

**KNITTING**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Timothy W. Ellis of ITT Technologies, Inc. reviewed the knitting exhibits at the ITMA exhibition held in October 2003 in Birmingham, England. The review includes details of weft and warp knit machines or technical modifications that were unique from previous exhibitions. The review also includes several related items in support of knitting.*

*Keywords: Knitting, ITMA 2003, Warp Knitting, Circular Knitting, Knitting Needles, Knitting Feeders*

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**Introduction**

The ITMA 2003 exhibition in Birmingham, England offered one hall of machinery presentation covering knit manufacturing. The entire show totaled 16 halls of exhibitions. As with the previous shows, there were few leaps in technology. Most of the exhibits covered technological changes that allowed increased speed, pattern flexibility, expanded styling, and more processor control. Additionally, there were trends that involved the use of servomotor control of machine functions and circular knitting machines with capabilities that once required flat knitting machines. Very few flat knitting machines were observed in the hall. The following sections detail offerings observed that were of note in the areas of circular and warp knitting. Also described is some support equipment of interest.

**Circular Knitting**

The circular knitting offered a range of machines in single and double knits with tremendous pattern capabilities. Machines of interest are separated by vendor and listed below:

**Mayer & Cie**

- Relaknit 4.0  
This machine was shown with a 1500 speed factor, four feeders per inch of diameter, and a high frame capable of 500 lb rolls. It had a moveable stand to allow knitter access to the large machine. The machine had a computer-controlled adjustment of the quality wheel called MCTMATIC and a processor controlled braking system for larger rolls.