

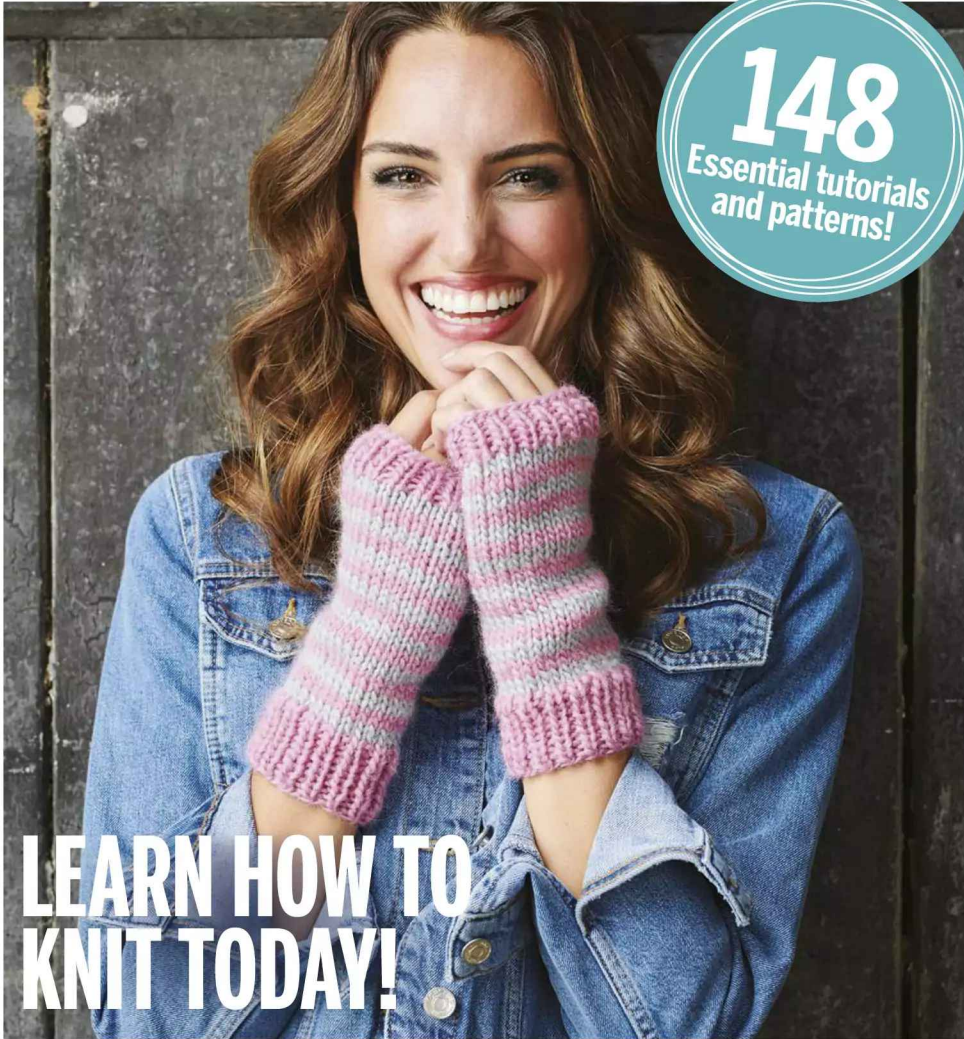
Beginner's Guide to

Knitting

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BEGINNERS GUIDE 03 PRINTED IN THE UK £9.99
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Beginner's Guide to
knitting



Beginner's Guide to knitting

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Frontline

Printed in England by William Gibbons

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Welcome...



...to the **Beginner's Guide to Knitting!**

Whether you've never picked up a pair of needles before, or you learned to knit long ago but haven't tried since, this book will help you to discover (or rediscover!) the basics of this wonderfully versatile craft.

Knitting is a fantastic way to create your own accessories, as well as stylish clothes, toys for children, beautiful homewares and fab gifts for all the family. It's quick, easy and convenient: all you need is a pair of needles and a ball of yarn tucked in your bag. You can get creative wherever you are – at home, on the train, in a café... It's no wonder knitting can become addictive!

We'll walk you through every step with clear instructions and pictures, from choosing which yarn and needles you need to use to making some basic stitches, so you can become a confident knitter. We also have gorgeous projects for you to make as you go along, including mitts, a hat, a cowl and more, to help you practise each technique.

So sit down, relax, and turn the page to discover a whole new exciting world of knitting possibilities!

Kirstie



Kirstie McLeod

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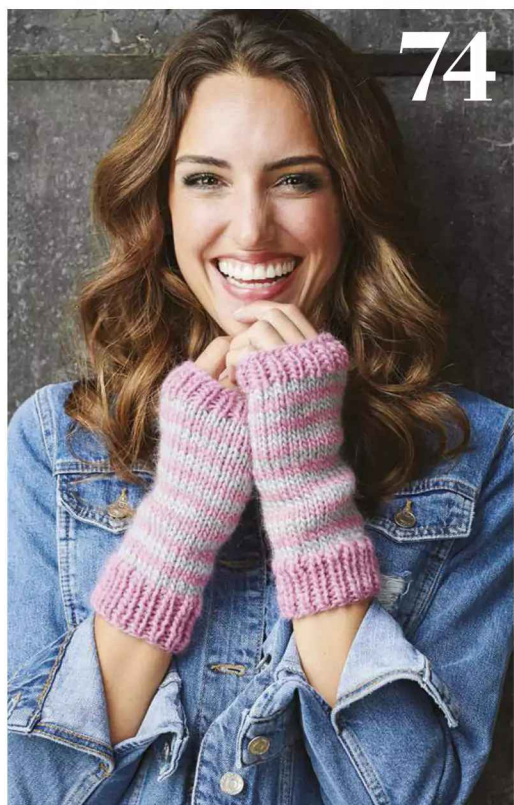
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Knitting



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Step-by-step pictures & instructions

Insert the tip of the right-hand needle into the front of the stitch and knit as normal, but make sure you don't drop the original stitch from the left-hand needle.



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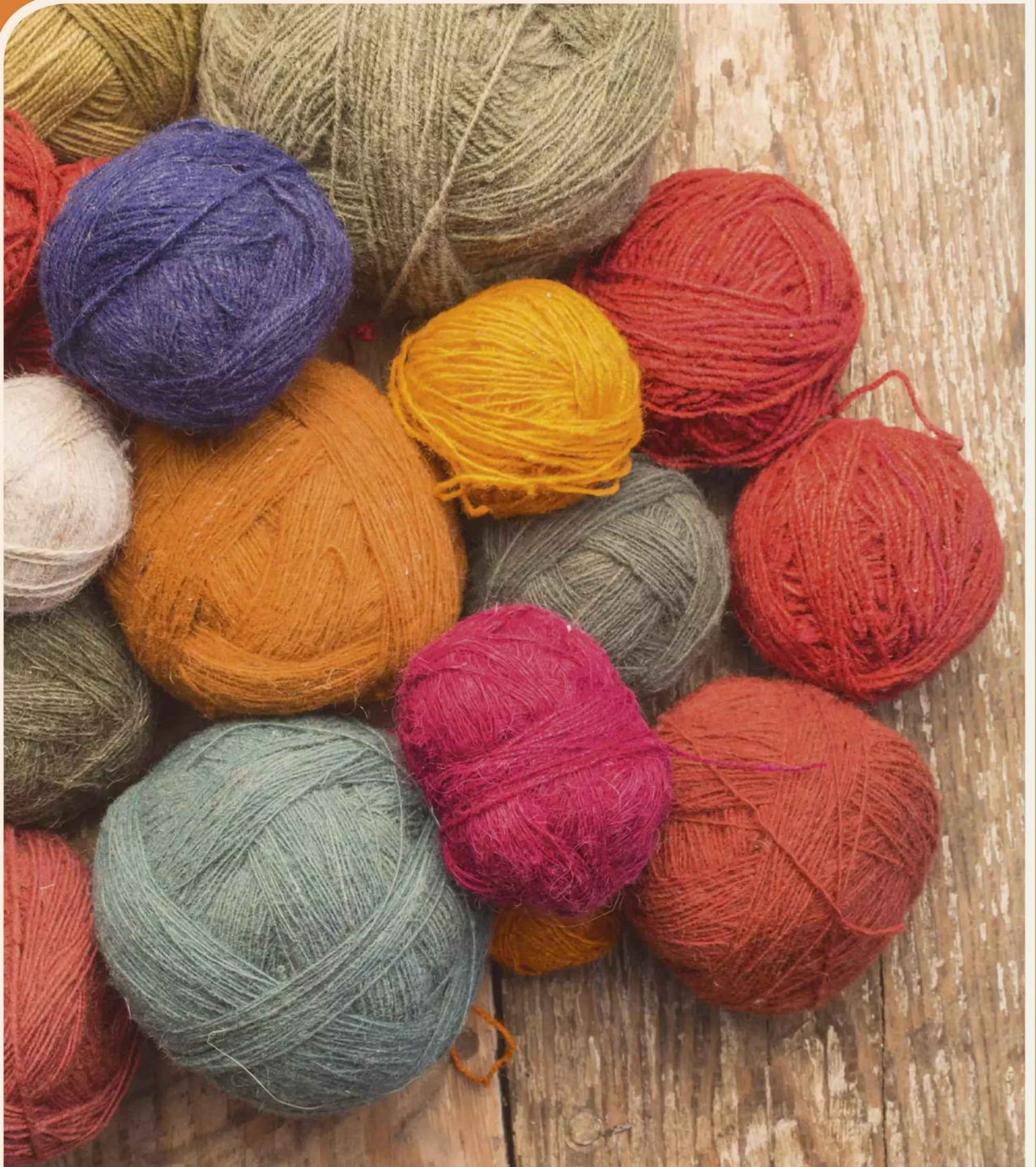


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MATERIALS & TOOLS

In this chapter, we'll take you through all the equipment you need to start knitting. There are tempting yarns, beautiful needles and some handy extras for your knitting bag

YARNS

Discover a world of possibilities with the huge range of yarns available to buy, in many fibres and all the colours imaginable!



The world of yarn is huge, and one of the joys of knitting is using different types of yarn – there are many fibres, thicknesses, textures and colours of yarn, each one more beautiful than the next! Note that knitters (and crocheters!) call it ‘yarn’: the word ‘wool’ specifically means the fibre spun from a sheep’s coat.

When it comes to deciding on the yarn you need, size does matter. Yarn comes in different weights, or thicknesses, from the finest 1ply lace to the widely-used DK yarn, up to thick super-chunky yarns. The yarn thickness will affect the look, feel and weight of your knitted fabric. You’ll always get the best results if you use the yarn quoted in a specific pattern, although as you gain confidence, you’ll find it’s fairly easy to substitute another yarn. It’s best to choose an alternative that’s the same weight and knit a swatch to make sure the tension is the same (more on this later). Most DK yarn, for instance, can be used in any DK pattern that uses similar fibres.

As a beginner, it’s best to start with a plain wool or acrylic yarn. These are great value and perfect for practising knitting techniques.

Both will cope well with being ‘ripped back’ or undone if you make a mistake, and their natural stretch makes them easy to use.

SPOILT FOR CHOICE

Whatever the type or texture of your yarn, it will sit within a standard range of sizes (see opposite). Traditionally, yarn weights were named after the number of strands that were plied together to create that thickness of yarn, but with modern manufacturing techniques

If you’re unsure about a yarn, buy a sample ball and knit a swatch

this often isn’t the case. In general, double knitting (DK) is a handy weight and works up quickly without making too thick a fabric.

Be careful not to mix different weights of yarn in a project (unless you want a novelty effect) because they work to different tensions and the finished fabric may vary in size. Just

to complicate matters, yarns made in the US and UK have a different weight-labelling system (see opposite).

Another thing to watch out for when buying several balls of yarn is the dye lot. Yarn companies dye huge ‘lots’ of yarn at a time, and there may be slight variations between dye lots. Check the dye lot number on the yarn label and make sure all your yarn is from the same lot, or you may get colour variations in your fabric.

Some people prefer to wash their yarn before they work with it, but it isn’t necessary. If you knit a swatch though, make sure you wash it and block it (see page 118) before measuring, as this can change the size of your knitted fabric. You may see references to the ‘twist’ in a yarn, such as ‘high twist’ sock yarns. This refers to how tightly yarn plies are ‘twisted’ together when they’re spun. If a yarn is loosely spun, it may pull apart as you work if you’re not careful. Yarn with more twist is stronger and creates a denser, firmer fabric. If you’re unsure, try buying a sample ball and knit a swatch to see what type of fabric it produces. Turn over to discover different fibres you’ll love!

YARN WEIGHTS

Choose the right yarn for your knitting project

Crochet threads Numbered from 3 to 100, these threads are not classed as yarns and rarely knitted. They are specially made for fine crochet work, including lace making and filet crochet. Made from mercerised cotton, the higher the number, the finer the thread (no 10 is shown below). You may need a hook from the steel range to work them.

Embroidery thread As well as specialist crochet threads, you can also knit and crochet with embroidery threads, from stranded cottons to the finest silk threads

1, 2 & 3ply Essentially one strand, or two or three strands of yarn twisted together, these are great for making delicate lace shawls and baby garments. Usually, 2ply yarn is worked with a 2-3½mm hook.

4ply This is a favourite weight for baby clothes, motifs and lightweight accessories, jumpers and cardigans.

Double Knitting (DK) So called because it's usually double the weight of 4ply, DK is the most popular yarn. It's quick to knit with and is a very versatile weight.

Aran Originally created for fishermen's jumpers, aran-weight wool can be used to make many accessories and garments when DK isn't heavy enough, and chunky is too bulky. Perfect for outdoor or warm clothing.

Chunky Heavier than aran, chunky wool is great for outdoor wear and winter jumpers. It's ideal for beginners as the fabric will grow quickly!

Super Chunky This weight of yarn is popular for making winter coats and jumpers. It's also good for beginners because it produces quick results. Good for furnishings.

Big Quick and easy to knit with, big yarns are ideal for winter and making bold statements. You'll need big needles for this yarn – up to 20mm thick. Perfect for knitting bold scarves and coats, as well as cosy cushions and throws.

YARN WEIGHT UK/US CONVERSION

UK	US	Needle size
4ply	Fingering/Sport	3-4mm
Double knitting	Light worsted	3½-4½mm
Aran	Fisherman/Worsted	4-5½mm
Chunky	Bulky	5½-7mm
Super chunky	Extra bulky	7-12mm

YARN LABELS

How to read the ball band on your yarn

A ball band is the piece of paper wrapped around the yarn, where the manufacturers put all the information about the yarn. Have a look at the annotations below to see what it all means. It's a good idea to keep your ball bands to refer back to when you wash a garment, or if you decide to knit the same pattern again.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

In standard symbols and words. Ignore these at your peril! Give your yarn the best care to keep it looking like new.

TENSION

These numbers give you a guide as to how many stitches and rows you should work in a 4x4in (10x10cm) square.

YARN NAME AND MANUFACTURER

The front of the ball band usually has this key information.

COLOUR NAME OR NUMBER, AND DYE LOT NUMBER

Colours are usually numbered. Check all your yarn is from the same dye lot for consistent colour.

MANUFACTURER'S ADDRESS

Contact details for the yarn manufacturer.

RECOMMENDED NEEDLE SIZE

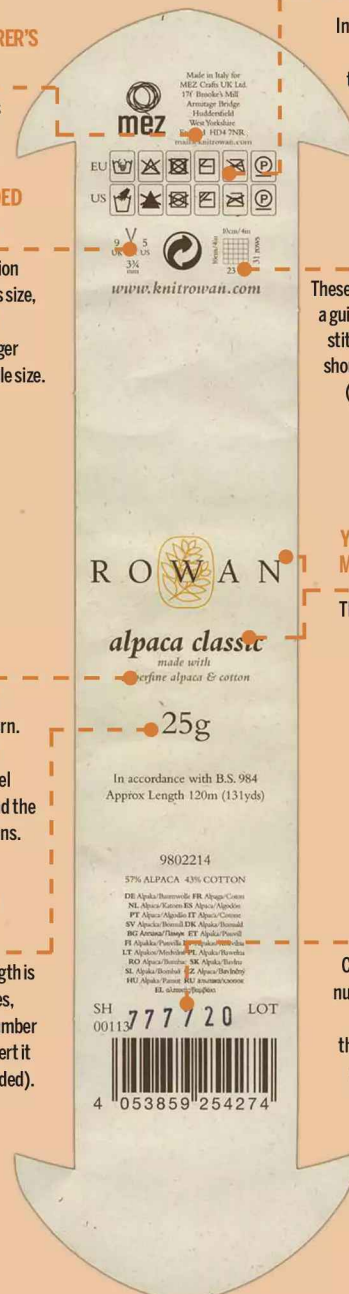
Make your tension square with this size, but if it doesn't match, try a larger or smaller needle size.

YARN CONTENT

The fibres that make up the yarn. This will affect the look and feel of the fabric and the care instructions.

WEIGHT AND QUANTITY

If your yarn length is shown in metres, multiply the number by 1.09 to convert it to yards (if needed).





ACRYLIC

Acrylic is the go-to choice for many knitters. It's cheap, comes in a huge variety of finishes and colours, and is widely available. Acrylic is not as breathable or absorbent as wool, but it's machine washable and tough, as you'll know if you've ever tried to break a strand with your hands! Pure acrylic yarn is often used for homewares, baby clothes and blankets, and rough-and-tumble children's garments, and the fibre is also added as a mixer to many of the most popular yarns available. It's perfect too for outside makes, like bunting, as it will withstand any weather and dry out quickly. If you're on a tight budget, it's a great way of keeping the cost down, with acrylic yarns starting from around £1 per 100g ball.



COTTON

The classic summer yarn, cotton is also a favourite with those who are allergic to animal fibres. While cotton has little elasticity, it's extremely strong when spun, and takes colour beautifully. If you're knitting something in cotton you don't need to fully soak it to block it when you're finished – in fact, if you get it very wet you may over-stretch it. Instead, just lie it flat on an ironing board or clean sheet, and give it a good blast of steam from your steam iron.

Crisp, cool cotton is perfect for children's garments, because it can be washed on hot temperatures. Lightweight cotton is also a great choice for lace tops and cardigans, but if you want to make a shawl with it, consider using a cotton/wool mix to stop it from stretching too much when it's being blocked.



BLENDS

Blends are among the most popular yarns. Mills mix different fibres to create yarns that combine the best of both worlds. Want a summer yarn that feels light and breezy? Try cotton with lightweight acrylic. Love alpaca but it's just too hot? An alpaca/wool or cotton mix will be perfect! Blends also enable mills to create unusual yarns; synthetic fibres are often used to bind 'feature' items like sequins to the main strand of yarn. Synthetic fibres can be much cheaper than animal or plant fibres, too. If you adore cashmere, silk or wool, keep your eyes peeled for blended yarns that feature some of your favourite fibre. It'll usually be mixed with acrylic, viscose or nylon, and will often be cheaper, giving you more for your pennies!



LINEN

One of the first fibres ever spun, linen flax comes from plants. It's very strong and light, but has a tendency to crease in woven fabric. Happily, this is much less obvious in knitted or crocheted fabric. Like wool, linen is highly absorbent, and suitable for warm and cold weather, although it tends to be favoured for summer makes. Linen is labour intensive to produce, but new linen yarns include recycled fibres, making them more environmentally friendly. Unlike cotton, linen isn't prone to stretching, and tends to soften with washing. Linen yarns are still fairly few and far between, but worth tracking down. They're great for lace, but the lack of bounce makes them less suited to cables. If you want a dramatic, draping garment, consider linen!





WOOL

Wool is breathable yet highly absorbent, so if you get caught in a rain shower in a woollen jumper it will keep you dry. As long as it's not a boiling hot day, it will also keep you cooler for the same reasons. Wool is long-lasting and softens with wear, so keep the moths away and a wool jumper could last decades. Thanks to its naturally anti-bacterial properties, wool also requires far less washing than other fibres. Use superwash yarn if you want to machine wash it though, as otherwise it can felt! Like other animal fibres, wool has a 'memory'. If you wet it and stretch it out (blocking) it will keep the shape it dries into, making it perfect for lace, which needs 'opening out' after knitting or crocheting. Choose wool for blankets, aran sweaters and close-fitting tops. If you're worried about it being itchy, wear a short length tied around a necklace or watch and see if it irritates you.



MOHAIR

While the '80s saw a brief spike in the presence of mohair on the high street, in the knitting (and crochet) world it has only ever grown in popularity. It's usually blended with silk or nylon to create a fluffy, strong yarn that takes dye brilliantly and looks amazing used in complex lace patterns. If you like the feel of mohair but you're worried it'll be itchy, use the necklace trick (see Wool) before you commit to making a whole garment. You'll find it may feel quite itchy in warmer weather but not in the colder months, so give it a chance – or simply wear something underneath. Held double, very fine laceweight mohair-mix yarns create a warm, soft, eminently strokeable fabric that adds something special to plain stitch garments.



ALPACA

For many years alpaca has been hailed as the 'new cashmere' due to its incredibly soft, luxurious feel. Thanks to its hollow fibres, which act as mini insulating rods, it's very warm, making it perfect for winter accessories. A pure alpaca jumper can actually be too hot for many people, so if you want to take advantage of the softness of alpaca for a garment, consider using a blend instead. Unlike wool, which has natural elasticity, alpaca has a tendency to 'grow' over time, so it's better to make garments in pieces rather than seamlessly, as the structure added by seams helps to prevent your top from stretching. While a huge amount of alpaca fibre comes from South America, brands like UK Alpaca process alpaca fibre for their own herds (and for other owners of small herds) in the UK, so it's easy to buy British alpaca yarn if you'd like to keep your crafting air miles to a minimum!



CASHMERE & SILK

While many yarns claim to be as soft as cashmere and as luxurious as silk, there is something very special about the real deal. Incredibly light, yet very warm, cashmere is combed from the tummies of mountain goats (yes, really!), and is very expensive. It's the top choice for a precious one-off knitted or crocheted piece. Many yarns include a touch of cashmere for softness, but few contain large quantities. On a budget? Choose yarn with a small amount of cashmere or save up for a pricier pure yarn.

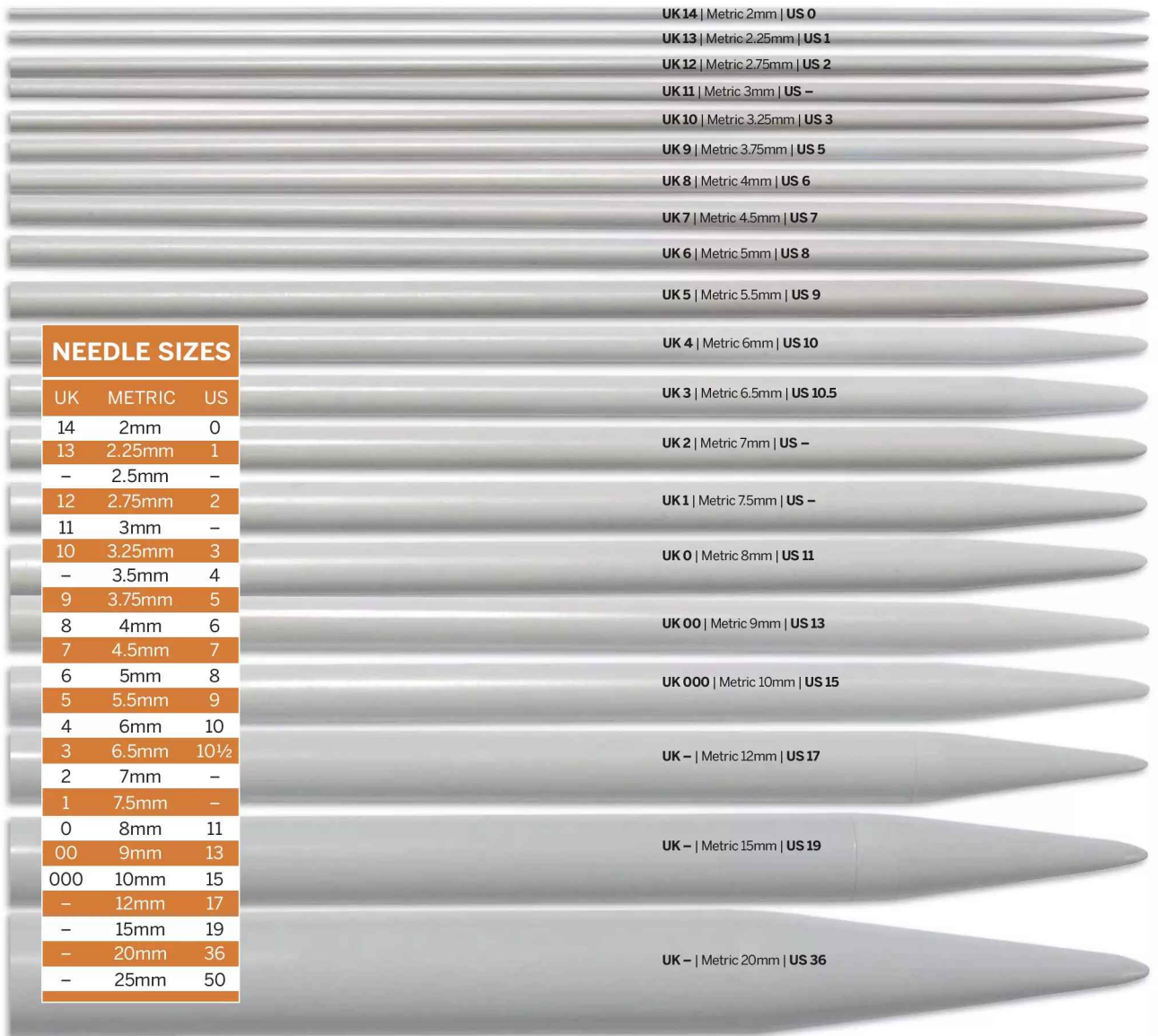
Strong and striking, silk is a favourite with knitters who love making lacy items in super fine yarns in vibrant colours. As well as pure silk yarns, alpaca and wool/silk mixes are popular choices for shawls and scarves. Silk is a lovely choice for light, draping garments and, thanks to its sheen, gives noticeable stitch definition.



NEEDLES

Let's get straight to the point:
you can't knit without them!





Knitting needles come in all sizes, shapes and materials. But all you really need from a pair of needles is that they're long, thin, smooth and strong enough to enable you to turn yarn into the stitches used to make knitted fabric.

Of course, things aren't quite that straightforward. You also need to think about the different yarn fibres you'll be working with, your stitch tension, personal preferences, and the fact that no one pair of needles will work for all the projects you'll want to make, so it's a good idea to invest in a set of several pairs.

The first thing you need to know about knitting needles is that they come in different sizes or thicknesses, just like yarn comes in different thicknesses. When you're knitting, it's important to use the appropriate size of needle for the thickness of the yarn you're

using. For example, when you're using a chunky yarn, you need to use a thicker needle or you'll end up with tiny stitches and a stiff, dense fabric.

THROUGH THICK AND THIN

When you're first learning to knit, it's always best to use the size of needle recommended on the yarn's ball band. For example, a DK yarn will usually recommend a 4mm needle, and this is a great combination for beginners to start practising with. Once you get more confident, you can vary the needle size to achieve different effects with the same yarn (we'll have more on this later).

Most needle sizes are measured in millimetres (mm), but you might also see needles in traditional UK sizes (in numbers from 000 to 14) and traditional US sizes (in

numbers from 0 to 50). Above, we've included a handy conversion table so you can easily switch between the different sizes.

You don't need to have all these sizes in your needle stash to start knitting, though. You'll probably find you use a pair of 4mm and 5mm needles most often, so start off with these. You can pick up old sets of knitting needles for a great price at car boot sales and charity shops – just make sure they're in good condition and not chipped or bent (and that the pairs match, of course!).

Above, we've also included a life-size guide to the different knitting needle sizes available so you can easily identify any old needles (or double-pointed needles) that don't have numbers on them. Alternatively, you could invest in a handy needle gauge. Many are available, and they're not expensive.

NEEDLE KNOW-HOW

Find a tool to suit you and your pattern with this handy mini guide to all the various needles available

The most commonly used needle is the straight needle, which was probably invented in the mid-19th century. They're easy to use and ideal for making flat fabric, especially since the needle head prevents the stitches from slipping off. The oldest-known needles are double-pointed ones – they can be seen in several 14th-century paintings. These are usually used to make seamless tubular

fabrics, such as socks, which is easier than it sounds! Double-pointed needles are used in sets of four or five. Both flat and tubular ('in the round') knitting can be made on circular needles – two needles joined with a flexible cord. Some manufacturers sell needles and cords separately, and you can also buy interchangeable sets – these have cords and needle tips in various sizes and lengths, which connect together, and save

you from having to buy too many pairs. The standard lengths for straight needles are 25cm, 30cm and 35cm, and from 20cm to 100cm for circular needles. The best length for you to use will depend on your project and, in the case of straight needles, whether you like to tuck a needle under your arm as you work. Crochet hooks are useful to rescue dropped stitches, weave in yarn ends, and to add edgings to your knits.

1 STRAIGHT

Perfect for beginners, straight needles come in pairs and enable you to create large, flat pieces of fabric. They can be unwieldy though, and you're often lifting the entire weight of your knitting as you work, which can be uncomfortable. Choose from metal, wood, plastic and bamboo.

2 DOUBLE-POINTED NEEDLES

Sold in sets of four or five, they enable you to knit in the round. It might seem scary using so many needles, but you only ever 'knit' with two – the rest just hold stitches for you.

3 CABLE NEEDLES

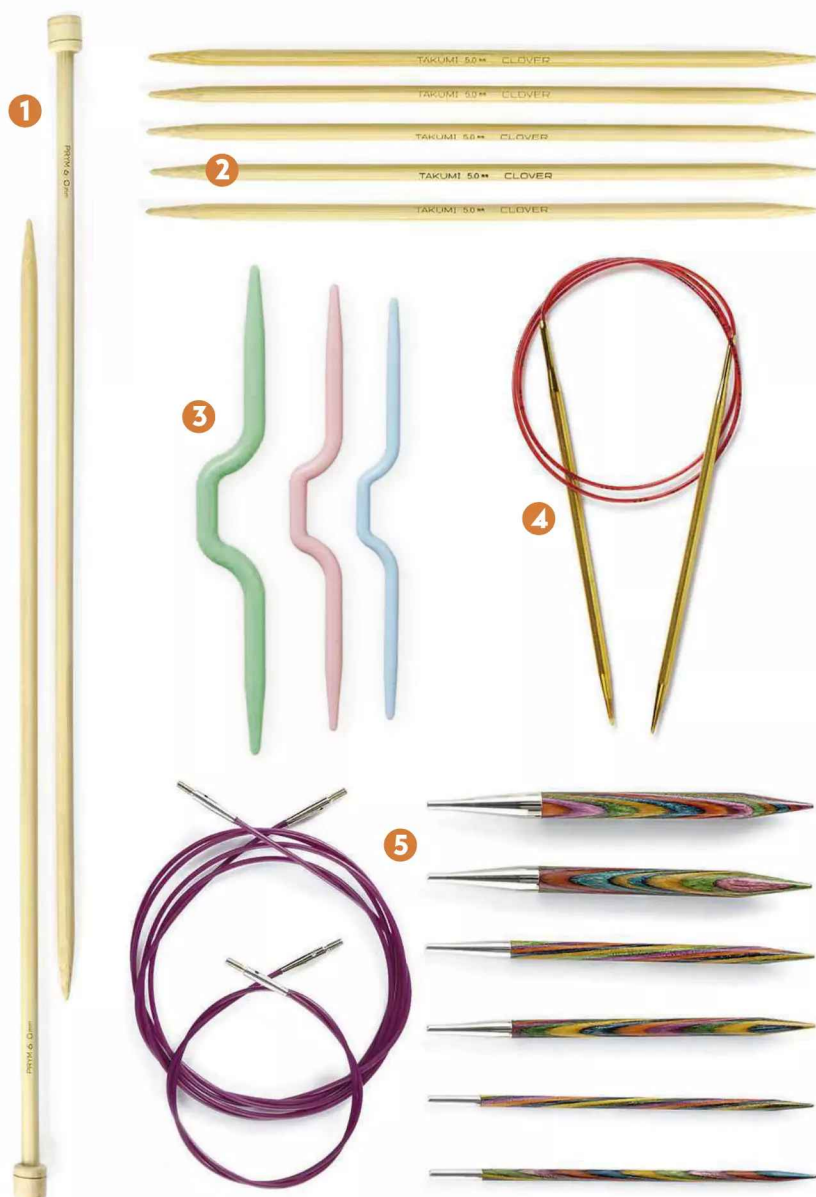
Used for creating cables, these kinked needles come in various sizes and are handy for holding a small number of stitches that you don't want to knit yet, as the kink stops the stitches falling off. If you don't have a cable needle then you can use a stitch holder or a spare needle instead.

4 CIRCULAR NEEDLES

Made of two needle 'tips' connected by a cable, circular needles can be used to knit in the round or in rows, back and forth between the tips. Used in this way, like ordinary needles, the cable takes the weight of the fabric. You can find a great tutorial on how to use circular needles on The Yarn Loop at www.theyarnloop.com/2010/09/knitting-circular-needles.

5 INTERCHANGEABLE

Circular needles come in various sizes and lengths. Interchangeable needles allow you to mix and match needle tips with cables so you don't have to buy one of every thickness and length. You can buy sets as well as individual parts.



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2 Available in a fab mix of three bright colours, HiyaHiya's metallic Darn It needles get the job done.

£2.29, visit www.woolstack.co.uk to buy or call 01242 300280

3 Hemline's flexible yet sturdy needles are quick to thread and glide through stitches. They come as a pack of four, with two sizes.

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4 In colour-coded sizes, KnitPro's wide-looped needles are smooth and comfortable to sew with.

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£7.29, for stockist info contact clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk

6 From lace projects to chunky, this Prym pack of 16 has you covered! It even comes with a handy threader.

£4.09, visit www.minervacrafts.com to buy or call 01254 708068

7 Keep your needles safe and make a statement with Knit Affair's choice of four colour-cases, with three metallic needles included.

£15.53, visit www.knitaffair.etsy.com to buy

8 It's hard to beat Pony's classic smooth-finish design, with wide loops for quick and easy threading.

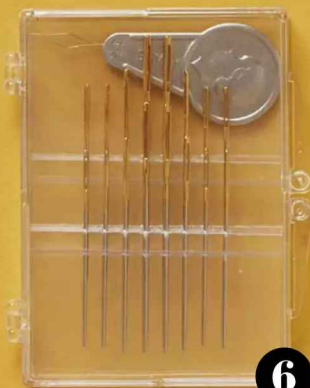
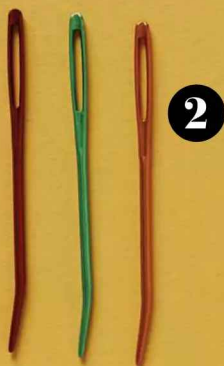
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9 Both lightweight and colourful, Bobbin Box's pack of four plastic needles make a quick job of sewing.

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10 Keeping it sweet and simple, Stoff and Stil's reliable needles have pointed tips for precision work.

99p, visit www.stoffstil.co.uk to buy or call 0333 1559 855



CHOOSING A KNIT KIT

Read our in-depth guide to tools and gather together the best in knitting essentials!

1 INTERCHANGEABLE NEEDLE SET

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KnitPro Zings, £45 per set, www.knitpronneedles.co.uk.

2 CHART KEEPER

Chart keepers are great for lace knitting. Use the small magnets to hold your chart in place then slide the long ruler up the chart every time you work a row.

KnitPro Magma chart keeper, small £15, large £22.75, www.theknittersattic.co.uk.

3 BENT TIP TAPESTRY NEEDLES

These bent tip tapestry needles help when working backstitch or mattress stitch, especially with aran yarn or thicker.

Clover CHIBI bent tapestry needle set, £4, www.woolstack.co.uk.

4 FABRIC CLIPS

Holding knitted fabric together while you sew it up can be a bit tricky. These clips make the job simple and quick, creating a stable edge to work along.

Clover Wonder Clips, £7.63 for a pack of 10, www.barnyarns.co.uk.

5 SHEPHERD'S HOOK CABLE NEEDLES

These cable needles solve the problem of stitches slipping off. Slide the stitches you're cabling onto the short end of the hook, leave it hanging, work the stitches as given in the pattern, then pick up the hook again and work from the long end.

Clover U-shaped cable needles, jumbo (£2.99) and standard (£2.49), www.woolwarehouse.co.uk.

6 SCISSORS

Whatever you're knitting, a sharp pair of scissors are a kit essential! If you're out and

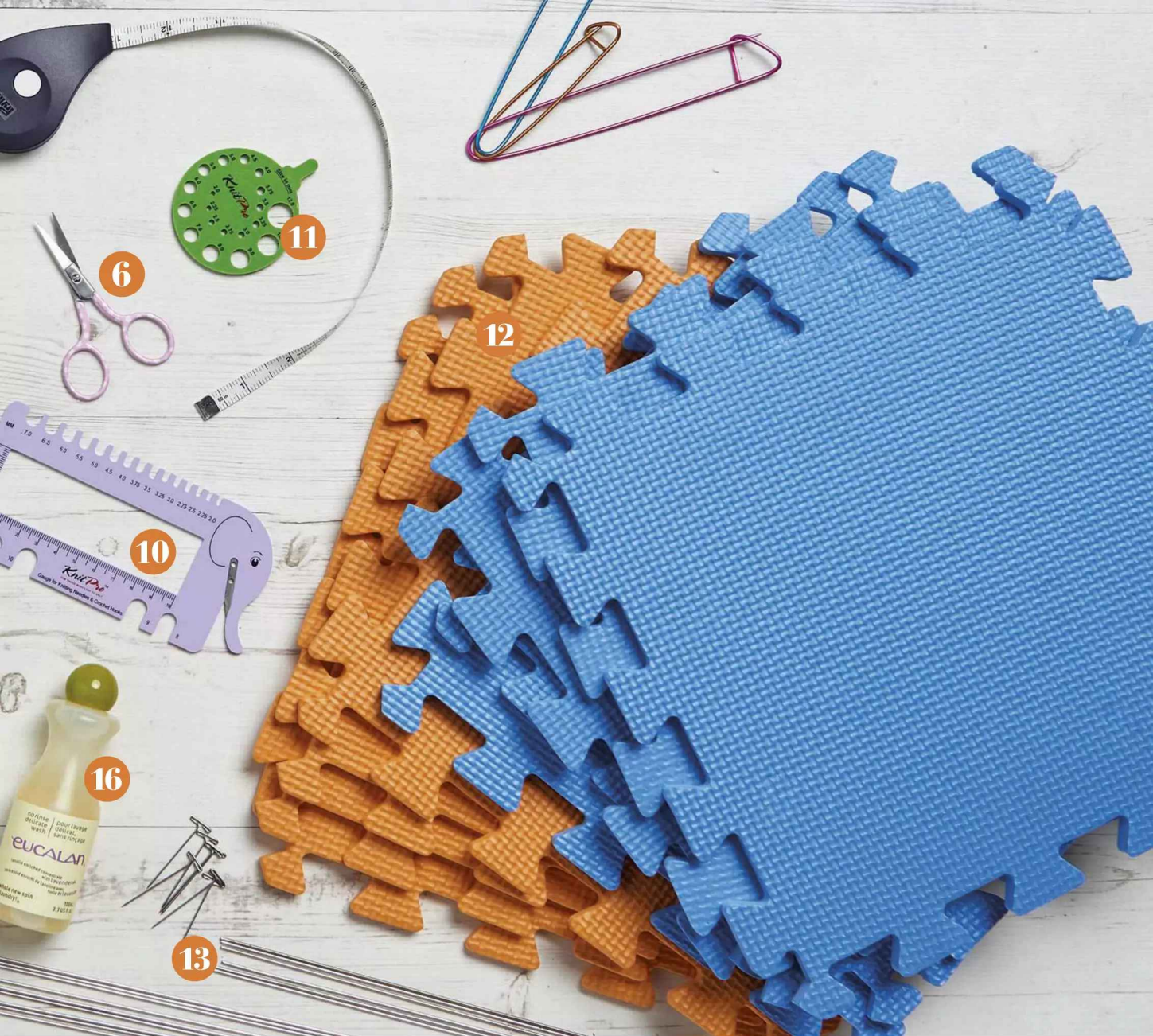
about opt for a dinky pair to snip away unwanted lengths of yarn after you've finished weaving in your ends.

7 CROCHET HOOK

After your knitting needles and scissors, a crochet hook is your next best friend! Exactly the right shape for hooking up dropped stitches and working them up the knit ladder, they are invaluable for all knitters. They can even be used to add hair to knitted toys. Choose a hook that suits the weight of your knitting yarn for top results.

8 TAPE MEASURE

Tape measures are an absolute knitting essential. You've probably got one knocking around somewhere already but if not, look out for mini ones for knitting on the go and keep a traditional dressmaker's 150cm tape measure at home for those bigger knitting projects. A clear straight ruler is also useful.



9 STITCH HOLDERS

Stitch holders are a must if you make garments, especially when working neck shaping, where you are setting some stitches aside at the centre front neck or back neck to work later. They're also useful for putting your underarm stitches on hold if you make seamless garments, ready to join later on with grafting.

10 11 NEEDLE GAUGES

A needle gauge will enable you to check the exact size of your needles. You may prefer to use one which shows both mm and US sizes as some patterns will give one size but not the other. Get a gauge with a ruler running along one side – it's super handy for checking your tension or gauge.

Green Round Envy Needle Gauge, £1.79, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk
KnitPro Needle & Crochet View Sizer with Yarn Cutter, £3.15, www.knitpro.eu.

12 13 BLOCKING MATS, WIRES & TACKS

There's nothing wrong with pinning out your knitting to block it, or stretching it on a towel, but for a sturdier system, try threading these special wires through the edge of your fabric pieces. You'll get a neater finish and if you use these blocking mats your knitting will dry quicker too.

Blocking mats £24.99, www.blacksheepwools.com, and wires £22.99 for a pack of 15, www.minervacrafts.com.

14 15 STITCH MARKERS

Stitch markers come in two forms: solid ring top and lockable. Use them to mark the beginning of your rounds, show where key shaping points are, separate pattern repeats or hold dropped stitches.

16 WOOL WASH

Today's wool washes are incredible – they smell gorgeous, are super-gentle on your

beloved creations and, you don't even have to rinse them out!

Eucalan wool wash, £10.95 for 500ml, www.woolstack.co.uk.

COMPLETE YOUR KIT

Haberdashery items such as crochet hooks, tape measures, stitch holders, scissors and stitch markers are widely available from your local yarn store.

OTHER STOCKISTS INCLUDE:

Black Sheep Wools 01925 764231

www.blacksheepwools.com

Deramores 0845 519 4573

www.deramores.co.uk

Hobbycraft 0330 026 1400

www.hobbycraft.co.uk

LoveCrafts 01409 404010

www.lovecrafts.com

For more stockists turn to page 145

FOLLOWING A PATTERN

Here's our guide to understanding a typical knitting pattern

1 YOU WILL NEED

This box tells you exactly what yarn and needles you need to complete the pattern, as well as other equipment, such as fabric or buttons. Yarn amounts are based on average requirements, so if your tension is loose, you might need more.

2 TENSION

This part of the pattern information panel tells you how many rows and stitches are needed for the correct tension required to complete the design. Page 41 explains tension squares in detail.

3 ABBREVIATIONS

Special abbreviations used within the pattern are explained here. For our extensive list, turn to page 24.

4 MEASUREMENTS

Most patterns state the size of the finished item – if it's a garment, sizes may be in a table. 'Actual' measurements are the finished size of the item. 'To fit' measurements show the recommended measurements of the intended wearer.

5 DIFFERENT SIZES

If the pattern is for a garment or other item that can be made in different sizes, there will often be a table like this. Some patterns, like the ones in *Simply Knitting*, use colour-coding to help you follow the size instructions you need throughout the pattern.

