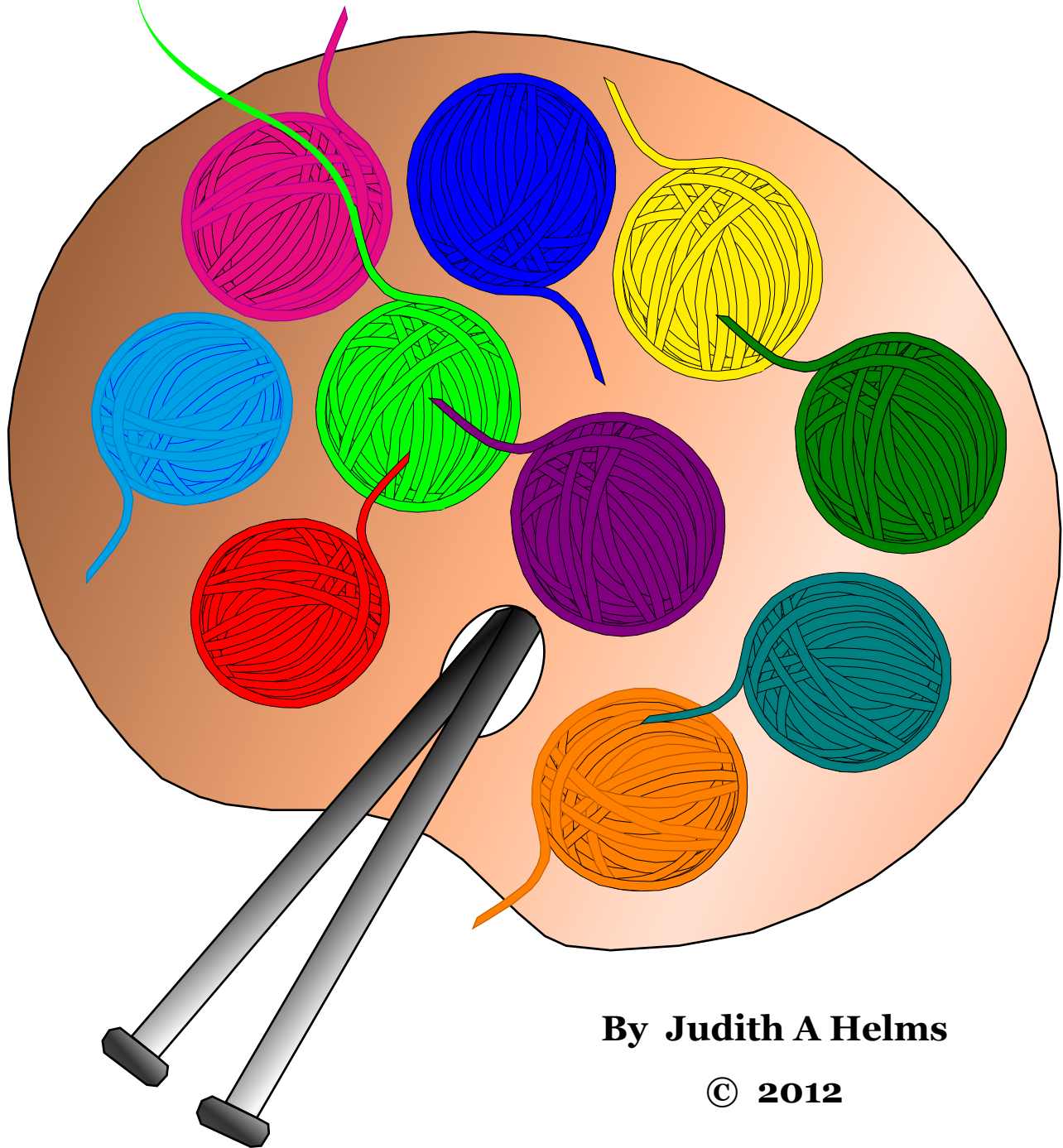


Painting with Yarn

“Intarsiamania”



By Judith A Helms

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Introduction

To my readers-

This e-book is just the first in a series of materials that I have put together in order to share what I have learned in creating my designer pillows. Those to follow will address the other forms of color knitting that I use, and a book on how to plan your colors projects, and chart your ideas.

My hope in gathering my thoughts together in this fashion, is that it will encourage you to expand your adventures in color knitting.

I had many hours of enjoyment putting the book together. I hope you will enjoy perusing it.

Happy Knitting!

KT

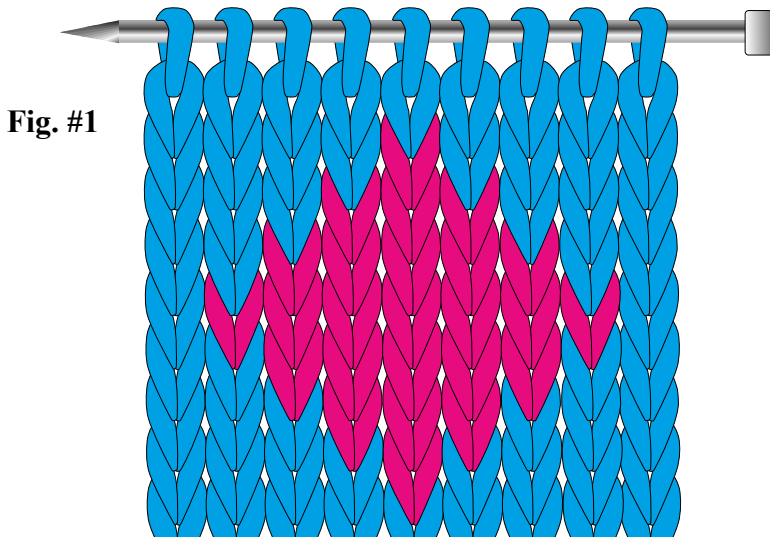
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Intarsia

What is Intarsia?

