

Lion Brand Yarn + Michael's Community Classroom

Knitting 102

In Knitting 2, students learn to work the **purl stitch**, which opens up a world of possibilities for creating beautiful knit fabric. Students will learn how to produce stockinette (the fabric most of us think of as 'knit') as well as ribbing. We will also learn a new seaming technique to use on a hat.

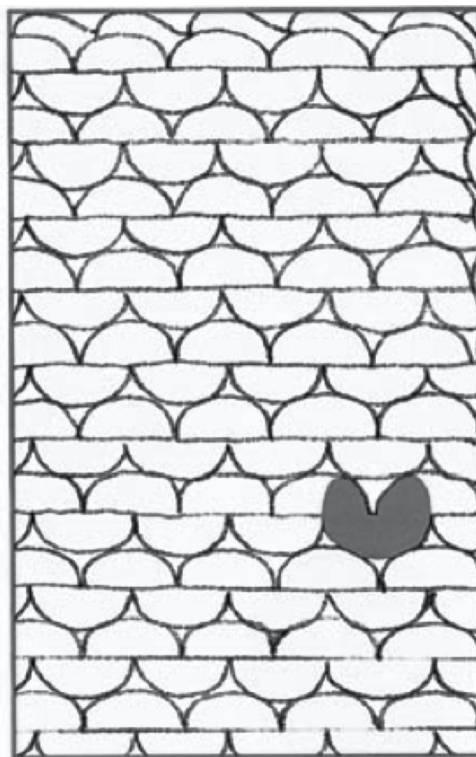
As you master the purl stitch, becoming confident in recognizing the difference between a knit and a purl as you work will be crucial. Learning to understand your fabric as you create it will help you to tell whether you have made a mistake before you have gone too far.

The purl stitch is actually the other side of the knit stitch -- every stitch has a "knit side" and a "purl side". When you knit across a row and turn your work, as you have been doing until now, you will notice a bump at the base of the stitch on the other side. This is known as the "purl bump" because the purl stitch will place that bump on the side facing you, the knitter as you create it.

When you knit every row, your purl bumps alternate sides, which creates a balanced garter stitch fabric that looks the same on both sides. However, if you knit across one row and purl across the next, you will place all of the purl bumps on the same side of the fabric. The opposite side will be smooth and have visible "V"s. This is known as the "knit side".

