

Intermediate Knitting

The Intermediate level for knitting is designed for individuals who have learned basic knitting skills. It is now time to add to your knitting skills as you knit an article that may include pickup stitches, knitting short rows, knitting with circular and/or double pointed needles, and reading a chart for duplicate stitch or mosaic knitting. You will also be able to identify and correct mistakes.

Knitting Notebook

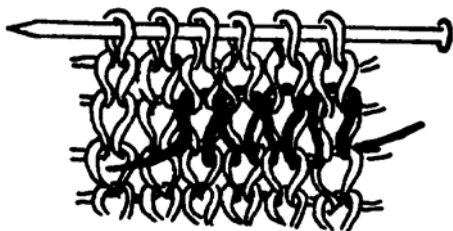
Every knitter needs a notebook or file in which to keep useful information. A loose-leaf three-ring notebook will work well. Plan to keep copies of patterns and leaflets for future reference.

Additional Equipment and Supplies

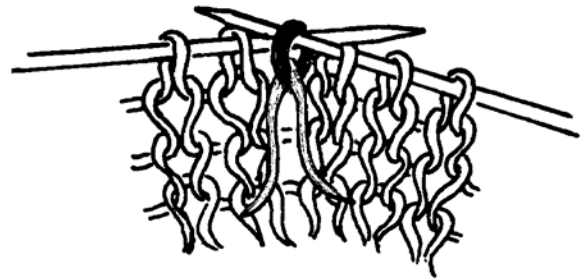
Marker

Markers are used as guides in knitting. They may be placed in your work to mark future measurements or placed on your needle between two stitches and slipped from one needle to the other.

- **Horizontal Markers**—When directions call for a marker to be placed in the work, use a small length of yarn of a contrasting color; work this yarn along with the regular yarn for three or four stitches. Leave this marker in your work until it is completed.

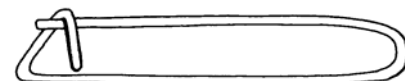


- **Vertical Markers**—Ring markers made of plastic or metal and are available at most stores that carry yarn supplies. These markers are placed on your needles between stitches when the pattern directions read “sl a marker on needle” or “place marker on needle.”



Stitch Holder

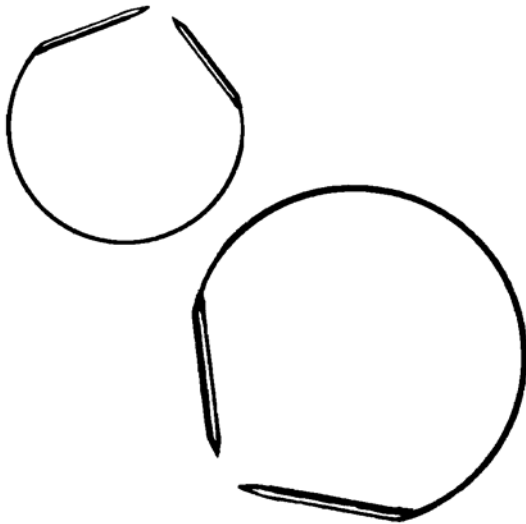
A stitch holder is a large plastic or metal “safety pin” that is used to hold specific stitches while a pattern is being worked around them. These stitches are slipped from the needles onto the holder. Later the stitches are returned to the needles and worked according to the directions. For example, the stitch holder is used to hold sleeve stitches while the body of the sweater is being knitted.



Circular Needles

Circular needles are used for knitting in a complete circle to avoid seams. However, they may be used for knitting back and forth in flat knitting, too. For example, they may be used to knit sleeves, ribbing, collars, or sweaters without seams.

Circular needles are single-pointed, rigid needles connected by a thin, flexible cable.



They are available in a variety of lengths and sizes. Select the needle size according to the pattern directions and gauge required for the sweater. Select the needle length according to the number of stitches to be held on the needle and your personal preference. Wide projects, such as sweaters, require long needles.

Double-pointed Needles

Knitting on double-pointed needles is done using four or five needles that have points on both ends. This type of knitting, like knitting on circular needles, is used when you are knitting garments in which you wish to eliminate the seams. Using multiple needles enables you to create smaller pieces, such as caps, socks, mittens, sleeves, gloves, neckline, and armhole ribbing without seams. Narrow knitted tubular shapes called I-cords are knitted using two double-pointed needles. Double-pointed needles are available in a variety of length and sizes.

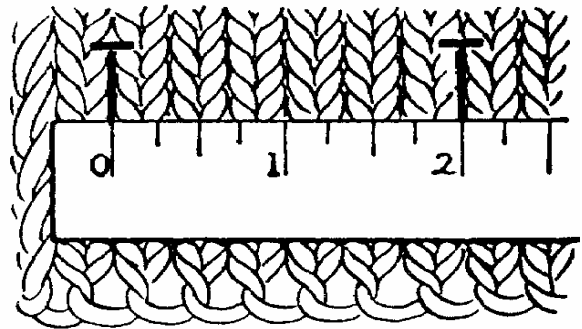
KNITTING TIPS

As you continue to knit, you will want to increase your skill in knitting. Here are a few tips to help you.

Check Gauge Frequently

Knitting patterns will specify gauge. Making a sample square using the same yarn and needle size as given in the instructions should always be completed to check the gauge.

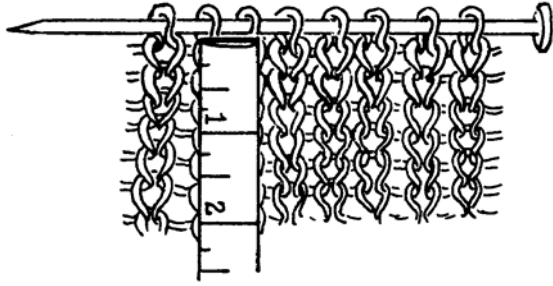
Without stretching, lay knitted sample out flat, put two pins exactly 2 inches apart, and count the stitches between.



