

CGF.M2.L15-1: Creating movement –

twisted and travelling stitches - wrapped stitches

Introduction

In addition to cables and lace there are many interesting wrapped, slipped and twist-stitch stitch patterns that can be used to give knitting rich, textural qualities.

Wrapped, stitches create an interesting texture as well as giving the impression of movement or travelling. They are often simpler as they do not require the use of a cable needle. They rely instead on working the stitches out of sequence and using the working yarn to wrap around the already worked stitches.

There are many variants on this technique. Here are two you might like to try:

Textured wrapped honeycom - Wrapped stitches make excellent, richly textured fabrics.

Wrapping purl stitches



1. For a simple two-stitch wrap, cast on an even number of stitches. K1 (knitting the first and last stitch of the row keeps the edge even and makes stitching up easier).



2. Purl the next 2 stitches.



3. Holding the yarn at the front of the work, slip both purl stitches back onto the LH needle.



4. Take the yarn from the front to the back of the work between needles. Slip the two purl stitches just worked back onto the RH needle. This creates the wrap across the front of the two purl stitches. Providing the wrap yarn is not pulled tightly, good elasticity and softness remain but the wrap adds depth and interest.

Wrapping knit stitches



4. The yarn is now at the back of the work, ready to make the knit stitches.



1. Bring the working yarn to the front of the work and slip the next 2 stitches knitwise (as if to knit).



2. Take the yarn to the back of the work.



3. Slip the two wrapped stitches back onto the LH needle, keeping the yarn at the back of the work.



6. Purl (or knit) the slipped stitches as required by the pattern.



7. The resulting knitted fabric is lovely and springy. The wrapping has many possible variations and the number of wrapped stitches can be increased or decreased providing the wrap is not held too tightly.

6-stitch mock cable



1. Cast on a multiple of 6 stitches plus 2. This will give a border of 2 stitches at either edge). P2 (this pattern is worked on a background of reverse stocking (stockinette) stitch so the purl side is the RS).



2. Take the working yarn to the back of the work and slip the next stitch purlwise (as if to purl). The slipped stitches will form the 'cables'.



3. Knit the next 4 stitches and, holding the yarn at the back of the work, slip the next stitch purlwise (as if to purl). Purl the next 2 stitches then repeat steps 1-3 to the end of the row.



4. On the next row, knit the first 2 stitches then hold the yarn to the front of the work.



5. Keeping the yarn to the front, slip the next stitch purlwise.



6. Purl the next 4 stitches, then, holding the yarn to the front of the work, slip the next stitch purlwise.

6-stitch mock cable



7. Take the yarn to the back of the work.



8. Knit the next 2 stitches then repeat steps 4-8 to the end of the row.



9. On the next row, purl the first 2 stitches. Allow the slipped stitch from the previous rows to drop off the needle and rest at the front of the work. Put a padlock stitch marker through the loop if you feel it may be lost!



10. Knit the next 2 stitches then use the LH needle to carefully lift the dropped stitch. Check that the stitch isn't twisted.



11. Knit the dropped stitch from the LH needle with last check to ensure it isn't twisted (see the final picture to see how it should look).



12. Slip the next 2 stitches onto the RH needle. Drop the slipped stitch from the earlier rows to the front of the work. Again use a marker if required.

6-stitch mock cable



13. Return the 2 slipped stitches to the LH needle.



14. Lift the dropped stitch onto the LH needle, being careful not to twist the stitch.



15. Knit the dropped stitch that is now on the LH needle.



16. It is worth taking a moment here to check that the stitches are not twisted and lay nice and flat.



17. A number of rows are usually worked before the next cable is made, with the background in reverse stocking (stockinette) stitch and the mock cable section in stocking (stockinette) stitch.

TOP TIPS

- Smooth yarns will give the strongest textural effects, however, yarns with some texture can be used. Eyelash and similar yarns rarely show the full beauty of textured stitches, but a soft slub or lightly fluffy yarn can give subtle effects. All weights of yarn can be used with excellent, if often quite different, results.
- Working textured stitches generally uses more yarn than a plain stocking stitch, so if you are customising a simple knit, remember to allow for this when buying yarn.
- It's lots of fun to combine textured patterns but be sure to swatch a good-sized sample of at least two pattern repeats as there may be differences in tension which could distort your work.
- If swapping a textured rib or edging for a standard one make a swatch of each to check tension, drape and elasticity before going ahead. Edgings can often be added later, so if you just "must have" a particular edging but it has a different tension, why not make it separately and sew/graft on later?
- Textured stitches often make a project heavier, affecting drape and structure. A good-sized swatch should help you decide whether your design will be too heavy for your chosen yarn or project.