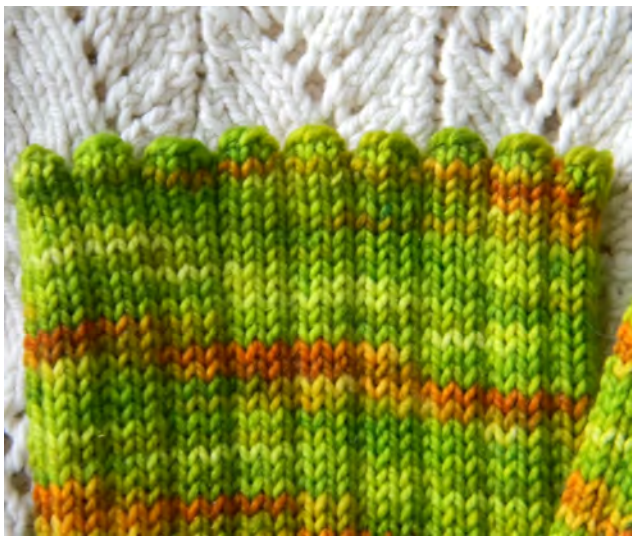


3/1 Scalloped Ribbing

A picture tutorial by Kathy Roletter

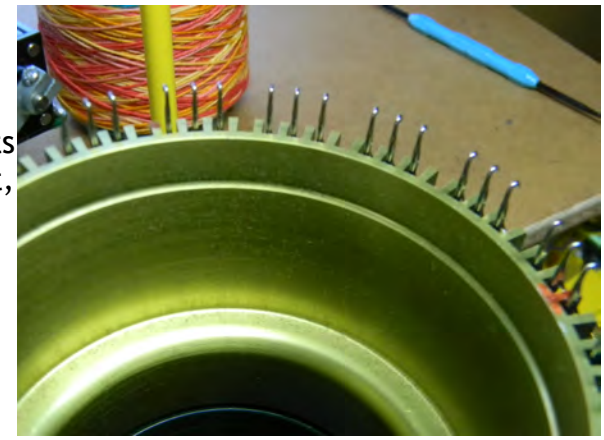
These directions are shown on an Erlbacher Gearhart circular sock knitting machine with a 72 slot cylinder and a 36 slot ribber.

Materials needed:

- waste yarn
- project yarn
- thin crochet cotton (just a couple of yards)
- cast-on bonnet
- weight stack
- pick tool or small crochet hook
- flashlight or other strong light (optional, but helpful)

Step 1:

Raise & remove every 4th needle from the cylinder. Insert your ribber to make sure that the ribber slots line up with the empty cylinder slots. If they don't, re-arrange the cylinder needles or re-adjust your ribber, whichever you prefer.

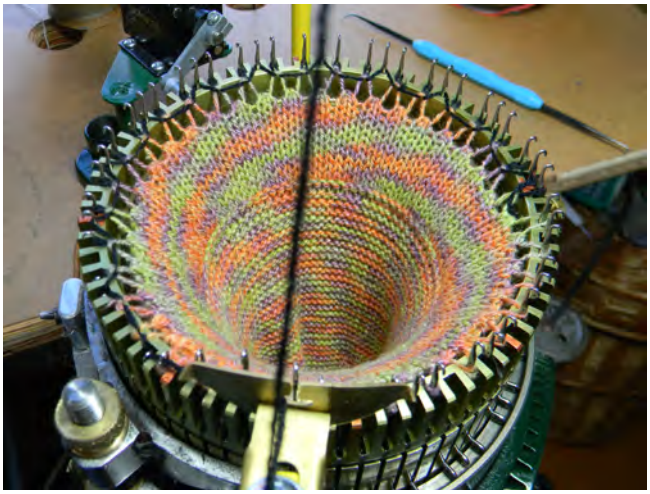


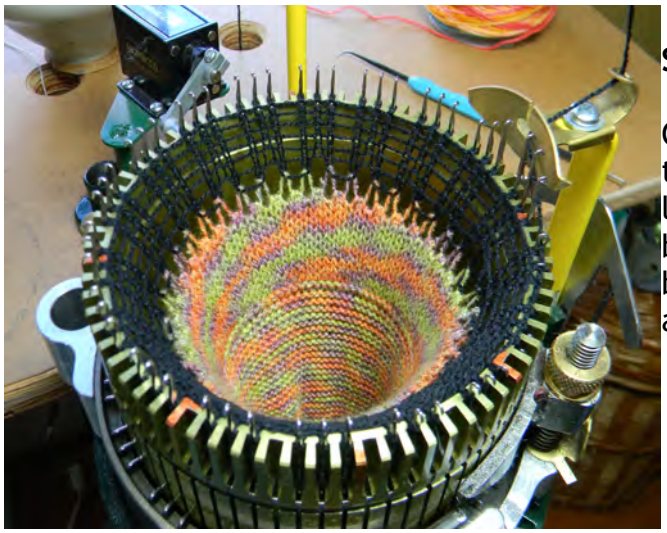
Step 2:

Starting at the 3 o'clock position, hang the cast-on bonnet, working counter-clockwise around the cylinder, as far as you can with the yarn carrier at the right-hand side of the cylinder. Hang the loops on the first & third needles of each set of 3 needles. Hang your weight stack below the bonnet, putting tension on the needles.