Divide the number of stitches in half to determine how many stitches per inch. If one inch has fewer stitches than the directions call for, you need to use smaller needles. If it has more stitches, you need to use larger needles. The needle sizes given in the knitting instructions are only suggested sizes. Use any needle size that will produce the correct gauge.

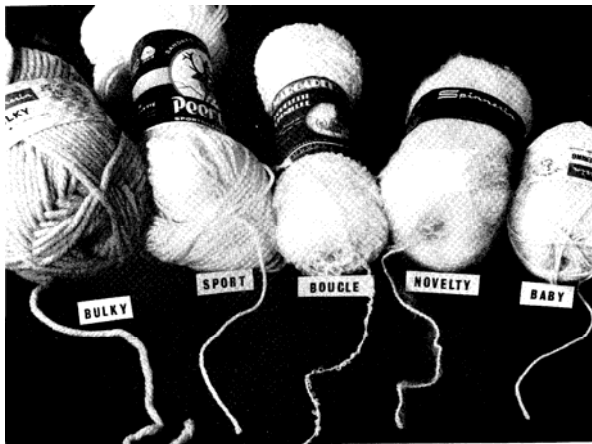
Measure Your Work

Often the directions will tell you to work so many inches and then do a certain step, making it necessary to measure the work. To do this, lay the work down on a flat surface with the needle at your left. Use a tape measure or ruler with its end placed just under the needle and measure down to the starting point or to the point indicated in the directions.



Do not stretch the knitting. Simply smooth the work out as it naturally would lie. Do not cheat yourself by trying to make the work measure more than it really does.

- Keep a tape measure in your knitting bag to measure length or gauge as you go along.
- When you have to make many rows of the same stitch, mark down each row on a piece of paper as you work it—then you will not have to keep counting rows!
- Always keep a pencil in your knitting bag to check off pattern directions, line by line, so you will always know where you are. It eliminates chances for error as you stop and start.



MANY KINDS OF YARNS

There are hundreds of different kinds and textures of yarn made available by a number of manufacturers. Yarns are spun from many kinds of fibers, such as

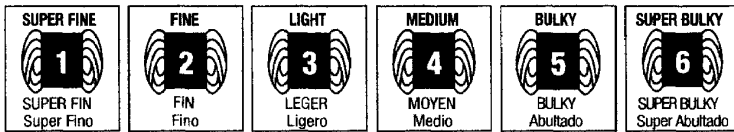
nylon and acrylic. Many natural fibers are also used. The natural fibers include not only the common ones (wool, cotton, linen, and silk) but also hairy fibers such as mohair and cashmere. Yarns may also be blends of two or more fibers.

The yarns may be fine and loosely twisted to produce soft, fluffy articles or tightly twisted to give a hard, smooth, and long-wearing quality. Some yarns are crinkly, giving a crepe finish, while others have knots to give a nubby effect. Some heavy yarns are smooth and soft. Others are rough and wooly. One group of yarns, suitable for dressy garments, consists of tightly twisted strands with shiny or metallic fibers worked into them. There are also mixtures of colors. Some of these give perfect tweed effects. Yarn may range in size from the very fine sport and baby yarns to the fat, lightweight "bulky" yarns that are now popular.

Each yarn manufacturer usually makes several yarns in a range of differing weights, fibers, and plies. These vary with the manufacturer.

The weight and thickness of yarn and its loft (lightness and texture), combined with the stitch gauge determine the size of a finished article.

We hear about 2-ply, 3-ply, and 4-ply yarns, but the *ply* does not determine the weight or thickness of the yarn. Ply simply means the number of strand (2, 3, or more) which have been twisted together to form the final thickness and weight of the finished yarn. For example, a 3-ply yarn can be thicker than a 4-ply yarn. To determine the ply of a yarn, take a small piece of yarn in both hands, untwist it slightly, then push it together just a little. You will be able to see immediately how many plies were twisted together to make the final strand.

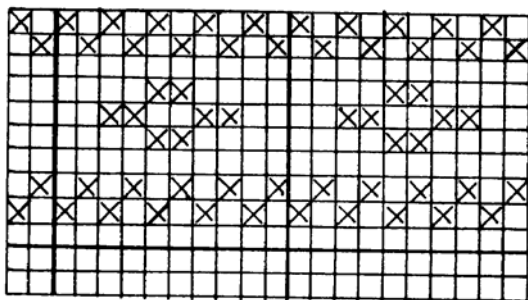


The above symbols have been introduced to designate yarn weight. Refer to **Craft Yarn Councils Standards & Guidelines for Crochet and Knitting on the Web** at www.YarnsStandards.com for more information on labeling.

WORKING WITH COLORS AND A CHART

To follow a pattern on a chart/graph, you pretend each square of the graph paper is a stitch and each line or row of squares across the paper is a row of knitting.

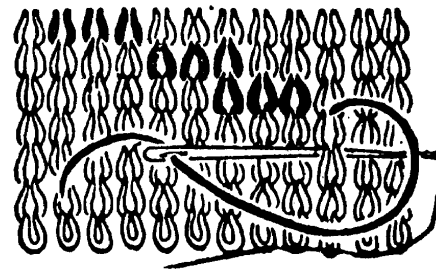
When only a single contrasting color is used, the graph is very simple to read or follow. Here is an example:



- Main color
- Contrasting color

Duplicate Stitch

The duplicate stitch is a simple way to add color and pattern to a plain piece of knitting. After the knitting has been completed, thread a tapestry or yarn needle with yarn of another color and duplicate the knitted stitches by embroidering over them. Keep the yarn loose enough to lie on top of work and cover the knitted stitch. To monogram your sweater, use the graph at the end of this publication.



Mosaic Knitting

Mosaic knitting, also called slip knitting, involves the use of two colors of yarns to knit geometric patterns without carrying the unused strand behind the work. Basically the unused strand is left to hang at the right end side the piece being worked while using the other color to knit across and back two rows at a time.

