

KNITTING - CASTING ON PART ONE



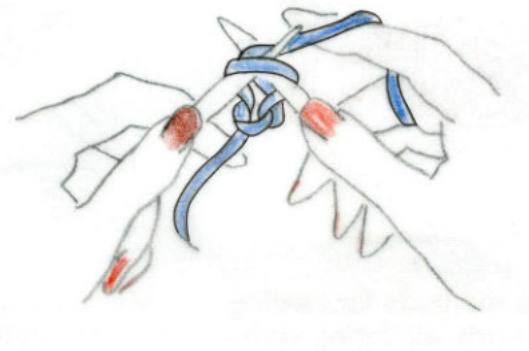
EmmaRose Crafts
Inspired by the joy of creativity

There are a number of different methods for casting on. Whilst many of us tend to stay with the method we know best it is worth exploring some of the other options to see if it is more suitable for a particular project. For example some methods provide a looser and more stretchy cast on which can be helpful for socks or cuffs, whilst others can give a decorative edge.

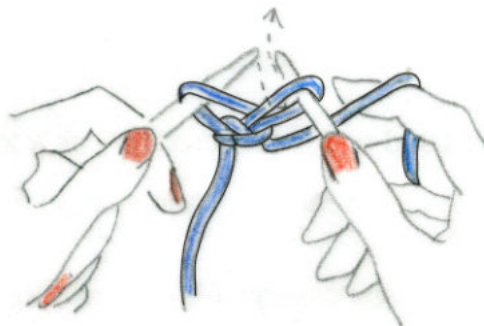
Cable Cast On

This gives a firm edge, is one of the most commonly used and is favoured for cable knits.

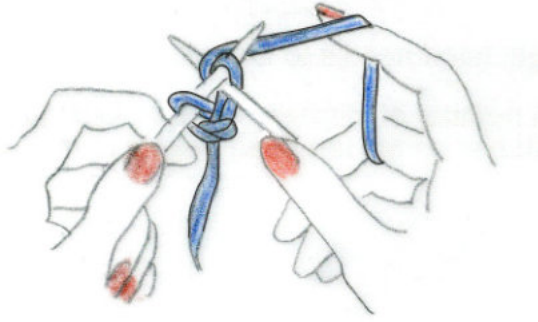
- a. Make a slip knot, leaving a short tail, and place it on a needle. Then cast on a second stitch using the knitted cast on method.



- b. Insert the right hand needle between the two stitches through the yarn link that holds them together.
- c. Wrap the yarn around the needle as if to knit a stitch. Pull the loop through but do not slip the stitch off the left-hand needle.



- d. Slip the stitch you have just made from the right hand needle to the left.

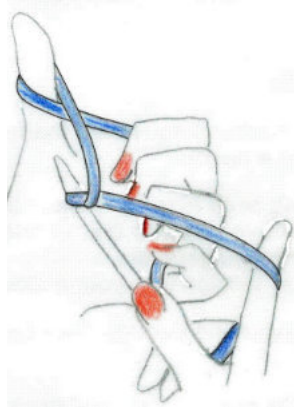


- e. Repeat steps b to d until you have the correct number of stitches, always placing the needle through the yarn link of the last two stitches on the left hand needle to make each new stitch.

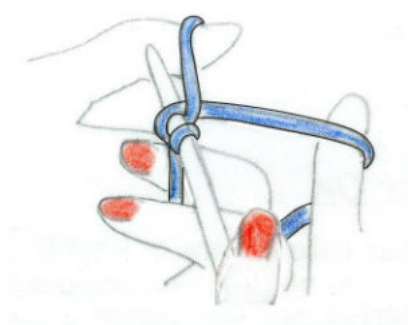
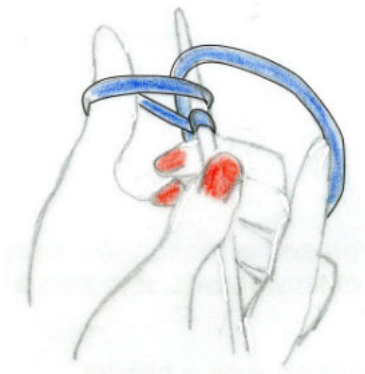
Thumb Cast On

This is a simpler variation on the long tail cast on described below.

