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Intended for Adult Use

KNITTING MACHINE[®]

Quick Tips for Knitting Success

No. 7590-08
Addendum

BEFORE YOU START:

Before you start knitting, wind your yarn into an even ball, or loosen and unravel a large amount to create a “puddle” at your feet (be careful not step on the yarn). For best results, place the ball of yarn on the floor directly in front of the machine.

If you choose to work from a ball of yarn, placing it in a small coffee can with a hole cut through the lid to feed the yarn out of will keep your ball of yarn from rolling all over the floor. Again, for best results, place the ball of yarn on the floor directly in front of the machine.

The tension of the yarn in the yarn tension guide is very important and this applies when making both tubes and flat panels. Lighter weight yarns (1-3) usually can be threaded all the way through the 6 openings or “rungs” of the guide. Heavier yarns (4-5) may only need to be threaded through the top three openings or “rungs.”

Never allow the yarn feeding into tension guide to become very taut – this will cause the tension guide to pop off and may cause a stitch to drop.

THREADING THE MACHINE:

When threading your machine, make sure that the threading is taut, not loose and loopy- this can be achieved by holding the yarn tail (loose end) taut as you slowly thread the machine – once the machine is completely threaded, pull down on the tail to tighten the threading.

PREVENTING DROPPED STITCHES IN FLAT PANELS:

Dropped stitches most often occur at the ends of a flat panel. Adding weight to the knitting to pull it in a downward direction may prevent dropped stitches. A simple way to add weight is to take three 2” binder clips and after knitting approximately 8 rows, clip one clip on to the left edge of the panel, one clip to the right edge of the panel, and one clip to the bottom edge of the middle of the panel. Turn the handle to continue knitting until clips hit the work surface. Once the clips hit the surface, move the two clips on the ends of the panels upward toward the top of machine and then continue to knit. Repeat this step every time the clips hit the table and until your panel is the desired length. In addition to adding this little bit of weight, it is again important to keep even tension of yarn through the tension guide – do not allow it to be too taut or too loose.

PREVENTING DROPPED STITCHES IN A TUBE:

Adding weight to the knitting to pull it in a downward direction may prevent these dropped stitches. A simple way to add weight is to take three or four 2” binder clips and after knitting approximately 8 rows, clip one clip on to the starting edge (bottom) of knitting at 12 p.m. (think of the circle of knitting as a clock face) clip the second clip on to the starting edge (bottom) of knitting at 3p.m. , Clip the third clip on to the starting edge (bottom) of the knitting at 6p.m. and the last clip at 9 p.m. Turn the handle to continue knitting until clips hit the work surface. Once the clips hit the surface, move the four clips upward toward the top of machine and simply clip on to knitting (the side of the knitting facing you or the inside of the tube) approximately 1” down from the top and then continue to knit. Repeat this step every time the clips hit the table and until tube is the desired length. In addition to adding this little bit of weight, it is again important to keep even tension of yarn through the tension guide – do not allow it to be too taut or too loose.

Standard 2” binder clip available at office supply stores

Questions? – email us at custserv@nsi-int.com or call us at 1-888-425-9113



FAQ's – 7590 Innovations 44-hook Knitting Machine

Q: I have threaded my machine, but when I start to knit. My knitting is not “taking” and the yarn just unravels off the machine.

A: You have probably not threaded the machine correctly.

If you are making a tube, make sure the mode switch on the machine is in the downward position toward the “O.” If you are making a flat panel, make sure the mode switch on the machine is in the UPWARD position toward the “-.”

TO THREAD THE MACHINE FOR A TUBE:

1. Make sure the mode switch is in the downward position toward the “O”. Turn the handle of the machine so that the colored hook (“1” hook) is directly to the right of the yarn guide.
2. Thread the tail end of the yarn through the middle of the machine. Reach under the machine and grab the tail end with your right hand.
3. While still holding on to the tail end of the yarn with your right hand, grasp the crank of the machine. (This is to help keep the yarn taut while you are starting to thread the machine.)
4. Feed the working end of the yarn UNDER the colored hook and turn the catch slightly to make sure the yarn catches under the hook and does not slip out.
5. Next feed the working end of the yarn BEHIND the hook directly to your left of the colored hook (“2” hook). Turn the crank slightly away from you to advance the hook.

(Tip: Continue to try to grasp the tail end of the yarn while holding the crank for at least the threading of the first five or six hooks.)
6. Next feed the working end of the yarn UNDER the next hook (“3”) hook. Turn the crank slightly away from you to advance the hook.
7. Next feed the working end of the yarn BEHIND the next hook directly to your left. (“4”) hook.
8. Continue threading the machine by **alternating** threading the yarn UNDER then BEHIND each successive hook, until you come back to the colored hook (“1” hook).
9. Thread the yarn UNDER the colored hook. Make sure as you thread that the starting tail end of the yarn is still threaded UNDER the hook as well – You may have to pull up on the tail at this point as you thread under it a second time to insure both “stitches” stay on the hook.

