

## CGI.M1.L3: Casting on – Two needle cast on

### Introduction

Casting on marks the beginning of the knitting process and it is how the initial stitches are created from which your knitting will form. Choosing the right cast-on will give your knits a truly professional look and ensure that they stand up to wear and tear without losing their shape.

There are many different types of cast-on, however, they can be broadly categorized into two types, collectively referred to as single needle and two-needle methods. Many knitters will only ever use one, or possibly two, different methods of casting on for all their knitting and you will be able to knit virtually any project using one of the two basic methods.

When you are knitting from a commercial pattern, the designer may recommend which cast-on technique to use. If the pattern is not specific, one of your two basic methods will be fine.

### Knitted or two-needle cast-on

A popular cast-on with a number of variations – versatile and straightforward it gives a reasonably elastic edging. It also forms the basis of cable and similar cast on methods.



1. Leaving a short tail of yarn, place the tail yarn to the left, the working yarn (the yarn attached to the ball) to the right. Make a slipknot in the yarn at this point by folding the working yarn over the tail. The loop should be approximately 1-2cm (1/2in) across.
2. Hold the loop firmly in either your left or right hand, gently pinching the loop to hold it in place.

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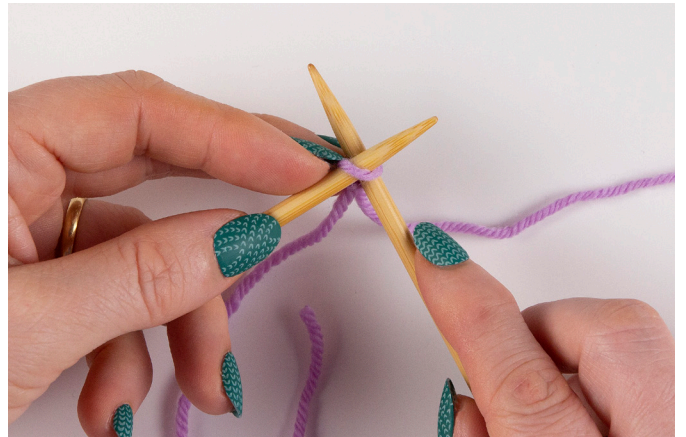
3. Use the other thumb and first finger to dip down into the loop. Catch the working yarn from under the loop and pull the yarn back towards you, through the loop. Be careful not to pull the tail completely through the loop.



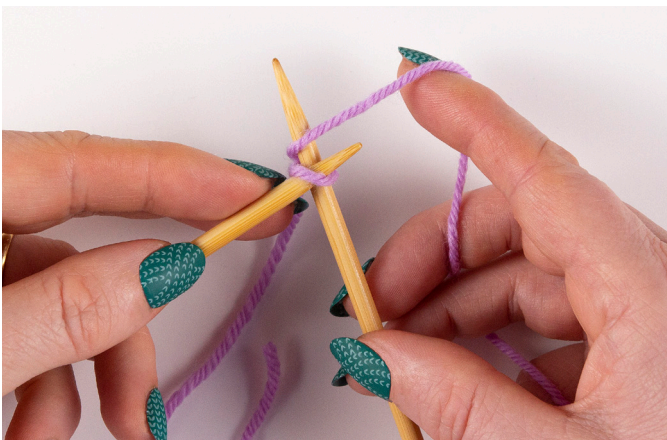
4. Keeping hold of the loop in one hand and the two ends of yarn in the other, gently draw the loop away from the two ends of yarn until a knot begins to form. Don't tighten the knot at this stage.



