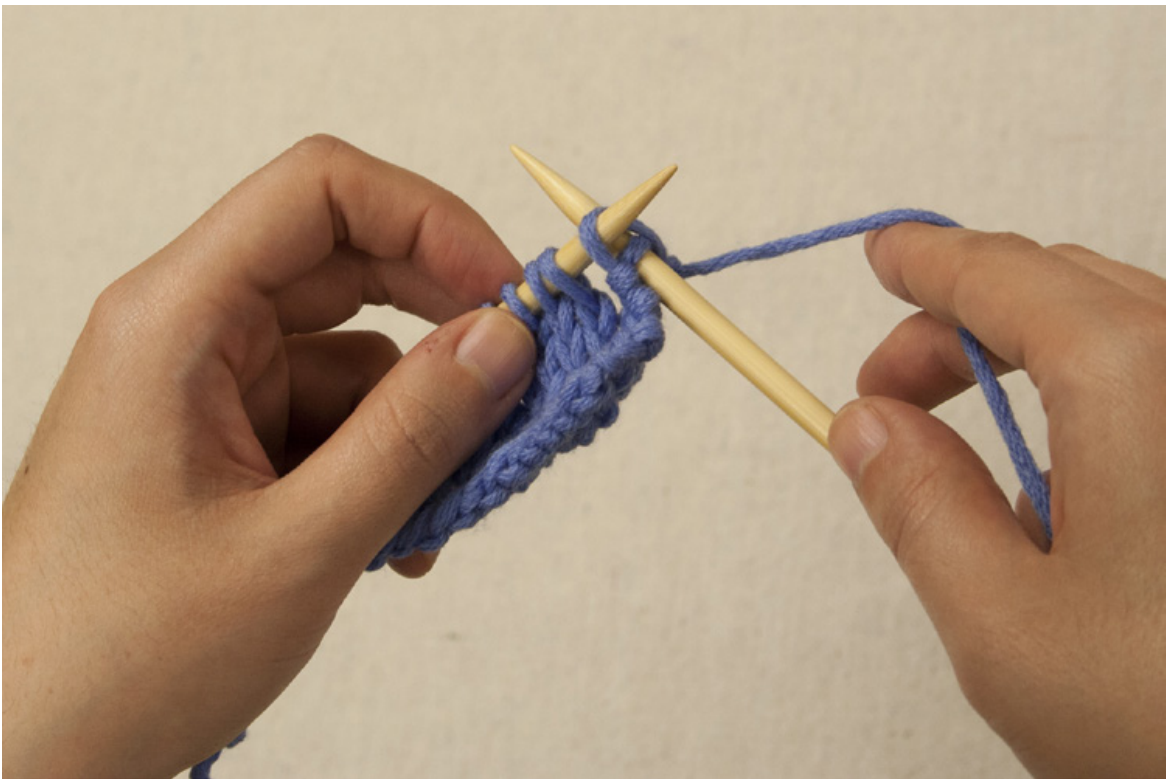


Knitting Basics



Hill
Country
Weavers

4102 Menchaca Road

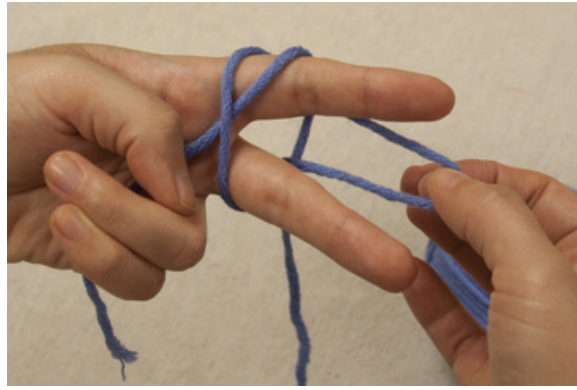
Austin, TX 78704

www.hillcountryweavers.com

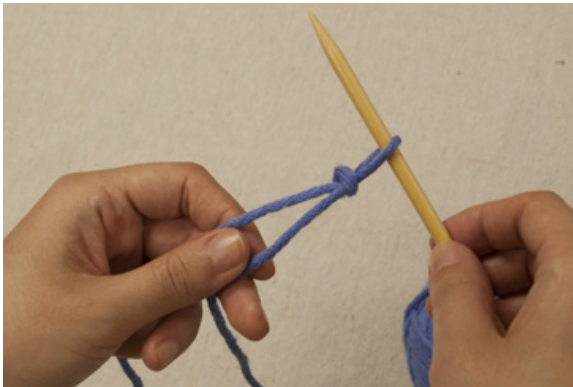
Making a Slip Knot



1. Hold the tail end of the yarn in your palm with your thumbs. Wrap the yarn from the ball twice around your index and middle fingers.



