

# Tips & Techniques!

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## Tips and Techniques #8

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### 5MM MACHINES END NEEDLE SELECTION

When George Le Warre was here in June, the two of us started playing with the machines and came up with some interesting discoveries and ideas we'll be sharing with you soon. The following tip is one of our favorites because it's so simple (Why didn't we think of this one before?!) and because it makes it a real pleasure to knit hassle-free single bed pattern stitches.

With beds in half pitch, bring 1 front bed needle into working position at each end of knitting. Either transfer a stitch to each of these needles or pick up the purl bar of a back bed stitch. Bring 1 more needle into working position to the right of each of these needles, but do not make stitches on them. They will remain empty to fool the "lili" buttons, which always start selecting with the second needle. Set front carriage for Slip; both Needle Selection Buttons to "lili". Put the left Needle Return Button in the upper position and the right Needle Return Button in the lower position. Because the right NRB will automatically flip back to neutral position after each row, hold it down with an elastic band. Catch one end of the elastic around the NRB and the other around the right carriage Locking Lever. The elastic band will allow the NRB spring to move, but it will not be able to neutralize it and the NRB will constantly remain in the lower position! As you knit from right to left, the end needles holding stitches on the front bed will shoot into holding position; as

you knit from left to right, they will be knitted back down to working position. By assuring that the front bed stitches knit every two rows, you eliminate any problems with edge stitches on the back bed and create a perfect edge for seaming! This kind of convenience is a major feature of true double bed knitting! (For 5mm machines)