Intarsia = a single layer of Stockinette stitch of a specific color in any given design. This technique gives you a clean knitted design or shape, with no shadows in the background. The yarns are interlocked at the color change, which eliminates any holes in the fabric.



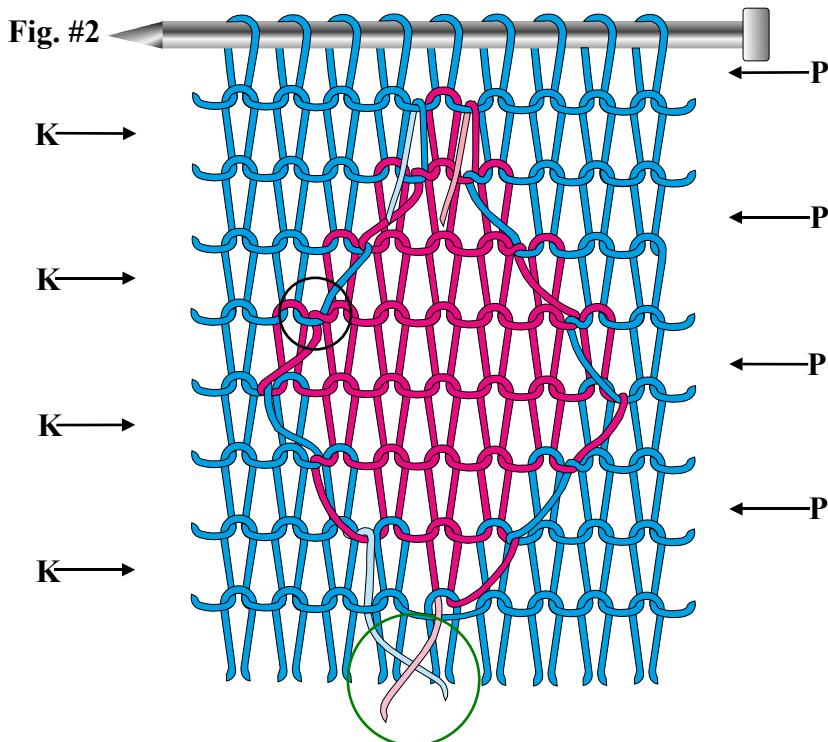
In the Intarsia example to the left (**Fig. #1**), the pink diamond in the center is a single layer of Stockinette knit. This single layer allow the knitted fabric to be very stretchy.

In **Fig #2**, you see the back side of the work. *I spread the stitches out so you could see how they link together.*

The black circle shows you the interlocking colors. This happens when the new color is brought from under the working yarn to knit the first stitch of the new color.

The green circle surrounds the beginning tails of the yarns inserted to begin the design. These ends are also indicated with a pastel shade of the same color.

The ones at the top are the ending tails. All these tails will be woven into the fibers of the surrounding yarn and will not show on the front surface.



Getting Started

I am assuming that anyone who is reading this book is already skilled in the basics of knitting; therefore, I will not be explaining those essential skills. For those who need the knitting basics, I suggest checking out **YouTube** on the net. There are many excellent videos to teach you how to knit and purl. There are also many videos on how to learn Intarsia, Fair Isle and Armenian Knitting. One video that comes to mind is Anne Berk's "Inside Intarsia." Check it out. She has a great section on knitting Intarsia in the round. You can also checkout out my website for the post on "Seamless Intarsia."

For that reason, this section is devoted exclusively to technical skills I used in my Painting with Yarn series. Beginning with **Intarsia**, I will endeavor to explain and illustrate my way of managing the yarns in each of the specific methods of color knitting. Be sure to take advantage of the hyperlinks in the text, as they will take you directly to the other illustrations available.

Now, grab your yarn and needles, cast on some stitches and try out the techniques. I have found that there is no better way of learning , than by doing.

KT

Knitting Key for this Section

K = knit

MC = main color

RH = right hand

RN = right needle

P = purl

AC = alternate color

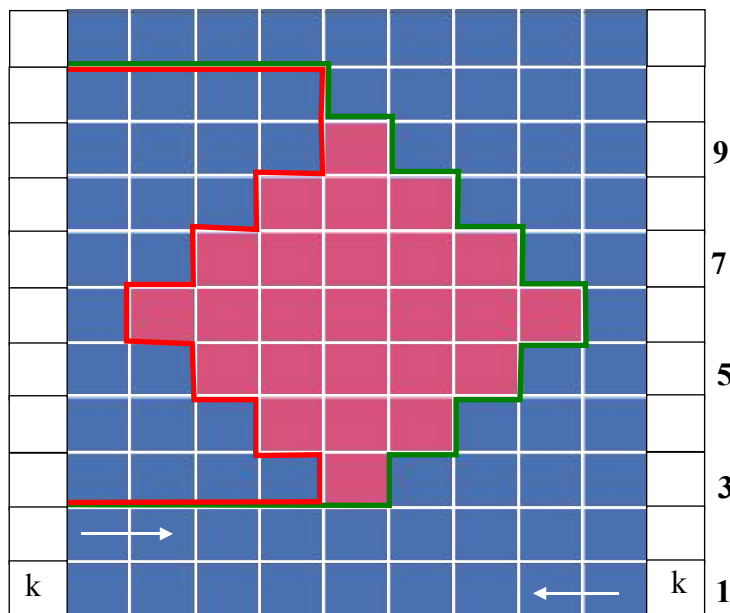
LH = left hand

LN = left needle

Swatch Practice

The basics for Intarsia are very simple. Knit or purl with one yarn to the color change, insert new color. Knit or purl to the next color change, insert new yarn, etc. Once your color strands are set up it is just a matter of following the chart, and interlocking the two yarns at the color change to prevent holes from occurring in your knitted fabric, or picture.

