

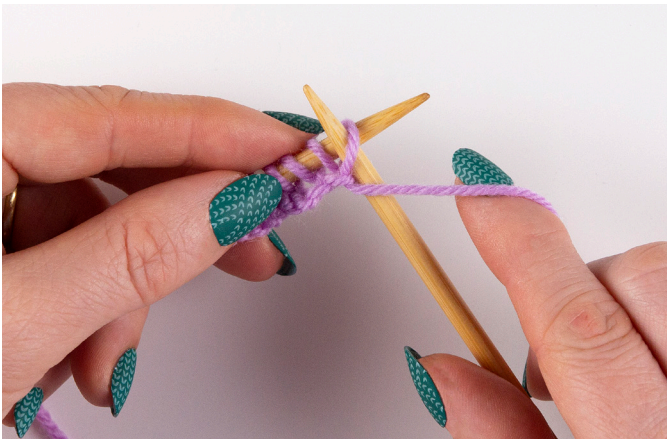
## CGI.M2.L1: Purl stitch

### Introduction

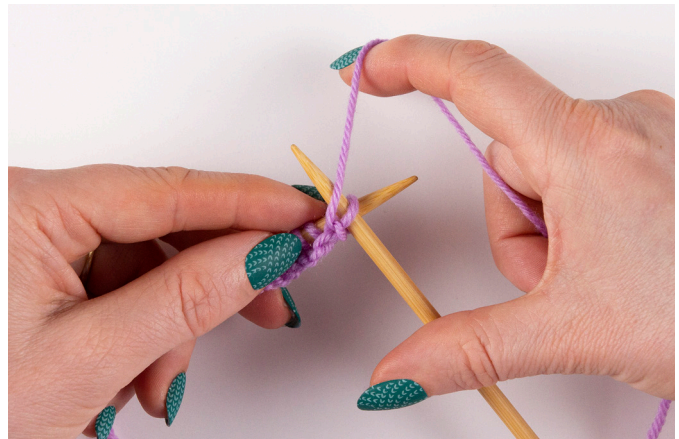
The purl stitch is the second stitch that all knitters need in their repertoire. Armed with this stitch and the knit stitch, a vast range of patterns and designing opportunities opens up to even a novice knitter.

In addition to creating smooth fabrics, by combining just knit and purl stitches within a row it is possible to produce an extensive range of beautiful, textured patterns. Alternating knit and purl stitches are also the basis of most rib stitches.

When working the knit stitch you will have seen that as you knit each stitch, the stitch is flat as it faces you. On the reverse the same stitch has a bump or ridge. When every row is knitted this creates the alternating rows of smooth troughs and bumpy ridges and a bouncy, ridged fabric. To create a smooth-faced fabric it is necessary to ensure that all the smooth faces of all the stitches are on the same side of the knitting. To do this it is necessary to introduce a stitch which has the opposite characteristics to the knit stitch ie bumpy on the facing side, smooth on the reverse. This role is fulfilled by the purl stitch. By working in alternating rows of purl and knit stitches, it is then possible to create a fabric that is smooth on one side, with all the ridges together on the reverse.



1. Keep the working yarn to the front of the work in your right hand. Insert the tip of the right needle from right to left up into the front of the slipknot. The right needle goes in front of the left needle.



2. Take the working yarn from left to right over the front of the right hand needle.



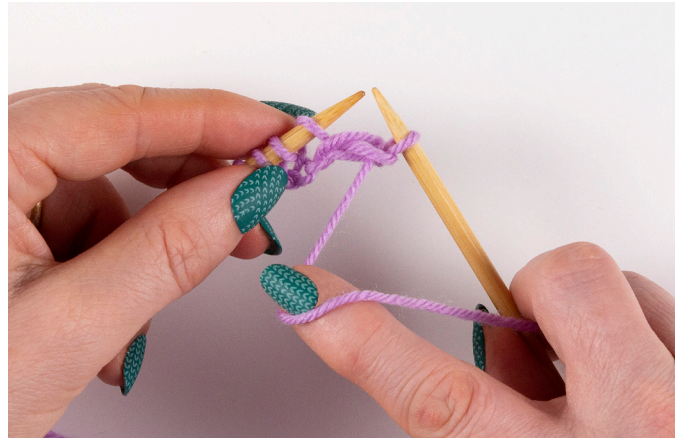
3. Continue to wrap the working yarn around the right hand needle, taking it under and around the tip of the right needle going from right to left. Hold the yarn lightly tensioned at the front of the work.



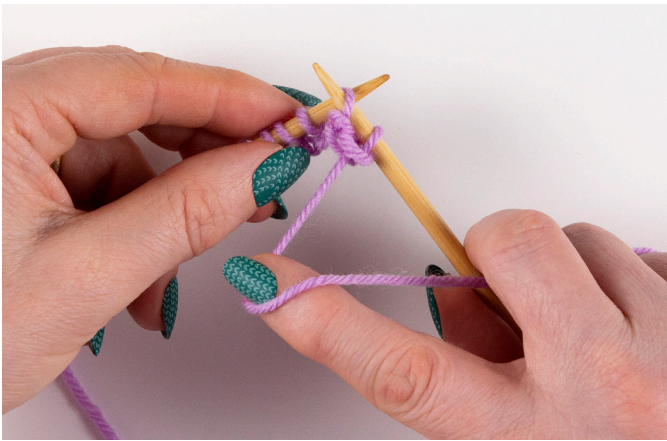
4. Keeping the yarn tensioned so that it stays around the right needle, pivot the right needle and take it back away from you, going through the loop on the left needle.



5. Bring out the loop of working yarn behind the left needle. There should be a loop of yarn on the right needle.



6. Slide off the loop on the left needle. One purl stitch made.



7. To continue in purl, keep the yarn to the front of the work and repeat steps 1-5.



8. At the end of the row, all the stitches have been worked and are on the right needle. To continue, swap the needle with the new stitches into the left hand ready to start the next row. Note that with purl stitches the stitch forms a bump facing you.

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