Handknit to Machine Knit
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So many gorgeous patterns are available for handknitting! So few new patterns for machine knitters! But all is not lost. Many handknit patterns can be adapted to the knitting machine with just a little planning. How to start? Let's go on a journey together.

Here's a simple summer tank top I want to knit:

It has lace at the hem and a ribbed body, ribbed sleeve caps, and a simple round neckline.

My first decision is, of course, which yarn? I decided CoBaSi. It's a nice summer yarn, fingering weight, with cotton, bamboo, and silk in color 015, Ripe Raspberry. To determine how many hanks I need, I looked at some similar sweaters on Ravelry and weighed two similar sweaters of mine. I ordered 11 hanks for a total of 19.4 ounces. I will be knitting to fit a finished size of 47". One of the 11 hanks will be used for a good-sized swatch.

Now that the big question is answered, what do I do next? The pullover begins with the lace. Do I want to choose a lace pattern imbedded in my electronic knitting machine? (Or choose a punchcard if my machine were a punchcard.) Or do I want to pick up a pair of knitting needles and knit the lace design just as you see it in the photo? Or do I want to input the lace design into DesignaKnit? Since none of the lace designs for my Brother 970 look anything like this lace pattern, and I REALLY like it, I'll enter it into DAK. (I did purchase the handknit pattern, so I have the graph for the lace.)

If you choose to knit the lace by hand, the recommended needle size is 1 to 4. Knit a small swatch and see which needle size knits the best for you. You do NOT need to match gauge because you will be using a Knit It Now Dynamic pattern. Once you like the look of your lace, knit an official swatch and obtain your lace gauge. Then knit a small amount on your knitting machine to see which tension looks like your handknit stitches. When you determine your machine tension, knit an official rib stitch design swatch. Now you're set!

<u>If you choose to use an imbedded lace design or input it into DAK</u>, knit a small amount on your knitting machine and determine what tension gives you the look you want. Then knit an official ribbed stitch design gauge swatch. Now you're set!

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I have all my measurements ready:

> 47" finished bust measurement (size 8 using the Carnation Dynamic pattern)
> 4" hem approximately
> front darts to begin 15" from bottom of lace: 2" deep and 5" long
> 17" from bottom of lace to armhole
> 9" armhole depth
> 10" neck opening
> 4" front neck depth
> 1.5" sleeve length
> gauge: 8 stitches and 10.5 rows to an inch in my ribbed stitch design

The last step before I begin knitting the lace is to build my sweater in Knit It Now's dynamic pattern library. I've decided the Carnation pattern is the closest match to my pullover. I know my gauge and my measurements, so I built my pattern.

I used Knit It Now's bust dart tool to give me my dart shaping instructions.

I knit the back, then the front, and finally the two sleeves. The sleeves were simple rectangles in my ribbed pattern, 18" x 1.5". Block your pieces, join at least one shoulder, and add the neckline of your choice…either a trim done on the knitting machine or crochet around the neck. Sew the side seams and wear with pride!

<u>Tips</u>

If you're knitting the lace on the machine, cast on with your ribber comb using waste yarn. A simple 1x1 rib cast on will work, then transfer all stitches to the main bed and knit one row with ravel cord. Carriage on right, cast on with main yarn and begin lace.

If you're knitting the lace by hand, hang the stitches on your main bed and set up for the rib stitch design. **You need to have some extra weight!**

When beginning the ribbed stitch design, I manually pushed all needles in position B to position E on both beds for the first four rows to ensure they knit correctly. Watch edge stitches carefully.

<u>In Summary</u>

1) Choose your yarn
2) Choose Knit It Now's Dynamic Pattern that most closely matches
3) Make notes about special steps you may need to take to match your handknit pattern
4) Knit your gauge swatch(es)
5) Build your Dynamic Pattern
6) Knit your garment
7) Wear with pride!!