

Knitting creates a closely-woven surface which feels smooth against the skin, and this makes it very useful for making hats, mittens, scarves, socks, slippers, sweaters, afghans, and more.

You will not have "holes" which can often be seen in many crocheted garments, unless you are making a knitted lace pattern. This makes knitting extra warm, and there is even a combination of stitches called "double knitting" which can make mittens or slippers even warmer.

2 techniques are needed to learn knitting: the Knit Stitch (which is called Garter Stitch when used alone), and the Purl Stitch.

The combination of these 2 stitches can form cables, lace patterns, bobbles, leaves, and many other interesting textures.



(Cables and other stitches made using combinations of the knit and purl stitch).

In cables, stitches are placed behind or in front of the work on a cable needle. A few stitches are made, then those stitches are picked up and worked, creating a twist in the work.



(A lace pattern made using combinations of the knit and purl stitch). A "yo" or Yarn Over the needle makes a hole.

Stockinette Stitch is made using one row of knitted stitches, and one row of purl stitches, alternating. It forms a very pretty "braided" look, and is often one of the main stitches in sweaters.



(Example of Stockinette Stitch using one row of knit and one row of purl stitches, alternating).

However, the Stockinette Stitch would "curl" if used at the sleeve, neck, or waist openings of a sweater.

Because of that, you would use a "rib". Ribbing is also a combination of knit and purl stitches, but it makes a border with stretch— something a sock or hat would need to stay on.

An example would be a "k 2, p 2" rib, or "knit 2 (stitches), purl 2 stitches" rib.

The photo at the right shows a ribbing on the edge of the hat.





This puppy is lying on a blanket which shows the "Garter Stitch", which simply means making a row of knit stitch, over and over.

This is the easiest stitch for knitters to learn. It often looks nice with a fake fur/yarn combination made into a scarf, where any specialty stitches (cables, lace, etc.) made would not be noticed.

Example of a Garter Stitch scarf with a Purl edging. (The Purl edging helps it the sides not to curl). >



<Example of a knitted (Garter Stitch) Scarf made on size 11 needles with double strands of Lion Brand Chenille Thick Yarn.



Sometimes, there are needs for other needles than straight ones with knob ends.

The hat on the left was worked with straight needles to form the rib, then the stitches were put onto a circular needle. (Two needles which are joined with a cable between them). This allows the knitting to be joined and worked in a circle. (You can see the stockinette pattern).

A circular needle could also be useful when knitting an afghan with too many stitches to fit onto needles. There you would knit back and forth, and not join the work.

When decreases are made at the top of the hat, and the stitches on the cables begin to get tight, the stitches are placed onto dpns. (Double pointed needles). These can be worked "in the round" in tight areas, even with as few as 3 to 6 stitches.

The hat on the right was worked with straight needles to form the rib, then placed on dpns. Dpns are usually worked in a set of 4 or 5 needles, and because they don't have knobs at one end (they look like large toothpicks), you can knit around in a circle on them. One extra (spare) needle is used to start the dpns, and as each one is knitted, it is taken out.

Dpns are often used to knit socks or mittens, when the work would be smaller than a sweater, etc.