* CABLE GILET



YOU WILL NEED

- 1 Novita 7 Brothers North/7 Veljestä Pohjola (aran, 45% wool, 30% Finnish wool, 25% polyamide, 100g/200m)
For yarn quantities and measurements see size table
- 8 A pair of 4.5mm knitting needles
- 8 2 stitch holders
- 8 1 toggle button, 1cm wide, 3.5cm long

TENSION

- 2 18 sts and 24 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4.5mm needles
- 2 20 sts and 24 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over main patt using 4.5mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

- 3 S2kpo slip 2 sts as if to k2tog, K1, pass slipped sts over
- 3 MB worked over 1 st: M1, K1, M1, turn, P3, turn, K1, M1, K1, M1, K1, turn, p2tog, P1, p2tog, turn, s2kpo

For a full list see page 95

FIND YOUR SIZE

SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
TO FIT BUST	cm	81	86	91.5	96.5	101.5	106.5	111.5	117	122	127
	in	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50
ACTUAL BUST	cm	86	91	96.5	101.5	106.5	111.5	119	125	129.5	137
	in	34	36	38	40	42	44	47	49	51	54
LENGTH	cm	57	58	63	64.5	64.5	66	71	72	72	73.5
	in	22½	23	24½	25½	25½	26	28	28¾	28¾	29
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
	in	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
YARN	Novita 7 Brothers North/7 Veljestä Pohjola (aran, 100g/200m)										
Yarn A Salla (867)		4	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	7	7

SIZING COLOUR KEY So you can re-use this pattern, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions. Simply follow our colour-coded measurements and you're off.

WHERE TO BUY

- For yarn stockists contact Novita on www.novitaknits.com or +358 (9) 613 176

OR YOU COULD TRY...

- Wool Warehouse 0800 505 3300 or www.woolwarehouse.co.uk
- Love Crafts 01409 404 010 or www.lovecrafts.com



CABLE GILET

Note The Gilet is worked in 3 pieces from the bottom up. The cabling starts on Row 1.

CHARTS

CHART A (MAIN PATTERN)

Chart is worked over a multiple of 22 sts + 8 sts.

- Row 1 (RS) *(P3, C2F, P6) twice; rep from * to last 8 sts, P3, C2F, P3.
- Row 2 K3, P2, K3, *(K6, P2, K3) twice; rep from * to end.
- Row 3 *(P2, T2B, T2F, P5) twice; rep from * to last 8 sts, P2, T2B, T2F, P2.
- Row 4 K2, P1, K2, P1, K2, *(K5, P1, K2, P1, K2) twice; rep from * to end.
- Row 5 *P1, T2B, P2, T2F, P5, C2B, P2, C2F, P4; rep from * to last 8 sts, P1, T2B, P2, T2F, P1.
- Row 6 K1, P1, K4, P1, K1, *K4, P2, K2, P2, K5, P1, K4, P1, K1; rep from * to end.
- Row 7 *P1, K1, P4, K1, P4, (T2B, T2F) twice, P3; rep from * to last 8 sts, P1, K1, P4, K1, P1.
- Row 8 K1, P1, K4, P1, K1, *K3, P1, K2, P2, K2, P1, K4, P1, K4, P1, K1; rep from * to end.
- Row 9 *P1, T2F, P2, T2B, P3, T2B, P2, C2F, P2, T2F, P2; rep from * to last 8 sts, P1, T2F, P2, T2B, P1.

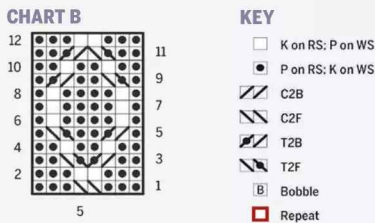
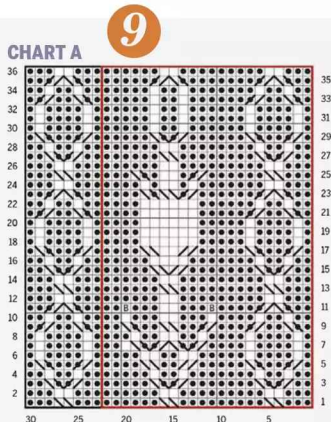
- Row 10 K2, P1, K2, P1, K2, *K2, P1, K3, P2, K3, P1, K4, P1, K2, P1, K2; rep from * to end.
- Row 11 *P2, T2F, T2B, P4, MB, P3, K2, P3, MB, P2; rep from * to last 8 sts, P2, T2F, T2B, P2.
- Row 12 K3, P2, K3, *K6, P2, K9, P2, K3; rep from * to end.
- Row 13 *(P3, C2F, P6) twice; rep from * to last 8 sts, P3, C2F, P3.
- Row 14 K3, P2, K3, *(K6, P2, K3) twice; rep from * to end.
- Row 15 *P2, T2B, T2F, P7, C2B, C2F, P5; rep from * to last 8 sts, P2, T2B, T2F, P2.
- Row 16 K2, P1, K2, P1, K2, *K5, P4, K7, P1, K2, P1, K2; rep from * to end.
- Row 17 *P1, T2B, P2, T2F, P5, C2B, K2, C2F, P4; rep from * to last 8 sts, P1, T2B, P2, T2F, P1.
- Row 18 K1, P1, K4, P1, K1, *K4, P6, K5, P1, K4, P1, K1; rep from * to end.
- Row 19 *P1, K1, P4, K1, P5, K6, P4; rep from * to last 8 sts, P1, K1, P4, K1, P1.
- Row 20 K1, P1, K4, P1, K1, *K4, P6, K5, P1, K4, P1, K1; rep from * to end.
- Row 21 *P1, T2F, P2, T2B, P5, K6, P4; rep from * to last 8 sts, P1, T2F, P2, T2B, P1.
- Row 22 K2, P1, K2, P1, K2, *K4, P6, K6, P1, K2, P1, K2; rep from * to end.
- Row 23 *P2, T2F, T2B, P6, T2B, C2F, T2F, P4; rep from * to last 8

You'll find that knitting patterns are presented differently in every publication. All the different components can look quite confusing, with what seems like a code to be cracked before you can knit! Don't worry, though – everything is really quite simple. Below are the key elements that should

appear on every pattern and what they mean. It's a good idea to take the time to read through a pattern before you start, to give yourself an idea of the techniques involved and how any separate knitted pieces will fit together to create the final item. Make sure you've got everything you need and check your tension!

TOP TIP
 Look up unfamiliar techniques before you start knitting, not halfway through a project! You can use scrap yarn to practise on first if you need to.

CABLE GILET * 



HOW TO USE OUR CHARTS

6 Start at the bottom right-hand corner. Read right side rows from right to left and wrong side rows from left to right. A row of squares represents a row of knitting.



sts, P2, T2F, T2B, P2.
Row 24 K3, P2, K3, *K4, P1, K1, P2, K1, P1, K7, P2, K3; rep from * to end.
Row 25 *P3, C2F, P6, T2B, P1, K2, P1, T2F, P3; rep from * to last 8 sts, P3, C2F, P3.
Row 26 K3, P2, K3, *K6, P2, K9, P2, K3; rep from * to end.
Row 27 *P2, T2B, T2F, P8, C2F, P6; rep from * to last 8 sts, P2, T2B, T2F, P2.
Row 28 K2, P1, K2, P1, K2, *K6, P2, K8, P1, K2, P1, K2; rep from * to end.
Row 29 *P1, T2B, P2, T2F, P6, T2B, T2F, P5; rep from * to last 8 sts, P1, T2B, P2, T2F, P1.
Row 30 K1, P1, K4, P1, K1, *K5, P1, K2, P1, K6, P1, K4, P1, K1; rep from * to end.
Row 31 *P1, K1, P4, K1, P6, K1, P2, K1, P5; rep from * to last 8 sts, P1, K1, P4, K1, P1.
Row 32 K1, P1, K4, P1, K1, *K5, P1, K2, P1, K6, P1, K4, P1, K1; rep from * to end.
Row 33 *P1, T2F, P2, T2B, P6, K1, P2, K1, P5; rep from * to last 8 sts, P1, T2F, P2, T2B, P1.
Row 34 K2, P1, K2, P1, K2, *K5, P1, K2, P1, K7, P1, K2, P1, K2; rep from * to end.
Row 35 *(P2, T2F, T2B, P5) twice; rep from * to last 8 sts, P2, T2F, T2B, P2.



6 HOW TO...
 If there's an element within the pattern that might require a little extra knowledge or skill, there might be a handy guide like this, or step-by-step photos.

7 SCHEMATIC
 If there's an element within the pattern that might require a little extra knowledge or skill, there might be a handy step-by-step guide like this.

8 SUMMARY
 Some patterns include a quick snapshot of the techniques involved, the type of yarn used and the size of needles you need. That way, you can see at a glance whether it's a pattern you fancy making.

9 CHART
 Often used on patterns with lace, cables or colourwork, charts are a great visual way to follow a pattern. They will either sit next to written instructions or be used instead of them. See page 20 for more.

10 STOCKISTS
 Many patterns you see will use yarn from a specific manufacturer. In order to help you get that yarn, the pattern will also include stockist details for who to contact about buying the yarn and retailer information.

READING A CHART

How to translate chart squares into knitted stitches

Once you get more confident with knitting, you're likely to come across patterns that include a chart (or several charts).

This might be a stitch chart, where each square represents a specific type of stitch, with a key to tell you which stitch to work. Or it could be a colour chart, where each square

represents a specific yarn colour, with a key to tell you which colour to work, plus written instructions to tell you the stitch pattern to work while you're changing colours.

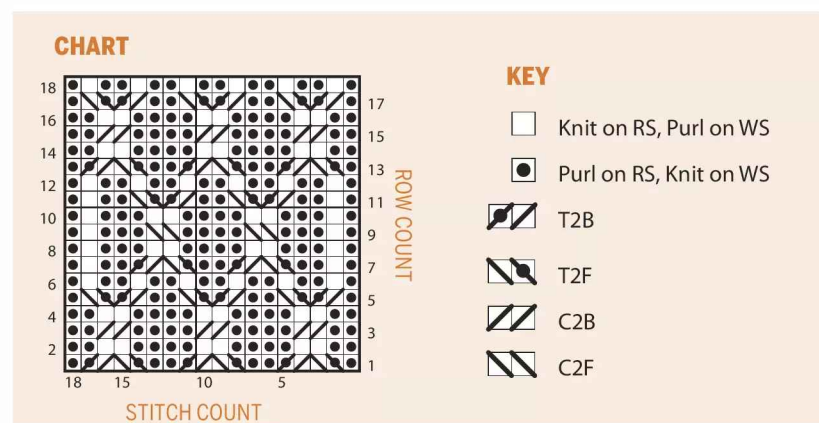
As with patterns, you'll find that charts can be presented in different ways. There should be notes to explain how to use the charts included with the pattern, but usually

you'll need to start from the bottom right-hand corner. The rows on the chart should be numbered to correspond with the row you're working on. Along the bottom, there should be numbers to represent how many stitches need to be worked. A row of squares represents a row of knitting, and each square represents a stitch.

STITCH CHART ROWS

In knitting, the fabric you create always has a right side and a wrong side. When you knit back and forth in rows, you start each row from the opposite end to where you started the previous row. This chart (right) is an example of a stitch chart worked in rows. Row 1 starts at the bottom right, at the square closest to the '1' row label – you'd work from here, stitch by stitch towards the left. Then you'd start Row 2 from the left side, at the square closest to the '2' row label – you'd work from here towards the right, and so on.

The odd-numbered rows are usually right-side rows and the even-numbered rows are usually the wrong-side rows. You'll see from the key that some squares contain a symbol that instructs you to work a different stitch, depending on whether you're on the right or



wrong side. This is less complicated than it seems and once you've worked a few rows, it's easy to understand which stitch to work.

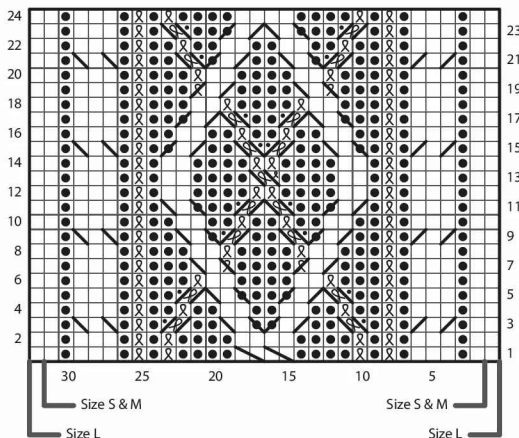
A stitch chart or colour chart is often just a part of the pattern instructions. The written pattern should explain what to do with the chart and where. For example,

you might be asked to start the row by working plain knitting stitches, then to work the chart stitches, and then to work plain knitting stitches again to the end of the row. Or you might be told to repeat the chart stitches a certain number of times the whole way along a row.

KEY

- K on RS, P on WS
- P on RS, K on WS
- K1 tbl
- S11 to cn and hold at back, K1 tbl, P1 from cn
- S11 to cn and hold at front, P1, K1 tbl from cn
- S11 to cn and hold at front, K1 tbl, K1 tbl from cn
- S11 to cn and hold at back, K2, K1 from cn
- S11 to cn and hold at front, K1, K2 from cn
- S11 to cn and hold at back, K2, P1 from cn
- S11 to cn and hold at front, P1, K2 from cn
- S11 to cn and hold at back, K2, K1 tbl from cn
- S12 to cn and hold at front, K1 tbl, K2 from cn
- S12 to cn and hold at front, K2, K2 from cn

CHART



STITCH CHART SIZES

For clothes, patterns include instructions for different sizes, sometimes colour-coded to help you follow the right numbers. This is an example of a stitch chart, worked in rows, for different sizes. The chart uses the same colour coding as the written instructions. If you were working Size L then you'd work the whole chart, starting at the bottom-right square. If you were working Size M though, you'd only work the squares between the blue lines. On this chart, you'd start from the second square in from the right on the bottom row and you wouldn't work the last square on the row.

COLOUR CHART ROWS

One of the beauties of yarn is that you can use different colours to create all sorts of motifs and patterns. These colourful motifs are often represented in a colour chart. This chart is an example of a colour chart worked in rows. Again, you'll need to remember that there are right-side and wrong-side rows. Always start the odd-numbered rows from the right-hand side working towards the left, and start even-numbered rows from the left working towards the right.

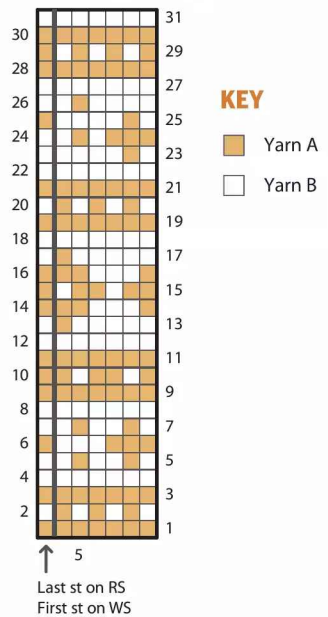
Most colour charts are worked in a plain stitch pattern, such as knit all odd-numbered rows and purl all even-numbered rows (this will create stocking stitch). This makes the finished fabric fairly plain so that the colourful motif can stand out.



It also means that while you're busy thinking about changing colours and following the colour chart, you shouldn't have any complicated stitches to have to worry about.

With colour charts, you'll find that once your colour pattern is knitted up, it looks much wider than the pattern on the colour chart. Don't worry – you haven't done it wrong! Stitch charts are generally worked in perfect squares whereas knitting stitches are much more like wide rectangles once they've been created. You'll find that colour motifs usually knit up to be much wider than the colour chart makes them look. For example, you can see here that the colour pattern on the tea cosy chart looks much narrower than the pattern that is created on the finished item.

TEA COSY CHART



COLOUR CHART SHAPING

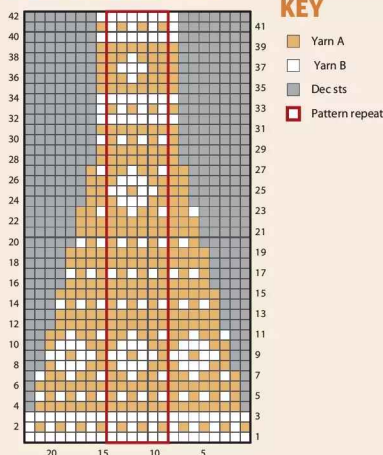
Once you get more confident working with charts, you'll be able to understand and work from them really easily. As you progress, you'll probably see a stitch chart or colour chart with sloping sides, or which includes a lot of grey squares. Let us explain what these are... when you're knitting, you'll often be asked to work shaping stitches, in order to form the knitted fabric into a 3D item. Patterns will instruct you to create this

shaping by asking you to either increase or decrease the number of stitches on a row. The orange and white chart below is an example of a colour chart that includes greyed-out decrease stitches. Working from the bottom up, the number of stitches is decreased evenly, from both the left and right sides of the chart. So the shape of the colour chart and your knitted fabric will change – the grey squares are included to

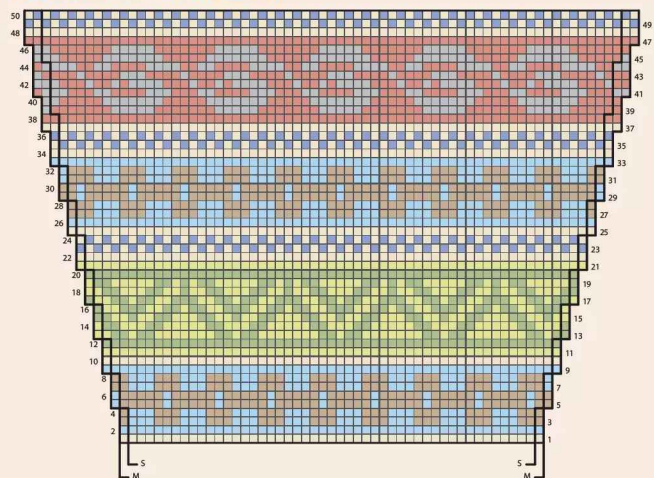
show you that you'll be working the colour changes on fewer stitches.

The other colour chart below has sides that slope outwards, because the number of stitches has been increased. The extra squares on each row of the chart are there to tell you what colour to work the increased number of stitches, so that they stay in pattern with the rest of the colourwork you've created.

LAMPSHADE CHART



SLEEVE CHART FOR SIZES S-M



GLOSSARY

A guide to basic terms, from bobbins to WIPs!

Ball band

The wrapper around a ball, skein or hank of yarn that contains useful information such as fibre content, the recommended needle size and tension, and washing instructions.

Ball end of yarn

The end of the yarn that runs from the knitting on your needles back to the ball of yarn being used.

Ball winder

A device for winding hanks or skeins of yarn into balls so they can be knitted more easily. Often used with a swift.

Blocking

Shaping a piece of knitting once it's finished (or after it's been washed) by pinning it out flat while it's damp and letting it dry.

Bobbin

Small reel or other shape for holding different coloured yarns during intarsia work.

Cable

A motif created by crossing stitches over each other. Designs look like twisted ropes or cables, hence the name.

Cast off

(also: **bind off**)

To finish a piece of work by completing the loops of knitting so that they can't unravel. There are various ways of doing this.

Cast on

To begin a piece of knitting by creating the first row of stitches. There are several sorts of cast-on, suitable for different sorts of garment or project.

Circular knitting

(also: **tubular knitting**)

A method of knitting using double-pointed needles or a circular needle to produce a seamless garment.

Colourwork

A general term to describe working with different coloured yarns within one project. This includes anything from basic stripes to intricate Fair Isle.

Continental method

A style of knitting where the yarn is wound through the left hand, with the left forefinger wrapping the yarn around the needles.

Decreases

Various techniques for reducing the number of stitches on a row, in order to shape your knitting or to create a decorative effect.

Dropped stitch

A stitch that has mistakenly slipped off the needles, creating an unwanted hole in an item (as opposed to a slipped stitch, which is created deliberately to either shape a garment or make a pattern).

English method

A style of knitting where the yarn is threaded around the right hand and the right forefinger is used to wrap the yarn around the needles.

Fair Isle

Traditional multicoloured designs from the Shetland Isle of Fair Isle. The Fair Isle knitting technique sees any coloured yarns not in use carried along the back of the pattern (unlike intarsia patterns where short lengths of different coloured yarns are woven into the knitting where needed).

Frogging

Undoing the stitches in a piece of knitting, either to correct a mistake or to use the yarn for another project. (So-called because you 'rip it, rip it'!)

Front of work

The side of a piece of knitting that faces you while you work – this could be the 'right' or 'wrong' side [see 'right side' and 'wrong side'].

Garter stitch

A pattern created by using the knit stitch for every row. (If you're knitting in the round then you should knit one round and purl one round alternately to get the same effect.)

Hank

A coil of yarn that needs to be wound into a ball before it can be knitted. Also called a skein.

i-cord

A thin tube of knitting that can be used as an edging, strap or fastening. You can knit them on DPNs or achieve a similar result on a knitting dolly (also known as a French knitting doll).

Increases

Various techniques for adding length to a row of knitting by creating stitches in order to shape a garment, or to form a range of stitch patterns.

Intarsia

A technique for creating colourful motifs within a pattern. Separate lengths of yarn are used for each section of colour, unlike in Fair Isle knitting, where the different coloured yarns run along the back of the design until they're needed again.

Knit

One of the two fundamental knitting stitches (the other is 'purl'). Made by inserting the right needle into a stitch, so it crosses behind the left needle.

Knitwise

Put the needle into the next stitch as if you're going to knit it.

Long-tail cast-on

A method of casting on that creates a stretchy edge on a piece of knitting.

Lanolin

The oily substance found in sheep's wool that gives it its natural weather resistance.

Loop cast-on**(also: single cast-on)**

One of the easiest cast-ons to learn, which creates a loose edge on a piece of knitting.

Making up**(also: joining, seaming)**

Sewing together the different parts of an item that have been knitted separately (such as the sleeves and body of a sweater).

Notions

Accessories and equipment, ranging from the essential to the frivolous, including stitch markers, bag handles, buttons and wool-washing detergent.

Pick up stitches**(also: pick up and knit)**

A technique for adding a border, such as a heel or neckband. The border is attached by knitting it onto the main knitted piece, then just working on the border stitches.

Pilling

The 'bobbly' effect seen on knitted garments caused by everyday wear.

Ply

A strand of fibre that can be spun together with other plies to form a yarn (some 4ply yarn is made from four strands, for example).

Purl

One of the two fundamental knitting stitches (the other is 'knit'). A purl stitch is made by putting the needle through the front of the stitch from right to left.

Purlwise

Put the needle into the next stitch as if you're going to purl it.

Reverse shaping

To work a pattern in the mirror image of any previous shaping – on the left and right front pieces of a cardigan, for instance. If the previous shaping instructions asked you to increase stitches at the end of a row, you'd need to increase at the beginning of a row to do reverse shaping.

Rib

A pattern of alternating knit and purl stitches, resulting in a stretchy piece of knitted fabric.

Right side

The 'public-facing' side of an item, such as the outside of a sweater or of a hat.

Round

The name for a row of stitches when knitting in the round, either on circular needles or DPNs.

Row

A series of stitches that runs the width of a piece of knitting. Lengthening or shortening rows by increasing or decreasing the number of stitches will help to shape the item.

Selvedge

The edge of a piece of knitting. The stitches here are the ones that are sewn together when you make up a garment from separate pieces. If it's something like a scarf, the selvedge might be knitted in a more decorative way because it will be visible.

Short-row shaping

A technique for shaping a piece of knitting (commonly sock heels or bust darts) with a smooth edge. It involves knitting part-way through a row rather than all the way to the end, before 'wrapping and turning' and knitting back the other way.

Skein

A loose twist of yarn that's ready to knit. Also called a hank.

Slipknot

The most commonly used knot for making a secure loop of yarn when you cast on.

Slip stitch

To move a stitch from one needle to the other without wrapping the yarn around it. This can be done to create a decorative pattern in the knitting, or as part of a series of decreases.

Sock blocker

A flat, foot-shaped mould inserted into socks so they can be shaped [see 'Blocking'].

Stash

A knitter's collection of yarn, needles and notions.

Stocking stitch**(also: stockinette)**

A pattern created by alternately knitting and purling rows. (If you're knitting in the round then you'll need to knit every row instead of every other, to create the same effect.)

Swift

A rotating device that holds a hank or skein of yarn while it's made into a ball (this can either be by hand or by using a ball winder).

Tail end

The loose short end of the yarn being worked (as opposed to the ball end, which runs back to the ball of yarn you're using).

WIP

Short for 'work in progress' – any project that you've started but not yet finished.

Work straight**(also: work even)**

An instruction to continue a series of rows in a pattern without increasing or decreasing.

Working yarn

The strand of yarn currently in use (most likely to be mentioned in Fair Isle or intarsia patterns where several colours are swapped in and out).

Wrong side

The side of your knitting that will be the back (or the inside) once it's finished.

Yarn

Any fibre that's been spun into a strand so it can be knitted. The word 'yarn' is used instead of 'wool' in order to distinguish from actual wool!

Yarn over**(also: yarn forward)**

To make a new stitch by wrapping the yarn over the right-hand needle.



ABBREVIATIONS

It's easy to learn the language of knitting!

At first glance, you might think knitting patterns are written in another language. And they sort of are, but it's a simple enough language to understand. Patterns generally use a set of abbreviations that are sensible ways to shorten the description of techniques that you'll do regularly.

For example, knit is abbreviated to K, and purl is abbreviated to P. These letters are often accompanied by a number that

relates to the stitches. For example, K4 means 'knit 4 stitches'. This system creates a shorthand that makes patterns shorter and simpler. If all the instructions were written in full, some patterns would run to dozens of pages.

We'll have more on specific abbreviations in later chapters, once you start learning the techniques and practising them by making our simple projects. But if you see an abbreviation you don't understand, you can

just come back to this page. Just to be clear, our patterns use UK knitting terminology. Knitters in the UK and US use slightly different terms, such as 'stockinette stitch' in the US and 'stocking stitch' in the UK. However, the biggest differences are that the UK and US use different systems for yarn weights (see page 9 for more) and needle sizes (see page 13 for more). Aside from these areas, the differences are minor, so you can use patterns from anywhere.

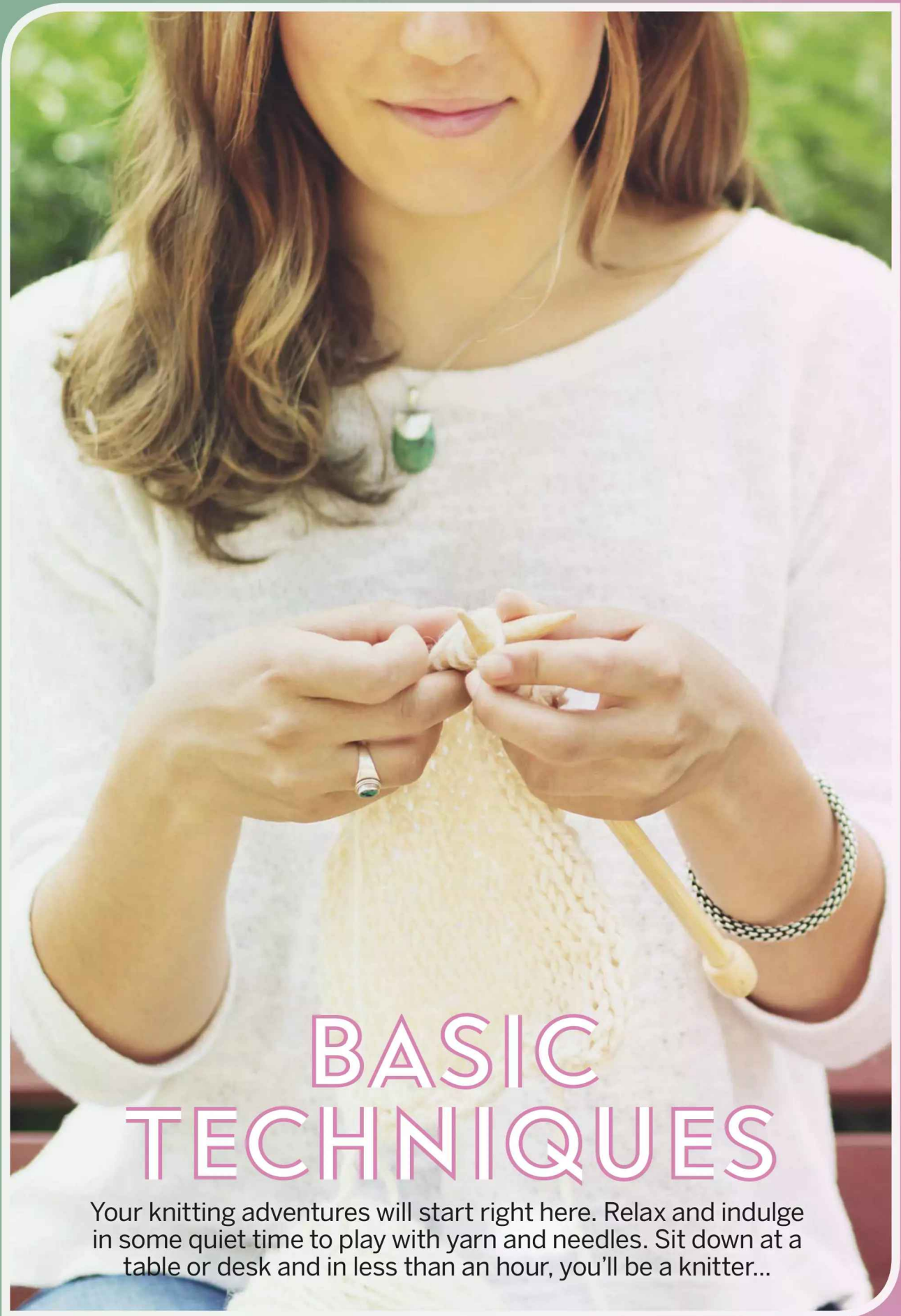
KNITTING

alt	alternate
approx	approximately
beg	beginning
CB	cable back
CC	contrast colour
CF	cable forward
CN	cable needle
cont	continue
dec	decrease (by working two stitches together)
DK	double knitting
DPN	double-pointed needle
fol/s	following/follows
g st	garter stitch (knit every row)
inc	increase (usually by working a kfb or M1 technique)
K/k	knit
kfb	knit into front and back of stitch
kwise	knitwise (as if to knit)
k2tog	knit the next two stitches together
LH	left hand
LT	left twist
meas	measures
M1	make one (increase 1 stitch)
M1L	make one twisted to the left (increase 1 stitch)
M1R	make one twisted to the right (increase 1 stitch)
MB	make a bobble
MC	main colour
P/p	purl
patt(s)	pattern(s)
patt	pattern repeat(s)
rep(s)	repeat(s)
PB	place bead
pfb	purl into front and back of stitch
PM	place marker
p2tog	purl 2 stitches together (1 stitch decreased)
p3tog	purl 3 stitches together (2 stitches decreased)

prev	previous
psso	pass slipped stitch over
p2sso	pass 2 slipped stitches over
pwise	purlwise (as if to purl)
rem	remain/remaining
rep(s)	repeat(s)
rev st st	reverse stocking stitch
RH	right hand
rnd(s)	round(s)
RS	right side
RT	right twist
skpo	slip 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch, pass slipped stitch over (1 stitch decreased)
sk2po	slip 1 stitch, knit 2 stitches together, pass slipped stitch over (2 stitches decreased)
sl	slip
sl st	slip stitch
ssk	slip 2 stitches one at a time, knit 2 slipped stitches together (1 stitch decreased)
ssp	slip 2 stitches one at a time, purl 2 slipped stitches together through back of the loops (1 stitch decreased)
sppo	slip 1 stitch, purl 1 stitch, pass slipped stitch over (1 stitch decreased)
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking or stockinette stitch
tbl	through the back of the stitch loop
tog	together
WS	wrong side
wyib	with yarn at the back
wyif	with yarn at the front
ybk	yarn to the back
yfwd	yarn forward
yo	yarn over
yrn	yarn round needle
yon	yarn over needle
*	work instructions immediately following *, then repeat as directed

CROCHET (UK)

across	to the end of the row
alt	alternate
approx	approximate(ly)
bet	between
bl	insert hook under back loop only. Example bldc – back loop double crochet
ch(s)	chain or chain stitch(es)
ch sp(s)	chain space(s)
cl(s)	clusters
cont	continue
dc	double crochet
dc2tog	work 2 dc together
dec	decrease
dtr	double treble crochet
dtr2tog	work 2 dtr together
fl	insert hook under front loop only. Example fldc – front loop double crochet
gr	group
hk	crochet hook
htr	half treble crochet
htr2tog	work 2htr together
in next	sts to be worked into same stitch
inc	increase
lp(s)	loop(s)
nc	not closed
p or pc	picot
rf	raised front
rb	Example: rfdc – raised front double crochet
rb	raised back
rbdc	Example: rbdc – raised back double crochet
sk	skip
ss/sl st	slip stitch
sp(s)	space(s)
st(s)	stitch(es)
t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
tr	treble crochet
tr2tog	work 2 tr together
tr tr	triple treble crochet
yrh	yarn round hook



BASIC TECHNIQUES

Your knitting adventures will start right here. Relax and indulge in some quiet time to play with yarn and needles. Sit down at a table or desk and in less than an hour, you'll be a knitter...

START KNITTING HERE

Time to pick up your needles and yarn and cast on...

Knitting really is easy when you know how, and this chapter will help you learn basic knitting know-how, with clear, step-by-step instructions for all the main techniques. With a bit of practice, you'll find that knitting is a fun and simple way to create cosy fabrics for all sorts of items, from fashion to homewares.

All you need to get started is a quiet place, where you won't be disturbed, and about an hour. You'll also need a pair of needles and some yarn. Anything you can get your hands on should be fine, although we recommend you use a smooth, wool or acrylic yarn, either double knitting (DK) weight with a pair of 4mm needles, or aran weight yarn with a pair of 5mm needles.

The important thing to remember is that every knitter is different, and what

works well for one might not suit another. There are also many styles of knitting, with different ways of holding the needles and working with the yarn to create knitted fabric. We'll show you the most commonly used methods, but you should do whatever feels most natural for you. Just experiment until you find a comfortable way of performing each technique, and don't worry if your preferred way is slightly different from ours, as long as the result is the same.

SIDE TO SIDE

All the instructions in our guide are for right-handed knitters. Some left-handed knitters will knit right-handedly, but if you'd like to knit left-handed, you'll need to reverse our instructions (switching all 'rights' for 'lefts' and vice versa). You might find it helps to place the pages in front of a

mirror and then you can copy the reflection of the images.

Many people are taught to knit by a friend or relative, while others prefer to learn from pictures or videos. You can use our guide to teach you how to knit, or you can use it as a reference once you've learned the basics. We're going to show you each technique in the order you'll use it, from cast-on to the knit stitch to cast-off. However, some people find the best way to learn is to ask someone else to cast on, then learn the knit stitch and how to cast off, then go back to learn how to cast on. We recommend a visit to a knitting group (many yarn shops hold sessions – it's well worth asking) if you have any trouble, as someone will help you get started. There's no right or wrong method, so do whatever works best for you. Good luck!



Editor Kirstie has taught lots of folk to knit



Groups like HotPins often knit for charity including baby units

*Take the plunge...
join a knitting club!*



A fabulous range of yarn is available at the shop where HotPins club meets

HOLD YOUR NEEDLES

Find a comfy way to hold your needles – not too tight!



PEN METHOD

Grab a pair of knitting needles and practise holding them, one in each hand. One of the most popular ways to hold a pair of needles is the pen method, shown here. Hold the left needle approx 5cm (2in) from the point, as if you're about to sharpen it like a pencil. In your right hand, hold the right needle as if you're about to write with it like a pencil.



KNIFE METHOD

Alternatively, try holding the right needle like you would hold a knife. Place your index finger further down the needle, away from the thumb. If this doesn't work for you either, just find a way that does! It may also change as you knit. Some knitters hold their needles like reins, while others even place one of the needles under their arm! However you hold the needles, try not to hold them too tight.



HOLDING YOUR YARN

Practise weaving the yarn between your fingers



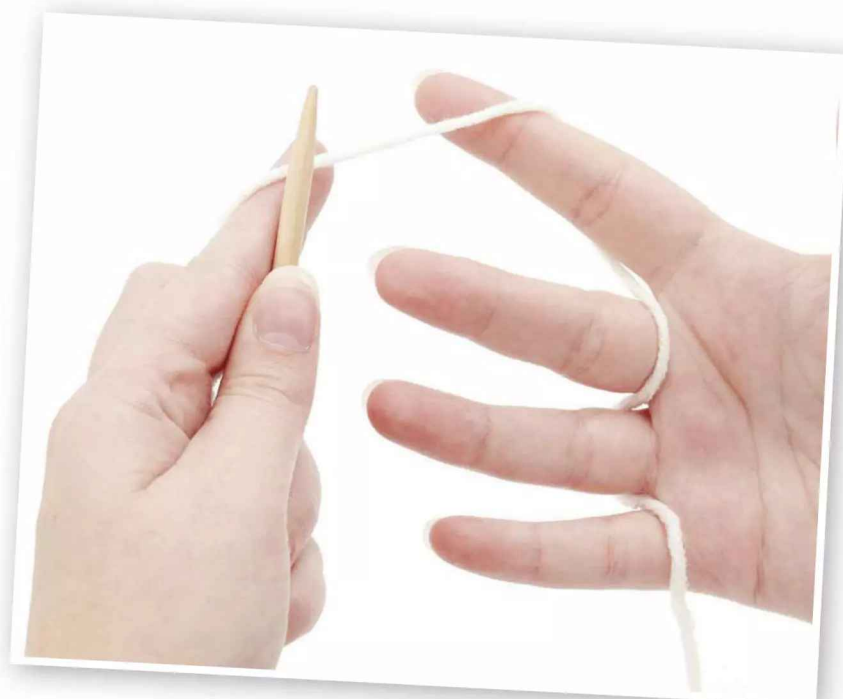
HOLD THE YARN

When you first start knitting, you'll probably hold the yarn a bit like this, grasping it with all your fingers or resting it in the palm of your right hand. You'll probably take your right hand off the right needle to move the yarn around the needle. This is called 'throwing' your yarn and it's fine to do this when you're starting out, although you might find it leads to a tight and uneven tension in your stitches (there'll be more on this later).



WEAVE THE YARN

Once you feel a bit more confident working the knit stitch, try weaving the yarn around your fingers, more like this. If you're doing a lot of knitting, this method will help your fabric grow faster and more easily. Most knitters prefer to hold the yarn in this way, using the tip of the index finger to guide the yarn around the needle, without taking your right hand off the needle at all. Weave the yarn in and out of your fingers in a way that you find comfortable – some knitters wrap it around their little finger, too.



MAKE A SLIPKNOT

Start knitting by making one simple loop

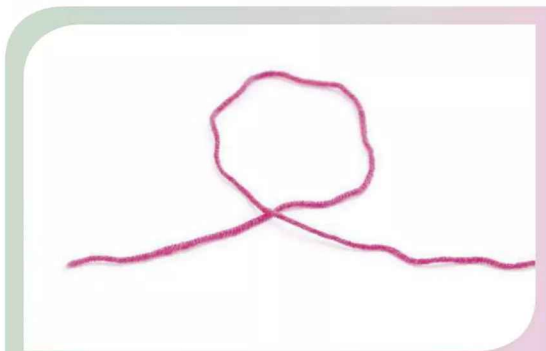
When you get down to the very basics, knitting is simply a series of loops, all pulled through one another to create a fabric. So the first loop, the slipknot, is very important to get right and give you a good foundation. A good knit relies on a good knot! But don't worry, it's not hard, and

you may even have made slipknots when you were younger. Take your time and practise making a few – it may seem monotonous but it will pay off in the end.

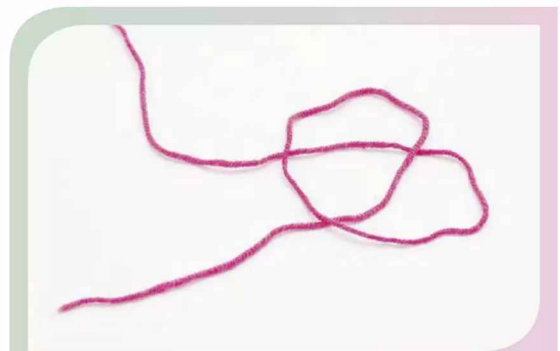
When you create slipknots for casting on, make sure you leave a fairly long tail of yarn at the end, at least approximately 10cm (4in) in length. This way, you can be

sure it won't unravel and it will be easier to weave into your knitting at the end.

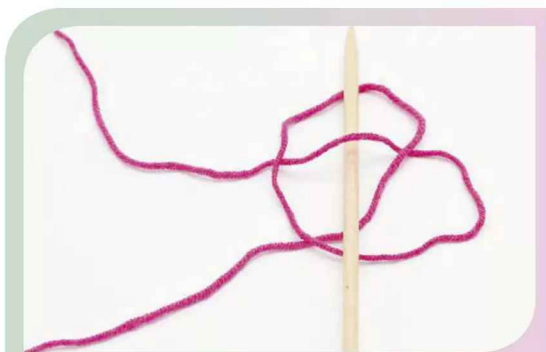
Remember, while you'll need to pull it firmly, don't make your slipknot too tight once it's on the needle. It needs to be able to move along the needle, and if it's a bit looser then it will be easier to knit on the next row. So what are you waiting for?



1 Take your yarn and make a loop as shown here, with the tail end of yarn on the left, and the ball end on the right. Make sure the ball end of yarn is on top of the tail end.



2 Now bring the ball end of yarn around from the right, lift the loop slightly and run the ball end of yarn underneath the loop, forming a straight line, as shown above.



3 Take your knitting needle and place it under the straight line you just formed, but over the top of the needle, as shown here.



4 Hold on to the tail end and the ball end together. In the other hand, pull the needle away to form the slipknot. Pull on the ball end until the slipknot comfortably holds the needle. Now you can cast on!

HOW TO CAST ON

Create your first row of stitches on the needle

The first technique you need to learn in knitting is casting on. There are many different ways to cast on, but here we'll show you two easy methods to get started.

If you're right-handed, you'll cast your stitches on to the left-hand needle. If you're left-handed, you can either knit 'right-handed' and follow the instructions

accordingly, or mirror them and cast your stitches on to the right-hand needle. To practise casting on, use double knitting yarn and a pair of 4mm needles, and cast on 22 stitches.

When you cast on, the stitches you create should be firm. If they're too loose, the edge of your fabric will flare; too tight and the bottom of your fabric will pull in

and pucker. If you find that your cast-on is tight, use the next largest needle size up, just for the cast-on. If it's too loose, opt for a smaller needle size instead.

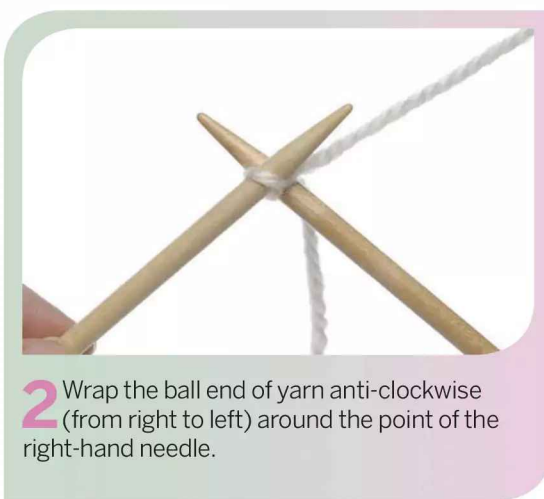
Don't worry if your cast-on row looks uneven when you first try it. Practice makes perfect, so pull all the yarn off the needle and have another go. Once you can cast on, you can get going!

KNIT-ON METHOD

Also called the English method. Use it for a firm edge, and when adding stitches on mid-row



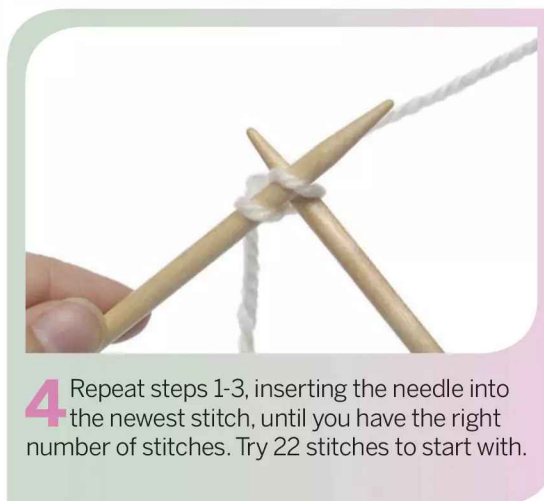
1 Make a slipknot. Insert the right-hand needle into the slipknot, as if to knit – insert the tip into the front of the stitch, from left to right.



