

CGI.M2.L4: Increasing – ‘bar increase’ (KFB)

Introduction

Increases may be used to adjust the size of knits, to add shape, contour and structure. They form both a practical and decorative purpose. Sometimes designers will choose a specific increase in which case I would suggest following that method. If you are designing for yourself or adapting an existing pattern, try different options and see which complements your design best.

Here we are going to explore the ‘bar’ increase. Essentially this increase simply involves knitting or purling twice into the same stitch. The term ‘bar’ increase comes from the small bump which can be seen at the front of the work where the increase is made. It produces a good all-round increase which is easy to work and doesn’t leave any risk of a hole or loose stitch. However, the bar is visible, so if you need an invisible increase, the “lifted increase” may be a better choice. Useful decoratively where two bar increases can be paired around a central stitch or to highlight an area of shaping such as a raglan sleeve.

Knitted bar increase – this may be described in patterns as KFB (knit front back), KF & B (knit front and back) – both mean the same thing.



1. Knit into the front of the stitch in the normal way.



2. Wrap the yarn around the needle as if to knit and bring the yarn toward you through the loop but *don't* drop the loop off the needle.



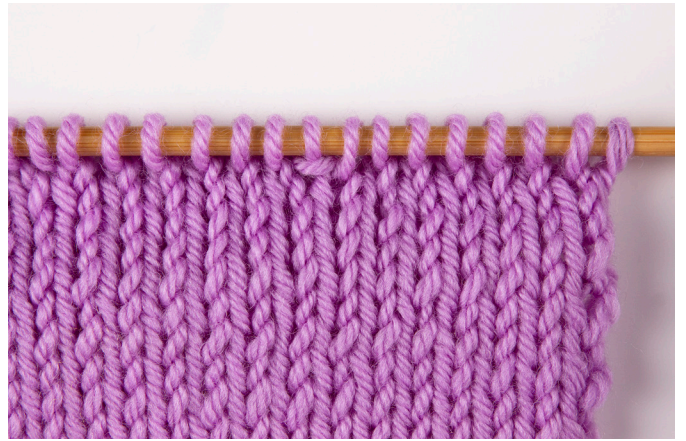
3. Without dropping the stitch from the left needle, lift the right needle over from front to back of the left needle.



4. Using the right needle, knit again into the back of the same stitch.



5. Drop the two stitches off the left needle.



6. When viewed closely the small bar that gives this increase its name can be seen.

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