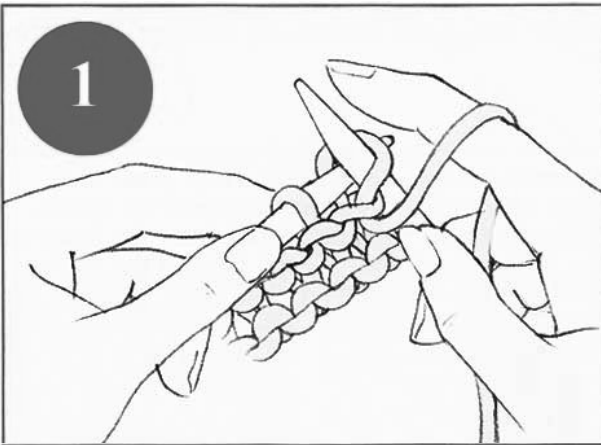


KNIT SIDE

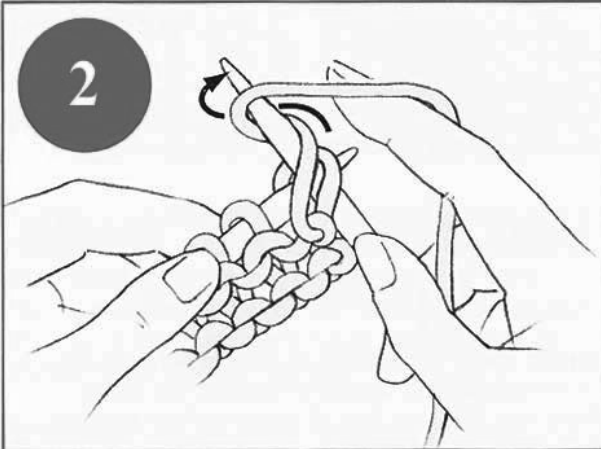


PURL SIDE

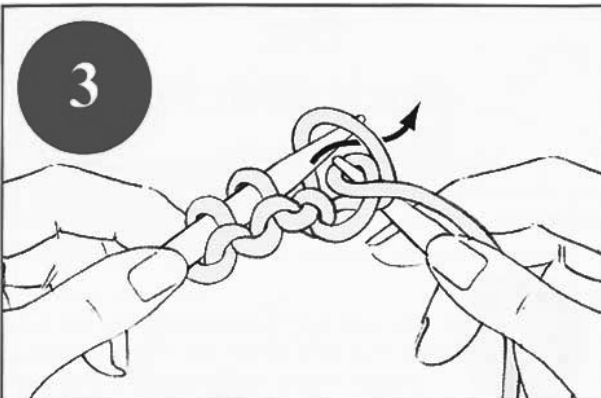
p = purl



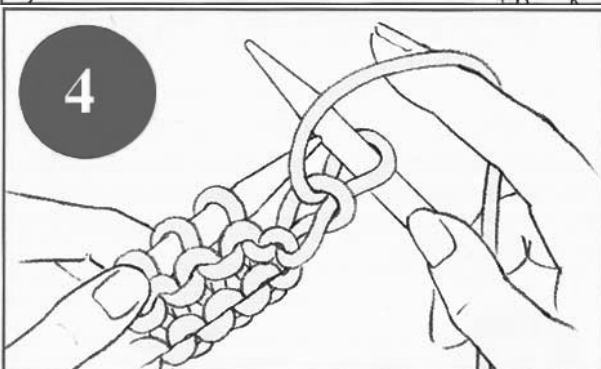
1.) To make a purl stitch, you do all the same steps as you do to make a knit stitch except with slightly different motions. Hold the needles as if to knit ---- the needle with the stitches is in your left hand and the empty needle is in your right hand. Place the yarn from the existing piece and the ball IN FRONT of the left needle. Insert the right needle towards you through the first stitch on the left needle (right to left, from the back to the front). The right needle will be in front of the left needle and pointing towards you.



2.) Wrap the working yarn around the tip of the right needle from the front to the back (over the top of the needle and down in between both needles) in a counter--clockwise motion (point the tip of the needle at your nose to determine the counter--clockwise motion.)



3.) To make sure you don't lose the loop, place your right thumb over the yarn on the right needle so it won't come loose when you move the needle. Slide the tip of the right needle and the yarn on it through the center of the stitch on the left needle, moving it away from you.



4.) With the tip of the right needle, pull the stitch off the tip of the left needle. You now have a stitch on your right needle.

Repeat steps 1 through 4 to complete the row. If the process feels a little awkward, you are not alone. If you have only done the knit stitch, it will seem a little strange, but soon you'll feel at home using both stitches.

