

# TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Studio  
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## Fancy Ribbings

### Part II

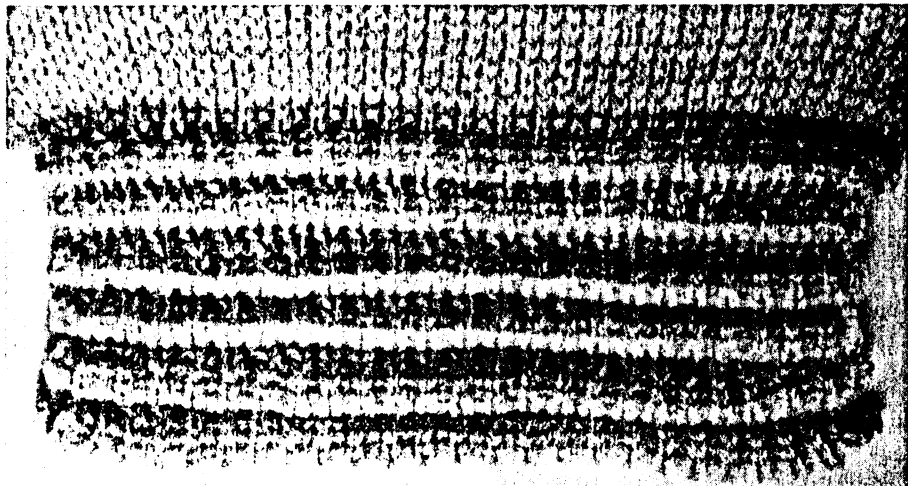
By Terri Burns

T & T # focused on fancy hand manipulated ribs that require you to transfer or move stitches manually. The ribs in this group are entirely machine controlled so once you're set up all you have to do is knit. You'll love the pizzazz fancy ribs can add to your garments!

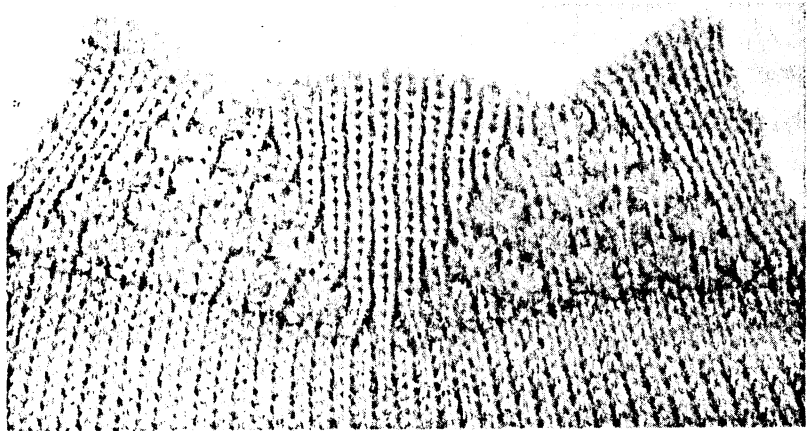
A color changer is essential for knitting any of the two color ribs as it is much too clumsy changing colors by hand when using the ribber. If you are working on an electronic machine and the design calls for a pattern card, set your point cams at the edges of the knitting and the N-1 at center (0).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Pin Tuck Rib:** Cast on as for 1 x 1 rib and knit with a stitch size suitable for 1 x 1 rib. Set the ribber carriage to slip all needles by setting both Set Levers (0) (0). \*Knit 6 rows on the main bed only. Set ribber to knit and knit 2 rows both beds.\* Repeat \* to \* for desired length of ribbing.

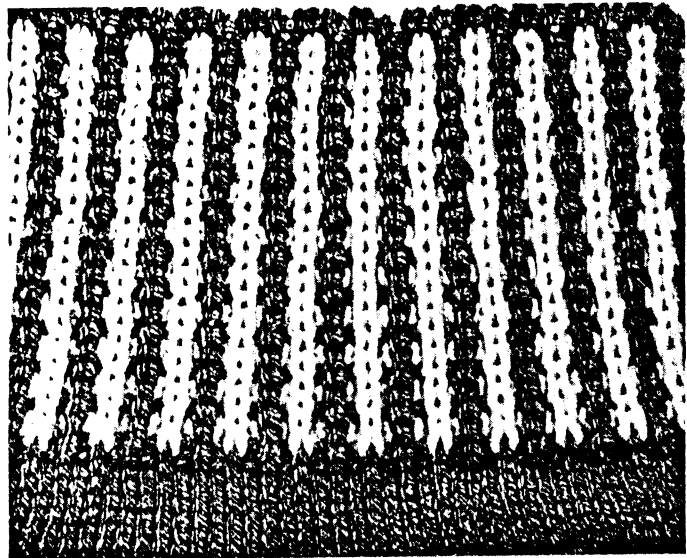


**Tucking Triangles:** Cast on as for 1 x 1 rib and knit with a stitch size suitable for 1 x 1 rib. Use punch card #10, inserted upside down (B) or electronic pattern #12 redrawn upside down and knitted with the #1 right light. With knitter carriage set to tuck and ribber carriage set to knit all needles, knit one repeat of the punch card. Transfer all the ribber stitches to main bed to continue knitting.



