

### Elastic works wonders in ribbing

Linen-and-cotton sweaters are rich looking, wearable all year round and a pleasure to knit. Because the yarns have limited elasticity, however, a few tricks can make the difference between a sweater that will last for years and one that will eventually stretch out of shape

The classic cotton-and-linenblend sweater shown here, for example, has elastic knit into the ribbing. The elastic doesn't show on the outside, but it helps keep the ribbing in place at the neckline, cuffs and waistband.

The sweater is knit of Tahki "Amigo" yarn, a rich-textured,

cotton/linen yarn imported from France. Cotton gives the yarn softness and color, while linen adds an elegant, natural look. Yarns are complete instructions are available in a kit in natural with black, pink, soft yellow or a pastel

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Working with a natural, textured yarn gives a sweater a rich surface, even without difficult pattern stitches. In the sweater shown, the stockinette stitch predominates. The texture provides all the pattern you need.

No matter which linen or cotton yarn you use, however, it's even more important than usual to keep a careful check on your gauge as you work. Also, because these natural fibers are not as elastic as wool, you can literally add elastic to the sweater to prevent stret-



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ching at the neckline, cuffs and wasitband.

To work elastic into the ribbing of any linen or cotton sweater, you may either knit it into the ribbing or stitch it through after the sweater is completed. Ordinary elastic thread from a sewing or variety shop is all you need.

To knit elastic into the ribbing knot end of elastic thread. Hold elastic thread beside your yarn as you work, working it into the ribbing as though it is yarn. end off by knotting elastic into side edge.

As an easy alternative, stitch elastic thread through the ribbing after the sweater is completed. To do so, thread a blunt tapestry needle with elastic thread. Then, starting at top edge of the ribbing, knot elastic into the seam.

Stitch elastic through the ribbing on the wrong side of sweater. Stitch through one back loop of each rib, periodically checking that elastic doesn't show on right side of sweater. End off by knotting elastic into the seam.

With either technique, don't pull elastic tight. Instead, simply hold elastic taut enuogh to help the ribbing keep its shape.

For most sweaters, it is enough to elasticize only the top and bottom rows of the ribbing. The number of rows you elasticize, however, is up to you.

### Bucks Seeing Eye Puppy Club

Bucks County 4-H Seeing Eye Puppy Club won third place in the annual 4-H Seeing Eye Puppy Bowl competition recently held at Rutgers University.

In competition against 12 other teams, the group answered questions correctly in the elimination tournament. The bowl is fashioned after the old "college bowl" TV shows.

Team members were Arlene Miller, Richboro; Sue Schofield, Morrisville; Kim McHugh, Holland; and Adam Angerman, Bristol. Alternates were Ira Kerns, Chalfont; and Karen Scarborough, Doylestown.



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