The best way to learn Intarsia is to try it. Using the chart below, I will walk you through the basic moves. The illustrations in this next section are of the back side (purl side) view of the “charted” area of your knitting. The idea is to help you understand how the yarns are **interlocked**.



The Set-up

Blue Yarn = MC (main color)

Pink Yarn = A C (alternate color)

E = edge stitch

First, peel off one long strand (*extended arm to extended arm*) of **MC**, and one of **AC**. Use your ball of MC for cast on, and first two rows.

At the color change in row 3, you will pull out a long strand of **MC, and break off at ball end. You now have two **MC** strands and one **AC**.*

The section marked off in **green** uses one strand of blue broken off from the ball. The section marked off in **red**, uses the second strand of blue.

Now, let's get started-

With **A**, cast on 9 stitches plus 2 edge stitches. (11) the edge stitches are **not** colored in the chart. Knit the edge stitch at beginning st of each row.

Row 1- With **A**, knit E st, knit 9, knit E st.

Row 2 - With **A**, knit E st, purl 9, knit E st.

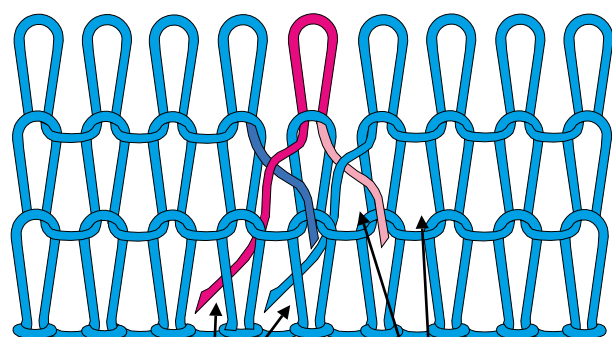
Row 3 – With **A**, knit E st, knit 4. Next, Insert single strand of **B**. Knit 1.

Next, insert single strand of **A**, repeating the same process as illustrated. Knit 4 blue. knit E st. Turn. **STOP!**

When you turn your work to the purl side, the charted section should look like **Fig. #1**.

Your beginning tails are lying on the front of your work. The working yarns strands are on the back of your work.

Fig. #1- Back side (purl side) view



Beginning tails

Working yarn tails-

-which lie on the front of your work.

Which lie on the back of your work.

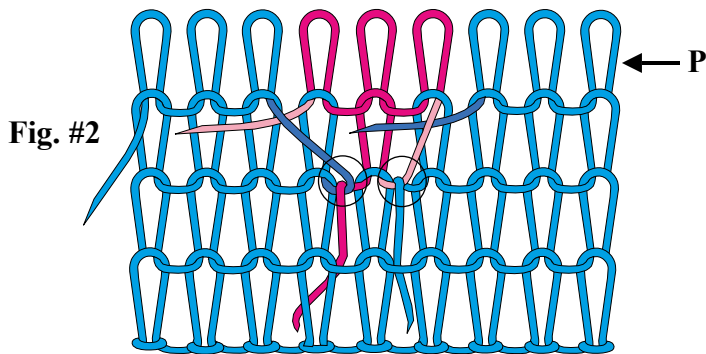


Fig. #2

In Fig. #2, I have circled the inter-locked yarns. The yarn tails you will be working with are shaded differently so as to stand out.

Row 4 - (purl side) With A knit E st, purl 3.

To **interlock** the yarns, insert needle into next stitch. Pass working tail of the A (dark) to the left (**Fig#2**) and anchor it with your left thumb.

Lift the working yarn tail (light) of your first B stitch, pull it up and to the right. Purl the first B stitch. Drop the tail of the A yarn in your left hand.

Purl the next two B stitches.

Next, insert needle into next stitch. Pass B to the left, anchor it with your left hand. Lift the working yarn tail of the A stitch (dark) from the row below, up and to the left. Purl the next A stitch. Drop the B tail. Purl the next 2, A stitches. Finish the row by knitting the last E stitch.

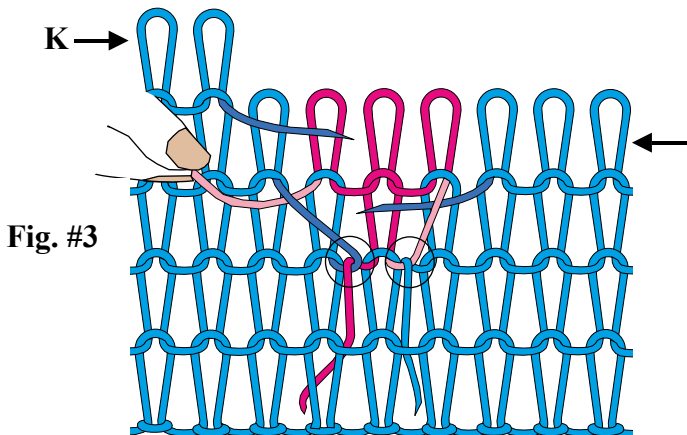


Fig. #3

Row 5 - (knit side) With A, knit two. Insert needle into next stitch. Pass the working tail of the A to the left (dark). Anchor A with the thumb and fingers of your left hand.