2. Pull the strand attached to the ball through the loop between your two fingers, forming a new loop.



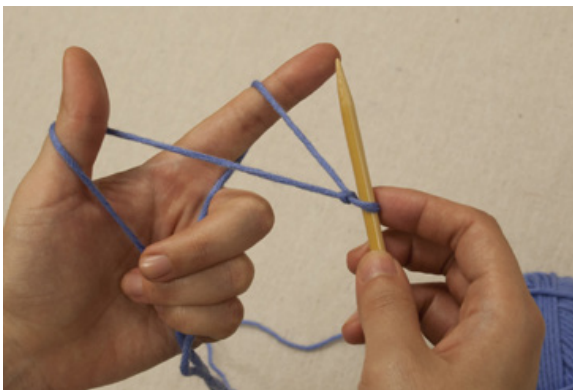
3. Place the loop on the needle. This will be your first stitch. Tighten it by pulling on both ends of the yarn that form the slip knot. To prepare for casting on, leave an extra long tail when making the slip knot.

Tip:

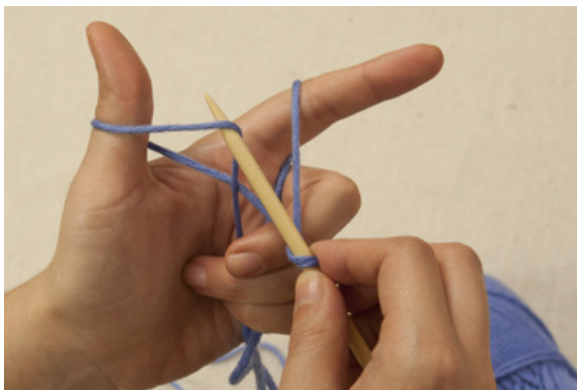
It's called the "Long-Tailed" Cast on for a reason - be sure to pull out a long enough tail of yarn before you make your slipknot and begin casting on for as many stitches as you need. It's better to error on too long a tail than too short.

If you're not sure you can wrap the yarn around your needle for a few stitches and then measure this length of yarn. That's how much length you need for the same number of stitches. If you need to cast on 30, for example, wrap the yarn 10 times around the needle and you will need about 3 times as long for your tail.

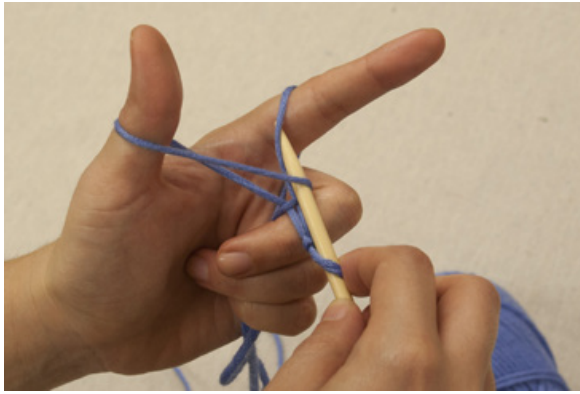
Casting On



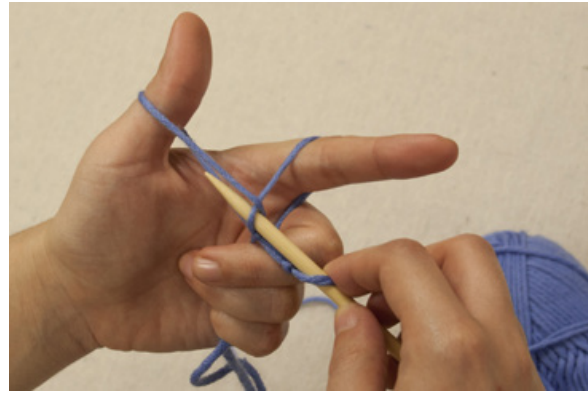
1. With a slip knot on the needle in your right hand, wind the tail end around your left thumb. Wrap yarn from the ball over left index finger. Hold both ends in your palm.