Step 3:

Thread waste yarn through yarn mast & yarn carrier, leaving a tail of about 18”. Pull the tail through the cylinder (between the cylinder & bonnet) so that it is hanging below the cylinder, alongside the weight stack. Begin cranking around slowly, stopping at the front half (or 6 o'clock position) of the cylinder. Hang the remaining loops of the bonnet, then complete the first row of waste yarn.



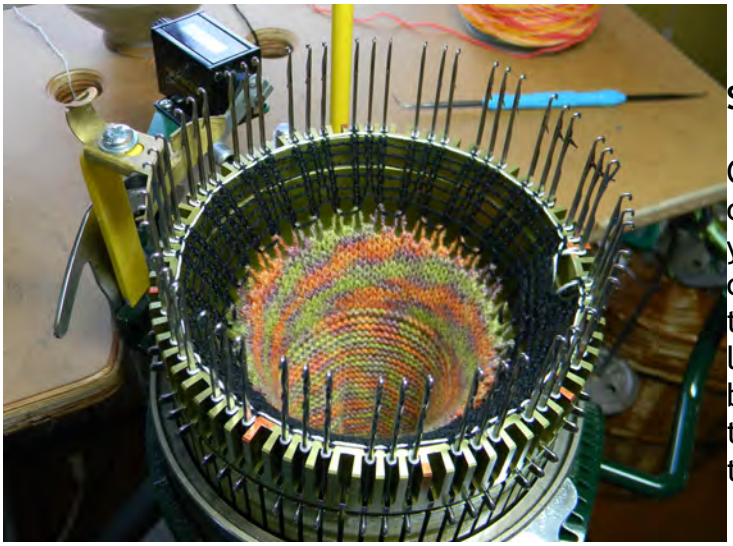


Step 4:

Crank several rows of waste yarn. Stop at the 3 o'clock position, cut the waste yarn leaving another 18” tail. Thread the tail between the cylinder & the bonnet, pulling it below the cylinder so that it is hanging alongside the other tail of waste yarn.

Step 5:

Thread the crochet cotton through the yarn mast & yarn carrier, leaving an 18” tail at the beginning of the row. Start cranking, but stop the yarn carrier at the 7 o'clock position. Beginning at 3 o'clock, raise the cylinder needles to the out-of-work position, working counter-clockwise around the cylinder as far as you can go.



Step 6:

Complete the row with the crochet cotton, raising needles out of work as you proceed. Once the yarn carrier has cleared all the needles, park it over to the left side. Cut the crochet cotton, leaving an 18" tail. Pull both tails between the cylinder & bonnet, letting them hang below the cylinder alongside the two tails of waste yarn.

Step 7:

Thread the project (or sock) yarn through the yarn mast & yarn carrier.* Pull an 18" tail down below the cylinder to join the two tails of waste yarn & the two tails of crochet cotton. Holding all 5 tails together, make a slip knot loop & hang a light weight from the loop. Caution: Only a light weight is necessary. If the weight is too heavy, you may break the sock yarn when you start cranking.

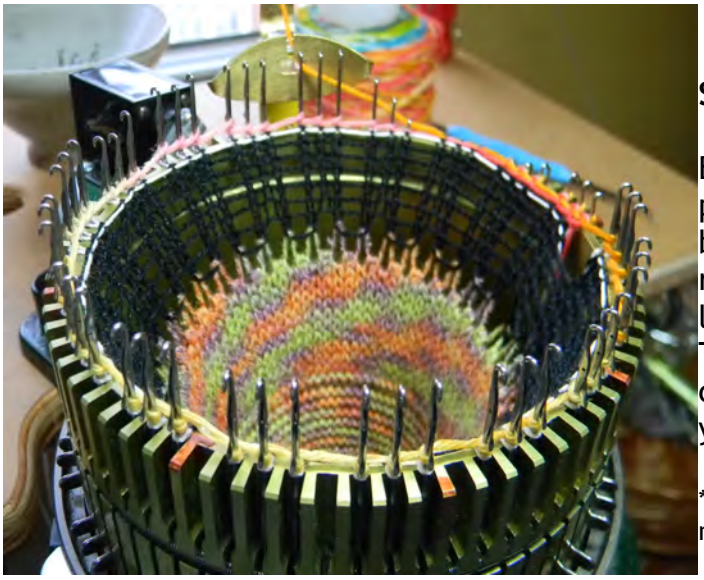
*If you are using a slotted yarn carrier, you do not need to thread it until you are ready to crank the next row.

