

02. The Striped One

How to knit horizontal stripes

The first question I'm asked as soon as my students have learned to knit, is "How do I change colours?" Here's how to knit stripes.



See clip 02.1.



YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO

- cast on, knit, and cast/bind off (00. The Basic One)
- slip the first stitch purlwise (01. The Slippy One)

EXTRA MATERIALS

- yarn in 2 different colours

Instructions

Cast on 27 stitches with the main colour.

Row 1 (Wrong side): Slip the first stitch purlwise, knit the remaining 26 stitches.

Row 2 (Right side): Slip the first stitch purlwise. Drop the main colour and pick up the contrast colour, knit the remaining 26 stitches with the contrast colour.

Row 3: Slip the first stitch purlwise, knit the remaining 26 stitches.

Row 4: Slip stitch purlwise. Drop the contrast colour and pick up the main colour without twisting the yarns (A), knit the first stitch in the new colour loosely, otherwise the right side of the square will be too tight, knit the remaining 25 stitches.

Row 5: Slip stitch purlwise, knit the remaining 26 stitches.

Rows 6–47: Repeat Rows 4 and 5, alternating the colours on every other row.

You should have 24 ridges in total on the right side of your knitting.

Cast off and weave in ends.

In this square, you cannot weave the ends in diagonally as you normally would in garter stitch, because the yarn will be visible in the stripes of the contrasting colour. Weave in the ends into a single stripe (B, C) on the wrong side of the work.

Make extra squares with any combination of stripes you like!

GEEKY NOTES



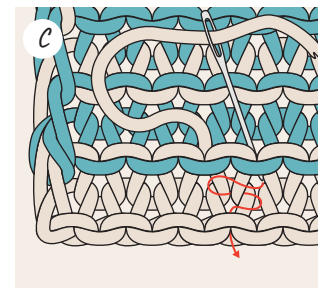
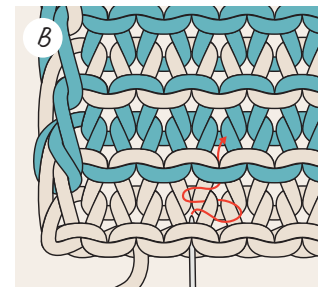
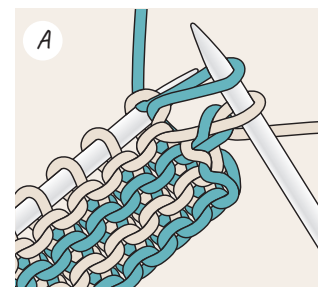
Why change colour on the second stitch and not the first?

Because the first stitch is slipped, not knitted. Were you to knit the first stitch, you would knit it in the new colour.

Notice that when changing colour, the ridges on the right side are single-coloured, while the ones on the wrong side are two-coloured.

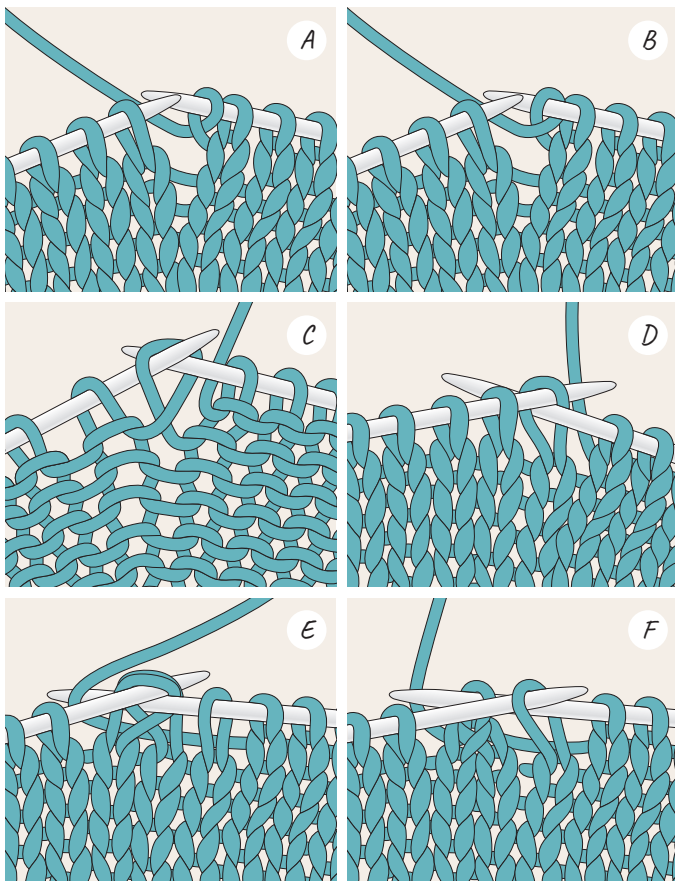
Therefore, you should change colour when starting on a right-side row, unless you want precisely that effect, which I find particularly neat when changing between similar hues. This creates a smooth transition, like a continuous spectrum. In this case, you should change colour when starting a wrong-side row.