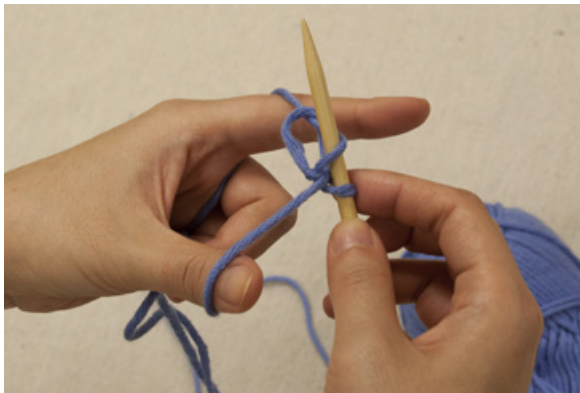
2. Insert the needle upwards in the loop on your thumb...



3. Then pass the needle behind the loop on your index finger.



4. Use the needle to draw the yarn up from the ball through the loop to form a stitch.



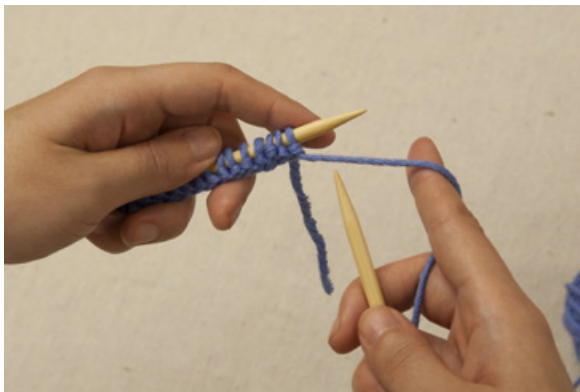
5. Take your thumb out of the loop and pull the tail end to tighten the stitch on the needle. Repeat steps 1 to 3 until the desired number of stitches are cast on.

Tip:

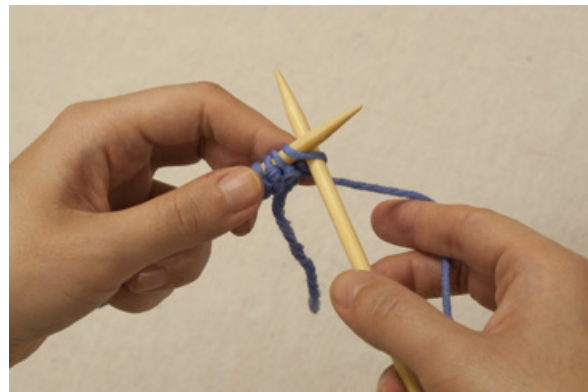
It's very easy to overtighten the stitches as you cast on. If you find that your cast on stitches feel very tight or if you have a hard time moving them along the needle you may want to try casting on to a needle size 2-3 sizes larger than the ones you will use to knit.

If you don't have a larger needle handy you can also cast on holding both your needles together as one. Just remove the second needle from the stitches when you are ready to begin knitting.

