

KNITTING - JOINING NEW YARN



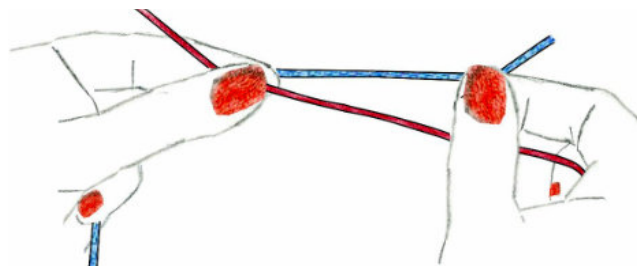
EmmaRose Crafts
Inspired by the joy of creativity

There are a number of ways you can join a new ball of yarn, and here are some of the techniques:

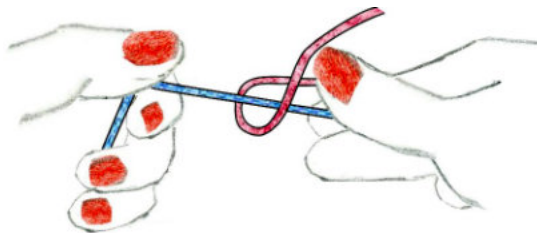
Magic Knot Splicing

This can be done at the beginning of a row or part way along. However you should avoid making the join in a section that is likely to be subject to additional pressure when worn, such as the heel of a sock or along a shoulder, something to be aware of when knitting in the round.

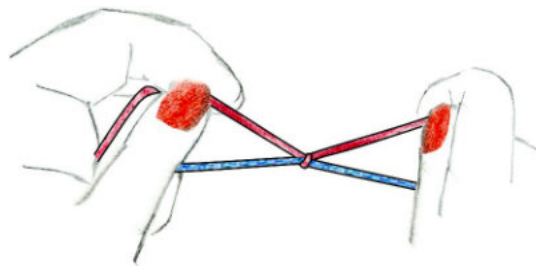
- Hold the two ends of the yarn parallel to each other, with the cut ends facing opposite directions.



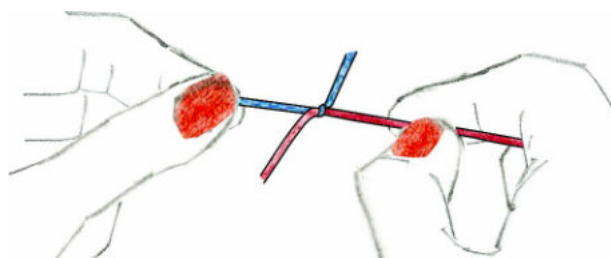
- Wrap the tail end of one piece of yarn around the other and make a knot.



- Pull the knot tight.



- Repeat steps b and c with the other tail end so you now have two knots.
- Pull the working yarn of each piece in opposite directions to slide the two knots tightly together.

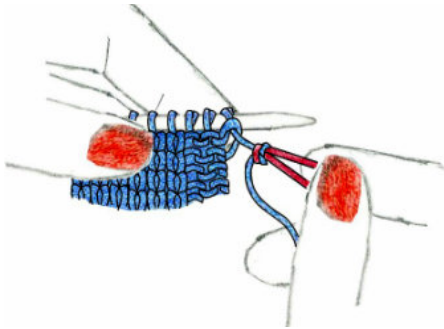


- f. Trim the spare yarn close to the knots and, if joining part way through a row, tuck the knot to the back of the work as you knit.

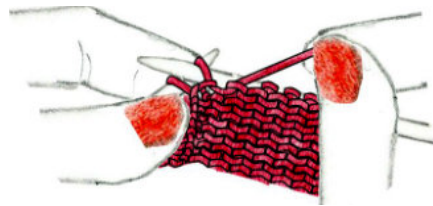
Temporary Knot & Weave In

When worked at the beginning of a row the yarn ends can be woven into the seam.

- a. Take the new yarn and tie it to the working yarn close to the joining point using a loose knot.



- b. Continue working the piece as the final stage is only completed at the making up stage.



- c. Undo the knot and weave the two yarn tails into the wrong side of the piece matching both the direction of the stitches and also the tension. Leave a small tail, approx 5 cm, unwoven.



- d. Block the piece before snipping off the tail as the process of blocking is likely to stretch the piece.

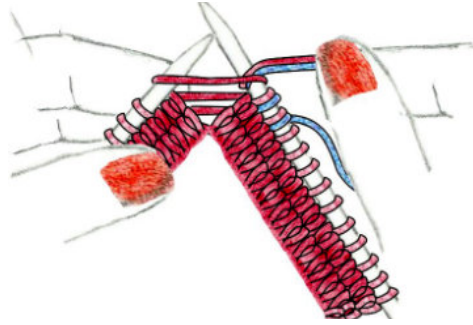
NOTE: If you prefer to weave the ends into the seams simply join the pieces together before untying the knot and then weave in the ends.

Knit With Two Strands

Best worked at the edge of the piece as it creates bulkier stitches.

- a. Work to a few stitches before you want to change the yarn.

- b. Leaving a small tail work the new yarn and the old yarn together for 3 or 4 stitches.

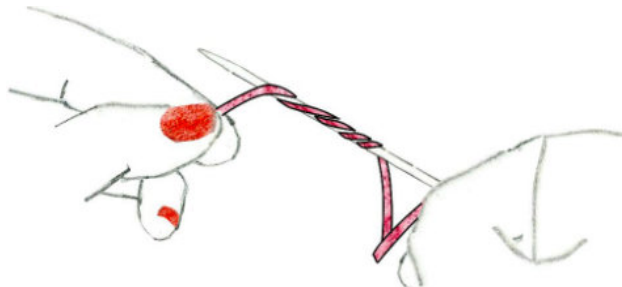


- c. Then work with the new yarn only.
d. During blocking you can pull the stitches a little to give the smoothest look on the right side. After blocking weave in the ends.