- a. Make a yarn tail approximately 3 - 4 times longer than the required width of the cast on, make a slip knot and place it on a needle.
- b. Hold the tail in your left hand and with the needle in your right hand wrap the thread clockwise around the thumb of your left hand, creating a loop.



- c. Push the tip of the needle up through the loop and wrap the working yarn as if to complete a knit stitch.



- d. Draw the yarn through the loop. Slip your thumb out of the loop and pull to tighten.

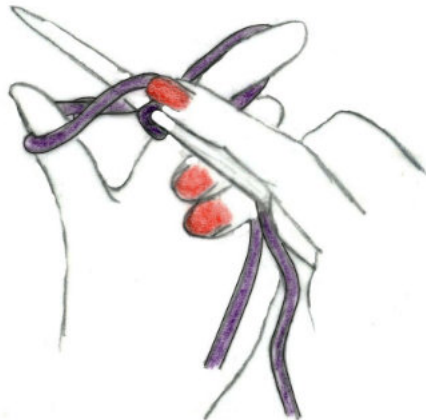
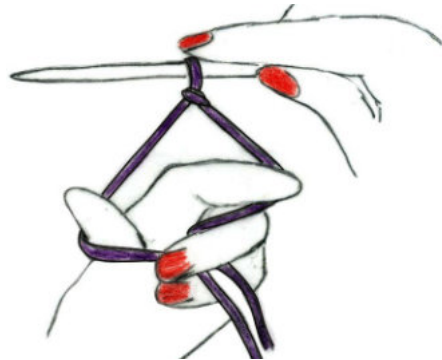
- e. Repeat steps b to d until the right number of stitches have been cast on.

NOTE: When you begin to knit the piece make sure you use the working yarn and not the remaining tail.

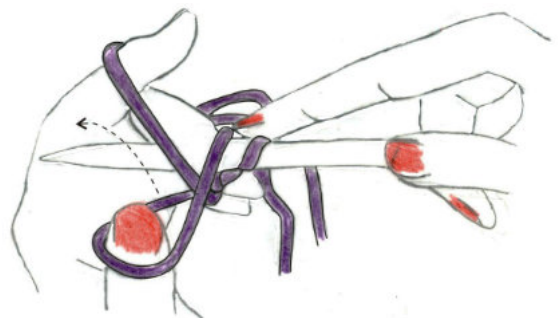
Long Tail Cast On

This is a good all-round cast on method which has a firm but stretchy edge and holds its shape well. It is great for items such as hats, and socks, or cuffs and necklines of fitted garments.

- a. Make a yarn tail approximately 3 - 4 times longer than the required width of the cast on, make a slip knot and place it on a needle.
- b. With both strands of yarn in your left hand insert your thumb and forefinger in between. The tail end should lie over your thumb and be held in place against the palm of your hand with your remaining fingers, the working yarn should lie over your index finger before being held under tension with your middle finger.
- c. Bring the tip of the needle towards you and through the loop that is created in the thread round your thumb.



- d. Put the needle tip over the top of the working yarn and draw the working yarn through the loop. Slip your thumb out of the loop and pull to tighten.



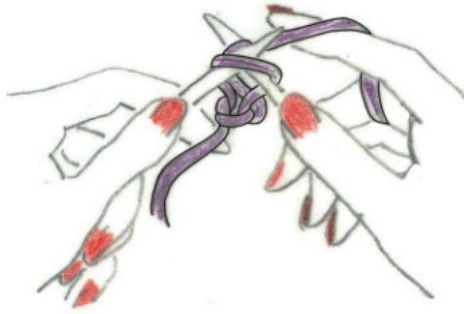
- e. Repeat steps b to d until the right number of stitches have been cast on.

NOTE: When you begin to knit the piece make sure you use the working yarn and not the remaining tail.

