

## CGF.M2.L2-12-3: Line – Lace

### Yarn over, slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over (yo, sl1, k1, pssso, YOSKPO)

#### Introduction

Using techniques like yarn overs is very effective for creating eyelets. However, as we have seen, it is also a method of increasing stitches. When we want to create an eyelet without increasing the number of stitches we need to make a corresponding decrease. In order to balance the number of stitches within the row we have several options. The first is simply to make a decrease elsewhere in the row using the techniques we have practiced already (slip one, knit one, pass the slipped stitch over, knit two together for example).

This next technique makes the increase and decrease at the same time, placing them together in the row. This can be useful where we have a narrow fabric and a later decrease would noticeably pull in whilst the increase pushed out. It is also a more visible stitch that adds texture as well as the eyelet. And so, it's onto the yarn over, slip one, knit one, pass the slipped stitch over (yo, sl1, k1, pssso, YOSKPO).

#### Yarn Over Slip One Knit One Pass Slipped Stich Over - creating an extra stitch with an immediately corresponding decrease



1. Bring the working yarn under the RH needle and forward to the front of the work as you would for a normal yarn over or purl stitch.



2. Keeping the yarn held at the front, slip the next stitch from the LH to the RH needle as if to purl (purlwise), but without actually knitting it.



3. The slipped stitch sits, unworked, on the RH needle with the working yarn still in front of the work.



4. Knit the next stitch in the normal way, leaving the slipped stitch unworked in between the YO and the knitted stitch. As the stitch is knitted, the YO can be seen as a loop of thread over the needle rather than as a complete stitch.



5. Next, make the corresponding decrease by using the tip of the LH needle to lift the slipped stitch over stitch just knitted.

6. Drop the lifted stitch off the RH needle. This decrease compensates for the stitch increased when making the YO. This method is often abbreviated in patterns to yo (or yrn/yf), sl 1, k1, pss0 (or YOSKPO).



7. The completed stitch. The slipped stitch can be seen as a strand at the front of the work, creating a defined line.

8. The yarn over can be identified as it looks almost like a loop of loose thread rather than a complete stitch. You will normally work this as a stitch on the next row.

## TOP TIPS

- Many interesting patterns can be made using eyelets. The more eyelets, the more lacy and open the pattern will be. Lace patterns look different depending on the yarn. A smooth yarn will give crisp, clear eyelets and good pattern definition. Fluffy yarns give a softer look.
- For lacy edgings with waves, yarn overs are worked on several rows without decreases. The extra stitches create the “peak” of the wave as the work widens. After several rows, stitches are cast off to create a sharp “trough”, returning to the original number of stitches, ready for the next peak.
- Lace knitting is not just for shawls and fine yarns. Yarn over techniques can look very effective on bulkier yarns and add interest to textured yarns too. A simple lace panel on a sock leg is lovely and a good starter project as it can be worked as one repeat on just one dpn, bordered with plain knitting.
- Knitter’s graph paper can be used to create customised lace charts. Remember to swatch carefully and match increases with decreases to ensure that the overall shape of the knitting is maintained.
- Use stitch markers on larger pieces to indicate pattern repeats within the row.
- Place a piece of dark card (or white if using dark yarn) behind your knitting at regular intervals to help you see the pattern. It makes it easier to see the eyelets and spot errors.
- When working lace patterns many knitters use “lifelines”. A lifeline is simply a piece of smooth yarn (e.g. cotton) in a contrasting colour that is threaded through a complete row of stitches at regular intervals, usually at the start of a pattern repeat. This helps limit the number of rows that need unpicking if an error is made.