2 Wrap the ball end of yarn anti-clockwise (from right to left) around the point of the right-hand needle.



3 Pull the loop of yarn through the slipknot with the right-hand needle. Slip this loop over the tip of the left-hand needle.



4 Repeat steps 1-3, inserting the needle into the newest stitch, until you have the right number of stitches. Try 22 stitches to start with.

THUMB METHOD

A very quick cast-on technique – use it for a stretchy edge



1 Make a slipknot and place it on a needle, leaving a long tail. Try a length about three times the width of the project you want to make. Wrap the yarn around your thumb.



2 Hold the tail in your left hand with your thumb sticking up. Make a circle anti-clockwise with your thumb. You should end up with a cross on the front of your thumb.



3 Push the needle tip up along the pad of your thumb so it passes through the loop. Wrap the yarn anti-clockwise (right to left) under the tip of the needle then dip the tip of the needle between the arms of the cross.



4 Slip your thumb out and pull to tighten the stitch on the needle. Continue in this way, sliding each stitch up so it sits comfortably next to the previous one. Keep going until you have the number of stitches you require.

OTHER CAST-ONS

There are many more ways to start off your knitting...

There are plenty of other cast-on techniques, so if you don't get on with either of these two, have a look online or in some other knitting books to find different ways to cast on.

The cable cast-on is very similar to the knit-on method. You make the first two stitches in the same way. Then, instead of inserting the right needle into the next stitch as if to knit it, you insert the needle between the first two stitches. Wrap the yarn around and pull a loop through, then place the loop back onto the left-hand needle to form a new stitch. The cable cast-on forms a relatively firm edge, and

it's very decorative. It's not very elastic, so it's better for adult garments and accessories than hats or children's items where a bit more stretch is important.

The long-tail cast on uses two strands of yarn, making stitches using the tail end of the yarn. You have to leave a very long tail of yarn to do this with, depending on how many stitches are required – you don't want to run out! To estimate the length you need, count 2.5cm (1in) for every stitch then add 15cm (6in) for weaving in. This method, like the thumb method, has a good amount of stretch built in, so both

will work well for items like socks and hats, as well as children's garments. There are also various methods of loop cast-on that you can use, including the finger loop cast-on, alternating loop cast-on and the double twist loop cast-on. These can create firm or stretchy edges, which are helpful for different types of projects.

Our advice for beginners is to stick with one method, unless a pattern instructs you to use a specific technique. By the time you reach that stage, you'll be so confident with your knitting that you'll easily be able to learn a new cast-on.

THE BASIC KNIT STITCH

This simple stitch is the foundation of all your knitting

Once you've learned to cast on some stitches, you can practise knitting them. If you know a knitter, ask them to cast on for you so you can try knitting before learning to cast on.

The knit stitch is the most important stitch you'll learn. It forms the basis of every other stitch, there are plenty of patterns that use nothing else, and the good news is that it's really easy! To

practise the knit stitch, you'll need to have cast on some stitches onto your left-hand needle (if you're right-handed), or your right-hand needle if you want to knit left-handedly.

We recommend you use double knitting (DK) yarn and a pair of 4mm needles. About 22 stitches is a good number to cast on and practise with. When you knit to the end of the first row,

all your stitches will now be on the right-hand needle (if you're right-handed). Swap the needles over and you'll be ready to knit the second row. Keep going in this way until you feel comfortable with the technique – 28 rows is a good number and should form a square. Don't worry if it looks uneven or a bit holey – practice makes perfect. Cast on some more stitches and have another go.



1 Hold the needle with the stitches on it in your left hand. Keeping the yarn in your right hand and at the back of your work, insert the point of the right needle into the front loop of the first stitch, bottom to top.



2 Wind the yarn anti-clockwise around the point of the right-hand needle using your index finger. It's important to keep the yarn in your right hand relatively taut to maintain an even tension as you go.



3 Bring the right-hand needle through the loop, towards the front of your work, being sure to catch the yarn you wound around the needle. This creates the stitch. Don't pull the free yarn too tightly, let out some slack.



4 Push the right needle further through the new stitch, then move the right needle to your right, taking the original loop off the left needle. You've created one knit stitch. Repeat steps 1-4 across the row.

GARTER STITCH

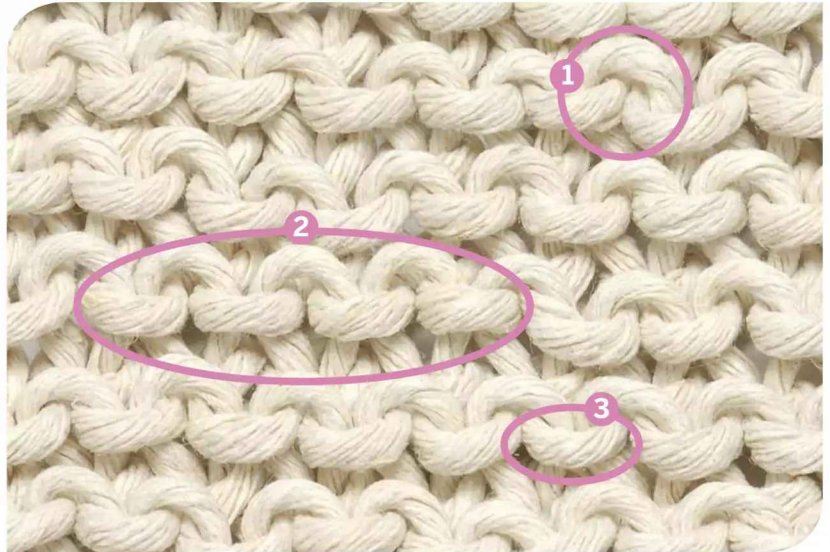
It may be the first – and simplest – stitch pattern you'll learn, but you can do a lot with it!

Knitners tend to describe the specific patterned effect created on the knitted fabric as a 'stitch pattern'. If you knit every stitch on every row, back and forth, you'll create what's called a garter stitch pattern, or a piece of garter stitch fabric. On the right, you can see an example – you'll see that the pattern creates rows of wavy bumps. Garter stitch looks the same on both sides so it can be reversible. The wavy bumps are nicely spaced out, with rows of small 'v' shapes sitting in between each row of bumps.

Garter stitch fabric is very easy to create and is the first stitch pattern that every new knitter works. It's sometimes accused of being boring, but garter stitch is actually very versatile. Also known as plain knitting, garter stitch can be used for borders and hems on garments, as well as used for edgings on large pieces like throws and blankets. It's also super-cute for baby knits.

Garter stitch (abbreviated to 'g st') creates a thick fabric with good drape – it tends to lie flat rather than curling up at the edges like stocking stitch (more on this later). This means it's really useful for scarves or scarf edges, and won't roll up.

Once you've practised working the knit stitch to make garter stitch fabric, have a go at our simple project over the page.



① ONE STITCH

Each stitch forms a loop that goes around and through a stitch on the row below.

② TWO ROWS

This is what two rows of garter stitch look like. One row has the wavy bumps, the other row has small 'v' shapes. When you need to count rows, use the rows with wavy bumps and remember each one of these represents two rows of knitting.

③ PURL BUMPS

The little lumpy bits in garter stitch are sometimes referred to as purl bumps, especially on US patterns.

HIP TO BE SQUARE

Knit up a square or two of each stitch pattern you practise making, using different colours if you want to, then sew them all together to make a gorgeous throw or blanket! Use the size of needles recommended on the yarn's ball band and cast on enough stitches to create a 10cm (4in) square, or a slightly larger 15cm (6in) square. If you are using DK yarn, use 4mm needles and about 22 stitches to make a 10cm (4in) square, or 33 stitches to make a 15cm (6in) square. For a garter stitch square, knit every row until you have a square shape. As you build up more squares, your cosy throw will become a great stitch pattern reference guide.



GARTER STITCH TEXTURE

Garter stitch is fab when knitting with textured yarns like fur, fleece or eyelash yarn. The pile is so dense that it's hard to tell what stitch you've used, so you can get great results with just the quick knit stitch!



KNIT COWL

Keep warm in **Jo Allport's** simple stocking stitch neckwarmer



EASY TO KNIT

YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Design Essentials Super Super Chunky (50% acrylic, 50% wool, 100g/100m ball)
- 1 ball in Salmon (shade 23)
- A pair of 10mm needles or a 10mm circular needle, 80cm long

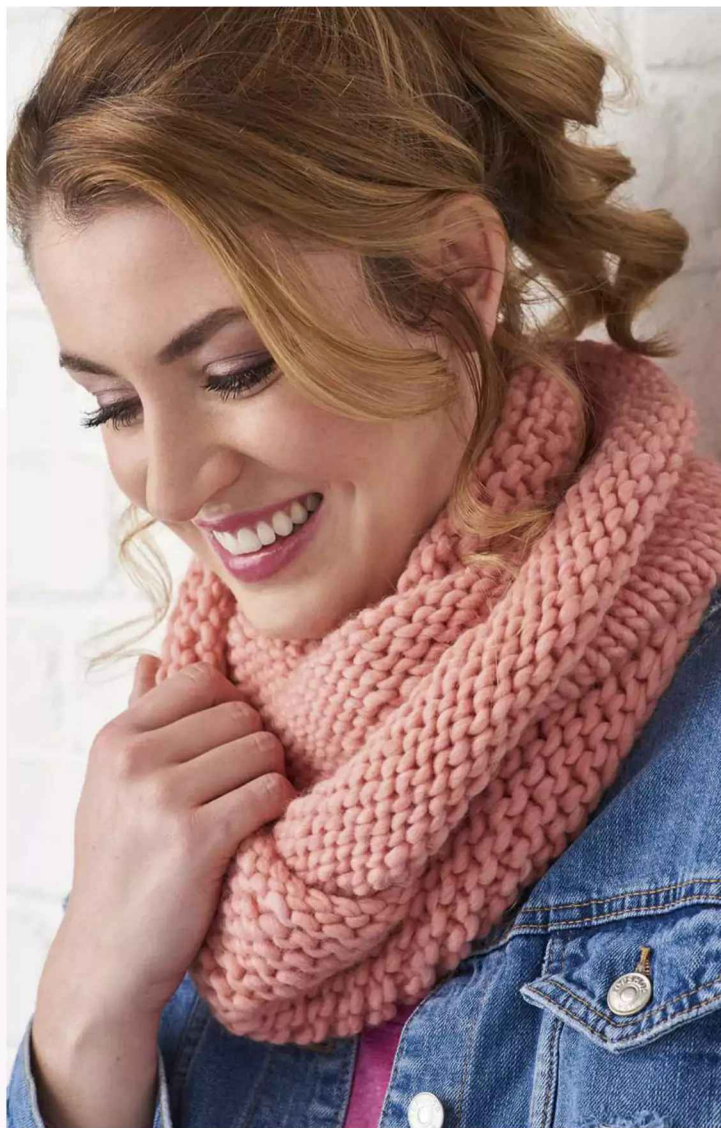
For yarn stockists contact LoveCrafts 01409 404010 www.lovecrafts.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as super chunky to this tension:
9 sts and 13½ rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 10mm needles

TOP TIP

The cowl is worked in an attractive mix of garter stitch and stocking stitch. It uses such big needles that it will knit up very quickly, but the weight of the yarn can get heavy, so don't forget to take regular breaks!



If you're looking for a really quick and easy knit that'll keep you toasty just when you need it, then this gorgeous cowl by Jo Allport is the accessory to knit and wear. Worked in Rico Super Super Chunky, which is a snuggly wool/acrylic mix, it's worked in garter stitch and stocking stitch on 10mm needles.

Many knitters find it much easier to work a large number of stitches (especially super super chunky ones!) back and forth on a circular needle than on straight needles because the circular needle will support the weight of the stitches better than straight needles. Give it a go and see which method you prefer.

COWL

Cast on 119 sts using 10mm needles. Knit 3 rows.


Next row (Right side) Knit.

Next row (Wrong side) Purl 1 stitch, knit 57 stitches, purl 61 stitches.

Repeat the last 2 rows 11 times more, ending with a wrong side row. Knit 4 rows.

Cast off all sts.

MAKING UP

Sew the side seams together. Mattress stitch will give you the neatest finish (see page 119). Weave in the ends. 

Cowls like these make great quick gifts for your friends and family!



HOW TO CAST OFF

Here's how to finish off your knitted piece

Now you've learned how to cast on, you've mastered the knit stitch and made some garter stitch fabric, it's time to finish off your piece of knitting to give a neat edge – this is called casting off, the opposite of casting on. Some patterns will call it 'binding off' instead – these are usually US ones. When you come to the end of your knitted item, it's important to cast

off properly, to make sure all the knitted loops you've worked don't unravel.

There are lots of different ways to cast off, but the one shown below is the simplest cast-off technique and the one that you'll use most. To practise casting off, you'll need to cast on some stitches onto your left needle – about 22 stitches is a good number to practise with, using double knitting (DK) yarn and a pair of

4mm needles. Then just knit a couple of rows in garter stitch before casting off all the stitches. Remember to try not to hold your needles too tightly or to pull the stitches too tightly as you go. If the cast-off is too tight, it will bunch up and won't lie flat. Don't worry if your casting off looks uneven – just try again. Undo your work, cast on some more stitches, and give it another go.



1 Start by knitting the first two stitches of the row as normal, but don't go any further along as you usually would.



2 Insert the left-hand needle through the first stitch on the right-hand needle, as shown. Lift this stitch over the other stitch on the right-hand needle and off the needle point.



3 Knit another stitch so you have two on the right needle again. Use the left needle to lift the first stitch over the second stitch, as shown in step 2. Repeat this process all the way to the end of the row.



4 When you only have one stitch left on the right-hand needle, cut the yarn about 15cm (6in) away. Feed it through the last stitch and pull through firmly to fasten off.

WEAVE IN YARN ENDS

How to neaten up your finished projects

After all your knitting efforts, it's worth taking the time to finish your work properly. After casting off, if you've done as we advised and left approx 15cm (6in) tail end before you cut the yarn, you'll have ends at both your cast-on and cast-off corners. These will look rather straggly unless you do something with them. To create a neat finish, patterns will instruct that you

'weave in ends'. This is very simple and just requires using a large-eyed needle with a blunt tip. There are no strict rules about how to weave in these ends – they just need to be secure, and invisible from the front. It's a good idea to weave the yarn tail in different directions to prevent it from working its way out over time.

As you progress to more complex knitted patterns, you might find you have

yarn tail ends in other places, such as halfway up a back piece for a garment. Here you can weave yarn ends through the backs of stitches on the wrong side of your work. Using a large-eyed needle, weave the yarn in and out of the wavy bumps, first going in one direction for about 5cm, and then back in the other direction. Make sure they lie flat and that the yarn isn't visible from the front.



1 After casting off your final row of stitches, fasten off the final stitch by passing the tail end of yarn through the loop of the last stitch. Pull the yarn end to tighten it up and form a neat edge to the knitted fabric.



2 At the cast-on or cast-off corners, thread the tail end of yarn onto a large-eyed needle with a blunt tip. You'll sometimes see this type of needle called a tapestry or a darning needle, depending on the size and manufacture.



3 Weave the tapestry needle in and out of the stitches down the side of the knitted fabric, away from the corner. Pull the yarn tail taut but not too tight. Make sure the yarn is not visible from the right side of the fabric.



4 Turn the needle around and weave it in and out of the backs of the stitches in the other direction. Repeat until you're sure the yarn won't unravel. Cut off any excess yarn, near the fabric edge.

MADE TO MEASURE

Get those lengths and widths spot on with our collection of tape measures



1 Take a trip back in time with the beautiful Sajou Wooden Tape Measure. A vintage-style option with a cherrywood stain, the measuring tape unwinds by pulling on the end ring and is rewound by turning the small knob on top of the tape measure. It is 2.5cm in height (not including the knob) and comes with either red, blue or pink ribbon and Sajou embroidery. **£17.50, visit www.loopknittingshop.com to buy**

2 and **6** These adorable tape measures are a perfect pick-me-up for any crafter. Available in two designs – fox or floral – each tape measure is retractable, measures in cm and inches and comes in its own charming craft box. Both tape measures offer 150cm total measuring length and will fit neatly into your craft bag or pouch, too. **£4.20 each, visit www.pocketcraftsupplies.etsy.com to buy**

3 If simplicity is your mantra you'll love this plain and simple Hemline tape measure. Nice and light in colour, it's a breeze to find in the dark depths of your crochet bag. Merrily measure up to 150cm in length in either cm or inches, then use its neat retractable action to tidy up quickly and carry on knitting! **£2.89, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk or call 01926 882818**

4 We love polka dots! Perky and pretty no matter what the occasion, they certainly bring a smile to the face. Extend your love of all things dotty with this sweet tape measure. Available in grey, green, pink, lilac and fawn (seen here), its sturdy plastic case houses the retractable tape measure so that it doesn't get caught in your WIP. **£2.69 plus postage, visit www.n28store.etsy.com to buy**

5 Have fun while you knit and pick up an oh-so-cute panda tape measure that comes with a rigid fibreglass case and long, strong tape measure. Featuring measurements in both cm and inches, it measures up to 60in when fully extended, perfect for those sleeves. **£3.55, visit www.woolstack.co.uk to buy or call 01242 300280**

THE BASIC PURL STITCH

The perfect companion to rows of knit stitches

Once you've learned the knit stitch, you'll find the purl stitch easy peasy. To make purl stitches, you just reverse the action of making plain knit stitches.

To practise the purl stitch, cast on some stitches onto your left needle (if you're right-handed). We recommend you use double knitting (DK) yarn, a pair of 4mm needles and about 22 stitches to

practise with. Follow the instructions below, then once you get to the end of the first row, all your stitches will be on the right-hand needle. Swap the needles over and you'll be ready for the second row.

Purling will feel different because you're working at the front of the needles rather than at the back, so keep going until you feel happy that you've got it and you're comfortable with the technique

– 28 rows is a good number and should form a square. Don't worry if it looks uneven – you can unpick your stitches, cast on some more and have another go.

If you alternate rows of knitting and purling like this, you'll create stocking stitch (see right). If you purl every row, because purl stitches are like knit stitches worked in reverse, you'll create garter stitch again!



1 Holding the needle with all the stitches in your left hand, and ensuring that the yarn is at the front of your work, insert the right-hand needle from right to left through the front loop of the stitch, as shown.



2 Wind the yarn around the tip of the right-hand needle from right to left, in an anti-clockwise motion, constantly keeping a slight tension on the yarn.



3 Now move the right-hand needle back through the stitch, behind the left-hand needle, ensuring that you catch the loop of yarn that you've wound around the needle. This creates a stitch on your right needle.



4 Pushing the point of the right needle a little further through the stitch you've created, pull the original stitch up and off the left-hand needle. That's your first purl stitch! Repeat steps 1-4 across the row.

STOCKING STITCH

This versatile fabric forms the basis of most knitting

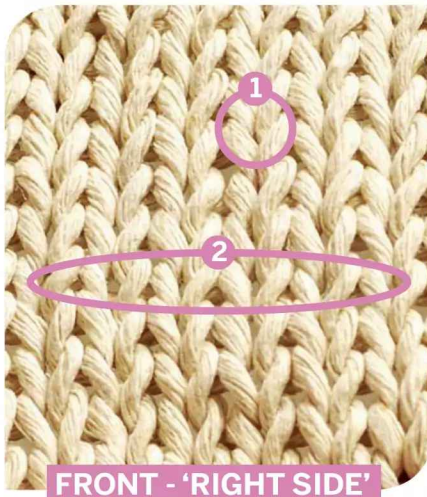
After garter stitch, the next stitch pattern for you to master is stocking stitch. This is the most commonly used pattern in knitting. To work stocking stitch, you simply knit all the stitches of one row, then purl all the stitches of the next row, then knit a row, then purl a row, and so on, alternating rows of knit and purl.

Below is an example of what stocking stitch fabric looks like. On the wrong side of the fabric, it looks similar to garter stitch, but the wavy bumps are much closer

together. On the right side of the fabric, all the stitches form 'v' shapes. Knowing whether you're working a right side or wrong side row is vital to making sure you complete a pattern correctly.

Stocking stitch is abbreviated as 'st st' and sometimes called stockinette stitch, especially in the US. It's simple to create and is the style everyone associates with knitwear. Stocking stitch makes a smooth, flexible fabric, perfect for toys or softly draping jumpers. You'll notice, though, that

the fabric has a tendency to curl at the sides, so it's best not to use it for narrow knitting, such as scarves, because you'll end up with a tube. Sometimes patterns ask you to use reverse stocking stitch (abbreviated as 'rev st st'). Put simply, this is where the side with the wavy bumps becomes the right side. This creates a totally different look that's very popular. Once you've practised making stocking stitch fabric, have a go at our simple project over the page.



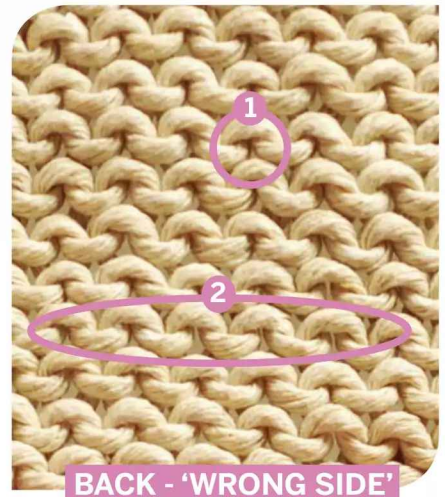
FRONT - 'RIGHT SIDE'

1 NEXT ROW

Not sure which stitch to start with? If the smooth side (with the 'v's) is facing you then you need to work a knit row. If the side with the wavy bumps is facing you, you'll need to work a purl row.

2 OUT FOR THE COUNT

To count rows in stocking stitch, either count each row of 'v's on the knit side (as shown left) or the top bumps of the ridges on the purl side (as shown right).



BACK - 'WRONG SIDE'

HIP TO BE SQUARE

For every stitch pattern that you practise, knit up a square or two, using different colours if you want to. Then sew them all together to make a fab throw that will become a great reference guide as well. Try using DK yarn, a pair of 4mm needles and about 22 stitches to make a 10cm (4in) square, or 33 stitches to make a slightly larger 15cm (6in) square. Knit the first row, purl the second row, and so on, knitting all odd-numbered rows and purling all even-numbered rows.

Work until you have a square, then cast off. Remember to have the yarn at the back of your needles for a knit row, and move it to the front for a purl row.



STOCKING STITCH TEXTURE

Fabric knitted in stocking stitch is perfect for baby garments because it washes well, it's warm and it has no loops where tiny fingers and toes could get caught.



GARTER BOW

By Becky Skuse



EASY TO KNIT

YOU WILL NEED

- Any DK-weight yarn, approx 10g
- A pair of 4mm straight needles
- A pair of scissors
- A large-eyed, blunt sewing needle (sometimes called a tapestry needle)
- A tape measure

TENSION

Tension is not critical for the bow. Our finished bow measures approx 6x12cm (2½x5in)

ABBREVIATIONS

We've written out this pattern in full to make it easier for you to follow, but for your reference, you'll find a long list of commonly-used abbreviations on page 24

TOP TIP

You really won't need much yarn to make this, so try it with anything you can find. If your yarn is thicker than ours is, it just means you'll end up with a bigger bow!



Don't worry if your edges look a little uneven. It can be tricky to make them look tidy, but your bow will still look great!

HOW TO MAKE THE GARTER STITCH BOW

Make a slipknot and place it onto one of your needles. Tighten it up and place the needle in your left hand.

Cast on 15 stitches onto the needle in your left hand, using either the knit-on method or the thumb method.

*Insert the right-hand needle into the first stitch on the left-hand needle and knit the stitch. Knit every stitch to the end of the row.

All the stitches will now be on the right-hand needle. Swap the needles over in your hands, so that the needle with all the stitches is in your left hand again.

Repeat from *.

Keep working in this way until your rectangle measures 12cm (5in) long.

Cast off all the stitches from the left-hand needle using the empty right-hand needle, following the instructions opposite, then fasten off.

Using the tapestry needle, weave the cast-on and cast-off yarn tails into the fabric, following the instructions on page 36. Trim off any excess yarn neatly using your scissors.

BOW CENTRE

Cut a piece of yarn to measure approx 50cm (20in), fold it in half and insert the rectangle in between the folded yarn.

Tie the yarn in a knot halfway along your rectangle, making sure it's pleated in an attractive way to form a bow shape.

Now wrap the yarn around the centre of the rectangle until it's approx 1.5cm (½in) wide and fairly dense.

Knot the two ends of yarn again and use the tapestry needle to weave the ends in so that they're no longer visible.

Trim off the excess yarn ends neatly using your scissors. ●

TENSION SQUARES

Knitting a tension square to check your gauge is a sure-fire way to create knits that'll fit you like a glove – our quick read shows you how

For great results from your knitting it's very important to ensure that you have the correct tension – this determines how large or small your garment will be in the end. The tension you need to knit to is governed by your needle size and is usually stated in the knitting pattern and on the yarn's ball band. Before starting any project, it's a good idea to knit a small square with the yarn, called a tension square. Some knitters see this as a chore, but it's really important if you want a garment that fits well and looks fantastic. If your tension is too tight, your garment will come up smaller or shorter and might not fit you properly; if your tension is too loose, you'll find that the garment is too baggy.

HOW TO MAKE A SQUARE

To make a square to check your tension or gauge, use the yarn and size of needles that the pattern states. Most often, you'll find that the instructions given are for a 10x10cm (4x4in) square, but to correctly measure your tension, we recommend that you make a square at least 15x15cm (6x6in) in size. When you've completed the square, pin it to a padded surface (we used a firm cushion), as pictured right, and gently smooth it out, being careful that you don't distort the stitches.

STITCH TENSION

To work out the stitch tension, use a pin as a marker and insert it vertically between two stitches. Then, using a rigid ruler, horizontally measure 10cm (4in) and place another pin in the fabric. Count the number of stitches between the two pins. If your tension corresponds with that given in the pattern you can start knitting. However, if you have more stitches than is stated in the pattern's tension guide, it means that your knitting is too tight; try making another square knitted on needles that are one size bigger. If you have fewer stitches than is stated in the pattern's tension guide, then your tension is too loose, so try knitting another square on smaller needles. Continue increasing and



decreasing needle sizes until you get as close as possible to the tension stated in the pattern.

ROW TENSION

To check row tension, horizontally insert a pin and measure 10cm (4in) vertically and insert another pin. Count the rows between pins and if they correspond with the pattern, your row tension is fine. If there are more or fewer rows, use smaller or larger needles to create another square. If the row tension is only slightly out (such as half a row to one row), it shouldn't make too much difference to the final garment, especially because most patterns instruct you to knit the piece to a certain length.

FOR A DIFFERENT YARN

Use a tension square if you have an old

pattern that was intended for a now discontinued yarn and you want to make up the garment in a yarn of the same weight. For example, if you want to make a DK jumper, buy a similar DK yarn and work a tension square until you get the tension stated in the pattern.

TOP TIP

Use tension swatches to test how a yarn washes, to unravel for finishing off if you run out of yarn (!), and to test how a yarn washes. Or keep them to record how a yarn knits up.

All about... DROPPED STITCHES

So, you've lost a stitch somewhere – there's no need to worry! All you need is a crochet hook and a little bit of know-how...

Even if they've been knitting for years, every knitter makes mistakes and has to 'rip back' or undo their knitting (also known as 'frogging' – 'rip it' – geddit?) sometimes. But knowing what to do to fix your mistakes will make it much less scary when you do make an error.

Every now and then, you're bound to drop a stitch and find yourself with a sneaky little hole or even a long ladder in your fabric. If you notice it straight away that helps, but even if not, never fear – just follow our simple guide below to put things right. In no time at all, no one will be any the wiser and you can get on with your knitting!

How can I find my place again?

As soon as you spot an error, make a note of how many rows back it is. That way, after you've repaired the mistake, you'll find it easier to continue knitting from the pattern again



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DROP A STITCH?

Dropping a stitch happens when a stitch slips off your needle as you're knitting, leaving you with a loop that should be on a needle but isn't. If it's not picked up quickly, you'll soon notice a hole.

I'M MISSING A STITCH – WHAT NOW?

First of all, don't panic, it's not difficult to fix. A dropped stitch is easier to rescue when it occurs a row or two down from where you are, so pick it up again as soon as you can rather than letting it ladder.

CAN I PREVENT IT?

The best thing to do is to look at your knitted fabric frequently. Check that you've got the right number of stitches on your needle according to your pattern. If you count them every couple of rows or so, you'll soon notice if a stitch has disappeared.

HOW TO PICK UP A DROPPED STITCH SEVERAL ROWS DOWN

To put this right, you'll need a crochet hook or two. Use a small one (try 3mm) for fine yarns, and a large one (5.5mm) for thicker yarns. Always work from the knit side of your work, whether you've dropped a knit or a purl stitch.

DROPPED STITCH ON THE ROW BELOW?

A If you've dropped a knit stitch, simply follow our step-by-step guide and the photos below to put things right.



1 Insert your right-hand needle from front to back into the loop to stop it unravelling any further down. Now you've got the stitch on your needle.



2 Next, pick up the loose strand of yarn above it. Slip the point of the right needle under the loose strand of yarn. The strand should sit behind the stitch.



3 Insert the left-hand needle through the stitch. Lift the stitch over the strand and off the needle. You will have remade the dropped stitch.



4 It's on the wrong needle, so put the point of the left-hand needle through the front of the stitch and slip it on to the left-hand needle so it faces the right way.

B A dropped purl stitch is just as easy to pick up. Here's how...

1 Insert your right-hand needle from back to front into the loop to stop it unravelling any further down. Now you've got the stitch on your needle.

2 Pick up the loose strand of yarn by slipping the point of the right needle, from back to front, under the loose strand of yarn. The strand should sit in front of the stitch.

3 Insert the left-hand needle through the back of the stitch, then lift the stitch over the strand and off the needle. You will now have remade the purl stitch.

4 It's on the wrong needle, so put the point of the left-hand needle through the front of the stitch and slip it on to the left-hand needle.

TOP TIP

Keep a couple of different sizes of crochet hook in your knitting kit, so you're always prepared in case of disaster! Cheap, basic metal or plastic ones will work very well.



1 Knit up to the last stitch before the 'ladder'. Look down the ladder to find the loop of the stitch. Insert the crochet hook from front to back through the loop of the dropped stitch. Use a hook smaller than your needles.



2 With the hook pointing up, insert it under the first ladder rung. These horizontal rungs correspond to the places where the vertical loops of your knitting usually are.



3 Pull the ladder rung through the loose stitch. Repeat until you've taken the stitch all the way back up. The further down your stitch was, the tighter the rungs will be, but try to get them through.



4 Now transfer the stitch from the crochet hook to your left-hand needle, without twisting it. Finish the row and you're done! Don't worry if the knitting looks a bit odd, the tension will work itself out.

RIBBING STITCHES

Create stretchy hems with knit and purl stitches

So far, we've only shown you how to work whole rows of knit or purl stitches. The next step is to learn how to alternate between knit and purl stitches on the same row – this will create a rib stitch pattern, also known as ribbing, used for hems, cuffs and edges.

You might have noticed that when you knit stitches, you keep the working yarn at the back of the fabric, and when you

purl stitches, the yarn stays at the front of the fabric. When you switch between knit and purl stitches on the same row, you need to move the working yarn into the correct position (back for knit and front for purl), ready to work the next stitch (see below). You'll need to move the yarn like this between every stitch.

When you alternate one knit stitch and one purl stitch, you'll create a stretchy 1x1

rib fabric that keeps its shape yet remains flexible. To practise knitting rib stitch, cast on an even number of stitches and start with a knit stitch on every row. Work knit one stitch (K1), purl one stitch (P1) until you reach the end of the row.

Just remember, where you've worked a knit stitch on one side of the knitting, you will need to work a purl stitch into the other side, and vice versa.



1 With your working yarn at the back of your work, start off with a standard knit stitch, and knit it in the normal way.



2 Next, purl a stitch, but before you do it, you need to bring the working yarn to the front of your work. Bring the yarn through the needles to the front, as shown above.



3 You will have worked a yf (yarn front) or yfwd (yarn forward) or wyif (with yarn in front). Now, with the working yarn moved to the front of the fabric, carry on and purl the next stitch as normal.



4 Next, you need to knit a stitch, so take the working yarn back through your needles. This is called yb (yarn back) or wyib (with yarn in back). Knit the next stitch. Repeat steps 2-4 to create 1x1 rib.

BASIC RIB STITCH

Stretchy and elastic, rib stitch makes it simple to shape your hems and cuffs

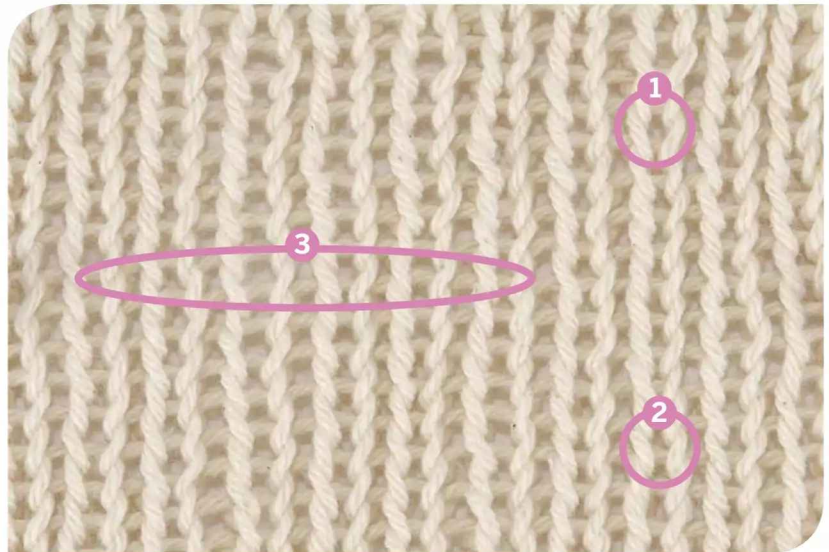
Rib is a combination of regular numbers of knit and purl stitches knitted along the same row. The simplest rib is usually a 1x1 rib, which you can practise (see left). You'll usually see it written in patterns as 'Work in a 1x1 rib' or '*K1, P1; repeat from *'. Rib patterns usually (though not always) extend across the whole row.

BACK AND FORTH

As your piece of rib knitting grows, the knit and purl stitches will form defined columns. Don't forget, whichever row you're on, you will need to move your yarn to the front of the work before you purl, and then take it to the back again before you do a knit stitch. If you think you've gone wrong, just look down the column or 'rib' to make sure the knit stitch 'v's and the purl bumps are in the right positions.

A BIT OF GENTLE RIBBING

The rib columns produce a flat fabric that won't roll up at the edges like stocking stitch. They make a stretchy fabric that's perfect for creating waistbands, cuffs, hems and necklines, but you can also use rib by itself as your main pattern. It will hold its shape well and means you can create figure-hugging garments without having to do too much shaping.



1 ONE KNIT STITCH

Each knit stitch forms a v-shape that's prominent on the rib fabric. If you're not sure which stitch you're working next, look at whether the stitch on the row below is a v-shape (knit) or a wavy bump (purl).

2 ONE PURL STITCH

While you're knitting, you'll see the purl bumps clearly. Once the fabric is off the needles, they'll sink in and those stitches will be more prominent on the reverse.

3 ONE RIB ROW

Each row of rib includes a combination of knit and purl stitches. The knit stitches will look more raised than the purl stitches. When you need to count rows of rib, just treat it like stocking stitch and count the rows of 'v's on one side.

HIP TO BE SQUARE

Knit up a square or two of each stitch pattern you practise, using different colours if you want to. Then sew them all together to make a gorgeous throw! Use the needle size recommended on the yarn's ball band and following the tension guide, cast on enough stitches to make a 10cm (4in) square, or a slightly larger 15cm (6in) square. Then knit every row in a K1, P1 rib until you have a square, then cast off. Turn over to page 47 to find four more variations on rib stitches to add to your repertoire. As you build up more stitches with more squares, your cosy throw will also become a handy stitch pattern reference guide for you to use.



RIBBING TEXTURE

Rib stitches are ideal for hems, cuffs, neckbands and other edgings. They're vital when you're making socks, to help them stay up! They'll also work with any yarn.



RIBBED BAND

Kirstie McLeod's pretty headband is knitted in an ebb-and-flow rib stitch



EASY TO KNIT

YOU WILL NEED

- West Yorkshire Spinners ColourLab (DK, 100% wool, 100g/245m), 1 ball of Deep Teal (716)
- A pair of 4mm needles

For yarn stockists contact West Yorkshire Spinners 01535 664500

www.wyspinners.com

TENSION

22 sts and 28 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 4mm needles

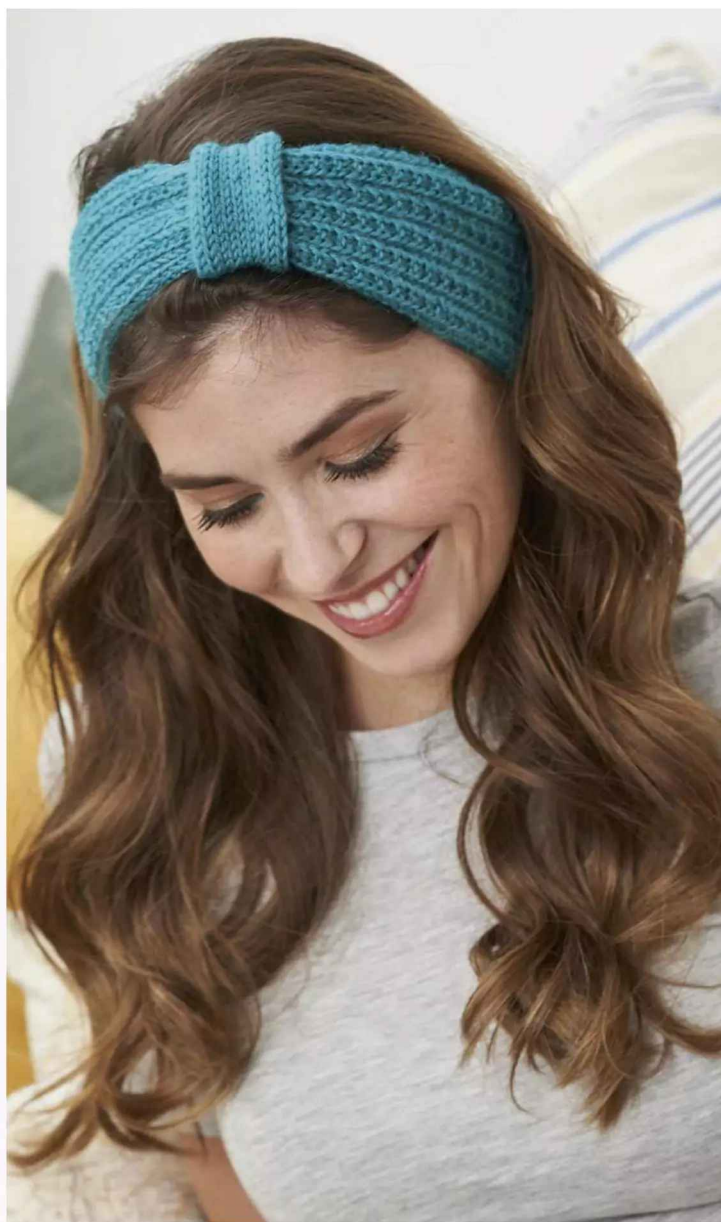
MEASUREMENTS

Headband measures approx 10cm (4in) wide and 52cm (20 1/2in) circumference



TOP TIPS

You can use any double knitting (DK) yarn you can find to make this headband. Use a wool or a wool blend for extra warmth! As long as the cast-on stitch multiple is suitable, you can knit the headband with various types of rib patterns. Why not try the Chunky Rib or the Speckled Rib patterns shown on the page opposite?



HEADBAND

Cast on 25 stitches using 4mm needles.

Row 1 Knit.

Row 2 (RS) *Purl 1, knit 1, purl 1, knit 1, purl 1; rep from * to end.

Row 3 *Knit 1, purl 3, knit 1; repeat from * to end.

Rep Rows 2 and 3 until work measures 52cm.

Cast off in rib.

WRAP

Cast on 13 stitches using 4mm needles.

Row 1 Knit.

Row 2 Purl.

Continue in stocking stitch, until the knitting measures 13cm.

Cast off.

FINISHING

Fold the wrap in half and sew together the cast-on and cast-off

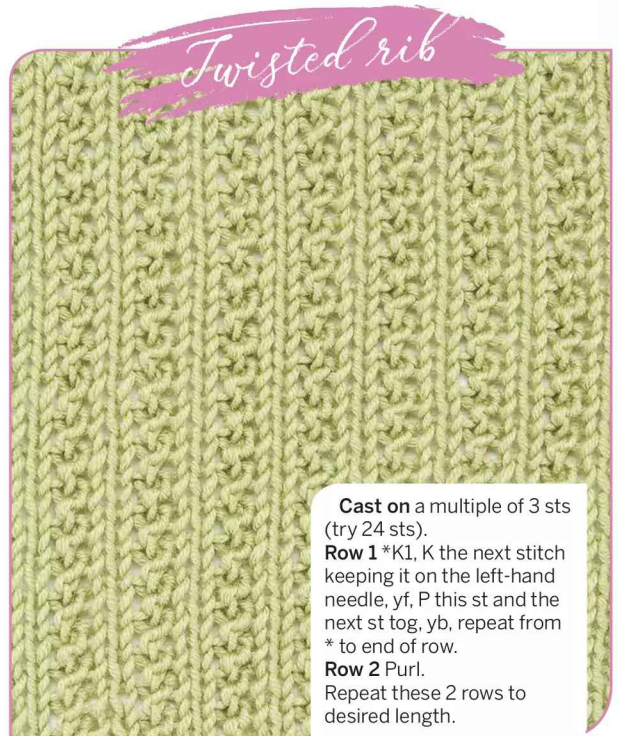
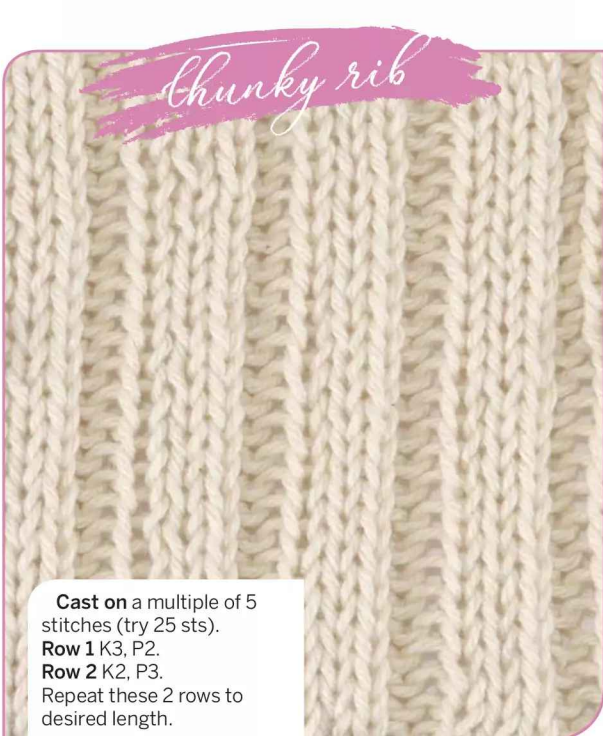
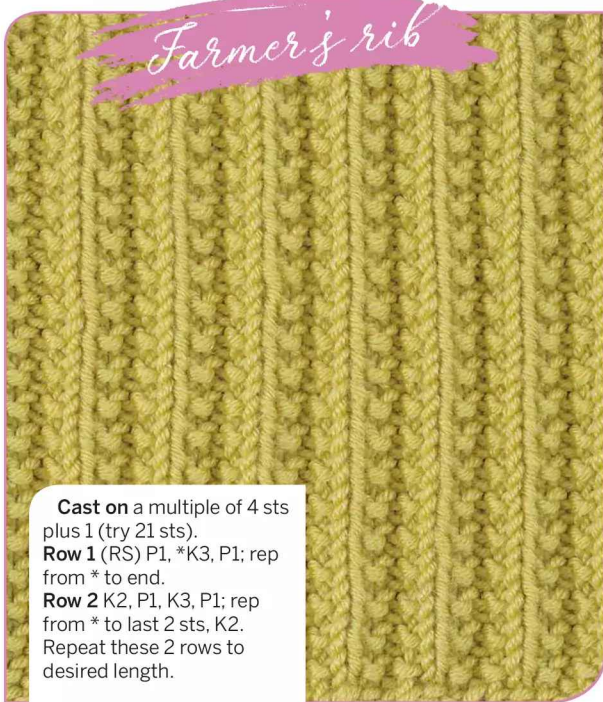
edges. Thread the headband through the wrap and then sew together the cast-on and cast-off edges. Pull the wrap over the headband seam to hide the seam.

