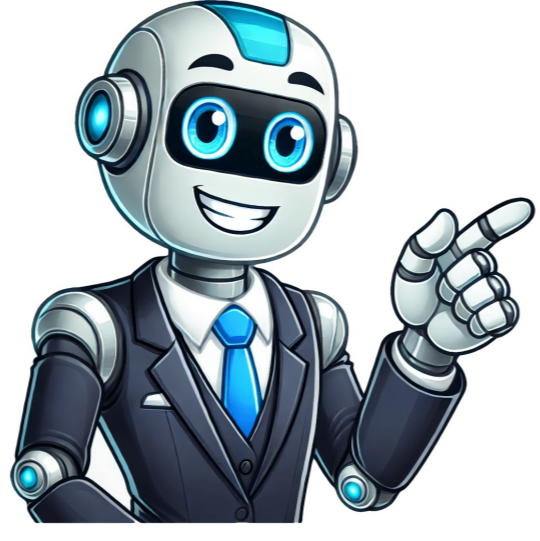


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I did not come into this knitting thing easily. I paid for one class at my local yarn shop (the class was free provided I bought the needles and yarn from the store) and the rest, give or take a few questions I've learned on my own or via YouTube.YouTube has been such a help in learning to knit that I wanted to start sharing some of the things that I've learned.One of the biggest problems that I have with my circular knitting needles is knitting on kinked-up, stiff cables. This only happens when I buy certain brands of needles that are usually found in chain craft stores or box stores like Walmart. I dont have this problem when I buy a different (read more expensive) brand of needles through my local yarn shop but I cant always afford them and I have a huge Freudian ID problem and PDD (project deficit disorder) when it comes to knitting and so I will rush out and buy the less expensive stiffer circular needles in order to get my project started sooner than later.This of course results in lots of cursing and un-kinking needles as I knit and thats when the PDD sets in and the project gets tossed aside.After searching Google and asking Heather what to do, I learned that you can heat up the cable on the circular needle in order to achieve a more flexible, less kinked cable definitely easier for all those must-start-now projects. Unfortunately, I didnt really find a good tutorial so I decided to make one of my own.Youre welcome.You can probably (and safely) immerse the cables in water a third time but Id do it for only 10 or 15 seconds no longer.Dont submerge them all the way, leave a bit of space between the join (where the cable connects to the needle itself) and the water. It is possible to melt the glue if you dont.Ive straightened a number of circular needles this way and its been a relief to not have to fight my circular needles every time I want to work in the round or on a large project like a blanket.Got questions? Dont hesitate to ask me in the comments! Knitting with stiff cables arent any fun, and with twisted ones well, dont get me started at that! There are a few hacks you can use to soften the cable on your circular knitting needles. The one thing all these methods have in common is heat. The key is to let the heat soften the cable and then straighten it if needed. Remember to be careful so you dont burn your hands, its time to bring out the oven gloves! Lets go through the tips and see what can be a good fit to solve your problem. Hold your cable under the tap in while running hot water. Cover the joints where the needle tips connect to the cable. Otherwise, water can get in there harming your needles, or start melting the glue. If you're not satisfied with the results achieved by your warm water tap, try this instead. Boil a pot of water, take it off the stove and then soak your cable in the warm water. (Be careful with the joints so you dont get any bad surprises later on!) Leave the cables in there for five minutes and check to see if they have been softened. If not, try tip number 3 You can try to hold the cable in the steam above a pot of boiling water for five minutes, or more if needed. Watch out, its easy to get burned by the steam. And if this isnt doing the trick, I have one more ace up my sleeve. Keep on reading! The hairdryer isnt just for blowing your hair. I have heard people also use it to dry other kinds of hair blowing up under the towel after a bath. I sure hope that hasnt happened to my hairdryerIn which case, you can also use it to heat up the cable of your circular knitting needles. And thats a much better use for it! Straighten out your needles on a flat surface, like a table or countertop. Place something on the tips to keep everything in place. Heat the cable with your hairdryer. Use as much heat as possible, and move the hairdryer along the cable to distribute the warmth even. Well, not all cables are willing to be tamed. If it works or not depends on the material in the cable. I have also experienced that cables can stiffen with time. Or could this just be me getting pickier over time? I dont know, but thats surely possible! I have a great solution that will ensure that you will never have to knit with a stiff cable again. A solution that will make your knitting more pleasurable and fun! A tip that will make your magic loops truly magic. I will tell you about my absolute favorite amongst knitting needles. Drumroll please! HiyaHiya Interchangeable Knitting Needles. Get this set, you will not regret it! I have knitted on my HiyaHiya needles daily for years and they are still as new. The cables are smooth, the tips are shiny, and I wish all knitters a set. Unfortunately, Im not that rich, so you will have to buy them yourselves. But they are worth every penny. > Want to know more? Read everything about these needles and why I recommend them warmly in this post. Review: HiyaHiya interchangeable knitting needles > If youre already convinced that these needles are for you: Theyre available at Amazon! I recently bought some circular needles, however they are hard to knit because the wire wants to curl up into a couple of little circles instead of just one circle. I am wondering if anyone knows how to fix this problem and get the needles to stay in one circle. Thank you for your help. -Sheree You can try dipping them in very hot water. Its not a perfect solution, but it might help. Once you have enough knitted fabric the weight will hold it straighter, too.BTWthere are brands that dont curl. Addi