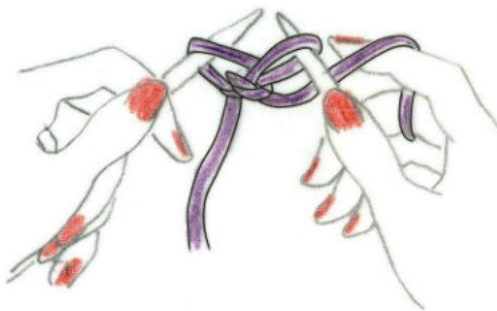
Knitted Cast On

This is sometimes called a lace or English cast on and is reasonably stretchy but durable which is why it works well on the curved edges of lacy shawls. It is also a useful method when adding stitches part way across a row.

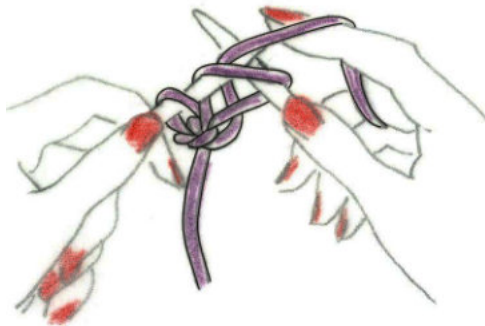
- a. Make a slip knot, leaving a short tail, and place it on a needle.
- b. Place the right needle into the loop of the slip knot as if to knit the stitch.



- c. Wrap the working yarn around the needle as you would to knit. Pull the loop through but do not slip the stitch off the left-hand needle.



- d. Slip the stitch you have just made from the right hand needle to the left.



- e. Repeat steps b to d until you have the correct number of stitches, always knitting into the loop of the last stitch on the left hand needle to make each new stitch.

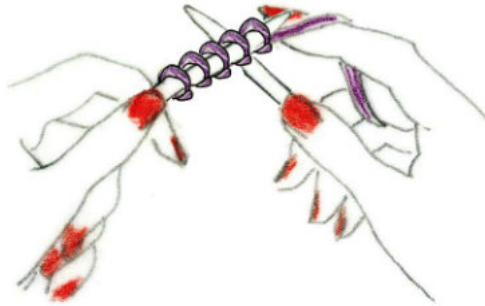
NOTE: Don't pull the stitches too tight. Try to keep an even tension and if the finished cast on looks a bit loose you can try knitting into the back of each stitch when working the first row of knitting.

Picot Cast On

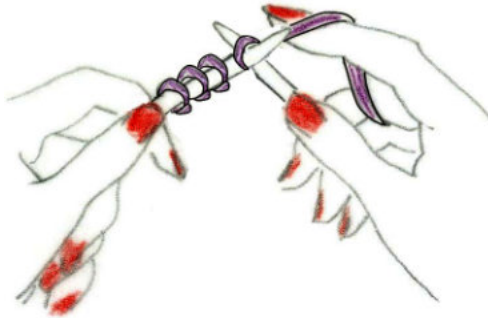
A simple but decorative cast on method which can also be paired with a picot cast off if required. You can adapt the size and distance between the picot points easily by adjusting the number of stitches cast on and cast off - but remember the number cast on must always be greater than the number cast off! Works best on lighter weight yarns rather than chunky.

- a. Make a slip knot and place on the LH needle. Using the knitted cast on method, go into the stitch knitwise with the RH needle and cast on one stitch.

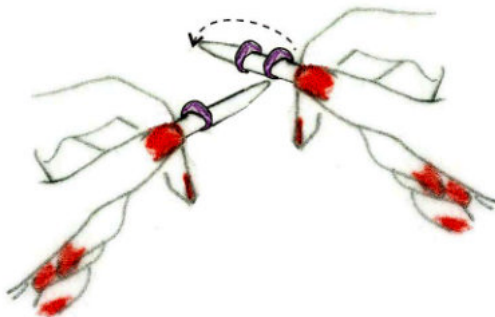
- b. Repeat until there are the required number of stitches on the needle, for this example five stitches.



- c. Knit the first two stitches through the back of the loop.



- d. Slip the first stitch over the second one, casting it off.



- e. Cast off the next stitch through the back loop in the same way, leaving two stitches on the LH needle.
- f. Slip the stitch on the RH needle back to the LH needle purlwise.
- g. Cast on four more stitches using the knitted cast on method which brings you back to five stitches on the LH needle, plus two remaining from the previous cast on.



