



Lesson #1

#1 and # 24 Women's and Men's Pullover

From the book, Our Best Knit Collection by Leisure Arts (1998)

Materials you will need:

Our Best Knit Collection by Leisure Arts (1998)

Artisan Knitting Machines Model 70D Instruction Book

Enough yarn to complete your project

Knitting Skills You Will Need to Know for Lesson #1

How to take a gauge

Measuring your tension swatch

Increasing –single and full fashioned

Decreasing- single and multiple stitch decreasing

Picking up stitches- from waste yarn, and from a finished edge

Knitting with waste yarn and nylon ravel cord

How to mark side edge with contrast yarn

Using hold position levers R & L

Using side levers for “free pass knitting”

Binding off the knitting machine

Casting on your ribber for 1:1 ribbing

Partial or short row knitting

Seaming: Grafting, crochet stitch, and mattress stitch

Knitting Terms You Will Need to Know for Lesson #1

K2 tog- Single decrease –This stitch slants to the **right** on the **knit side** of your fabric.

If you **move your stitch to the left on your knitting machine**, purl side facing you, the upper stitch slants to the right on the knit side of the fabric.

P2 tog- Single decrease- This stitch slants to the **right** on the **knit side** of your fabric. If you **move one stitch to the left on your knitting machine**, purl side facing you, the upper stitch slants to the right on the knit side of the fabric.

Hint: K2 tog = P2 tog Why? Look at your hand knit diagrams in your Lesson Book. Notice the direction in which the stitches are knitted off with the other knitting needle. It creates the same effect on the knitted side.



K1 PSSO- Single decrease- This decrease slants to the **left** on the **knit side** of your fabric. If you move **one stitch to the right on your knitting machine**, the purl side facing you, the upper stitch slants to the left on the knit side of the fabric.

Stockinette Stitch –Knit 1 Row, Purl 1Row (K 2 rows on your knitting machine)

Try this: Decreases have a slant or angle to them. Pay attention to which direction you want them to go to get the visual affect you want. You may want to reverse this to have the stitch decreased “on top” on the knit side of the fabric, or “under” on the purl side of the fabric. This is achieved by picking up the stitch **next** to the stitch to be “moved over” (may be right or left) move over that stitch, then place the “picked up” stitch on top of the stitch moved over.

Discussion:

Picking Out A Hand Knit Pattern for Use on the Knitting Machine

In order to pick out a pattern for use on the knitting machine, one must have a basic knowledge of how a knitting machine works, specifically, its various functions. If one knows how to put those specific functions to use, translating useful information from the basic hand knit pattern to the knitting machine is not difficult.

There are differences between hand knitting and machine knitting one needs to consider. In hand knitting, one must knit while changing the stitch as you go. Remember, those stitches are looped around a bar, and you cannot move them either right or left, back or front, etc. until you come upon them while knitting that row. Stitches on a knitting machine are looped around open latched hooks. With this system, the type of stitch or stitches is considered before they are knit. Therefore, in machine knitting, the knitter transfers any data first, i.e. moving one stitch to the next, setting the machine to do a function (i.e. tuck, slip) before one knits the row with the knitting machine’s carriage.

It is very important to read the entire pattern first. You need to ask yourself a few of these questions. Am I knowledgeable enough of my machine and its functions to be able to transfer this information to the knitting machine? Can it be reasonably done? Do I have the equipment? Another thing to consider is that in hand knitting, the knitter knits one row in stockinet, and another in purl. In single bed knitting, unless we turn our knitting “over” we are always working from the “purl side” of the knitting.



The Women's (#1) or Men's (#24) Pullover

Let us look at the women or men's basic pullover pattern. Look through the entire pattern and notice that the sweater parts to knit are listed in separate sections with its own directions. It is these types of patterns, where the parts are knitted separately and then seamed, are more likely adaptable for use on the flat bed knitting machine than ones that are connected as one piece and knitted in the round. Notice that the pattern does not provide schematics, or a visual diagram for sizing. For these types of patterns, especially for those who want to knit "retro", it is very important to pay attention to gauge. The gauge will be your scale for plotting the original pattern measurement. Notice the yarn type recommended. Are you able to use this type on your knitting machine? Just as in sewing, where different fabrics can have a different "handle" due to fiber content and so on, this is also true for yarns. If you are planning to use a different kind of yarn or type, remember to consider that a change may occur in the look and handle of the item knitted. For example, a skirt knitted in a rayon wool blend will not look the same as a skirt knitted in cotton twist, even if they had the same gauge.

Next, what size will you need to knit? Up at the top, the sizes and finished chest measurements are provided but the finished lengths are not. Scan down through the pattern to where it says **Back Ribbing**. Notice how many stitches to cast on are required in the size you desire. Do you have enough available needles on your knitting machine bed to knit the size you want? Scan down to where it says **Body**. Read through and see if you need to increase any more stitches. If so, will you still have enough stitches available? Notice that this is where the pattern often mentions where the finished back length ends from the original cast on edge. It is at this point that you can determine your own finished length. If you wish to make an adjustment in this length, it may be easily changed by simple multiplication and then added or subtracted. Make a note of this in pencil and when knitting make sure to note the row number or numbers on your pattern in pencil. **Never** assume that you will remember all of this! Also, note that if your stitch row gauge is different, this too is easily rectified by the same simple math formula. Remember to make note of this where it says **Front** also, so you will knit them the same, or have proportionate measurements to work with for customizing. Note that the **Front** and **Back** body does not note where the underarm begins. In this type of pattern, it is important to place markers at each end of your knitting to keep track of rows knitted at a glance. I like to mark my ends ten rows at a time. These markers are helpful for accurate placement of the sleeves onto the body of the sweater and to match the front and back sides and sleeves when seaming.

