



Slip-Stitch Knitting

SLIP STITCHES CAN EASILY GIVE YOU THE SLIP BY TRICKING YOU INTO THINKING THEY ARE HARDER TO KNIT THAN THEY ACTUALLY ARE. IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE CHEATING BECAUSE DETAILED AND IMPRESSIVE COLOUR PATTERNS CAN BE MADE WITH VERY LITTLE EFFORT. THE NUMBER OF SLIP STITCH COMBINATIONS ARE LIMITLESS, AND THE BEAUTY OF THIS SIMPLE TECHNIQUE IS THAT IT CAN LOOK INCREDIBLY DIFFERENT FROM PATTERN TO PATTERN.

A branch of the stripe technique, slip-stitch patterns also use just one colour of yarn for the entire row. The difference between slip stitch and stripe patterns is that in slip stitch, while a colour is worked across a row, stitches are also being slipped from the left-hand needle to the right-hand needle without being worked. This creates seemingly elaborate stitch patterns by stretching out the height of the stitch,

and elongating colours from the row below it. As stitches are stretched, they lose their elasticity, and can form a stiffer fabric, depending on the number of slip stitches used and the needle size. Smaller needles tend to form more rigid fabrics because the stitches are smaller and have less room to stretch. Larger needles can help to create more pliable fabrics because the larger stitches have more room to move.

First Steps

Tips

- Slip stitches purlwise unless the pattern states otherwise.
- Using a lot of slipped stitches can make fabric tighter. Try larger or smaller needles, for more or less stretch, as desired.

Colour row repeats

Colours in slip-stitch patterns are often worked in even numbers of rows in flat knitting, as they are for stripes. Doing this brings the working yarn back to the same beginning point where colours from each row can be loosely twisted up along one edge – leaving very little to weave in.

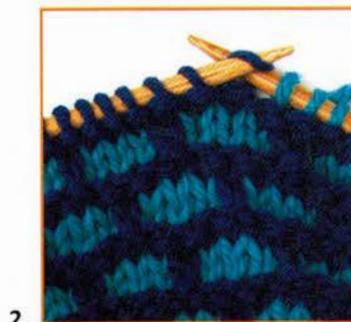
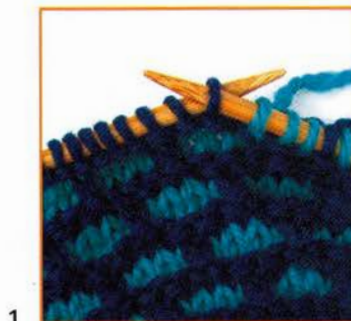
When working odd numbers of colour rows in flat knitting, yarns can be carried up both sides of the work. Simply carry the yarn up the left side of the work when you come to it. Odd-numbered colour row repeats are easily done when knitting in the round because the end of the ‘row’ comes right back to the beginning, and the ends are readily available for twisting together.

Slipping stitches

Stitches are always slipped purlwise and with the yarn held in the back of the work – with yarn in back (wyib), unless specifically stated to slip knitwise or with the yarn held in the front of the work – with yarn in front (wyif). Slipping wyif is usually done in flat knitting when working on the wrong side, or it can be used on both sides to create different effects. Slipping knitwise is not very common because it twists the stitch to sit opposite the rest of the stitches on the needle, but in some cases it is called for.

1 Slipping purlwise, or as if to purl, means that the right-hand needle is inserted into the back of the next stitch as if to purl. Instead of purling the stitch, it is lifted off the left-hand needle onto the right-hand needle. This places the stitch facing the same way as the rest of the stitches on the right-hand needle.

2 Slipping knitwise, or as if to knit, means that the right-hand needle is inserted into the front of the stitch as if to knit. Instead of knitting it, the stitch is lifted onto the right-hand needle and sits opposite the worked stitches.

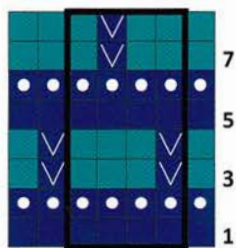
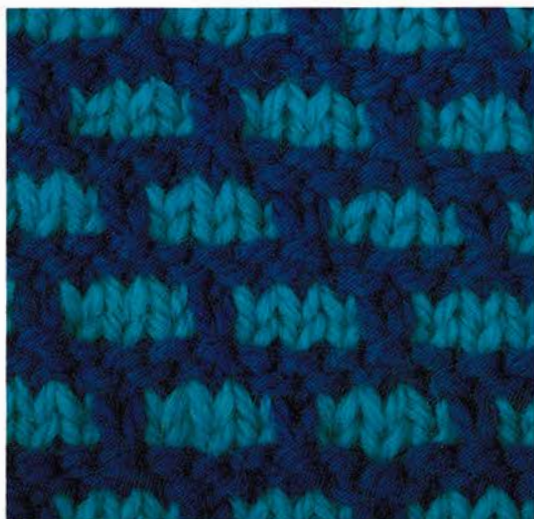


Sample Slip-Stitch Patterns

Brick pattern

Garner stitches are incorporated into a brick pattern to create texture and dimension, with the dark blue garner stitches moving forwards, and the teal stocking stitches receding. This pattern still retains elasticity because of the garner stitch rows.

Begin by casting on with A and knitting the first row.



Repeat

Brick multiple 4 + 3 sts

Yarn ■ A ■ B

- Stitches
- RS: k, WS: p
 - WS: k
 - ▽ RS: s1; WS: s1 wyif

Speckled pattern

This speckled pattern shows slip stitches with the yarn held in front, and with the yarn held in back. The stitches slipped with the yarn held in front create what looks like dotted or dashed lines across the row. Stitches with the yarn held in back are slightly elongated.

Begin by casting on with A and purling the first row.



Repeat

Speckle multiple of 2 + 3 sts

Yarn ■ A ■ B

- Stitches
- RS: k, WS: p
 - ▽ s1
 - s1 WS: s1 wyif

Zigzag pattern

Bold, graphic lines can also be created with slip stitches – it is all in the placement. This zigzag pattern moves diagonally across the fabric, and has a completely different look and feel to the other slip stitch samples.

Begin by casting on with A and purling the first row.

