

Hints to Finesse Your Knitting – Casting On

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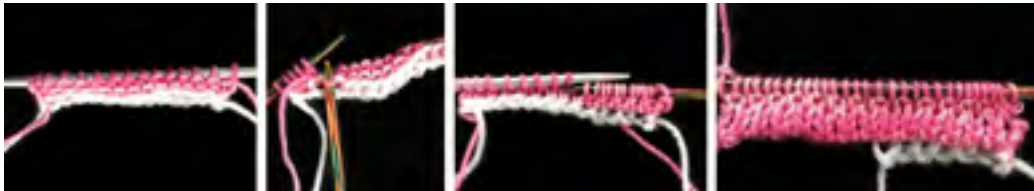
Due to Covid-19, in the blink of an eye I've gone from being a Boomer to being on the list of Endangered Species. Many of our Creative Fibre groups won't be meeting for the foreseeable future to set the world to rights so I'm putting my hand up to offer some alternative entertainment in the form of a fortnightly message with hints to finesse your knitting.

The new state of the world is the most bizarre excuse to add to the list for having such a large stash of fibre. Aren't we lucky to have had such great foresight?

Roll Welt for 1x1 Rib

This cast on duplicates the very neat edge used in machine knitting. You are making a narrow, turned hem.

- With smooth waste yarn and using needles two sizes larger than you will use for the ribbing, cast on an uneven number of stitches, being half of the number you require for your project plus one (about 15 for a sampler).
- Using main yarn, purl 1 row, knit 1 row, purl 1 row.
- Using thinner ribbing needles, knit the first stitch, pick up the loop of the main colour from the back of your work. Put it on the LH needle and purl it.
- Knit the next stitch, pick up and purl through the next main loop from below. Continue to the end. (29 sts)
- Pull out the waste yarn anytime.

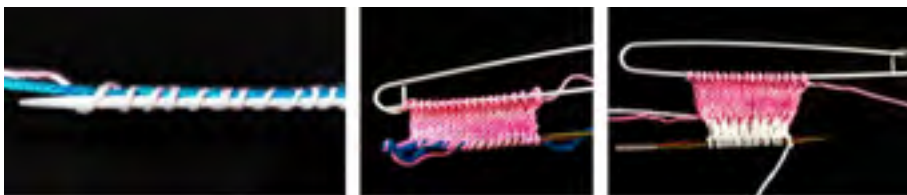


Open Cast On

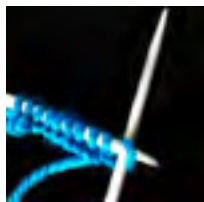
The simplest cast on method which makes a row of loops you can pick up later to knit in the opposite direction.

This is a great edge if you haven't decided what border you want. It makes it easy to start a garment anywhere and work in any direction. Note: knit patterns picked up and worked in the opposite direction will be half a stitch out, i.e. you won't be able to have an invisible change in rib or a cable. Rib and garter stitch will be invisible. Best result is if you knit (or purl) into the back of the stitch.

- Make a slip knot with your main yarn and place it on the needle.
- Pull some waste yarn through the loop and lay it underneath the needle – don't let it roll around the needle.
- Hold the waste yarn and slip knot in place then wind the main yarn around both the needle and the waste yarn.
- Knit into the front of the first turn then into the back of all the other turns.
- Slip off any unwanted turns and the slip knot.
- Secure the last stitch with a small safety pin.



Cast on with Single Chain/Double Chain



Single Chain

Single chain is loopy and good for shawls. For a scalloped edge use a double thread for extra strength.

- Make a slip knot and place it on the LH needle.
- Put the tip on the RH needle into the front of the slip loop.
- Knit a stitch and slip the new stitch onto the LH needle without twisting.



Double Chain

This is a very firm edge best used for non-elastic edges, eg cotton.

- Cast on the stitches by putting the RH needle through both loops of the previous stitch.
- Knit a stitch.
- Place the loop on LH needle without twisting.