5. Holding the needle in your left hand, put the slipknot on the needle and draw up so it is snug but not too tight.



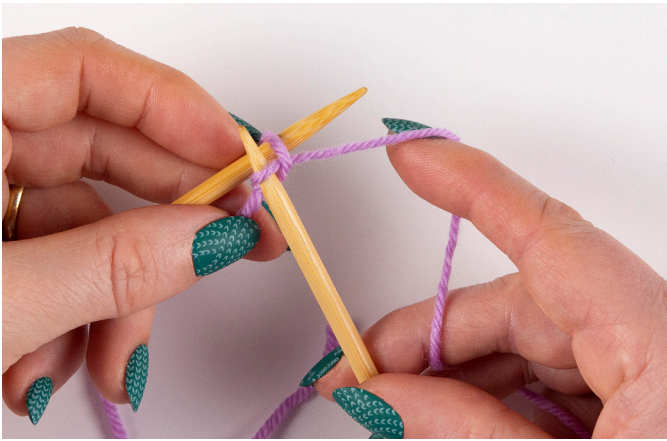
6. Insert the tip of the right hand needle from front to back into the front of the slipknot. The right needle goes under the left needle.



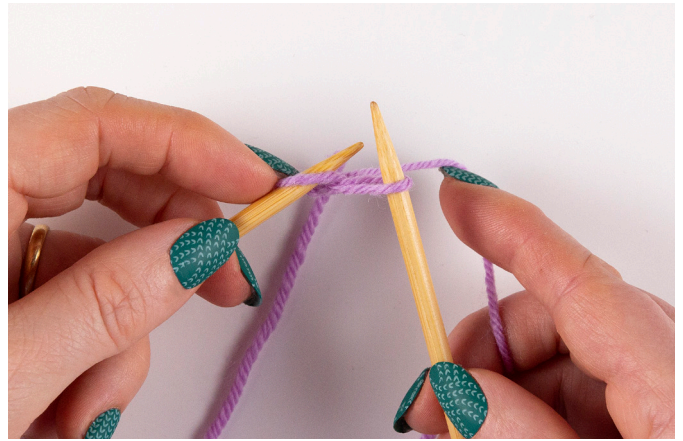
7. Wrap the working yarn around the right hand needle by bringing it up under the needle from right to left, taking it between the two needles, over the top of the needle and holding it to the right.



8. Maintaining even tension on the working yarn, use the right hand needle to bring the working yarn towards you, through the loop between the needles.



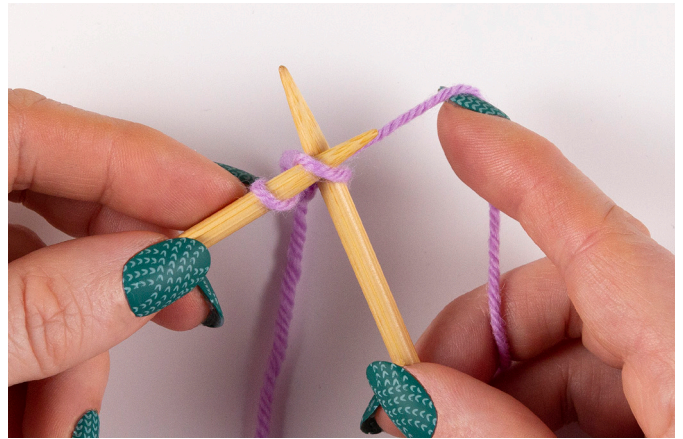
9. Opening out your hands and elbows as though opening a pair of shears will help you to see the working yarn and make drawing the loop through easier.



10. Draw the right needle away from the left, opening the loop slightly.



11. Pivot the left needle towards you then insert the tip of the left needle into loop on the right needle from front to back. The left needle goes underneath the right.



12. Slide loop onto left needle and draw stitch up so it is snug but not too tight. Two stitches cast on (the slipknot counts as stitch one). Your next stitch will be made into the stitch you just made.



13. Repeat steps 7 to 12 until you have cast on the number of stitches required. Your cast on row is complete.

### TOP TIPS

- For this technique you will start with a simple slipknot. It is not necessary to leave a long 'tail' but you may wish to leave enough yarn to sew up the seam later on.
- For a neat cast on edge, try to maintain an even tension between your tail and working yarns. Don't be tempted to pull your stitches too tight or you won't be able to work into them later!
- Although it may be referred to your cast-on row it is not normally included when counting the number of rows worked.