



### Introduction

The purpose of increases goes beyond simply making something larger. Increases are also used to add shape, contour and structure to knits. Curves, pleats, darts, edgings or decorative stitches may all involve increases in one form or another.

There are many variations in the ways an increase is worked and this can seem confusing, particularly to the beginner. We are going to look at two of the most popular increases. These will give you lots of scope for experimenting with shaping and styling your work.

Note: As with all things knitting, cultural and regional differences mean that one knitter's Yarn Over is another's Yarn Forward whilst to you it may be a Yarn Over Needle. Where a pattern uses increases, check the abbreviations as these should explain which increase the designer wants you to use. If the pattern is not specific, use your preferred option.

This increase has a number of names including, yarn forward (yfwd), yarn round needle (yrn), with yarn in front (wyif), yarn over/on needle (yon). Because the yarn is simply wrapped around the needle and not worked, the effect of this increase is a key feature in creating the decorative eyelets in lace patterns.

### Yarn over increase – YO, YRN, YF, YFWD, WYIF, YON



1. Work a yarn over on a knit row by bringing the yarn forward from back to front between the needles, then round the right needle to the back ready to knit the next stitch.
2. Keeping the yarn at the front of the work, insert the right needle into the next stitch on the left needle. Knit the next stitch by taking the yarn from left to right across the front of the right hand needle.

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3. Continue to knit the next stitch, taking the yarn from right to left, under and around the right hand needle, between the needles and holding to the right.

4. Once the stitch has been completed, the loop created by bringing the yarn forward can be seen behind the stitch you have just worked.



5. The hole created by the yarn over can be seen as a smooth line without a bump on the reverse. It is the placing of these holes that creates the familiar decorative lace patterns.

### TOP TIPS

- It is worth re-checking your stitch numbers at this point to ensure that you have increased the correct number of stitches.
- Don't pull your yarn over too tight – this technique is normally intended to create a visible hold and pulling too tight will close up the hole.