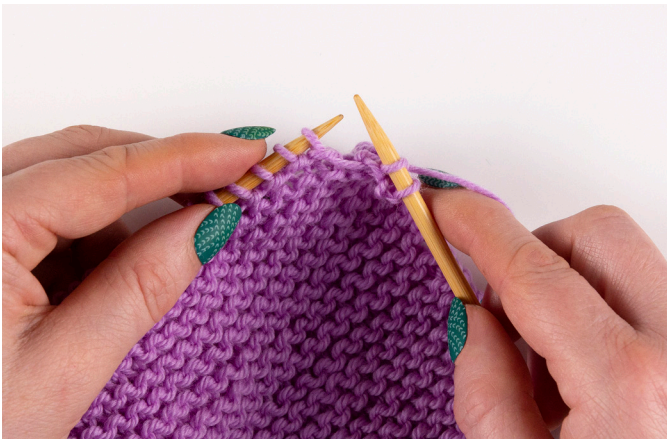


### Introduction

Casting or binding off is essentially a way of removing blocks of stitches in one go. Casting off fulfils two essential purposes: Ending a piece of work by removing all of the stitches on the needle at once and secondly, removing a number of stitches in one go to achieve certain shaping effects. Just as we may need to add a large number of stitches at once, we may also need to lose many stitches in one go. To do this, we can cast off stitches or, if we intend to use the stitches later, (for example, in a neckline), we can place stitches on a holder.

### Standard (chain) cast-off

This is a popular cast-off and a good all-purpose method. It is neat and forms a chain of stitches across the top of the work. It can be worked on both a knit or purl row.



1. Knit two stitches as normal (or purl two stitches if on a purl row).



2. Use the tip of the left needle to lift the first stitch knitted (purred) on the right needle.



3. Take this first stitch over the top of the second stitch and drop it off the right needle. One stitch cast off.



4. Repeat this process by knitting (purling) the next stitch then lifting the first stitch over this stitch and dropping it off the needle, leaving one stitch on the needle.



5. At the end of the cast off row you will be left with a single stitch.



6. In order to prevent the work unravelling it is necessary to fasten off this final stitch.



7. Cut off the working yarn leaving a tail at least 10cm (4in) long for weaving in. You can leave a longer tail if you want to use this tail for sewing up later. Pass the tail through the loop of the last stitch.



8. Draw up the loop snugly and you have cast off your knitting.

### TOP TIP

In patterns, where a set number of cast-off stitches is required, this refers only to the number of stitches lifted and dropped off. The stitch left on the right hand needle does not count as one of the cast-off stitches.

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