

# Lion Brand Yarn + Michael's Community Classroom

## Knitting in the Round

**Skill Prerequisite:** Must know how to knit, purl, cast on, bind off. Recognize the knit and purl stitch and be able to work them in a pattern.

### **Materials if you wish to follow along in class:**

1 ball of Pound of Love or other worsted weight yarn  
2 x 16" size 9 circular needles  
1 set size 9 double pointed needles  
1 x 40" size 9 circular needle  
Locking or split ring stitch markers

### **Homework if you wish to follow along in class:**

On one 16" circular needle, cast on 82 sts  
On 40" circular needle, cast on 30 sts  
On one double pointed needle, cast on 40 sts

### **1) Knitting in the round vs. flat**

- a) Knitting is in a spiral
- b) Stockinette = knit every round
- c) Reverse stockinette = purl every round
- d) How to create garter stitch = knit a round, purl a round
- e) Converting from flat pattern
  - i) Reverse every wrong side row (if Row 2 & all wrong side rows are purl = knit)

### **2) The common thread between all "in the round styles" styles**

- a) Always make sure all stitches are facing the same way and not twisted
- b) Knit into the tail, or into the first cast on stitch. Yarn is always coming off the right needle (back needle for magic loop is same as right)

### **3) 16" circular needles – Cast on enough stitches to stretch around your needle**

- a) How to choose needle length: needle must be smaller than the circumference you are working. 16" for hat, but you will have to switch to DPN (double pointed needles) or magic loop as you decrease for the crown
- b) join w/o twisting - If you do twist you can still untwist after first row
- c) where to place marker (can use any type of marker)
  - i) either when you join, or after first knit stitch
- d) move stitches around as you work, to move the stitches towards the left tip. Don't overstretch.

#### 4) Ways to join without getting a gap:

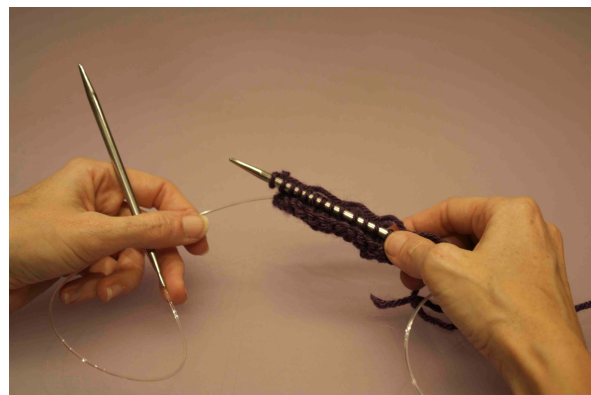
- a.) Cast on one extra stitch, join by transferring last stitch cast on to the left needle, slip first cast on stitch over last and off the end of the needle, return last stitch to right needle. Begin knitting, place marker
- b.) Reverse first & last stitch on first round, knit one stitch, place marker
- c.) Cast on one extra stitch, transfer onto left needle and begin knitting by knitting first and last stitch together.

#### 5) Magic Loop - Materials – 40" circular needle with a flexible cable.

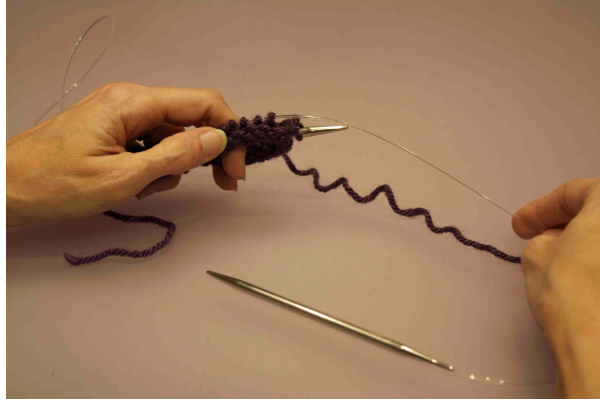
- A. Move stitches you've cast on to center of cable
- B. Fold cable in half, making sure the needle with the working yarn is the back needle (if you are looking at the tips, you'll notice that is the same as the yarn coming from the right needle) and the needle tips are pointing to the right.
- C. Pull the cable through the middle of the stitches
- D. Push the stitches towards the tips of both needles (loop to the left) making sure all the stitches are facing the same way and none are twisted. This is "home position"
- E. Pull back needle out and hold it in your right hand. You will use this needle to knit onto (2<sup>nd</sup> loop to the right)
- F. Knit one stitch to join and place marker (or use tail as the marker)



