

Tips & Techniques!

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Tips & Techniques

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SPECIAL TECHNIQUES FOR THE RT-1 RIB TRANSFER TOOL

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Many people find that once they've added a ribber to their standard gauge knitting machine the first accessory they want is the RT-1 Rib Transfer Tool. Just as its name implies, the RT-1 transfers the stitches from the ribber bed up to the knitter. Best of all, it does it quickly and easily! We all learn to transfer stitches manually with a double eyed needle as soon as we get our ribbers. Transferring individual stitches can be fun for a few stitches, but if you knit adult sized sweaters, it is tedious and time consuming! Time for an RT-1!

The instructions with the RT-1 are excellent. The steps you must use are simple, but important:

- 1) The last row before the transfer must be knitted on stitch size 4 or larger on the ribber. If the stitches are too small they will not be picked up for the transfer.
- 2) The ribber must be in the P position (Full Pitch) so the stitches can transfer directly across from bed to bed.
- 3) Use the P carriage (it came with the ribber) to move the ribber needles to C position. Place P carriage on the left end of the ribber bed and move it across to the right.
- 4) Place the RT-1 on right end of the knitter

bed, engaging the back rail. Turn the knob only in direction of the arrow, using a steady, even pace and all of the stitches will magically transfer to the knitter needles!

Please note: After knitting 1 X 1 ribbing (every other needle on both beds), the RT will bring the empty knitter needles from non-working position to working position in order to receive the stitches that are being transferred up. When knitting Full Needle Rib (every needle on both beds), all the needles are in working position and the beds are in Half Pitch. Before you can transfer the ribber stitches up, you must swing to the Full Pitch (P) setting to allow the stitches to transfer straight across.

Do not try to hurry the process as skipping any one of these important steps could prevent the stitches from transferring or might damage the tool. Some cotton yarns do not have much elasticity and are more difficult to transfer with the RT.

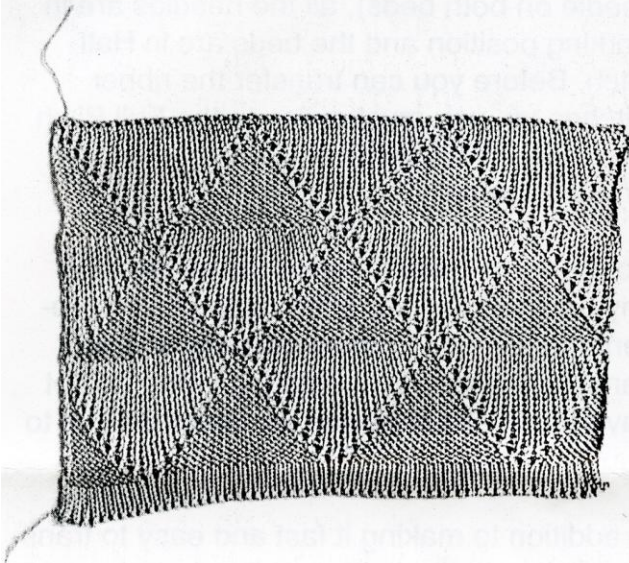
In addition to making it fast and easy to transfer stitches to the knitter when you are through ribbing, the RT-1 can also be used for some fun, decorative techniques as well! Once you are comfortable with the basics, you'll want to try some of these so here are two to get you started!

REVERSE SHADOW LACE

The inspiration for this technique comes from using the Shadow Lace Transfer Tool, an

accessory that manually lifts groups of stitches from one bed (usually the main bed) to the other. The difference in knitting shadow lace with the RT-1 is that the pattern is created on the *ribber* bed (rather than the main bed) and the transfers are much, much faster! This technique works well with a yarn like TAMM "Perla" at stitch size 4 on both carriages. It knits easily and has a lot of dimension when blocked.

Cast on for Full Needle Rib over about 50 needles and knit a tubular hem. Following the basic instructions for transferring with the RT-1, transfer all the ribber stitches to the knitter. Put the beds into Half Pitch by placing the Swing Lever on H and put all ribber needles in A (non-working) position. RC 000. Alternate the two pattern repeats for the length of your fabric.