Cast on a few of these headbands in a range of colours to match all your cosy winter outerwear



TRY A DIFFERENT RIB!

Now you can make a classic K1, P1 rib, you can have fun experimenting with our quartet of radical ribs for gorgeous garments!



For abbreviations see page 24

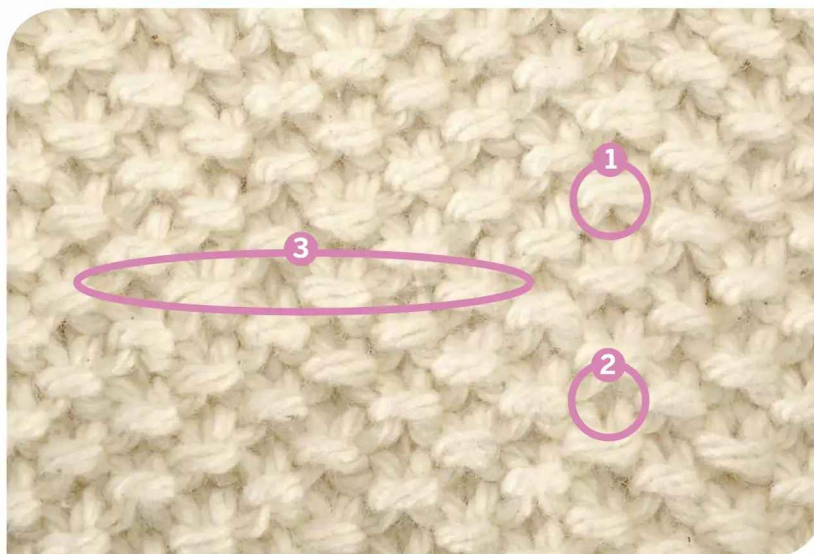
MOSS STITCH

Having mastered rib stitches, you can add interest to your knitted fabric with this easy stitch pattern

You can make many different stitch patterns using just knit and purl stitches – moss stitch and its variations are among the most attractive. Moss stitch (also known as seed stitch) is reversible and produces a beautiful texture. The close, balanced arrangement of knit and purl stitches creates a relatively thick fabric that lies flat, so it's ideal for borders, edgings, necks and cuffs, where you don't want the curl of stocking stitch or the stretch of a rib. It's also strong and very hard-wearing, so accessories and garments that are going to get a lot of use will work well in moss stitch.

ODDS AND EVENS

You can knit a basic moss stitch on an odd or even number of stitches. Cast on an odd number of stitches, work K1, P1 to the end of the row, finishing with a knit stitch. Start the next row with a knit stitch, so that your fabric shows purl 'bumps' above and below every 'v' stitch. If you cast on an even number of stitches you'd K1, P1 on the first row, then start the second row with a purl stitch. Repeat these rows and keep checking to make sure the knit 'v's and the purl bumps are in the right positions. Moss stitch will take a little longer to knit, so practise with chunky yarn and big needles.



1 ONE PURL STITCH

The purl bumps are what make the texture of moss stitch, standing out from the fabric.

2 ONE KNIT STITCH

On moss stitch fabric, each v-shaped knit stitch sinks into the fabric and becomes more prominent on the back. If you're not sure which stitch you're working next, look at whether the stitch on the row below is a v-shape (knit) or a wavy bump (purl) – then work the opposite!

3 ONE MOSS STITCH ROW

Each row of moss stitch includes a combination of knit and purl stitches. The purl stitches will look more raised than the knit stitches. When you need to count rows of moss stitch, it's usually easier to count the rows of purl bumps on one side.

HIP TO BE SQUARE

Knit up a square or two of each stitch pattern you practise. Sew them all together to make a gorgeous throw. Practise knitting with inexpensive yarn and save your money to spend on special projects! Use the needles recommended on the ball band and following the tension guide, cast on enough stitches to create a 10cm (4in) square, or a slightly larger 15cm (6in) square. Then work every row in moss stitch (as explained above) until you have a square. Try out different variations on moss stitch with the patterns on page 50. As you build up more squares, your throw will become a great reference guide.



MOSS TEXTURE

Moss stitch is ideal for adding texture to hems, neckbands and cuffs. It looks particularly good on knitted items for babies and men. You can use any yarn, but a smoother one will give you better stitch definition.



MOSS SCARF

Try a designer scarf in this pretty stitch! By **Lizzie McCauley**



EASY TO KNIT

YOU WILL NEED

- Any chunky-weight yarn, approx 120g. We used Cygnet Grousemoor Chunky (75% acrylic, 25% wool, 100g/150m)
- 2 balls of Cream (shade 288)
- A pair of 5mm straight needles

For yarn stockists contact

Cygnet Yarns

01274 743374

www.cygnetyarns.com

TENSION

16 sts and 20 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 6mm needles



TOP TIPS

Cream is a beautiful classic colour to knit the scarf in, but yarn comes in hundreds of shades, so don't be afraid to experiment and knit with your favourite colour.

Knit it to the length stated in the pattern, or keep going until you run out of yarn!



HOW TO MAKE THE SCARF

Make a slipknot, leaving a tail approx 10cm (4in) long. Place the knot onto one of your needles and tighten it up.

Cast on 18 stitches.

Knit the first stitch. Bring the working yarn around the right-hand needle, between the two needles to the front of the fabric.

Purl the next stitch. Take the working yarn back around the right-hand needle to the back of the fabric.

Work a knit stitch followed by a purl stitch all the way to the end of the row.

On the next row, purl the first stitch, knit the second stitch, and work in this way to the end of the row.


Continue working in this way, starting one row with a knit stitch and starting the next row with a purl stitch to create moss stitch as shown. Stop knitting with the first ball of yarn at the end of a row, once it runs out, leaving a 10cm(4in) tail.

Join a new ball of yarn following the instructions on page 70.

Work like this in moss stitch until your scarf measures

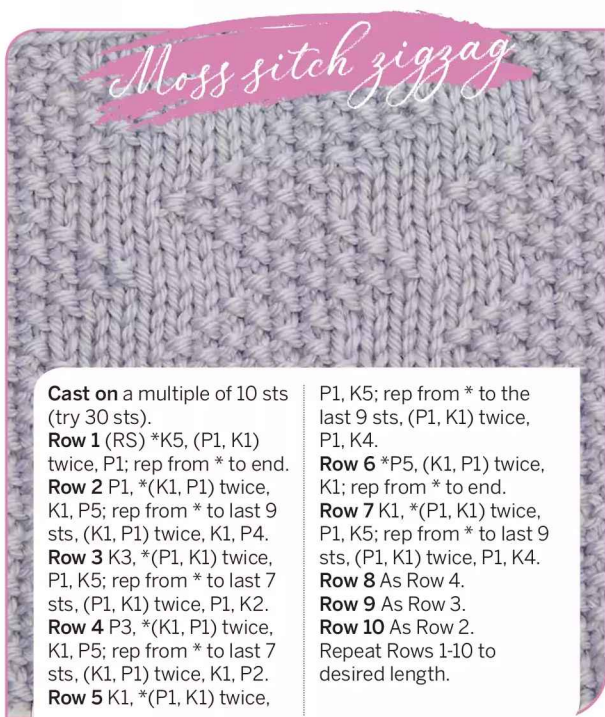
approximately 170cm (67in) long, or the desired length.

Cast off all the stitches, and fasten off, leaving a tail approx 10cm (4in) long.

Use the tapestry needle to weave in the cast-on and cast-off ends. Neatly trim off any excess yarn using your scissors. 

MOSS STITCH LIBRARY

Make textured effects with these moss stitch patterns



Moss stitch zigzag

Cast on a multiple of 10 sts (try 30 sts).

Row 1 (RS) *K5, (P1, K1) twice, P1; rep from * to end.

Row 2 P1, *(K1, P1) twice, K1, P5; rep from * to last 9 sts, (K1, P1) twice, K1, P4.

Row 3 K3, *(P1, K1) twice, P1, K5; rep from * to last 7 sts, (P1, K1) twice, P1, K2.

Row 4 P3, *(K1, P1) twice, K1, P5; rep from * to last 7 sts, (K1, P1) twice, K1, P2.

Row 5 K1, *(P1, K1) twice, P1, K5; rep from * to the last 9 sts, (P1, K1) twice, P1, K4.

Row 6 *P5, (K1, P1) twice, K1; rep from * to end.

Row 7 K1, *(P1, K1) twice, P1, K5; rep from * to last 9 sts, (P1, K1) twice, P1, K4.

Row 8 As Row 4.

Row 9 As Row 3.

Row 10 As Row 2.

Repeat Rows 1-10 to desired length.



Double moss

ODD NUMBER OF STITCHES
Cast on an odd number of stitches (try 21 sts).

Row 1 K1, *P1, K1; rep from * to end.

Row 2 P1, *K1, P1; rep from * to end.

Row 3 As row 2.

Row 4 As row 1.

Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.

EVEN NUMBER OF STITCHES
Cast on an even number of stitches (try 22 sts).

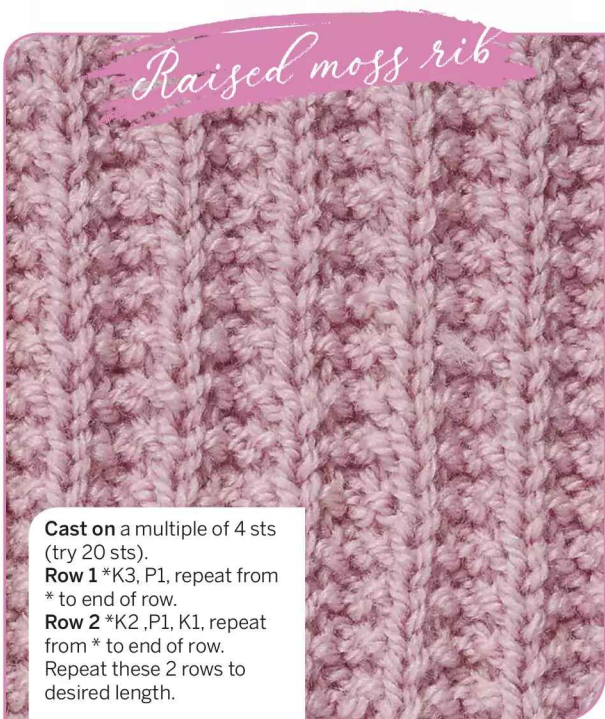
Row 1 *K1, P1; rep from * to end.

Row 2 As row 1.

Row 3 *P1, K1; rep from * to end.

Row 4 As row 3.

Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.



Raised moss rib

Cast on a multiple of 4 sts (try 20 sts).

Row 1 *K3, P1, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 2 *K2, P1, K1, repeat from * to end of row.

Repeat these 2 rows to desired length.



Moss stitch rib

Cast on a multiple of 4 stitches plus 1 (try 21 sts).

Row 1 (RS) K2, (P1, K3) to last 3 sts, P1, K2.

Row 2 P1, (K3, P1) to end.

Repeat these 2 rows to desired length.

For abbreviations see page 24

SHAPING KNITTING

Learn how to increase and decrease to make 3D shapes with your knitted fabric, from well-fitting garments to trendy accessories and adorable toys



All about... SHAPING



Open up your knitting to a new world of possibilities with increasing and decreasing stitches...

The world of knitting would be a very different one without increasing and decreasing techniques – all we'd knit would be flat, straight shapes, such as squares and rectangles. By learning simple shaping stitches, you'll be able to knit all sorts of shapes, including garments.

So what are increasing and decreasing stitches? How do they change the shape of your knitting? At the beginner stage, you usually work the same number of stitches on every row to keep the sides straight. When you work decrease stitches, you will reduce the number of stitches in a row and narrow the width of the knitted fabric. Working increase stitches adds more stitches to a row and widens the fabric. Both decreasing and increasing create sloped rather than straight sides on your fabric. The slope will depend on the type of stitches you work and how often you work them

(every row, every other row, and so on).

You can work shaping stitches at the start or end of a row, for one shaped side and one straight side. Or, shape at both ends of a row for two shaped sides – great for triangles! Combine increase and decrease stitches to create complex shapes, such as hexagons and zigzags. The options are endless!

As well as flat shapes like triangles, you can use shaping stitches to create 3D shapes, such as bowls. This sort of shaping is vital for making fun toys and accessories like hats. Shaping stitches are also used in lace patterns – there's more on this later.

Decrease stitches will narrow the width of your knitted fabric

THE RUNDOWN

DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES

Decreasing and increasing is very easy to do. It can involve working one type of stitch, or a combination of several simple actions. Each type of decrease or increase technique has a specific name or abbreviation, so it's easy to understand in a knitting pattern what you're being asked to do.

You can work increases and decreases in any stitch pattern, although you'll find yourself doing them most often in stocking stitch, so our examples are worked in this stitch pattern. In stocking stitch, the shaping stitches are usually worked on knit rows, rather than purl rows.

SLOPE THE RIGHT WAY

When you practise working decrease and increase stitches, you'll become aware of

SHAPED PATTERNS FOR YOU TO KNIT

THREE TO TRY! DESIGN IDEAS

Get your needles at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Knitting* magazine! To get the issues mentioned here, you can buy digital versions of back issues from Apple Newsstand to view on your iPhone and iPad or Google Play to view them on Android devices. For more information and for which other digital platforms are supported, take a look at the website at www.theyarnloop.com/magazine/simply-knitting/digital



1 OH BABY!
Beginner

These cute baby dungarees from *Simply Knitting* issue 185 are knitted straight up until the armholes, when the simple shaping begins with knitting some simple sk2po decreases.



2 CANDY CARDI
Improver

Raglan-sleeved garments, like this from *Simply Knitting* issue 188, often have the shape of the sleeves the same as the front and back panels, to make it easy to join them together.



3 OTTERLY FAB
Expert

Move on to more complex 3D shapes, such as toys. These bears from *Simply Knitting* issue 181 are shaped with 'kfb' increases and 'k2tog' (knit 2 together) decreases.

how each one creates a slightly different effect. Most stitches create an angle within the knitted fabric, sloping to the left or the right. The knitting pattern you're following will most likely tell you the shaping stitch to use, and it's usually best to use that stitch rather than a different one, to produce the results intended for the design.

YOU CHOOSE

Sometimes a pattern might just instruct you to 'increase' or 'decrease' in a particular place, so it will be up to you to choose the shaping stitch that slopes in the correct direction. Once you have become proficient in increasing and decreasing you'll know instinctively which is the best technique to opt for. For example, if you're decreasing one stitch on the left edge of your fabric, you might try a k2tog, which will produce a right-leaning stitch.

A pattern might also ask you to increase or decrease a certain number of stitches 'evenly across the row'. To do this, take your stitch count (such as 50) and divide by the number of stitches you need to increase or decrease (such as 5). This comes to 10. To make the shaping even, you would work the first shaping stitch after 5 stitches, then another shaping stitch every 10 stitches, so that the last shaping stitch is worked 5 stitches from the end, for an even look. Again, it will be up to you to choose the shaping stitch that slopes in the right direction in the right place.

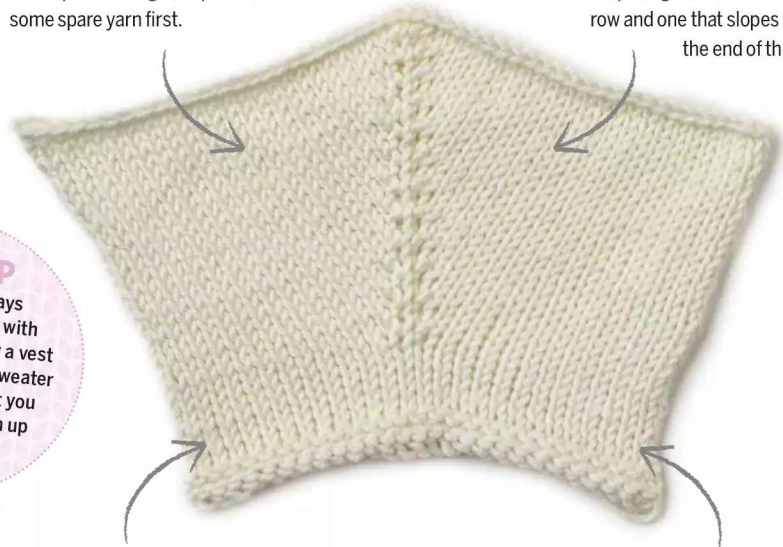
TOP TIP
On your first forays into shaping, start with simple patterns – try a vest before attempting a sweater with sleeves, so that you don't have to match up shaped pieces.

INCREASE

VITAL FOR SHAPING YOUR KNITS...

SLOPE LEFT

If you're not sure whether a shaping stitch will slope left or right, experiment with some spare yarn first.



SLOPE RIGHT

Increasing at both ends of a row? Use two different types of shaping stitches, one that slopes right at the start of the row and one that slopes left at the end of the row.

END OF KNIT ROW

If you're increasing in the second half of the row (at the left-hand side of the finished fabric), you'll need an increase stitch that slopes to the left.

START OF KNIT ROW

If you're increasing in the first half of a row (at the right-hand side of the finished fabric), you'll need an increase stitch that slopes to the right.

MATCHING INCREASES AND DECREASES

When shaping at both ends of a row, it's important to work 'matching decreases' or 'matching increases'. This is because each type of shaping stitch has a matching partner, which creates the same sort of shaping effect, sloping in the opposite direction. By working a matching pair of shaping stitches, you will create a neater and more balanced look at both ends of a row. Small details like the shaping stitches make a big difference to the look of your finished item.

DECREASE

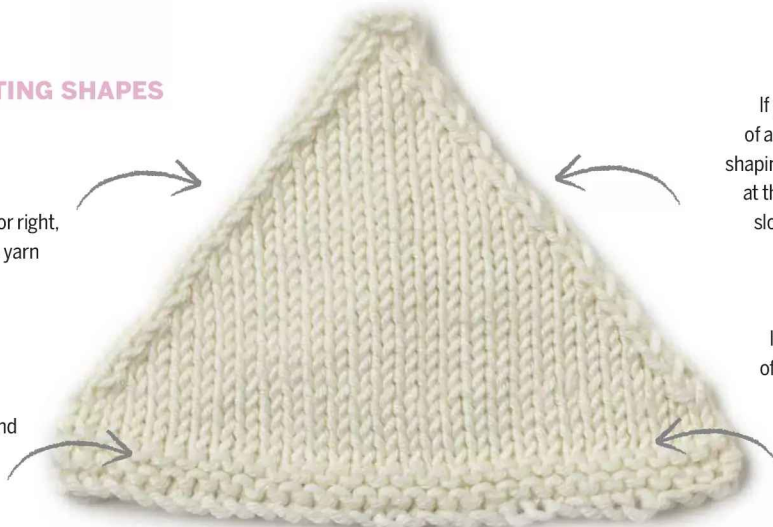
CREATE INTERESTING SHAPES

SLOPE RIGHT

If you're not sure whether a shaping stitch will slope left or right, experiment with some spare yarn first, to see the effect.

END OF KNIT ROW

If you're decreasing at the end of the row (at the left-hand side of the finished fabric), you'll need a shaping stitch that slopes to the right.



SLOPE LEFT

If you're decreasing at both ends of a row, use two different types of shaping stitches, one that slopes left at the start of the row and one that slopes right at the end of the row.

START OF KNIT ROW

If you're decreasing at the start of the row (at the right-hand side of the finished fabric), you'll need a shaping stitch that slopes to the left.

DECREASE: K2TOG

This right-sloping decrease is as simple as the knit stitch

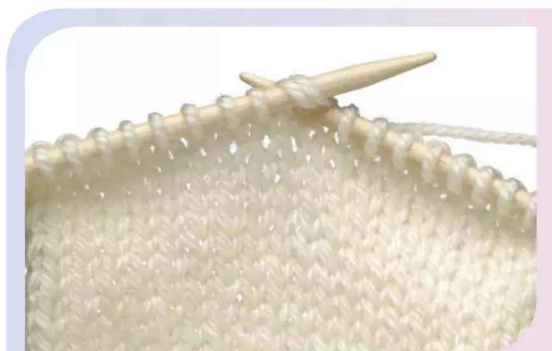
The easiest decrease to make when you're knitting is a k2tog, which means 'knit two stitches together'. This reduces your stitch count by one stitch. You can see below that the technique is worked in the same way as a knit stitch is worked, but the right-hand needle is inserted into two stitches on the left needle, rather than just one stitch.

This stitch creates a decrease that slopes to the right, so it's best used at the end of a row, although you'll also find it used in lace patterns, where it's often used in pattern repeats all along the row.

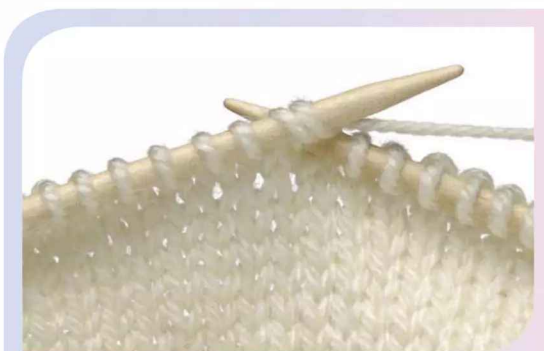
Cast on some stitches, with double knitting (DK) yarn and a pair of 4mm needles. About 22 stitches is a good number to practise with. Knit the first

row, and purl the second row. On the next row, knit all the stitches until you reach the last two, then k2tog. Purl all the stitches in the next row. Work the decrease row again.

Continue practising until you're happy with the technique – 28 rows should form a triangle. Don't worry if it looks uneven – practice makes perfect.



1 Insert the point of the right-hand needle through the loops of the next two stitches, as if to knit.



2 Wind the yarn anti-clockwise around the tip of the right-hand needle, then pull the yarn through the two stitches, knitting them both together into one stitch.



3 Pull the right-hand needle up and to the right, dropping the two stitches from the left-hand needle and keeping the new stitch on the right-hand needle.



4 Knitting two stitches together decreases your stitch count by one, and the resulting decrease stitch leans to the right. This is how a series of k2togs looks on the right side of stocking stitch fabric.

DECREASE: P2TOG

Create a right-sloping decrease on wrong-side rows

Sometimes you'll find a pattern that asks you to decrease on the purl rows, so it's important that you're able to work purl decreases as well as knit decreases.

The easiest decrease to make when you're purling is p2tog, which means 'purl two stitches together'. This reduces your stitch count by one. The technique is

worked in the same way as a purl stitch, but the right-hand needle is inserted into two stitches on the left, rather than just one. This stitch creates a decrease that slopes to the right when you look at stocking stitch fabric from the right side, so it's best used at the start of a purl row. You will also see p2tog used in lace patterns and complex repeats, in the middle of

rows. Cast on about 22 stitches with double knitting (DK) yarn and 4mm needles. Knit the first row. On the next row, work p2tog on the first two stitches, then purl to the end of the row. Knit all the stitches in the next row. Work the decrease row again, and practise until you're happy with the stitch – 28 rows should form a triangle.



1 Push the point of your right-hand needle through the first two stitches on your left-hand needle, going from right to left as you would for a purl stitch.



2 Wrap the yarn anti-clockwise around the right-hand needle, bringing the yarn to the front as usual for a purl stitch.



3 Pull the yarn through both stitches, as you would when working a purl stitch, and drop both from the left-hand needle.



4 Purling two stitches together decreases your stitch count by one, and the decrease leans to the right on the right side. This is how a series of p2togs looks on the right side of stocking stitch fabric.

DECREASE: SKPO

Reduce one stitch with this left-leaning decrease

Another simple decrease is the SKPO, which means 'slip one stitch, knit one stitch, then pass the slipped stitch over' (also abbreviated as SIL, K1, pss0). This reduces your stitch count by one and forms a left-sloping decrease, so it's best used at the start of a row. You'll also see this decrease used a lot in toy patterns and in some lace

patterns, so it's a great one to have under your belt.

So what are slipped stitches? To slip a stitch, you insert the right needle into the stitch on the left needle, as if to knit it, but just move the stitch across to the right needle, without knitting it. On a knit row, this means slipping the stitch knitwise, which will twist the stitch as it passes to

the other needle. What does it mean to 'pass slipped stitch over'? This action is just the same as when you cast off – you simply lift the slipped stitch over the stitch you just knitted and off the needle.

To practise SKPO, cast on some stitches, work two rows, then work SKPO on the first two stitches of every knit row. You'll soon get the hang of it.



1 Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the first stitch on the left-hand needle as though to knit it, but instead slide it across onto the right-hand needle.



2 Now go ahead and knit the next stitch just as you would normally..



3 Next, use the point of your left-hand needle to lift the stitch you slipped over the one you've just knitted, and off the needle.



4 This decreases the number of stitches on your needles by 1. The resulting stitch leans at the opposite angle to a k2tog.

DECREASE: SSK

Try working this alternative left-sloping decrease

Similar to SKPO, another simple decrease is SSK, which means 'slip one stitch, slip one stitch, knit the two slipped stitches together'. This reduces your stitch count by one stitch and creates a decrease that slopes to the left, so it's best used at the start of a row. You'll often see SSK paired with k2tog in lace patterns, and sometimes

they will be worked one stitch in from the edge of the row for neatness.

To work the SSK decrease, you need to slip one stitch knitwise, and then another, separately. You can see below that you then knit these two stitches together through their back loops.

To practise working this stitch, cast on some stitches with DK yarn and a pair of

4mm needles. About 22 stitches is a good number to practise with. Knit the first row, purl the second row. On the next row, work SSK on the first two stitches, then knit all the stitches to the end of the row. Purl all the stitches in the next row. Work the decrease row again, and continue practising the decrease until you're happy with the technique.



1 With the yarn held to the back of your knitting, slip the first stitch on the left-hand needle knitwise onto the right-hand needle, which twists the stitch.



2 Now slip the next stitch on the left-hand needle knitwise onto the right-hand needle, in exactly the same way.



3 Push the left-hand needle through the front of both the slipped stitches.



4 Bring the yarn round just as you would for a knit stitch and knit the two stitches together. You will now have a single stitch on the right needle, and your two slipped ones will create a left-leaning decrease.

PARTY BUNTING

Practise your decreasing with triangles. By **Faye Perriam-Reed**



EASY TO KNIT

YOU WILL NEED

- Any aran-weight yarn, approx 12g per triangle. Try good value acrylic ranges such as those from Cygnet, King Cole, Patons, Sirdar, and Stylecraft so the bunting is made in a hardwearing yarn, and choose any colours you like!
- A pair of 5mm needles

TENSION

Tension is not critical. Finished bunting meas 240cm (94½in) long. Each triangle meas 14cm (5½in) wide x 16cm (6¼in) long.

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 24

TOP TIP

Make as many triangles as you like until you have the length of bunting you need. We made 12. You can use any aran-weight yarn, but we recommend acrylic if you want to leave it outside as it's durable and shouldn't fade.



HOW TO MAKE THE TRIANGLES

TRIANGLE 1

Cast on 30 stitches using 5mm needles.

Row 1 (WS) Knit all stitches to the end of the row.

Row 2 (RS) and Row 3 Knit.

Row 4 K1, SKPO, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Rows 5 and 6 Knit.

Rep Rows 3-6 until there are 5 sts left.

Next row (WS) Knit.

Next row K1, sl2tog (slip 2 stitches together from the left-hand needle to the right-hand needle), K1, p2sso (pass 2 slipped stitches over), K1.

Next row Knit.

Next row Sl2tog, K1, p2sso.

Cut yarn leaving a tail approx 10cm (4in) long. Thread yarn onto a tapestry needle and draw through remaining stitch. Pull gently to secure. Use the tapestry needle to weave in ends. Trim off any excess yarn with the scissors.

TRIANGLE 2

Work as for Triangle 1, replacing every SKPO with SSK.

TRIANGLE 3

Cast on 30 stitches using 5mm needles.

Row 1 (WS) Purl all stitches to the end of the row.

Row 2 (RS) and Row 3 Purl.

Row 4 P1, p2tog, P to last 3sts, SPPO (slip 1 stitch purlwise, P1, pssso), P1.

Row 5 and 6 Purl.

Rep rows 3-6 until there are 5 sts left.

Next row (WS) Purl.

Next row P1, sl2tog (slip 2 stitches together from the left-hand needle to the right-hand needle), P1, p2sso (pass 2 slipped stitches over), P1.

Next row Purl.

Next row Sl2tog, P1, p2sso.

Cut yarn and finish in the same way as Triangle 1.

HOW TO MAKE THE BUNTING

Thread the ribbon onto the needle. Weave the needle in and out of each triangle, along the cast-on edge, keeping the ribbon as flat as possible. At each end of the ribbon, fold back approx 10cm (4in) of ribbon and tie to the main length to form a loop. Use loops to hang.

CUTTING CREW

We take a look at the sharp end of knitting with our top pick of scissors and snips



1

1 Perfect for cutting in tight spaces, these Softouch Spring action scissors come with Micro-Tip® blades. The spring action design opens the blades after each cut to reduce hand strain and an easy-open thumb lock provides safe storage when you're not using them.

£18, visit www.fiskars.co.uk for stockist details or call 01782 204141



2

2 These sweet and petite Hemline Folding Craft Scissors with plastic handles and measuring just 3.17cm, are ideal for travelling or keeping for knitting emergencies in a project bag or handbag.

£2.09, visit www.minervacrafts.com to buy or call 01254 708068



3

3 Left-handed knitters will love splurging on this pair of specialist scissors. But the benefits don't end there! The Go Green Left-Handed Scissors are produced from recyclable, non-toxic materials and are guaranteed for 10 years.

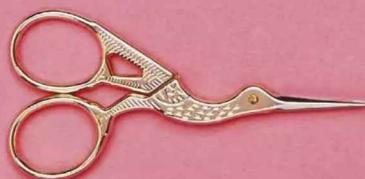
£6.95, visit www.anythinglefthanded.co.uk to buy or call 01737 888269



4

4 This pair of quality Hemline Hobby Scissors come with a pretty floral design, stainless steel blades and sharp, fine points. They're suitable for all your general hobby and craft projects.

£5.10, visit www.sewessential.co.uk to buy or call 01283 210422



5

5 Made of stainless steel, these stork scissors are the perfect addition to your knitting kit. Ergonomically designed, they sit comfortably in your hand.

£3.20, visit www.pocketcraftsupplies.etsy.com to buy



6

6 Keep these sturdy Prym Thread Scissors on hand if you want a comfortable, soft grip and excellent quality blades! Or if you're after something a little more budget...



7

7 ...these smaller Prym snips come with a protective cover for safety while crafting. Both are available from Jaycotts.

£9.95 (6) and £3.49 (7), visit www.jaycotts.co.uk to buy or call 01244 394099

INCREASE: KFB

An easy increase that creates a 'bar' in your fabric

The easiest increase to make when you're knitting is kfb, which means to knit into the next stitch twice – first into the front loop and then into the back loop. This increases your stitch count by one. You can see below that the first half of the technique is worked in the same way as a knit stitch, but without dropping the stitch from the left-hand needle. The right-hand needle is then

inserted into the back loop of the stitch on the left needle to knit into the back loop as well.

This kfb increase is a type of bar increase, so-called because it creates a small bar or bump where you've made the increase. Kfb doesn't leave a hole or create a loose stitch, like other increases can, but the bar you create is slightly visible. You can use this increase

anywhere along a row, as it doesn't lean in either direction.

To practise working the kfb stitch, cast on an odd number of stitches and work a few rows in stocking stitch. Use a stitch marker to mark the central stitch. On the next knit rows, work kfb in the stitches before and after the central stitch. This should form an expanding fabric like the swatch on page 53.



1 Insert the tip of the right-hand needle into the front of the stitch and knit as normal, but make sure you don't drop the original stitch from the left-hand needle.



2 Then take the right-hand needle behind the left and insert the tip of the needle through the back loop of the same stitch on the left-hand needle (see right for more on how to knit into the back loop).



3 Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right-hand needle to knit the stitch. Bring the needle through to make the stitch, keeping it on the right-hand needle.



4 Take the stitch off the left-hand needle. You will have increased one stitch by knitting twice into the original stitch, first into the front, then into the back.

KNIT TBL

Twist your stitches by knitting into the back loops of your stitches

Sometimes you'll see patterns include the abbreviation tbl, which means 'through back loop'. Normally when you work stitches, you insert the right-hand needle into the front loop of the stitch on the left-hand needle, then pull a new stitch through the front loop. Working a stitch into the back loop is just as easy. You just insert the right-hand needle into the back loop of

the stitch instead. For a knit stitch, you insert the right-hand needle into the back loop from right to left. For a purl stitch, you insert the right-hand needle into the back loop from left to right.

Working stitches in the back loop is useful for creating all sorts of different effects in your knitted fabric. The technique will twist the stitch you're working into, which can be useful for

making certain decreases and increases slope in a specific direction. You'll need to work in the back loop if you're working a ktbl stitch, a ptbl stitch, a kfb increase, a pfb increase, a k2togtbl decrease, a p2togtbl decrease, and more. It's also often done on the first stitch of a row after a cast-on like the Knit-on one (see page 30) for a firm foundation. Practise it on a swatch of stocking stitch.



1 Take the right-hand needle behind the left needle, and insert the tip of the right needle through the back loop of the next stitch, from right to left.



2 Then take your yarn (which should be at the back of the fabric) and wrap it around the right-hand needle anti-clockwise, just as when working a normal knit stitch.



3 Pull the needle back through the stitch, bringing the loop of yarn with it. Push the needle firmly into the new stitch, and drop the old stitch off the left-hand needle.



4 You'll now have what looks like a normal knit stitch on your right-hand needle. However, when you look closely, you can see that the base of the stitch has been twisted.

INCREASE: MAKE 1

Create one new stitch with this left-leaning increase

Another simple increase is M1, which means 'make one stitch'. This increases your stitch count by one. You can see below that the technique involves knitting into the strand of yarn that lies between two stitches. The M1 technique is a type of raised increase, so-called because you raise up the strand of yarn and then knit into it. Try to work the M1 increase as

loosely as possible, otherwise you can create a small hole in the fabric around the increase. (If you want to make a decorative hole, knit into the front rather than the back of the stitch at point 3.) The basic M1 increase slants to the left, so it's often used at the beginning of a row, but it is used mid-row in some patterns as well.

We recommend that you practise

working the M1 increase and the M1B increase (see right for details) together. Do this in the same way as you practised the kfb increase, but work the M1B directly before the central stitch and M1 directly after the central stitch.

This should form an expanding fabric like the swatch on page 53. As with any stitch you've just learned, keep practising and you'll soon have it mastered.



1 Insert the point of the right-hand needle under the loop or line of yarn that lies between the two stitches.



2 Next, slip this loop of yarn carefully back across to the left-hand needle, ready for knitting into. Made sure you don't twist it.



3 Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the back of the stitch as if to knit – as when working ktbl. This stops the stitch from creating a hole in the fabric below it.



4 Pull the yarn all the way through as normal and drop the loop off the left-hand needle. You will now have an extra stitch on your right-hand needle.

INCREASE: MAKE 1 BACK

Another raised increase, this time leaning to the right

The perfect accompaniment to the M1 increase, M1B means 'make one stitch back'. This increases your stitch count by one. You can see below that the technique involves knitting into the strand of yarn that lies between two stitches. Like M1, M1B is a type of raised increase because you raise up the strand of yarn and then knit into it. And as with M1, try to work the M1B increase as

loosely as possible, otherwise you can make a small hole in the fabric around the increase. These are subtle, almost hidden increases. The M1B increase slants to the right, so it's best used at the start of a row, although for items such as gloves you may see it used elsewhere.

We recommend that you practise working the M1B increase and the M1 increase (see left) together, as paired

increases. To do this, work a few rows of stocking stitch. Mark the central stitch with a stitch marker.

On the knit rows, knit until you reach the central stitch (though don't knit this stitch yet), M1B, knit the central stitch, M1, then knit along to the end of the row. Repeat on every knit row you work to form an expanding swatch a bit like the example on page 53.



1 Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the back of the stitch from the previous row – find it underneath the next stitch on the left-hand needle.



2 Bring the loop of the stitch around and onto the left-hand needle, then knit into this part of the stitch.



3 Now insert the right-hand needle into the original stitch that's still waiting on the left-hand needle, and knit it as normal.



4 This method of increasing will give you a neat-looking increase that leans slightly to the right – use it at the start of a row.



HEART & HEAD

Cocoon yourself throughout the winter months with cosy handknits in the softest yarns. By **Sarah Winsper**

**EASY TO KNIT****YOU WILL NEED**

- West Yorkshire Spinners, Illustrious (DK, 70% Falkland wool, 30% British alpaca, 100g/225m)
- 1 ball of Ocean (807)
- A set of 4mm double-pointed needles (DPNs) or circular needles for magic loop method
- A faux-fur pompom (we got ours from Primark)
- Stitch markers

For yarn stockists contact
West Yorkshire Spinners
01535 664500
www.wyspinners.com

MEASUREMENTS

To fit an average sized woman's head
Actual circumference 45.5cm (18in) before blocking

TENSION

22 sts x 32 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over broken rib pattern using 4mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

s2kpo slip 2 stitches together, knit 1, pass slipped stitches over
For a full list see page 24

HAT

Note The s2kpo decrease you will use for this hat (see how to do it in the Abbreviations, above) is a double decrease, which will decrease the numbers of stitches you have by 2 each time you make it. It's a fairly straight decrease, and it's not to be confused with sk2po (see page 128), which is a different decrease that leans to the left.

Cast on 100 stitches using 4mm needles.

Row 1 Knit.

Row 2 *Knit 2, purl 2; rep from * to end.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 until Hat measures 14cm or desired length.

DECREASE FOR CROWN


Set-up row Knit to end, placing a stitch marker every 20 stitches.

Row 1 *S2kpo, work in rib as set to next marker; rep from * to end. [10 sts decreased]

Row 2 Knit.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 until 10 stitches remain.

FINISHING

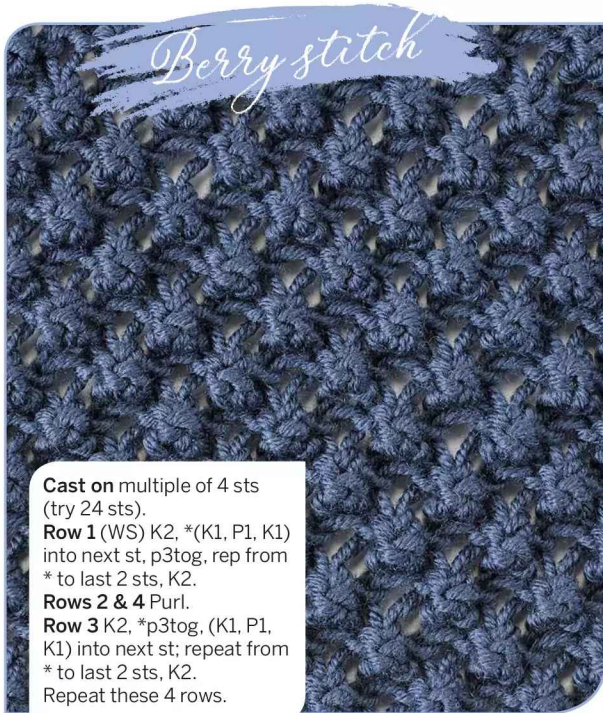
Pull yarn through stitches and sew up seam. Block hat gently, then sew pompom firmly to the top. 



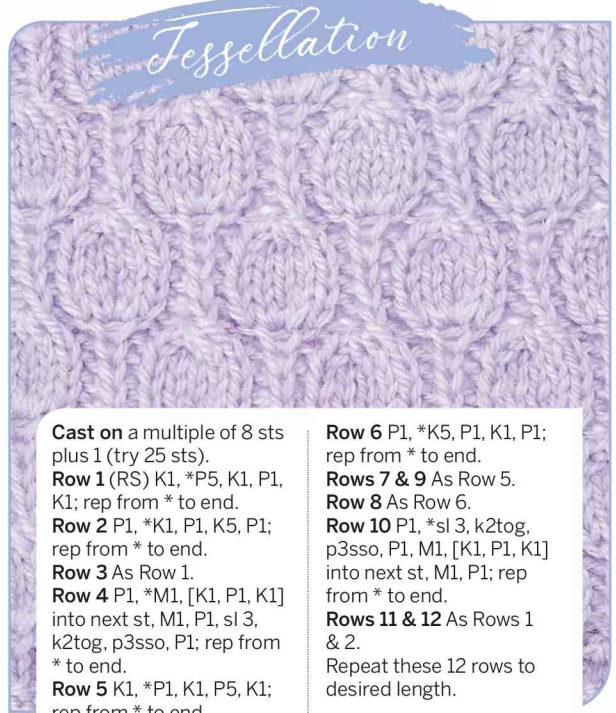
Add a faux fur pompom in a neutral shade for that essential touch of luxury

SHAPING LIBRARY

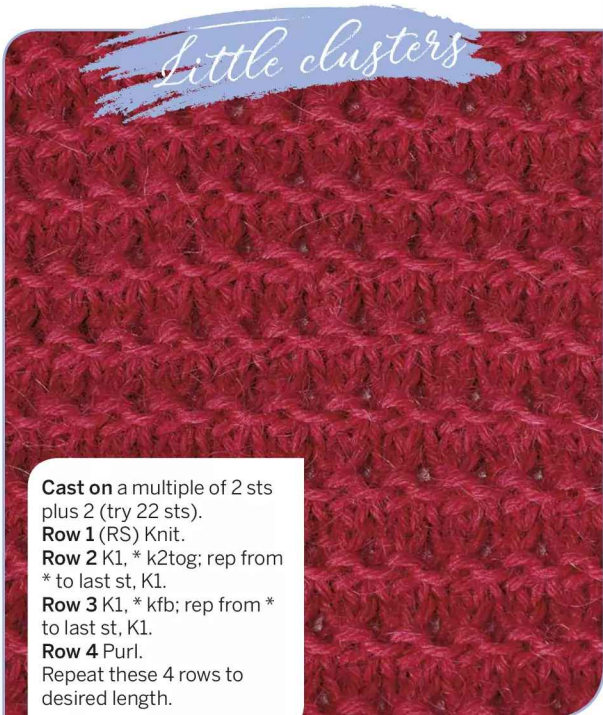
Use simple increases and decreases to create these patterns



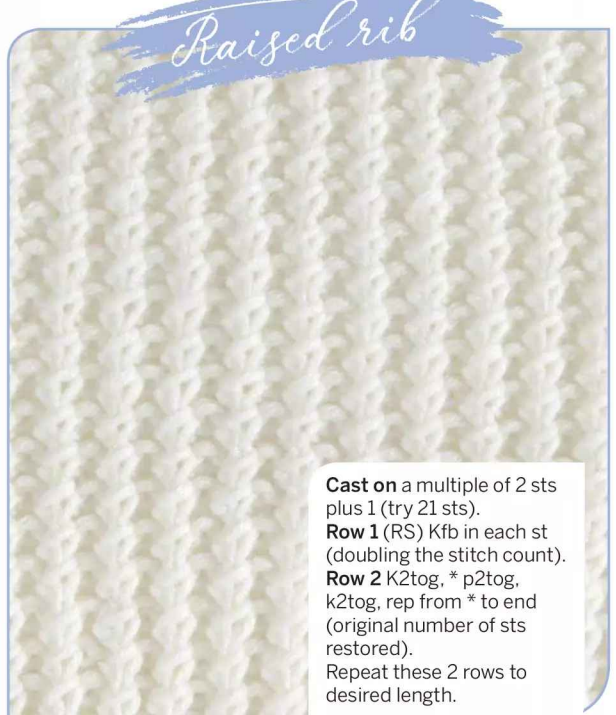
Cast on multiple of 4 sts (try 24 sts).
Row 1 (WS) K2, *(K1, P1, K1) into next st, p3tog, rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.
Rows 2 & 4 Purl.
Row 3 K2, *p3tog, (K1, P1, K1) into next st; repeat from * to last 2 sts, K2.
 Repeat these 4 rows.



