

Hello from Maggie Macknit!

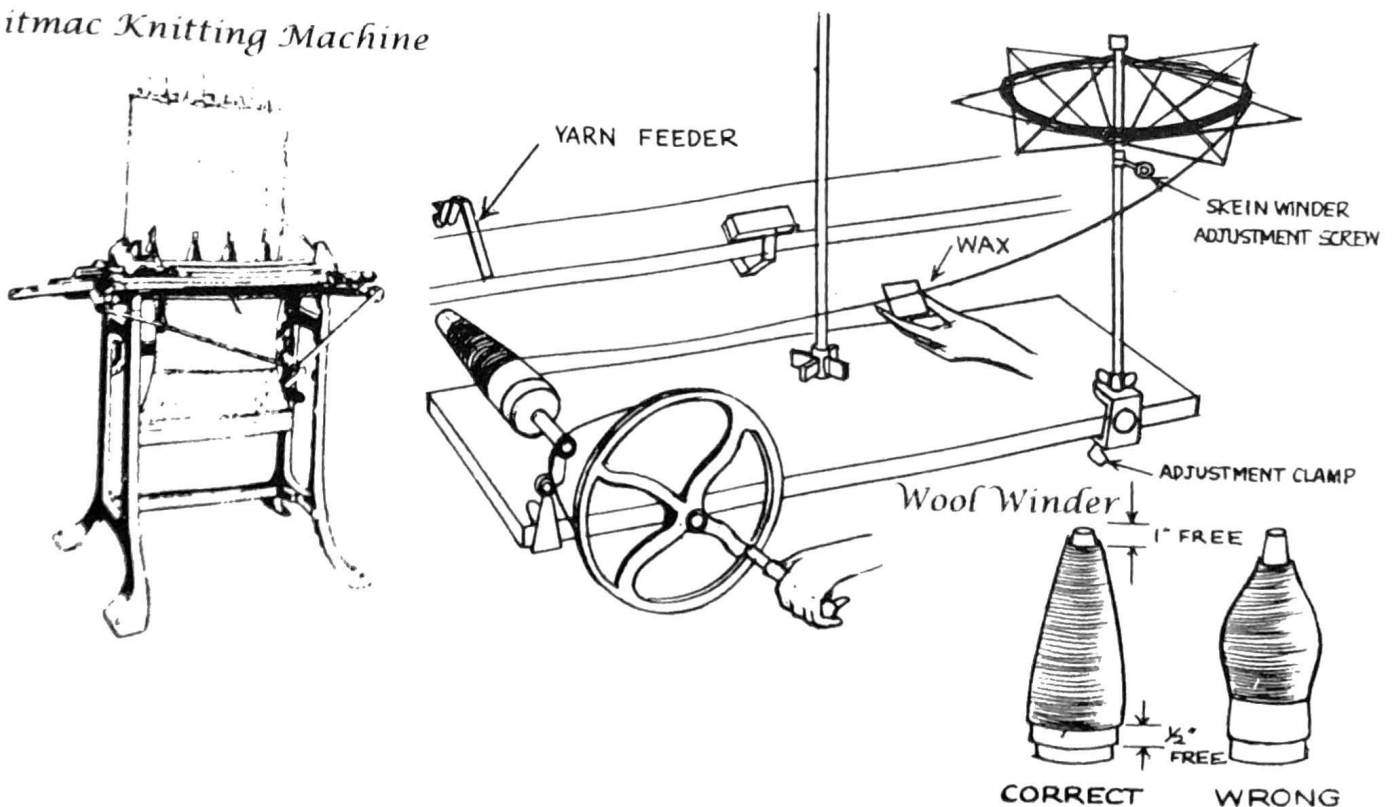
Our first hint came in from Sue Klein for Japanese Machine knitters who like to redo their own Presser Bars. These are often replaced using window draft stopper and Sue says if you buy horsehair braid from the haberdashery and stretch to the right width over the top of the sponge rubber it gives you a new presser bar. Both the sponge rubber and the braid are attached at either end and the braid is just the right width when fitted. Another hint re the Presser Bar which came from Fay Butcher. She heard of this when visiting some people who had a number of machines and were knitting commercially. They said they always take the Presser Bar out each evening and when the machine is not being used for any length of time and this gives longer wear.

Margaret Sanger came up with this lovely article while reading one of her favourite magazines, so I am quoting it here for you all to take a slap on the back for being such clever people.

"Driven mad by the incessant clatter of his wife's knitting needles, the Reverend William Lee came up with an alternative idea - why not rows of hooked needles to lift the knot from one needle to another? Quickly, he made a prototype in 1589 and sought the patronage of Queen Elizabeth 1 who threw him out. His attempts to sell his idea were futile, and he died in 1610 just before his brother sold it to a Nottingham merchant.

"Nevertheless, folk continued handknitting, because the parlour would have looked silly with a vast steam-powered knitting machine. Then, a malicious fiend who may or may not have worked for a rogue psychiatrist seeking trade, invented the domestic knitting machine. Still available for **people with an Einstein IQ, the patience of a Bangladeshi Ferrari dealer and the physical skills of a watchmaker**, most of the 1960s' knitting machines can be found at garage sales with one or more of their 938,126 parts missing."

Knitmac Knitting Machine



Pat Ford was intrigued by an advertisement in her local paper put in by the Brn-a-brac and Old Wares store at Dural Village

"Knitting Machine and Wool Kit - start your own cottage industry."

She came home quite intrigued and phoned Maggie Macknit to come and have a look. For what she had found was quite an old double bed knitting machine from KNTTMAC (Aust) Pty Ltd, knitting machine specialists. It was called KNIT-O-MATIC and came with a comprehensive instruction book, combs, weights (which would have demolished anyone's foot had they fallen on it) transfer tools in many sizes, wool-winder for winding skeins of yarn, a large quantity of old yarn which appeared to be cashmilon, the stands the yarn was in and many, many old large jam tins on which the yarn was wound. The machine appeared to be in working condition, was well oiled and did not seem to show any signs of rust, even though it has been in the shop for quite a long time.

Maybe we have a collector of old knitting machines who has quite a bit of room to spare and would like to play round with it. They have put a price of \$1,800 on the whole job lot, which we thought they had buckley's chance of getting, but suggested to them that if they sold the yarn off in kilo lots and the stands separately they might have more chance of selling some of it.

The instruction book had some great tips for knitters which I think are probably just as applicable today, so I am quoting them for you.

".....When you commence working the machine, remember one thing:-

DO NOT BECOME IMPATIENT AS ONLY PRACTICE WILL MAKE YOU PERFECT!!

"Never under any circumstances FORCE the machine, but always knit slowly with even strokes, passing the needles which are in action BY AT LEAST 1 INCH ON EITHER SIDE.

"The more time, patience and understanding you use in the early stages, the more satisfactory results you will attain.

"Speed and more difficult patterns will avail themselves to you as you become more certain....."

"....Remember these three MUSTS:-

"PATIENCE - UNDERSTANDING - PRACTICE

AT ALL TIMES.'

Don't forget Maggie Macknit is looking for any interesting hints or information which may be of interest to all machine knitters, or if there is any help you may require, one of us will surely be able to help you. Phone or write to Maggie, c/- 5/18 Binomea Place, Pennant Hills 2120 (phone 484-5392).