

Introduction

Bobbles are essentially clusters of stitches made by increasing a set number of times from a single originating stitch, working a number of rows on these stitches, then decreasing back to the original stitch. Bobbles may be small or large, depending on the number of stitches and the number of rows over which they are worked. They can also be worked together in a cluster, spaced to form a regular pattern, or placed at random to create a more relaxed, freeform effect.

Here's a simple bobble:



1. For a simple bobble, knit one stitch but don't allow it to drop off the needle.



2. Still without dropping the stitch off the LH needle, wrap yarn round the needle.



3. Knit into the same stitch again.



4. There are now 3 stitches (2 new plus the original st) on the RH needle. (For larger bobbles, the original stitch may be knitted into several times or more yarn overs may be used to create more stitches).

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5. Turn the work so that the 3 stitches you have just made are now in the LH.



6. Purl these 3 stitches.



7. Turn the work again, putting the stitches just worked back into the LH. Knit the first stitch.



8. Knit the next two stitches together.



9. You should now have 2 stitches left in your bobble.



10. Turn the work a final time and purl the first two stitches together.



11. With the bobble now complete one stitch remains on the RH needle.



12. Gently push the bobble to the front of the work.

TOP TIPS

- Clustered stitches should pop out to front of work to form bobble. Keep bobbles tidy by knitting quite tightly and drawing up yarn firmly before knitting rest of row.
- 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.
- 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.

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