

KNITTING IMPROV

Improv is a special yarn. It is a ribbon yarn that is constructed as a double wide tape that is made up of woven boxes and open space boxes that are opposite each other in Checkerboard construction. There are a few ways to knit Improv. All variations are described in writing below. Please do not substitute a variation as each is selected by the designer for how it fits into each design. To have a visual look at knitting with Improv, visit our website at www.Trendsetteryarns.com and look at Yarns and then select Improv. A video link is provided on this page. Enjoy.

RUFFLE YARN: Knitting Improv is similar to knitting our other ruffle yarns Cha Cha and Flamenco. If you have used them work the same method. If this is all new to you, work as follows: Fold cut end over to hem by overlapping two open boxes. Use the chain running over top of open box as the yarn for your stitch. Pick up stitch by grabbing yarn from back of thread and pulling through towards you so stitches are not twisted. One Chain from open box to one stitch on the needle. Work in Garter St. and both sides of work will have ruffles. Work in Stock St. and all ruffles will come onto one side and be layered. If you desire to use Improv as a Ruffle Embellishment, work as follows:

Hem as usual and place first open box on Rt. Needle. Place point of needle into first stitch on left needle. Using base yarn, finish knitting the stitch and pull the new stitch through both the base stitch and the Improv to lock together. Remove stitch from needle and repeat across the row until 2sts remain. Cut Improv and hem. Finish last two stitches in embellishment mode.



FOLDED/EMBELLISHMENT YARN: In some cases Improv will be used for one single row. In this case, it is easiest to simply work the yarn folded in one row as opposed to other variations that require the folding process to be worked as two rows in order to create the pillow effect. Working Improv as an embellishment yarn requires you to have a base yarn that is already cast on and worked for the necessary row/s. Improv will actually not be knit as a yarn but worked on top of the base yarn. Work this variation as follows:

Hem the yarn by folding the cut end back onto itself to overlap two open boxes top and bottom. Fold yarn in half horizontally to create pillows with the center edge of ribbon becoming the bottom edge and the top and bottom coming together. All knitting will be done through the "open" boxes which are off by one because of the checkerboard. Slide yarn to allow the open boxes to overlap a bit giving you a place to insert your needles. Working with the Rt. Needle, pick up first open boxes onto needle. Place point of Rt. Needle into first stitch of base knitting on Left Needle. With base yarn, knit stitch and pull through base stitch and Improv open boxes. Remove stitches from needle. Improv is now worked as an embellishment yarn as it is not actually knit but worked on top of the base yarn as an embellishment fiber. Repeat by picking up the next pair of overlapped open boxes and knitting together with next base yarn stitch on Left Needle. Repeat working across the entire row stopping two stitches before the end. Cut Improv leaving enough length to create a hem. Fold balance of Improv and work the last two stitches as before. Work the necessary rows, if any, using the base yarn until Improv is worked as an embellishment once again.

PILLOW KNIT IN GARTER ST.: In some patterns, Improv is worked as a knitting yarn and worked into pillows. In these patterns it is best to create the pillows in two separate rows as the process of two rows eases up the stitches and gives them more freedom of movement. It is important that you work this process on Circular Needles as it will be necessary to slide the stitches across the needle in order to work the second row which will fold the ribbon and create the pillows. If you prefer Straight Needles you will need to slide the stitches back to previous needle, 1 stitch at a time as if to Purl, so no stitches are twisted. In some cases there will be a contrasting yarn worked for Cast on row. In some cases Improv will be used as Cast on yarn. Work this method as follows:

CAST ON ROW: Fold end of Improv back to overlap two open boxes creating a hem. All stitches will be worked by knitting the thread that runs across the top edge of the open box. With point of needle, pick up thread that runs across top edge of open box by placing needle behind the thread and coming through towards you. One stitch is on the needle. Skip to next box and repeat picking up the thread from back and coming towards you. Cast on the number of stitches as written in pattern.



ROW 1: Pull end of needle back sliding all stitched back to beginning of needle. Yarn tail will now be at end of needle. For this row only the stitches will be knit in back of stitches to twist them and keep them tight. Put point of needle into back of first stitch on needle. Fold Improv up in half and catching thread at bottom edge of opposite open box from back to front, catch the thread and pull through stitch on needle to knit it. Repeat across the row knitting into the back of each stitch and knitting with the thread running across the top of the next open box. At end of row, yarn will be folded like pillow and you will be at end of row with tail ready to work next row.



ROW 2: Turn work. Using open boxes, put point of needle into first stitch and knit using the thread at the top of the next open box. Repeat across working the thread from one open box into each stitch across the row. Yarn will look like ruffled ribbon.





Repeat Rows 1 and 2 working 1 row as ruffle, sliding needle back through stitches and then closing the boxes on the second row by knitting opposite open box thread on each stitch and creating the pillows. Continue until desired length.

PILLOW KNIT IN REV. STOCK ST.: Follow the instructions as for the Garter St. for the cast on and row 1. These 2 rows will count as the Knit row of a Rev. Stock St. pattern. Stock St. will give you all of the pillows on one side of your knitting and a flat smooth opposite side.

Work next row as Row 2 above to create a ruffled row but Purling each stitch across the row. Slide the needle back through stitches and closed the boxes into pillows by Purling the next row. These 2 rows will count as the Purl row of a Rev. Stock St. pattern.

Work 2 rows of Knit to create the Knit row of pattern and 2 rows of Purl to create the Purl row of pattern. The Purl row will be the RS of pattern placing all of the pillows on the outside.

BINDING OFF: Work all the necessary rows as written in pattern. On last row, work the ruffled row. Slide needle back through stitches to beginning of row. Work the next row to Pillow each stitch, binding off across the row as stitches are pillowed and closed until 2 stitches before the end. Cut Improv and fold to inside to Hem. Work the last 2 stitches to pillow close and bind off. Cut a piece of base yarn or sewing thread and catch the last stitch. With a sewing needle, secure the tail to the next few stitches knotting it carefully and bury the tail to hide.

ADDING YARN: When changing from one skein to another, finish the first skein by hemming to close the end. Hem the beginning of the next skein and continue from where you left off. It is that simple.

To see more on knittng with Improv, visit our YouTube video [Knitting Improv Trendsetter Yarns Tidbit](#) or visit our website www.Trendsetteryarns.com and follow the link on the yarn page for Improv.