Cast on a multiple of 8 sts plus 1 (try 25 sts).
Row 1 (RS) K1, *P5, K1, P1, K1; rep from * to end.
Row 2 P1, *K1, P1, K5, P1; rep from * to end.
Row 3 As Row 1.
Row 4 P1, *M1, [K1, P1, K1] into next st, M1, P1, sl 3, k2tog, p3sso, P1; rep from * to end.
Row 5 K1, *P1, K1, P5, K1; rep from * to end.
Row 6 P1, *K5, P1, K1, P1; rep from * to end.
Rows 7 & 9 As Row 5.
Row 8 As Row 6.
Row 10 P1, *sl 3, k2tog, p3sso, P1, M1, [K1, P1, K1] into next st, M1, P1; rep from * to end.
Rows 11 & 12 As Rows 1 & 2.
 Repeat these 12 rows to desired length.

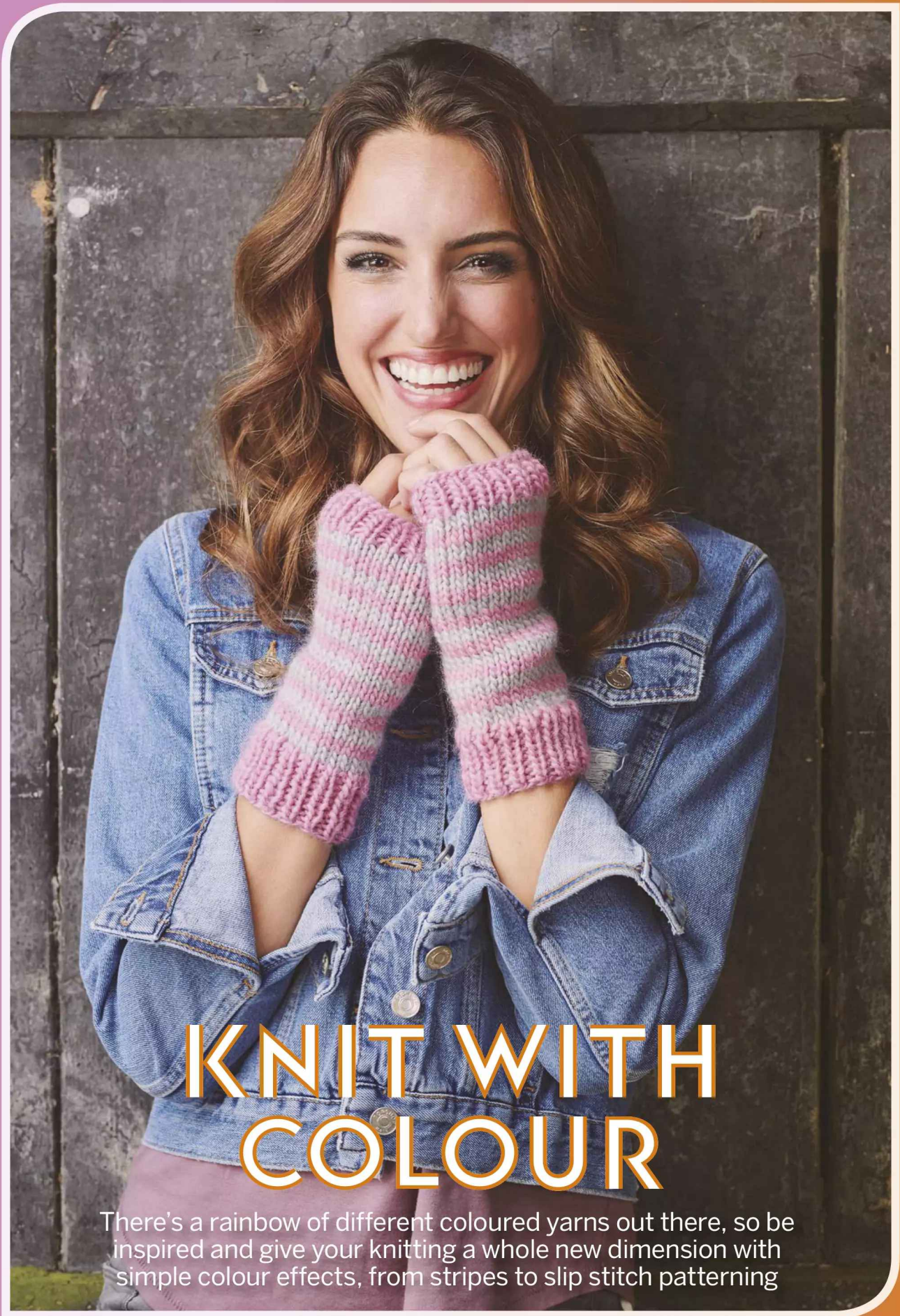


Cast on a multiple of 2 sts plus 2 (try 22 sts).
Row 1 (RS) Knit.
Row 2 K1, * k2tog; rep from * to last st, K1.
Row 3 K1, * kfb; rep from * to last st, K1.
Row 4 Purl.
 Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.



Cast on a multiple of 2 sts plus 1 (try 21 sts).
Row 1 (RS) Kfb in each st (doubling the stitch count).
Row 2 K2tog, * p2tog, k2tog, rep from * to end (original number of sts restored).
 Repeat these 2 rows to desired length.

For abbreviations see page 24



KNIT WITH COLOUR

There's a rainbow of different coloured yarns out there, so be inspired and give your knitting a whole new dimension with simple colour effects, from stripes to slip stitch patterning

All about... COLOUR

THE RUNDOWN

IT LOOKS COMPLICATED...

...but it's not. There are a lot of knitting techniques that seem impossible at first, but with a little practice, you'll find that they're much simpler than you thought. This is definitely true with colourwork.

Working stripes is just as easy as working any large project that needs more than one ball of yarn, such as a long scarf. The only difference is the colour of your yarn!

CHOOSING COLOURS

When you're working with different colours, it's important to choose shades that work well together. The safest bet with colour choices is to use two shades of the same hue, such as dark blue and light blue yarns.

For a more interesting effect, try using a colour wheel. Choose colours that sit opposite each other, such as red and green, or orange and blue. This approach is not for the faint-hearted but it can work really well. Alternatively, pop into your local yarn shop for some advice – fellow knitters will always jump at the chance to coo over different yarn choices! And of course, it's always helpful to hold the balls of yarn together to see how they look before you start knitting.

Using different colours of yarn is part of the fun of knitting, with many colourwork techniques to try

Colour effects, ranging from simple stripes to more intricate patterns, can look amazing, but they're actually very straightforward to create.

Stripes are the easiest way to introduce different colours to your knitting. You simply introduce a new colour at the start of a row, without needing to change the stitches you're knitting. That doesn't mean stripes are boring though – you can knit your stripes as narrow or wide as you like, combine stripes of different widths, and use many different colours.

A simple but effective way to create more interesting patterns of colour is with slip stitch colourwork. You change colour in the same way as knitting stripes, but on some rows, you slip some stitches and leave them unworked to create all sorts of effects!

To create more complex colour effects, most knitters turn to stranded or intarsia techniques. Stranded colourwork, often

called Fair Isle, is a traditional technique that involves knitting with two or three colours across every row to create intricate designs. Intarsia tends to be used to create blocks of colour within a background of a different colour, such as a red heart on the front of a grey jumper. There are many books dedicated to these techniques and once you master the basics, you can move on to learning them.

TOP TIP

Traditional Fair Isle patterns usually use three to five colours, and use only two on any one row. One of the colours will usually contrast strongly and 'pop' against the rest.

To create more complex effects, test out stranded or intarsia techniques

COLOURWORK PATTERNS FOR YOU TO KNIT

THREE TO TRY! DESIGN IDEAS

Get your needles at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Knitting* magazine! To get the issues mentioned here, you can buy digital versions of back issues from Apple Newsstand to view on your iPhone and iPad or Google Play to view them on Android devices. For more information and for which other digital platforms are supported, take a look at the website at www.theyarnloop.com/magazine/simply-knitting/digital



1 START HERE!
Beginner

Turn to page 74 for this great first colourwork project – a fun pair of mittens with easy stripes. Of course, you can change the colours depending on what your favourites are!



2 GET COMFY
Improver

Try these soft slippers from *Simply Knitting* 184. You'll be working a few narrow stripes and a small band of Fair Isle. They're knitted more tightly than usual to give a firmer fabric.



3 GEO STYLE
Expert

This stylish intarsia cushion uses variegated yarn, so you'll get great effects from only using two balls of yarn at a time (and only three in total!). Find the pattern in *Simply Knitting*, issue 189.

STRIPES**FOR INSTANT COLOUR...****COLOUR CHOICE**

Place the balls of yarn next to each other to make sure they work together. If you're making a garment, place them next to your skin as well, to make sure they suit your skin tone. For a safe colour effect, use shades of the same colour, such as dark and light blue.

TENSION ISSUES

When you're working basic stripes, this shouldn't affect the tension of your work, so don't worry about making a new tension square if you change colours.

**WIDE OR NARROW**

Make your stripes as wide as you want them to be – experiment by knitting a 2-row repeat, a 4-row repeat, 6-row repeat, and so on. Play with the different widths of stripes, mixing a 2-row stripe with a 6-row stripe. Try using three or four colours to see what effects you can create.

CHANGING COLOUR

When knitting stripes, you'll usually need to make all your colour changes on the same side of the fabric. This will enable you to use the 'carrying colours' technique, which is explained on page 70.

REVERSE EFFECT

The back of your striped fabric will look very different from the front. In stocking stitch fabric, the front knit side looks very neat, while the wrong purl side has extra lines of colour contrast. This is because, on the 'bumpy' side of the fabric, the working yarn is taken under the yarn of the previous stitches. Any colour changes will be more visible if you have purl stitches on the right side, such as in rib stitches, so try to avoid this if possible.

SLIP STITCH COLOURWORK**FOR VARIOUS EFFECTS...****EASY PATTERNS**

For a Fair Isle effect that's easier for beginners, try slip stitch patterns. You only need to know how to work stripes and slip stitches (where stitches are moved from the left needle to the right needle, without working them).

SLIP STITCH TENSION

Colour changing can alter your tension, pulling the fabric tighter than usual, so knit a swatch with the technique you want to use before diving into a project. You may need to use a larger needle size to keep your knitting looking even and tidy.

**LOOSE FLOATS**

When working slip stitch colourwork patterns, you'll end up with a lot of lines of spare yarn, called 'floats'. It's really important to keep these floats loose, but not too loose, so that the fabric doesn't pucker but also that the stitches aren't too loose. It helps to keep the stitches spread out on the right needle.

CHANGE YARN COLOUR

Take your first steps in knitting with colour

Whether you're changing colour or you've simply run out of yarn and need to start a new ball, you can use the same simple technique to join in new yarn.

Some knitters just knot the new yarn to the old yarn at one edge of the fabric, and then carry on knitting. However, this method can create a bulky knot that

might be a pain when you're sewing up, and could wear against the fabric.

The yarn-changing method we'll show you below is just as easy and we think it gives a neater finish. The idea behind it is that you knit the first stitch of the new row with both the old and new yarns together, securing the new yarn to your knitting with a stitch. When you have worked your

way back across the fabric, this stitch is knitted in the same way as you normally would if you had only used one colour for that stitch. The old colour will be hidden at the back of your work.

Once you've finished knitting your project, we'll show you (on the right) how to deal with the tail end of the old yarn to keep things neat and tidy.



1 Whenever possible, it's best to join in a new yarn at the beginning of a new row. Holding both strands of yarn with your right hand, insert your right needle into the first stitch of the row.



2 For the first stitch, wind both yarns around the needle and pull both through as usual. On the following row, you'll knit the two strands for this stitch as one.



3 After a few stitches, drop the 'old' yarn to the side and continue working along the row, winding just the 'new' yarn around the needle as you work each stitch.



4 The wrong side shows the new yarn worked in. Cut off the old yarn, leaving a 10cm (4in) tail, and loosely tie the ends of the yarn together until you finish the piece and can weave in the ends neatly.

WEAVE IN COLOUR ENDS

How to tidy up colourful yarn ends after finishing

At the end of every knitting project, there are always yarn ends to weave in, but with colourwork projects there can be so many more to deal with! Every time you change colours, you create two tail ends of yarn that have to be hidden and secured.

Weaving in colour ends might be time-consuming, but it's very simple. The

method we recommend is really no different from when you're weaving in ends on a solid colour fabric, but you need to remember to match your weaving with your yarn colours if you've used more than one. So in a pink and cream striped jumper, the pink ends must be woven into the pink stripes and the cream ends into the cream stripes.

Otherwise, you risk the yarn ends being seen through on the right side of the fabric, spoiling your nice clean lines of colour. Whether you need to unpick the old yarn from the first stitch of a row (see step 2, below), will depend on your item. If you know the edges will be enclosed in seams, for example, you could just ensure that the ends are woven in well.



1 Once you've finished knitting your striped fabric, you'll have lots of yarn ends dangling at the side of your knitting.



2 Where you've changed colour on the first stitch of a row, you'll need to unpick the old yarn from that stitch. Insert a tapestry needle into the strand of old yarn on the first stitch and pull out the tail end.



3 Take the tail end of the old yarn to the back of your knitting. Weave the tail into the stripe that matches that shade of yarn.



4 Repeat steps 2 and 3 for all the different-coloured yarn ends down the side of your work. It'll take a while, but it is worth it!

CARRY YARN COLOURS

Make your stripes easier to work and finish off

Once you're happy with changing yarn colour, you'll be filling your knits with stripes! The only drawback with stripes is that they can create so many yarn ends to weave in that finishing off your project becomes a mammoth task.

However, it is possible to work stripes without cutting off the different yarn colours at the end of their stripe. This

technique is called 'carrying colours' and involves twisting together the different yarn colours up the side of your knitted fabric. Simply twisting one yarn over the other will bring the yarn you're not using up to the same level as the one you are knitting with at the moment. We'll show you how to do it below.

This is a simple technique that will save you time and create a neat edge that

won't trouble you when you're sewing up. You just need to be careful not to pull the yarns too tightly when you twist them, otherwise the fabric will pucker.

We would recommend that you use this technique for stripes of even colours used over a few rows as below. You can also use it for uneven stripes, although if you have a large number of rows of one colour, we'd fasten off and start again.



1 Change colour at the start of a new row, using the method shown previously, but don't cut off the old yarn.



2 Work the next two rows with the new yarn. When you return to the edge where you dropped the old yarn, twist the two yarns together at the side. Don't pull the old yarn too tight or the fabric will pucker.



3 Continue working with the new yarn and repeat the twisting process every time you return to the edge where the old yarn is waiting to be used again.



4 When it's time to change colour back to the old yarn, just repeat steps 1-3.

SLIP STITCH COLOURWORK

Create beautiful colourwork effects, the easy way

After stripes, you might like to try some of the other colour techniques out there. Fair Isle, intarsia and Swiss darning allow you to add all sorts of patterns, motifs and characters to your knits, transforming them from drab to fab! But there is a simpler way to create amazing colour effects, which produces some truly amazing results.

Slip stitch colourwork techniques can create a similar effect to Fair Isle, but much more simply. Non-knitters won't know the difference!. All you need to do is change colours and slip stitches – this is where you pass stitches from the left to the right needle without knitting them.

The key thing to remember is not to pull too tightly on your 'floats' (the strands of loose yarn that run behind the

stitches). Keeping them loose will keep the tension even and avoid puckering.

To practise the technique below, cast on a number of stitches that's divisible by 4, such as 24. Choose two colours you want to work with, and using your first colour, work four rows in garter stitch, rib stitch or moss stitch, to help keep the fabric flat, then start your colourwork as described in the guide below.



1 After your border, *join in colour 2 (light pink) and knit the first 2 sts. Slip the next 2 sts across from the left to the right-hand needle, without working them. Repeat this 'k2, sl2' to the end of the row.



2 Turn and using colour 2, purl only the stitches in colour 2, slipping the other stitches to the right needle without working them. Turn, change to colour 1 and knit all the stitches in the next row (as above).



3 Turn and join in another ball of colour 2. Using colour 2, work 'p2, sl2' across the row, making sure you are purling a different set of 2 stitches to the ones you worked in step 1.



4 Turn and using colour 2, only knit the sts in colour 2. Turn, change to colour 1 and purl all the stitches in the row (as above). Repeat from * in step 1 and you'll create a simple checked effect.

SUPER STRIPES

Cast on our simple mitts for cosier hands. By **Kirstie McLeod**



EASY TO KNIT

YOU WILL NEED

- West Yorkshire Spinners, Re:Treat (chunky roving, 100% Bluefaced Kerry Hill, 100g/140m) 1 ball of each: Yarn A Escape (562) Yarn B Harmony (184)
- A pair of 6mm needles

For yarn stockists contact

West Yorkshire Spinners

01535 664500

www.wyspinners.com

TENSION

16 sts and 20 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 6mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 24



TOP TIPS

These mittens are knitted in chunky yarn, so they'll be super quick to knit up. When you change colours, there's no need to cut the yarn as the stripes are quite narrow – simply twist the yarns together up the side of the knitting as you go.



MITTENS (MAKE 2)

Cast on 31 sts using 6mm needles and Yarn A.

Row 1 P1, (K1, P1) to end of row.

Row 2 K1, (P1, K1) to end of row.

Continue in K1, P1 rib until the mitten measures 4cm, ending on WS.

Knit 1 row.

Change to Yarn B.

Next row Purl.

Next row Knit.

Change to Yarn A.

Next row Purl.

Next row Knit.

Rep these 4 rows 7 more times.

Change to Yarn B,

Next row Purl.

Next row Knit.

Change to Yarn A.

Next row Knit.

Row 1 P1, (K1, P1) to end of row.

Row 2 K1, (P1, K1) to end of row.

Continue in K1, P1 rib until the mitten measures 2.5cm, ending on WS.

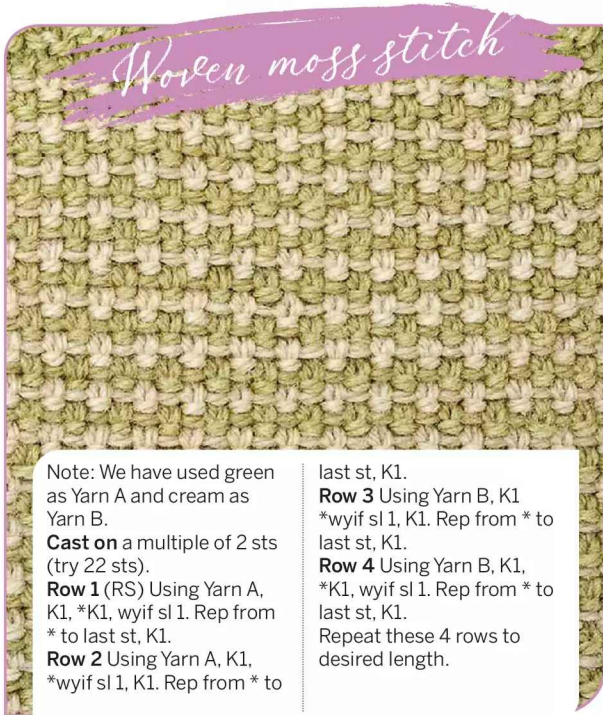
Cast off.

MAKING UP

With RS facing, sew together the side seams leaving a thumbhole at the top of the striped pattern. Weave in any loose ends. ●

COLOUR LIBRARY

Try these simple slip stitch colour patterns in your knitting



Note: We have used green as Yarn A and cream as Yarn B.

Cast on a multiple of 2 sts (try 22 sts).

Row 1 (RS) Using Yarn A, K1, *K1, wyif sl 1. Rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 2 Using Yarn A, K1, *wyif sl 1, K1. Rep from * to

last st, K1.

Row 3 Using Yarn B, K1, *wyif sl 1, K1. Rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 4 Using Yarn B, K1, *K1, wyif sl 1. Rep from * to last st, K1.

Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.



Cast on a multiple of 2 sts plus 1 (try 21 sts).

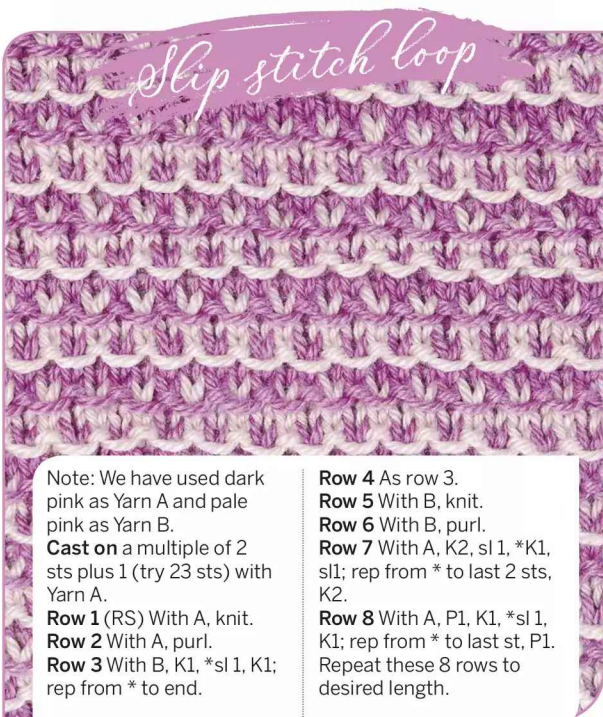
Row 1 With Yarn A, knit.

Row 2 With Yarn A, purl.

Row 3 With Yarn B, K1, *sl 1 purlwise, K1, rep from * to end of row.

Row 4 With Yarn B, *K1, yf, sl 1 purlwise, yb; repeat from * to last st, K1.

Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.



Note: We have used dark pink as Yarn A and pale pink as Yarn B.

Cast on a multiple of 2 sts plus 1 (try 23 sts) with Yarn A.

Row 1 (RS) With A, knit.

Row 2 With A, purl.

Row 3 With B, K1, *sl 1, K1; rep from * to end.

Row 4 As row 3.

Row 5 With B, knit.

Row 6 With B, purl.

Row 7 With A, K2, sl 1, *K1, sl 1; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 8 With A, P1, K1, *sl 1, K1; rep from * to last st, P1. Repeat these 8 rows to desired length.



Note: We have used dark blue for Yarn A and light blue for Yarn B.

Cast on a multiple of 14 sts (try 28 sts) using Yarn A.

Row 1 (RS) With A, *wyib sl 1, K5, (wyib sl 1, K3) twice; rep from * to end.

Row 2 With A, *(P3, wyif sl 1) twice, K5, wyif sl 1; rep

from * to end.

Row 3 With B, *(K3, wyib sl 1) twice, K5, wyib sl 1; rep from * to end.

Row 4 With B, *wyif sl 1, K5, (wyif sl 1, P3) twice; rep from * to end.

Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.

For abbreviations see page 24

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CABLES & TWISTS

Have fun with modern twists and traditional cables – we'll show you it's easy to create texture in your knitted projects

All about... CABLES



Cables make any project look stunning. And the good news is that they're far easier than you think!

You've probably seen cabled knits on the high streets and you might even have a cabled jumper, hat or scarf in your wardrobe. But did you know how easy it is to do it yourself?

Cabling is the word that knitters use to describe any technique that crosses a set of stitches over other stitches. Crossing stitches allows you to create all sorts of textured effects, including twists, braids, rope-like patterns and chunky cables.

To work traditional cables, you need to place a set of stitches temporarily onto a cable needle, and hold them at the front or back of the fabric while you work another set of stitches. You then work the stitches on the cable needle. This moves the cable needle stitches to the left or right, creating a textured column in your knitted fabric.

Cables are famously used in Aran fishermen's sweaters, which were designed for harsh weather – as the stitches twist over each other, the fabric created is thicker

and more wind resistant. Because of all the twisting, yarns with good elasticity are best. Wool and acrylic yarns are well suited to cabling, but it is possible to get good results from cotton, viscose or silk, although cables knitted with these yarns may become stretched after some use.

Good stitch definition is vital for cables and they stand out best on smooth yarns in a solid colour, so avoid fuzzy or variegated yarns! High-twist yarns also give very good cable definition.

Crossing stitches allows you to create all sorts of textured effects

TOP TIP

You don't necessarily need a cable needle to knit cables! Turn to page 132 for hints and tips on making cables in different weights of yarn without using a cable needle.

THE RUNDOWN

CABLES AFFECT TENSION

With cable patterns it's a good idea to make a tension square, because the stitches that are crossed over tend to 'draw in' your fabric. So if you cable quite tightly, this may throw off your stitch tension. If in doubt, make a swatch!

CABLES THAT STAND OUT

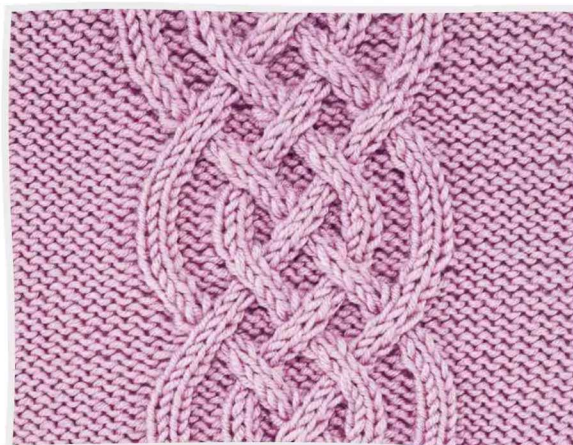
Usually all the cabling is done on the right side of the fabric, with the stitches on the wrong side worked plain to maintain the overall effect. The cable itself is usually worked in stocking stitch (knit on right side, purl on wrong side), on a background of reverse stocking stitch (purl on right side, knit on wrong side). This makes the cable stand out from the rest of the fabric. So if the instructions for the wrong side

PLAITED CABLE

KNIT A TEXTURED TRADITION

FISHING SYMBOLS

Traditionally, cables were used to embellish the pure wool jumpers worn by fishermen. Each village, boat, family and individual had their own design. But each symbol also had its own meaning. For example, ropes are a wish for safety and good luck for a big catch; the honeycomb pattern is used to represent the nets and is a reminder of hard-working bees; and zigzags represent the dangers of the sea such as cliffs and storms. This plaited cable is reminiscent of fishermen's knots.



ODD CABLES

Cables are most often even in number (such as four and six). This cable pattern uses odd-numbered cabling techniques to create a complex cable.

NEEDLE PAIRS

Cables are best worked in 4ply, DK, aran or chunky yarn. Cable needles usually come in pairs, one thin and one slightly thicker. Use the thin one for 4ply and DK yarns, and the thicker one for aran and chunky.

read something like 'work straight' or 'work stitches as set' or 'work stitches as they present themselves', it usually means you should work the cables so they remain in stocking stitch on the front, and work the background so it's reverse stocking stitch on the front. Reversible cables can be created by working the cables in a ribbed stitch, with the background in garter or moss stitch, so that's reversible, too.

GET IN A TWIST

Cable stitches usually have a single abbreviation, such as C4F. C stands for cable; the number is the stitches that are affected by the cable (4 means you put two onto the cable needle); and the letter tells you which side of the fabric to hold them (F for front, B for back). Cables can be described in different ways, so do check the pattern abbreviations. Cable stitches held at the front will look like they're twisting to the left, so a stitch that reads C4F is the same as one that reads C4L. Similarly, cable stitches held at the back will travel to the right, so a stitch that reads C4B is the same as one that reads C4R.

CABLES & BOBBLES

KNIT TEMPTING TEXTURES

KEEPING IT STRAIGHT

The number of rows a cable repeat takes is commonly the same as the number in the abbreviation. So a C4F will usually have three rows worked 'straight' for every cabled row – four rows in total. Use a row counter to keep track of which row you're on.



BOBBLE TEXTURE

Some cable patterns will also use 'bobbles'. These are very simple to knit and create a rustic texture that complements the effect of the cables, so they're often used together.

DISTORTED CABLES

Crossing stitches over each other may cause them to stretch. Avoid this by using a cable needle slightly smaller than your 'main' needles.

TYPES OF CABLE NEEDLES

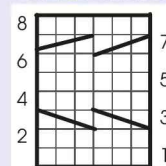
The simplest cable needle is short and straight with points at both ends. Cable needles with a 'v' bend in the middle are more likely to stay put while you hold stitches on them. Some cable needles are 'U' shaped, so you can let go once the stitches are on. Slide the stitches onto the shorter end and knit off the longer end.

READING A CABLE CHART

Cable charts, like cable abbreviations, will often give one symbol for the entire cable section. When working charts in flat knitting, read right side rows from right to left, and wrong side rows from left to right (read more about using charts on page 20). When working charts in the round, read all rows from right to left.

The charts will usually have numbers up the sides which will help you to keep track of where you are in the pattern. Another trick is to cover up rows you've already worked, to avoid working the same row twice – sticky notes that you can reposition are really handy for this, though you can also buy magnetic strips to use.

CABLE CHART



KEY



CABLE PATTERNS FOR YOU TO KNIT

THREE TO TRY! DESIGN IDEAS

Get your needles at the ready for these patterns from *Simply Knitting* magazine! You can buy digital versions of back issues from Apple Newsstand to view on your iPhone and iPad or Google Play to view them on Android devices. For more information and for which other digital platforms are supported, take a look at www.theyarnloop.com/magazine/simply-knitting/digital



1 COSY UP! Beginner

This simple cushion is ideal for beginners because it's knitted flat and has no shaping. Just concentrate on your C6Fs and C6Bs! Turn to page 84 to knit it.



2 COOL CORAL Improver

From issue 189 of *Simply Knitting*, this fab top is fantastic for keeping warm on cool evenings. The cable panel is C12F, so a cable needle is a must.



3 CABLE CHAP Expert

Simply Knitting 190 includes this fabulous jumper for men. It's a complex knit with traditional cable motifs – great to get your teeth into.

CABLE 4 FRONT

Learn how to create a classic 'twisted rope' cable

The easiest cable technique, and the one most people learn first, is the Cable 4 Front (C4F). This twists the stitches to the left and creates the 'twisted rope' effect that you'll recognise from jumpers you see on the high street.

To practise this cable stitch, we recommend you use a smooth wool or acrylic-based DK yarn and a pair of 4mm

needles. Cast on 22 stitches and on the first row, purl 9 stitches, knit 4 stitches, purl 9 stitches. This will be the right side of the fabric. Work the second row: K9, P4, K9. This will be the wrong side.

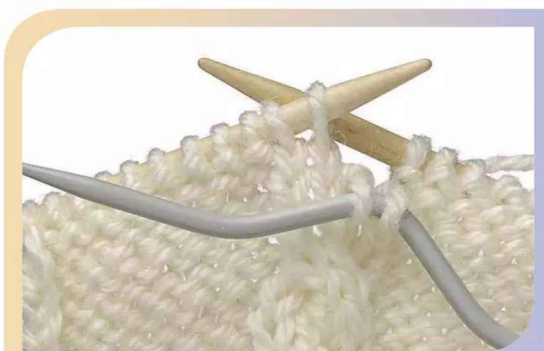
On the next row, you can start cabling! Work the row as follows: P9, C4F, P9. It might help you to place a stitch marker on both sides of the central column of four stitches so you know where the

cabled panel starts and ends on every row. Work three rows 'straight' (as for your first, second and first row again), then repeat the cabling row on every fourth row. Pull the yarn tightly either side of the panel.

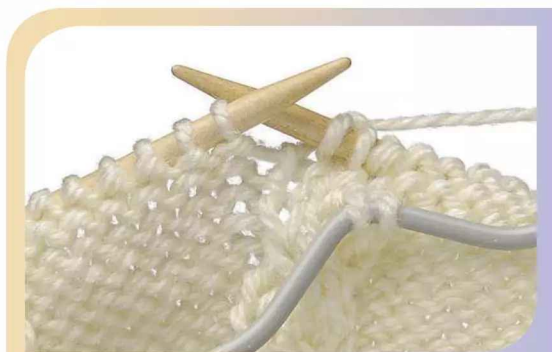
Keep going until you're happy with the technique. Don't worry if it looks uneven – cabling can take a little while to master, so just carry on practising.



1 To work the C4F cabling technique, work the stitches of the background in reverse stocking stitch, up to where the cable pattern starts. Then take the yarn to the back of your knitting.



2 Next, work the cable on the central column of stitches. To do this, slip the first two stitches purlwise onto a cable needle or a spare double-pointed needle. Hold these stitches at the front of the fabric.



3 Knit the next two stitches from the left-hand needle, then slide the two stitches on the cable needle up to the end of the needle and knit them so that they are now both on the right-hand needle.



4 Bring the yarn to the front of your knitting, and pull the yarn tight to avoid ladders along the side of the cable stitches. Purl the next stitch and continue as instructed in your knitting pattern.

CABLE 6 BACK

Try this technique to create a right-leaning cable twist

Twisting your cables in the other direction is just as simple. When you work the Cable 6 Back (C6B) technique, you'll create a twist that leans to the right. Working the cable over six stitches instead of four will also give your cable a chunkier look.

To practise this cable stitch, we recommend you use a smooth wool or acrylic-based DK yarn and a pair of 4mm

needles. Cast on 22 stitches, and on the first row purl 8 stitches, knit 6 stitches, purl 8 stitches. This will be the right side of the fabric. Work the second row: K8, P6, K8. This will be the wrong side.

On the next row, you can start cabling! Work the row as follows: P8, C6B, P8. To help keep track of the central column of six stitches so you always knit the cable in the right place on the row, place stitch

markers on both sides of it. This is particularly helpful when you are knitting a complex pattern. Work five rows 'straight' and then repeat the cabling row on every sixth row. Pull the yarn tightly either side of the panel.

Keep going until you're happy with the technique. Don't worry if it looks uneven – cabling can take a little while to master, so just continue to practise.



1 To work the C6B cabling technique, work the stitches of the background in reverse stocking stitch, up to where the cable pattern is going to begin. You could mark this with stitch markers.



2 Next, work the cable pattern on the central column of six stitches. To do this, slip the next three stitches on to a cable needle. You could also use a spare double-pointed needle instead if you don't have a cable needle.



3 Take the cable needle with the three stitches to the back of the fabric (here, the cable needle is at the back of the knitting). Knit the next three stitches, pulling the first stitch tight to avoid ladders in the cable.



4 To complete the cable, bring the cable needle to the front of the fabric and knit the three stitches from the cable needle. Purl the next stitch and continue as instructed in your knitting pattern.

OTHER CABLE ABBREVIATIONS

Our guide to other cable abbreviations you might come across

The world of cables can be confusing, especially if you see an abbreviation you've not done before. Sometimes cables can be called twists, so you might see T4F rather than C4F, but they often mean the same thing. If you're working from a pattern, it should give you an explanation

of the abbreviation and how to work the stitch. In case you do see a term you don't know, here's a guide to explain some of the cabling and twisting techniques you might come across. If you like, you could work some of these into your knitting to add a bit of texture to your fabric.

As you read through all these different cabling techniques, you'll see that some twists work with odd numbers of stitches, while others create rib-effect cables by mixing up knit and purl stitches. There are near-endless possibilities for cabling and twisting stitches to create all sorts of effects!

C2B: Cable 2 Back

Slip next st to cable needle and hold at back of work, K1 from left needle, then K1 from cable needle.

C2F: Cable 2 Front

Slip next st to cable needle and hold at front of work, K1 from left needle, then K1 from cable needle.

C3B: Cable 3 Back

Slip next st to cable needle and hold at back of work, K2 from left needle, K1 from cable needle.

C3F: Cable 3 Front

Slip next st to cable needle and hold at front of work, K2 from left needle, K1 from cable needle.

Cr3R: Cross 3 Right

Knit the 3rd st on left-hand needle, purl the 2nd st, knit the first st and then let all three drop from left-hand needle.

Cr2b: Rib Cross 2 Back

Slip next st to cable needle and hold at back of work, K1 from left needle, then P1 from cable needle.

Cr2f: Rib Cross 2 Front

Slip next st to cable needle and hold at front of work, P1 from left needle, K1 from cable needle.

C4B: Cable 4 Back

Slip next 2 sts to cable needle and hold at back of work, K2 from left-hand needle, then K2 from cable needle.

C4F: Cable 4 Front

Slip next 2 sts to cable needle and hold at front of work, K2 from left needle, K2 from cable needle.

Cr4R: Odd Cross 4 Right

Slip next 3 sts onto cable needle and hold at back, K1 from left needle, K3 from cable needle.

Cr4L: Odd Cross 4 Left

Slip next st onto cable needle and hold at front, K3 from left needle, then K1 from cable needle.

C6B: Cable 6 Back

Slip next 3 sts to cable needle and hold at back of work, K3 from left needle, then K3 from cable needle.

C6F: Cable 6 Front

Slip next 3 sts to cable needle and hold at front of work, K3 from left needle, then K3 from cable needle.

C10B: Cable 10 Back

Slip 5 sts onto a cable needle, hold at the front of back, K5 from left needle, then K5 from cable needle.

C10F: Cable 10 Front

Slip 5 sts onto a cable needle, hold at the front of work, K5 from left needle, then K5 from cable needle.

Tw2F: Twist 2 Front

Pass the right-hand needle behind the first stitch, knit the second stitch, then knit the first stitch, then slip both the stitches off the left-hand needle.

Tw3B: Purl Twist 3 Back

Slip next st onto cable needle and hold at back of work, K2 from left needle, then P1 from cable needle.

Tw3F: Purl Twist 3 Front

Slip next 2 sts onto cable needle, hold at front of work, P1 from left needle, K2 from cable needle.

T3B: Twist 3 Back

Slip next st onto cable needle, hold at back, K2 from left needle, then K1 from cable needle.

T3F: Twist 3 Front

Slip 2 sts onto cable needle, hold at front, K1 from left needle, then K2 from cable needle.

Tw4B: Purl Twist 4 Back

Slip 2 sts onto cable needle, hold at back, K2 from left needle, then P2 from cable needle.

Tw4F: Purl Twist 4 Front

Slip 2 sts onto cable needle, hold at front, P2 from left needle, then K2 from cable needle.

T8B rib: Twist 8 Back Rib

Slip next 4 sts onto cable needle and hold at back of work, K1, P2, K1 from left needle, then K1, P2, K1 from cable needle.

T8F rib: Twist 8 Front Rib

Slip next 4 sts onto cable needle and hold at front of work, K1, P2, K1 from left needle, then K1, P2, K1 from cable needle.

MAKE BOBBLES

Add even more texture to your cables with bobbles

Bobbles are another great way to add texture to your knitting and you'll often find them used in patterns together with cables. Working bobbles in your knitting is very simple, once you know how, and it's actually a lot of fun!

Different bobbles are worked in different ways, but they usually involve rapid increases and decreases of

stitches, so before you try bobbles make sure you've practised the increasing and decreasing stitches in the Shaping Knitting chapter (from page 51).

To practise making bobbles, we recommend you use a smooth wool or acrylic-based DK yarn and a pair of 4mm needles. Cast on 22 stitches and work in stocking stitch (alternating knit and purl rows) for a few rows.

When you're ready, try working a bobble using the easy technique shown below. You can create bobbles anywhere you like in your knitting to add some interesting texture to your fabric. They look really good on cushions and cabled throws and blankets, as well as when they're used on clothing.

Practise making bobbles until you're confident with the technique.



1 On the right side of the fabric, knit to where you want to place your first bobble. Insert the right-hand needle into the next stitch and knit into the front, back, front, back, front of the stitch, to create five bobble sts.



2 Now turn your work (swap the needles over) and purl all five bobble sts. Turn, knit the five bobble sts, turn, purl the five bobble sts, turn, knit the five bobble sts. Knit the next stitch on the left needle.



3 Now insert the left needle into the second stitch on the right needle and pass it over the first stitch on the right needle. Repeat three more times, so you've passed over four stitches. Knit to the end of the row.



4 Your completed bobble should look something like this. On the next row, purl the stitches before and after the bobble more tightly than usual to help close any gaps that might form at the sides.



CALMING CABLES

Relax in soft luxury with **Sarah Winsper's** cushion, adorned with a simple cable pattern

**IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS****YOU WILL NEED**

- West Yorkshire Spinners Re:Treat (chunky, 100% wool, 100g/140m)
- 2 balls of Mellow (221)
- A pair of 6mm needles
- 35x35cm cushion pad

For yarn stockists contact**West Yorkshire Spinners****01535 664500****www.wyspinners.com****TENSION**

14 sts and 19 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over rev st st using 6mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

C6B slip next 3 sts onto cable needle (cn) and hold at back of work, K3, K3 from cn

C6F slip next 3 sts onto cn and hold at front of work, K3, K3 from cn

rev st st this is produced in the same way as stocking stitch, except the purl stitches are done on the right side and the knit stitches on the wrong side

For a full list see page 24

**CABLE CUSHION BACK**

Cast on 51 sts using 6mm needles.

Row 1 *K3, P3; rep from * to last 3 sts, K3.

Row 2 *P3, K3; rep from * to last 3 sts, P3.

Rep these 2 rows until rib measures 5cm.

Starting with a purl row, work in reverse stocking stitch (rev st st) until Back measures 23cm, ending on a knit row.

FRONT

Continue in rev st st, working cable pattern as follows:

Row 1 (RS) P27, K18, P to end.

Row 2 K6, P18, K to end.

Row 3 P27, (C6B) 3 times, P to end.

Row 4 K6, P18, K to end.

Row 5 P27, K18, P to end.

Row 6 K6, P18, K to end.

Row 7 P27, K3, (C6F) twice, K3, P to end.

Row 8 K6, P18, K to end.

Repeat these 8 rows until Front measures 34cm, ending with a Row 8.

BACK

Starting with a purl row, work in reverse stocking stitch until Back measures 18cm.

Row 1 *K3, P3; rep from * to last 3 sts, K3.

Row 2 *P3, K3; rep from * to last 3 sts, P3.


Rep these 2 rows until rib measures 5cm.

Cast off in rib.

FINISHING

Folding one row above the cable panel, fold the top Back section down and stitch the sides of the Front and Back together using mattress stitch.

Folding one row below the cable panel, fold the bottom Back section up so it overlaps the top section and stitch it in place using mattress stitch.

Sew along the ribbing to close the cushion, leaving long ends so the stitching can easily be removed if the cover needs to be taken off for washing. 

TOP TIP

Remember to keep your tension consistent at the points on the cushion where the cable panel and the reverse stocking stitch patterns join.

When sewing the back closed, leave long ends in case you need to undo the seam for washing



CABLE LIBRARY

Create intricate patterns with just a few easy stitches

Woven cable



Cast on a multiple of 4 sts plus 6 (example shown here is over 10 sts on a reverse st st background).
Row 1 (RS) K2, *C4F, rep from * to end.
Row 2 Purl.
Row 3 *C4B, rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.
Row 4 Purl.
 Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.

9 stitch plait



Cast on 33 stitches.
Row 1 P5, K9, P5, K9, P5.
Row 2 K5, P9, K5, P9, K5
Row 3 P5, C6F, K3, P5, K3 C6B, P5.
Row 4 K5, P9, K5, P9, K5.
Row 5 P5, K9, P5, K9, P5.
Row 6 K5, P9, K5, P9, K5.
Row 7 P5, K3, C6B, P5 C6F K3, P5.
Row 8 K5, P9, K5, P9, K5.
 Repeat these 8 rows to desired length.

Honeycomb



Cast on 32 stitches.
Row 1 *C4B, C4F, repeat from * to end of row.
Row 2 P.
Row 3 K.
Row 4 P.
Row 5 *C4F, C4B, repeat from * to end of row.
Row 6 P.
Row 7 K.
Row 8 P.
 Repeat these 8 rows to desired length.

Wavy cables



Cast on a multiple of 8 sts (try 48 sts).
Row 1 (RS) *K4, C4B; rep from * to end of row.
Row 2 Purl.
Row 3 *C4F, K4; rep from * to end of row.
Row 4 Purl.
 Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.

For abbreviations see page 24

LACE KNITTING

Use simple increases and decreases to knit delicate scarves, shawls and garments that are sure to attract compliments!



All about... LACE



Tempted by lace? It's easier than it looks to learn the simple stitches that make up lace fabric

With delicate holes and patterns of shaping, we admit that lace fabric looks very complex. But the secret is, it's really not! Lace fabrics are created with simple increase and decrease stitches, some of which you'll have already learnt in the Shaping chapter (see page 51), and other ones that we'll show you here.

The most important stitch you'll use in lace knitting is the yarn over. This increases the number of stitches on your needle by one, and also creates a hole in your fabric. It's easy to accidentally work a yarn over, but in lace knitting you'll work these holes deliberately to create the lace fabric.

