Also pass the needle purl-wise through the second stitch on the same needle.

Pass purl-wise through the first stitch on the back knitting needle and slip the stitch off, then pass knit-wise through the second stitch on the same needle, leaving the stitch on the needle.

You could repeat the process of pulling the yarn through so as to form stitches of the same size as

the knitted ones. To finish, darn in loose ends at the back side of the work.

Seams

Most knitted garments are made in separate sections- back, front- right and left front and sleeves. These after blocking are joined by seams, using the yarn used for knitting as thread.

The best needle to use is large eyed blunt pointed needle also called tapestry needle, there are also plastic needles made specially for the purpose. For back- stitched seams a yarn – darning needle may also be used. There are two kinds of seams- Woven Seam possible only on seams where rows end; side seams, sleeve seams; and Backstitched Seams, which can be made anywhere.

One garment, therefore may be joined with different seams.

These are the kind of seams –

Woven Seams

Woven seams are smoother and more elastic- the sections to be joined, however, must be true to size, not needing to be taken in or fitted.

The smoothest, flattest seam of all is woven by catching the head of the end- stitch in a row on the each edge alternatively as you go back and forth.

Match rows and patterns. This weaving may be done either from right or wrong side of the work.

Back-Stitched Seam

Ensure that they match pattern for pattern and row for row. Work backstitch along the seam close to the edge..

Backstitched seam can be made anywhere and allows for adjusting edges if this happens to be necessary. The knitted pieces are handled like fabric. Pin the two pieces together, right sides facing; place pins crosswise, matching rows and patterns.

Make back stitches through both thickness, either very close to edges, or taking wide seams as necessary fit.

This method of sewing is most commonly used but to give a really professional finish to your garments one should opt for Mattress Stitch for sewing all the seams.

Mattress Stitch Seam

You will see in the diagram above visual description of the mattress stitch that we use for almost every seam in the garments usually made as this gives the neatest and the most professional finish.

Mattress stitch can be worked either one stitch in from the edge or half a stitch in from the edge, according to how neat the edge of the fabric is, and how thick the yarn is.

Where the purl is used as the right side it is better to work under only one row at a time. Although it is practice and experience which ill tell you what is actually required.

The secret behind good mattress stitch is to maintain the seam elastic allowing it not to stretch too much. One of the best options to achieve this is to work on the stitch loosely about 1 o 2 centimeters and then pull the tread very firmly so that the stitches are held together quiet tightly.

You could now stretch the seam to the extent of the elasticity required and then move on to the next section of the seam.

If you are planning to sew your knitting together by any other means, then it could take some more time than usual getting used to the Mattress Stitch.

However- practice makes perfect and the professional finish you will achieve will make it worth while.

The benefit of mattress stitch is that it can be used not only for traditional designs but also enable us to expand our creativity to sew shaped edges together quiet easily.

The Most Invisible Seam

The invisible seam is not quiet as flat or as elastic as the other seams. This seam is woven from the right side only. Start from left edge, bringing needle up through first stitch.

Put needle down through first stitch on the right edge and bring it up along the same edge two rows below or above depending on how you are holding your work.

Put it down through corresponding stitch on left edge, bring it up two rows below or above, and continue weaving back and forth in the same way, matching rows and matching pattern.

EDGE STITCH

By taking an edge stitch, your work looks more neat and it also enables to line up the pieces.

One can always knit the first and last stitch on the right side of the work and may wish to purl the first and last stitch on the wrong side. Another way is to knit first and last stitch on the right side, slip the first and last stitch purl wise. This can be done when you are knitting belts, scarves which require a flat edge.

Knitting the first and last stitch of right and wrong side rows will make an edge with that has a tiny bump that looks attractive and also helps to keep the fabric flat.

Working with colors

Joining in a New Color

In a knitting pattern when 2 or more colors are used, it is known as two color knitting. It is better to join a new yarn in at the beginning of a row. If it is not possible to do this and the yarn has to be joined in the middle of the row simply pick up the new colored yarn and continue knitting. After you knit some more rows sew the ends of yarn tidily at the back side. The use of Bobbins stranding carrying or slip stitches is used.

