

Introduction

Inevitably when knitting you will at some point need to join in a new yarn or deal with a knot you find on the ball. There are a number of ways of introducing a new yarn depending on the reason for doing so and where you are in your knitting. There are methods that involve using a temporary knot (see topic CGI.M2.L2) which can be used anywhere in a row. For joins in the middle of a row you can also use an alternative technique, the overlapping method. This can be useful as it is quick and reduces the number of ends you need to weave in as you are effectively weaving in as you go.

Overlapping method

This method can be worked anywhere in a row, but it can be lumpy where the two yarns are worked together as the fabric will be double thickness where the overlap occurs. With a very smooth pattern or a very fine yarn, the join can be seen and can spoil the overall look in which case the temporary knot method may be preferable (see topic CGI.M2.L2).



1. Lay the new yarn over the old, with the tail end laid so it is facing the working end of the old yarn. Overlap the two yarns by at around 15cm (6in) and hold them together.



2. Leaving the new yarn tail unworked knit with both the old and the new yarns held together for 6-10 stitches. You will have a tail sticking out from the stitches on the right needle and several stitches worked with two strands of yarn.



3. Once 6-10 stitches have been worked together, drop the old yarn and trim the old yarn, leaving a tail of around 15cm (6in) to allow for darning in later.



4. Continue knitting in the new yarn as normal.



5. On the following row, when you reach the stitches that were worked in both yarns, simply work the doubled stitch (one stitch worked with two yarns) as a single stitch. The new stitch will be made in the new yarn only but without increasing the number of stitches.

6. Once the doubled stitches have been worked, continue knitting in just the new yarn. The ends will be woven in later (see *topic CGI.M2.L12*).

TOP TIP

This technique can be used for both colour changes as shown here or with two yarns of the same colour. Where you are using two yarns of the same colour, be careful to check that you have the right number of stitches at the end of the overlapping rows to make sure you haven't accidentally increased or decreased a stitch.

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