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EXERCISES RELATING TO KNITTING

1. Gauge. It will be essential to work to a stated gauge, this means getting the right number of stitches per inch. I would suggest the following exercises to see if you can achieve the gauges suggested by keeping the same yarn but adjusting needle size. Choose at least 3 if submitting samples for commissioned work.
 - a. Using an Aran weight cotton yarn and stocking stitch
 $17 \text{ sts} \times 22 \text{ rows} = 4 \text{ ins}^2 (10\text{cm}^2)$
on 5mm needles or size needles to obtain this gauge
 - b. Using an Aran weight alpaca silk or wool mix yarn and stocking stitch
 $18 \text{ sts} \times 24 \text{ rows} = 4 \text{ inches} (10\text{cms})$
on 4.5mm needles or needle size to obtain gauge
 - c. Using an Aran weight cashmere/wool, wool, or other wool mix type yarn and stocking stitch
 $18\text{sts} \times 24 \text{ rows} = 4\text{ins}/10\text{cm}$
on 5mm needles or needle size to obtain gauge
 - d. Using a 4ply or baby yarn and stocking stitch
 $25\text{sts} \times 34 \text{ rows} = 4\text{ins}/10\text{cm}$
on 3.25mm needles or needle size to obtain gauge
 - e. Using a DK wool yarn and a DK cotton yarn
 $22\text{sts} \times 30 \text{ rows} = 4\text{ins}/10\text{cm}$
on 4mm needles or needles to obtain gauge.

FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE EXERCISES SUBMIT SAMPLES THAT ARE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH TYPE OF YARN/GAUGE ACHIEVED AND SIZE NEEDLE USED.

2. Sizing once gauge is perfected is another piece of mathematics essential to getting a garment that fits. Have a go at the following exercises relating to sizing.
 - a. My head is 21.5 inches in circumference
my yarn is DK merino $22\text{sts} \times 30 \text{ rows} = 4\text{ins}/10\text{cm}$ on 4mm needles.
How many stitches do I cast on for the brim if I wanted to knit a K2 P2 rib pattern?
3. My client is 3mths old (and is a baby), he needs a hat to fit him now,
 - (i) what size hat does he require in inches?
 - (ii) If he was to have this knitted in a standard DK yarn in stocking stitch with a rolled brim, how many stitches would you cast on to get his size? State gauge and needle size you would use as well.

4. If you know how to knit and purl and you can use a stitch library then just about any fancy stitch is possible but do you know how to apply some of these stitches to the garment? I would suggest answering the following to clarify your knitting know how.

- a. What is the difference between knitting using
(i) Intarsia and how is this achieved? Can it be knitted in the round?
(ii) Fairisle and how is this achieved? Can it be knitted in the round?

- b. How do you knit garter stitch?
(i) On straight needles?
(ii) On double pointed needles/circular needles i.e. in the round?

5. To get the shaping you want, you need to know how to increase and decrease and where to place these. Try the following exercises by firstly finding out how to do them and secondly putting them into practice by knitting a small sample.

- a. What kind of decrease would I put on the
(i) BACK RIGHT of a garment i.e. at the beginning of a row to give a left slant (sloping inwards)
(ii) BACK LEFT of a garment i.e. at the end of a row to give a right slant (sloping inwards)



- b. How do you make a M1 increase (sometimes known as a bar increase)
d. What are paired decreases?

6. What is wrong within the following lines of pattern which are for decreases on the crown of a hat knitted in the round? There is one error.

Next round: *K6 K2tog, rpt from * around
Next round: *K5 K2tog, rpt from * around
Next round: *K4 K2tog, rpt from * around
Next round: *K2 K2tog, rpt from * around
Next round: *K1 K2tog, rpt from * around
Next round: * K2tog, rpt from * around

This list will be added to in the future, ask Erssie if you are ready for more questions and exercises testing your basic knitting know how.