

The Knitshop at Rocking Horse Farm

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HAVING SUCCESS WITH A KNITTING MACHINE

Whether you are new to machine knitting or if the machine is new-to-you.

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- **Don't run the carriage across without checking the sponge bar.** The needles will jam if the bar is flat. Use a flat-headed screwdriver to push the bar out. *If the bar is flat, contact us to purchase a new sponge bar.* Insert the bar back into the machine, shiny side up, while holding the needles down with the selector comb. The bar must be over the needles. If the needles feel loose the bar is not inserted correctly. *European knitting machines (Passap, Pfaff, Superba, Swissknitter) and Circular Sock Machines have springs instead of sponge bars. Some plastic machines (Addi, Bond) do not have bars.*
- **Apply oil.** Ask the person who sold the machine if it has already been oiled. Only use actual Knitting Machine Oil, no substitutes.
- **Do a “dry run” without yarn to test the needles.** Pull the needles into working position and run the carriage across without yarn. Look to see if all the latches are open. *If necessary, do a “paper test” to see if you can open and close the latches with a regular piece of paper.* Change any needles that don't cooperate.
- **Select a yarn that is thinner than your normal choice.** Fingering or baby weight on a standard machine, sport weight on a bulky machine. Choose a medium tension on the carriage and a medium tension on the yarn mast.
- **Check the manual for proper threading of the mast.** Most masts have a yarn tension device. Set it to medium. Cast on and thread the carriage.
- **Don't force the carriage.** If it is hard to push, something is wrong. Start over with thinner yarn, and perhaps more oil.
- **After the cast-on row attach the cast-on comb and/or weights.** SK machines do not come with cast-on combs but many knitters choose to purchase one and use it anyway. KH or KS machines will drop stitches without a cast-on comb.

SK = Silver Reed, Singer, Studio, Knitmaster, Artisan245

KH = Brother, KnitKing, Creative, Taitexma, Artisan260

KS = Toyota, Elna