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THE CANADIAN TEXTILE DIRECTORY

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THE MANUFACTURE OF RIB MITTENS.

To make a ladies' rib mitten on a 20 or 21 gauge flat-rib machine, each division should be about 80 frame needles wide. Use about 2-40s or 2-42s, stock of good quality, and as free from knots or lumps as possible. This is important, as, being for outside wear, any defect in either the yarn or knitting is more readily observed than it would be in an undergarment. Commence with a three or four course welt, then four courses of plain rib, another welt, two plain courses, four royal courses, two plain, four more royal, two plain, welt, four plain, fourth and last welt followed by about 80 plain courses, which will complete the wrist portion of the mitten. In making the welts be sure that they are not made too slack and that it is properly thrown over into the fabric

each time, thus making them clear and distinct from each other. The necessity for this is evident when we remember that the welt side of the fabric is the "face" side on rib mittens. Having finished the wrist the next step is to make the hand. It is necessary that this portion of the mitten should be wider than the wrist, and in order to accomplish this result, a change is here made to a royal rib stitch. (As most knitters are aware, this is done by the simple process of impressing the machine needles every alternate course.) This gives us a fabric of sufficient width for the hand, and at the same time the increased thickness of the royal rib fabric offers to the more sensitive hands and fingers an extra protection against cold. Make sufficient royal fabric to extend to the tip of the fourth finger, say about 120 royal courses, then make 18 courses of plain, the sixteenth course being a slack one for the purpose of gathering the ends. This will complete the fabric from which the mitten is finally shaped.

To facilitate the separation of the mittens, a draw thread is sometimes run in previous to making the first welt on each mitten. This is easily done on a frame where there are two carriers, as the second carrier is used to make two courses of fine thread at the end of each mitten of sufficient strength to allow the last one to be cut at each end and drawn out, thus separating the mittens without cutting, thereby getting rid of cut welt, and leaving the end of the fabric clear and straight for the end gatherer. To form the thumb, we cut down the fabric about 27 ribs from the selvage, more than half the length of the royal. Of the narrow portion thus formed, cut off the end about one-third its length. Cut the thumbs from alternate sides of the mitten, in order to get right and left hand. They are then sent to the end gatherer, who will gather up with a needle and wool the finger ends at the slack course. The thumb portion they will rove down until it is only two-thirds the length of the royal, when they will gather up the ends of it. From the end gatherer they go to the seamer, who seams them up, after which they are inspected and mended.

They are then washed, dyed or bleached, according as desired; after which they are boarded and placed in the drier for a short time. From thence they are taken to the finishers, who examine them and pair them up, tacking each pair together at the finger ends and the bottom of the wrist. Tie them up in dozens and