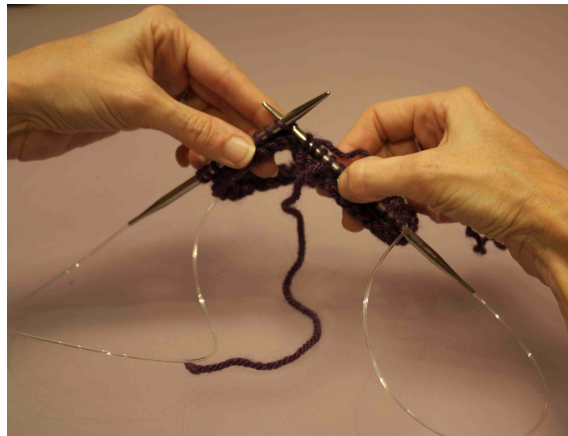
- G. Knit stitches across first needle. You have now knitted ½ a round.



- H. Both needle tips are facing to the left. Return to “home position” by, first: rotate the needles until the tips are pointed to the right



- I. Now slide the (new) front stitches onto the cable & pull the (new) back needle out of the stitches back to the cable. You are now ready to knit onto the back needle and begin the second ½ of the round.



Changing where the cable is pulled through

At any time you can put all the stitches back on the cable, fold in half in a different place & pull the cable through

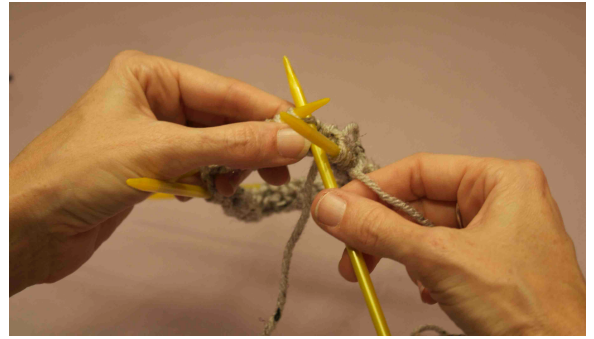
## 6) Double Pointed Needles - Casting on

- Divide stitches for 3 or 4 needles (for example 40 stitches total = 10 stitches on each of four needles. It is not necessary to have an equal number of stitches on each needle.)
- Cast all stitches on to one needle.
- Starting at the first cast on stitch, slip 10 stitches purlwise onto another DPN. Slide those stitches to the middle of the needle. Slide the next 10 stitches onto the next DPN. Continue until you have the correct number of stitches on each double pointed needle and one empty needle.

### Joining and working the first round.

- To join in the round it is important to make sure that your cast on is not twisted.
- Lay the needles in the shape of the letter "C" on the table in front of you, place the working yarn at the top.
- Check that the cast on is not twisted at any point.
- Pick up the needle that holds the first cast on stitch and the working yarn and hold them in your left hand.

- E. Hold the empty needle in your right hand and knit the first stitch with the working yarn.
- F. Continue to work across the first needle.
- G. When you have worked every stitch on the first needle, transfer the empty needle from your left hand to your right and continue to knit the stitch immediately to the left of the stitch with the working yarn attached.
- H. \*Hold only one needle of your working set at a time, allow the others to hang
- I. If you want to use a stitch marker to keep track of the beginning of your round, place it between the first 2 stitches or through the first stitch.
- J. To prevent "ladders" from occurring in your fabric where the needle breaks are, pull the first two stitches very tight. Do not be alarmed at the gap that forms where you joined your cast on. It will diminish considerably as you work the first few rounds, and you can use your tail to hide it completely later.



### **7) Knitting on 2 circls:**

Slide half of the stitches on the 16" circular needle onto a 24" needle of the same gauge. The main thing to pay attention to with this technique is to make sure that you are always knitting the stitches with the needle tips of the needle they are resting on. You should NOT be knitting stitches from one needle to another.

When you've knit across the stitches on one needle, slide those stitches onto the cable and slide the other set of stitches onto the needle tip closest to the working yarn, much as you do when changing needle tips while working Magic Loop. Work those stitches with the needle tips of that needle.

Repeat these steps.

### **8) Swatching for circular projects:**

Your gauge when working in the round will likely be different with the same size needles and yarn because of the lack of purl rows. If you are swatching to determine gauge for a sweater or other large project in the round where sizing is important, make a hat or a small tube (with at least enough stitches to create 6") and knit for 4" to 6."