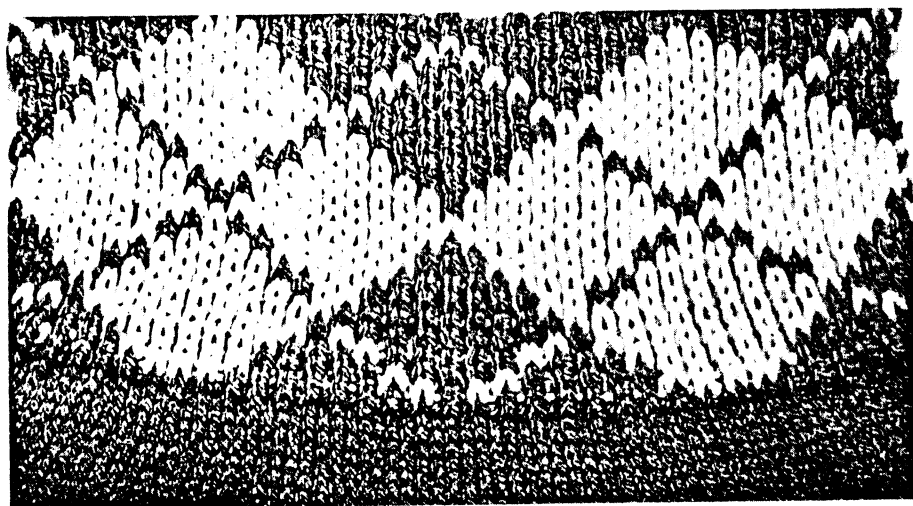
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**Two Color Tuck Rib:** Use basic punch card #2 or electronic pattern #4 for the 2 x 2 check. With the main color, cast on as for 1 x 1 rib and knit with a stitch size suitable for 1 x 1 rib. Set the knitter carriage to tuck and the ribber carriage to knit. \*Knit 2 rows with the contrast color, then 2 rows with main color.\* Repeat \* to \* for desired length of rib. Knit the last row with the main color and both carriages set to knit. Transfer the ribber stitches to main bed to continue knitting.



\* \* \* \* \*

**Patterned Rib:** Use the close knit bar. With the main color, cast on for 1 x 1 rib. The stitch size on the main bed should be one number higher than you would normally use for 1 x 1 rib. The stitch size on the ribber should be two stitch sizes smaller than normal. On electronic machines you can use any



Fairisle pattern; use button #4 to double the width and button #6 for jacquard. On punch card machines, you need to use a card that has been punched for jacquard and double width. That is, each stitch has to be punched twice. The double width allows you to knit a design on every other needle which is really what 1 x 1 rib is all about. Choose bold geometric designs for this method as small details tend to get lost. With this method you can use the same fairisle pattern for your ribs as you do for knitting the fairisle body of your garment.

Beginning with the carriages on the right, set the knitter carriage for slip and the ribber carriage to knit all needles. Knit 1 row to the left with the background color. \*Knit 2 rows with the contrast color, 2 rows with the main color.\* Repeat \* to \* for the desired length of the ribbing. If all the ribber stitches are not knitting cleanly, use the P carriage on the ribber bed to move the needles into C position before knitting each row.

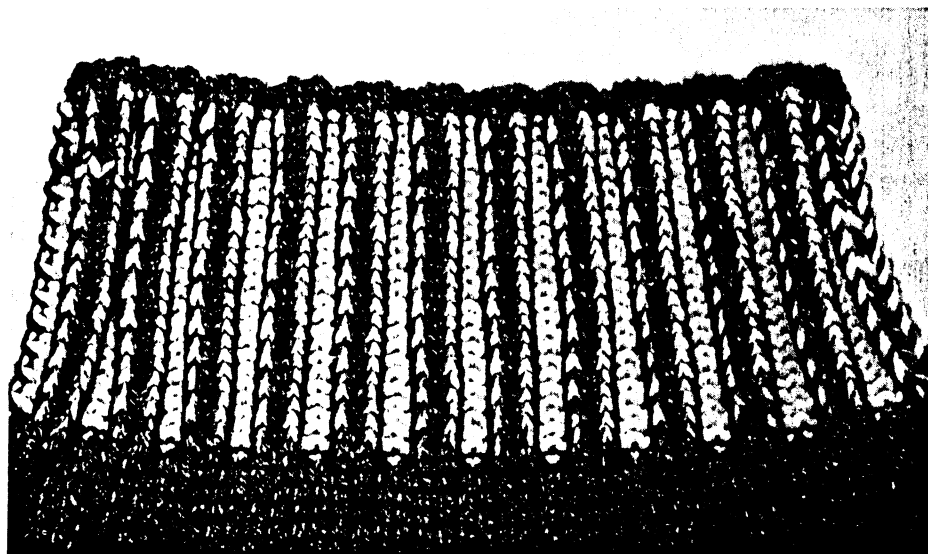
**Plaited Rib:** This method is suitable only for SRP-60 (N) ribber carriages. With the main color, cast on for 2x2 rib with the racking cast on shown in your ribber manual.

