

Alternatives to Passap Cast On Combs

If you don't have the set of Passap cast on combs and you really need some for what you want to knit, consider these two alternatives.

1. A set of cast on combs for the Superba machine. They're the same gauge as the Passap – 5mm. They may be as hard to find as the Passap combs since a lot of people have figured out that they work perfectly on the Passap.
2. This is a bit trickier, but I used this technique before the Passap combs came out and it works well. You need to buy welding wire that is 2 or 3mm in diameter (welding supply places have it in a variety of thicknesses). Try to get stainless steel, you can clean it up and it will last forever. Then hop over to your local fishing supply store and buy three 12-14 oz weights that have a hole at one point (the round ball ones work well as do the elongated ovals). Take a wire clothes hanger and cut about 6" pieces. You're going to bend a hook on one end and then wrap the other through the hole in the weight. Now you have weights that will hang off your welding wire. Here's how you use them:

Cast on with scrap yarn as for 1x1 rib. Use a loose stitch size so that the yarn going between the beds has some slack in it. Drop the welding wire between the beds so that it's laying on top of the zigzag row you just knit. Take out the orange strippers. Take your weights and reach up between the beds with the wires and hook them over the welding wire. Space them fairly evenly across the bed, but don't get too near the ends. Up your stitch size and knit the 2 CX/CX rows. I tend to use stitch size 7 or 8 for the next few rows of N/N. Now you can arrange the stitches on the needles for your cast on of your main yarn (if you're going to be doing single bed, you'd move the back bed stitches to the front bed). Now just cast on as though the scrap yarn was not there. If you want, you could have stopped knitting your scrap yarn while the locks were on the left, broken the scrap yarn and threaded in some ravel cord. It will make removing the scrap easier.

You can get shorter pieces of wire for smaller projects and use just one or two of your weights. Or if you don't need quite that much weight, buy some smaller fishing weights. I used some of the 4 oz weights for projects that really didn't need a lot of weight, just a smidge.