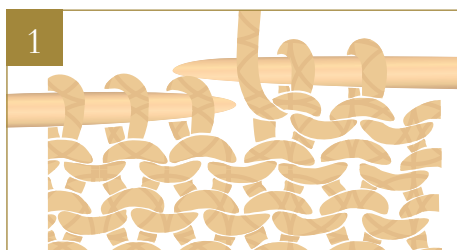
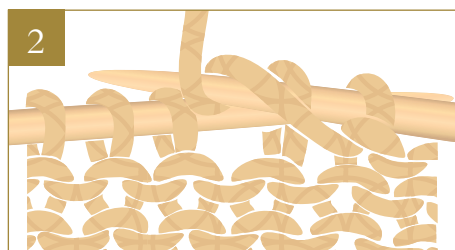


Essential techniques sheet 3

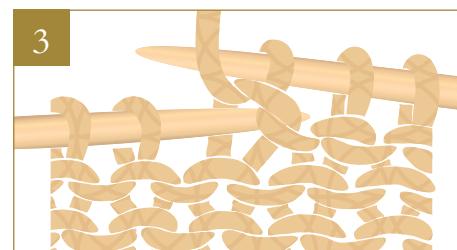
Purl stitches



Purl stitches are made with the yarn to the front of the work.

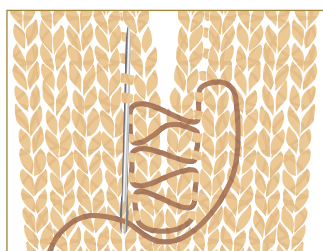


Insert the right-hand needle into the stitch through the part of the loop which is nearest to you from front to back.



Take the yarn over the needle and pull the new loop through.

Sewing up



Work a mattress stitch seam by placing pieces right sides facing and edge-to-edge. Using a wool sewing needle, join thread to one piece and then take a small straight stitch in the second piece. Take the needle back to the same position as it came out of piece one and make another

straight stitch in piece one. Work back and forth as illustrated, pulling the thread up regularly to close the gap between the pieces. This seam enables edges and patterns to be matched very precisely and is reasonably flat, retains elasticity and won't give bulky seams. Occasionally designers will give specific instructions as to seam and joining methods which should be used. Whenever possible follow their advice as they have selected the best method for the particular item.

Joining a yarn



To join a new ball or a new colour (eg for stripes), leave tails approx 8–10cm and loosely tie the old ball and new one together at the edge of the row. When knitting is complete, untie the knots, thread yarns through a tapestry needle and weave them back into the reverse of the work.

Abbreviations

st st – stocking stitch.

knit (k) one row, purl (p) one row.

These 2 rows are repeated throughout.

inc 1 st – increase 1 stitch.

There are several ways of doing this, but one easy method is to knit (or purl if the next stitch is a purl stitch) into the back and front of the stitch – so you make two

stitches where there was one.

If the pattern says 'k3, inc1' then you would knit 3 sts then k into the back and front of the next st (for the inc1) then continue as the rest of the instructions.

dec 1 st – decrease 1 stitch, work as for k2tog — or, if working a p row, purl next 2 sts together. ●

K2tog Knit 2 stitches together



This is a method of dec (decreasing) a stitch. Put the tip of right-hand needle through the 2 stitches at the tip of the left-hand needle – **Diag 1**.



Now knit 1 stitch – **Diag 2**.
k3tog – knit 3 stitches together as above, but read three for two.