10. Now manually thread the working end of the yarn UNDER EACH of the next 5 or 6 hooks, then take the working end of the yarn as firm seat it down into the groove of the yarn guide that is directly at the front of the machine. You are now ready thread your yarn through the Tension Guide.

TO THREAD THE MACHINE FOR A FLAT PANEL:

***NOTE:** A finished flat panel will have 40 stitches, NOT 44. Although you will thread the machine all the way around, once you begin knitting back and forth , the first 4 stitches, starting at the colored hook (“1”) will fall away. When they do you, should be able to tug on the tail end of the yarn to tighten up the tension of the 40 stitches on the*

1. Make sure the mode switch is in the UPWARD position toward the “-”. Turn the handle of the machine so that the colored hook (“1” hook) is directly to the right of the yarn guide.
2. Thread the tail end of the yarn through the middle of the machine. Reach under the machine and grab the tail end with your right hand.
3. While still holding on to the tail end of the yarn with your right hand, grasp the crank of the machine. (This is to help keep the yarn taut while you are starting to thread the machine.)
4. Feed the working end of the yarn UNDER the colored hook and turn the catch slightly to make sure the yarn catches under the hook and does not slip out.
5. Next feed the working end of the yarn BEHIND the hook directly to your left of the colored hook (“2” hook). Turn the crank slightly away from you to advance the hook.

(Tip: Continue to try to grasp the tail end of the yarn while holding the crank for at least the threading of the first five or six hooks.)
6. Next feed the working end of the yarn UNDER the next hook (“3”) hook. Turn the crank slightly away from you to advance the hook.
7. Next feed the working end of the yarn BEHIND the next hook directly to your left. (“4”) hook.
8. Continue threading the machine by **alternating** threading the yarn UNDER then BEHIND each successive hook, until you come back to the colored hook (“1” hook).
9. Thread the yarn UNDER the colored hook. Make sure as you thread that the starting tail end of the yarn is still threaded UNDER the hook as well – You may have to pull up on the tail at this point as you thread under it a second time to insure both “stitches” stay on the hook.

10. Now manually thread the working end of the yarn the next hook then continue to crank the handle until the machine will not move around any further – this should just be very small distance. Then take the working end of the yarn as firm seat it down into the groove of the yarn guide that is directly at the front of the machine. You are now ready thread your yarn through the Tension Guide.

TIP: When threading your machine, make sure that the threading is taut, not loose and loopy – this can be achieved by holding the yarn tail (loose end) taut as you slowly thread the machine – once the machine is completely threaded, pull down on the tail end of the right to tighten the threading.

Q: Which way does the circular Tension Guide attach to the machine?

A: At the bottom of the back of the tension guide there is a spring-loaded post – the springy side should be facing the machine. The spring-loaded post, pressing against the machine aids in controlling the tension of your yarn.

Q: Which way do I thread the working end of the yarn through the Tension Guide? From top to bottom or bottom to top?

A: From top to bottom.

After threading your machine and attaching the tension piece to your machine, Grasp the working end of the yarn up close to the yarn guide at the top of the machine. First seat the yarn in the half circle indentation at the top of the yarn guide. Next hook the yarn through the first rung down by sliding it through the opening on your left. Next hook the yarn through the second rung down by sliding it through the opening on your right. At this point the yarn should be threaded halfway down the tension guide.

Next thread the yarn through the third rung down by sliding it through the opening on your right. For MOST yarns you will not need to thread the yarn through the fourth and last rung at the bottom of the tension holder – an example of an exception would be very fine eyelash-type yarns.

Tip: If, when you begin to knit, you find the crank hard to turn, loosen the tension on your yarn by removing the yarn from the lowest tension rung you have it threaded on. This should loosen tension slightly and make the handle easier to turn. If it is STILL difficult to turn, release the yarn from the next tension ring up and try turning handle again to see if tension is eased

Q: The mode switch on my machine seems to be sticking and is difficult to move. What can I do to fix this?