Fig. #3. Lift B from row below. Knit next 5 B stitches.

See back view, **Fig. #4.**

Insert needle into next stitch. Pass B to the left, as before. Anchor B in your left hand. Lift A from the row below as indicated in **Fig. #4.**

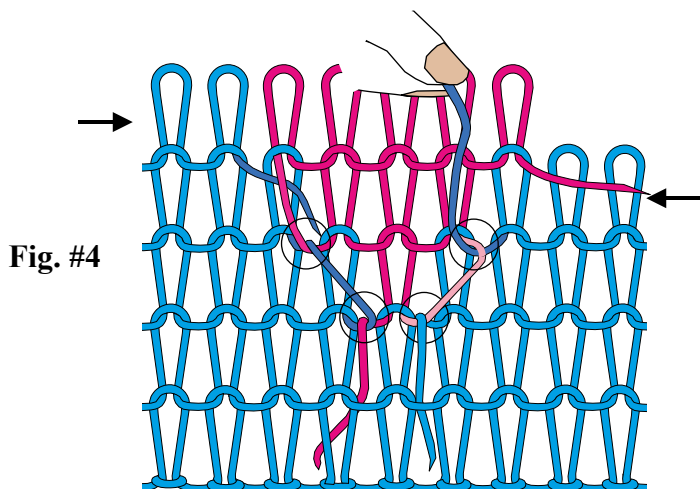
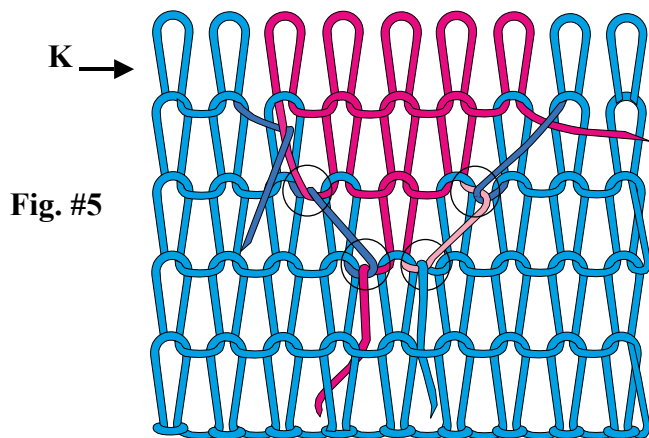
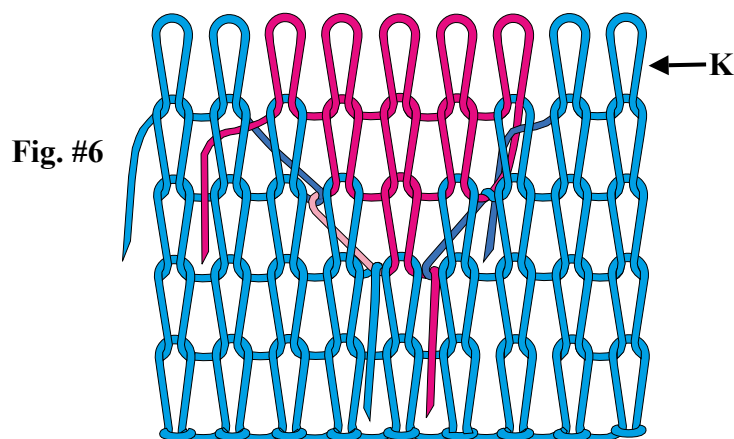


Fig. #4

** Here again I have circled the inter-locked stitches.*

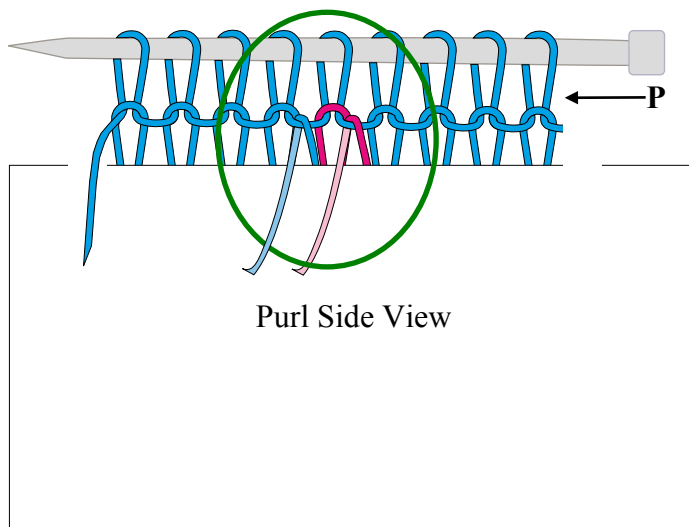


Purl Side View



Knit Side View

Fig. #7



Purl Side View

We will now finish the row by knitting the last two A stitches, plus the E st. See **Fig. #5**.

Fig. #6 shows the knit side of the row you just finished.

Continue following the chart as described below.

Row #6 - (Purl side)

With **A**, knit E st. Purl 1. Interlock yarns as before, purl 7 stitches with **B**. Interlock yarns. With **A**, purl 1. Knit E st. Turn.

Row #7 - (Knit side)

With **A**, Knit 3. Interlock yarns. With **B**, knit 5. Interlock yarns; with **A** knit 3. Turn

Row #8 - (purl side)

With **A**, knit 1, purl 3. Interlock yarns. With **B**, purl 3. Interlock yarns. With **A**, purl 3; Knit 1.

