

***--- Beginning of SAMPLE of Level One, TKGA Master Hand Knitting Program Materials

Note: This sample information is a preview of the type of instructions contained in the TKGA Master Hand Knitting Program materials. This sample is copyrighted and may not be republished or posted in any form, whatsoever, in part or in total. Its purpose is to introduce TKGA members to the format of the Master Hand Knitting Program.

Swatches

Swatches are a very important part of this program. Please put as much effort into the swatches as into the projects. The following instructions apply to all swatches.

Yarn: Use only smooth, light-colored worsted weight yarn. Heathered, speckled, variegated, tweeded, fluffy, nubby, fuzzy or any type of novelty yarns is **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Selvages: Swatches are to be knit in the pattern stitch indicated without additional borders or selvedge edges.

Stitch Pattern: Always work the **TRADITIONAL** form of the pattern stitches indicated in the swatch instructions. Unless specified otherwise, twisted forms of the stitch are not accepted.

Yarn Tails: Weave in all yarn tails unless otherwise instructed. Yarn tails should not pull through to or be visible on the right side of the work nor should they restrict the elasticity of the piece when stretched. Do not work the tails into the cast on or bind off edges.

Blocking: All swatches must be hand-knit and clean. Each swatch should be blocked flat with no curled edges using the appropriate technique for the yarn. Do not overblock the swatches. The stitches should not be flattened.

Labels: Attach tie-on tags to the bind off row in the **upper left-hand corner** of each swatch. The tag should include the swatch number, the yarn used, the knitting technique, and reference sources on one side of the tag. You should place your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address (if applicable) on the other side of the tag.

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Measurements: The instructions for each swatch specify its measurements. Do not include the cast on row, bind off row, or selvedge stitches in the measurements. When you are measuring your work, do not include the stitches on the needle. Accurate measurements are important.

Tension: Good, consistent tension is an important goal for all knitters. There are several possible areas of concern in these swatches. Is your stockinette stitch even with all stitches the same size and shape? Are there gutters between the rows on reverse stockinette? Are the edge stitches the same size as the stitches next to them? Are the knit stitches in ribbing distorted and oversized? Is the seed stitch a dense fabric with no holes? Check your cable swatches. Are the transitional knit stitches to the right of the cable the same size as those on the left? Are the sizes of increase and decrease stitches the same size as those around them?

Swatches 1-3

Knit all of these swatches using the same yarn and needle size. Reference Swatch 14 (horseshoe cable), for which you will use the same yarn and needle size. Swatches 1-3 test your ability to:

- Knit ribbing, garter, stockinette and seed stitch with even tension
- Place increases evenly and unobtrusively in the last row of ribbing
- Accurately measure the gauge of different stitch patterns

Swatch 1– K2P2 ribbing and Garter Stitch

Cast on 20 sts and work in K2P2 rib for 2.5". Increase 5 sts evenly in the last rib row (25 sts). Use an increase technique that is unobtrusive and will blend in with the ribbing. Work in garter st for 4". Bind off in pattern.

Questions 1-7 refer to this swatch

Questions

Research is an important part of this program. Thoroughly investigate each question and provide references with each answer. A bibliography is provided online for your use. Remember, the “On Your Way to the Masters” articles in *Cast On* magazine are a good source for many of the answers to these questions. They can also be found online in the Members Only section of www.TKGA.com.

1. Gauge is the most important factor in getting a knitted garment to fit properly. To determine the gauge of Swatches 1, 2, 3 and 14, block them first. Make a table similar to the one below to compare the gauges. Use the instructions below to calculate the gauges. Indicate on the table the stitches per inch and rows per inch for

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each swatch using decimals as necessary. Calculate the number of stitches you would need to cast on to knit a piece 18" wide for each stitch type. Calculate the number of rows you would need to knit a piece 10" long for each stitch type.

- Use a ruler to measure Swatches 1, 2, and 3 from side to side to an eighth of an inch ($1/8=.125$, $1/4=.25$, $3/8=.375$, $1/2=.5$, $5/8=.625$, $3/4=.75$, $7/8=.875$). Do not include the selvedge stitches in the measurement. For Swatch 14, measure only the cable at its fullest point and the 2 reverse stockinette stitches to the right of the cable.
- Divide the number of stitches measured by the width of Swatches 1, 2, and 3. For Swatch 14, divide the number of stitches in the cable repeat plus the 2 reverse stockinette stitches by the width of those stitches.
- Repeat this procedure to calculate the row gauge by dividing the number of rows by the 4" length of the swatch. Do not include the cast on and bind off rows in the measurements. Do not include the ribbing for Swatches 1 and 2.

Swatch #	Sts/Inch	Rows/Inch	Sts in 18"	Rows in 10"
1				
2				
3				
14				

2. Write a paragraph explaining why the stitch and row gauge are different for each stitch pattern.

--- End of Sample of Level One, Master Hand Knitting Program Materials ***

To order your TKGA Master Hand Knitting Instructions so you can begin the Program, go to the Shopping button at www.TKGA.com and place your order.

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