If you're knitting a straight piece of fabric (such as a scarf or the front of a simple jumper) then every increase you make will need to be paired with a decrease, so the overall stitch count of your work doesn't change. There are a large number

of decrease stitches you can choose from, each one creating a different finished look and effect – it's the choice and arrangement of these decreases that creates the lace pattern, whether that's a simple mesh or a delicate pattern of hearts or leaves.

In other patterns, you'll need to change the stitch count of your work to shape the fabric – such as for a triangular shawl. This is easy to do when knitting lace because you're already working with lots of increases and decreases, so you'll often find that a design will 'grow' organically, within the pattern, for a professional finished look.

The most important stitch you'll use in lace knitting is the yarn over

THE RUNDOWN

RIGHT SIDE ONLY

Lace designs can be formed in any type of knitted fabric, including stocking stitch and garter stitch – stocking stitch is the most common. On simple lace designs, the pattern is usually worked on the right-side (knit) rows only, while the wrong-side rows simply involve purling back across all your stitches. More advanced lace designs involve working the lace on both the right and wrong sides, but it's best to get used to lace knitting before attempting these.

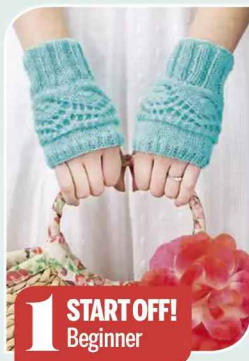
WORDS AND CHARTS

Some lace designs write out each stitch in the pattern for you to follow, while others use a chart to show the stitches – some designs offer both, so you can choose which you prefer! Different knitters prefer different

LACE PATTERNS FOR YOU TO KNIT

THREE TO TRY! DESIGN IDEAS

Get your needles at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Knitting* magazine! To get the issues mentioned here, you can buy digital versions of back issues from Apple Newsstand to view on your iPhone and iPad or Google Play to view them on Android devices. For more information and for which other digital platforms are supported, take a look at the website at www.theyarnloop.com/magazine/simply-knitting/digital



1 START OFF!
Beginner

This delicate design uses a fourteen-row repeat worked on a separate band to create a striking lace effect. It's a perfect first lace project. Cast on today – turn on page 92!



2 STEP UP!
Improver

This stylish shawl (issue 185 of *Simply Knitting*) is a great way to get used to making a bigger lace project and uses a few different techniques to help you wrap up warm.



3 MOVE ON!
Expert

Create your very own pretty lace scarf from issue 188 of *Simply Knitting*. It's a complex pattern where you'll work from a chart and use daisy stitches. One to take your time over!

instructions, but charts can really help you to understand the design and 'read' the knitting on your needles. On lace charts, a yarn over is often represented as a circle, which matches up to a hole in your knitting, while decreases are usually shown as slanted lines, just like the decreases create slanted lines in your fabric. Looking at the chart can give you a good sense of how your lace is created and how it will look.

A PERFECT FINISH

When you finish knitting your lace piece, don't be discouraged if it looks small, scrunched up and nothing like the delicate, draping fabric you'd pictured – that's totally normal! It's vital to gently wash and block your lace to open up the stitches and show off your finished piece to perfection. We have more about this in our Finishing section from page 117, but it deserves a mention here as well. Blocking involves laying out the damp fabric on a mattress, thick carpet or foam blocking board, then gently stretching out the knitting and pinning down the edges so they don't roll back. Once it's dry, you can unpin and enjoy a beautifully lacy, perfectly finished project!

A PERFECT FINISH

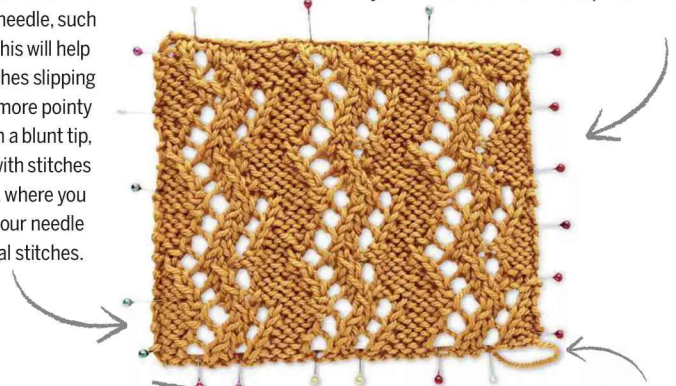
CREATE DELICATE LACE DESIGNS

TYPE OF NEEDLE

When knitting lace, you might want to choose a more 'grippy' needle, such as bamboo – this will help stop your stitches slipping off the end. A more pointy tip, rather than a blunt tip, will also help with stitches such as k3tog, where you have to push your needle through several stitches.

PINS AND T-PINS

Invest in a set of long pins or stainless steel T-pins – they're perfect for holding your blocking lace in place. Use them to pin out points in a lace edging or along a row for a straight edge.



LIFE LINES

If you're worried about mistakes or dropped stitches, work a 'lifeline' into your knitting. Thread a long piece of spare yarn onto a tapestry needle and pass it through every stitch on a row. Continue knitting and if you make a big mistake, you can unravel back to the lifeline and place all the stitches back onto your needle.

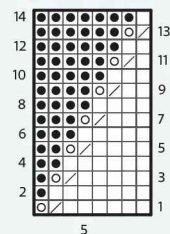
READING A LACE CHART

Lace patterns are often repeated across a panel of knitting, so lace charts will often just show one repeat of the pattern, which you can work as many times as instructed. Often, lace designs are only worked on the knit side of stocking stitch fabric, so charts might show the wrong-side rows as all purl stitches or leave out these rows altogether. Before you start

knitting, check the rows numbers given, as well as the instructions in the pattern and any notes next to the chart.

More complicated lace patterns will have a lace pattern used on both sides of the fabric. We recommend that you get used to working with lace patterns just on the right side of the fabric before trying these harder lace patterns.

LACE CHART



KEY

- K on RS, P on WS
- P on RS, K on WS
- yo
- k2tog

LACE FABRIC

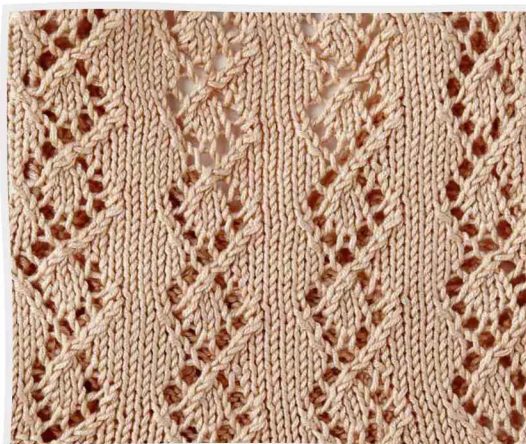
KNIT PERFECT LACE DESIGNS

LOST A STITCH?

At the end of each row, count the stitches on your needles (or between each stitch marker). Gained or lost a stitch? It's better to find out as soon as possible rather than two rows later when the stitches don't line up!

LEFT AND RIGHT

As we've already discussed in the Shaping chapter, decrease stitches generally slant either left (ssk) or right (k2tog). Lace knitting uses the lines created by these slants to create delicate patterns in the fabric.



STITCH MARKERS

If you have a lace pattern repeated across your work, use stitch markers in between each repeat. This way, you only have a few stitches to count at a time, and it's easier to check for mistakes, too.

MATCH THE STITCHES

As long as you're knitting a straight piece of fabric, every yarn over should be paired with a corresponding decrease. Or, you may find two yarn overs matched with a 'double decrease' stitch such as a k3tog.

YARN OVER (YO)

Increases by a stitch, creates a hole in your fabric

What feature really defines lace knitting? The holes, of course! Lace knitting's beauty is in how these delicate holes are placed deliberately, and the easiest way to create these is with a yarn over.

This stitch creates an extra loop of yarn around your needle, which you work into on the next round as if it were just another

stitch. It's an increase, because you're making a new stitch that wasn't there before, and adds one to your stitch count. Since it's a new stitch and there was no pre-existing stitch under it, a 'yo' also creates a hole in your fabric.

You'll find a number of different terms used for yarn overs, such as 'yarn forward' (yf) or 'yarn round needle' (yrn).

These generally mean the same thing, though they can also be used to describe the different ways of creating a yarn over if you're working between two purl stitches, or a knit and a purl. Between two purl stitches, wrap the yarn around the right-hand needle front to back to front so it ends up in purl position again. It's well worth practising both yarn over variations.



1 Work up to the position of your yarn over as normal, then bring your yarn between the needles, to the front of your work.



2 Insert the needle into the next stitch and take the yarn from front to back, over the right-hand needle, and wrap it back around the needle as usual.



3 Pick up the yarn with your needle tip and pull it through the stitch on the left needle, creating a knit stitch as normal.



4 Slip the stitch off the needle. You will notice that the yarn over forms an extra loop to the right of the stitch you have just worked. When you purl back across the row, it will create a hole.

HOW TO K2TOG, YO

Decrease and increase to keep the stitch count the same

The 'k2tog, yo' is a classic pairing in lace knitting – the knit two together is a simple decrease positioned next to a yarn over. The stitch count will remain constant, so you won't get any shaping in your knitting just using this combination – this is perfect for a straight piece of fabric such as a scarf.

Although this stitch often forms part of

a larger lace pattern, used on its own it's also a great way to create simple eyelets in a piece of stocking stitch fabric. In this case, the k2tog decrease will appear almost invisible next to the hole created by the yarn over, so all you'll see is a small, stable hole in the knitting.

This combination is a basic component of lace knitting, so it's a good idea to

practise it and get used to making yarn overs without even thinking about it.

Cast on for a small square of stocking stitch fabric (knit the right-side rows, purl the wrong-side rows). Then, every six rows or so, work the k2tog, yo, across the row, about ten stitches apart. You'll see a pretty eyelet effect which you can work into any knitting pattern you choose.



1 Insert the right-hand needle into the next two stitches on the left-hand needle, from left to right. Wrap the yarn around the right needle and pull through the stitches.



2 Bring the yarn to the front of your knitting, between the points of your needles.



3 Then take the yarn over the right-hand needle to the back of the knitting and work the remaining stitches.



4 Purl back across the row you've just worked, and you'll see a neat eyelet created in your knitting.

AQUAMARINE

Add a stylish touch to a favourite outfit with
Kirstie McLeod's sweet lacy mittens.



**IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS****YOU WILL NEED**

- Use 100m of any 4ply yarn
- A pair of 3mm needles

TENSION

Yarn used knits as 4ply to this tension: 26 sts and 32 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st using 3mm needles

SIZE

To fit average size women's hands

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 24

TOP TIP

For your first lace projects, we recommend using a smooth, even yarn in an acrylic or wool blend yarn. Lace knitting is so detailed that you won't see the full effects of the pattern if you use a yarn which is too fluffy, or of varying thicknesses.

Keep counting and take your time – it's very useful to use stitch markers in between pattern repeats to help you keep track of stitches.

**MITTENS (MAKE 2)**

Cast on 42 sts using 3mm needles.

Row 1 K2, (P2, K2) to end.

Row 2 P2, (K2, P2) to end.

Last 2 rows set K2, P2 rib.

Cont in K2, P2 rib until work measures 6cm from the cast-on edge, ending on a row 2.

Starting with a knit row continue in stocking stitch until knitting measures 13.5cm from the cast-on edge, ending with a purl row.

Next row (K1, P1) to end of row.

Next row (P1, K1) to end of row.

Next row (K1, P1) to end of row.

Next row (P1, K1) to end of row.

Next row (K1, P1) to end of row.

Cast off.

LACE BORDER (MAKE 2)

Cast on 13 sts using 3mm needles.

Row 1 K2, purl to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 2 Sl1, K3, yo, K5, yo, k2tog, yo, K2.

Row 3 K2, purl to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 4 Sl1, K4, sl1, k2tog, pssso, K2, (yo, k2tog) twice, K1.

Row 5 K2, purl to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 6 Sl1, K3, skpo, K2, (yo, k2tog) twice, K1.

Row 7 K2, purl to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 8 Sl1, K2, skpo, K2 (yo, k2tog) twice, K1.

Row 9 K2, purl to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 10 Sl1, K1, skpo, K2 (yo, k2tog) twice, K1.

Row 11 K2, purl to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 12 Sl1, skpo, K2, yo, K1, yo, k2tog, yo, K2.

Row 13 K2, purl to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 14 Sl1, (K3, yo) twice, k2tog, yo, K2.


Repeat rows 1–14, 3 more times.

Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

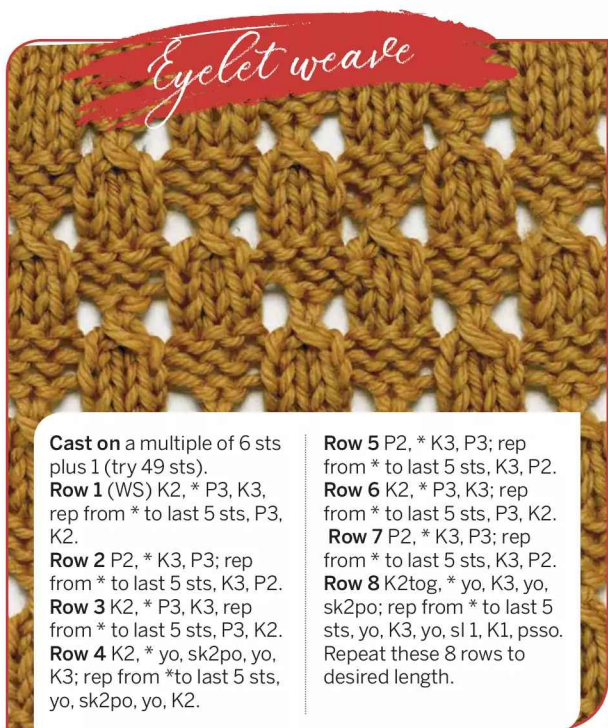
With RS facing and starting at the K1, P1 rib end, sew together the first 5 rows and fasten off the yarn securely.

Still with the right sides facing, sew together the K2, P2 rib and fasten off the yarn securely.

Turn the mitten the right way out. Fold the border edge in half so the right sides are facing and join the cast-on and cast-off edges together. Fasten off the yarn securely. With the right sides of the mitten and border edge facing, sew the border to the last row of the K2, P2 rib. Weave in all loose ends. 

LACE LIBRARY

A selection of our favourite lacy stitch patterns



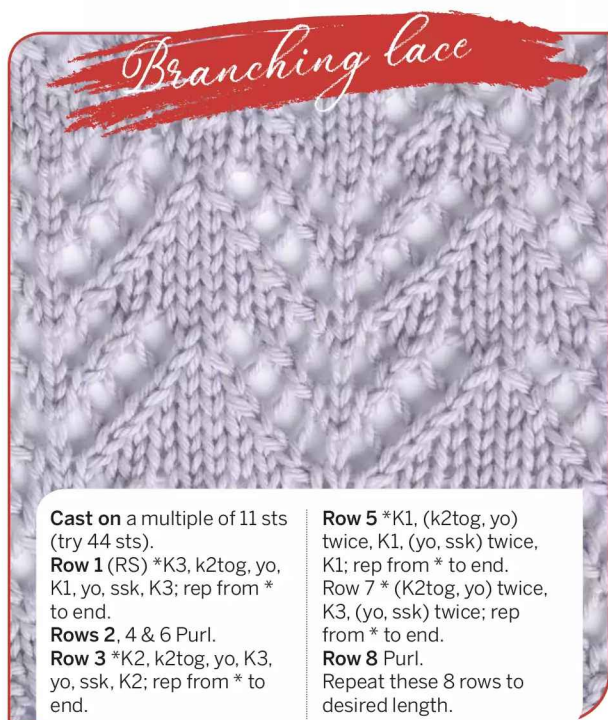
Eyelet weave

Cast on a multiple of 6 sts plus 1 (try 49 sts).
Row 1 (WS) K2, * P3, K3, rep from * to last 5 sts, P3, K2.
Row 2 P2, * K3, P3; rep from * to last 5 sts, K3, P2.
Row 3 K2, * P3, K3, rep from * to last 5 sts, P3, K2.
Row 4 K2, * yo, sk2po, yo, K3; rep from * to last 5 sts, yo, sk2po, yo, K2.
Row 5 P2, * K3, P3; rep from * to last 5 sts, K3, P2.
Row 6 K2, * P3, K3; rep from * to last 5 sts, P3, K2.
Row 7 P2, * K3, P3; rep from * to last 5 sts, K3, P2.
Row 8 K2tog, * yo, K3, yo, sk2po; rep from * to last 5 sts, yo, K3, yo, sl 1, K1, pssso. Repeat these 8 rows to desired length.



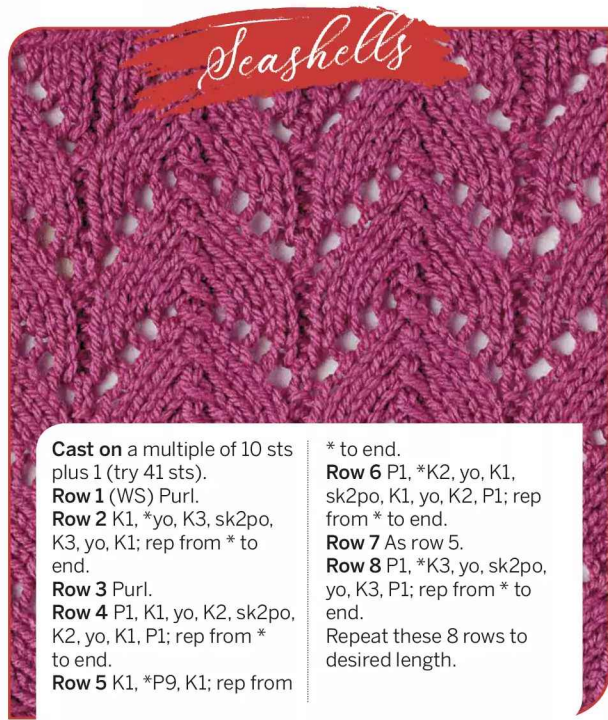
Slip stitch netting

Cast on a multiple of 3 sts (try 42 sts).
Row 1 K2, * yo, sl 1, K2, pssso both sts; rep from * to last st, K1.
Row 2 Purl.
Row 3 K1, * sl 1, K2, pssso both sts, yo; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.
Row 4 Purl. Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.



Branching lace

Cast on a multiple of 11 sts (try 44 sts).
Row 1 (RS) *K3, k2tog, yo, K1, yo, ssk, K3; rep from * to end.
Rows 2, 4 & 6 Purl.
Row 3 *K2, k2tog, yo, K3, yo, ssk, K2; rep from * to end.
Row 5 *K1, (k2tog, yo) twice, K1, (yo, ssk) twice, K1; rep from * to end.
Row 7 * (K2tog, yo) twice, K3, (yo, ssk) twice; rep from * to end.
Row 8 Purl. Repeat these 8 rows to desired length.



Seashells

Cast on a multiple of 10 sts plus 1 (try 41 sts).
Row 1 (WS) Purl.
Row 2 K1, *yo, K3, sk2po, K3, yo, K1; rep from * to end.
Row 3 Purl.
Row 4 P1, K1, yo, K2, sk2po, K2, yo, K1, P1; rep from * to end.
Row 5 K1, *P9, K1; rep from * to end.
Row 6 P1, *K2, yo, K1, sk2po, K1, yo, K2, P1; rep from * to end.
Row 7 As row 5.
Row 8 P1, *K3, yo, sk2po, yo, K3, P1; rep from * to end. Repeat these 8 rows to desired length.

Feathery lace

Cast on a multiple of 6 sts plus 1 (try 43 sts).

Row 1 (RS) K1, * k2tog, yo, K1, yo, sl 1, K1, pssso, K1; rep from * to end.

Row 2 Purl.

Rep these 2 rows 5 times more.

Row 13 K1, * yo, sl 1, K1, pssso, K1, k2tog, yo, K1; rep from * to end.

Row 14 Purl. Rep the last 2 rows 5 times more.

Repeat these 24 rows to desired length.

Horizontal eyelet

Cast on an odd number of stitches (try 41 sts).

Row 1 (WS) Knit.

Row 2 Knit.

Row 3 K1, P1, * yo, p2tog;

rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 4 Knit.

Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.

Leaf & weave

Cast on a multiple of 12 sts plus 1 (try 49 sts).

Row 1 (RS) K2tog, K4, yo, K1, yo, K4, * sk2po, K4, yo, K1, yo, K4; rep from * to last 2 sts, sl 1, K1, pssso.

Row 2 and every alt row Purl.

Row 3 K2tog, K3, (yo, K3) twice, * sk2po, K3, (yo, K3) twice; rep from * to last 2 sts, sl 1, K1, pssso.

Row 5 K2tog, K2, yo, K5, yo, K2, * sk2po, K2, yo, K5, yo, K2; rep from * to last 2

sts, sl 1, K1, pssso.

Row 7 K1, * yo, K4, sk2po, K4, yo, K1; rep from * to end.

Row 9 K2, yo, K3, sk2po, K3, * (yo, K3) twice, sk2po, K3; rep from * to last 2 sts, yo, K2.

Row 11 K3, yo, K2, sk2po, K2, * yo, K5, yo, K2, sk2po, K2; rep from * to last 3 sts, yo, K3.

Row 12 Purl. Repeat these 12 rows to desired length.

Diamonds in moss

Cast on a multiple of 8 sts plus 1 (try 41 sts).

Row 1 (RS) K1, *P1, K1; rep from * to end.

Rep the last row 3 times more to form moss stitch. **Row 5** K1, *yo, sl 1, K1, pssso, K3, k2tog, yo, K1; rep from * to end.

Rows 6, 8, 10, 16, 18 & 20 Purl.

Row 7 K2, *yo, sl 1, K1, pssso, K1, k2tog, yo, K3; rep from * to last 7 sts, yo, sl 1, K1, pssso, K1, k2tog, yo, K2.

Row 9 K3, *yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, yo, K5; rep from * to last 6 sts, yo, sl 1, k2tog,

pssso, yo, K3.

Row 11 K1, *P1, K1; rep from * to end.

Rep last row 3 times more.

Row 15 K2, *k2tog, yo, K1, yo, sl 1, K1, pssso, K3; rep from * to last 7 sts, k2tog, yo, K1, yo, sl 1, K1, pssso, K2.

Row 17 *K1, k2tog, yo, K3, yo, sl 1, K1, pssso; rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 19 K2tog, *yo, K5, yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso; rep from * to last 7 sts, yo, K5, yo, sl 1, K1, pssso.

Repeat these 20 rows to desired length.

For abbreviations see page 24

The Knitter

Beautiful, creative patterns to inspire enthusiastic knitters



Plus
**PATTERN
BOOKLET**
IN EVERY
ISSUE

KNITTING IN THE ROUND

We'll show you how to use circular needles to knit in the round, for making hats, socks, mittens and other seam-free creations



All about... ROUNDS



Knitting in the round is the easiest way to make beautiful seamless garments and accessories

Can you knit in rows? Then you can knit in the round! There's no great mystery to it and we'll show you how in this chapter. Knitting in the round will enable you to create seamless circular fabric and open up a world of possible projects including hats and socks.

The easiest way to knit in the round is with a circular needle, so we recommend you try this first. You'll need to work with quite a lot of stitches, so that the stitches cover the entire circumference of the circular needle. By practising knitting in the round with a circular needle, you'll quickly get the hang of the technique.

Then you can move on to using double-pointed needles (DPNs). Using a set of these will enable you to knit in the round with fewer stitches, to make much smaller items, like socks and the fingers of gloves.

There are lots of different ways of knitting in the round – we're going to show you the easiest methods to get you started,

then you can move on to learning more complex techniques, such as the Magic Loop method.

It's just like knitting in rows – you need to work every stitch from the start of the round to the end. To help you keep track of where you are in the round and when you're at the end of a round, you can use a stitch marker or a knotted piece of spare yarn (see below).

Perhaps the most important rule of knitting in the round is to make sure your stitches are not twisted before you join them into the round. Keeping the stitches straight is vital to creating a tube of fabric – if the stitches are twisted, your tube will end up with twists incorporated into it, creating a Moebius ring of fabric. If that's not what you're aiming at, you'll have to start again!

THE RUNDOWN

CIRCLE SETS

Circular needles come in various lengths, the most popular being from 20cm (8in) to 100cm (40in). One of the most flexible and cost-effective ways to create circular needles is to invest in an interchangeable needle set – you can combine different lengths of cable and different sizes of needle tips to create all sorts of circular needles.

FOUR OR FIVE DPNs

Double-pointed needles come in sets of four or five, in lengths ranging from 13cm (5in) to 40cm (16in). You can knit in the round with a set of four just as easily as a set of five, but we recommend you buy sets of five, so that you have the choice of whether to use four or five. It's always best to work with the number of DPNs stated in the pattern

TOP TIP

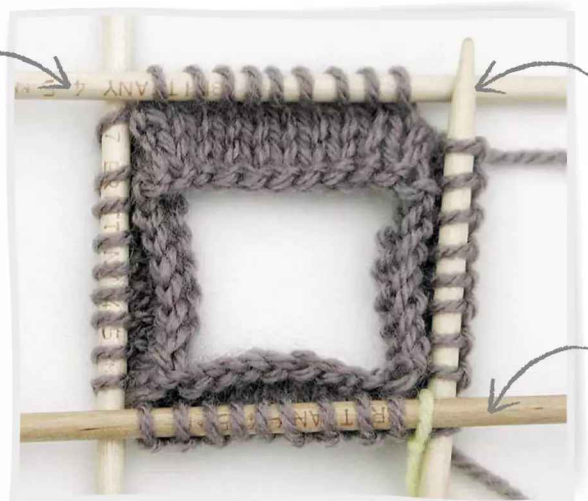
You can buy all sorts of different lengths of circular needle, from 20-30cm long ones mostly used for socks, to 300cm long – great for larger projects like big shawls or blankets.

SEAM-FREE KNITS

PERFECT FOR SOCKS AND GLOVES

FOUR OR FIVE NEEDLES

Our examples will show you how to use five DPNs. If you're working with a set of four DPNs instead, the same techniques apply. No matter how many DPNs you're working with, you'll always need to use one as the working needle (like the right needle in row knitting) and the others as the holding needles (like the left needle in row knitting). Use the working needle to knit all the stitches from another DPN, leaving that needle empty. The empty needle then becomes the working needle. Continue knitting with each DPN in this manner, all the way around and back to the start of the round.



RIGHT OR WRONG

When you work in the round, the right side of the fabric is always facing you. We've knitted every round in our examples, which creates a stocking stitch fabric with no purling.

MARK THE START/END

To keep track of which round you're working on, mark the start/end of the round, like we have here with green yarn. Make a slipknot in a piece of spare yarn or use a stitch marker, placing it next to the last stitch you cast on. When you're knitting, this will indicate the end of the round. On each round, just slip the marker from the left needle to the right.

you're following, otherwise you'll have lots of tricky adjustments to make. Beginners often find wood or bamboo DPNs are easier to work with than metal or plastic ones, because they're less slippery and 'grab' hold of your stitches a bit more.

WHICH SIZE?

Before you invest in an expensive set of DPNs in every size, think about what you might want to knit in the round. If you'd like to knit socks, you'll find it easier to work with the shorter double-pointed needles, around 13cm (5in) long, or short circulars. Most socks use 4ply yarns that require 2.5mm or 3mm size needles, so invest in a set of each size.

If you'd like to knit gloves or hats, you'll probably use thicker yarns and need larger sizes of DPNs. You'll probably need longer DPNs to knit garments in the round, so that all the stitches will fit on the needles. If you find that your stitches are falling off the needles, change to longer DPNs or use point protectors to save your stitches.

KNIT IN THE ROUND

IT'S EASY WHEN YOU KNOW HOW

BUILD UP GRADUALLY

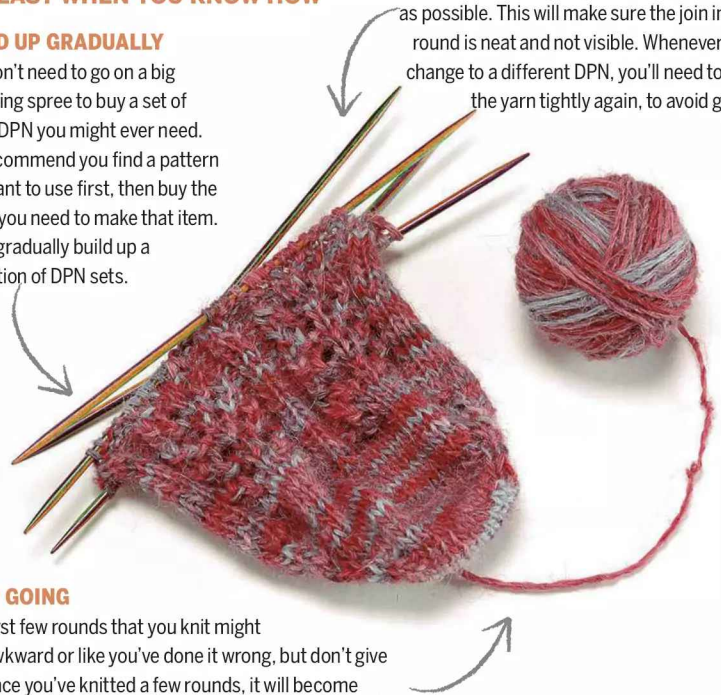
You don't need to go on a big shopping spree to buy a set of every DPN you might ever need. We recommend you find a pattern you want to use first, then buy the DPNs you need to make that item. You'll gradually build up a collection of DPN sets.

KEEP GOING

The first few rounds that you knit might feel awkward or like you've done it wrong, but don't give up! Once you've knitted a few rounds, it will become much easier and you'll be able to see the results.

INVISIBLE JOIN

When you work the stitch that joins the round, make sure you pull the yarn as tightly as possible. This will make sure the join in the round is neat and not visible. Whenever you change to a different DPN, you'll need to pull the yarn tightly again, to avoid gaps.



STITCH PATTERNS IN THE ROUND

When you start knitting in the round, you'll quickly notice that all you need to do is knit the stitches and you'll create a tube of stocking fabric. This is perfectly normal and you haven't done it wrong! It's because when you knit

in the round, you're always working the stitches from the right side of the fabric. You can still create the four main stitch patterns, but in a slightly different way. For more on this, see page 104.

PATTERNS IN THE ROUND TO KNIT

THREE TO TRY! DESIGN IDEAS

Get your needles at the ready for these patterns from *Simply Knitting* magazine! You can buy digital versions of back issues from Apple Newsstand to view on your iPhone and iPad or Google Play to view them on Android devices. For more information and for which other digital platforms are supported, take a look at www.theyarnloop.com/magazine/simply-knitting/digital



1 SO SWEET! Beginner

Mostly knitted in the round, this cute poncho (page 106) uses quite a few of the skills you've learned. You can practise picking up stitches too!



2 BAG IT UP! Improver

This bag from issue 187 of *Simply Knitting* starts off flat and then joins in the round for the sides. The yarn is self-stripping so no need to change colours.



3 SOCK IT Expert

Issue 189 of *Simply Knitting* includes these lovely socks. They are a pretty complicated pair, so save these until you're feeling confident!

CIRCULAR KNITS

Start simple knitting in the round with a circular needle

The easiest way to start knitting in the round is to use a circular needle. Practise by following our steps below, using DK yarn and a 4mm circular needle. Choose a pair with a cord that's not too short to start with, to make it easier to bring the needle tips together. Try using a 40cm (16in) length and cast on 120 stitches. This will ensure you have enough stitches to comfortably go all the

way around your circular needle. There are various ways to join your knitting into the round. You can just start knitting, as we'll show you below. When you use this method, when you finish your project, you will need to pull the end of the yarn you started with to tighten it, and then weave it in to the knitted fabric to prevent a ladder forming.

Alternatively, some knitters join the

round by swapping over the first and last stitch of the round, lifting one over the other. Other knitters like to cast on an extra stitch, and then once they've knit to the end of the first round, they knit the extra stitch together with the first stitch of the round, to join. There is no right or wrong way to do it – see which method suits you and keep practising until you're happy with this extremely useful technique.



1 Choose which side of the needle you want to use as the left-hand needle, and which one you want to use as the right. Cast on your stitches, then ensure your working yarn is at the right-hand tip.



2 Now mark the end of each round with a stitch marker or knotted piece of spare yarn on the right-hand needle, sliding it up to sit next to the last stitch you cast on. Check that your stitches aren't twisted.



3 Next, bring the two needle tips together, with the first and last stitches as close as possible. With the working yarn in your right hand, knit the first stitch from the left-hand needle, pulling the yarn tight for a neat join.



4 Continue knitting, pushing the stitches around the needle as you go. Once you reach the marker, you will have knitted one round. Slip the marker and knit more rounds in the same way, without turning.

NEW

Love Knitting for Baby

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Christmas is coming... The December issue of *Love Knitting for Baby* is packed with everything you need for Christmas and winter, including a snowman jumper, reindeer booties, penguin baby sack and much more. Plus keep little one's head cosy with our exclusive Roly Robin hat kit!

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* Free delivery available on UK orders only. Overseas please call +44 (0) 3330 162 138. EUR price £11.99, ROW price £12.99. All prices include p&p. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

CAST ON DPNS

Knit smaller items with a set of DPNs – here's how to cast on

Working in the round on double-pointed needles uses the same techniques as working on a circular needle, plus a few more. Knitting on DPNs can be a bit fiddly to start with, but practice makes perfect and you'll soon be able to knit hats and socks with ease!

When casting on to work with DPNs in the round, you don't have to cast directly

on to three or four DPNs. Many knitters find it easier to cast on all the stitches onto one straight needle, as usual, and then transfer them to DPNs – we'll show you how to do this below. If you don't have too many stitches, you can cast on to one of the DPNs – you can always use a point protector if you're worried about losing your stitches. Our steps shown below describe how to cast on if you're using a

set of five DPNs. If you're working with a set of four DPNs instead, cast on 27 stitches and follow the steps below until you have all your cast-on stitches on three DPNs.

However many DPNs you're using, you'll need one empty DPN after you've cast on, to act as your working needle. As with casting on to circular needles, just be careful not to twist the stitches!



1 Cast on 36 stitches onto a straight knitting needle, using the cast-on method you prefer. With an empty DPN in your right hand, slip nine stitches from the cast-on needle onto your DPN.



2 Now take the next empty DPN and slip the next nine stitches from the cast-on needle to the empty DPN. Make sure you support the first DPN in your right hand or on a table so the stitches don't fall off it.



3 Repeat the same process to slip the next nine stitches onto the third empty DPN. If you're using a set of five DPNs, repeat the process again to slip the next nine stitches onto the fourth empty DPN.



4 Now your stitches will be evenly divided over the DPNs. Arrange the DPNs as above and check that the stitches aren't twisted. You will be left with a 'spare' needle, ready to work the first round.

KNIT ON DPNS

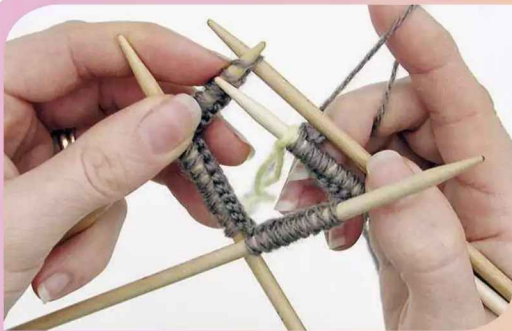
Start simple knitting in the round with a circular needle

Once you've cast stitches onto your set of DPNs, it's time to knit the first round. Before you start, add a stitch marker to show you where the end of the round is, just like you did on the circular needle. Then check, check and check again that your stitches really aren't twisted!

Using the 'spare' needle as the working needle, knit the first stitch of the first

round, pulling the yarn tightly for an invisible join. Knit all the stitches from the first DPN until that needle is empty. The empty needle now becomes the working needle. Continue like this all the way to the end of the round. Every time you change to a new DPN, pull the yarn tightly again. Some knitters prefer to cast on stitches onto a straight needle, but then knit the first round off that needle using

DPNs. This means they've worked the first round and arranged the stitches onto DPNs at the same time. Try both techniques and use the one that suits you. If you find that placing a stitch marker at the start of the round is too fiddly, you can always place it in between the first and second stitches instead. The important thing is that you know where the round starts and finishes.



1 Hold DPN 4 and the empty DPN 5 in your right hand, as shown above. Hold DPN 1 in your left hand. Insert the empty DPN 5 into the first stitch on DPN 1 and knit it, pulling the yarn tight for a neat join.



2 Alternatively, knit the first stitch while holding the empty DPN 5 under DPN 4 (above), rather than under it (above left). Or you can let go of DPN 4 and use the working yarn to pull the circle closed.



3 Knit all the stitches from DPN 1 using DPN 5, until DPN 1 is empty. Now the empty DPN 1 will become your working needle: rotate the needles so you're holding DPN 5 and DPN 1 in your right hand, while knitting from DPN 2.



4 Repeat the process, using DPN 1 to knit from DPN 2, using DPN 2 to knit DPN 3, and using DPN 3 to knit DPN 4. You'll have completed one round. Knit the second round in the same way, without turning.

PATTERNS IN THE ROUND

How to create different stitch patterns in the round

When you work in the round, every round is worked on the right side of the fabric. So if you knit each stitch, you'll get stocking stitch – purling each stitch creates reverse stocking stitch. Make tubes of the four main stitch patterns (below) to see how they work.

When working any stitch pattern in the round, you'll find that at the join point of

the round, where it starts/ends, there's a slight jarring of the stitch pattern. This is normal and nothing to worry about when you're starting out. The 'jog' in the fabric is more obvious in some stitch patterns, such as garter stitch. There are ways to combat this, but don't worry at this stage. If you're getting a ladder, move the stitch marker each round so that the yarn isn't stretched all the time in the same

place. You'll also find that washing and blocking the finished item will help the stitches to even out.

After a bit of practice, you'll also find that it's possible to convert patterns from flat knitting into circular knitting, by reversing the stitches on the wrong-side rows (purl sts need to become knit sts, etc). The best thing is to experiment with your patterns and see what happens!



1 Stocking stitch fabric is made by knitting the stitches on every round. This means you can work shaping stitches on any round, because they're all knit rounds, making this a popular choice for hats and socks.



2 Garter stitch fabric can be worked in the round by alternating rows of knit and purl stitches. You'll probably find that at the join point of the round, there's a slight jog in the stitch pattern, but this is fine for now.



3 Rib stitches are simple to work in the round, since the stitch pattern is naturally reversible. For 1x1 rib, cast on an even number of sts. For 2x2 rib, you need sts to be divisible by 4. For 3x3 rib, make sure sts are divisible by 6.



4 Moss stitch is just as easy as rib stitches to work in the round. Again, make sure you cast on an even number of stitches for plain moss stitch. Or follow the stitch count in the pattern you're using.

CHARTS IN THE ROUND

We explain how to follow charts worked in the round

Knitting in rounds is very similar to knitting in rows, but if your pattern includes a chart that's worked in the round, there are a few things you need to know to be able to follow the chart and ensure you knit the item successfully.

Just like when you're working stitch charts in rows (see page 20), each square represents a specific yarn colour or type

of stitch, with a key to tell you which colour or stitch to work. Along the bottom, the numbers still represent the stitches you'll work, and each row of squares represents a round of knitting.

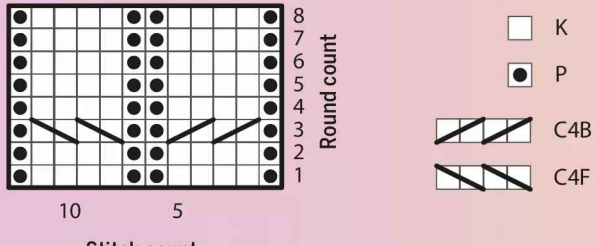
The main difference between a stitch chart worked in rows and one worked in rounds is the numbers along the side, which represent the rounds you'll work. On a stitch chart worked in the round, the

round numbers should all be down the right-hand side. This is because you're starting each new 'row' in the same place each time, rather than turning at the end of a row to create a fabric with two edges. Charts can be presented in various ways and your pattern should include notes on how to use the chart, so always check these before starting to knit. Some chart patterns will also be written out in full.

STITCH CHART ROUNDS

This chart is an example of a stitch chart worked in the round. You'll notice that the key doesn't include extra instructions about how to work the stitches on right side and wrong side rows, because every stitch is a right-side stitch because every round is a right-side round. You would start knitting from the bottom-right corner, work towards the left and then you'll finish back at the right-hand side, ready to work Round 2.

CHART: Sleeve cable panel



KEY

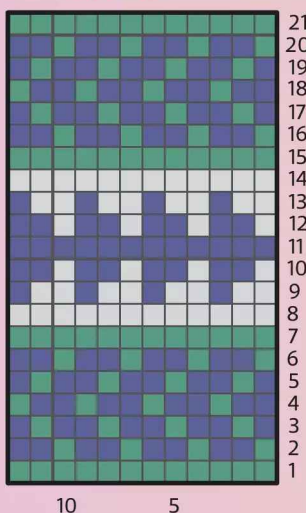
- K
- P
- C4B
- C4F

COLOUR CHART ROUNDS

This chart is an example of a colour chart worked in rounds. Using these charts involves the same techniques as working a stitch chart in the round. As before, all the round numbers are on the right, with each new round starting here. Don't turn your work, just keep going round. To knit from this chart, you would start from the bottom-right corner, work towards the left and finish back at the right-hand side, ready to work the next round.

A chart will often show you just a small part of the pattern – written instructions should tell you where to work the chart, or it will ask you to repeat the chart a certain number of times.

CHART A: Left



Written instructions should tell you where to work the chart, or the pattern will ask you to repeat the chart a certain number of times

KEY

- Yarn A; Knit
- Yarn B; Knit
- Yarn C; Knit

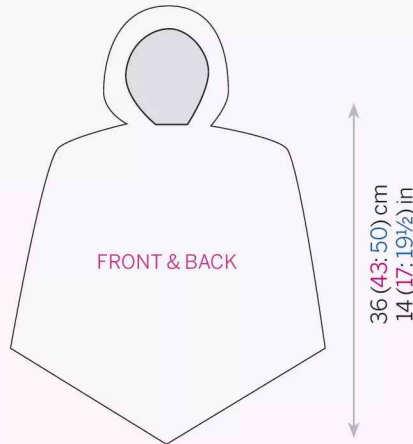
PRETTY PONCHO

Knit the main part of this bright poncho, with its pompom trim, in the round. Designed by **Monica Russel**




IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS
YOU WILL NEED

- King Cole, Merino Blend Aran (100% wool, 50g/80m)
- A 5mm circular needle, 40cm long
- Pompom maker
- Stitch markers

For yarn stockists
contact King Cole
01756 703670
www.kingcole.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as aran to this tension: 18 sts and 30 rows to measure 10x10cm over pattern using 5mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 24

FIND YOUR SIZE

SIZE		2-4yrs	5-6yrs	7-8yrs
TO FIT CHEST	cm	58.5	67	76
	in	23	26¼	30
ACTUAL NECK CIRC	cm	37.5	42	47
	in	15	16.5	18.5
LENGTH	cm	36	43	50
	in	14¼	17	19½
YARN		King Cole, Merino Blend Aran (50g/80m)		
Raspberry (1538)		7	9	10

SIZING COLOUR KEY So you can re-use this pattern, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions. Simply follow our colour-coded measurements and you're off.

FRONT AND BACK (BOTH ALIKE)

Cast on *16 (18: 20) sts using a 5mm circular needle, PM (place marker); rep from * 3 more times, noting that the last marker should be a different colour, as it denotes the start of a round and the Back of the Poncho. [64 (72: 80) sts]

Join the round, taking care not to twist the stitches.

Round 1 **Kfb, *K1, P1; rep from * to 1 st before sm (stitch marker), kfb, sl sm (slip stitch marker); rep from ** to end.

[8 sts inc'd]

Round 2 K the P sts and P the K sts.

Rounds 1-2 form moss st.

Repeat Rounds 1 and 2 until there are 26 (32: 36) sts between each marker, ending with a Round 2. [104 (128: 144) sts]

Inc round Kfb, moss st to 1 st before second sm (removing first sm), kfb, sl sm, kfb, moss st to 1 st before end (removing third sm), kfb. [108 (132: 148) sts]

Next round K the P sts and P the K sts.

Inc round Kfb, moss st to 1 st before sm, kfb, sl sm, kfb, moss st to 1 st before end, kfb. [4 sts inc'd]

Repeat the last 2 rounds until poncho measures 36 (43: 50) cm (or desired length)

Work 6 rounds in garter st.

