

A NECKBAND TO ENCLOSE THE EDGE BY FRANCES PERKINS

This neckband is good for a cut and sew garment or where a neck shaping may be untidy. The shaping can be marked during the knitting with contrast tags of yarn or on some double bed work the stitches can be transferred to the ribber or main bed to define the neckline, or a template can be used after the knitting is removed from the machine.

When removing the stitches onto waste yarn to cut the neckline, take off the shoulders and neck sections separately in 3 pieces, this makes it easier to define the neck area and less likely to lose a stitch when cutting the neck.

Strengthen the edge before cutting with 1 or 2 rows of a small ziz-zag stitch on a sewing machine (can use a narrow twin needle) or a small backstitch by hand. If the yarn is suitable, the edge can also be steamed gently which sets the stitches. Cut fairly close to the stitching so it is not too bulky to fit into the flap to enclose the edge. If the fabric is delicate i.e. Lace etc. a piece of stretch stabiliser can be cut to shape and attached whilst sewing.

If an overlock machine is available, this gives a very neat finished edge as it oversews the edge whilst cutting, but double-check which edge is to be cut off!

Measure the neckline along the needlebed to gauge the number of stitches required for the band. May be an idea to add an extra stitch each side to assist sewing up the seam neatly, these needles will not have the neckline hung on them. (Join one shoulder if applicable)

THE NECKBAND

Cast on the stitches required for the neckband on the main bed in waste yarn and knit 6 - 8 rows Then knit 1 row with the nylon cord.

Using main yarn – knit 1st. row at tension 10 then reduce tension to approx. 6 if using 4 ply yarn and knit 2 - 4 rows, depending on depth of flap required.

On the last row of the flap (the row before going into rib) select alternate needles to D/E position and set carriage to slip, part or empty and knit the row, this gives loops to pick up after the rib. (you can use card 1 or alternate needle pattern to select if you prefer)

Transfer to the rib of your choice. If using a ribber, drop the ribber 1 position and hang the comb and weights, push the ribber up, reduce tension and knit sufficient rows for a double neckband. The tension can be reduced in stages, so it is tighter towards the fold, then looser on the way back. It is not necessary to knit a loose row for the fold line.

Transfer the ribber stitches to the main bed. Remove comb and weights.

Pick up the loops made by the slip row just before the rib and place on alternate needles on main bed. Then bring all working needles forward to D/E position to make the row easier to knit.

Knit 2-4 rows (or more to match 1st. side at same tension)

Knit last row of the flap at tension 10 then knit 6-8 rows in waste yarn and remove from machine.

NOTE The neckband can be done on a single bed as a mock rib, a hem, plain or decorative, or can be transferred to a garter carriage for the rib section, also could use a another pattern for the band. Cables are attractive as well.

TO ATTACH BAND TO THE GARMENT

With the right side of the garment facing you, push the transfer tool through the knitting just below the stitching and hang onto the needles (leaving the end needles with just a band stitch) Bring the needles fully forward and ensure the garment is against the machine.

Pick up the stitches of the band with the wrong side facing you into the latches of the needles and close the latches. With a long firm edge, i.e. A ruler or the straight edge of the ribber comb or similar, push the stitches of the band through the neck edge of the garment

Pick up the other side of the flap on the neckband and hang onto the needles. (This can be pulled through as before but can make the neck too tight)

Knit 1 row at tension 10 and cast off as loosely as possible. This will enclose the rough edge inside the flaps.