

## Getting ready to knit

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1. Set up the machine to knit using only cylinder needles and waste yarn.

a. Weights

Use the buckle to attach the weight hook. Put the knitted material through the buckle in such a way that pulling down pressure locks the buckle and holds the fabric. Add the weight hook to the end of the buckle. Add as much weight as necessary to keep the work tense. The amount of weight to use will become obvious as you use your machine, too little and the work rides up and is loose looking on the needles, too much and it is difficult to crank the machine.

In addition to the weights, be sure to pull down steadily on the work as you knit; stitches can slide off if they work up on the needles.

If your arm gets tired, you're probably pulling down too hard.



b. Yarns

Use sport weight for the 60/30 machines, 2/8's for the 80/40, and knitting worsted for the 52/26. Generally speaking, wool is easier to work than synthetics.

The yarn should be strong and fairly consistent in thickness. Heavily tinted yarns tend to be a bit stiff and also do not wear as well in sock feet.

c. Counting rows

Either install a counter, or count one number each time the yarn carrier passes a certain spot on the cylinder, e.g. front, back, marks on sides. If your machine is unmarked, use fingernail polish or another enamel type paint to mark your machine at the  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  points.

d. Cranking the machine

Crank the machine evenly and clockwise for normal knitting. Avoid cranking the machine without yarn unless you remove all of the needles.

e. Heel Hook

Lots of folks do not use the heel hook. If you do use the hook, use a light touch when it is being used in the increasing phases of heels and toes. Watch especially the area where the fin on the underside of the dial meets the dial adjuster or bump in the cylinder—the work is most likely to hang up in this area.

f. Cylinder knitting

First set up the machine—thread it,  
and knit with waste yarn. [Back to top](#)