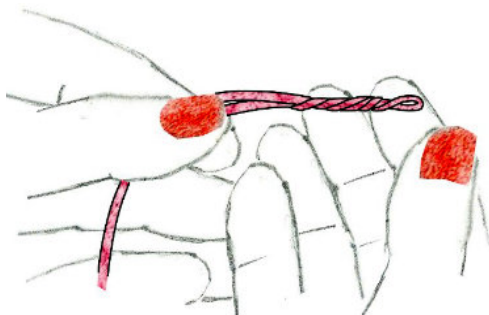
Russian Join

This is a bit fiddly but it is useful for lace patterns and knitting in the round as it works well for joining yarn in the middle of a round/row. However it is better for single colours and it doesn't work for fine single ply yarns.

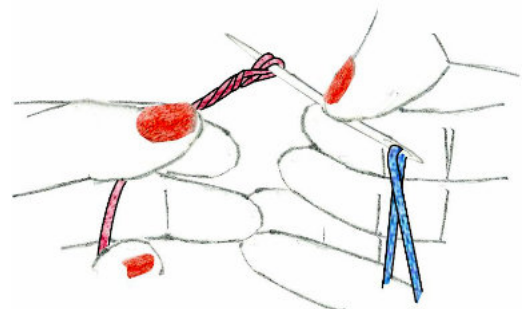
- a. Thread the tail end of the working yarn onto a fine needle.
b. Hold the yarn in a U shape and insert the needle into the plies.



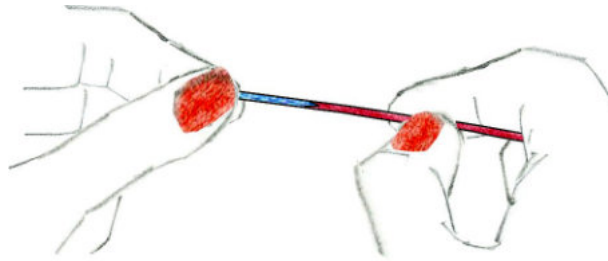
- c. Run the needle through the yarn, making a small loop at the end. Take care not to pull it too tight.



- d. Thread the new yarn onto a fine needle and pass it through the loop in the working yarn.



- e. Repeat stages b and c with the new yarn.
- f. Gently pull on each yarn to smooth out the join.



- g. Trim off any excess yarn.

Spit Splicing

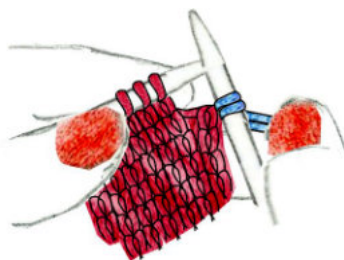
This only works with animal fibre yarns, not synthetics or superwash wool, and works well when joining yarn in the round or middle of a row.

- a. Take the ends of both the working and the new yarns and fray them so the ends are split. If you are using a bulky yarn, trim away roughly half of the plies.
- b. Lay the two ends over each other, in opposite directions, and intermingle the ends.
- c. Wet them slightly, place the ends in the palms of your hands, and rub them together quickly. The combination of warmth, moisture and friction should make the yarns felt together.

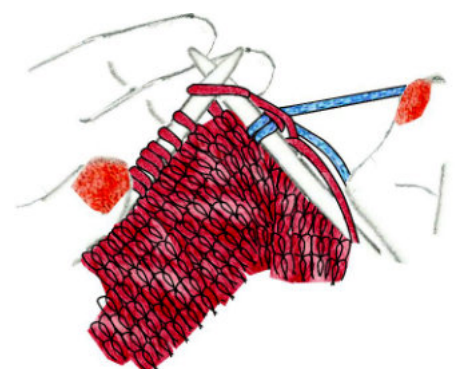
Weave In As You Work

This is a good option when you are changing colour frequently and have a lot of ends to deal with but, as it adds a bit of extra bulk to the knitting it works best on finer yarns (up to DK in weight). Care should also be taken not to pull the old yarn too tight as it might cause the piece to pucker.

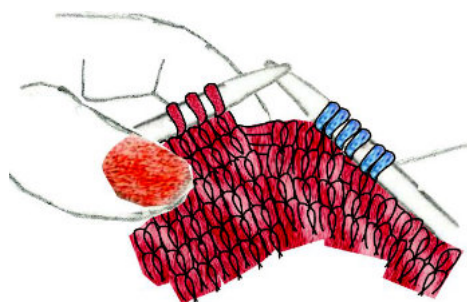
- a. When you reach the change point knit a stitch with the new yarn.



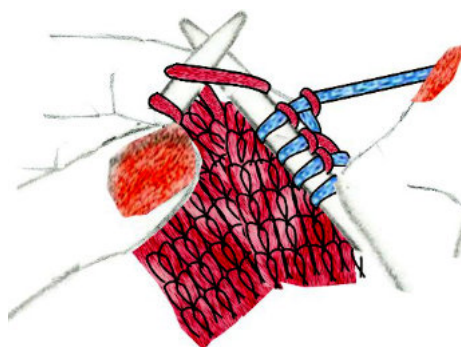
- b. Pick up the tail of the old yarn and lay it over the new yarn, then work the next stitch with the new yarn so that the old yarn is 'woven' into the back of the stitch.



c. Work the next stitch normally using the new yarn.



d. Repeat steps b and c for a few more stitches before dropping the tail of the old yarn. This can be snipped off at a later stage, such as when blocking.



e. On the next available row repeat the process for the tail of the new yarn.