There are two basic ways to create mosaic knitting. In one method, every row is knit, creating a garter stitch and raised effect. The edges do not curl. This is the method used in this project and is an excellent method for making scarves, wall hangings, collars, and cuffs. The second method, a stockinette stitch, is created by knitting across and purling back. Stockinette is a good choice for sweaters.

Here are a few tips for mosaic knitting that you'll need to remember.

- On all right-side rows, all slip stitches (abbreviated sl) are slipped with the yarn held behind the stitch as it is slipped. On all wrong-side rows, all slipstitches are slipped with the yarn in front of the stitch as it is slipped.
- All slipped stitches are slipped purl-wise on right- and wrong-side rows.
- On every wrong-side of the garter stitch mosaic knitting, you knit and slip the same stitches that were knit and slipped on the preceding right-

side row, with the same color. Therefore, each row on the color chart/graph represents two rows of knitting.

- When reading the color chart/graph, start at the lower right hand corner.

Double-Knitting/Reversible Knitting

Double-knit fabric has two layers of fabric, and you knit both layers at the same time. This type of knitting is good for scarves.

To begin, do a double cast on by holding the two yarns to be used together and cast on as one. This will give you two loops per cast on stitch. For the first row, with both yarns in back, knit one stitch in color **A** with color **A** yarn, bring both yarns to front and purl one stitch in color **B** with color **B** yarn. Repeat across the row. Turn, with yarn in back, knit one of color **B**. Bring both yarns to the front and purl one of color **A**. Repeat across row. Designs can be knitted in as you go by switching which color is knitted on the front and which is purled for the back according to a design chart. Bind off by knitting two stitches together with both yarns. You will want to cover your cast on and bind off edges with fringe.

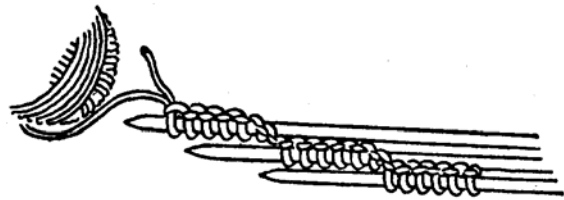
KNITTING WITH DOUBLE-POINTED NEEDLES

When knitting with four needles, the stitches are divided as evenly as possible on each of three needles. The fourth needle is used to knit the stitches. This type of knitting is worked in rounds rather than rows. It is always worked in one direction, round and round. The stockinette stitch, which on straight knitting needles is produced by knitting one row and purling the next, is produced automatically by knitting each round. Some sets of needles have five needles,

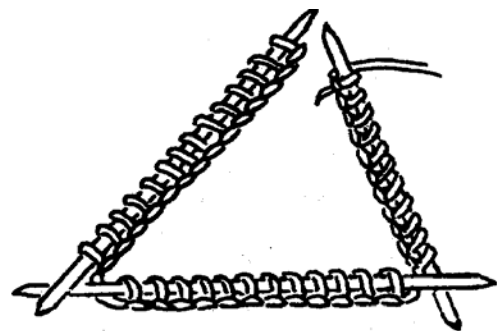
just divide the number of total stitches by four to determine the number of stitches on each and knit with the fifth needle.

How to Cast On Four Needles

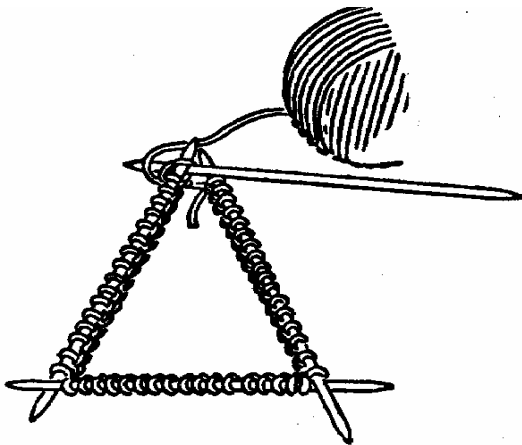
The stitches may be cast on in one of two ways. You may cast all of the stitches on one needle and then place a third of the stitches on each of the other two needles. Or, you may cast them on the three needles directly by casting on a third of the number of stitches on one needle, placing the second needle to the left of the first needle, and casting on another third of the stitches. Then do the same with the third needle. A fourth needle may be used if needed and the number of stitches divided by four.



Arrange the needles to form a triangle on a flat surface being careful that the cast on edge does not twist.



Carefully pick up the three needles and hold the first needle in your left hand and the third needle in your right hand with the yarn in position to knit. Insert the free or fourth needle into the first stitch on the left-hand needle.



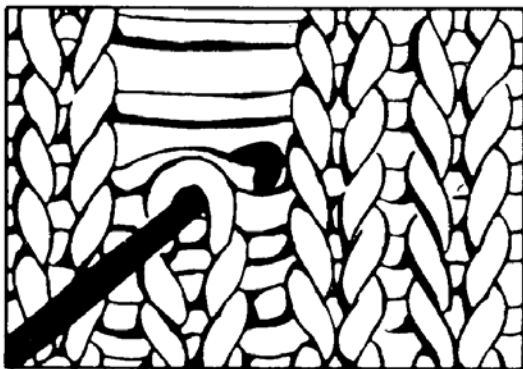
CORRECTING MISTAKES

Before you can correct mistakes, you must learn to recognize them. The most common mistakes in knitting are dropped stitches, holes, twisted stitches, and split stitches.

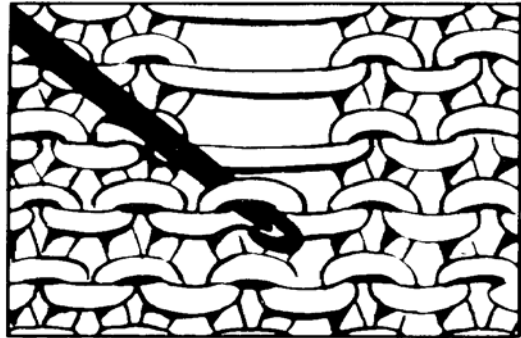
It is easier to learn to recognize and correct mistakes when you are working with the stockinette stitch because you have a right and wrong side to your work, and it is easier to tell a knit stitch from a purl stitch.