A: Try turning the crank handle for a few revolutions, and then trying to move the mode switch in the opposite direction. If this does not work immediately, try again by moving the handle a few turns and trying to move the switch in the opposite direction. Sometimes this will help to “unstick” the switch. You can also try to move it by inserting the tip of a small flathead screwdriver into the area where the switch is and trying to GENTLY pry it into the opposite mode. If these two tips fail, please contact NSI Customer Service for assistance. . Please contact NSI Customer Service at 888-425-9113 or via email at custserv@nsi-int.com

Q: There is a lot of tension on the ball end of my yarn and it is making it difficult to turn the handle of the machine. I have tried loosening it by removing it from some of the tension guide rungs but it is still hard to turn the crank and knit.

A: There are a few reasons this could be happening.

1. The yarn you are attempting to knit with is too bulky or has little or no elasticity. You should try a different yarn. Note that cotton yarns do not work well with the machine as they have almost no elasticity.
2. Your ball or skein of yarn is not loosened enough. Try to unravel a sufficient amount of yarn into a “puddle” on the floor directly in front of the machine. If working directly from the ball or skein try to make sure to pull out the starting end of the yarn from the MIDDLE of the ball or Skein, do not work from the loose end that is at the outside of the skein.
3. You could be standing on the yarn. Keep your feet away from the yarn.

If after you have checked all the possibilities above and still have not resolved the problem - **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FORCE THE MACHINE TO KNIT THE PROBLEM YARN**– knitting with yarns that are too bulky or not elastic enough for the machine to handle **will cause damage to and possible misalignment of the hooks and needle shrouds** – which can cause jamming and dropped stitches when the machine is subsequently used with even the lightest weight yarns.

Q: My machine knits along fine and then I hear a crackle or a pop as it knits on a particular hook.

A: If you hear this sound, immediately stop knitting and try to check the hook while it is in the raised position by the yarn guide. You may note that your stitch has not slid all the way down the hook and is lodged around the hook, try cranking the handle VERY SLIGHTLY in the opposite direction from the way you were going – just enough to possible loosen the stitch and let it slide down.

The other possible and more difficult problem is that the yarn may have lodged between the needle shroud and the hook. If this happens take a large pin (like a T pin or safety pin

and try very carefully to lift the yarn out from between the shroud and the hook and let it slide down the hook.

If you hear the sound, but the hook makes it past the yarn guide and can't be seen in the raised position, try to note or mark the opening where the hook will emerge and keep knitting around to the yarn guide where the needle will rise up just to the LEFT of the yarn guide and you can examine and see if the yarn has lodged in between the shroud and the hook – if the yarn is lodged, you can try as described above to remove it with a pin and slide it down the hook.

If your yarn repeatedly keeps catching between a particular shroud and hook, you may have damaged the shroud and it should probably be replaced. Mark the particular problem hook using a sharpie or magic marker so you will know which one you need to replace. Contact NSI Customer Service for replacement shrouds and instructions on how to replace them. You may contact NSI Customer Service via telephone at 888-425-9113 or via email at custserv@nsi-int.com

Q: The instruction booklet that came with the machine says I can find a list of yarns that work with the machine on your website. I can't find the list – how can I get it?

A: We would be happy to email it, fax it or send it to you via regular mail. You may contact NSI Customer Service via telephone at 888-425-9113 or via email at custserv@nsi-int.com

Q: When I turn the handle on my machine I hear a loud grinding sound and then it feels like the machine is slipping.

A: Contact NSI Customer Service. You may contact NSI Customer Service via telephone at 888-425-9113 or via email at custserv@nsi-int.com

Q: I have my machine set to the TUBE mode but the machine will not go all the way around to make a tube.

A: *First, double check that the machine is in the Tube mode and the mode switch is firmly pushed down into the Downward position toward the "O". If it IS set this way in the Tube mode, then remove your knitting, and try flipping the switch up and down a few times then bring it back down into the Tube mode. Crank the handle and see if the machine will now go completely around. If it will still not go all the way around, please contact NSI Customer Service for Assistance. You may contact NSI Customer Service via telephone at 888-425-9113 or via email at custserv@nsi-int.com*

Q: Can I make tubes that have fewer than 44 stitches?

A: No, All tubes produced on the machine will have 44 stitches. The diameter of your tube may vary depending on the weight and elasticity of the yarn you choose to knit with.

Q: Can I make panels of different sizes?

A: No. The machine can only produce 40 stitch panels. The width of your panel may vary depending on the weight and elasticity of the yarn you choose to knit with.

Q. I am trying to make a tube and the machine is dropping stitches on me.

A. As you are knitting go slowly and make sure the yarn is being hooked under every single hook. If the tension is too great on the yarn, the tension guide may pop off and cause you to drop a stitch. Dropped stitches may also occur if you accidentally step on your yarn while knitting so keep your feet and other objects clear of your yarn source.

