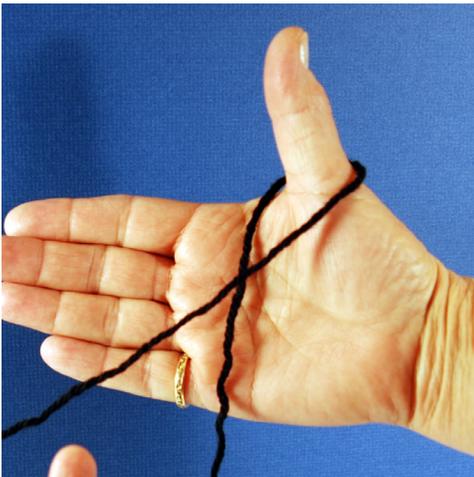
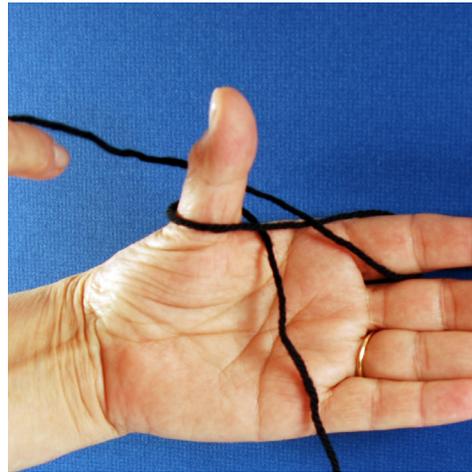


Winding a Butterfly

Butterflies are handy to use as intarsia bobbins - especially if you need lots of color changes. They are also useful when you want to save small amounts of yarn for other purposes.



1. Begin by catching the tail of the yarn around your thumb.



2. Start making figure eights around your thumb and forefinger.



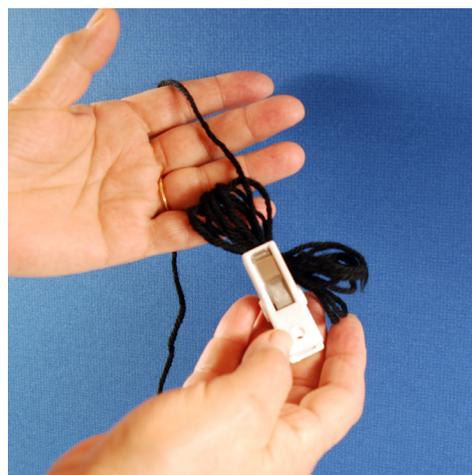
3. Keep the beginning tail free as you wind the figure eights.



4. When the bundle is as big as you want it, cut the yarn and use that end to knot around the center of the bundle to secure it.



5. You use the butterfly as though it were a bobbin, pulling more yarn from the bundle by tugging on the starting tail.

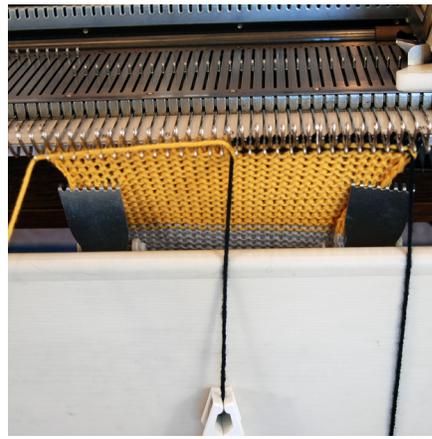


6. I usually use wooden or plastic clothespins to add some weight to butterflies as it helps tension the stitches more evenly.

Starting new yarns



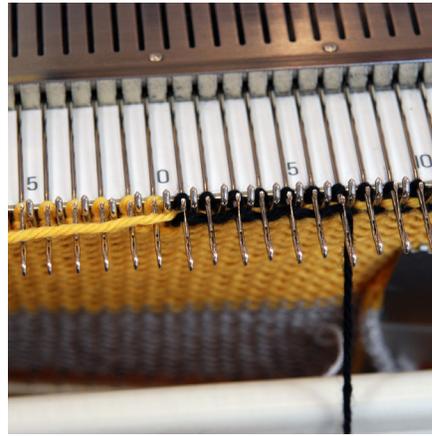
1. Yarn has been laid in the open hooks of the ndls for the first row of intarsia. The black yarn is wound on an easy bob and the end is weighted with a clothespin.



