

READY, SET, KNIT

Air Date: June 7, 2008

Color Work Series: Workshop II

The Dreaded Intarsia, part 2

Book Recommendation: *Intarsia: A Workshop for Hand and Machine Knitting*, by Sherry and Keely Stuever. It is available at www.swakknit.com for \$15.95. This is the most thorough book on Intarsia I've ever seen.

Margaret Radcliffe's new book on color knitting will be out in early 2009...I hear the section on Intarsia is awesome...so be on the lookout for this one.

How to Prepare Your Intarsia Chart

Since Intarsia knitting is always done with a chart, the first step is to prepare the chart so that you will have the best knitting experience possible.

Have the chart enlarged and photocopied. If it is a large chart, have it copied in horizontal sections. If the chart is in color, have it copied in color.

Instead of colors, some charts will mark the stitches in each section with a different symbol. Copy these symbols onto the side or bottom of the chart if there's room, or onto a 3x5 card and assign a color to each symbol. If you use card stock, you can even punch holes next to each symbol and attach a piece of each yarn color through the holes.

If the chart is not in color, get out your colored markers or pencils and fill in or outline each area with the color you have that is closest to the yarn you will be using. You will find this an invaluable guide for your eyes as you move up the chart.

Divide the chart into vertical sections and place markers on your knitting needles to correspond to these sections when you cast on. This will help you keep your place, particularly on a complicated chart. It will also cut down on the time you spend counting stitches in each color block.

Outline each color block with a dark pencil or pen.

Treat yourself to a magnetic board with magnetic bars and anchor the chart to the board. Also get some sticky notes or highlighter tape; place these on the row above the row you are knitting and move them up as you knit.

Write on the bottom of the chart the number of stitches in each color section of the first row. For example, if the first row has only 2 colors, but the second color interrupts the first color even once, that equals three sections. Add up the numbers to be sure they equal the number of stitches to be cast on for the chart.