Row #9 - (knit side)

With **A**, knit 5. Interlock yarns. With **B**, knit 1. Interlock yarns. With **A**, Knit 5. Turn.

Row #10 - (purl side)

With **A**, knit 1, purl 4. Insert your needle into the last stitch of the diamond. Swing the working yarn over to the left. Pick up the tail of **B**, and bring it up and over the top of the working yarn to the left. Holding on to the **B** tail with your left hand, pick up the working yarn(**A**) and purl the stitch. This move secures the end of the last stitch of the **B** section, or diamond. **See pg 23 for more info.*

Repeat this procedure with the next stitch, by swinging the working yarn to the left. Pick up the second A tail, bringing it up and over the top of the working yarn to the left. Holding on to the **A** tail with your left hand, pick up the working yarn(**A**) and purl the stitch. This move lifts and secures the end of the last stitch of second strand of **A**. Continuing with your single strand of **A**, purl 3, knit 1. See **Fig. #7**.

Work rows 11 and 12 with a single strand of **A**.

Section 2 -Yarn Management

Am I going to tell you that I know everything there is to know about yarn management? **Absolutely NOT!!!** All I can say is that since I began my “painting with yarn, I suddenly became aware of how important it is to know how to move the yarns around to produce a even tensioned product. Therefore, this chapter is exclusively dedicated to those issues.

I have several books and DVD’s on color knitting, all excellent. However, most don’t deal with the yarn management issue except to reinforce the idea that you must lift the new yarn from underneath the old in order to continue across the row so as not to leave a hole between the two stitches at the color change. This concept is true whether or not your are doing Fair Isle or Intarsia. OK! I get that, but what about the other stuff?

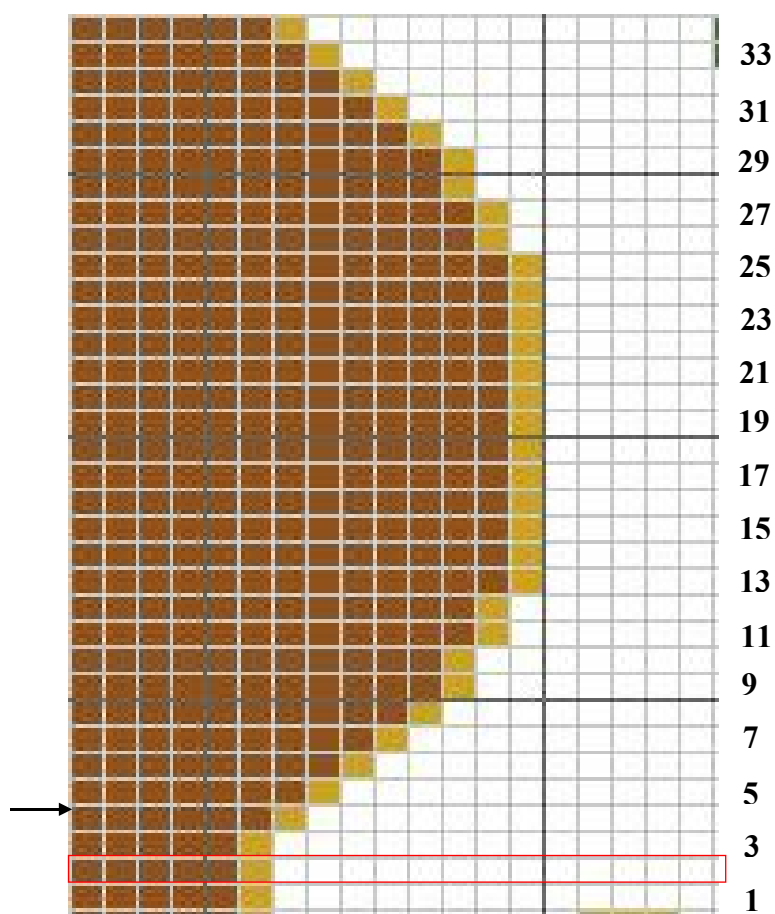
Having been confronted with all this questions at one time or another, I am going to try to share with you in word and illustration the answers that have worked for me.

Happy Knitting - KT

Yarn Management

Working Intarsia in a Line

This next swatch of Intarsia, gives you practice in working a single color as a line, like the Gold in the chart below that forms the edge one of my borders. The focus in this example is managing the tension of a single line of color, and handling the 3 consecutive yarn tails. You can substitute any three colors you have handy.



The Set-up

White - A

Gold - B

Brown - C

1. Prepare your yarn strands.

2. Cast on 19 sts using A.

3. Purl one row.

4. Begin chart

Row 1 - (Knit side)

With A, knit 13. Insert B strand. Knit 1. Insert C strand, Knit 5.

Row 2 - (purl side- in red box)

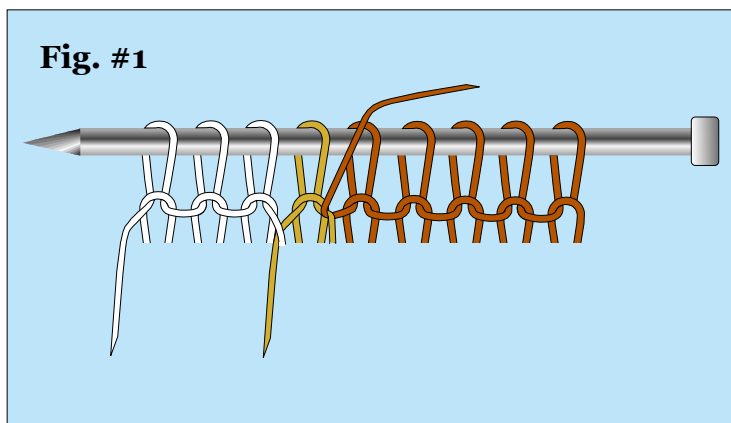
With C, purl 5. As before, swing working yarn to left, pick up tail of B (from previous row), swing it up and to the right. Purl 1. **Drop C.** Swing B to the left and secure it with your left hand as before.