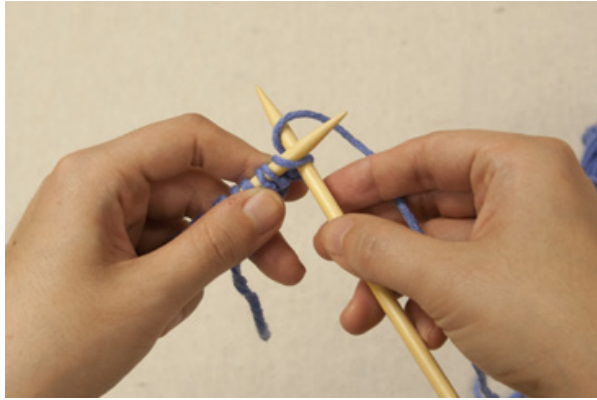
The Knit Stitch



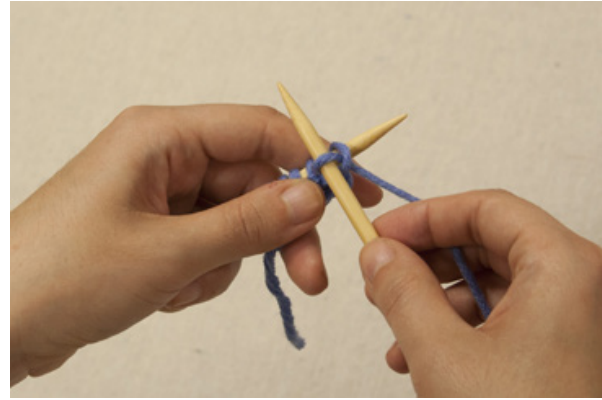
1. The needle with the stitch is in your left hand, the first stitch near the tip. With the empty needle in your right hand, wrap the yarn around your fingers as shown.



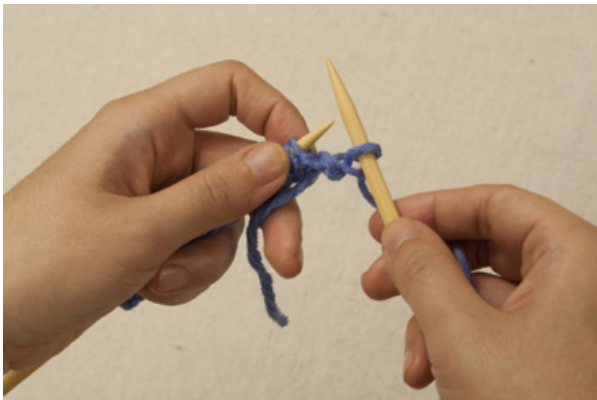
2. Insert the right needle from front to back into the first stitch on the left needle. Keep the right needle under the left needle and the yarn at the back.



3. Bring the yarn under and over (around the back of) the right needle, and pull it gently between the two needles. Use your right index finger to manipulate the yarn.



4. With the right needle, catch the yarn and pull it through the stitch on the left needle.



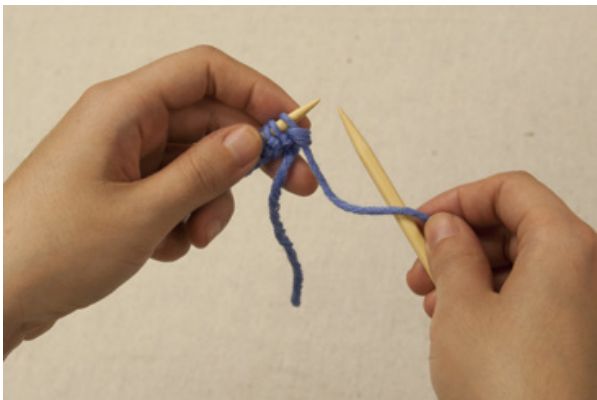
5. Slip the stitch off the left needle, leaving the new stitch on the right.

Tip:

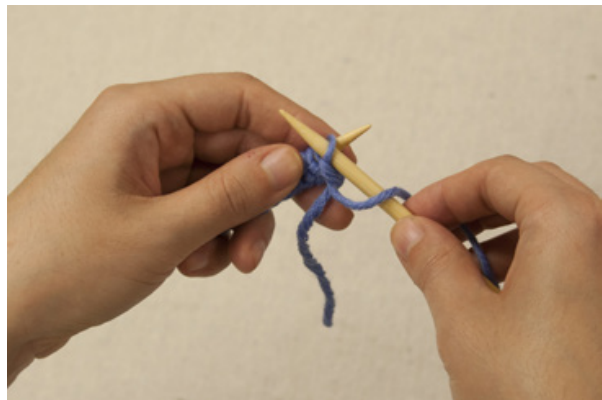
When switching between knit and purl stitches on the same row be sure that you bring the yarn between the needles to the front of right hand needle **BEFORE** you insert the needle to purl.