Step 8:

Move the yarn carrier to the front of the cylinder (about the 6 o'clock position) to get it out of your way. Beginning at 3 o'clock, e-wrap the needles, working counter-clockwise around the cylinder. Move the yarn carrier around as you work to keep it out of your way as you e-wrap all the cylinder needles back to the 3 o'clock position.

Step 9:

Starting with the first e-wrapped needle at 3 o'clock, start putting needles back in work. **Make sure the latches remain open & hanging down.** Raising the needles just a little bit higher than normal will ensure that the latches remain open.



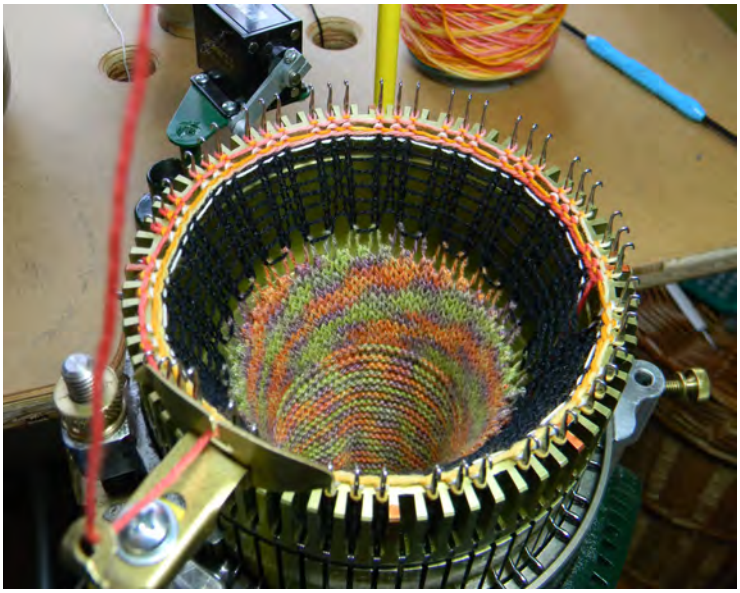
Step 10:

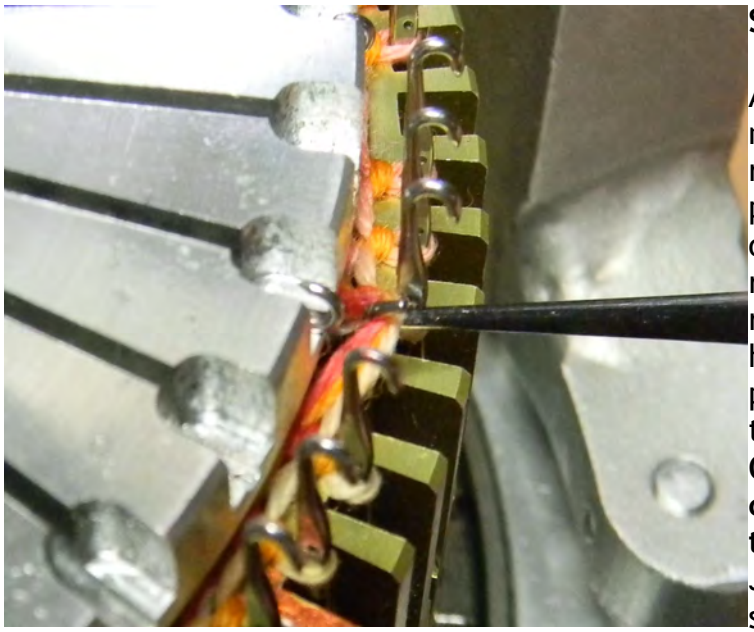
Bring your yarn carrier to the 3 o'clock position* & begin cranking. Put needles back in work as you proceed around this row. Go slowly & keep an eye on those latches to make sure they remain open. There will be some resistance as you crank. Complete this row, bringing the yarn carrier back to the 3 o'clock position.

*If you're using a slotted yarn carrier, thread it now.

Step 11:

Begin the next row, but stop at about the 7 o'clock position. This row will be a lot easier to crank than the last one.





