

In this lesson we'll be looking at how edgings may be joined to the main knitting by picking up stitches.

Introduction

This technique differs from picking up *and knitting* stitches [see Lesson CGI.M2.L07.5]. It is more commonly used along a horizontal straight edge where stitches are picked up to create a soft edge.



1. With RS of work facing, starting at the RH edge of the piece, pick up just the RH leg of the first stitch at the RH edge. You're not knitting anything yet so no need to join in any yarn.

2. Insert the RH needle into the next stitch, being careful to ensure that the stitch is on the same line as for the first one.



3. Repeat for each stitch from the main knitting and lift it onto the RH needle. Because the work is being joined stitch to stitch rather than stitches to rows, one stitch will normally be picked up per stitch of knitting.

4. Once the stitches have been picked up, check that the stitches all follow the same line and that there is no puckering or gaping.

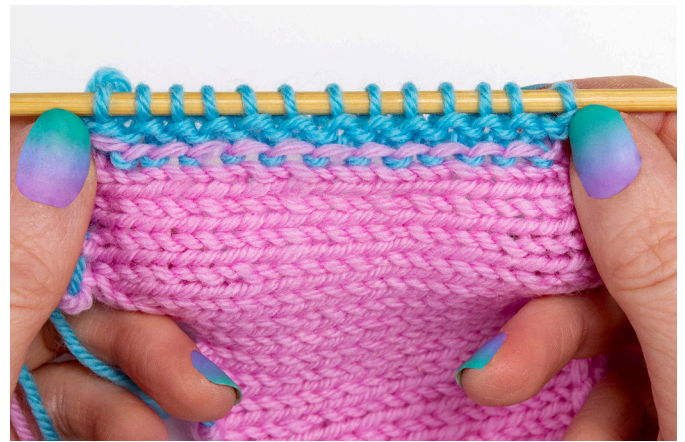
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5. Turn the work, join in the yarn and continue knitting (as you did in the pick up and knit stitches in the previous lesson).

6. At the end of the row you can see how there is very little bulk where the line of picked up stitches has been made.

7. In this sample the edging is in a different colour and worked with the 'bumps' that would normally be on the WS of the work on the RS. This shows both how the picked up stitches are smooth on the RS where the join is (the short lines). This wouldn't normally be visible in a matching colour edging. It also demonstrates the use of a simple garter stitch to create a different style of edging.



TOP TIPS

- If you find it difficult to pick up the stitches with a knitting needle, use a small crochet hook to catch the loop of yarn behind the work and draw it through. Put each hooked loop onto the RH needle.
- If you have adjusted your pattern by lengthening/shortening the garment, it may be necessary to adjust the number of stitches to be picked up and knitted accordingly. In this case, calculate how many stitches you are making per inch and add/subtract the same number of stitches being picked up and knitted for each inch of lengthening/shortening.
- As there is a difference between picking up stitches and picking up and knitting stitches be sure to check the wording of the pattern carefully.
- With certain fabrics, when picking up and knitting it gives a smoother edge to work into just the RH V of each leg of the stitch. However, the stitch should still be picked up and knitted one stitch in from the edge.
- Check that when working along a vertical edge, the stitches follow the same line of V's for a nice, straight line.