Accidentally bringing the yarn to the front after the needle is inserted will create a hole and an extra stitch when you work the following row.

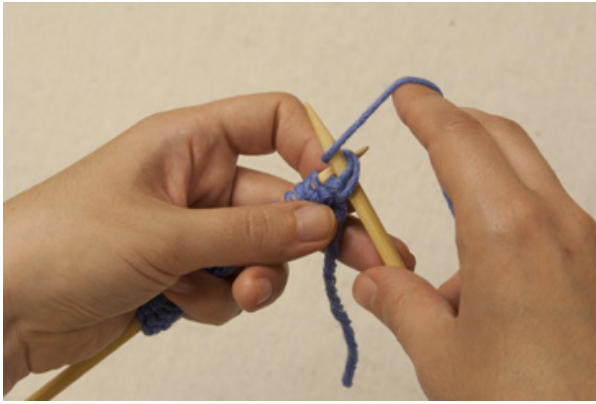
The Purl Stitch



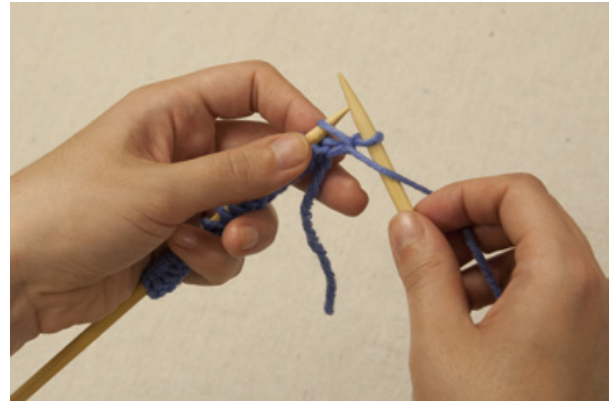
1. Hold the needle with the stitches in your left hand and the empty needle in your right hand. For the purl stitch, the yarn is held to the front of the work.



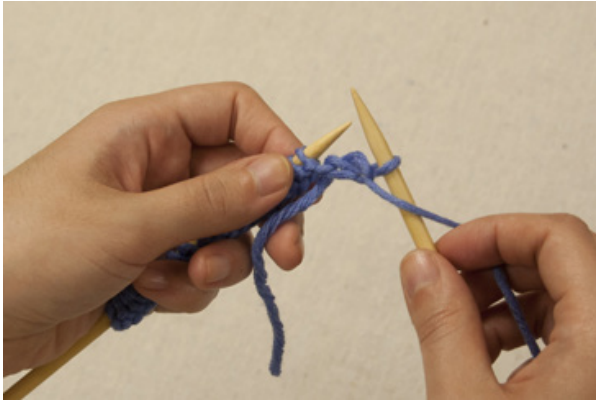
2. Insert the right needle from back to front into the first stitch. The right needle is in the front of the left needle, and the yarn is at the front of the work.



3. With your right index finger, wrap the yarn counter-clockwise around the right needle as shown.



4. Draw the right needle and yarn backwards through the stitch on the left needle forming a loop on the right needle.



5. Slip the stitch off the left needle.

Handy Notion:

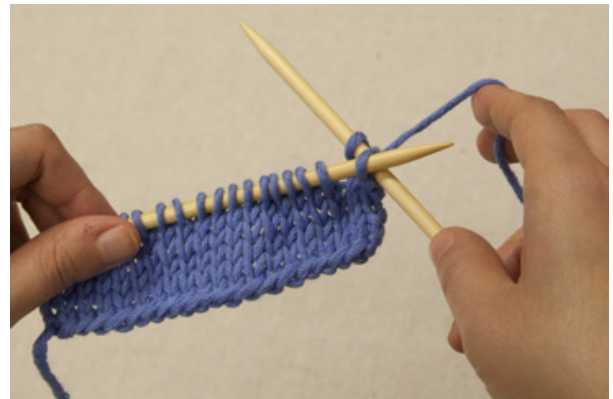
You can use point protectors to keep your stitches from falling off your needles when you need to put down your knitting.