Turbo and the new Knitpick Options are great for that. I have some Crystal Palace ones that did that and the man at the LY5 said to pull them across the steam as it comes out of your kettle the Susan Bates ones come out good but there is no hope for the Boye needles I just got a set of Addis but havent used them yet I have boiled my kettle and held the cord in there for a few seconds and out again, pulled on them and if not to your liking, repeat it.Toby I will defintely try this. I dont have a kettle, so I will probablyjust put them in a pot of hot water. If it doesnt work, I will buy a different brand. Thank you both for your help. Dont give up on them completely. Sticking them in hot water then letting them cool straight will help. Using them with large projects will too. It just takes time and they wont be absolutely straight, but wont coil up on you.sue there is no hope for the Boye needles Im so glad to hear you say that! I thought it was just me. My Boye circls have a mind of their own. Id rather hit my thumb with a hammer than use them. JoeE:quote=Mrs. Columbo)there is no hope for the Boye needles Im so glad to hear you say that! I thought it was just me. My Boye circls have a mind of their own. Id rather hit my thumb with a hammer than use them.(quote] LOVE the hammer comment - thats how I was feeling with my circulars - just didnt have the proper words! Now thanks to this thread I too know what to do. I tried Silvers tip on using boiling water then cold water to tame the cables on my Boye needles, and she is a genius. It worked so well. Now my Boye circulars are my current favorite ones. Ive always liked aluminum needles because they have just the right amount of drag for me. Perfect tips and well-behaved cables. Im as happy as a pig in slop.Kudos to Silver (first the amazing sock tutorial, now this)! Knitting with stiff cables arent any fun, and with twisted ones well, dont get me started at that! There are a few hacks you can use to soften the cable on your circular knitting needles. The one thing all these methods have in common is heat. The key is to let the heat soften the cable and then straighten it if needed. Remember to be careful so you dont burn your hands, its time to bring out the oven gloves! Lets go through the tips and see what can be a good fit to solve your problem. Hold your cable under the tap in while running hot water. Cover the joints where the needle tips connect to the cable. Otherwise, water can get in there harming your needles, or start melting the glue. 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As fiber enthusiasts we know that little compares to working with a fancy new set of knitting needles or crochet hooks. That being said, when you have new circular knitting needles or the cabled hooks used for Tunisian crocheting, it can be a pain (literally) to work with kinked or coiled cords. This tutorial will teach you how to unkink the stiff cords or cables to relieve the stress on your wrists while you work.When the cords are new and curled or kinked, the bulk of the fabric tends to sit right at your wrists. The weight of that fabric causes extra strain and stress on your joint and forearm.You may also notice that you need to grip the crochet hook more tightly than usual, to keep the hook from rotating as you work. Your hand can get sore as a result.This wont be as noticeable with the knitting needles since the orientation doesnt matter as it does with a hook, but the coil in the cabled hook really pulls the work to one side making you have to struggle to add more stitches. Im sure I am not alone when I say there has got to be a better way. One that doesnt take away from your knitting or crocheting time because of fatigue.Note: You may also benefit from this Pillow Support pattern and the stretches in this article.Straightening these cords and/or cables is so easy All you need is steam. Whether that steam comes from a boiling pot on the stove or a garment steamer (like the one I use for blocking my finished work) it will work all the same. Well email this post to you, so you can come back to it when youre ready. For this tutorial I am straightening the cords on my Radiant Tunisian Crochet Hook set.The cord length does not matter. Some cords or cables can be up to 60 long, and circled around several times on themselves. The steam will relax and uncurl the cord, and straightening this cable makes all the difference.To relax circular knitting needles or Tunisian Crochet cables you will either:Hold the cable above a pot of boiling water. Simply set a pot to boil and once the steam starts rolling, CAREFULLY hold each end of the cord above the pot. Hold the cable taut while allowing the heat and steam to do their magic.Submerge the cable in hot water (not the hook or the needle, just the cord), and wait about 5 minutes. A microwaved tupperware full of water will suffice.Use a garment steamer and hold the ends of the cords taut in front, being careful not to burn your fingers. This is by far my favorite method.That is it! I cant believe that I crocheted with kinked cords for so long when it really is this easy. I hope this tutorial helps you, and that youll use one of these Tunisian crochet patterns that require a cabled hook.Tunisian Basket Weave Blanket. Free Crochet PatternTunisian Sunrise Crochet Tank TopTunisian Knit Short Row CardiKnitting with stiff cables arent any fun, and with twisted ones well, dont get me started at that! There are a few hacks you can use to soften the cable on your circular knitting needles. 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