



Advanced casting off

Let's knit together

There's more than one way to cast off, and here are six alternative options for finishing

THREE NEEDLE CAST-OFF

This is an easy way of casting off two edges together and is often used to join shoulder seams.

Step 1: place each set of stitches to be cast off on to a needle. Hold these needles parallel with the right sides (RS) together. Hold these in your left hand. If you're casting off using the yarn tail, the yarn should be coming from the back needle



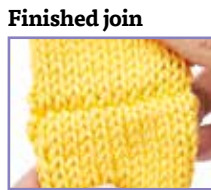
Step 2: holding a third needle in your right hand, insert this needle into the first stitch on the front needle and through into the first stitch on the back needle, now knit these two stitches together and slip them off the needles at the same time



Step 3: insert your right-hand (RH) needle into the next stitch on the front needle and through into the next stitch on the back needle, knit these two stitches together. You will now have two stitches on your RH needle

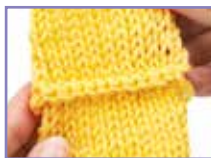


Step 4: insert one of your left-hand (LH) needles into the first worked stitch on the RH needle, lift this stitch up and pass it over the other stitch and off the needle. One stitch has been cast off



Repeat Steps 3 and 4 until all stitches have been cast off

If you hold the stitches to be cast off with the wrong sides (WS) together, you will get a ridge on the RS of your work. This could be used as a decorative feature



KNIT LACE CAST OFF

ALSO KNOWN AS THE ELASTIC CAST OFF

This method is used on Sarah Knight's Clarity shawl (p38). It is similar to the Russian cast off, but has slightly more stretch.

Step 1: knit two sts as normal.



Step 2: return the two stitches on your RH to the LH needle and knit them together through the back loops.



Step 3: knit the next stitch as normal.



Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until all stitches have been cast off.

Finished edge



RUSSIAN CAST OFF

ALSO KNOWN AS THE LACE CAST OFF This produces a nice stretchy edge which is good for lace patterns, or cuffs and necklines.

Step 1: knit the first two stitches together through the back loops.



Step 2: slip the loop on your RH needle back to the LH needle.



Repeat Steps 1 and 2 until all stitches have been cast off.

Finished edge



TOP TIP

Use a larger needle size to prevent your cast-off edge becoming too tight.

I-CORD CAST OFF

This method recreates the effect of an i-cord running along your knitted edge. It is knitted on straight needles, as opposed to double-pointed needles. The number of cast-on stitches determines the width of your i-cord.

Step 1: using the two-needle method, cast on four stitches at the beginning of the row. These four stitches represent your i-cord.



Step 2: knit the first three stitches, then knit the last stitch of the i-cord together with the first stitch of the main knitting through the back loops.



Step 3: slip these four stitches back to the LH needle purlwise, pull the yarn across the back of the work so you are ready to knit.



Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until only your i-cord stitches remain, then cast these stitches off as normal.



Finished edge



JENY'S SURPRISINGLY STRETCHY CAST OFF

Thought up by Jeny Staiman, this technique is well suited to rib patterns. The knit and purl stitches are worked in slightly different ways.

Processing a knit stitch:



Step 1: wrap the yarn around the needle from back to front, leaving the yarn at the back of the work. This creates a reverse 'yarn forward' (yfwd)



Step 2: knit the next stitch, then pass your reverse yfwd over the knitted stitch and off the needle

Processing a purl stitch:



Step 1: wrap the yarn around the needle from front to back, leaving the yarn at the front of the work. This is called a 'yarn round needle' (yrn).



Step 2: purl the next stitch, then pass your yrn over the purled stitch and off the needle

Working the cast-off:

This example is shown over 1x1 rib.

Finished edge



Step 1: process a knit stitch, then process a purl stitch, as shown above



Step 2: pass the first processed stitch over the second processed stitch and off the needle, just like a regular cast off



Repeat Steps 1 and 2 until all stitches have been cast off

PICOT CAST OFF

Featured on Splendour, Jane Burns' tableware set (p26), this method creates pretty points and a decorative edge. There are many variations on this technique, but the principle is the same for all of them.

Step 1: using the cable cast-on method, cast on two stitches at the beginning of the row



Step 3: slip the remaining stitch on the RH needle back on to the LH needle, then cable cast on two stitches



Step 2: cast off four stitches



Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until all stitches have been cast off



Finished edge