



# Essential knitting

Let's knit together

Learn the basics to knit, purl, change yarns and cast off, plus rib, moss and basketweave stitches

## KNIT

**This is the most basic stitch in knitting. Hold the needle with the stitches in your left hand and the empty needle in your right hand.**

**Step 1:** insert the right hand (RH) needle through the front of the loop on your left hand (LH) needle



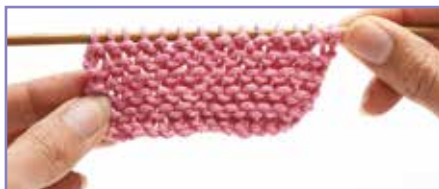
**Step 2:** wrap the yarn around the tip of the RH needle from left to right



**Step 3:** use the RH needle to pull this wrapped strand through the loop on the LH needle and drop the loop off the LH needle



Knitting every stitch is called garter stitch. This is a reversible pattern that looks almost identical on both sides



## PURL

**The other important stitch in most knitting patterns is the purl stitch.**

**Step 1:** insert the RH needle from right to left into the loop on the LH needle



**Step 2:** wrap the yarn around the tip of the RH needle from right to left



**Step 3:** use the RH needle to pull the wrapped strand through the loop on the LH needle and drop the loop off the LH needle



Working one row knit and one row purl produces stocking stitch. This is what it looks like from the right side of the work



This is what it looks like from the wrong side of the work



Unless your pattern tells you otherwise, the knit row will be the RS of your work. When the purl row is the RS, this is called reverse stocking stitch.

## JOINING IN A NEW BALL OF YARN

Try to join a new ball of yarn at the beginning of the row. Insert your needle into the first stitch of the row, then lay the tail of the new yarn over the top of the old one and knit the stitch. We've used a different colour to show the technique, but this also demonstrates how to join a new colour to work stripes.



## STITCH LIBRARY

The knit and purl stitches can be combined to create a wide variety of stitch patterns

### RIB

This is a stretchy stitch pattern that's often used for cuffs and edges. It's a repeating pattern that alternates between knit and purl stitches.

**1x1 rib:** \* k1, then move the yarn between the tips of the needle, p1, take the yarn back between the tips of the needle, repeat from \* to end  
Moving the yarn between the tips of the needle is very important. Moving it over the barrel of the needle will create an extra stitch.



**2x2 rib:** \* k2, p2, repeat from \* to end



**2x3 rib:** \* k2, p3, repeat from \* to end



### BASKETWEAVE

This is a variation on a regular rib pattern, but is off-set, after a number of rows. This swatch features a (k3, p3) pattern, that switches to (p3, k3) after four rows.



## MOSS STITCH

This textured stitch pattern is worked in a similar way to 1x1 rib but the stitch pattern is off-set on alternate rows. Again, remember to move the yarn between the needles when changing from knit and purl stitches.

Over an odd-number of stitches, it is worked as follows:

**Row 1:** \* k1, p1, rep from \* to last st, k1  
This row is then repeated throughout

Over an even-number of stitches, it is worked as follows:

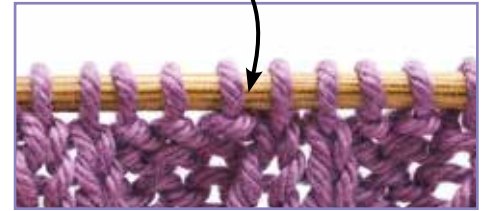
**Row 1:** \* k1, p1, rep from \* to end  
**Row 2:** \* p1, k1, rep from \* to end  
These two rows are repeated throughout



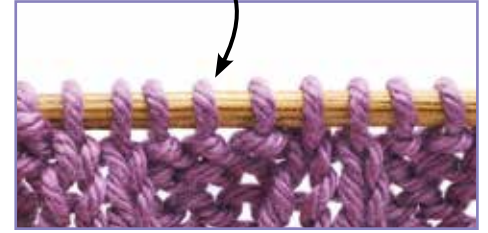
## IDENTIFYING STITCHES

Beginner knitters often ask, "How do I know when to knit or purl?" It's actually really easy to tell. A knit stitch looks like a v-shape and a purl stitch will have a bump. This is what is meant when you are instructed to 'knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches as they appear.'

A knit stitch (v-shape):



A purl stitch (bump):



## CASTING OFF

The cast-off row is the final row of your project and is usually worked in consistency with the stitch pattern.

### KNITWISE:

**Step 1:** knit two stitches, \* insert the tip of the LH needle into the second stitch from the tip of the RH needle



**Step 2:** use the LH needle to lift this stitch over the one nearest the end of the RH needle and drop it off the needle. One stitch has been cast off.



**Step 3:** knit one stitch \*, repeat from \* (in Step 1) to \* until one stitch remains on the RH needle



**Step 4:** cut the yarn leaving a tail, then insert this tail through the remaining loop on the needle. Pull it tight to secure your stitch



### PURLWISE:

When casting off on a purl row, purl two stitches, then move the yarn to the back of the work before passing the stitch over and off the needle.



### IN PATTERN:

This example is for 2x2 rib. Work the stitches in accordance with the stitch pattern, but remember to move the yarn to the back of the work before passing the stitch over.