Dropped Stitch

A dropped stitch is caused by a stitch falling off the needle. When you drop a stitch, it must be picked up and placed on the needle. Whenever possible, pick up a dropped stitch on the right side of your work. Use a crochet hook to catch the dropped stitch. Work the yarn up on the horizontal yarn of each row as shown below.



Continue in this manner until you reach the row being worked. Be careful not to twist the stitches. Pick up purl stitches as shown below.



To pick up dropped stitches when working in the garter stitch, alternate the two movements above.

Holes

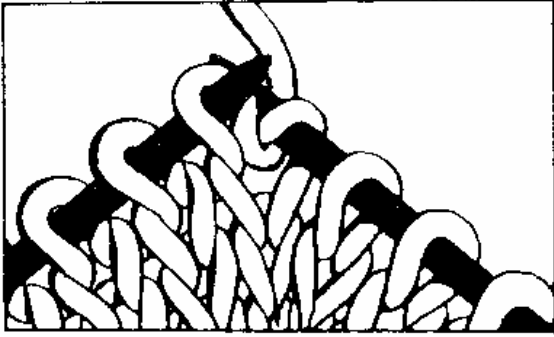
A hole in knitting may be caused by:

- ❑ Having the yarn in the wrong position for a knit or purl stitch;
- ❑ Putting the project down in the middle of a row and then resuming the knitting in the wrong direction; or
- ❑ Failing to interlace or twist the yarn when changing colors.

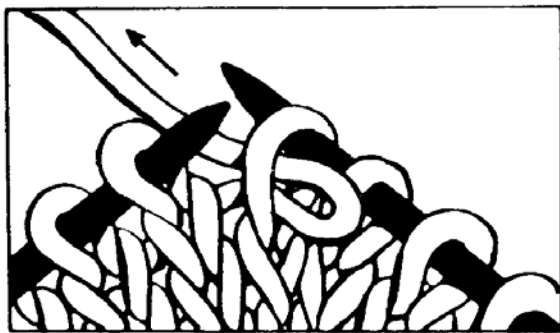
To correct a hole in your knitting, unravel the stitches by removing the knitting from the needles. Pull the yarn slowly and gently out of the stitches. Unravel the knitting to the row above the one with the hole.

To put the stitches back on the needle, use a smaller needle because it is easier to slip into the stitches. Hold the knitted fabric in your left hand with the loops at the top and the yarn from the skein coming from the stitch in the upper right-hand corner.

Hold the needle in your right hand. Slip the needle into the stitch below the exposed loop, holding the yarn in your left hand.



Gently pull the yarn out of the single stitch.



Repeat until all stitches have been put back on the needle. Now the stitches are on the needle in the correct position for working the next row, and none is lost or dropped.

Twisted Stitch

If you look closely at the right side (or knit side) of a knitted fabric worked in the stockinette stitch, you will see that each stitch is a V. If you gently pull the fabric by holding it on each side, the V will open up or separate at the bottom. If a stitch is twisted, the yarn is crossed at the bottom or base of the stitch. When you pull on the fabric, the twisted stitch V will not separate but will pull together more closely.

When you have twisted a stitch or made the mistake of knitting a purl stitch or purling a knit stitch, work over to that point in the work directly above where the mistake has been made. Drop this stitch

from the needle and down to the twisted stitch. Using a crochet hook and having the knit side of the same stitch facing you, pick up the stitch as you would any dropped stitch.

Split Stitch

Separating the strand of yarn when inserting the knitting needle into a stitch causes a split stitch. To correct the error, follow the directions for dropped stitches, holes, or twisted stitches.

Additional Hint

When putting stitches back on a needle, insert the right-hand needle from back to front through each stitch. Insert the left-hand needle from front to back through each stitch. This prevents twisted stitches.

INTERMEDIATE KNITTING SKILLS

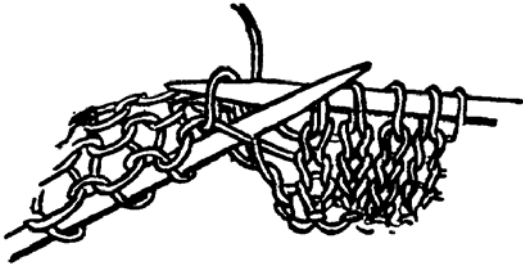
The increase stitch you have learned is the one you will use when the increase is on the edge of the garment or forms a part of the design of a garment. There are times when you do not want the increase to show, so let's learn to do a "blind" increase.

Just as in decreasing, increasing may be made to slant either to the left or to the right.

Blind Increase Slanting to the Right

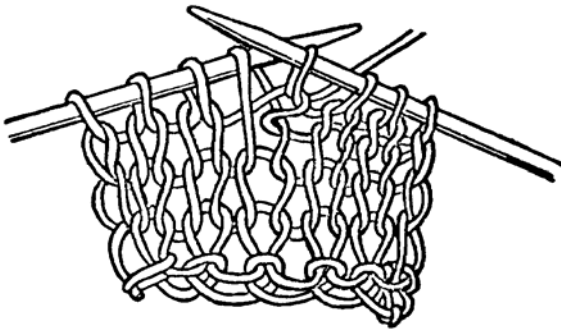
Work across the row to the point where the increase is to be made. Before working the increase, turn the work on the left-hand needle slightly toward you so that you can see the back of the work over the top of the needle. Make your increase by inserting the right-hand needle, from the top down, into the back of the stitch below the stitch on the left-hand needle and knit this loop as a stitch. Now return the left-hand needle to the

proper position and knit the stitch on the needle (this is the stitch above the stitch the increase was worked in) in the usual way.



Blind Increase Slanting to the Left

Work across the row to the point where the increase is to be made. With the left-hand needle, from back to front of the work, pick up the stitch right below the stitch just made on the right-hand needle. This puts an extra stitch on the left-hand needle. Knit into the back of this added stitch for your increase stitch.