Cast off sts loosely.

HOOD

Cast on 3 sts using a 5mm circular needle, then with RS of Poncho facing you, starting in the centre of the front V of the neck opening (the side opposite the cast-on), pick up and knit 15 (16: 17) sts up the left side of the V, 15 (16: 17) sts down to the centre of the V on the back, PM, pick up and knit 15 (16: 17) sts up the left side of the back V, 15 (16: 17) sts down to the centre of the V on the front, **cast on** 3 sts. [66 (70: 74) sts]

Work back and forth in garter st until Hood measures 22 (24: 26) cm, ending on a WS row.


Next row Work to 9 sts before sm, k2tog, K4, k2tog, K1, sl sm, K1, ssk, K4, ssk, K to end.

Next row Knit.

Repeat the last 2 rows 3 more times.

Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

Fold the Hood in half lengthways and sew the top seam. Fold the cast-on sts on each side to the inside of the Hood front and sew in place. Make 4 small pompoms (see page 121), 4cm in diameter, to fit on each corner-edge and sew in place. 

WE'RE ON THE CASE

At home or on the go, every knitter needs somewhere safe to keep all their needles!



1 No more “oh no!” moments with Clover’s plastic case! You can even store your notions and small accessories in the bottom section. **£6.99, visit www.woolwarehouse.co.uk to buy or call 01926 882818**

2 KnitPro’s cardboard DPN Tubes come in packs of three, two of which let you hang your sock-in-progress from a slot in the side! **£8.95, visit www.woolstack.co.uk to buy or call 01242 300280**

3 Make a statement while you knit with this cheeky canvas case. We love the contrasting black lining inside the pouch. **£14.95, visit www.kellyconnordesigns.com to buy**

4 Available in a range of cheery shades and patterns, HobbyGift’s sweet dotted case has handy loops at each end for easy zipping! **£5.95, visit www.amazon.co.uk to buy**

5 We’ve gone all warm and fuzzy over this felt pouch by Addi! Who knew our needles could be kept so snug and warm? **£25, visit www.loveknitting.com to buy or call 0845 544 2196**

6 Keep your needles safe in this pretty springtime case, with soft but thick fabric to protect those points. **£10.30, for stockist info contact groves@stockistenquiries.co.uk**

7 We agree with this cute case! When you’re not knitting though, where better to keep your needles? **£5.99, visit www.vanessabeedesigns.co.uk to buy or call 01768 771447**

8 Go a little zesty with this striking case from Creations by Korbond. It’s fully lined, with a fun contrasting zip. **£7.95, visit www.theknittinggiftshop.co.uk to buy or call 07528 812731**

9 There’s no wondering what’s in this case – and it doubles as a ruler for quickly checking your tension in a pinch. **£5.50, visit www.knituk.co.uk to buy or call 07876 550698**

10 Take your needles everywhere with this sturdy vinyl case by Groves! Who can resist those polka dots? **£8.50, visit www.deltawoolshop.co.uk to buy or call 01772 456535**



KNITTED EDGINGS

Make your work look professional with a knitted edging. We'll show you how to knit ribbed, beaded or lacy edgings for stylish garments and accessories

All about... EDGINGS

Give your knitting projects a professional, tailored look with great ideas for perfectly chosen edgings...



Your knitting may be mostly finished – but wouldn't it look better with a smart edging? Knitted edgings are common on garments, and many are worked along with your main fabric – a rib at the bottom of a jumper, for example. These edgings are functional as well as stylish. Stitch patterns such as ribbing won't curl, so they're the ideal stabilising edge for stocking stitch.

Other garment edgings, such as button bands or neckbands, are usually added after the main knitting is done, with stitches picked up along the edge of your main fabric. You'll find that these are the most common edgings you'll come across, and are simple to work once you've picked up the stitches. 'Pick up and knit' is the most common way to start working an edging and it's very simple to do (see page 112).

For all types of edging, it's best to use a circular needle. Even if you aren't going to work the edging in the round, a circular

needle will make it easier to work a shaped edging like a neckband. Even on straight edgings, you'll find it easier to use a circular needle because of the sheer quantity of stitches you'll often be picking up, as well as the weight of your knitting. When you're working an edging, the weight of the whole garment will be on your knitting, and circular needles allow you to take this weight on the cable (and your lap) rather than on your wrists and hands.

Edgings aren't all about practicality, they're about looking pretty, too! Shawls and scarves often have delicate lace edgings, or dangling tassels, to add interest and give a finished look. You'll often find lace designs used for these, or even beaded edgings, to add a sparkly touch to your finished piece.

THE RUNDOWN

BUTTON BANDS

Button bands are often added to cardigan fronts after the cardigan body is worked – this makes them slightly tighter than the rest of the cardigan, giving structure to the front and helping to prevent droop. The stitches in the button band will be perpendicular to the stitches in the main fabric, helping to give extra support, as the stretch and pull of the fabric will be in different directions.

A common way to work button bands is to 'pick up and knit' stitches down the front of each side before working the button band itself. The bands are often worked in ribbing or garter stitch so they won't curl – they'll also help prevent the garment itself from curling. On one of the bands, you'll also have to work buttonholes, which usually involves

TOP TIP

Lots of stitches to pick up? Mark out the length of the main body piece into quarters or eighths with pins or stitch markers, so that you know how many stitches you need to fit into each section

BUTTON BANDS

FOR A NEAT EDGING

PICK UP AND KNIT

A pattern will often tell you how many stitches to pick up for each band – if not, pick up approximately three stitches for every four rows of knitting in the main piece. This will give a nice even tension that won't pucker or pull at your garment.

STITCH MARKERS

If you're picking up a lot of stitches, it can be tricky to keep count of them all – and if you have a pattern such as rib or moss stitch on your band, the right number is vital. Try adding stitch markers every 10 stitches or so, to make counting easier.



SEWN-ON BUTTON BANDS

Sometimes button bands will be knitted separately and then sewn on, particularly if a band is designed to go all the way up and around the back of the neck, rather than in two pieces. Use the same yarn for the seaming (see p119), and pay attention to the tension – you want an even, sturdy seam, not something that pulls too tight or too loose. Don't be afraid to pull out your stitches and start again!

working 'k2tog, yo', or casting off stitches on one row and casting on stitches on the next row.

NECKBANDS

Neckbands are similar to button bands, but not quite as simple because they're curved rather than straight. You'll usually have stitches on holders at the front and back of the neck, and curved edges between them. Starting at one of the sides, you'll pick up stitches down the slope towards the front, then knit across the stitches you had on hold at the front. Then pick up stitches again up the curve towards the back of the neck, before finally knitting across the held stitches at the back. Once you have all the neckband stitches on a needle, some patterns will tell you to knit back and forth, while others will ask you to join into the round. Neckbands are generally knitted in rib, for a stretchy finish that will go over your head!

OTHER TECHNIQUES

There are various techniques for adding edgings – sometimes you'll pick up stitches, as with a neckband, other times you'll knit the edging separately and sew it on. There's also a technique of knitting in rows perpendicular to your main knitting, catching one stitch each time as you work, so that the edging attaches to the knitting as you go. Books of edging stitch patterns enable you to add your own edging to a plain project for a personalised look!

NECKBANDS

FINISH WITH A FLOURISH



HOW LONG?

Neckbands can be anything from a small, neat finish on a neckline, to a full-on turtle-neck collar – make sure you read the pattern through before you begin!

PICKING UP ON A CURVE

This can be tricky the first time you try it, so don't be afraid to rip back a few stitches and try again if you're not happy with the results. And make sure you pick up the same number of stitches on each side, or you'll end up with a very wonky-looking neck!

FRONT AND BACK

Many patterns will tell you to hold the middle stitches at the front and back, ready to knit straight into when working the neckband. But some might ask you to cast them off – in this case, make sure you cast off loosely, then pick up and knit one stitch from each stitch along the straight edges.

Neckbands can be tricky, so don't be afraid to rip back and try again if you're not happy with the results

EDGINGS FOR YOU TO KNIT

THREE TO TRY! DESIGN IDEAS

Get your needles at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Knitting* magazine! To get the issues mentioned here, buy digital versions of back issues from Apple Newsstand to view on your iPhone and iPad or Google Play to view them on Android devices. For more information and for which other digital platforms are supported, take a look at the website www.theyarnloop.com/magazine/simply-knitting/digital



1 CLUTCH IT Beginner

This sophisticated little bag is practical enough to fit in all your essentials, and features a simple lace edging to get you started. It'll knit up quickly, too!



2 CHILD'S PLAY Improver

Spoil a little one with this gorgeous textured hoodie. You'll pick up stitches on the button bands and the hood – all very achievable on a smaller garment!



3 LACE UP Expert

A gorgeous garment from issue 190 of *Simply Knitting*, this lace-panel jumper has a beautiful wide neckband, picked up along the shoulder line.

PICK UP STITCHES

A vital technique for edgings, hems and button bands

Picking up stitches along an edge of knitting might seem tricky at first – but it's really not! It's actually much simpler than casting on, and once you're done you just knit the stitches as normal.

As you work, you essentially treat the holes (or loops) in your fabric just as you would treat stitches lined up on a

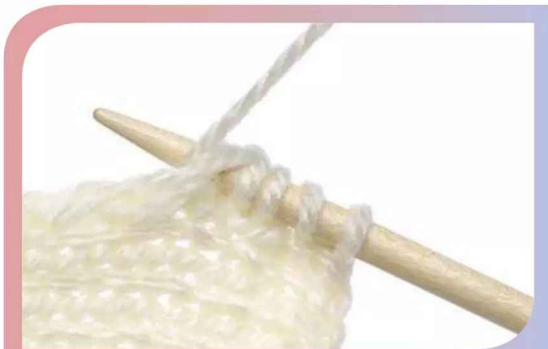
left-hand needle. Push your needle into them, loop your yarn round and pull through – *et voilà*, you have a new stitch. If you're finding it tricky to pull the yarn back through to the front of the fabric, try using a crochet hook to grab it and pull it through, then slip it onto your needle.

You'll use this technique when making buttonbands and necklines on garments,

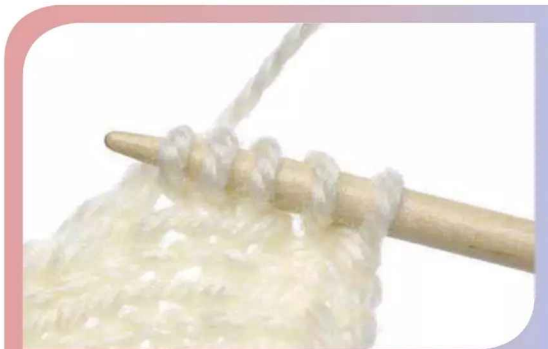
and if you're doing interesting techniques like mitred squares. Picking up stitches gives you huge flexibility in creating a new row of knitting – you can pick up stitches along a knitted row (such as a cast-off edge), around the curved cast-off steps of a neckline, or perpendicular to the main knitting, along the row ends. And sometimes, you'll do all three!



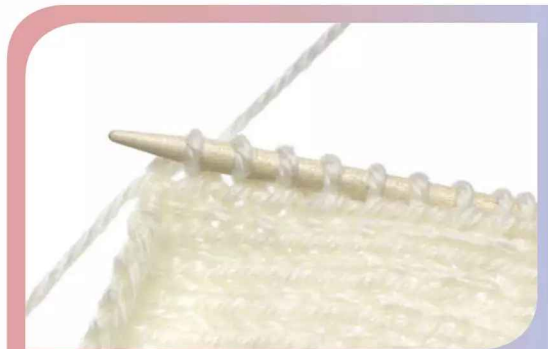
1 Hold the knitted fabric in your left hand, making sure the right side is facing you. Starting at the top-right corner, insert the right-hand needle into the loop of the cast off stitch, or between two stitches.



2 Wind the yarn around the point of the right-hand needle, as though you were going to knit.



3 Pull the yarn between the two stitches to create a loop, just like when you make a knit stitch.



4 Continue to work like this along the row or until you have picked up the number of stitches you need, as evenly as possible. If working in rows, turn the work and continue with the pattern.



LACE EDGED CLUTCH

Make a sophisticated statement with an easy lace edging on this pretty bag by **Caroline Birkett**



EASY TO KNIT

YOU WILL NEED

- Rico, Creative Cotton Aran (100% cotton, 50g/85m)
- 1 ball of Yarn A Sand (59)
- 2 balls of Yarn B Patina (43)
- A pair of 4mm needles
- A pair of 3¼mm needles
- 30cm long sand-coloured zip
- 2 pieces of 32x20cm lining fabric
- 2 pieces of 30x18cm heavyweight interfacing (we used Vlieseline Deco 1 Fusible Interlining)
- Sewing thread and needle

For yarn stockists contact
Deramores
 01845 519 4573
www.deramores.com

TENSION

Yarn used knits as light aran to this tension:
 20 sts and 37 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over woven st using 4mm needles

MEASUREMENTS

30cm wide x 20cm tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list see page 24



BAG MAKE 2 PIECES

Cast on 62 sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A.

FEATHER AND FAN LACE EDGING

Row 1 Knit.

Row 2 Purl.

Row 3 K1, *(k2tog) twice, (yo, K1) 4 times, (k2tog) twice; rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 4 Knit.

Rep Rows 1 to 4 once more.

Next row K to end.

WOVEN STITCH PATTERN

Rows 1 and 3 (WS) P to end.

Row 2 K1, *sl1 wyif, K1; rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 4 K1, *K1, sl1 wyif; rep from * to last st, K1.

Rep Rows 1 to 4 once more.

Change to Yarn B.

Continue to work in Woven Stitch Pattern (but always knit the edge stitch) and AT THE SAME TIME shape bag as follows:

Dec row S1L, P1, pss0, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. [2 sts decreased]

Work 9 rows in Woven Stitch Pattern.

Rep these 10 rows once more. [58 sts]

Work Dec row as above. [2 sts decreased]

Work 7 rows in Woven Stitch Pattern.

Rep these 8 rows once more. [54 sts]

Work Dec row as above. [2 sts decreased]

Work 5 rows in Woven Stitch Pattern.

Rep these 6 rows 2 more times. [48 sts]

Work Dec row as above. [46 sts]

Work 3 rows in Woven Stitch Pattern.

Work Dec row as above. [44 sts]

Cast off.

ZIP PULL

Cast on 3 sts using 3¼mm needles and Yarn A.

Row 1 (Kfb) twice, K1. [5 sts]

Row 2 Purl.

Row 3 (K1, yo) 4 times, K1. [9 sts]

Rows 4 & 5 Knit.

Row 6 Purl.

Row 7 SSK, (yo, K1) 5 times, yo, k2tog. [13 sts]

Rows 8 & 9 Knit.

Row 10 Purl.

Row 11 SSK, K to last 2 sts, k2tog. [11 sts]

Rows 12 and 13 Knit.

Cast off.

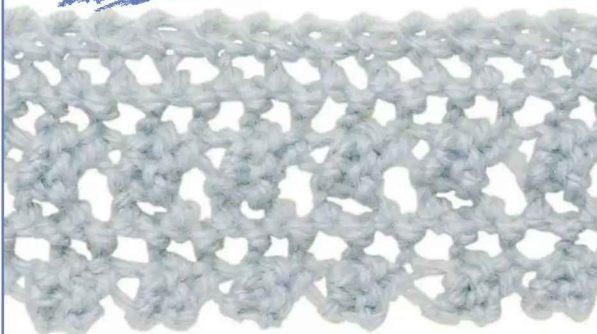
MAKING UP

Steam both pieces. With RS together backstitch them together, beginning and ending at the base of the lace edging. Using the bag as a template, cut 2 pieces of lining fabric, 1cm bigger all round, up to the lace section again but adding a 1.5cm seam allowance along the top. Using the bag as a template, cut 2 pieces of interfacing and tack or iron it to the reverse of the bag, up to but not covering the backstitched seam and turn through. Fold under a 1.5cm seam allowance along the top edge of the lining and backstitch to the underside of the zip 0.5cm from the zip itself. Leave the ends of the zip free. Repeat for the second piece. With RS together sew lining into a bag shape, 1.5cm from edge. Put lining bag inside knitted bag and hand-stitch in place, catching the stitches into the last ridge of knitting before the lace section and into the back of the stitches attaching the lining to the zip. Attach zip pull. ●

EDGINGS LIBRARY

Knit these separately and then sew them onto your finished piece

Double beaded



Cast on 8 sts.

Row 1 SI 1, K1, *yo, p2tog, (K1, P1, K1) into next st; rep from * once more. [12 sts]

Row 2 (K3, yo, p2tog) twice, K2.

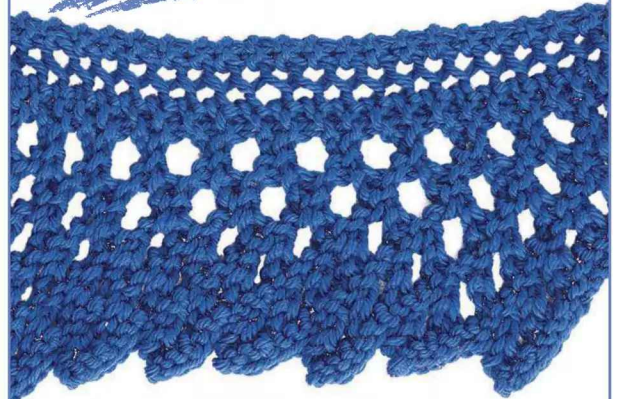
Row 3 SI 1, K1, (yo, p2tog, K3) twice.

Row 4 Cast off 2 sts

knitwise (1st remains on right-hand needle), yo, p2tog, cast off next 2 sts knitwise (4 sts on right-hand needle), yo, p2tog, K2.

Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.

Deep eyelet lattice



Cast on 19 sts.

Row 1 (RS) SI 1, K2, yo, k2tog, K1, (yo twice, k2tog) 6 times, K1.

Row 2 K3, (P1, K2) 5 times, P1, K3, yo, k2tog, K1.

Row 3 SI 1, K2, yo, k2tog,

K20.

Row 4 Cast off 6 sts, K15, yo, k2tog, K1. Repeat these 4 rows to desired length.

Hugs & kisses



Cast on 16 sts.

Row 1 (RS) SI 1, K15.

Row 2 SI 1, K1, P12, K2.

Rows 3-4 As Rows 1-2.

Row 5 SI 1, K1, C6B, C6F, K2.

Row 6 As Row 2.

Rows 7-12 As Rows 1-6.

Rows 13-14 As Rows 1-2.

Rows 15-16 As Rows 1-2.

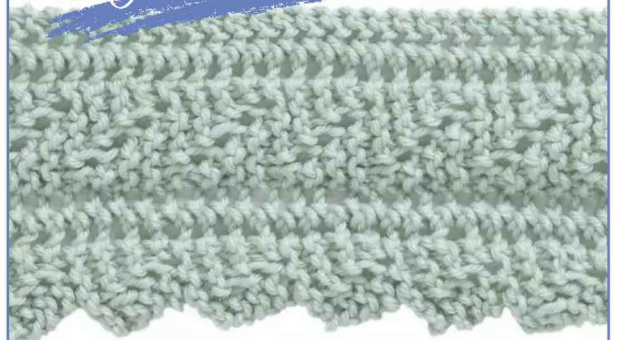
Row 17 SI 1, K1, C6F, C6B, K2.

Row 18 As Row 2.

Rows 19-24 Repeat Rows 13-18 once more.

Repeat these 24 rows to desired length.

Garter stitch edge



Cast on 15 sts.

Row 1 SI 1, K1, yo, p2tog, K1, yo, K2tog, K3, yo, p2tog, K1, yo, K2.

Row 2 K2, P1, K1, yo, p2tog, K4, P1, K1, yo, p2tog, K2.

Row 3 SI 1, K1, yo, p2tog, K2, yo, k2tog, K2, yo, p2tog, K2, yo, K2.

Row 4 K2, P1, K2, yo, p2tog, K3, P1, K2, yo, p2tog, K2.

Row 5 SI 1, K1, yo, p2tog, K3, yo, k2tog, K1, yo, p2tog, K3, yo, K2.

Row 6 K2, (P1, K3, yo, p2tog, K2) twice.

Row 7 SI 1, K1, yo, p2tog, K4, yo, k2tog, p2tog, K6.

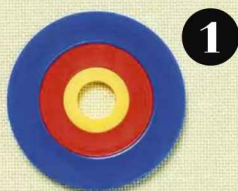
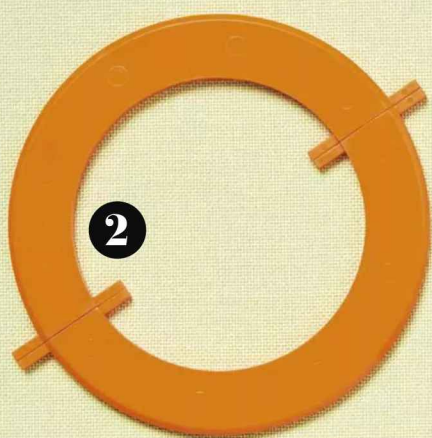
Row 8 Cast off 3 sts, K2, yo, p2tog, K1, P1, K4, yo, p2tog, K2.

Repeat these 8 rows to desired length.

For abbreviations see page 24

THEY'RE POM-TASTIC!

Add fun embellishments to your projects with pompoms, big and small



1 Hit the bullseye with this bright Pony pom-pom maker. Super easy to use, it enables you to make wonderfully fluffy pompoms in three different sizes.

£1.99, visit www.woolwarehouse.co.uk to buy or call 01926 882818

2 Knitting woolly hats ready for winter? Make an impact with a big and beautiful wobbly pompom on top! This nifty Pony maker will create a 13cm pompom.

£4.49, visit www.buddlycrafts.com to buy

3 Don't you think a trio of heart pompoms will make a gorgeous trim on a knitted scarf? Spread the love with Clover's large heart maker (also in small).

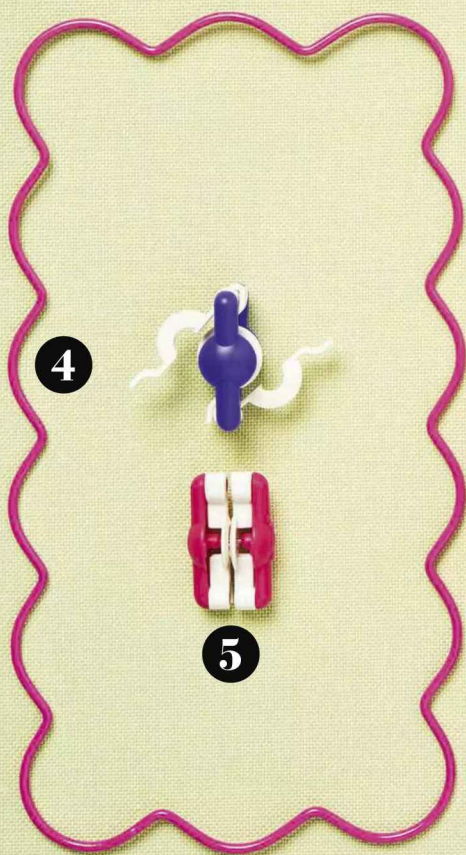
£11.81 (large), £11.54 (small), visit www.sewessential.co.uk to buy or call 01283 210422

4 The more the merrier: make up to 20 identical pompoms at a time with this clever gizmo designed in Suffolk. It comes with an instruction booklet and ideas.

£13.99, visit www.multipom.com to buy

5 Get the perfect sized pompom for each project with Clover's ingenious pom-pom makers. These are extra small to make the sweetest tiny 20mm and 25mm pompoms – perfect for socks and bunting!

£4.89, visit www.deramores.com to buy or call 0845 519 4573





PERFECT FINISH

Give your knits the perfect finishing touch with our guide to blocking, sewing up, then washing and caring for your creations to ensure they look great for years to come

BLOCKING & PRESSING

How to add that final professional touch to your knitting

Once you've finished knitting, the next steps are to make sure your pieces are finished off in a professional way. First, you will need to weave in any tail ends of yarn, which we showed you how to do on page 36.

Before you sew up your finished item, you'll get the best results if you take the time to block and press each piece of fabric. It might be a time-consuming

when you're in a hurry to be done, but it makes a big difference. Some knits, especially lace and also cables, can look crumpled when they come off the needles. The process of blocking will transform these pieces and make sure the stitches are even and flat.

However, there are a few exceptions. It's important not to block or press any ribbing, because this could stretch it out

of proportion and you won't get the desired effect.

Once your knitting is blocked, you'll need to press it, using either the wet or steam-press method. Check the label on the ball band to see which method it needs, and what temperature. Some items, such as garments or lace shawls, will need to be blocked and pressed after every wash to keep their shape.



BLOCKING KNITS

For damp blocking, pin out as shown left, cover with a damp cloth and leave to dry. With garments, follow the shape of the item and make sure it's lying evenly. To wet block your knitting, soak for 30mins or so in lukewarm water with a mild detergent. Squeeze out (don't wring) and lay out flat on a soft, smooth surface (try a board or folded blanket, covered with towels). Pin it out using long, rust-proof pins or blocking wires, to match measurements given on the pattern. Keep the edges straight – and don't pin any rib sections.



PRESSING YOUR KNITS

After blocking, you may need to press your knitting, using either the wet or steam-press method. To wet press, place a damp cloth over the pinned-out knitting, avoiding the rib, and leave to dry. Remove the cloth once dry. When the knitting is dry, remove the pins and sew up. To steam press, place a dry cloth over the knitting to protect it. Set the iron to the temperature on the yarn's ball band. Hold the iron close to the knitting, but don't touch. Steam, but avoid the ribbing. Remove the cloth and leave to dry. Remove the pins and sew up.



SEWING UP YOUR KNITS

This is the most exciting part of the process!

After blocking and pressing, you'll be ready for the most exciting part – sewing up! This will turn a few oddly-shaped pieces into a garment you can wear.

There are many different ways to sew up or seam your knits. We've covered the two most-used methods below: mattress stitch and backstitch. There are plenty more, including oversewing or ladder

stitch. For an oversewn seam, pin the fabrics together as for the backstitch method. Working as close to the edge of the knitting as possible, insert the needle from front to back, taking the yarn over the two seams, then repeat over again. Leave a gap of a row between stitches as you work along the seam.

Whichever method you use, you'll need a large-eyed, blunt needle and matching

yarn, approx 50cm (20in) long (we've used coloured yarn below so you can see it). You can use longer lengths but they are more likely to get tangled and twist. Shorter lengths are easier to manage and less likely to have any weak areas. At the start and end of the seam, secure the yarn with a few extra stitches, rather than a knot which might rub on the finished fabric and result in areas of wear.



MATTRESS STITCH

Thread your yarn on to a needle, then weave along the edge of one piece to the point where you want to start sewing up. Lay both pieces to be joined on a flat surface, with right sides facing up. Bring the needle to the front of the fabric between the first and second stitches of this edge. Insert the needle between the first two stitches of the other edge. Bring it back up through the opposite piece, between the two stitches and below the horizontal strand you just made. Keep stitching in this way, forming a neat zigzag, pulling the yarn tight every few stitches.



BACKSTITCH SEAM

First, pin your two pieces together, with right sides facing and each row carefully matched up. Secure the yarn by making a couple of stitches over each other at the base of the seam. Now working from right to left, bring the needle up a couple of knit stitches away at **1**. Take the needle down at **2** and up again at **3**. Continue in this way along the edge, going up 2 rows and down 1 row. Keep the stitches regular and place the needle through the middle of each knitted stitch to avoid splitting the fabric.



SEWING ON BUTTONS

Sew on buttons for both function and decorative effect

There are all sorts of fastenings you can use on your knitting – poppers, zips, a hook and eye – but buttons are a classic and stylish method and probably the most popular. Sewing them onto knitted fabric is very similar to sewing them on to your clothes, but there are some things to remember when you're using yarn.

If you're using buttons as fastenings

rather than just as decoration, it's a good idea to choose your buttons before you start knitting. That way, you can make sure that your buttons aren't too big for the buttonbands you'll be knitting, and that the buttonholes you work are the right size for the buttons. It's usually best to match the size of the buttons to the weight of the yarn; for instance, if you're using 4ply yarn for a baby garment,

choose small buttons that won't hang on the garment. Also, check that the colour of the buttons matches your yarn colour, and avoid buttons with sharp edges on baby knits.

Buttons aren't just functional though, they also work as an accent on bags, hats, scarves and more. Look out for interesting designs, or make your own, to add the perfect finishing touch to knits.



1 Cut some matching yarn, then weave it in on the wrong side of the knitting to secure it. Bring the needle out at the place where you want the button, slip the button on to the needle then pull the yarn through.



2 Take the yarn back through the button and the knitted fabric, leaving a small gap between the button and fabric. Bring the needle out again, through the fabric and the button, and back down again.



3 Now bring the yarn back to the front of the knitting, but not through the button – it needs to be underneath the button. Wrap the yarn a couple of times around the yarn under the button, pulling the yarn tight.



4 Take the yarn to the back of the knitting and secure it in place. By wrapping the yarn underneath the button, you make a small shank, which stops the knitting from rubbing on the button and fraying.

MAKE POMPOMS

Add a finishing flair to your knits with a pompom or two!

Fluffy pompoms are a fun extra touch on a range of projects, whether you're decorating the top of a hat or the toe of a slipper. You can even craft with pompoms alone by making loads from leftover yarn and stringing them together to create eye-catching bunting for a special occasion. You can use just one colour, or use several colours wrapped around the

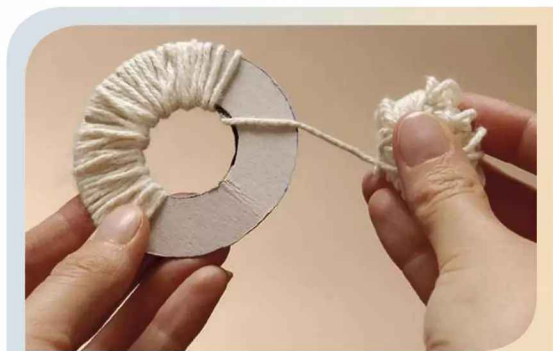
card or maker for different effects. Make a few in different sizes, stitch them together and suddenly you have a dog, cat or hamster pompom pet!

For a few pounds, you can buy a special pompom-making gadget to speed things up (handy if you're making hundreds!), but it's easy to whip up any size of pompom with just a pair of scissors and a piece of cardboard – you probably did it

in school. Before you start, you'll need to draw out the cardboard rings for your pompom. Make the rings slightly larger (approx 1cm/¼in) in diameter than you want your finished pompom to be. The hole you make in the centre will affect how dense your pompom is once it's done – our rings shown below are 6cm (2¼in) in diameter, with a central hole of 2.5cm (1in).



1 Cut out two identical ring shapes from cardboard. Then wind your yarn into tiny balls that are small enough to push through the narrow hole at the centre of your cardboard rings.



2 Hold the two cardboard rings together and begin wrapping your yarn around them, threading it through the centre and working all around the cardboard until it's covered by several layers of yarn.



3 Once the rings are covered, insert a pair of scissors between the two pieces of card and carefully cut the yarn around the edge of the rings. Try to make sure none of the yarn slips out of position as you do this.



4 Cut a separate length of yarn and knot it tightly around the middle of the bundle of yarn between the two rings. Ease the rings off the pompom and fluff up the yarn. Trim any uneven bits with scissors.

ADD TASSELS

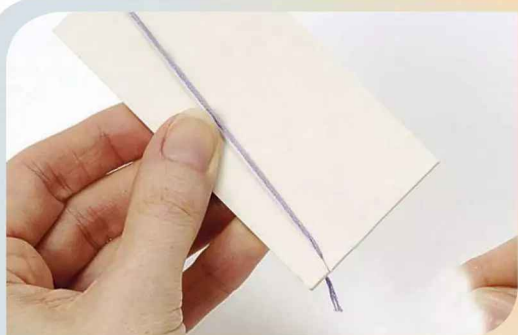
Give your knits a final flourish with a decorative tassel!

Tassels are a really simple way to add a stylish touch to many projects, from clothing to homewares. Perk up a cushion with a tassel on each corner, or give a beanie hat a funky finish with a colourful tassel on the top!

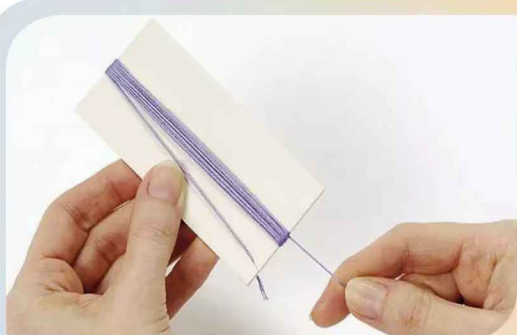
If you've got a bit of yarn left over after you've completed a project then this is a

great way to use it up – and a handy way to avoid the problem of accumulating lots of not-quite-long-enough-for-anything-else leftovers in your stash! That said, a tassel in a contrasting colour can look really striking, too – don't be afraid to experiment with different shades, or even make tassels that are more than one colour (see how in step 2, below).

Aside from your yarn, all you need to make a tassel is a pair of scissors and a piece of cardboard, but if you have one handy, try using a paperback book. Experiment with different-sized books or pieces of cardboard to make different length tassels; make them extra-long and tie round more loops to make multiple heads for extra-posh tassels!



1 Cut out a piece of card about 5cm wide and as long as you'd like your tassel to be. Make a 1cm cut on one of the short ends of the card. Tie a knot in one end of your yarn and secure it around the slot.



2 Wrap the yarn around the length of the card to the thickness you require. If you'd like to use more than one colour, knot the yarns together at the base of the card and carry on wrapping around.



3 Make a loop of yarn and thread the two ends together through a needle. Pass the needle under the threads at the top and back through the loop to secure, then tie in a knot. Cut through the bottom of the tassel.



4 To make the head, get another piece of yarn and create a loop. Wrap this around the top of the tassel and pass the loose ends through the loop. Then sew through the tassel, knot and fasten off.

ADD FRINGING

Give scarves and blankets a striking finish with this easy technique

Feathery fringing can turn a plain blanket into a favourite bedtime accessory, or reinvent a boring old garment as a striking fashion statement. It's also a really quick and easy way to give a scarf a feminine finish, or for simply adding a new lease of life to last year's winter warmer!

As with other finishing touches, such as

pompoms or tassels, a fringe can be made from leftover yarn from a project or in a contrasting colour so it really stands out. If you do want contrasting colours, it's a great way to use up short lengths of yarn from your stash that you can't use anywhere else.

You'll need to select an appropriate size of crochet hook to use for your project,

depending on the yarn you're using. Try a 3mm hook for fine yarns and a 6mm hook if you're using fringing on a chunky project. It's best to cut all the fringe lengths in one go to save time.

Of course, the best thing about fringing is that looks great but it's so easy – there's no knitting or sewing required. You don't even need to tie any knots!



1 Cut two or three lengths of yarn that are twice the length you'd like the fringe to be, then hold them together at one end and fold them in half.



2 Push a crochet hook through the cast on/off edge of your knitting, where you'd like the first piece of fringing to go. Loop the lengths of yarn over the hook and pull them back through the knitting.



3 Pull the yarn to make a loop next to the crochet hook. Pass the ends of the fringing yarn through this loop and pull tight to secure them. There's no need to knot them – they should stay tight as they are.



4 Repeat steps 1-3 at evenly spaced intervals along the edge of your knitting, as close together or far apart as you wish. Trim any uneven lengths of yarn to give a nice, neat finish.

WASHING INSTRUCTIONS

Treat your knits with love and they'll last for years to come

Like any fabric item, you'll need to wash your knits to keep them looking good. The term 'wool washing' can strike fear into the heart, but you just need to take a few simple precautions to ensure a perfect result.

When washing any item, you'd usually refer to the label for guidance. With your

handknits, you need to refer to the yarn's ball band for care information, so keep it safe. To understand the symbols, see our guide below. The label will tell you what temperature to wash at and whether it can go in the machine. If it needs to be handwashed, use lukewarm water and don't rub or you may felt the piece.

After washing, gently pull your knits back into shape. It's also a good idea to block and press the item again. When drying, never hang up your knitting, because the weight of the garment will stretch out the yarn. Instead, place your knitting out flat and leave to dry. Once dry, store it folded, not hung up.

WASHING



Wool, cashmere and delicates where the temperature needs to be similar to handwashing.



Cotton, linen or viscose articles without special finishes where colours are fast at 40°C but not 60°C.



Cotton, linen or viscose articles without special finishes where colours are fast at 60°C.



Handwash (do NOT machine wash).



Acrylics, acetate and triacetate, including mixtures with wool; polyester/wool blends.



Nylon; polyester/cotton mixtures; polyester cotton and viscose articles with special finishes; cotton/acrylic mixtures.



Wool, wool mixed with other fabrics; silk.



Do NOT wash.

IRONING



Iron on hot temp setting.



Iron on warm temp setting.



Iron on cool temp setting.



Do NOT iron.

TUMBLE DRYING



May be tumble-dried.



Do NOT tumble-dry.

BLEACHING



Chlorine bleach may be used.



Do NOT use chlorine bleach.

DRY CLEANING



Dry-clean.



Dry-clean using any solvent.



Dry-clean using any solvent EXCEPT trichloroethylene.



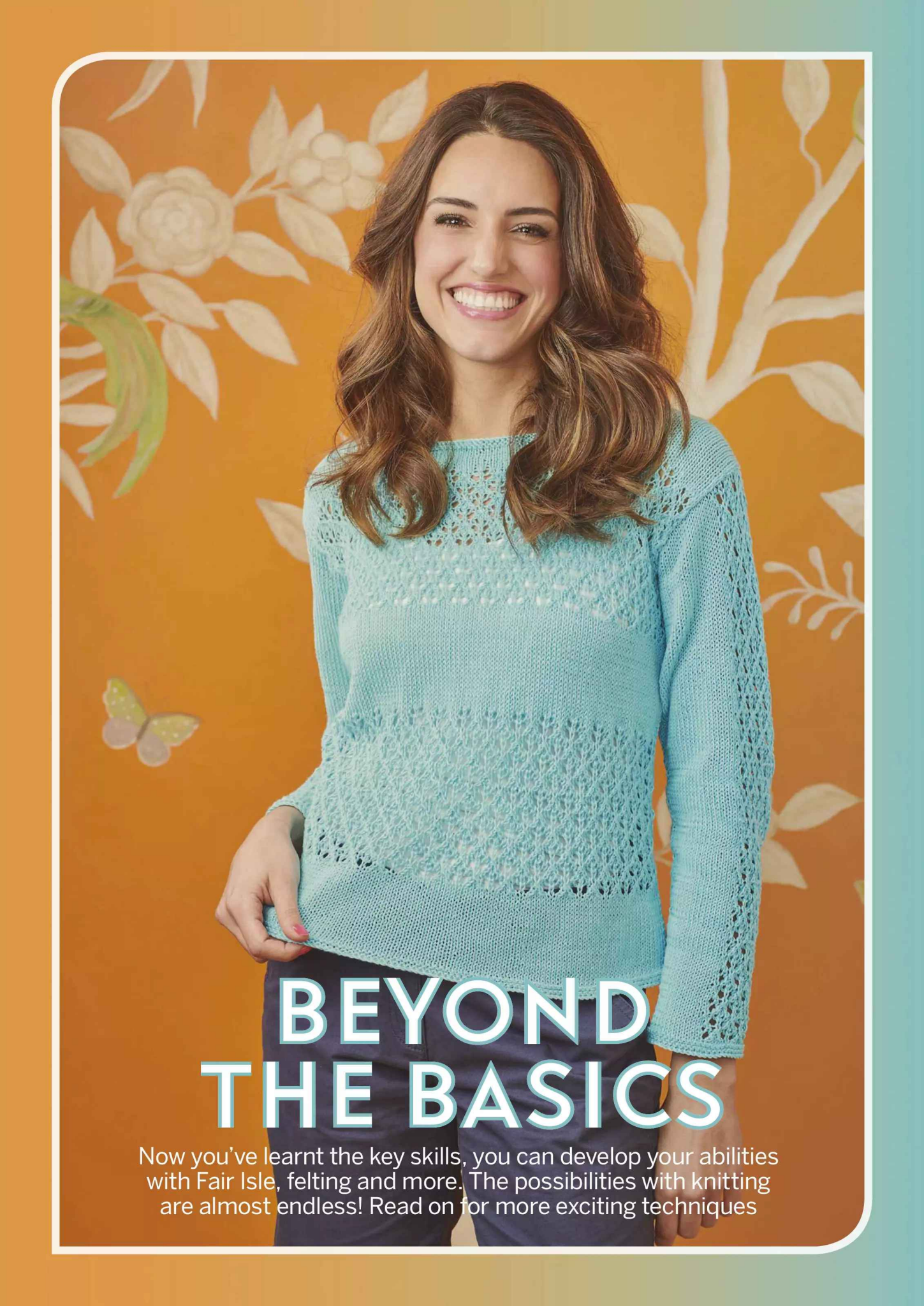
Dry-clean using petroleum solvent only.



Do NOT dry-clean.

TOP TIPS

Save the planet and prolong the life of knits – just hang out to air if not dirty. They will need a wash if you're planning to store them for a while, as otherwise they can attract moths.



BEYOND THE BASICS

Now you've learnt the key skills, you can develop your abilities with Fair Isle, felting and more. The possibilities with knitting are almost endless! Read on for more exciting techniques

K2TOG TBL DECREASE

Knit 2 together through the back loop for a left-leaning decrease

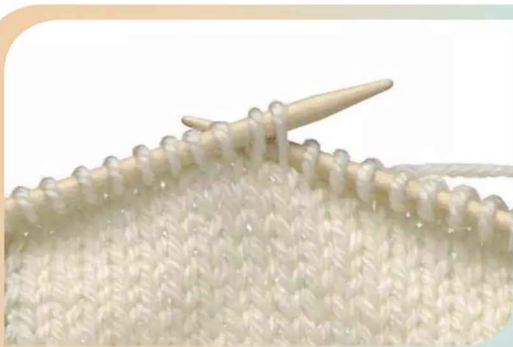
Back in the Shaping chapter, you might remember that we included a couple of left-slanting decreases for you to try – and the k2tog tbl (knit two together through back of loop) is another to add to your repertoire.

You might wonder why you need so many different decrease stitches to achieve the same outcome, but each

variation does look subtly different, and designers will use each of the stitches in a variety of different ways and patterns to create particular effects in their designs.

When you work through the back loop of any stitch (the part of the stitch loop that sits at the back rather than at the front of the needle), you'll twist the stitch as you work. When used on single knit

stitches, the result is a raised, thinner and more prominent stitch. When used with a k2tog stitch, this twist has the result of switching the slant of the decrease from right to left. As K2tog tbl decreases the stitch count by one, sometimes you will see it paired with a yarn over in lace knitting. Go ahead and follow the steps here to get practising...



1 Insert the point of the right-hand needle through the back loops of the next two stitches as shown, going from right to left.



2 Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right-hand needle and pull the yarn through the two stitches, knitting them both together.



3 Drop the two stitches from the left-hand needle and keep the new stitch on the right-hand needle.



4 Finish the row and then purl back across the row. You've decreased the stitch count by one. This is how a series of k2tog tbl stitches looks on the right side of stocking stitch fabric.

P2TOG TBL DECREASE

Purl 2 together through the back loop to decrease on the wrong side

Sometimes, you may need to decrease on the wrong side of your fabric. We've already looked at p2tog (on page 55), which produces a left-leaning slant when you're looking at the purl side of the fabric, or it will give a right-leaning slant if you're looking at the knit side.

To produce a purl decrease that slants

in the opposite direction (right-leaning on the purl side, left-leaning on the knit side), you can work the p2tog through the back loops of the stitches. You will also sometimes see p3tog tbl, which you work in the same way as below, just inserting the right needle into the next three stitches rather than the next two. This is a fiddly stitch to work – but once you've

got the hang of this, you really can master any stitch!

If these are in your pattern, it's best to choose a needle with a pointy tip to help you manoeuvre around the stitches. Don't be afraid to have a few goes at this. You might feel a bit awkward at first, but once you've practised the stitch a few times, you'll be a pro!



1 Turn your left needle so the tip points at you. Now insert the right needle into the back loops of the next two purl stitches, moving your needle tip further away from you, then bringing it back towards you.



2 Wrap your yarn around your right-hand needle, anti-clockwise.



3 Bring the right-hand needle through the two purl sts on the left, bringing the loop of working yarn with it. Take the right needle to the front of the fabric, so it sits to the left of the two purl stitches.