2. The yellow yarn is laid in the open ndl hooks from right to left for second row. Note that the two yarns are crossed where they met at the center. This prevents a gap or hole.



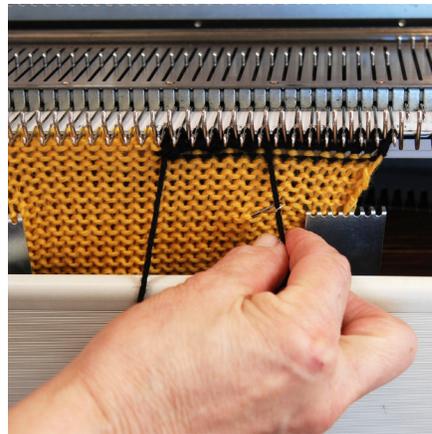
3. The starting end of the black yarn is woven over and under the shafts of 7-8 ndls.



4. Carefully nudge the woven black yarn behind the latches of the ndls it weaves over. Then make sure the ndls are in line with the others and that the latches are open.



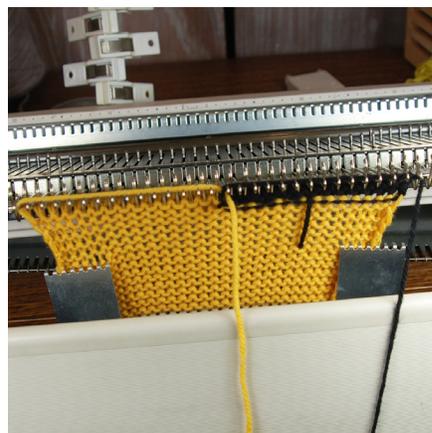
5. Now lay the black yarn across the appropriate open ndls from right to left and move the carriage across the bed to knit the row.



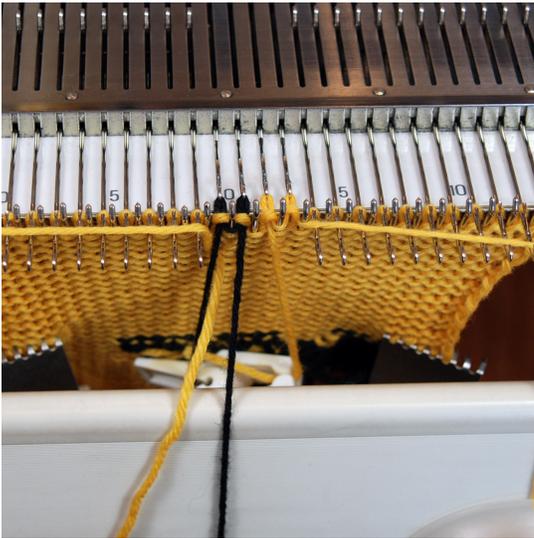
6. Reach through from the back of the fabric to catch the black yarn tail in the hook of a latch tool. Pull the end through to the other side. This will prevent tangling while you work.



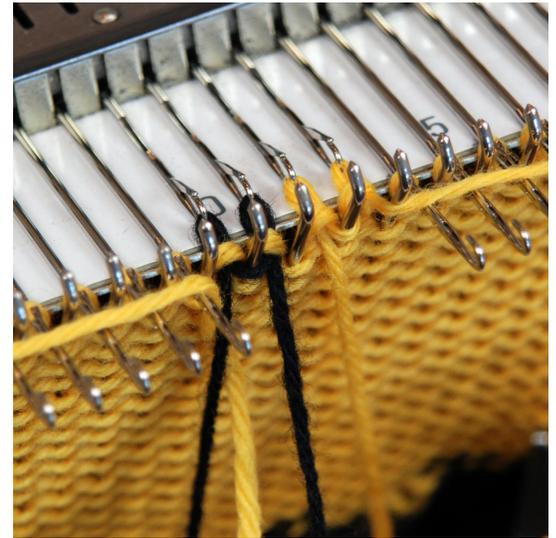
7. When the sweater is done, you can easily tug all of the yarn tails back through to the purl side for clipping close. Ends like this are already woven in and secured.