Make one—another way to increase.

With the tip of the right-hand needle, lift the yarn strand between the last stitch knitted and the next stitch on the left-hand needle. Place it on the left-hand needle and knit into the back of it to increase one stitch.

Picking up Stitches

Stitches are most frequently picked up along an edge of a piece already knitted, such as the neck and armhole edges of a sweater.

To pick up stitches, hold the work with the right side toward you. Hold the free end of a skein of yarn against the garment with your left hand until you get started. This loose end is afterwards fastened into the work and concealed.

Hold the needle and yarn in your right hand in the regular way. Work from right to left. Insert the needle into the first row in from the edge and knit stitches onto the right-hand needle.



The directions will specify a number of stitches to be picked up. Make them fit into the space allotted.

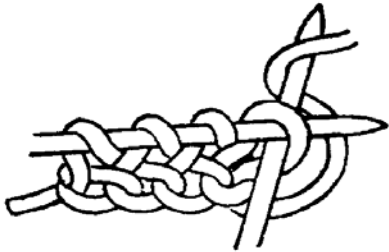
When picking up the irregular edge formed by increases or decreases, be sure to insert your needle into every row, whether the knitting is tight or loose.

When picking up stitches at the armhole, work from front to back on the left armhole, and from back to front on the right armhole.

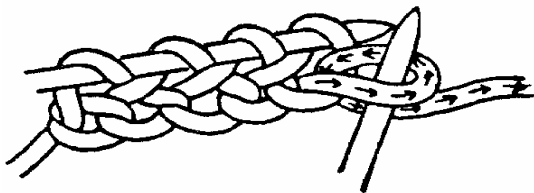
Casting On Stitches by Knitting On

When you are casting on stitches in the middle of a garment, two threads are not available, and it is necessary to use a method known as *knitting on*. When the directions tell you to cast on while you are making a garment, you must first turn your work. The right-hand needle

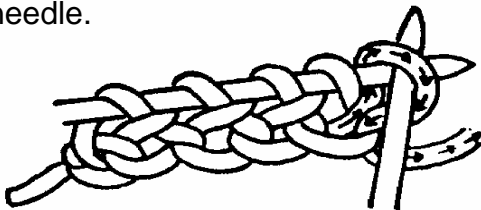
becomes the left-hand needle and vice versa. The needle to which the yarn is attached is in your left hand. Insert the needle now in your right hand into the stitch nearest the top of the left-hand needle.



When a new stitch is drawn out, (do not pull the old stitch off the left needle.



Instead, transfer the new stitch on the right-hand needle onto the left-hand needle.



Make the next stitch in the stitch just completed. This process is continued until the required number of stitches has been cast on. Then the work is turned again and the regular knitting is resumed.

I-Cord

Using double-pointed needles cast on 2 to 4 stitches. With the second double-pointed needle, knit all the stitches. Do not turn the needle. Instead slide the stitches to the right-hand end of the needle, so the first knitted stitch is at the tip of the left-hand needle and the last stitch knitted is farthest away from the tip. Insert right needle, knit-wise, into first

stitch, bring yarn across the back of the piece, and use it to knit as usual. Knit the remaining stitches and repeat sliding stitches back to the right-hand end of needle. Continue knitting and sliding stitches until desired length. End by knitting two stitches together across, cut yarn and thread through remaining loops and draw tight. I-cords can be used to make loops, handles, and drawstrings.

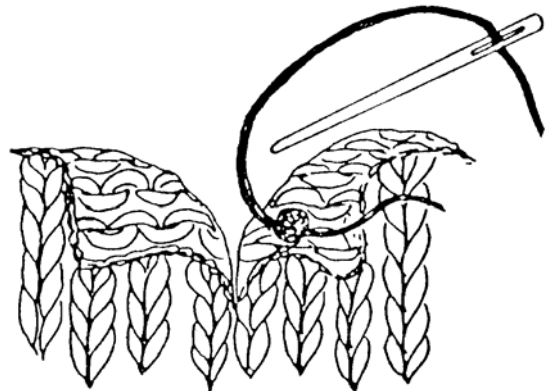
SEAMS

Previously directions were given for joining knitted garments with a flat overcast seam and a backstitch seam. Let's learn some additional ways of joining seams.

Woven Seam

Place the two pieces to be joined with edges together evenly, right side up.

If you have a yarn on either piece long enough to sew your seam, use it. Otherwise, thread a piece of the same yarn you used in your garment into your tapestry needle and attach the yarn with a slip knot to the wrong side of the piece on the right. Leave about two inches of yarn on the end of the knot. Do not cut the yarn close to the knot since the knot may come untied.

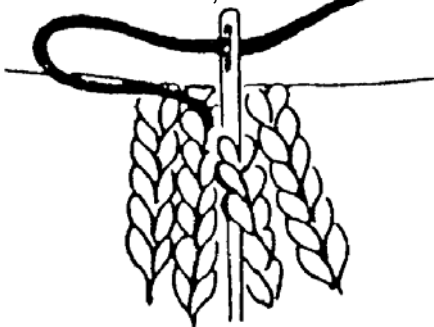


Insert the needle into the back side of the first stitch on the right-hand side and bring the needle up to the right side of work through the first stitch on the left edge.



Insert the needle down through the center of the first stitch on the right edge, pass under two rows, and draw the yarn through to the right side.

Insert the needle in the center of the stitch on the corresponding row of the left edge, pass under two rows as before, and draw the yarn through to the right side. Continue to work in this manner from side to side, matching rows.



Be careful not to pull the yarn too tightly as the seam must have elasticity.

Crocheted Seam

Use the same yarn used to knit the garment and a crochet hook large enough not to split the yarn, yet small enough to go through the stitches easily. If using 4-ply yarn, you may "split it" and use only 2-ply for the seam.

