

TIPS &

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Fancy Ribbings Part 1

Hand Manipulated Techniques

By Terri Burns with extra ideas from June Reed

Fancy ribs can make a good sweater really great! All of the fancy ribbings in this issue of Tips & Techniques require some hand manipulation of stitches. In a future issue we'll bring you some ideas for fancy ribs that utilize needle selection and color effects.

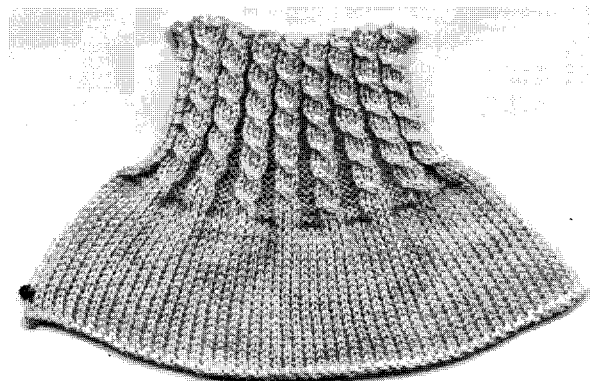
Use your favorite cast on method when the directions don't specify otherwise. Generally the stitch size used for each ribbing is 1/2 the stockinette stitch size for the garment. The key to hand manipulated ribbings is to knit slowly and watch that each stitch knits off properly. These ribbing take a little more time but are well worth the effort!

#1 Cabled Ribs

Cast on for 2x2 rib. *Knit 4 rows, cross a 1x1 cable on the needles on the main bed only.* Repeat *to* for desired depth of ribbing. End with 2 rows, then transfer stitches to main bed. You might want to try some of these variations as well: Knit 6 rows between cables, set up for 3x3 rib and cross 2x1 cables, or use a 4x2 or 4x3 needle set up for the rib so you can cross 2x2 cables. You'll need to increase the stitch size to accommodate wider rib set ups and larger cables. (The sample shown in photo #1a is a 3x3 rib with 2x1 cables every 2nd row).



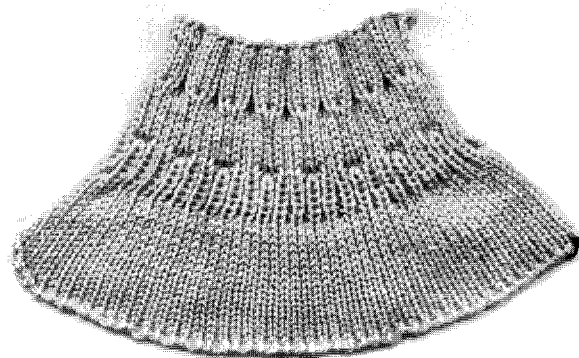
2X2 rib with 1X1 cables crossed every 4 rows



1a 3X3 rib with 2X1 cables every 2 rows

#2 Alternating Cabled Ribs

Cast on for 2x2 rib. *Knit 2 rows, cross a 1x1 cable on every other group of main bed needles; knit 2 rows, cross a 1x1 cable on the alternate groups of main bed needles. Try varying the number of rows between cable crossings or working with a wider rib set up as described in #1.



3b

#3 1-2-3 Ribbing

Cast on for 1x1 rib, knit 6 rows, then transfer stitches for 2x1 rib as shown in chart 3a. Knit 8 rows then transfer stitches for 3x3 rib as shown in chart 3b. Knit 8 rows and transfer all stitches to main bed to continue. [Sample in photo #3 shows the process in reverse, starting with 3x3 rib.]

Chart 3A

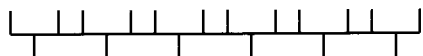
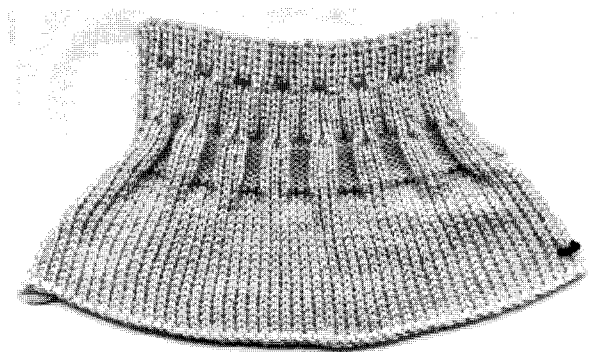
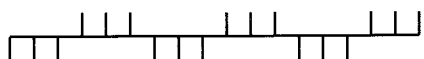


