

KNITTING

COMMON TERMS

bind off: To finish the final row of stitching in your work to secure the stitches and create a neat edge on your knitted piece. It essentially means to permanently close a row of stitches so that they don't unravel

break the yarn: Cut or tear the working yarn leaving a short tail

block/blocking: The process of shaping and setting the final dimensions of a finished knitted item. There are several types of blocking which can involve wetting or steaming the knitted piece and then gently stretching and pinning it into its desired shape and size. Blocking helps even out stitches, open up lace patterns, and give the finished project a polished look

cable (cable stitch): A technique that creates a twisted or interwoven appearance achieved by rearranging the order in which stitches are worked

cable needle: A small needle used to hold stitches temporarily while creating cable patterns

circular needles: knitting needles with two needle tips connected by a flexible cable; they can be used for both flat and circular knitting

double-pointed needles (DPNs): Knitting needles with points at both ends, allowing you to knit from either side. They are typically used for knitting projects in the round, such as socks, mittens, sleeves, and small-circumference items where using circular needles might be challenging due to their size.

boucle yarn: A novelty yarn made with loops that give fabrics a rougher appearance.

cake: A yarn ball that is wound in a flat, cylindrical shape resembling a cake

cast on: The process of creating the initial or foundation row of stitches on your needle before you begin your main knitting work. The method you choose for casting on can affect the appearance and elasticity of the edge of your work.

cast off: to finish the final row of stitching in your work to secure the stitches and create a neat edge on your knitted piece. It essentially means to permanently close a row of stitches so that they don't unravel

crochet: The art of creating a garment using a single hooked needle to form interlocking loops

entrelac: A knitting technique to achieve a textured diamond or basketweave effect or pattern

fair isle: A knitting technique using 2 or more different colors in one row by creating colorful patterns. The yarn not in use is carried across the back of the work, creating small floats or strands behind the stitches on the backside of the work.

fiber arts: A fine art whose primary materials consist of natural or synthetic fibers

frog (frogging): Intentionally unraveling or tearing out knitting

garter stitch: Knit every row (knitting in the round; knit one round, then purl one round).

gauge: The number of stitches per inch and rows per inch

hank: A loop of yarn that needs to be untwisted and wound into balls or cakes before it can be used for knitting or crocheting; it's a common way specialty or hand-dyed yarns are packaged

i-cord: A simple way to knit a thin cord in stockinette stitch

intarsia: A knitting technique used to knit with multiple colors in one row through a special joining method and the use of bobbins

Interchangeable needles: Versatile type of knitting needles that allows knitters to customize the length of their needles and change needle sizes easily. These sets consist of needle tips, cables, and connectors, allowing you to create different needle combinations for various projects.

jog: A visible stair-stepping after a color change when knitting in the round

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knitting: The art of creating a garment out of yarn using two (or more) needles to form interlocking loops

kitchener stitch: A method of grafting two sets of live stitches together seamlessly

legs: The two parts of a stitch where the needle bisects the stitch

leading leg: The part of a stitch that is closer to the tip of the needle

magic loop: is a technique used to knit small-circumference items, such as socks, sleeves, mittens, and other tubular pieces, using a very long circular needle; eliminating the need for double-pointed needles

mattress stitch: A seaming technique used to join two pieces of fabric together invisibly creating a flat, nearly invisible seam that is ideal for sewing up the sides of garments, attaching sleeves, or joining other knitted pieces

merino wool: High-quality wool yarn from a merino sheep. The fibers are short, strong, durable, and elastic

mohair yarn: A silk-like yarn made from the hair of an Angora goat. It is known for its luster and sheen, and is also resilient and durable

mosaic (knitting): A slip-stitch pattern in two or more colors

moss stitch: Alternating a knit stitch and a purl stitch in every row.

no stitch: When working from charts, "no stitch" is indicated with shaded spaces where stitches have been decreased or not yet made. Skip over the "no stitch" spaces.

rib stitch: stitch pattern of alternating knit and purl stitches, creating a stretchy fabric often used for cuffs and edges to prevent curling

purl stitch: A basic stitch that creates a textured fabric by forming a small bump or ridge on the right side of the work; the opposite of a knit stitch

reverse-stockinette stitch: The opposite of the stockinette stitch created by purling right-side rows and knitting wrong-side rows. (knitting in the round; purl all rounds)

row counter: A tool used to keep track of the rows in a pattern

selvage stitch: An edge stitch that makes seaming or picking up stitches easier; these stitches are worked differently from the main pattern to create a neat and stable edge

skein: A continuous strand of yarn wrapped into a collapsible coil. The knitter can pull the yarn from the center of the skein rather than unravel it from the outside.

slip: Transferring the stitch from one needle to the other without adding any yarn.

stitch marker: A small ring or clip placed on the needle to mark a specific stitch or point in the pattern

straight needles: Long, straight needles, used for traditional flat knitting, where you knit back and forth in rows

tink: A method to unravel your project by "unknitting" one stitch at a time.

stockinette stitch: A pattern made by knitting right-side rows, purling wrong-side rows. (knitting in the round, knit all rounds.)

stranded knitting (stranded colorwork): Using more than two colors per row and creating floats across long stretches.

steek: Cut vertically through your knitting to create an open front.

trailing leg: The part of the stitch that is connected to the working yarn.

yarn chicken: A gamble knitters take when they barely have enough yarn left to finish the last row(s)