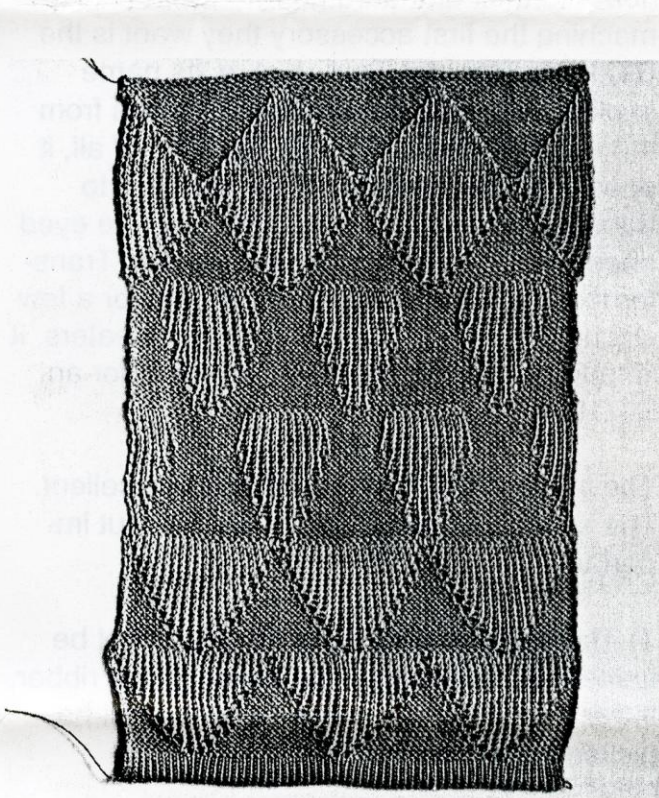


Basic Pattern

Pattern # 1 Manually place the following ribber needles in B position on both sides of zero: 1-20-21-40-41-60-61, etc. Set both carriages to stockinette. Knit 2 rows. Move needles 2-19-22-39-42-59-63, etc. on both sides of zero to B position. This increases the width of the design motifs. Knit 2 rows. Con-

tinue to add 1 more needle on each side of the ribber stitches, then knitting 2 rows, until all the ribber needles are in B position. RC 20. Put the beds into Full Pitch by moving the Swing lever to "P". Use the RT-1 to transfer all of the ribber stitches to knitter. Return all ribber needles to A position and move the Swing lever back to "H".

Pattern #2 Manually place needles 10-11-30-31-50-51, etc. on both sides of 0 in B position and knit 2 rows. Continue adding needles to widen the motif as you did for pattern #1.



Pattern Variations

Try some of these variations:

- 1) Do not alternate the two patterns. Instead, just continue to repeat one of the patterns over and over.
- 2) Elongate the design by knitting 4 rows each time you add more needles to the motif.
- 3) Instead of adding needles until all the

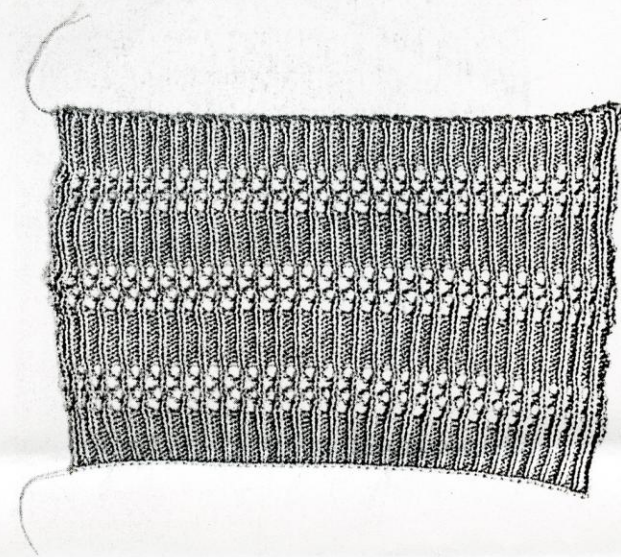
ribber needles are working, only add until there are a total of 10 needles knitting. Then knit 4 rows, and transfer with the RT-1.

4) To knit diamonds add needles until there are 10 knitting, then every two (or four) rows decrease the width of the motif by transferring the edge stitch of each motif to the next needle.

5) Try inventing some simple patterns of your own!

CROCHET LOOKS

This technique requires a little more concentration to learn, but the results are great for sleeves, collars, yokes or an entire garment. This looks best with an acrylic yarn that will block flat easily like TAMM "Diamante". Knit with stitch size 5 on both carriages.



Crochet Effect

With the beds at P5, arrange needles for 1 X 1 ribbing, with the end needles on the knitter bed. Both carriages should be set with the correct stitch size for ribbing (not 0). RC 000. Beginning with the carriage on the right, swing cast on as follows:

Swing from P5 to P3 and knit 1 row. Swing to

P5, insert the comb and weights and continue knitting to row 12.

At RC 12 swing the beds to P6 *and use the RT-1 to transfer the ribber stitches to the knitter, onto the needles that already hold stitches, *not* the empty needles. After the transfer put the empty knitter needles back to A position and be sure the ribber needles are in B position. With the beds in P5, knit 2 rows**. At RC 14 begin the second repeat by swinging the beds to P4 and repeating * to **.

By alternately swinging to P6 for one repeat and P4 for the next, the transfers will alternate left (with P6) and right (with P4). Use the accompanying charts to help you come back to your knitting if you are interrupted.

Chart #1

RC 2 <<< P6 Transfer left
RC 4 >>> P4 Transfer right
RC 6 <<< P6 Transfer left
RC 8 >>> P4 Transfer right

Chart #2

RC 0 1 X 1 rib
RC 10 Transfer
RC 20 1 X 1 rib
RC 30 Transfer
RC 40 1 X 1 rib
RC 50 Transfer
RC 60 1 X 1 rib

Here's how to use these charts: When your row numbers are in the 20, 40, 60, 80, 100's you are simply knitting 1 X 1 ribbing. When the row numbers are in the 10, 30, 50, 70, 90's you are knitting the transfer pattern and can refer to chart #1 to know where your Pitch should be set. For example, if the row counter reads RC 36, you can refer to chart #1 and set the pitch to P6 for transfer. If the row counter reads RC 154, you can refer to chart #1 and set the pitch to P4.