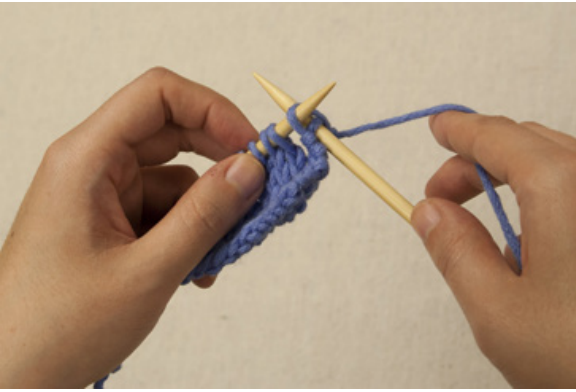
Binding Off



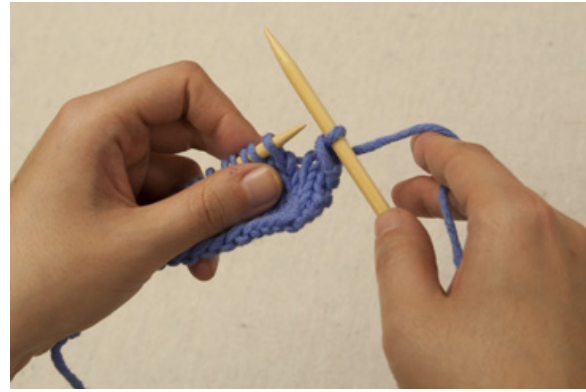
1. Knit two stitches.



2. Insert the left-hand (LH) needle into the first stitch on the right needle.

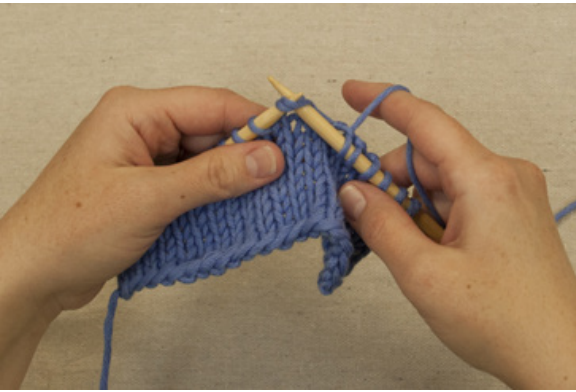


3. Pull this stitch over the second stitch and off the right-hand (RH) needle.



4. One stitch remains on the right needle. Knit the next stitch. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you have bound off the required number of stitches. When one stitch remains, pull the yarn through the loop to fasten off.

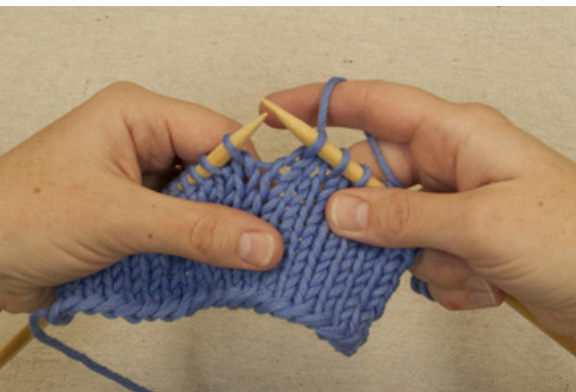
K2tog - Knit 2 Together



1. Insert your needle into the front of both the second and first stitch on the left needle.



2. Bring the yarn around the back of the needle as with a regular Knit stitch and pull it back through both stitches - knitting both stitches as one.



3. Remove both stitches from the left needle. You have decreased one stitch.

Handy Notion:

Use Stitch Markers to mark where you make decreases so these will line up. To use just slip them onto the needle between your stitches - right before or right after the stitch you want to mark.



