# Knitting Chart Software Reviews

The purpose of knitting chart software is to help a designer create a chart, and a symbol key for that chart, that can be included in a pattern. For example, the chart below is for a cabled bell. The key for the chart is shown at right.

Another important capability is automatic generation of the row-by-row written instructions for the chart. The written instructions for the bell chart, using the abbreviations from the Key are as follows:

Row 1 (rs): p18 *(18 sts)*
Row 2 (ws): k18
Row 3: p8, 11lc, p8
Row 4: k3, p1 tbl, k3, new, 11lc, k3, p1 tbl, k3
Row 5: p3, m1l, p2, k1 tbl, p2, k1 tbl, p2, 11rp, p3
Row 6: k4, 11lc, k1, 11lc, new, k1, new, k4
Row 7: p5, k1 tbl, p2, k1 tbl2, p2, k1 tbl, p5
Row 8: k5, 11lc, k1, 11rp, k1, new, k5
Row 9: p6, k1 tbl, p1, k1 tbl2, p1, k1 tbl, p6
Row 10: k6, p1 tbl, k1, p1 tbl2, k1, p1 tbl, k6
Row 11: p6, k1 tbl, p1, k1 tbl2, p1, k1 tbl, p6
Row 12: k6, p1 tbl, k1, p1 tbl2, k1, p1 tbl, k6
Row 13: p6, k1 tbl, p1, k1 tbl2, p1, k1 tbl, p6
Row 14: k6, 11lc, p1 tbl2, new, k6
Row 15: p7, k1 tbl4, p7
Row 16: k7, 11lc, new, k7
Row 17: p8, k1 tbl2, p8
Row 18: k8, p1 tbl2, k8
Row 19: p8, k1 tbl2, p8
Row 20: k8, p1 tbl2, k8

Three popular commercial Knitting Chart Software applications are reviewed. These tools were selected for review because they have the largest user groups on Ravelry and therefore appear to be the most popular.

Intwined Pattern Studio Version 1.5
Platforms: Windows, Mac

Features: See the feature chart for the full list of features and comparison between tool features. 200 predefined stitches for knitting. Supports color charting, stitch outlining. Customize stitches and symbols and add new ones. On-the-fly automatic generation of written instructions from charts. Export of crisp charts and keys as images. Mirror image copying of chart sections, copy & paste, supports large charts. Supports flat knitting and knitting in the round. Supports multiple charts within the same file; each chart is a tab. 'No stitch' edge stitches at edges appear as black boxes on output. See the feature comparison for the full list of features and comparison between tool features.

Support: Primary support is by email, secondary via Ravelry Group. User manual, FAQ, video on tool's website.

History and Upcoming Plans: Version 1.5 is the current version, published October 31, 2013. New release tentatively planned for end of 2016.

Reliability: On Mac OS X and Yosemite quit during use requiring frequent saves to avoid losing work. Not tested on PC.

Shortcomings: UI difficult to figure out for creating new stitches. Difficult to read and manipulate stitch information in the dictionary (fields are small and text doesn't wrap). Difficulty navigating stitch dictionary and finding stitches due to lack of search capability, making it necessary to scroll through 200 stitches in the dictionary.

Price: $44 from www.intwinedstudio.com or www.knitpicks.com.

Summary: The developers are off to a good start with this tool, and users are eagerly anticipating the next release for bug fixes and feature enhancements. For the price it provides good, basic chart editing, but efficiency features are missing that professional level chart editors have become accustomed to in other tools. It will be interesting to see if those features are added in the upcoming release.

Reviewed, August 11, 2016

StitchMastery

Platforms: Windows (XP, Vista, 7, 8, 9 & 10), Mac OsX, Snow Leopard to El Capitan) and Linux (officially supported on Ubuntu only). On Mac OS X runs only on 64 bit systems.

Features: Hundreds of predefined knitting stitches, includes150+ cables, Estonian stitches, Brioche, beading and Twined stitches. Customize stitches and symbols and add new ones. Create multiple stitch libraries and swap stitches between them. Edit fonts in charts. On-the-fly automatic generation of written instructions from charts. Export of crisp charts and keys as images. Directly edit keys, rows, or column text on charts. Use templates to customize outputs. Condenses repetitive pattern sequences within a row, such as: k2, p2, k2, p2, k2, p2, to: (k2, p2) x 3. Detects and condenses row repeats in written instructions. Hides edge 'no stitch' in output. Provides stitch count validation of rows.

Support: User manual and help files, Ravelry Group, FAQ, Video on tool's website. Live support offered by email only. (One reviewers says "Cathy (the developer) is responsive)"

History and Upcoming Plans: Reviewed by Knitty magazine and adopted in 2011, when first introduced.

Shortcomings: User manual is incomplete. Difficult and no instructions for creating new stitches from scratch although this is an advertised capability. Steep learning curve to use advanced features.

Summary: Mature feature set and actively developed tool supporting all OS platforms (even Linux). Responsive user support. email and Ravelry Group.

Reviewed, August 12, 2016

EnvisioKnit (acquiring the software - review coming soon)

Platforms:

Features:

Support:

History and Upcoming Plans:

Reliability:

Shortcomings:

Summary: