



Introduction

Nobody enjoys finding a knot in their yarn but sometimes it's the best way to join in a new yarn, be it because you find one on the ball, because you are changing colour or because you just reach the end of the ball! Joining with a temporary knot can be really useful and can be done just about anywhere in the row, including in the middle of a row. The advantage of the temporary knot is that it gives a secure join but is undone later for weaving in so isn't visible in the finished knitting.

Row end – temporary knot method

This is a simple method that works well for seam edges, It is an excellent join for stripes where it is necessary always to begin a row with the new colour if a complete stripe of the new yarn is to be made.



1. At the end of the row before the colour change make a temporary knot in the old and the new yarns. Leave a tail of both yarns of around 15cm (6in) to allow for weaving in later. Snip off the old yarn.

2. The knot should be snug but not too tight as you will be undoing it later for weaving in (see *topic CGI.M2.L12*).



3. Using the new yarn, continue knitting as normal according to the pattern.

During the making up stage carefully undo the knot, weave in the ends and trim (see *topic CGI.M2.L12*).

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Mid-row - temporary knot method

This is my preferred method. It places a temporary knot in the two yarns that is later undone for darning in. With this technique the temporary knot holds the two yarns together, but doesn't allow the stitch where the yarns join to stretch or spread. When the knot is undone, placing a single knot in the yarn holds the stitches either side in place, but without causing any puckering or holes. Because the yarns are woven in in opposite directions, this also keeps the stitches firm but not pulled. Weaving in the ends rather than knitting with two yarns eliminates bulk at the join. Joins can also be made anywhere in the row.



1. Work to the point where there is around 15cm (6in) of the old yarn left (or where the colour change is to be made).



2. When you reach the point at which the yarns are to be changed, lay the old and new yarns together.



3. Keeping the yarns together, loop over the tails, keeping the working yarn to the right.



4. Pass the ends through the loops to make an overhand knot, leaving a tail of each yarn of about 15cm to allow for darning in later.



5. Aiming to keep the knot to the wrong side of the work, draw up the knot snugly but not too tightly (you will need to undo it later) and adjust its positioning as required to achieve this.

6. Continue knitting with the new yarn according to the pattern.

During the making up stage carefully undo the knot, weave in the ends and trim (see *topic CGI.M2.L12*).

TOP TIP

It is possible to join yarns in this way both on the right and wrong side of the work. Simply be careful to ensure that the temporary knot remains on the wrong side of the work

If the knot does pop through to the right side, don't worry, this can be corrected during the weaving in process later (see *topic CGI.M2.L12*).