In your left hand hold the two pieces to be joined with right sides together, wrong side out. Attach the yarn on the bottom

piece; with the crochet hook pull the yarn through to the top side with a slip loop.

Insert the hook through the first stitch of the top piece (one stitch in from the edge) and then through the corresponding stitch in the other piece. In other words, work into corresponding rows of knitting on either side. Catch the yarn with the hook and draw it through the slip loop on the hook. Do the same thing in the next row of knitting and repeat this procedure along the entire seam.



This method of crocheting a seam gives slightly more elasticity and strength than a sewn seam.

The Kitchener Stitch

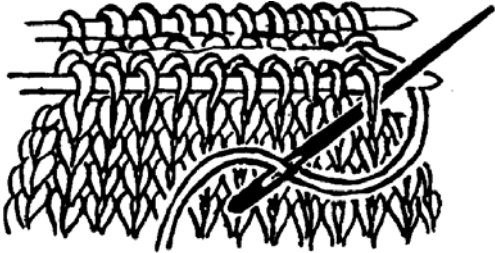
The Kitchener stitch is used to join two edges together by weaving the yarn end back and forth between loops on a front and back needle. When done properly, this seam appears as if the seam is "knitted" together and is virtually invisible. It can be used to join shoulders and is often used to finish off the toe ends of socks.

At the completion of your knitting, cut the yarn, leaving a 15- to 20-inch tail. The two needles with the stitches should be held even and parallel, with the yarn at the right end of the back needle.

Thread the yarn into a yarn needle and work as follows:

1. *Insert yarn needle into the first stitch on the front needle as if to knit and slip stitch off. Insert yarn needle into second stitch on front needle as if to

purl, draw yarn through but leave stitch on front needle.



2. Insert yarn needle into first stitch on back needle as if to purl and slip stitch off. Insert yarn needle into second stitch on back needle, as if to knit, draw yarn through but leave stitch on back needle. Repeat from * until only one stitch remains on each needle. End by slipping last stitch on front needle off as if to knit and then slipping last stitch from back needle as if to purl. Draw yarn to wrong side and conceal end.

KNITTED SOCKS

Knitted socks have several advantages over other types. They are snug and warm for winter wear. Wool is very absorbent. Knitted wool socks keep the feet dry by wicking perspiration away from the skin. Therefore, they are wonderful to wear for recreational activities. For this same reason people who have trouble with athlete's foot have found wool socks very helpful, because moisture aggravates the condition. Yarn must contain at least 25 percent wool to get the benefit of its absorbency.

To make your knit socks wear much longer, always remember to reinforce the heels and toes with nylon. A special yarn is made just for this purpose. Choose a neutral color that will blend with your wool yarn. Reinforce your socks even if the

directions do not call for it. All you do is attach the nylon yarn to your work just before starting the heel and work it along with the wool yarn. Then when you finish turning the heel, fasten off the nylon. Attach the nylon again just before you start the shaping of the toe.

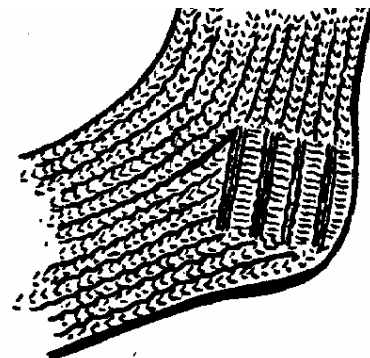
In order for a sock to fit snugly at the ankle, the top must have elasticity. Therefore, it is usually knit in ribbing on smaller needles than the remainder of the sock. The stitches must be cast on loosely in order for the top to slip over the thick part of the heel. It is a good idea to use a larger size needle to cast on than called for in the sock directions.

Heels

There are several ways to shape the heel when knitting socks. The French heel is made with rows of alternate knitting that ensures longer wear and softer comfort.

French heel: To make a French heel, follow the directions you are using until they say "shape the heel." At that point, with the number of heel stitches called for in the directions (here we are using 30 stitches as an example), proceed as follows: Attach nylon heel and toe yarn.

- **Row 1:** Wrong side. Slip 1 stitch (slip as if to purl), p to end of row.
- **Row 2:** Holding both strands of yarn at back of work, slip 1 stitch, k1; repeat from to end of row.



- Repeat these two rows for two inches or desired length to form a square, ending with a p row.

**Turn heel as follows:

Knit across half the number of stitches on the needle plus 2 extra stitches. K 17 (15 +2) stitches, k2 tog, k 1, turn.

Row 1: Slip 1, p 5, p 2 tog, p1, turn.

Row 2: Slip 1, k 6, k 2 tog, k 1, turn.

Row 3: Slip 1, p 7, p 2 tog, p1, turn.

Continue in this manner, always having one more stitch before decrease, thus always knitting or purling the 2 stitches tog on each side of hole, until 16 stitches remain on needle. This is called turning the heel because the work is turned after every decrease.

Pick up the side stitches according to the directions or as follows: k 8 stitches (on last row you had purled, decreasing to 16 stitches) and leave on needle.

- Needle No.1: k 8 stitches (remaining half of heel stitches) and with same needle pick up 15 stitches or required number of stitches along side of heel piece.
- Needle No. 2: Work across instep stitches.
- Needle No. 3: Pick up 15 stitches along other side of heel piece, k across remaining 8 stitches.

Toes

The two methods used most often for shaping the toes when knitting socks are the round toe method and the woven toe method.

To shape a round toe, the toe of the sock is tapered gradually by decreasing, as called for in the directions, until only a few stitches remain. These remaining stitches are then drawn together and fastened as you would the tip of a mitten.

When using the woven toe method, decreasing also shapes the toe until there are usually 12 to 20 stitches remaining. When the toe is finished, the remaining stitches are divided on two needles (usually from 6 to 10 stitches on each needle) and then they are woven together with the Kitchener's stitch. There must be an even number of remaining stitches.

KNITTING A SWEATER

When beginning a large project like a sweater, read the pattern directions carefully before beginning. The pattern may direct you to cast on stitches and complete the ribbing on straight needles and then change to circular needles. Do you have straight needles of the correct size?