Stop! Before you go to the next color, reach down and grab the tail of C and swing it up and to the right, dropping it over the right needle, out of your way. See **Fig. #1**.

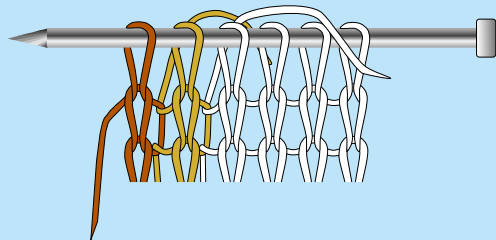
Now, pick up A (from the previous row), swing it to the right, and purl the 13 remaining stitches in the row. Turn.

** A note here - The practice of always securing the working yarn in the left hand before proceeding to the first stitch of a color change seems to help maintain a more even tension. It works for me.*

Fig. #1



**Fig.
#2**



Row 3 - (Fig. #2 - Knit side)

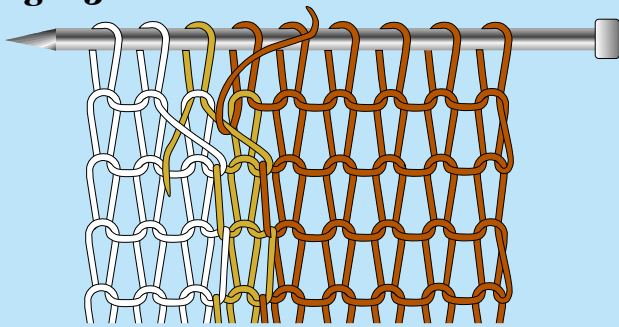
With **A** (white), knit across 13 stitches. Swing working tail of **A**, to the left, and lift **B** (gold) up and to the right. Now knit the next stitch with **B**..

*Stop! *Opt.-Lift the tail of **A** and flip it up and over the front of your needle to the right, as illustrated at left. This move gets the tail out of your way.*

Next, swing **B**(gold) to the left, lift **C**(brown) from previous row, up and to the right. Knit the remaining 5 stitches of the row with **C**. Turn.

** You can drop the tail of the **B** yarn after knitting the **C** stitch.*

Fig. #3



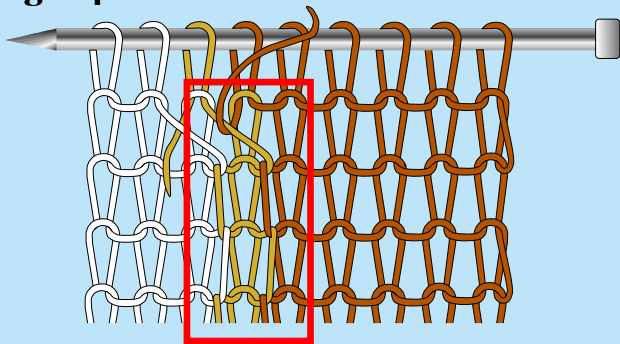
Row 4 - (Fig. #3 - Purl side)

Following the chart, purl the appropriate number of “C” stitches- in the example at left that number is 6. Swing the C working yarn over to the left, and place it in your left hand. Pick up **B** from below, and purl the next stitch. *You can now lift the **C** yarn tail up and swing it over to the right to get it out of your way.*

Next, swing the **B** yarn to the left, pick up the **A** yarn and purl the remainder of the A stitches across the row.

All the color changes in the border are handles in the same manner.

Fig. #4



****** It is very important that you take note of the tension of the individual line of stitches, as there is a tendency to pull them to tight. It is important that the inter-connecting yarns (**Fig. #4**, in the red box) lie smooth. When you turn your work, check the stitch tension. If you see it is a bit loose, work out the excess. If a bit tight, then pull a bit of excess out of the last stitch, working backwards to the stitch to relieve the stress.

Knitting in Color with Both Hands

When I began knitting with two colors, I was introduced to two methods of holding the yarn. The first, was to hold both yarns in one hand, the right hand to work “**English**” (throw your yarn), or the left hand to knit “**Continental**.” There are several “gadgets” out there that assist you in carrying both yarn on one finger, but I found them cumbersome. I also tried using a large ring to separate the yarns, but I was constantly having to stop and adjust it’s position. I suppose that if you had grown up using these items you would soon be proficient with them, but learning to use them at my age-forget it!

The second method uses both hands, the right hand is set up to knit or purl “**English**,” while the left hand is positioned to knit or purl “**Continental**.” After trying both methods, I decided this was the one for me. Another plus, was the fact that I could maintain a more even tension using this method.

Managing the Floats

Although this book is focused on Intarsia, you will occasionally opt to carry a yarn across to a new position, so just as in Fair Isle, and Armenian Knitting you will be working with two yarns, and you will need to learn to handle the yarn floats that ride on the backside of your knitting.

There are two basic ways to trap(weave/capture) alternate colors yarns. The first, is to simply drop the alternate color over your working yarn, whenever you need to weave it in, or stabilize a long float. This method however, requires you to stop your knitting or purling in order to accomplish this task.