Kfb - Knit Front & Back



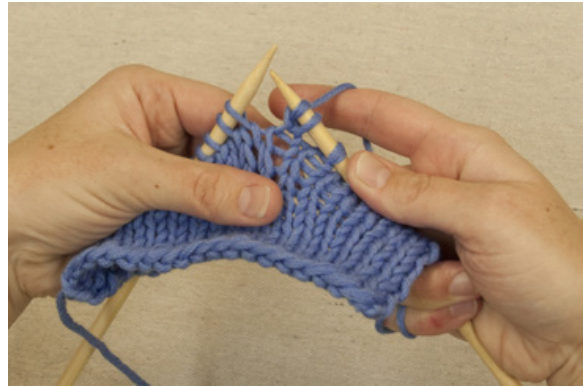
1. Knit into stitch as usual but DO NOT remove the stitch from the left needle. (Knit stitch steps 1-4).



2. Insert your right needle into the back of the same stitch.

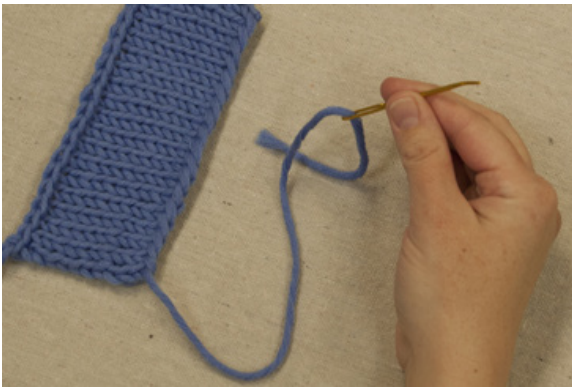


3. Wrap the yarn around the back of the needle and pull the yarn through.

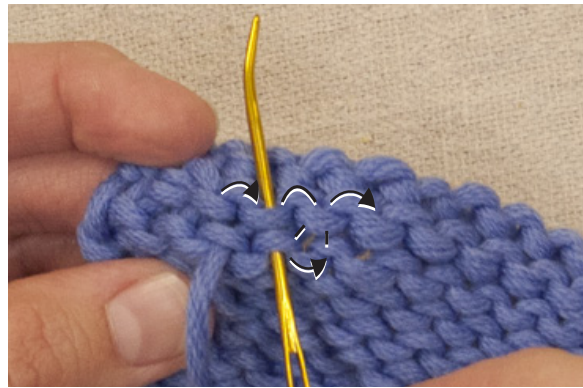


4. Drop the stitch from the left needle. You have increased one stitch.

Weaving in Ends



1. When you finish a project you will have ends left of the yarn hanging off your knitting. Take a Tapestry needle and thread it with this loose yarn.



2. Work the needle back and forth through the knitting following the stitches when possible for about 1-2 inches.



3. Use scissors to trim the end of this yarn close to the edge of the knit fabric.

Handy Notion:

Tapestry Needles are sometimes called “Darning Needles.” They are less sharp than sewing needles and have very large eyes to make it easy to thread yarn. Keep a few sizes handy for use with different thicknesses of yarn.



Common Terms & Abbreviations:

| | |
|--|--|
| Garter Stitch | Knit every row |
| K | Knit (example: K3 = knit 3 stitches) |
| K2tog | Knit 2 stitches together through the front of both loops |
| Kfb | Knit into the front and the back of the same stitch |
| P | Purl (example: P2 = purl 2 stitches) |
| Sl1 | Put your needle into the next stitch on your left needle as if to purl it and move the stitch to your right needle (DO NOT knit or purl the stitch – just move it) |
| Stockinette Stitch (worked flat) | *Knit one row. Purl one row.* repeat these two rows for pattern |
| Stockinette Stitch (in the round) | Knit every row |
| YF/Bring yarn forward | Bring the yarn between the needles closer to you |

Understanding Gauge

Knitting gauge--the number of stitches and rows per inch--determines the size of the item or garment you are making. Every knitting pattern states the gauge, or “tension,” on which the sizing is based. For successful results, it is essential to test your knitting against this measurement before you start a project. Make a test swatch at least 4” square, using the yarn and needle size called for in the pattern. Then measure your swatch using a ruler or knit gauge tool. If the number of stitches and rows do not match the pattern’s gauge, you must change your needle size. An easy rule to follow is: TO GET FEWER STITCHES TO THE INCH, USE A LARGER NEEDLE; TO GET MORE STITCHES TO THE INCH, USE A SMALLER NEEDLE. Try different needle sizes until you get the proper gauge.