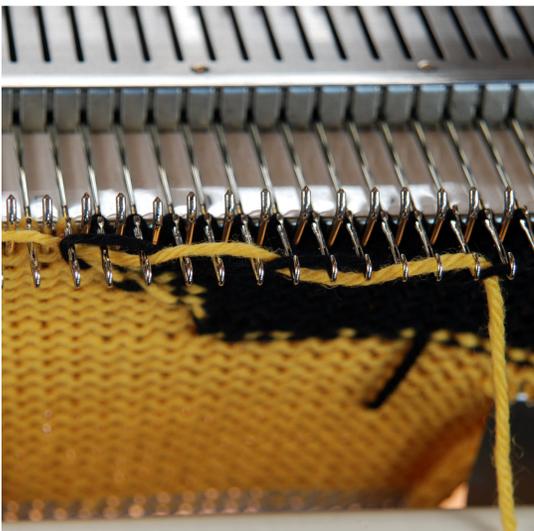
8. Lay the yellow in the hooks first, cross it with the black and then lay the black into the hooks and move the carriage from left to right. Always start working on the carriage side.



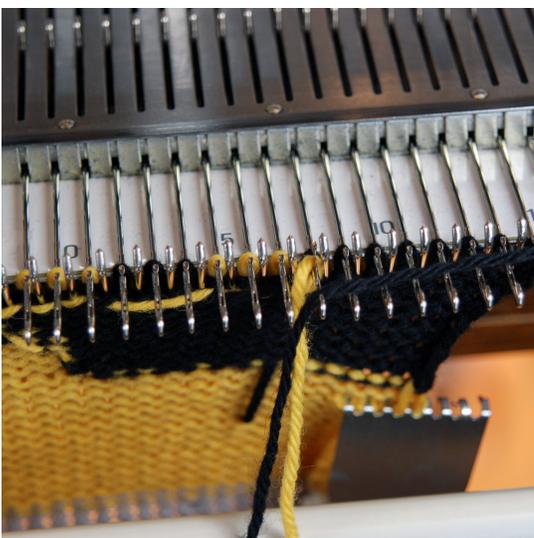
In addition to weaving in ends as I go, I usually start new yarns by knitting the first few ndls back to working position, which is where I leave them when knitting the next row. They are returned to C position with all of the other ndls as the carriage moves across the bed. Doing this helps tension the first few stitches.



Stranding



When there are small areas of color (1-3 ndls wide) between larger areas, I often do what is called “stranding” to carry the yarn behind a couple of ndls to the next group of ndls where it knits again. In this way, two yarns alternate passing above (in the open ndl hooks) or below the ndls, twisting once at each change. Sometimes, I do start individual bobbins if there are only a couple of color changes, but if there are lots of changes, it also means there are lots of ends to be worked in and the finishing often suffers from so many ends being worked into the fabric. It becomes a trade off and I really don't mind having a few small floats on the back of the work. It is also a lot faster.

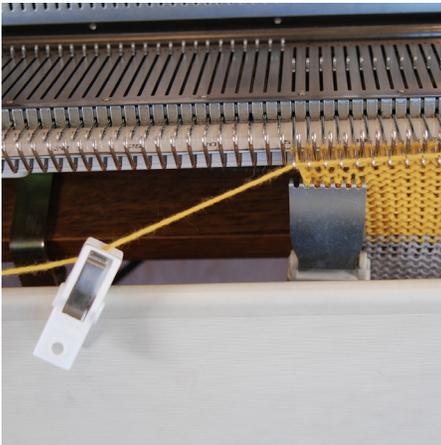


After each row of stranding has been knitted, make sure the first color wraps an adjacent needle (behind the open latch) before reversing direction for the next row. Otherwise, there will be a gap at the first/last color change. By the same token, if you twist the yarns more than once between groups of needles, the twists are likely to make it difficult to move the carriage across because they pull on the yarns too much and, instead of preventing gaps, the extra twists will actually cause the stitches to spread, creating new gaps.



You should be able to see the floats below the needles. They are not long enough to be a problem. Before placing the yarn for the next row, I would catch the black behind the shaft of the last needle at the right of the yellow group. Because the yellow will travel to the right, alternating needle groups with the black, twisting them at this first junction won't prevent a gap.

Working without bobbins



Sometimes, rather than winding huge bobbins, I will work directly off a ball of yarn that I place on the floor below the machine. To help weight the yarn so that it stays in the open hooks of the needles, I usually just hang a plastic or wooden clothespin and find that it helps tension the stitches more evenly.