



PROBLEM SOLVING

5 Top Knitting Challenges

CHALLENGE 1: FINDING ANSWERS

Based on the emails we receive at Knit Camp Headquarters, one of the biggest challenges knitters face is how to find answers when they need them. When you don't know where the answer lives - or can't remember where you saw it, take advantage of search features that are located inside of Knit Camp and on the Olive Knits website. You will be surprised how quickly you can locate information with a simple search tool.

It's very common to draw a blank when trying to locate information - these resources will help. Click the links below to watch a quick screen-share video on how to search for information quickly and easily.

[Knit Camp Search Feature](#)

[Olive Knits Website Search Feature](#)

Information is often right at your fingertips, and you may be able to find an answer in seconds. Finding answers quickly means you'll spend less time waiting for answers and more time knitting.

CHALLENGE 2: CASTING ON

Which cast-on should you use? Are you casting on the right way? Should you cast on more loosely? Here are my top tips for a successful cast-on:

- **Use the cast-on the pattern recommends.** If you're familiar with the behavior of different cast-on methods, then you likely know how to use them interchangeably. But it's important to remember that a specific cast-on method may be used for a reason - and using a different method might affect the quality of your results.
- **Don't cast on loosely.** Unless a pattern specifically tells you to cast on loosely, your goal should be to keep those cast-on stitches nice and tidy - which means maintaining good tension throughout the cast-on process. A loose cast-on will create a loose edge, which is problematic for some kinds of projects (such as a top-down sweater).
- **Don't be afraid to cast on more than once.** If you're trying a new-to-you cast-on method and it looks a little wonky - try it again. The cast-on is the foundation row for your project and you want to give your project a good start.
- **Need more?** Go to your Knit Camp HQ and type "cast" into the search bar to see previous tutorials.



PROBLEM SOLVING

5 Top Knitting Challenges Cont...

CHALLENGE 3: BINDING OFF

Knitters rarely realize the power they wield in the art of binding off. Seriously - if something is wrong with your neckline, wrist, lower body - adjust your bind-off. It's so simple that we often overlook how powerful and useful this step in the process can be.

- If your neckline is too tight, try binding off again more loosely. BUT - that doesn't mean you need a stretchy bind-off. It just means try relaxing your hands and binding off with a more relaxed grip, or try the Russian bind-off. [Click here to see the Russian bind-off in action.](#)
- If your neckline is too loose, try binding off more tightly. It's amazing what a difference that can make.

CHALLENGE 4: GAUGE

We often struggle with the ins and outs of knitting a gauge swatch (and getting the numbers we expect). Here are my top tips for gauge issues:

- Make sure your yarn is a good substitute - not only for the yardage vs. weight ratio, but also for the fiber content. If you're using a different fiber content, you may have to use a heavier or lighter weight yarn to get the same results.
- If you're not getting gauge with the yarn and needles you've selected, try a few variations:
 - 1) Same yarn, but with a needle one size larger
 - 2) Same yarn, but with a needle one size smaller
 - 3) Same needle, but a slightly thicker yarn.
 - 4) Same needle, but a slightly thinner yarn.
- Remember: If your number of stitches in 4" is a HIGHER number than the recommended gauge, it means your stitches are too small. This is when you may need a larger needle or slightly thicker yarn.
- Remember: If your number of stitches in 4" is a LOWER number than the recommended gauge, it means your stitches are too big. This is when you may need a smaller needle or a slightly thicker yarn.
- Always try adjusting your needle size first (since it's the simplest option). If you've adjusted your needle size several times and still can't get gauge, it might be time to adjust your yarn.
- Remember that "rowing out" also affects gauge. If you aren't familiar with this issue, here's a video to help (just click to view): [How Rowing Out Affects Gauge](#)



PROBLEM SOLVING

5 Top Knitting Challenges Cont...

CHALLENGE 5: NECKLINES

Crummy necklines happen for a variety of reasons. Here are a few offenders (and what to do about them).

- Make sure your cast-on isn't loosey goosey. Remember, a loose cast-on creates a loose foundation that can create problems later on.
- Brush-up on your picking-up techniques, namely: PRACTICE. Try it once, then try, try again. Keep trying it until your results improve. (I also have [a great workshop](#) for this if you want to take a deep dive.)
- If your neckline feels really loose, try going down a needle size (or two) and working that neckline ribbing more tightly. OR - try picking up again but picking up slightly fewer stitches. (Don't be tempted to go too extreme with this; a little goes a long way and sometimes even just 6-10 fewer stitches makes all the difference.)
- Another trick if your neckline is loose: work your ribbing a little longer to bring it up higher on the neckline (remember to use a smaller needle to really bring it in) and then bind off as tightly as necessary for the right fit.
- Don't be afraid to bind-off again with a little more or less tension to see if that makes a difference. Sometimes that's all you need. We often discount the simple tricks because they seem too easy, but I promise - often that's the only thing standing between you and the neckline you want.