When changing colour every other row, as in this square, you do not need to break the yarn after every stripe. With wider stripes, however, you will have to break the yarn at every colour change, leaving a tail of approx 10cm/4in to weave in. This means you'll have a lot of loose ends to weave in!



NOW YOU KNOW HOW TO

knit horizontal stripes



Instructions

Cast on 27 sts.

Work according to chart as follows:

Rows 1–5: Sl1p, k26.

Row 6 (RS): Sl1p, k10, k2tog, kyok, SSK, k11.

Row 7 (WS): Sl1p, k11, p3, k12.

Row 8 (RS): Sl1p, k10, k2tog, kyok, SSK, k11.

Row 9 (WS): Sl1p, k10, p2, k1, p2, k11.

Row 10 (RS): Sl1p, k9, k2tog, k1, LI, k1, RI, k1, SSK, k10.

To make an LI: make a loop with your working yarn on the RH needle with the front leg of the loop pointing left (**A**). On the next row, knit this loop through the front loop, as usual.

To make an RI: make a loop with your working yarn on the RH needle with the front leg of the loop pointing right (**B**). On the next row, knit this loop through the back loop (**C**), otherwise it will be twisted twice.

Rows 11–47: Continue according to chart.

On Rows 40 and 42 you will need to make a double decrease with the middle st at the bottom (as opposed to the one you learned in **11**. The Convergent One). This st is often abbreviated as sk2po.

To work an sk2po: sl1 (**D**), k2tog (**E**), pass sl st over (**F**).

Cast off and weave in ends.

GEEKY NOTES

This is my favourite increase for garter stitch. It can also be used as a cast on, especially if you need to add multiple stitches at the end of a row in the middle of your project.

This increase/cast on is also known as the “backwards loop” increase/cast on. The RI is also known as the “thumb” cast on.



NOW YOU KNOW HOW TO

make twisted-loop increases
make a double decrease with the middle stitch at the bottom

28. The Invisible One

How to catch floats with the invisible stranding technique

Another way of catching floats is to cast on an extra stitch behind the work and purl this in every round with the colour not being used. This is completely invisible on the right side of the work, and creates a layer like a spider's web on the wrong side.

YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO

- cast on, knit, and cast/bind off (**00. The Basic One**)
- purl (**03. The Purlly One**)
- abbreviations (**04. The Seedy One**)
- read a knitting chart (**05. The Charted One**)
- decrease by knitting two stitches together (**06. The Mitred One**)
- place and slip a marker (**06. The Mitred One**)
- make a left-leaning decrease (**08. The Left One**)
- knit or purl a stitch through the back loop (**09. The Twisted One**)
- work “make one” increases (**14. The Neat One**)
- make increases and decreases on purl rows (**15. The Complicated One**)
- knit in the round (**16. The Circular One**)
- knit jogless stripes in the round (**17. The Jogless One**)
- knit stranded colourwork in the round (**18. The Stranded One**)
- work double knitting (**27. The Reversible One**)

EXTRA MATERIALS

- yarn in 2 different colours
- circular needles, 4mm (US size 6 or UK size 8), 40cm/16in long
- 5 DPNs, 4mm (US size 6 or UK size 8)
- 4 stitch markers, one of which should be different to the rest to mark the beginning of the round

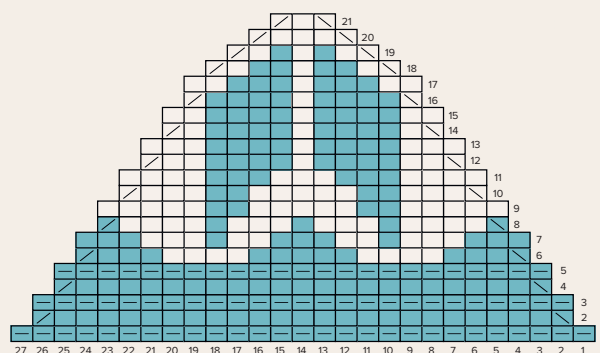


CHART KEY

 MC	 k2tog
 CC	 p
 k	 SSK

Back of square →

