

City & Guilds Foundation Programme - Knitting



CGF.M2.L07.3T: Shape – Edgings – Integrated edgings 01 – Tasks

Objective

Certain patterns and stitches can be used to create an edging at the same time as the main knitting. This useful technique is especially popular with those of us who would do anything to avoid picking up stitches or sewing on buttonhole bands! However, if you are using this technique, don't skimp on swatching as any distortion to the main body may only be apparent when a large piece has been knitted. Whilst an integral edging is great in that there is no extra making up at the end, mistakes mean that the main knitting will have to be ripped back as well as the edging. As there is limited scope to change an integral edging once knitting is well underway, make sure you are happy with your choice before you begin! Remember, too, to include any buttonholes as you go along as these are hard to add later.

There are many ways to integrate edgings into your knitting. In the following tasks you will explore several examples:

Task One

Rolled border

Using a pair of 4mm (old UK size 8, USA size 6) needles, cast on 40 stitches.

Row 1: K

Row 2: P

Row 3 and 5: K

Row 4: P

Row 6: K

Row 7: K

Row 8: P

Continue in stocking stitch (stockinette) by repeating rows 7 and 8, until you have worked 40 rows in total.

Cast off.

Finish your sample by weaving in all ends, blocking and pressing.

This border is ideal for: Cuffs, round-neck sweaters and hem edges on light to medium-weight fabrics. Can be used on heavier fabrics but may spread and be too bulky so swatch carefully. Good for adding a little extra weight and strength. Works well with both textured and smooth yarns. It takes advantage of the fact that stocking stitch naturally curls up when knitted. A row of garter stitch is inserted to stop the curl, creating a well-defined, rolled edge.

Task Two

Moss (seed) stitch border

Using a pair of 4mm (old UK size 8, USA size 6) needles, cast on 40 stitches.

Row 1: *K1, P1 rep from * to end

Row 2: *P1, K1 rep from * to end

Rep rows 1 and 2 twice more

Row 7: K1, P1, K1, P1, K to end

Row 8: P to last 5 sts, K1, P1, K1, P1, K1

Rep rows 7 and 8 until 40 rows have been worked in total.

Cast off.

Finish your sample by weaving in all ends, blocking and pressing.

This edge can be used for garments where bulky seams/stitching would spoil the garment, particularly babywear. Smooth yarns show off the stitches to best effect. Works well on afghan squares to create a good, firm edge. Can often be interchanged with a rib edge and can be used along the side of a garment as well as for the hem/cast off edge. With care, can also be used to follow shaping, for example, around a neck edge.

Task Three

Pattern stitch border

Using a pair of 4mm (old UK size 8, USA size 6) needles, cast on 29 stitches.

Row 1: K

Row 2 and all even rows: K

Row 3: K4, *P1, K7, rep from * to last st, P1

Row 5: K3, *P3, K5, rep from * to last 2 sts, P2

Row 7: K2, *P5, K3, rep from * to last 3 sts, P3

Row 9: K1, *P7, K1 rep from * to last 4 sts, P4

Row 11: K2, P to end

Row 13: K3, P3, K to end

Row 15: K4, P2, K1, P to end

Row 17: K5, P1, K1, P to end

Row 19: K4, P2, K1, P to end

Row 21: K3, P3, K1, P to end

Row 23: K2, P4, K1, P to end

Row 25: K1, P5, K1, P to end

Row 27: K2, P4, K1, P to end

Row 29: K3, P3, K1, P to end

Row 31: K4, P2, K1, P to end

Repeat rows 17 to 31.

Cast off.

Finish your sample by weaving in all ends, blocking and pressing.

Pattern borders are good for adding interesting design detail to classic, simple designs. Sweater, jacket and cardigan hems, cuffs and facings. Borders for afghans, cushions, bags and soft furnishings. Existing patterns can be readily customised with your own border design. Choose a smooth yarn for good stitch definition.

This simple pattern combines garter stitch and stocking stitch to create a delicate pattern. The use of garter stitch prevents the swatch from curling. Patterns like this can be used at the bottom, top and side edges of a piece.

Task Four

Hemmed border

Using a pair of 4mm (old UK size 8, USA size 6) needles, cast on 40 stitches.

Rows 1, 3, 5, 7, 9: P

Rows 2, 4, 6, 8: K

Row 10: K2, *yfwd K2tog, rep from * to last 2 sts, K2

Starting with a P row, continue in stocking stitch (stockinette) until you have worked 40 rows in total.

Cast off.

Finish your sample by weaving in all ends, blocking and pressing.

Making up

To make up, fold the hem to the wrong side of the fabric and neatly slip stitch in place. Remember to leave the side ends open if a drawstring or elastic is to be threaded through!

Hems can be handy when a near-invisible border is needed, for example, in a stocking stitch fabric where the stocking stitch needs to continue right to the edge without curling. An ideal way of encasing elastic and as a channel for drawstrings and cords. Eyelets can be created in the body of a hem to allow a drawstring to be fed in and out. Use in adults sweatshirt-style hooded tops or jackets, however, avoid drawstrings and hood cords in anything which might be worn by children. Also great for duffle bags, laundry sacks and handbags where a neat, hidden closure is needed.

As an alternative to eyelets, a row of garter stitch can be worked on the purl (wrong) side where you want the fold line to be. This creates a ridge on the right side for a crisp hemline.

Task Five

Reflect and record

Review your set of samples. Which ones did you find most successful? How might you use the samples in your work? Are there different techniques or yarn combinations that you think would be useful to explore?

© 2021 Debbie Tomkies
All rights reserved. Not to be copied or
distributed without written permission.