4 Move the right-hand needle up and to the right to take the two purl stitches off the left-hand needle. And you're done!

SK2PO DECREASE

Slip 1, k2tog, pssso to decrease by two stitches, leaning to the left

This stitch does sound a bit complicated, because it has a few stages to it, but really it's just one step up from the skpo you've already tried on page 56.

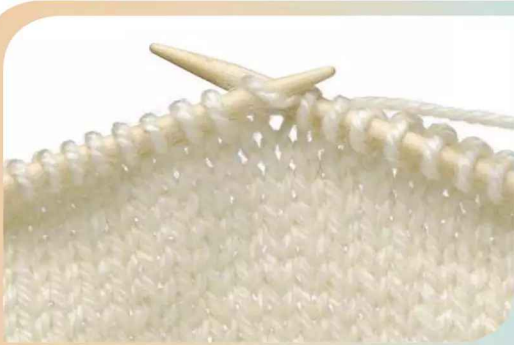
The sk2po stitch is essentially a mirror of the k3tog stitch, and you'll often see them used together on a row to balance each other out visually. This stitch

decreases your stitch count by two stitches, which creates a sharp slope when used for shaping. It's generally balanced out by working two yarn overs elsewhere in the row when used in lace. The finished stitch leans to the left, mirroring the k3tog's lean to the right.

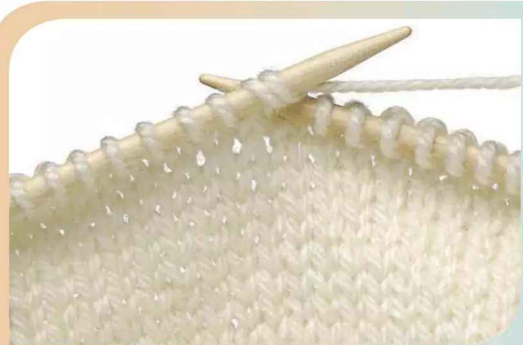
As with many lace stitches, it's easier to work the sk2po if you're using knitting

needles with sharp points to them – in this instance, it's because you'll find it easier to lift the final stitch off the needle and over your k2tog stitch with needles that have long, sharp points.

Practise it on a stocking stitch swatch until you're comfortable using it – just remember to add two yarn overs to keep your stitch count the same!



1 Insert the point of the right-hand needle into the next stitch as if to knit it, then slide it off the left-hand needle (this is 'slipping' the stitch from the left to right needle).



2 For the next stitch, insert the right-hand needle into the next two stitches on the left-hand needle and knit them together – this is a normal k2tog stitch.



3 Insert the point of the left needle into the slipped stitch on the right-hand needle and pull this stitch back over the k2tog.



4 Take the slipped stitch all the way off the right-hand needle and then drop it off the left-hand needle. The slipped stitch will slope to the left.



EXPERT FIXES & CLEVER CHEATS

Mistakes do happen, but don't despair (or rip out your work). With a little insider knowledge, you can overcome tricky times and rescue your precious knits

We've all done it – dropped stitches, increased when we shouldn't have, forgotten to match a decrease with a yarn over, and given up on a tricky technique. But don't worry, there are simple ways to rescue your work should the unfortunate occur, and after all, we can't learn without making a few mistakes.

Our expert fixes and clever cheats are designed to help with your techniques, equipping you with the tools you need to forge ahead. (And if all else fails, we recommend describing any little blips as intentional design features!)

EXPERT FIXES

Before trying to fix a mistake, ask yourself how bad it really is. Is it obvious? A casual observer probably won't notice a single cable worked the wrong way round or a missing yarn over or two. If the error is not affecting your pattern repeats, and doesn't show very much, you could just carry on working as if nothing has happened. If you still want to correct the mistake without ripping back lots of rows, here are some things you can try...

TOP TIP

Some of these techniques are fairly advanced, so don't worry if one or two look a bit scary! It's worth bearing them in mind to use once you have a little knitting experience.

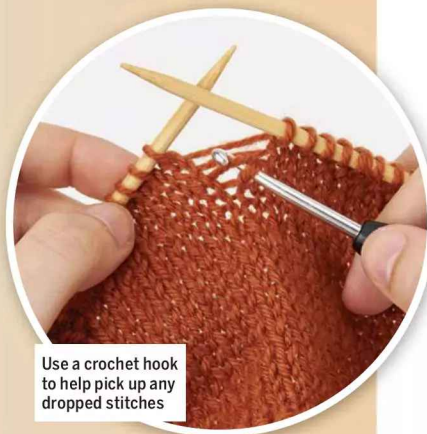
CORRECTING YOUR STITCH COUNT

You should always check your stitch count regularly. An incorrect stitch count can throw out the alignment of pattern repeats, or create fit issues.

To increase a stitch count you can either make extra yarn overs a feature of a row or hide increases by working a lifted increase, which barely shows.

To sneak in subtle decreases work them one stitch in from the start or end of the row. If you need to make a few decreases, space them out at regular intervals. Remember that k2tog is the least visible option if you need to make more obvious decreases in the middle of a row.

A dropped stitch a few rows down can be picked up with a crochet hook and 'chained' back up to your needles. However, if you've dropped a stitch many rows ago, sew it into place on the wrong side of the work rather than trying to pull it up to the working row, as this is likely to distort the fabric too much.



Use a crochet hook to help pick up any dropped stitches



Sometimes it can be better to leave little mistakes – we're sure no one will notice!

MID-ROW REPAIRS

When working lace and texture stitches...

If you've worked a pattern repeat incorrectly and it's an obvious error, you can fix it without unravelling entire rows. Knit to the point in the row immediately above the error and carefully unravel the affected column (or columns) of stitches one at a time. Use a crochet hook to correct any errors, working each stitch correctly back up to the current row. You may need to unravel two stitches at a time above decreases so that you can work them at the same time.

When working cables...

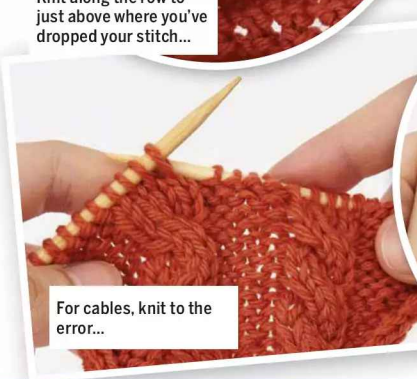
Unravel the entire cable repeat past the mistake to the last cable 'cross' so that you know exactly where you are. Use DPNs and a cable needle when appropriate to knit the section back up to the top.



Knit along the row to just above where you've dropped your stitch...



...then carefully unravel the column of stitches. Use a crochet hook to correct your errors



For cables, knit to the error...



...unravel the stitches one at a time and use DPNs to knit the section back to the top

IMPROVING SHAPE & SIZING

Is the sweater you made a while ago stretching out, or a little on the large side? Don't despair, you can try these simple solutions...

SHRINK TO FIT

If your over-large garment is made with wool you could shrink it a teensy bit. Yes, we realise it's taking a risk, but if you're not wearing your knit anyway, there's not much to lose. Handwash your sweater and then rinse and spin it in the washing machine. It should felt a tiny amount, giving it more structure and a slightly smaller size. This works

with both superwash and non-superwash wools, but the effect will be more pronounced with non-superwash wools. Be warned that your garment can shrink or felt too much, so, if possible make a swatch in the same yarn and use the process explained above to test your results first.

STOP THE STRETCH

Garments worked in the round can stretch out over time, especially if they're worked in yarns like cotton or alpaca. To add some stability to a



Add stability to a seamless sweater with a simple, clever crochet chain

seamless sweater crochet a chain up the inside of the side seams to give the garment some 'bones' to hang from.

ADJUST THE LENGTH

Do you worry your jumper won't be long enough? A provisional cast on helps keep your options open so you can change the length later.

CREATE A YOUR PROVISIONAL CAST ON

Simply knit a few rows or rounds in waste yarn and unravel it later to work from. Or, crochet a chain and pick up your cast on stitches from this (shown in contrast yarn). Once you've done your provisional cast on, ignore instructions for the edging section and skip ahead to work the main pattern pieces. Once you've finished the other garment sections, if you are happy with the garment length, go back to your provisional cast on, unravel the waste yarn and work them as directed.

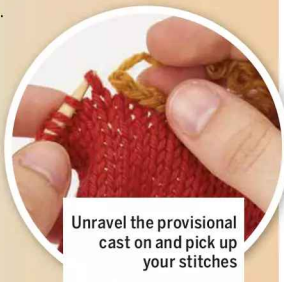


Add a provisional cast on so you can add length later on

PERFECTING THE LENGTH

Unravel the waste yarn and work down from the cast on edge. When working down from a provisional cast on, your stitches will be offset by half a stitch, so you can't work down in

stocking stitch without the change in stitches showing a bit. To add length work a longer edge in the same pattern, add a patterned band between the old and new sections, or add a rib (as left). To reduce length, work a shorter edge, or unravel upwards from the cast on, slip the stitches onto your needles and then work the edge back down again.



Unravel the provisional cast on and pick up your stitches

Once you have increased the length, add your rib section



USING THE WRONG DYE LOT

Accidentally buying yarn in the wrong dye lot can be a pain, but there are a few solutions you could try...

GRADUAL RANDOM ROW BLENDING

One option is to blend the two colours by initially working two rows in the new colour and quite a few rows in the old colour, and then spacing out the colour changes less and less, until you're working two rows of each dye lot. Then reverse the pattern until you're mostly working in the new dye lot with two rows of the old colour, before dropping the old colour completely.



We've used more obvious yarn colours to show the blended technique

ALTERNATE YARN BALLS EVERY TWO ROWS

This solution creates the most 'blended' results; however, it has a couple of potential disadvantages in that you either end up with lots of ends to weave in, or lots of yarn carried up the side of the work, which can distort the fabric, and waste yarn.

STRANDED COLOURWORK

Option three is to use the stranded colourwork technique to alternate the two colours across several rows. You can also use duplicate stitch to mimic this effect if you don't notice the difference immediately. This trick works better in finer yarns (DK weight and thinner), where it doesn't add too much bulk.



Use clever stranded colourwork to hide yarns from a different dye lot

CLEVER CHEATS

Following the pattern is always the best option, but sometimes you may want to do things a little differently. Our clever cheats prove that there's always more than one way to complete your project!

SNEAKING IN SHAPING

Are you a fan of waist shaping? Not every pattern includes waist shaping but you can add it into any reasonably slim-fitting shape. The pattern should tell you the length to work from the cast-on edge to the armhole shaping. Take this measurement and use a tape measure to compare it to your own body to find where your waist sits along this measurement. Start your waist shaping about 5cm before this point by going down a needle size. After working 2.5cm in this needle size, go down another needle size and work for 5cm, then change back to the last needle size and work another 3cm. Finally, go back to your original needle size. You'll have introduced some subtle waist shaping with little effort, that will suit your individual proportions and with zero maths calculations involved!



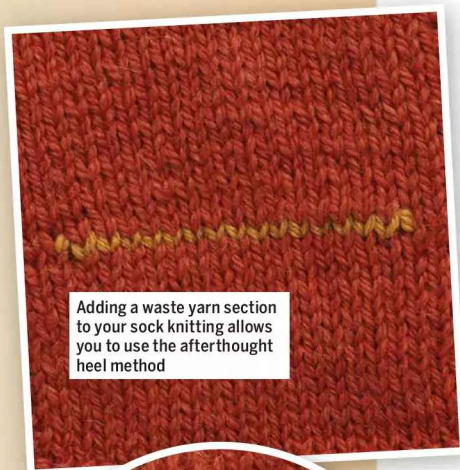
Use smaller needle sizes to create gradual shaping at the waist of your garment

AFTERTHOUGHT SOCK HEELS

Socks may seem a crazy thing to knit, but they are comfortable and warm, and there are thousands of very dedicated sock knitters out there!

However, we know the thought of turning a heel fills some people with dread. It's really not difficult, but here is another option. Just work in the round until you get to the point in the pattern where you want to place your heel. Using a length of waste yarn instead of your working yarn, knit across half the stitches in the round. Slip the stitches you've just worked back to the right-hand needle and then knit them again with the working yarn. Continue working to the end of the sock. Once you've finished, go back and carefully pull out the waste yarn. You will have two sets of 'live' stitches, above and below the opening you've just made.

Work across the stitches, picking up two stitches at each 'corner' where the top and bottom set of stitches meet to prevent holes. Follow the same pattern of decreases that you made for your toe to shape the heel and then graft the top and bottom stitches together using Kitchener stitch. Repeat for the second sock and you're done!



Adding a waste yarn section to your sock knitting allows you to use the afterthought heel method



Once the decreases are done graft the back and front together to complete the heel

CABLING WITHOUT A CABLE NEEDLE

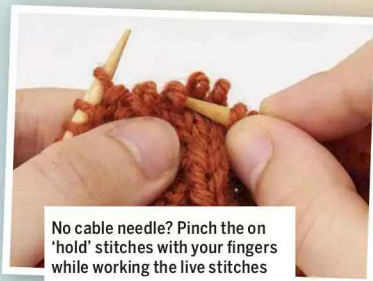
Cable needles can be fiddly to work with and slow you down. As long as you're working a fairly simple cable you don't actually need to use one. Instead, pinch the stitches you're putting on 'hold' between thumb and forefinger, work the required stitches and then slip them back onto the needle to work. If you are working with very chunky yarn you can use your finger as a 'spare' needle, which is more secure than pinching the stitches. For cables where you are only crossing

two stitches here's another cheat. For a right-leaning cable, k2tog but don't drop the stitch off the needle. Then knit into the stitch on the right again and drop both stitches off the left needle.

For a left-leaning cable, slip the first st on your left needle knitwise and return it to the left needle. Knit into the back of the second stitch on the left needle, but don't drop the stitches off the needle, then make an ssk and slide the stitches off the left needle.



When working with chunky yarn you can use your finger as a cable needle

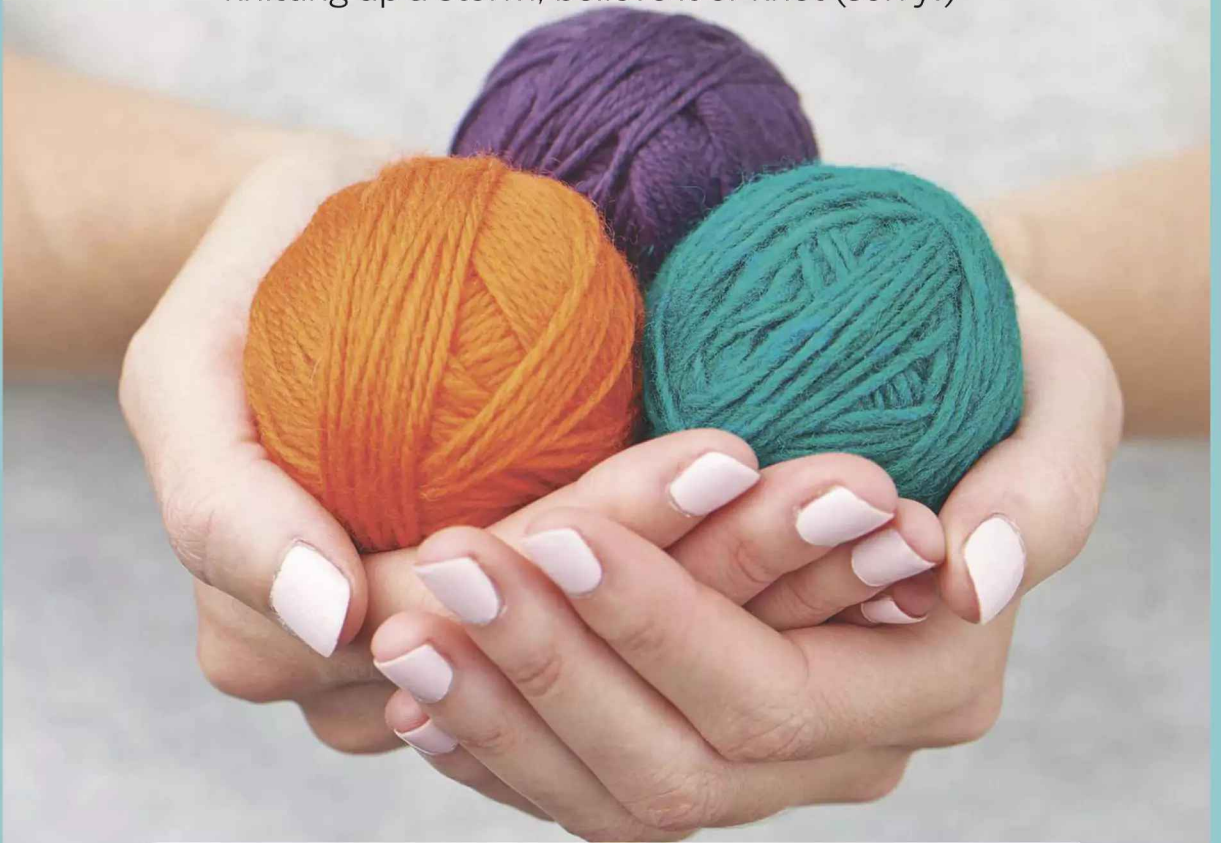


No cable needle? Pinch the on 'hold' stitches with your fingers while working the live stitches

6

QUICK & EASY WAYS TO CHANGE YOUR YARN

There are many ways to change yarn when you're knitting up a storm, believe it or knot (sorry!)



We all know the feeling – you're mid row and you've reached the end of your yarn ball without noticing! Do you rip back to the end of the row, or tie a rough knot and hope no one will notice? Well, there are many different types of 'yarn-joining' knots you can try, leaving your knitting looking flawless and

professional, no matter what you're knitting and how you're knitting it. Perhaps you need to control the exact point of the join, or require a less noticeable join because you're knitting in the round and you've no seam to hide it in. Read on for our expert guide to what knots to use when, and exactly how to make them...

CHANGING YARN AT THE BEGINNING OF A ROW

MAGIC KNOT SPLICING



This technique is best for joining yarn when you are continuing to work in the same colour, as it is hard to control the exact point of the join. It creates a very strong knot and is invisible which means that, unlike most joining techniques, you can use it in the middle of a row without worrying about it showing in the finished knitting – great if you’re short on yarn or are knitting a complicated pattern repeat. If using this join when working in the round avoid placing it where it may press into the skin, such as the sole of a sock, or a shoulder.

1 Hold the yarns to be joined parallel to each other, with the cut end of the yarn pointing in opposite directions.

2 Take the tail end of one piece of yarn and loop it around the other yarn and make a knot.

3 Pull the knot very tightly.

4 Repeat steps 2-3 for the tail end of the second piece of yarn. You now have two knots joining the two lengths of yarn.

5 Pull the working yarn of each piece at the same time in opposite directions – this will slide the two knots next to each other. Don’t be afraid to be quite firm, this knot is robust and needs to be tight!

6 Trim back the spare yarn right next to the knots with very sharp scissors. Don’t worry, they won’t come undone! Tuck the knot behind the work after you’ve knitted a couple more rows.



TEMPORARY KNOT AND WEAVE IN ENDS

Choose this technique if changing colours when working flat. You can control the point of the join and, if using it at the end of a row, you can weave yarn ends into the seam when you join it later, or weave them into the back of the work.

- 1 When you've reached the place you want to make your colour change, drop your working yarn and take up the new yarn. Join the two ends together with a loose knot fairly close to the turning point to avoid baggy stitches.
- 2 Continue working with the new colour until you've reached your next changeover point or finished your project.
- 3 Undo the knot and weave the two yarn tails into the wrong side of the fabric using duplicate stitch, matching the tension of the surrounding stitches and leaving a 5cm tail unwoven.
- 4 Block your pieces according to the pattern instructions and then snip off the excess yarn – if you snip before blocking you may find the yarn tail comes unravelled a little if the stitches are stretched during blocking.



KNIT WITH TWO STRANDS

This is a very easy method and very secure too. This technique works best when you're using the same or similar colours in your project. As it creates slightly bulkier stitches, work it at the edge of the piece, not in the centre, to avoid unsightly lumps appearing in your finished knitting. With the thicker parts at the edge of your work, it also makes it easier to hide while blocking. We've shown this technique in contrasting colours to show the stitches more clearly.

- 1 Work to a few stitches before you want to make your changeover.
- 2 Pick up the new yarn with the cut end of the yarn away from you.
- 3 Wrap the working ends of the old and new yarns around the right needle together and work the next stitch, and the following two stitches using both yarns at the same time.
- 4 Continue working with the new yarn only. During blocking, pull the stitches a little so that the doubled layer of yarn is hidden at the back of the work. You can weave in both tails using duplicate stitch later and then snip the excess tails off after you've finished blocking.



CHANGING YARN IN THE MIDDLE OF A ROUND

RUSSIAN JOIN



Finer yarns can be very hard to join without the join showing in your finished knitting, particularly in lace patterns. The Russian join can be a little bit fiddly, and you can't control the exact join point easily so it's better for single colours. But, it does create a beautiful finish, and it's perfect for when you suddenly discover you need to change yarn in the middle of a row with hundreds of stitches on it. Because of this, shawl knitters love it! As you need to be able to split the plies of the yarn, this technique doesn't work on fine single ply yarns, but you can use it on chunky single ply yarns that are thick enough to thread your needle into.

1 Take a fine needle, thread the tail end of the working yarn onto

it, form the yarn into a 'U' shape and insert the needle into the plies of the working end.

2 Run the needle back through the yarn, creating a small loop at the end. Hold the loops as you work to avoid pulling it too tight, making it unworkable.

3 Thread the new yarn onto a fine needle and pass this through the loop you've just made.

4 Repeat the process, by running the new yarn back through its yarn length to join the two yarns together.

5 Pull on each yarn a little to smooth out the join, making it nice and tidy.

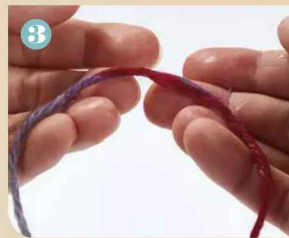
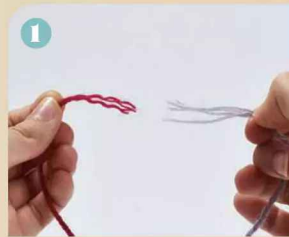
6 Trim off any excess yarn and continue to knit your pattern where you left off.



SPLIT SPLICING

This technique only works with animal fibre yarns that need hand washing. The chemicals used in the superwash treatment that prevent yarn from felting in the washing machine will also stop you from spit splicing, so check the yarn label before trying this. It can be hard to control the exact join point so this is a technique for joining a new ball of the same colour. It can be used on both single ply or multi-ply yarns.

- 1 Take the ends of the current yarn and the yarn to be joined and fray them so that the ends are split. If the yarn is very bulky cut away about half of the plies.
- 2 Lay the two ends over each other, running in opposite directions and intermingle the ends.
- 3 Wet by dipping them in warm water or put them in your mouth, the old-fashioned way!
- 4 Place the two ends together in the palms of your hands and rub them together quickly. The warmth, moisture and friction will join them seamlessly by felting them together. You can rub the join against your knee if you prefer.



WEAVE IN AS YOU GO

This option works brilliantly when you are using a lot of different colours as it weaves in the ends as you go, avoiding the nightmare of dozens of ends to sort out when you've finished your project! It's particularly good for Fair Isle knitting or stripy patterns because you can control when the yarns join together in the pattern. As it adds a little bit of bulk to your fabric, it works better for yarns that are on the finer side, like DK and 4ply. Quick tip! Make sure not to pull the old yarn too tightly across the back of the work to avoid puckering in your work.

- 1 At the yarn change point, take up the new yarn and knit a stitch with it.
- 2 Now pick up the old yarn's tail and lay it over the new yarn, and then work your next stitch in the new yarn in front of it (this is so that you can weave the lengths into the back of the stitch).
- 3 Drop the old yarn's yarn tail and work your next stitch normally in the new yarn.
- 4 Repeat steps 2-3 for a few more stitches. Ignore the old yarn from now on and snip off any excess after blocking. On the next round repeat with the new yarn tail to weave it in as well.



DISCOVER MORE TECHNIQUES

Knitting opens up a whole new world – here are just a few ideas to tempt you into trying i-cord, spinning, toymaking and more!

DYEING YARNS

If you've had a go at spinning your own yarn (see page 140) you might fancy dyeing it too, for a totally hand-crafted garment. That said, it's perfectly possible to dye shop-bought undyed yarn as well. There are various ways of dyeing yarn, the easiest being commercial dyes that you can apply in the washing machine or by hand (and which tend to give a very even finish). You can also have a go at making your own dye, using ingredients found in your house or garden – from the natural green of nettles to the bright yellow of turmeric. Even the soft drink Kool-Aid can be used if you fancy some really vibrant colours! Home-made dyes can give an uneven finish, or fade over time, but this only adds to the individuality of your knitting.



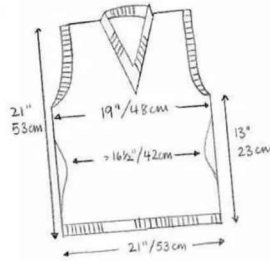
SUBSTITUTING YARNS

There are various reasons why you might not want to knit a pattern in the suggested yarn. Perhaps it's a fibre you find uncomfortable, or maybe the pattern is old and the original yarn has been discontinued. Or perhaps you simply want to spice up the design by making a change. There are several things to consider when substituting yarns – and a little bit of maths! The easiest substitution is 'like for like', where you swap in a similar weight yarn, though you might need to do some sums to work out the number of balls or skeins of new yarn you require if it's sold in different lengths. For more significant changes it's best to experiment with plenty of tension squares and to consider the finished effect – details such as cabling won't show up with a fluffy yarn, for instance.



DESIGNING

If you've impulse-bought some fabulous yarn but don't know what to do with it, or simply can't find a pattern that you fancy, why not have a go at designing your own knitwear? A little bit of experimenting, a spot of maths and a dash of imagination can create wonders! Start by knitting various tension squares with different-sized needles to see what suits your garment best, and then draw a flat plan (schematic) of your item with your measurements for the key areas. Grab a calculator to convert your measurements into stitches and rows, and work out the increases or decreases needed for shaping, and you're ready to get knitting! OK, it's not always quite that simple – but there are many books available to help you.



CONTINENTAL KNITTING

Also known as European knitting or German knitting, in Continental knitting you hold the yarn in your left hand rather than your right. Rather than being a straight reversal of right-handed (English) knitting, however, Continental knitting has a few different techniques. The yarn isn't wrapped around the needle, for instance, but is 'picked' through the loop by the right-hand needle (yet another name for Continental knitting is 'picking'). Although the stitches look the same as in English knitting, if you are used to English knitting your tension may be looser when you use this technique. It's worth experimenting with Continental knitting to see whether you prefer the technique though – once you've mastered it people often find it quicker than the English style!

KNITTING WITH WIRE

Knitting with wire isn't as strange an idea as it might sound. It's possible to buy coloured wires in a variety of thicknesses that have been manufactured with crafting in mind. They can be knitted in much the same way as regular yarn, so you won't need any special needles or notions, but as wire doesn't have any 'give' you'll need to adapt your technique slightly. Although metallic yarn can be knitted up into clothing, actual craft wire is better suited to accessories – just be sure to tuck in the sharp ends carefully so they don't catch on anything.



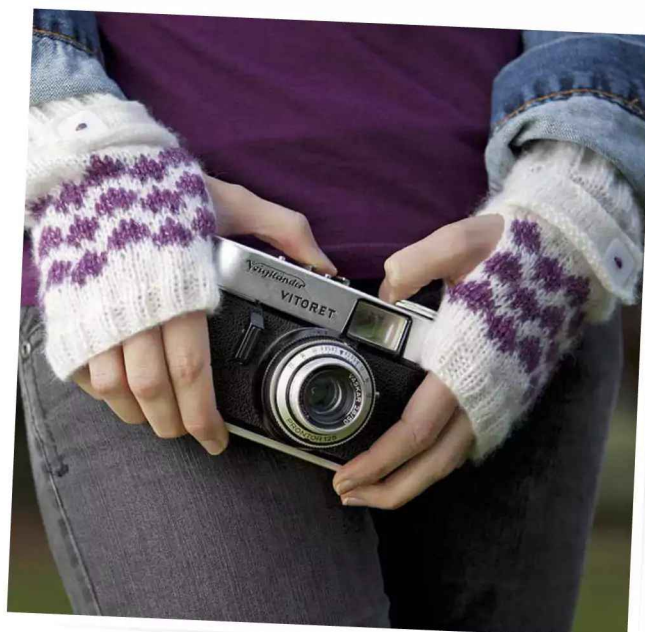


SPINNING

If you fancy getting really involved with your knitting, then spinning your own yarn is a great place to start – and you don't even need to invest in a spinning wheel (although of course you can if you want to!). With a simple drop spindle and a little practice you can easily turn a clump of fleece into knittable yarn. The fleeces available for spinning vary greatly – from the lanolin-sticky raw wool straight from a sheep to combed 'tops' that have already been dyed. Spinning your own yarn not only gives you the freedom to turn the fleece into the sort of yarn you want, but it can also give you a greater understanding of the fibre you're working with.

FAIR ISLE AND INTARSIA

Fair Isle is a stranded colourwork technique where you work with two colours of yarn on a row. When you need to change colours, you simply switch to the other yarn, carrying the unused one along the back of your work. If you have to carry a yarn for more than three stitches, you twist the yarns together to stop the strand, or 'float', being too long, and to help maintain an even tension. Intarsia is a form of colourwork that involves picking up and dropping different yarns, rather than running the threads along the wrong side of the knitting. The simplest way to do intarsia is to cut short lengths of yarn for each block of colour used in a row. Then, joining in the colours at the appropriate point on the row, link one colour to the next by twisting them around each other where they meet on the wrong side to avoid gaps.



I-CORD

An i-cord is essentially a thin knitted tube, and once you've mastered the technique for making it – which won't take long – you'll find it has all sorts of uses. Knitted on double-pointed needles to whatever length is required, it's ideal for creating a contrasting edge on a garment, or a tie-front for a cardigan, that you simply attach when you're making it up. (Although i-cords can also be knitted as part of the garment.) They make great embellishments too – lengths of i-cord can be sewn into spirals, flowers or other patterns to transform any project, or brighten up an old knit or a shop-bought item.

FELTING AND FULLING

Most knitters end up doing some felting sooner or later – mostly inadvertently after putting a woollen garment through a hot wash! However, when done deliberately, felting can create a fantastic, dense fibre that's great for sturdy items such as bags. (Technically, 'felting' is what's done to raw wool, whereas 'fulling' is the term for when the same technique is applied to yarn that's already been spun and/or knitted. But the term 'felting' is commonly used in both instances.) Nearly all animal fibres can be felted to varying degrees – if you fancy experimenting then knit a few tension squares in a range of fibres, pop them in a pillow case and run them through a 60°C wash in the washing machine. You can then use your test squares as coasters if you like!



MOEBIUS KNITTING

Representing one of the areas where crafting and mathematics collide, Moebius knitting is a way of creating circular or rounded shapes with a twist. A Moebius loop is a mathematical shape that has one side and one edge – you can create your own by putting a half twist in a strip of paper and then taping the ends together. In knitting, this is a great shape for one-piece cowls or circular objects such as baskets. Requiring circular needles with a long connecting cable, Moebius knitting takes patience to master but is deceptively simple once you get the hang of it.



ENTRELAC

Entrelac is an interesting technique, often used in colourwork, that gives a knitted piece the appearance of being woven from several strips of knitting. In fact, the effect is caused by knitting individual squares and joining them as you go by picking up stitches. It's a lot simpler than it looks, and can be knitted flat or in the round. It's also possible to felt a colourwork entrelac garment to give an Argyle pattern.





STEEKING

Steeking is a way of cutting through your knitting. But as it's done in a controlled way it's actually a useful technique when you're creating colourwork, rather than a last resort when things have gone wrong! Steeks are spare stitches that are used to close gaps in knitting such as armholes, necklines or cardigan openings so that a garment can be knitted in the round – which makes colourwork techniques such as Fair Isle and intarsia much easier. Once you've finished knitting you cut through the steek and make up the garment in the usual way.

MAKING TOYS

Many of you probably had a knitted doll or teddy bear when you were younger, but thanks to designers such as Amanda Berry it's now possible to knit all manner of adorable characters. The more detailed toys have pretty daunting-looking patterns, but this is often due to the large number of parts that later have to be joined up rather than any particularly tricky stitches. Toy-making usually involves several other skills, such as details to embroider or some very careful stuffing!



MAKING MOTIFS

Knitting projects don't have to be time-consuming epics. If you're not in the mood to start a cable sweater but fancy something to keep your hands busy for an evening, motifs such as flowers, fruit or stars are quick and easy – and can be turned into anything from a brooch or keyring to an embellishment for a larger garment (either one you've made or something shop-bought). Usually requiring basic stitches and some simple increases and decreases, motifs and small items are a creative way to use up odds and ends of yarn – ideal if you need to rustle up a small gift in a hurry.

MAKING SOCKS AND GLOVES

Socks and gloves are the items that a lot of people want to knit when they first pick up a pair of needles. There are very particular techniques involved when creating both of these, such as short rows or Kitchener stitch, so they can be a little baffling for beginners. Socks and gloves are best knitted in the round to avoid uncomfortable seams, and socks need to be tackled in different ways on the cuffs, toes and heels. Knitting the fingers on a pair of gloves will need careful juggling of several DPNs at once, but following a pattern slowly and methodically should be possible after you've mastered the basics. Of course, you could always start with a pair of mittens if you don't feel ready to knit fingers at first!



EMBROIDERY

A few simple embroidery stitches are all you need to create stunning patterns on a plain knit. If you've done any embroidery before then terms such as chain stitch, French knot and satin stitch will be familiar to you, but they're really easy to learn if this is a craft you haven't explored yet. Swiss darning is a particularly useful stitch that's also known as duplicate knitting – you can sew over your stitches in a contrasting colour and the 'V' shape of the stitch means it looks just like part of the original knit rather than a detail added later.

FINGER KNITTING

A great way to introduce children to knitting, finger knitting is a quick and easy way to generate lengths of fabric that can be transformed into larger objects. What's more, it doesn't require any equipment at all – besides your own hands! By casting on to the thumb of one hand and making a series of loops over each finger as yarn is wrapped back and forth across them, you can make a narrow strip of fabric that looks like it's been knitted in stocking stitch.





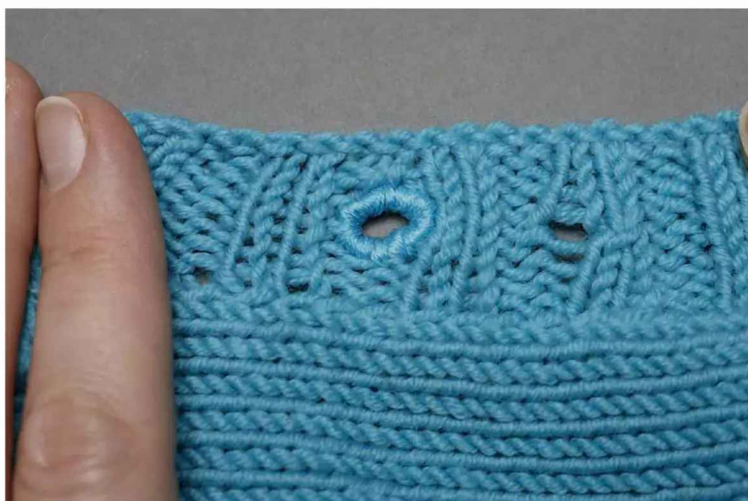
CROCHET

Knitting and crochet share many similarities, but there are enough differences to require a bit of learning if you want to transition between the two! Crochet uses one hook rather than two needles, and there's only one active stitch at a time. Crochet also uses different notation in its patterns. You may come across knitting patterns that require a small amount of crochet stitches, often along a decorative edge, so it's worth taking the time to learn a few stitches. And of course a crochet hook is an invaluable part of any knitter's notions stash – what else will you use to pick up those dropped stitches?

BUTTONHOLES



They're such a fundamental part of many garments, but buttonholes can seem bewildering once you realise how many different ways there are to create them! The simplest method is an eyelet buttonhole, where a hole is left in the fabric by an easy 'k2tog, yo', but this can look messy and isn't suitable for all yarns. The sort of buttonhole that will work best on a garment depends not only on the size of the button but also the stretchiness and 'give' of the yarn. More advanced techniques enable you to create horizontal or vertical buttonholes to suit the item you're knitting, and you can use useful tricks such as sewing grosgrain ribbon to the back of the button band to stabilise it.



SEWING TECHNIQUES

There's a lot of overlap between various textile crafts such as knitting, crochet, sewing, embroidery and so on. And once you embark upon more complex knitting patterns you'll find that various dressmaking techniques will come in very useful. Lining a bag with fabric is perhaps one of the first of these that you'll come across, but it's also useful to pick up other skills, such as sewing in a zip or covering a button with fabric. If you're nimble-fingered enough to manage a complex knit then none of these should present too much of a challenge.

WHERE CAN I BUY?

Need to track down yarns, hooks or notions for your latest knitting project? Visit your local yarn shop, or use our handy guide below to find your nearest stockist or buy online

FIND YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST

Bergère de France
www.bergeredefrance.co.uk

Bernat, Caron, Lily Sugar 'n Cream
0116 271 3131
www.creativeworldofcrafts.co.uk

Blacker Yarns
01566 777635
www.blackeryarns.co.uk

Cygnat
01274 743374
www.cygnetyarns.com

Deramores
0845 519 4573 or
01733 777345
www.deramores.com

DMC
01924 231669
www.dmc.com

Erika Knight, Peter Pan, Wendy, Robin, Twilleys
01943 230010
www.thehomeofcraft.co.uk

King Cole
01756 703670
www.kingcole.com

KnitPro
www.knitpro.eu

Novita Yarns
020 8940 0999
www.novitaknits.com

Patons
01484 668200
www.knitpatons.com

Rico
www.rico-design.co.uk

Rowan
01484 668200
www.knitrowan.com

Scheepjes
www.scheepjes.com

Sirdar & Hayfield
01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

Stylecraft
01484 848435
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

Sublime
01924 369666
www.sublimeyarns.com

West Yorkshire Spinners
01535 664500
www.wyspinners.com

Wool and the Gang
www.woolandthegang.com

Yarn and Colors
www.yarnandcolors.com

Hobbycraft
03300 261400
www.hobbycraft.co.uk

Loop
www.loopknitting.com

LoveCrafts
01409 404010
www.LoveCrafts.com

The Knitting Network
01795 570303
www.theknittingnetwork.co.uk

Readicut
01162 713759
www.readicut.co.uk

Spin a Yarn
01626 836203
www.spinayarndevon.co.uk

Tribe Yarns
020 8940 0999
www.tribeyarns.com

UK Alpaca Ltd
01884 243579
www.ukalpaca.com

BUY ONLINE

Black Sheep Wools
01925 764231
www.blacksheepwools.com

John Arbon Textiles
01756 703670
www.jarbon.com

Deramores
0845 519 4573 or
01733 777345
www.deramores.com

Wool Warehouse
0800 505 3300 or
01926 882818
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk





5 Reasons to love knitting

Let us explain just a few of the ways we love our favourite craft!



1 *Everything you knit is unique to you, which means gorgeous one-off gifts to make for loved ones, stunning couture clothing, and bespoke (and cosy) homewares.*

2 It's a portable, feel-good leisure activity: creative, stimulating and relaxing, helping you to forget about all your worries. Knitting is akin to meditation, helps with mindfulness and pain management, and it will help you to feel peaceful and also productive. This means guilt-free fun, and you can take pride in all your achievements. What's not to love?



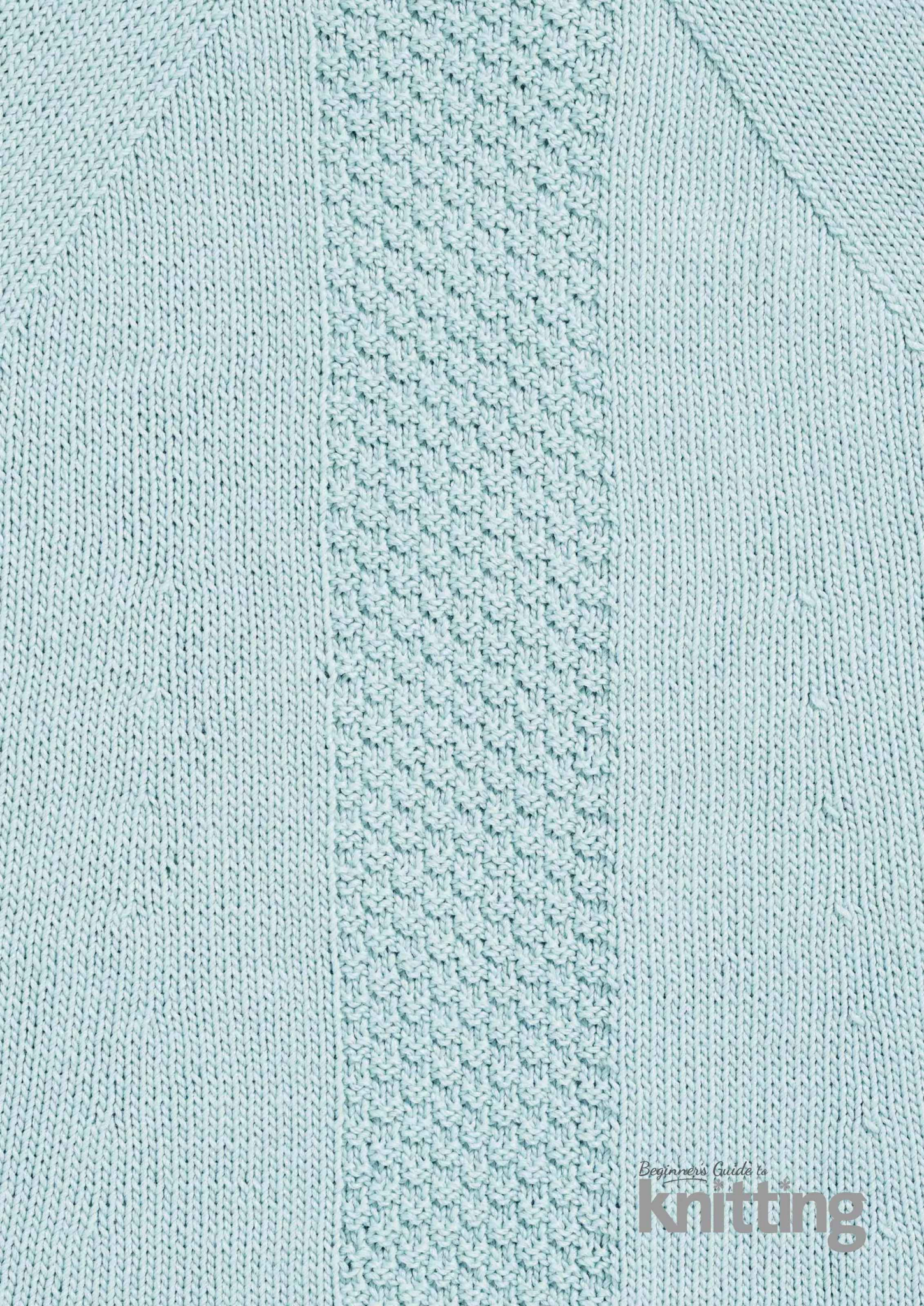
3 Knitting is a great way to join the handmade revolution. It has become part of the 'slow' craft movement, and it's thousands of years old, so you'll be part of a grand old historic tradition. You'll also join a global community of knitters, who are friendly, creative and even craft to change the world (and world records!) with charity knits.



4 *Knitting may not be the fastest craft, but it is good fun! Using just one or two (or up to five) needles, you have the freedom to create flat or 3D fabrics. Choose yarn to suit your budget, and you'll have a whale of a time!*

5 Anyone can learn to knit! It needn't be expensive and you can start with just a few techniques. Once you've mastered the basics, it's easy to learn more, and there's always something new to discover and keep you interested in it.







Beginner's Guide to **knitting**

Brought to you by the team behind *Simply Knitting* magazine, the *Beginner's Guide to Knitting* is the **perfect companion** for anyone who wants to take their first steps in knitting. From your first cast-on to casting off, we'll show you **how to knit and purl** and **techniques like rib and stocking stitch** to get you started. There's plenty of **advice about yarn** and the tools you'll need, plus **lots of easy projects** so you can practise your amazing new-found skills!