Look at the directions for **Shoulder Shaping** under **Back**. Read all of the directions ending with row six. Notice that the directions have you knit both shoulders simultaneously, binding off the stitches necessary to slope the shoulders away and downwards towards the arm. You may bind off these stitches directly. You may also use a popular knitting technique called short row or partial knitting. In partial knitting, these



stitches are placed on hold and are later taken off on waste knitting for seaming. (See pgs 13-14, 15-16 in your 70D instruction book.)

Scan down to the **Front** section. Note the length required to knit before you start your neck shaping. Do your multiplication and figure out the row, and make a pencil note of this on your pattern.

Next, read the **Neck Shaping** section. Notice how many rows you need to complete before it is finished. Make a note of this so you can adjust your row counter accordingly. The directions have the knitter knit both sides of the neck shaping at the same time using two different balls of yarn. Those knitters who are familiar with the use of the Intarsia carriage may shape their necks this way. However, most machine knitters will need to apply the knitting techniques of partial knitting and waste knitting, or simply binding off and putting the stitches on three separate stitch holders. A more experienced machine knitter may divide the neck into three sections, knitting each side of the neck and shoulder separately. When this is finished, it is “taken off” the knitting machine bed in three separate sections onto waste yarn (see pages 10-11 in the 70D instruction booklet). Done in this method, different shoulder seaming methods are available to the machine knitter. The group of stitches left in the center of the neck is later placed back on the knitting machine for the neckline to be finished. Review pages 12-14, 28-29 in your Instruction Book, and for intarsia knitting, you will find directions for its use on the last two pages.

The **Front Shoulder Shaping** is shaped the same as the **Back** section, either binding off as directed, (page 12, and 15 in your 70D manual, or using partial knitting as described on pages 13-14 in your 70D manual).

Next, review the **Sleeve** directions and **Sleeve Body** directions. When knitting the **Sleeve** cuff, notice that there may be a difference in the number of stitches to rib knit before knitting the **Sleeve Body**. Are there many increases? How many and how often? Note this down so that when the rib knitting is completed, the transferring of those stitches to the main bed may be made to accommodate those possible increases (70D manual page 12). Check your number of stitches to those required in your pattern size. Again, making multiple increases across the needle bed may be accomplished easily with the use of waste knitting. An easy way to do this is to first transfer those stitches to the main bed, then change your yarn to take this knitting off on waste knitting. Replace the original stitches back evenly across where the increases are to be made on the knitting machine, leaving those spaces open to be filled in with additional stitches (see page 12 in your instruction book). Next, while reading the pattern note the pattern of sleeve width increases, making sure your row counter number matches this pattern. This can be checked by using simple math division or multiplication. Make a note of these numbers in pencil on the pattern according to the row number, so that you may match this pattern (as expressed in row numbers), to the other sleeve. For example, in the **Men's Sleeve Body** pattern size 40, I need to increase one stitch each edge (side) every other row 5



times. This is written as 1-2-5x, in many machine knitting books. The first number representing how many stitches are written first, then how many rows, and finally how many times you need to repeat this pattern (making sure to note the row number this is finished on). Next, I need to increase every fourth row 19 times to a total of 102 stitches. Once the required number of stitches is reached, I then knit the sleeve without increasing until I reach the desired length from wrist to underarm.

Now shape the **Sleeve Cap**. Using either bind off techniques learned (including partial knitting) finish off your sleeve cap. Please note that if you use partial knitting to shape your sleeve, you will finish the sleeve cap similar to the **Back** neck and **shoulder shaping** done previously, removing it from the machine on waste knitting. Mark the center of your sleeve with a contrasting yarn. This helps for later finishing, centering the sleeve into your sweater for a more accurate sleeve placement.

Finishing

Note that in reading the **Finishing** directions, circular needles are used to knit the neck ribbing. Since this is not possible, by leaving one shoulder free, we are able to knit this neckline ending with an invisible seam on the side of one shoulder. Therefore, finish only one of your shoulder seams at this time. The neckline will need to be open at one end for completion. Read pages 15-16 in your 70D manual for directions to finish this seam. Next, hang your neckline back onto your main bed of your machine, picking up the number of stitches as indicated in the directions. Add one stitch to either end of your neckline (see page 12, 70D instructions). These end stitches will be used later on for seaming up the side of the neckline creating the “invisible seam”. Read and follow the directions to finish your sweater. Please note that you need to seam up the other shoulder after the completion of the neckline ribbing. There are several ways to do this (see pages 15-16, 70D manual). Once done, replace the shoulder stitches back onto the machine placing the **right side of the knitting** towards you (this may be the knit side or purl side depending). Place on top of these stitches your sweater shoulder centering the piece according to the sleeve top placement. Make sure this piece wrong side is facing away from you and towards the sleeve (right sides together). Often times machine knitters rehang the side seams and arms of the sweater back onto the machine and latch tool bind off, rehang each side in two pieces when necessary.

Questions? Email me! Happy Knitting! Joanne Sag

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