- h. Cast off two stitches as before and slip the stitch on the RH needle back to the LH needle.



- i. Repeat steps g and h until the required number of stitches are reached.
j. On the first row knit the stitches tbl to help neaten the edge.

Picot Folded Edge Cast On

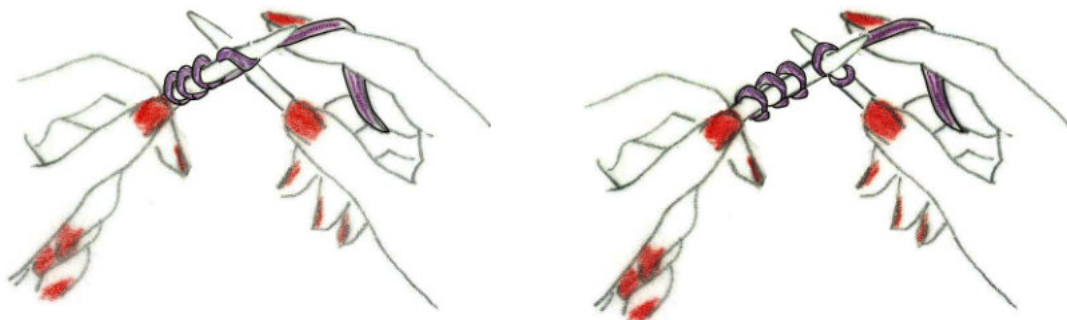
This creates a similar effect to the picot cast on as, once the work is folded on the eyelet row, it gives an uneven edge. The advantage is that it is an easier method, although the edge is more of a smooth softer wave as against a more textured bobble.

- a. Make a slip knot and place on the LH needle. Using the knitted cast on method, cast on the required number of stitches.
b. After several rows of stocking stitch work a RS row of (K2tog, yo) to the last one or two stitches, then knit to the end.
c. Continue with the pattern, treating the eyelet row as if it were your cast on edge.
d. When making up, fold the work on the eyelet row to create a hem.

1-Cord Cast On

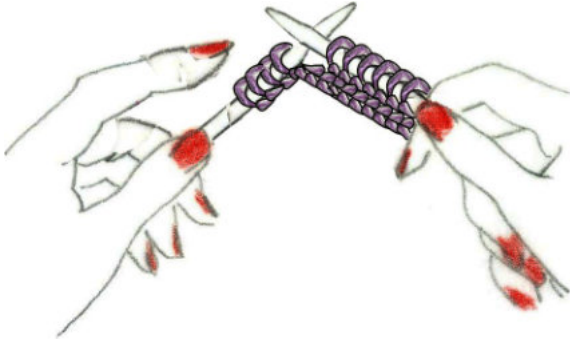
The method provides a neat cast-on, particularly when using a small number of stitches such as 4. The more stitches you use the thicker the cord will be.

- a. To start use a long-tail cast on and a DPN to cast on 4 stitches.
b. Knit into the front and the back of the first stitch, K3.

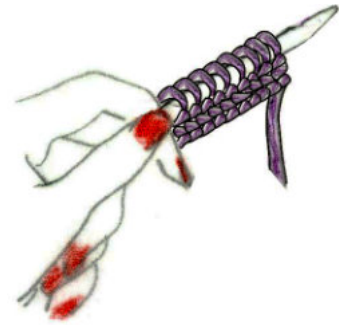


- c. Slip the first 4 stitches back onto the LH needle

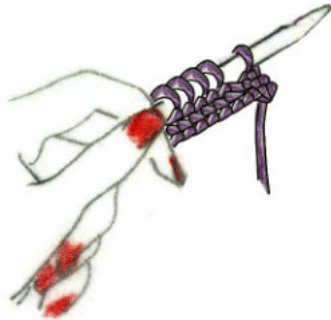
- d. Repeat steps b and c until you have the required number of stitches, plus 4



- e. Turn the work and cast off the surplus 4 stitches.



- f. Slip the final stitch after the cast off back to the LH needle and turn the work.



- g. The cast on is complete

TIP

This method may alter the tension of the piece to be worked so it is worth checking on a small number of stitches before using it for a long cast on.