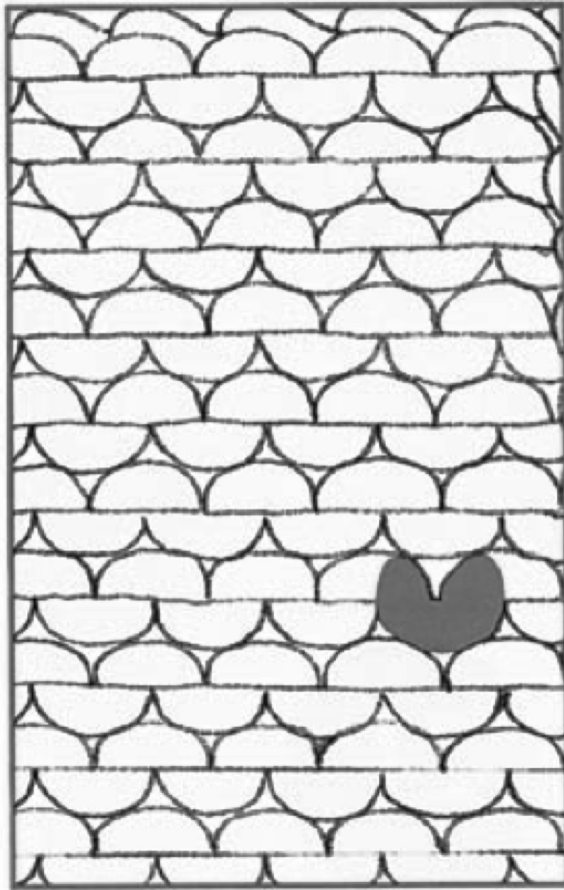
When you have finished this row, turn your work (place the full needle in your left hand and the empty needle in your right hand) and KNIT the next row. After that, PURL the next row. Continue working, alternating each knit row with a purl row.

The process of alternating knit and purl rows creates stockinette stitch. Stockinette is smooth on one side with stitches that look and feel like V's. That's the knit side. The other side of a piece that is knitted in stockinette stitch looks and feels like it is covered with bumps and ridges.

When you are holding the work on the needles in your left hand if the smooth side with the V's is facing you, you are on the knit side and should knit the row. If the bumps are facing you, you are on the purl side, so purl the row.



KNIT SIDE

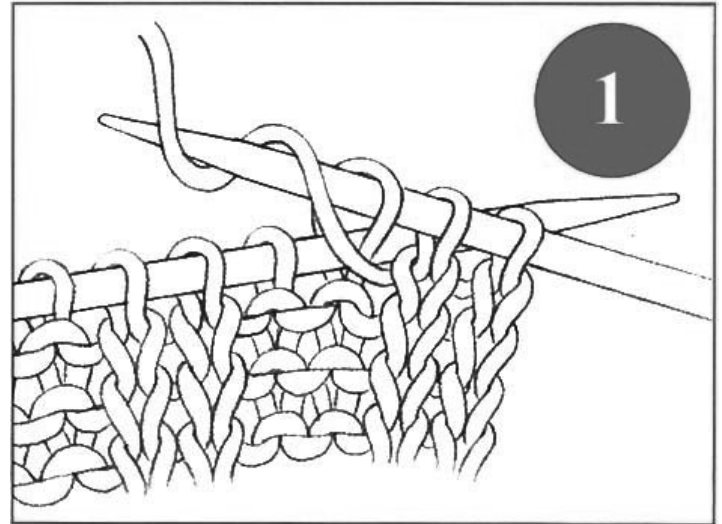


PURL SIDE

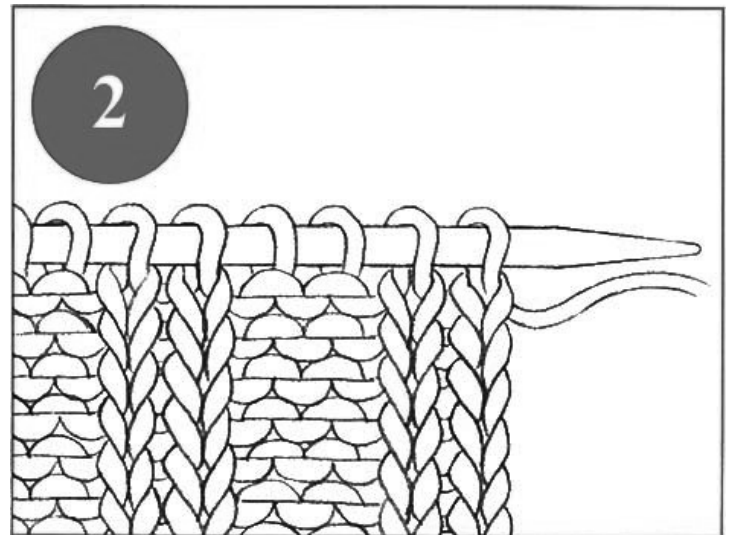
Ribbing

Ribbing is a border that is commonly used on the cuffs of sweaters. It is used because it produces a stretchy fabric. It is made with a combination of knit stitches and purl stitches. Ribbing can be done with any number of stitches, but two or three is common. In our example, we use two.

