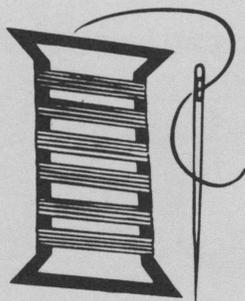


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# FACT SHEET

L-1001



## KNIT LOOKS ALL SEWN UP!

Fannie Brown Eaton\*

Knits are the spice of your wardrobe. They can be many things—very stretchy or fairly rigid; light or heavy; soft or crisp; dull or shiny; porous or compact; and plain or patterned. Knits make attractive sportswear or special evening dress.

They also influence handling methods in home sewing. Study their characteristics and follow these sewing techniques for better results.

The type of knit influences your pattern selection. Select firm knits for tailored straight lines; soft knits are better for draped lines. Patterns especially designed for knits may have less ease than those designed for woven fabrics.

Some knit fabric edges curl. Use a pattern in which seam edges are not on the straight of the fabric grain. Use a zigzag, fine overcast stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the seamline. Without opening, trim the seam.

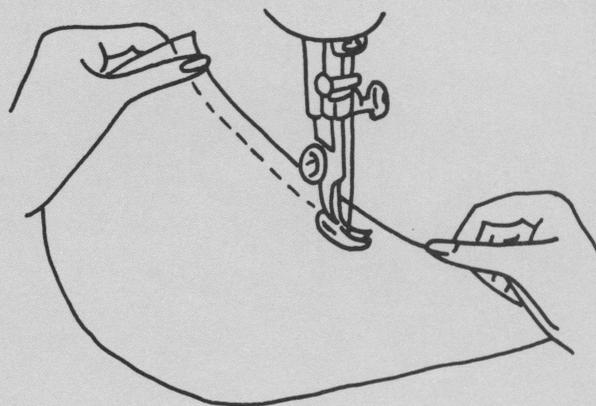
Some knit fabrics in tailored garment designs need shape-retaining support. Use tricot knit for interfacing and backing where light support is needed. Use a woven interfacing where more support is needed. Always use support fabrics which will meet the same care requirements as your outer fabrics. They usually are used in faced edges, collars, under buttonholes, pockets, waistbands and some hemmed areas.

Knit fabrics sometimes stretch in handling. Keep fabric on cutting surface to prevent hang-over on edge. Cut out pattern pieces carefully and wait 24 hours before assembling.

Some knit fabrics snag easily. Always handle knits on a smooth surface. Keep needles, pins and scissors sharp. Use fine ball-point sewing machine needles and a special roller presser foot. Use a throatplate with a small round needle hole and narrow straight stitching presser foot for a straight stitch on a zigzag machine.

Because some knit fabrics are tough, fine needles are necessary and should be changed often.

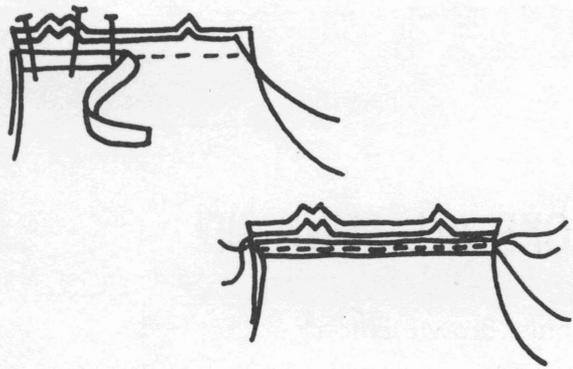
Many knits are easily oil stained. Always use chalky rather than waxy chalk. Keep your sewing machine free of oil.



Some knits "give" in varying degrees, so select a thread that will do the same. A core-spun thread may be used. Loosen the upper and lower thread tension. Use 12 to 15 stitches per inch. Shorter stitches are used on knits with less "give." Support the fabric while stitching. Some machines have a special stretch setting to give elasticity to the seam.

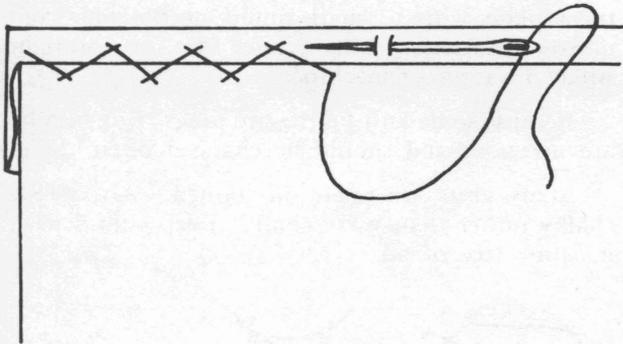
Some seams in knit garments need stabilizing. Use a straight or bias tape to prevent stretching at shoulder, waistline, armseye and crotch seams. Use a straight woven tape that is cut by a pattern piece on loosely knitted fabric. Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the

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cut edge to prevent the seam allowance from curling.

Hems need special consideration. Allow the garment to hang 24 hours before hemming it. Use



French or tailor's hem finish to minimize bulk, and a loose catchstitch. Use stretch lace on very stretchy knits or those that fray slightly. Double stitch heavy knits. Baste the hem in place at the fold and along the center line of the hem. Fold the hem back along the center basting line and catchstitch loosely to the garment. Catchstitch top edge to the garment.

