

JUST ANOTHER RAY HAY

WITHIN SOUND BITES

Brought To You By: Heather Thompson – Podcasting for Machine Knitters & MK World Live



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# Just Another Rag Hem....

## With notes and links to video on use!

The originator of this style of rag hem knitting is unknown to me. This is a method I have been sharing with others as it was shared with me. I have refined a method to suit MY purposes. There are many variations on making Rag Hems for machine knitting use and you should look into them for one that suits your purposes as well.

I use Rag Hems & weight bars for production style knitting projects on all my machines. This method is also very useful for machine beds that are extendable. You can weight your entire length without using multiple tools. It is easy to roll and even re-hang to keep the weight even. I do not worry about splitting yarns as I do when using claws or cast on combs. I use claw weights and cast on combs quite often. This is just a cast on method I have found convenient for myself.

Here is my recipe for a great rag hem. There are other methods to make them as well. This is what I do on any machine. I use Stitch Dial # 6 (regardless of machine) and a yarn suitable for use on the machine that is brightly or lightly colored. My suggestion is a yarn that you are not likely to use for anything else as this helps give you contrast if and when needed.

Please read all the instructions before starting. This is very simple to do. You might try a small one (30 needles) first and see if you enjoy its use before you knit one the length of your machine. The last row creates a loose loopy finished edge which is helpful for hanging the hem quickly.

## Tools & Supplies Needed

Yarn (inexpensive and suitable to machine light or contrast color of your choice)

Knitting Machine (any Gauge or type)

Single & Multi Prong Tool (Decker Combs are great too!)

Latch Tool

Ravel Cord – I HIGHLY RECOMMEND RAVEL CORD! Support our dealers!

Weight Rods – If you do not have them you can find Metal Rods at most hardware stores. I've cut some into custom sizes/weights for specific projects. You'll need a metal blade for your saw or what ever cutting tool you are going to use. Cut safely! Use Eye & Hand Protection!

## To Make:

- 1) Using a weaving or other open Cast on the number of needles you want your hem to be sized for.
- 2) Knit a few rows of waste ending carriage on the left.
- 3) Knit 1 row of ravel cord from left to right.
- 4) Rethread carriage with your yarn and knit until you have at least 2.5 - 3 inches of knitted fabric.
- 5) Hang the first row of main yarn knitting on the needles (2 stitches on every needle now with a rod pocket created)
- 6) Knit 1 row

You can remove your waste knitting and ravel cord at this point if desired.

7) Knit several rows until this section is around 1-2 inches long. Its nice to have a longer than 1" length here but more than 2 inches is only going to put your weight on the floor that much sooner.

8) Bring all needles to Forward working position.

9) Knit elongated stitches manually across the work by hand. For each stitch lay the yarn into the latch then push the needle back to Non Working Position to create the Elongation. You can leave the needle in that position but as you work across be sure the stitches do not pop off the needles. Pull the knitting down and return your needles to Hold Position to help with this.

10) Working from Left to Right Cast off by taking the first stitch from the left most needle onto your latch tool. Hook the leg of the next stitch and pull it through the first loop on your latch tool removing the 2<sup>nd</sup> stitch from the needle. Continue across in this manner until the last stitch is on your latch tool. Pick up the yarn end and pull it through this last loop.

You can work in your ends if desired. I don't.

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Episode 15 November 2009

Heather Thompson is relocating please contact her with questions via email: [isrbrown1@yahoo.com](mailto:isrbrown1@yahoo.com)

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The next sections of this document demonstrate to methods for hanging your knitted Rag Hem.

Once you have hung your rag hem you can utilize ANY cast on method you would like. The weights stay in place until they hit the floor OR you move them.

You might also be interested in the last page which describes how you can easily re-hang this type of hem so that your weight remains even on your work for an extended project.

If you are looking at a printed copy of the instructions get the original “Just Another Rag Hem...” PDF File from [www.mkworldlive.com/mkpod](http://www.mkworldlive.com/mkpod) in episode 15. This will be good because this file will be updated as needed over the years. The videos will not work on printed copies of the document. I am sure in a few years they will have this problem ironed out for us ... until then? We can deal with it.

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# Just Another Rag Hem....

With notes and links to video on use!

## How to Hang and use a Rag Hem Willy Nilly

Shown on a Bond USM... the tech is the same for ANY Machine other than noted. The first video is a "Willy Nilly" Technique.

This file has had the videos removed to make it easily downloaded.

Here is a link to the video on youtube: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o\\_yMyoQrsGE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_yMyoQrsGE)

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# Just Another Rag Hem....

**With notes and links to video on use!**

How to Hang and use a Rag Hem in a more... controlled way.

The Second Video is a more controlled hem hanging. I tend to hang my hems using this method over the "Willy Nilly"

This file has had the videos removed to make it easily downloaded.

Here is a link to the video on youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acqKDpdeJRQ>

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# Just Another Rag Hem....

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## RE-Hanging a Hem to Maintain Even Weight While Work is in Progress

Here is how to RE-Hang A Knitted Hem if you are working on a longer project like a scarf or afghan.

**Remember you can only remove your hem  
from your work ONLY if you have Closed Cast on Edge!**

- 1) Push your work back against the bed and keep it there.
- 2) Move all needles to Hold Position
- 3) Remove your hem from your work by pulling the Ravel Cord out.
- 4) Hang the loops from your knitted hem onto the needles in hold (Willy Nilly Or Controlled whichever you like best)
- 5) Push the Knitted Hem back against your working knitting.
- 6) Open your latches and lay Ravel cord into the hooks of the needles
- 7) Starting on one side (I usually work left to right) Pull the Knitted Hem ONLY forward and over the needles so that your ravel cord remains on the needles as if it were a stitch
- 8) Once all needles have a ravel cord loop and your hem is hanging from the Ravel Cord push the Ravel Cord and Hem back against your work in progress.
- 9) Return the desired needles to working position and continue with your knitting. The Ravel cord will be part of this row and can be removed along with your hem as easily as it was removed from your closed cast on area.

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