1.) Knit two stitches. Bring the yarn from the back of your work **between the needles** to the front. Now purl two stitches. Bring the yarn to the back of your work **between the needles**. Knit two stitches. Continue to repeat these steps, being sure to **move your yarn** before you change stitches. If you begin your next stitch before moving the yarn, you must remove the needle, move the yarn to the correct side of the work, and reinsert your needle into the stitch.



2.) On subsequent rows, knit the knit stitches (V stitches) and purl the purl stitches (bump stitches) Remember to **always** have the working yarn in **BACK** when you **knit** and in **FRONT** when you **purl**.

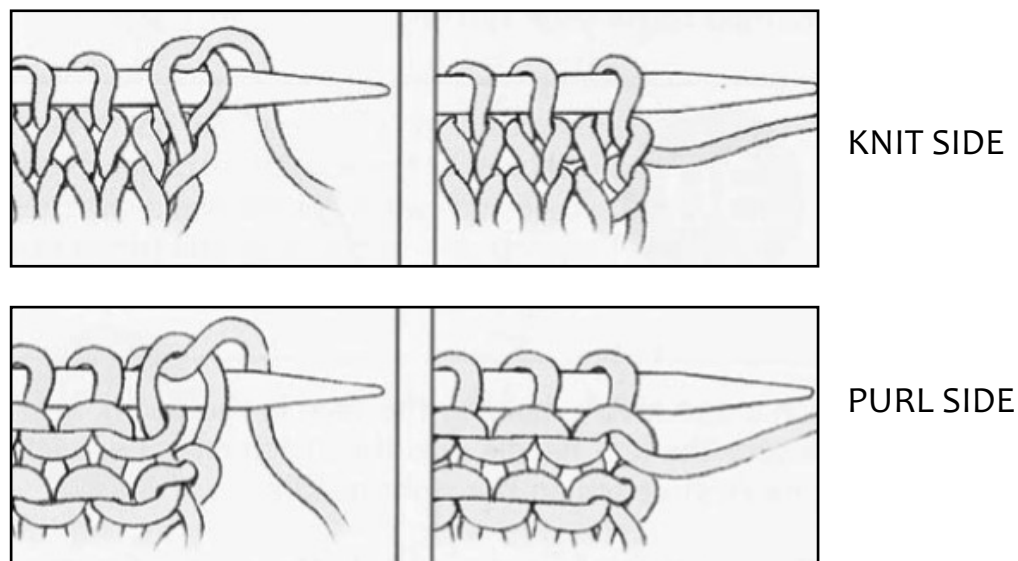


Troubleshooting ribbing mistakes:

-- If you have an extra loop on your needles, you may have forgotten to move your yarn before changing stitches. Simply drop that extra strand off the needle without working it.

-- If you are not sure whether you are looking at knits or purls, tug downward on your fabric, look at the next two stitches and the other side of the fabric. Purl bumps are easier to see, so you may be able to tell that you are looking at the knit side of your stitches when you determine that the opposite side is the purl. After a few rows of ribbing it will be easier to see the columns of knits and purls as shown in illustration #2 above.