Bobbins

Small items ,like circle of cardboard or wound with yarn, they are used when you intend to make blocks of the color that stop at a point and is not carried forward. Bobbins are also used when the design needs color contrasting pattern placed on the back drop of the main color.

Stranding Colors

Use this method for color patters with small repetitive design. To change colors exchange the position of the two yarns and insert the needle into the next stitch. Lift the old yarn over the right hand needle with your left hand and bring the new yarn over ready to work on the stitch

Before pulling the loop through take the old yarn back again then complete the stitch in the usual way. The old and the new colors will thus be twisted together; this is necessary at the jumping point to avoid making a hole.

The secret of working good 2 color knitting is to carry the color not in use loosely across the wrong side of the work and taking care not to pull it firmly especially when changing the color.

Slipping

Slipping is practiced with colored bobbles when the design requires neat effects, and different color strands for each row along with one color to make textures for example honeycomb pattern. In this pattern the you knit with one strand ‘slipping” the sts that will be filled with another color in the next row.

Weaving

Weaving is an art of making clothes and accessories. Yarns of materials are passed over as well as under each other. Weaving is an ancient craft of knitting clothes, rugs, blankets by crossing two yarns over and under each other For weaving we use yarns of fibers like cotton, silk, wool as well as synthetic yarn.

It is possible to work every alternative stitch of a fairisle pattern as given above for Stranding. This gives a neat look behind but distorts the shape of the stitches and alters the tension.

Unless the pattern specifically calls for this method it is not recommended.

KNITTING SUPPLIES

Knitting is the oldest craft among all the craft. In knitting threads or yarns are used to create cloth or warm cloths. Knitting is the process done by the loops and these loops are stitches through each others and hence you will get different patterns of the cloths and fabric. But to develop this fabric you will need some devices with which you will be able to knit.

These different materials need to knit the fabric are as follows:

Yarn:

These yarns used for knitting are generally sold in the form of balls or skeins also called as hanks or otherwise it may be wound or bobbin or cones. These balls are usually sold with yarn bands which will give the details of that yarn which you are purchasing.

These details are regarding yarns weight, length, dye lot, fiber content, washing instructions not only this it will give suggestion about which needles to be used and the gauge. While knitting it is most probable that the yarn will finish; therefore you should keep some yarn band for future reference for additional purchase.

Mostly you should prefer the yarn with single dye lot. This will tell you the group of skeins that are from different dye lot though they are dyed together and this will give different strips while knitting. You should keep some extra yarn while knitting which will not affect the deficiency.

Knitting Tools

Besides this other necessary thing for the knitting are knitting tools. These tools are knitting needles and ancillary tools.

While knitting you have to complete three basic tasks these are holding of active stitch, second task is when these stitches becomes secure then you have to release them and the third thing is that new bights of should passed through the fabric generally from active stitches by securing them.

To carry all these tasks you can make use of your fingers without making use of any knitting tools but in general practice knitting is done with the help of knitting tools like knitting needles, knitting machine like rigid frames. These knitting rigid frames are called as the knitting board, knitting rings or knitting pools according to their size and shape. All these frames are called as the knitting looms.

Besides these tools other tools which used are used to prepare yarn for knitting, to measure and design knitted garment as well as for making knitting easy and more comfortable.

Ancillary Tools:

Crochet hooks and the darning needles are used for binding the joints of two knitted piece edge to edge. Among these the darning needles are used for duplicate stitch and also called as Swiss darning. Whereas the second crochet hook is used for skipped or drooped stitches specially stitches like tufting. These all are regarding small fabric but if you are working with large fabric then it is most probable that you will forget about the stitch then for this purpose many tools are made for counting the stitches, recognize the amount of specific row or stitch which will cover hanging markers, circular stitch markers, extra yarn and counters.

These are the different tools which can be used while knitting at home.

Color Patterns

Where colors are used in large blocks or over large areas at a time, it is best to use a separate ball of yarn for each section. When the color change is on slanting line, you need to make sure that the yarn needs to be crossed not on every row but only the alternative ones.

When the color changes slants to the right, cross the yarn on the knit row. Take the first color in front of the second color, drop it, then pick up and knit with the second color. On the purl row the diagonal slants in such a way that the yarns automatically cross.