Selecting Pattern Size and Yarn

The joy of wearing a hand-knitted sweater depends on the care you use in selecting the correct pattern size for your figure. Most knitting patterns have directions for knitting several sizes. To choose the best size for you, compare your body measurements to those listed on the pattern. Depending on the pattern, you will want to measure your body at the following points:

Your Measurements	inches	cm
Chest		
Width across back at underarm		
Length from back of neck to bottom edge of sweater		
Length from underarm to bottom edge of sweater		
Length of sleeve at underarm		
Width of sleeve at upper arm		

When you compare your body measurements to the pattern measurements, the finished knitted measurements should be slightly larger than your body measurements.

Before you start to knit, go through the directions and circle the numbers for your size. Then you will not accidentally work the wrong number of stitches as you knit.

Knitting to Fit

Knitting is different from sewing in that you produce the fabric and shape the garment to fit your measurements as you knit, whereas in sewing you begin by cutting the fabric according to the pattern shapes. For this reason, it is important to calculate the fit of a knitted garment before you begin knitting. After you have spent hours knitting something, it is very disappointing not to be able to wear it because it doesn't fit you well!

The most important thing to know is the stitch gauge given in the pattern instructions. Then be sure you knit to that gauge.

Check your body measurements against the measurements given for the various sizes. Pattern sizes for knitted sweaters differ from ready-to-wear sweater sizes. Your commercial book of knitting patterns will have a size chart with garment measurements; at the beginning of the instructions for each garment, the size range will be given. Ease must be allowed for a comfortable fit, so remember that in addition to your actual body measurements, you need to add "comfort" or "wearing" ease allowance. For example, it is desirable to have 3 to 4 inches at the bustline whether or not a sweater (or any other knitted garment) is designed to fit snugly. Your body measurement at bustline—for example, 32 inches—plus 4 inches for ease equals 36 inches. Pattern gauge given is 7

stitches per inch. Multiply 36 inches by 7, for a total of 252 stitches needed.

Check the pattern instructions to find out the total number of stitches there will be at the widest part of the sweater (bustline). Remember to include the number of stitches added (if you increased) to the number cast on. Compare the total number of stitches on the needles to the number required (252) to determine whether the sweater will fit. If in the size you selected there are not enough or there are too many stitches to give you the correct fit, change to the garment size that you need for a comfortable fit.

Corrections for length are made by knitting more or fewer rows than called for. The length of sleeves from underarm to lower edge should be checked against your arm length. Also compare with your measurements the length of a sweater from underarm to lower edge and skirt length from waistline to lower edge. *Remember:* It is essential that you knit to the proper gauge in order to get the correct fit.

Yarn

After a pattern size has been determined, you can buy the right amount of yarn. Always buy the specified amount with the same dye lot number. Also select the type of yarn specified in the pattern directions (for example, 4-ply knitting worsted). The wrapper on each skein of yarn tells you what you need to know: *fiber content, ply, dye lot number, weight, care recommendations*, plus information on whether the yarn is colorfast, mothproof, and preshrunk.

Shaping Shoulders by Turning (Short Rows)

By turning instead of binding off to shape shoulders, a neat diagonal line is formed that can be bound off in one line, and front and back sections may be grafted together. Or when the shoulder shaping has been completed, the back and front shoulder stitches may be woven together with the Kitchener stitch. The directions given here are for a shoulder of 28 stitches with a turn made every 7th stitch (3 turns). A turn may be made after any number of stitches, depending on the slant desired.

To Shape Left Back or Right Front Shoulder

Follow the directions for armhole shaping until you reach the shoulder shaping row.

- **1st turn row:** On the right or knit side of work, knit across to last 7 stitches (k 21 sts), bring yarn forward as if to purl, slip next stitch (which is the 7th stitch from end of left needle) and pass the yarn around and to the back of work again.



Return the slipped stitch to the left needle (make sure stitch is not twisted), turn work, and purl back across row.

- **2nd turn row:** Knit 14, bring yarn to front of work as if to purl, slip next stitch, and pass yarn around to back of work again. Return slipped stitch to left needle, turn, and purl back across row.
- **3rd turn row:** Knit 7, bring yarn to front of work, slip next stitch, and pass yarn to back of work. Return slipped stitch

to left needle, turn, and purl back across row. (Three turns completed.) Bind off all 28 stitches or place them on a stitch holder if shoulders are to be woven together with the Kitchener stitch.

To Shape Right Back or Left Front Shoulder

Shape by working on wrong or purl side of work.

- **1st turn row:** Purl across to 7th stitch from end (p 21 sts), slip next stitch, pass yarn around slipped stitch to knit side of work, and return slipped stitch to left needle. Turn work and knit back across row.



- **2nd turn row:** Purl 14 stitches, slip next stitch, put yarn around slipped stitch to knit or front of work. Return slipped stitch to left needle, turn, and knit back across.
- **3rd turn row:** Purl 7 stitches, slip next stitch, wrap yarn around slipped stitch to front of work, and return slipped stitch to left needle. Turn and knit back across row. Bind off all 28 stitches.

Set-in Sleeves

It takes a great deal of care and patience to set a sleeve into the body of a sweater so that it fits properly and looks neat. To set sleeves into a sweater, carefully follow these steps:

Place the sleeve into the armseye (armhole) of the sweater with right sides together.

With the sleeve side facing you, use straight pins to pin the sleeve in the armseye, matching underarm seams and center top of the sleeve with the shoulder seam. With the sleeve side still facing you, pin from the underarm seam, easing in any fullness 2 inches on each side of the top of the sleeve.

Turn the work. With the body side of the sweater facing you, attach the yarn, and work the seam with a back stitch or slip stitch with a crochet hook (see directions for crocheted seam). If you follow the rows of knitting as a guide, your seam should be smooth, straight, and even.