Avoiding extra stitches in Stockinette:

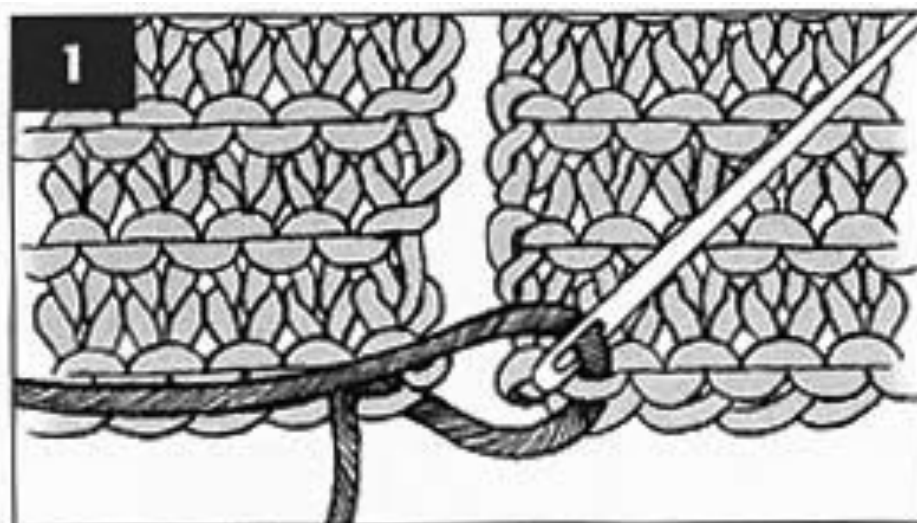


Mattress Stitch

Mattress stitch is used to create a vertical seam along the edges of two pieces of knitting such as the sides of a sweater, or to seam both edges of one piece into a tube. It is a very common seaming technique and well worth mastering.



To begin, bring your yarn needle from back to front through the fabric in the very corner at the base of your seam. Repeat on the other side. This will create a figure 8 at the join of your seam that helps to make the edge appear continuous. (see figure 1)



To work **Mattress Stitch**, begin with the figure 8 on your cast on edge, as described in figure 1.

Choose a column one stitch in from the edge on both sides, (you should have 2 knit stitches on each edge) bring your yarn needle down into one stitch and up, under the horizontal bar, through the next stitch.

Repeat on the other side of your seam.



Returning to the first side, bring your yarn needle in where the yarn is coming out from the previous stitch and up, under the horizontal bar into the next stitch.

Repeat on the other side of the seam.

Every inch or so, pull your seaming yarn *gently* to bring the sides together. The seaming yarn should disappear and your fabric look continuous. The seam in your ribbing should bring the two knit ribs on the edge together so they appear as a 'knit 2' column in your ribbing pattern.

Loosen the last stitch after pulling your seaming yarn, so you can see where to insert your needle when you continue the seam.

When you reach the top of the hat, secure your ends on the inside of the hat and cut the yarn.

L60047.HLTQ

LION BRAND® HEARTLAND THICK AND QUICK® KNITTING 2 HAT

EASY

SIZE

Hat: 19 in. (48 cm) circumference

Note: Hat will stretch to fit a range of sizes.

MATERIALS

Heartland Thick & Quick Art. 137

Redwood #113 1 skein

or color of your choice

Knitting needles, size 11 (8 mm)

Large-eye Blunt Needle

GAUGE

11 sts = 4 in. (10 cm) in rib pattern.

BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR GAUGE.

NOTES: Hat is worked flat and seamed.

HAT

Cast on 50 sts.

Row 1: *k2, p2; rep from * to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 2: *P2, k2; rep from * to last 2 sts, p2.

Rep Rows 1 & 2 until piece measures about 2 in. (5 cm) from the cast on edge.

Next Row: Knit

Next Row: Purl

Work in Stockinette Stitch (knit one row, and purl one row) until the hat measures about 9 inches from the cast on edge.

Cut yarn, leaving a 20 inch long tail. Thread tail through all the stitches on the knitting needle, and pull to gather tightly.

FINISHING

Use the long tail to sew side edges together for back seam. Weave in ends.

ABBREVIATIONS

k = knit

p = purl

st(s) = stitch(es)

Every effort has been made to produce accurate and complete instructions. We cannot be responsible for variance of individual knitters or crocheters, human error, or typographical mistakes.

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Online help: <http://www.lionbrand.com/learn/how-to-knit>