When the color change slants to the left, the yarns must be crossed on the purl row. On the knit row

These classes are for beginners, for high level and for those who know knitting and embroidery but for different patterns and design they ought to join. You will be able to learn different types of knitting and embroidery.

The general timing for these classes are from around 10 A.M till 5 P.M for weekdays that are from Monday to Saturday and on Sunday it will be closed. If your kid is interested in joining these knitting classes then it is schedule for each week on a particular day.

These classes start in around month of September and the timing is of about two hours. These are for beginner kids as well as they will be for experienced kids even.

For adults these classes are available in each week on a particular day so you can join them in any week and you will be able to learn from basic things like how to knit, which yarn should select and how to test it.

In these classes you will learn socks making, lace knitting for beginners and many classes are for experienced so as they can join the classes according to previous knowledge.

In these classes you will learn about felted bowls, Nordic hats, cable hats as well as Fair Isle baby booties. These all patterns you will learn in the knitting classes. The same will be for the embroidery. These classes are also for the beginners as well as peoples who are more expert than them.

Like the knitting classes you will find these classes also near by your place or if you are not able to go outside than your home then there are many teachers who will teach you all the basic as well as advanced types at your home.

You will learn black work, canvas painting and etui boxes. Other types are gold work; which are schedule for one day, two days up to four days according to your choice.

These classes will cover about hasp burg lace, Modern Jacobean for one and two days, Mountmellic. These classes will cover about needle painting for beginners as well as for all level learners along with pulled work, shadow work and traditional Jacobean.

Using all these information you will be able to join the classes according to your level, choice and most important time.

Following a Pattern and Abbreviations

Knitting patterns are written in a language all of their own. Abbreviations are used for many of repetitive words which occur in the instructions and although all manufacturers' do not use exactly the same Abbreviations, as an experienced knitter can follow the jargon.

Before starting to knit any pattern, always read it right through. Even if you are not experienced, this will give you an idea of how the pattern is structured and you will know what to expect. After knitting one or two patterns you will understand how the pattern works.

Multiples

A certain number of stitches are required to form one complete pattern, say a cable, a zigzag or a leaf shape. The number of stitches on the needle must be divisible by this number. The information is given at the beginning of a pattern.

For example: multiple of 4 sts; multiple of 8 plus 1 sts. Some patterns also specify the number of rows required to complete the pattern.

Asterisks and Brackets

These are used to indicate repetition of a sequence of stitches. For Example: *k3, pl; rep from * to end. This means knit 3 stitches and purls 1 stitch to the end of the row. The instructions within brackets are worked for the number of times required.

For Example: [k3, pl] 4 times. This means that the stitches within the brackets are worked 4 times in all.

Work Straight

This instruction means that you knit with the number of stitches on the needle for the required length or umber of rows without increasing or decreasing.

SOCK KNITTING MACHINE

Sock-knitting machines are used to make socks. One can also knit mittens, scarves on the sock-knitting machine. Sock knitting machines are much antique and they are not made. Sock knitting machines are very old, say around 80 to 100 years.

The history dates back to 1800 and 1900 . It is very easy to knit a sock in the sock-knitting machine. It takes an hour to knit a sock. Different sizes of socks can be made in the sock-knitting machine. One can make ankle socks, knee socks, men's and ladies and kids socks in the machine.

There are many self-patterned sock yarns sold in the market. These yarns can be used in the sock-knitting machine. Sport weight yarns are also used in the machine. Worsted weight yarns can be used also on the slot cylinders.

This yarn does mock ribbing. Opal, Loma's laces, Regia, Trekking XXL and Alpaca yarns are also used in the sock-knitting machine. It is very easy to learn the process of making sock in the sock-knitting machine. There are annual conferences where people learn by attending classes.

There are different patterns and ways to knit socks in the machine. There is a cylinder with slots for the needles in the machine and the needles have latches. When the needle passes in the cam shell path, the knitting is made.

The first step is to setup a basket or bonnet which makes the needles to move continuously. After the setup of bonnet, scrap or waste yarn should be used. When knitting the yarn ball winder should be used to keep the yarn at an even tension.

The main purpose of using the waste yarn is when the sock is finished the yarn can be clipped and ribbed out. Now the hem of the sock is made. The number of rows should be counted when the carrier goes around the cylinder while knitting. Hem top should be knitted by taking a stitch from the first row and should be hanged on the needle.