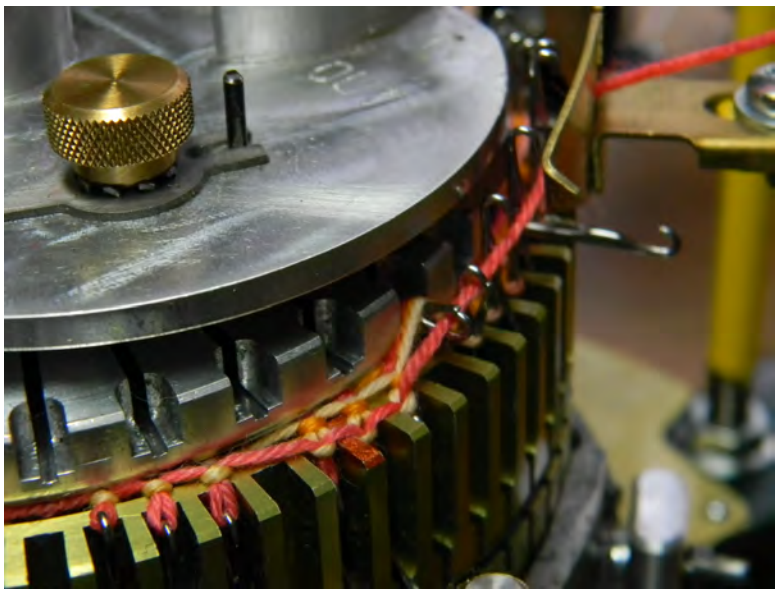
Step 12:

Attach the ribber & begin loading ribber needles into it, starting with the first ribber needle after the 3 o'clock position. Make sure the latches are open. As you load the ribber needles, reach down between the cylinder & ribber with your pick tool or crochet hook, get hold of the 3 strands of project yarn, pull them up & place them on the ribber needle hooks. **It's OK if you also get hold of the crochet cotton, too; it can be lifted up onto the ribber needle at the same time.** Just make sure you get all 3 strands of sock yarn.

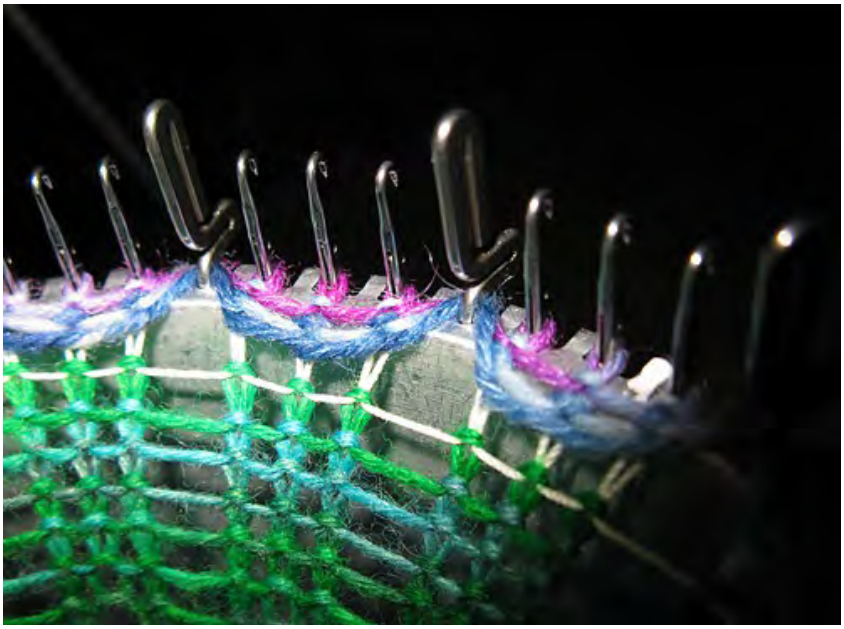
Note: The first few times you do this, you might want to use a flashlight to shine down between the ribber tappet plate & the cylinder. It helps to see what you're doing. Once you develop a feel for how far down to go with the tool & how much yarn you need to grab, it will become a lot easier & you won't need the flashlight. Removing one or more weights might help, too. You could also pull the adjacent needle out & use a ribber needle to catch the bars of sock yarn, then insert the ribber needle into the ribber. (Thanks to Loan Nguyen for those last two suggestions!)

Step 13:

Work your way around the cylinder, inserting ribber needles, placing 3 strands of sock yarn on each one and slowly cranking around until you have all the ribber needles loaded & the yarn carrier is back to the 3 o'clock position. While cranking this row, go slowly & observe the ribber needles to make sure that each one forms a stitch. This row will give you some resistance, too, because of the amount of yarn on the ribber needles.



Here's an alternative way to get those 3 strands of sock yarn onto the ribber needles: place the ribber needles under the 3 strands at each empty cylinder slot, then attach the ribber & insert the ribber needles holding the yarn into the ribber slots. This is Deb Myrick's idea (thanks, Deb!) & she provided a helpful picture to illustrate it.



If you are using a row counter, set it now to “1” and crank out the number of rows you desire in the cuff of the sock. I regard the e-wrap row & the two following rows (before the ribber is placed on the machine) as “set up” rows. The next row (the row in step 13) is the one I designate as the first row of ribbing in the cuff.