

READY, SET, KNIT

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Tips and Tricks

I was recently thinking about all the wonderful guest teachers I've gotten to meet since I've been working here at WEBS and all the great tips and tricks I've learned from them as well as those I've garnered from my coworkers. Teaching drop-in and helping folks solve their knitting problems has also added to the depth of my knitting knowledge. So, I thought it might be nice to share some of these tips/tricks with you on the podcast. If you have any favorite ones of your own, send them along, we'd love to hear them.

Credits first to the following guest teachers: Maureen Mason-Jamieson, Sally Melville, Lily Chin, Margaret Radcliffe, Lucy Neatby, Kristin Nicholas, Cat Bordhi, Beth Brown-Reinsel, Judy Pascale, Charlene Schurch, Susanna Hansson, Galina Khmeleva, and Clara Parkes. (I apologize if I've left anyone out.)

1. Skein stretchy yarns if they're in a ball, wet the skeins thoroughly, and hang on a peg to dry. Rewind the yarn into a ball. This will take out most of the stretch and make the garment less likely to stretch after it is knitted.
2. Insert a safety line when working lace, cable patterns, Knit One Below patterns, etc., after you've completed a repeat or a certain number of rows. If you make a mistake after this point, you will only have to rip back to your safety line---the live stitches will be waiting for you to put them back on the needle. To insert a safety line, thread a tapestry needle with cotton waste yarn and pull the yarn through the live stitches on the needle; leave a good tail on either side. Put your stitches back on the needle and continue knitting.
3. When the pattern directs you to increase/decrease one stitch on each side of a garment, don't do this on the first stitch. It's best to work 2 stitches and then do your increase or decrease on the third stitch.

4. Always carry a skein of white cotton yarn in your tool kit for use as stitch holders, safety lines, and stitch markers.

5. If you are making a drop-sleeve sweater and you hate sewing seams, leave the stitches at the top of the sleeve live, then pick up the corresponding number of stitches on the armhole edge and join with a 3-needle bind-off.