A ribber is put on the machine after the hem and purl stitches are made. When the ribber is put the stitches are transferred from cylinder needle to ribber needle. After this, the ankle part of sock is knitted. Half of the stitches are transferred from ribber needle to cylinder needle.

This will create knit stitches on the ankle. The start and stop points are marked red on the cylinder for the heel and toes. Heel is knitted on the front of the machine and the back half needles go out of work.

Once the heel is made, the foot of the sock is started. After the foot is made, the toe is made. Now the stitches of the ribber are transferred to the cylinder needle. Ribber stitches are made on the top of the foot and knitting stitches of the machine are made on the bottom of the foot. Now the top of the toe is made with Kitchener stitch. The sock is knitted fully by the sock-knitting machine.

Abbreviations

Below, the common pattern abbreviations' are explained in detail. Further down are some special Abbreviations which actually occur in cable and other highly textured patterns.

Alt= Alternate, This usually occurs during an instruction for shaping, for example: increase 1 stitch at the end of next and every **alt** row until there are **X sts .** This means that, counting the next row 1, 3, 5, 7 etc, until the required number of stitches is reached. If the instruction reads 'increase 1 stitch at the end of every **alt** row' **then** the increase are worked on rows 2, 4, 6, 8 ect.

Beg= Beginning **Cms= Centimeters**

Dec= Decreases This is shaping instructions. I, 2, or even 3 stitches can be decreased in one go during knitting, but if more than this is required it is usually necessary to 'cast off' some stitches. For Reference see pg no.-34, 35, 36, and 37.

For a description of the usual ways to work a decrease please refer to pg no.-44, 45.

Inc= Increases This is shaping instruction. 1 or 2 stitches can be increased in one place but if more than this is required it is usually necessary to 'cast on' some stitches. For reference please see page no.-25, 26.

For a description on usual ways of increase you can refer to page no.- 46, 47,and 48

K= Knit **P= Purl** These Abbreviations' describe all the detailed working of a pattern. For Example; **K9**, **p3, k1, psso, k2.** This means that you knit 9 stitches, slip the next stitch, knit more stitch; then you lift the slipped stitch using the point of the left hand needle over the 1 knit stitch and drop it off the needle, then you knit the last 2 stitches. This is frequently used method of decreasing.

Rep= Repeat

Sl= Slip Example: **SL1, kl.** This means that you slip the next stitch on to the right hand needle without knitting it, and then you knit the next stitch.

St= Stitch **Sts= Stitches**

St st= Stocking Stitch This consists of 1 row knit, 1 row purl and gives a fabric which is smooth on one side and rough on the other. To felicitate sewing always keep the stitch at the beginning and end of each row in stocking stitch. Some knitters slip the first stitch of a knit row, or knit the first stitch of a purl row. If you use a mattress stitch seam keep the edge stitches in true stocking stitch.

Tbl= Through back of loop

Tog= Together Usually used as a method of decreasing. For example: k2tog

Yb= Yarn back **Yf= Yarn forward**

Yfon= Yarn forward over needle, Yarn forward, as if to purl. Used to make a stitch between two knit stitches.

Yfrn= Yarn forward round needle, Used to make a stitch between a knit and purl stitch. Take the yarn right round the needle, finishing at the front.

Yon= Yarn over needle, Used to make a stitch between a purl and knit stitch.

Yrn= Yarn round needle, Used to make a stitch between 2 purl stitches.

CREATE YOUR OWN KNITTING JOURNAL

You can spend some time creating our own Knitting journal which would display the history of your work and notes on Yarns, needles, and the remaining things used in the process. The journal could be small so that it can be easily carried even while shopping

You can have a list of things you made, from which location you purchased the yarn, who was the manufacturer, the length, width and also a small sample of the yarn.

You could also have a small collection of all the samples that you have made. You can also make an album of your collection of designs in the priority of things that you may work upon in future.

Also maintain an index page in your journal to avoid any redundancy.

You can have a separate section relating to projects whereby you can mention the list of projets you have completed , you are in the process and you plan to do in future. You can add your own comments about the quality used for all the projects so that the information could be used by others as well.

In Summary one can say that Knitting is a funfilled hobby opening the doors to your creativity !!!!