However, if you want to move along at a steady smooth pace, with even tension, try the two moves described on the next couple of pages. I have mapped out the moves for trapping the alternative yarn using two-handed knitting. The first group of illustrations will guide you through the process of how to **trap**(or capture) the alternate color while working on the knit side. The second group will focus on the purl side.

To have a neat and smooth finished knitted fabric, you must learn to keep your floats of alternate color yarn loose enough that they can be stretched with the face of your work without causing a pucker. There are no “shortcuts” to learning this technique-it takes practice.

If your floats are too tight, and you don’t make the adjustments in the row immediately, you will have to undo your work and do it over. Checking this tension in every completed row is a great habit to get into.

If your floats are too loose, they can be adjusted in the completed row, or they can be “tacked down” when you finish up your work.

The bottom line is that practice makes perfect, so grab two colors of yarn. Cast on about 20 sts with color A. Loosely tie on color B. Now, follow along!!!

Tutorial Key

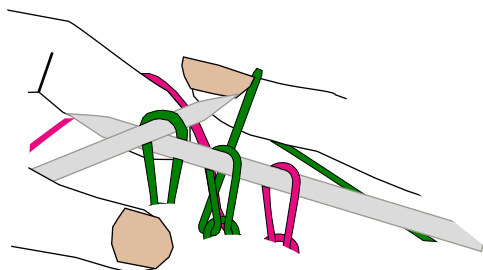
Working yarn = the current color you are knitting/purling with.

Yarn you are to carry = the alternate color you will need to change color with.

Carrying the Yarn floats While Working on the Knit Side

Working Yarn is in Right Hand

Fig. #1



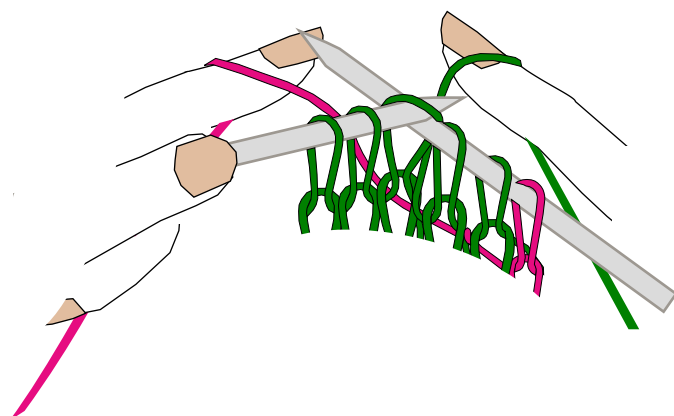
The Set-up - Your **working yarn**, or color **A**, is in your right hand. The color you wish to **carry** across "**B**," is in your left hand. See **Fig#1**.

Fig. #2



2. Fig. #2 -Insert the tip of the right needle into the next knit, making sure it goes underneath the **alternate color** "**B**" on the left hand. With your right hand, wrap "**A**" as to knit (**English**), counterclockwise, around the tip of the right needle. Knit the stitch. Make sure you only pull through the "**A**" yarn.

Fig. #3



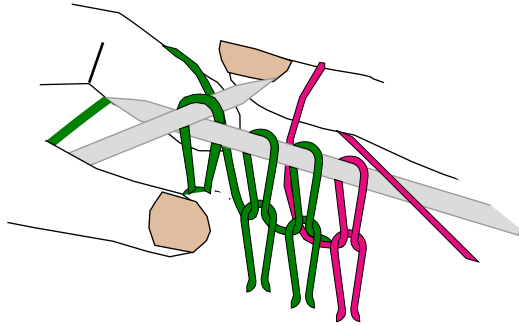
3. Leaving "**B**" in your left hand, knit the next stitch with "**A**" normally.

This "capture" process can be repeated as often as needed

*** Repeat this move across the entire row.**

With Working Yarn is in Left Hand

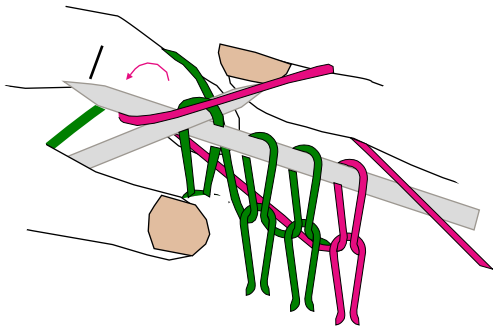
Fig. #4



Set-up - Working yarn “A” is in left hand. You are in a position to “Continental Knit.”

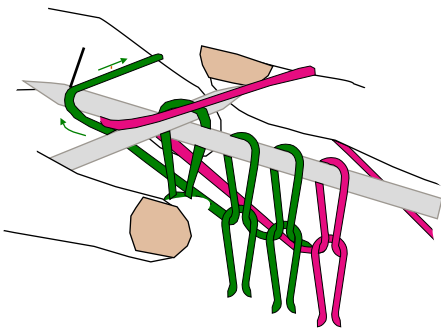
Alternate yarn “B” (the yarn you want to carry) is in right hand. Right needle has been inserted into the next knit stitch. **Fig. #4**

Fig. #5



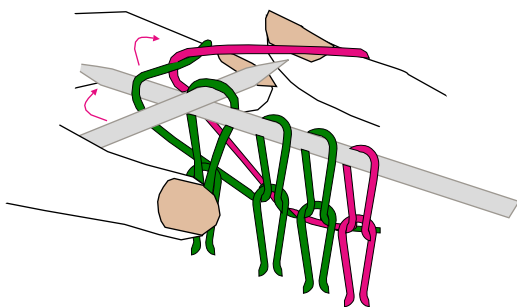
1. Wrap “B” counter clockwise around the tip of the right needle. **Fig. #5**

Fig. #6



2. Wrap “A” counterclockwise around tip of right needle, bringing it under the needle and over the top as shown in (front to back) **Fig. #6**.