The stitch size needs to be as tight as possible for the double strands of yarn. This is usually about the same stitch size you would use single bed for 1 strand. Replace the yarn feeder on the ribber carriage with plaiting feeder that came with the ribber. Thread the main yarn into feeder slot A and the contrast yarn into feeder slot B. Knit the desired length of ribbing.

Keep these points in mind: The ribbing must be set up for 2 x 2 or wider ribs like 2 x 3 or 3 x 3, etc. This method will not work on 1 x 1 ribs. If

the two yarns are not the same size, the smaller yarn should be threaded into feeder B. There will be some show through especially on the knit stitch. This is the look you are trying to achieve. Plated rib creates the illusion of vertical stripes because the yarn in feeder B is always more prominent in the purl stitches, while the yarn threaded in feeder A is more prominent in the knit stitches. Try using the same color in both feeders for the first 1/3 of the rib length, a contrasting color in feeder B for next 1/3, then the same color in both feeders for the last 1/3. When the contrast is used in feeder B, the result is a shadowed stripe when the rib is stretched. When the contrast is used in feeder A, the result is a striped rib look with the continuity of the main color in the channels.

\* \* \* \* \*

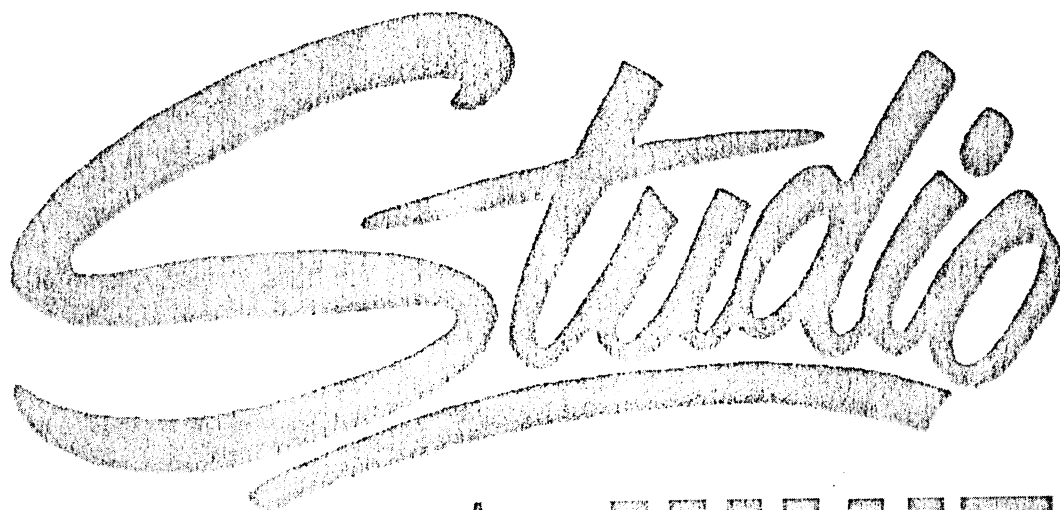


### **Improved cast on for ribbing:**

You can improve the lower edge of all your ribs with the following method. Cast on with waste yarn, hang comb and weights and knit some rows. With stitch size 5-7, knit two circular rows with ravel cord. Now, rethread the carriage with the main yarn and cast on again - right on top of the scrap and ravel. Knit one zig zag row with stitch size 0 followed by two (or three) circular rows. Set both carriages to knit. Knit the first row with stitch size 1, the next row with stitch size 2, the next with 3, etc. until you reach the stitch size you plan to use for the rib. If you will ultimately be knitting your rib with a very small stitch size, you might want to increase the stitch size a dot at a time. Raising the stitch size gradually helps eliminate flair from the lower edge. Because the comb and weights are already hung in the waste knitting when you re-cast on with the main yarn, you are able to knit a tighter edge without breaking or stretching the stitches. This is especially important when working with very fine or fragile yarns.

### **Binding off in rib**

Knit the required number of rows of 1 x 1 ribbing, ending with the carriage on the right. Bring the empty, alternate needles on both beds into working position and put the ribber bed into half pitch (H). With the same stitch size you used for the rib, knit one row to the left. Cut the yarn, leaving a 6" tail. Manually return the same alternate needles to non working position by pushing them to D position then back to A. Make sure you drop the loops from the needles you just recruited rather than the actual stitches that knitted the rib! Pull down on the knitting to evenly distribute the slack. Return the beds to full pitch (P) and transfer the ribber stitches to the main bed. Bring all the needles to D position to do a latch tool bind off from right to left. When you insert the tool into the stitches, try to catch all the purls from the front of the stitch and all the knits from the back of the stitch. Not essential, but it does improve the look of the edge.



by **WHITE**

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