Chart 3B



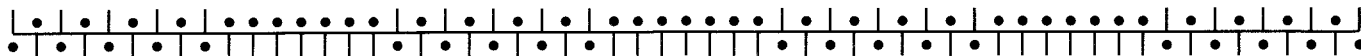
3a

#4 Zig Zag Featured Stitch

Cast on for 1x1 rib then transfer stitches as shown in chart 4. Beds in half Pitch. On the main bed you should have groups of 7 empty needles alternating with groups of 9 that have every other needle working (5 working in each group). In each group of 7 empty needles, bring the first needle at the left to working position. Knit 2 rows then transfer that stitch to the second needle and return the first needle to non-working position. Knit 2 rows then transfer the stitch to the third needle and return the second to non-working position. Knit 2 rows. Continue transferring the stitch and knitting 2 rows until the stitch lands on the seventh needle. You have created a Zig and are ready to Zag! Transfer the stitch back to the sixth, fifth, fourth, etc. needle, knitting 2 rows between. When you plan to use this rib on a garment, keep in mind that it takes 14 rows to zig and 12 rows to zag so the ribbing must be either 26, 38 or 50 rows long.

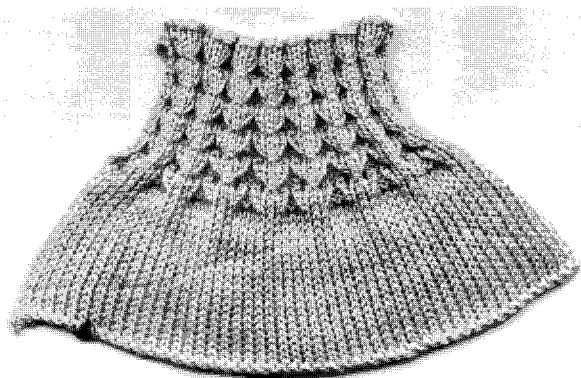


Chart 4



#5 Peek A Boo Rib

Cast on for 1x1 Rib. *Knit 2 rows, transfer every 3rd stitch on the main bed to the adjacent main bed needle on the right. Leave empty needle in working position.* Repeat for the entire ribbing. The number of rows between transfers may be varied. The sample shows 2, then 4, then 6 rows.



#7 Scalloped Edge Rib

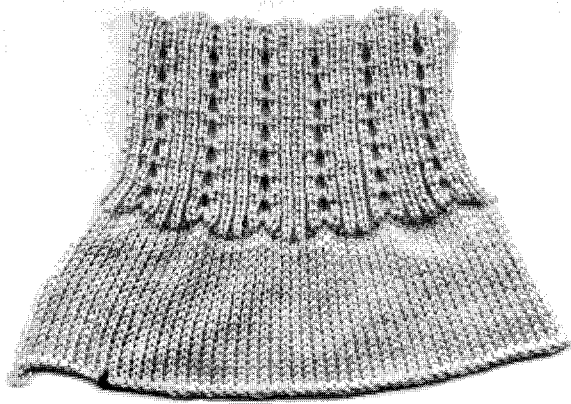
Swing cast on in 1x1 rib as follows: Beds P5, select needles. Swing to P3 and knit 1 row. Swing to P5, insert comb and weights then knit 1 row.

RC 000 *With Russell levers (I) on both carriages, push every 4th needle on the main bed to D position, and every ribber needle to its right to D position. Knit 3 rows (with those needles in hold). Set all Russel Levers (II) and knit 1 row across all needles.* Repeat *to* 4 times, selecting the same needles each time or repeat for the entire length of the ribbing as shown in sample #7A

#6 Lacy Ribbing

Cast on in 3x3 rib (on main bed only, use e-wrap or latch tool cast on, then transfer for 3x3 set up). *Knit 4 rows. On main bed only, transfer the 2 outside stitches to the center needle in each group of 3, leaving empty needles in working position.* Repeat *to* for desired length of ribbing, ending with 4 rows knit.





7b

#8 Ribbing with Picot Look Edge

Select needles for 1x1 rib. In contrast color with SS 0/0, knit zig zag row, hang comb and weights. With Russell levers (I) on both carriages, push every other needle on the main bed to D position, and every ribber needle to its right to D position. With SS 0/0, slowly knit 2

rows (needles in hold). With SS 0/0 and all Russel Levers (II) knit 2 rows across all needles. Change to main color and ribbing SS and knit the length desired.

Some yarns may not handle the 0/0 stitch size. Increase the stitch size as necessary but keeping it as small as possible for the edging.

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