Adding weight to the knitting to pull it in a downward direction may also prevent these dropped stitches. A simple way to add weight is to take three or four 2” binder clips and after knitting approximately 8 rows, clip one clip on to the starting edge (bottom) of knitting at 12 p.m. (think of the circle of knitting as a clock face) clip the second clip on to the starting edge (bottom) of knitting at 3p.m., Clip the third clip on to the starting edge (bottom) of the knitting at 6p.m. and the last clip at 9 p.m. Turn the handle to continue knitting until clips hit the work surface. Once the clips hit the surface, move the four clips upward toward the top of machine and simply clip on to knitting (the side of the knitting facing you or the inside of the tube) approximately 1” down from the top and then continue to knit. Repeat this step every time the clips hit the table and until tube is the desired length. In addition to adding this little bit of weight, it is again important to keep even tension of yarn through the tension guide – do not allow it to be too taut or too loose.

Q: I am trying to make a flat panel and the machine is dropping stitches on me – particularly at the ends of the flat panel.

A: Dropped stitches most often occur at the **ends** of a flat panel.

Adding weight to the knitting to pull it in a downward direction may prevent dropped stitches. A simple way to add weight is to take three 2” binder clips and after knitting approximately 8 rows, clip one clip on to the left edge of the panel, one clip to the right edge of the panel, and one clip to the bottom edge of the middle of the panel. Turn the handle to continue knitting until clips hit the work surface. Once the clips hit the surface, move the two clips on the ends of the panels upward toward the top of machine and then continue to knit. Repeat this step every time the clips hit the table and until your panel is the desired length. In addition to adding this little bit of weight, it is again important to keep even tension of yarn through the tension guide – do not allow it to be too taut or too loose.

Also, when making a flat panel, make sure to turn the handle completely in one direction, completing a full row until the machine will not crank any further – do not stop short – go

all the way to the end of the row. Before going back in the other direction, give the yarn coming from the yarn source a little tug to increase its tension – then watch carefully as the yarn passes under the first hook – if it doesn't catch under the hook immediately, you can give it a little nudge under with your finger. Remember there are 4 hooks (the colored starting hook and the 3 to the left of it) that will not produce stitches.

Q: I have dropped a stitch and I REALLY don't want to have to rip my knitting out and start over again! Is there any way to fix it?

A: Sometimes the machine will drop a stitch and unravel down a number of rows before you notice it has gone. If this happens, you will find a crochet hook (not included with machine) helpful for picking up dropped stitches. A small to medium size crochet hook will work in most cases. This takes practice but it CAN be done!

To pick up a dropped stitch.

1. Turn crank on machine to knit up to the last stitch before the dropped stitch. Dropped stitch should be slightly to the side of the yarn guide. This hook should be the raised position,
2. Look at the area where the dropped stitch seems to start. You will see a loop where the dropped stitch starts and above the loop you will have a "ladder" – with rungs corresponding to each dropped stitch – between the stitches.
3. Insert a crochet hook from front to back through the loop.
4. Hook the first rung of ladder on to the crochet hook and pull it through the opening of the loose stitch. Then hook the next rung and pull it through, and continue this step with each rung until you have carried the stitch all the way back up to the corresponding knitting machine hook.
5. Transfer the loop from the crochet hook on to the knitting machine hook.

Q: The ends of my finished flat panel curl up. How can I get them to flatten out?

A: After you have finished, bound off and removed your flat panel from the machine, you can remove the curled edge by either dampening your knitting with cool (not hot!) water and then pinning it flat to a surface such as an ironing board and allowing it to dry.

Q: I want to remove the top handle of my machine to make it easier to store when I am not using it. Can I do this?

A: If you wish to remove the top handle of your machine for more compact storage, while grasping the handle with one hand, take the eraser end of a pencil in the other hand and gently but firmly press it into one of the white slots at the base of the handle, this should release the tab and allow you to pull up on the handle and free it from the

machine. Repeat on the other side of the base of the carry handle to remove the handle completely. Do not twist the handle when you are removing it as this may cause the tabs that hold the handle in place to break off.

Q: What kind of stitch does the machine produce?

A: The Innovations knitting machine produces a stockinette stitch.

Q: Can the machine produce other stitches, like a garter stitch?

A: No, the machine only produces a stockinette stitch.

Creative Tip for the adventurous knitter:

You can create interesting effects in your knitting but purposely allowing the machine to drop stitches at specific intervals. Try threading your machine and knitting 4 or 5 rows normally. Then knit 4 stitches of the beginning of a row normally, then manually force the machine to skip a stitch, by withholding the yarn from one hook, then letting it knit correctly for 4 stitches, then cause it to skip a stitch by withholding yarn from one hook etc. until you come completely around the tube or across the flat panel.