

## Inspired by Cables

I have always thought cables add a lovely detail to sweaters. I discovered the book *Power Cables* by Lily Chin on my shelf early this year and decided I should read through it. The book is split into 9 sections, with each ending with patterns to try out what was highlighted. By the time I had finished the book, I had a list of 17 cables I wanted to try!

Below are some things I learned (or was reminded of) while reading Lily's book.

There are two types of cables: those that slant, on the public side, going to the right and those that slant going to the left.

Whichever you choose, in machine knitting you need to rehang in the direction you want to slant first (ie: right slanting cable - transfer right side stitches first. Left slanting cable - transfer left side stitches first)

\* Lily suggests using your hands to visualize the cable. The near side of your hands will be the non public side and the far side of your hands will be the public side.

A general rule for cables is the number of stitches in a cable usually is followed by the same number of rows knit before the next cross (ie: 1x1 cable would have 2 rows knit in between, a 2x2 cable would have 4 rows knit in between, 3x1 cable would also have 4 rows in between). (Don't let this stop you from trying other combinations)

When designing your graph for cable placement, remember you are looking at the non public side. All hand knit charts represent the public side - if you are working from a hand knit chart and don't want to end up with a mirrored version of the cable, you need to reverse the cross of the cable as you make your graph.

Charting:

can be done manually or on the computer  
use colors to clarify the cable manipulations

When designing your cable size you need to take into consideration the project.

The wider the cable the more texture you will create and the less stretch you will have in the fabric.

The closer together the cables are the more complex the pattern looks and the narrower the piece becomes. Cables with or in rib will pull in even more.

Be sure and do a swatch that includes the cable work.

If doing color work cables it is best for the cables to be worked in a solid color yarn. You should also keep the floats to 1" or less (longer can snag or distort the fabric).

Formula for calculating amount of yarn needed for a stitch: ~3x's the width of the stitch (ie: if 8 stitches = 1", then 1 stitch = 1/8". Multiply this by pi (3.14) to determine length of yarn needed. (I did not confirm this)

She had a section on reversibility. For machine knitting, this could be accomplished using a ribber. The fabric created will be closer knit and thicker.