Finishing Your Sweater

When all parts of your sweater have been knitted, you can add the finishing touches to complete your sweater. Read the label on the skein of yarn to see if blocking is necessary. If you used wool yarn, follow these instructions:

Blocking by Steam

Place the garment on a flat, padded surface with the right sides of the garment together. Pin the edges to the measurements given in the directions; use rust-proof pins, about ¼ inch apart.

Note: If your garment is made in separate pieces, such as the back, front, and sleeves, two identical pieces should be blocked at the same time.

- ◆ Place a damp cloth over the pieces already pinned; then steam with a hot iron held just barely above the damp cloth.

- ◆ Leave the garment pinned until thoroughly dry.
- ◆ Remove the pins and sew up the seams by the desired method.
- ◆ Steam seams on the wrong side.

Note: It is best never to block the ribbing of a garment. If your sweater is made of synthetic yarn, follow the washing directions recommended on the yarn label.

Care of Sweaters

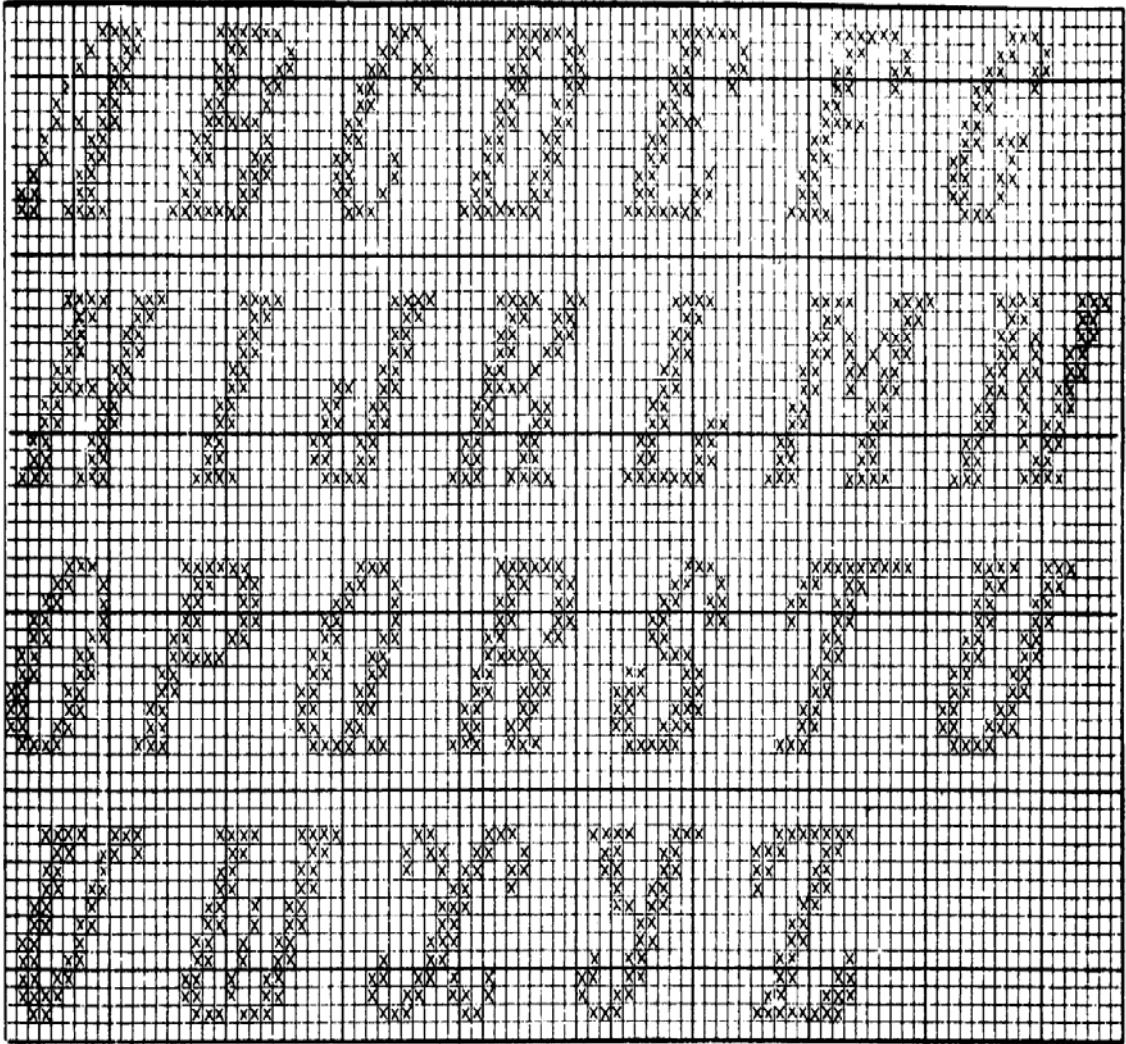
Save the skein band/label from the yarn used in the project to find the care instructions. Follow the information specified by the manufacturer. For best results, do not allow a knitted sweater to become excessively soiled.

Caring for your sweater after each wearing will keep it looking like new and make it wear longer. After each wearing, let your sweater “air” over night, or at least for a few hours. Then fold it neatly and store it in a drawer, chest, or box. *Sweaters should not be hung on a hanger because hanging causes them to pull out of shape.*

Sweaters often acquire little “fuzz balls” either from wear or washing. A fuzz-remover can be purchased from your dry cleaner or clothing store. A brush, fine sandpaper, or emery board may also be used.

Whether you use a fuzz-remover or a brush to remove fuzz balls from your sweaters, brush very lightly and gently since too much pressure will harm the fibers.

Chart for duplicate stitch monogramming



*This publication is based on **Let's Learn to Knit with Pickup Stitches, Let's Learn to Knit with Different Thicknesses and Textures of Yarn, and Knitting with a Combination of Colors** written by JoAnn Hilliker, State Extension Specialist in Clothing and Textiles, Kentucky Cooperative Extension, 1978-1980. Many of the illustrations in these publications were courtesy of the Educational Bureau, Coats and Clark, Inc.*

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