Fig. #7



3. Unwrap yarn “B” clockwise (**Fig. #7**).

Now finish knitting the stitch with “A”, making sure that you only bring “A” through the loop.

You have now captured yarn “B,” and have a new (green) stitch on your right needle.

Combining these two techniques takes a bit of practice, but you will soon find it a **smooth move**.

* **If you are uncomfortable knitting “Continental”, you can switch hands at the color change and repeat the move described for the working yarn in the right hand(English).**

* **Repeat this move across the entire row.**

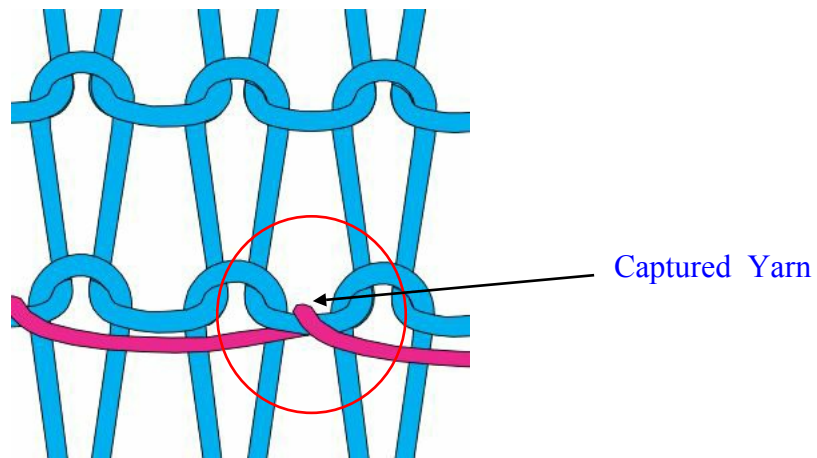
Two Handed Knitting on the Purl Side

There are lots of instructions on [two handed color knitting on the knit side](#), but very few, if any, for how to handle the yarns when working with two hands on the **purl side**. This issue came to light for me when I was knitting my first Ski Sweater, and the instructions from the neckline up suddenly said, “Work the next rows back and forth.” Now what, the “forth” I can do, but how do I do the “back,” or the purl side? Of course, I finally worked it out on my own, but it would have been a great help if the following instructions had been available for me when I started.

How to Handle the Yarn Floats on the Purl Side

Again, as on the knit side, there are two basic ways to capture (*trap* or *weave in*) your alternate colors yarns on the purl side of your work. The first, is to simply drop the alternate color over your working yarn, whenever you need to weave it in, or stabilize a long float. The second is to use the two handed method described on the following pages.

Regardless of the method you choose, the goal is always to have the alternate yarn riding smoothly along the back side of your work so that it is available when you want to use it with the least amount of worry about tension.



A Quick Overview

The first method of “capturing” or “trapping” the yarn begins with the [working yarn](#), in the **right hand** ready to purl in what is known as “English” style, or throwing the yarn. The second, focuses on purling with the **left hand**, or “Continental” style. Both of these moves are designed to have you purling smoothly across your work, carrying the needed colors to where they belong. When you get proficient at this, you will notice that you will have less tension problems., and your color knitting will be much more relaxing and fun.

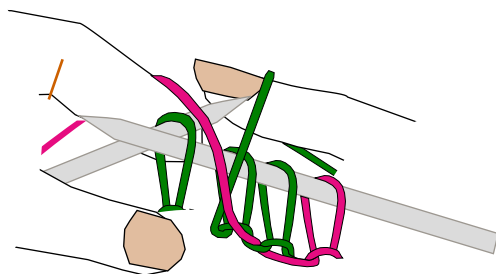
These two moves are especially helpful when knitting Fair Isle, or Armenian Knitting.

Now, still using the practice swatch of 20 sts, try the moves on the following pages.

Carrying the Yarn Floats While Working On Purl Side

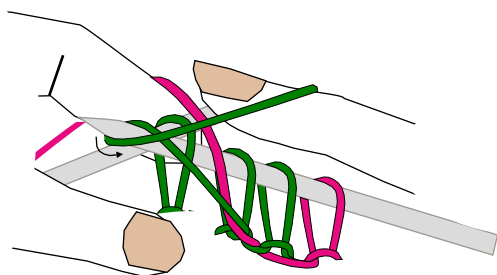
Working Yarn is in Right Hand

Fig. #1



The Set-up - Your **working yarn**, or color **A**, is in your right hand. The color you wish to **carry** across "**B**," is in your left hand. See **Fig#1**.

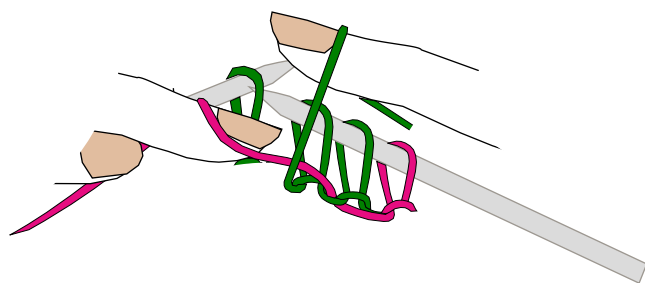
Fig. #2



1. With the **alternate color** "**B**" in your left hand, lift the yarn over the left needle, just in front of the stitch you are going to purl.

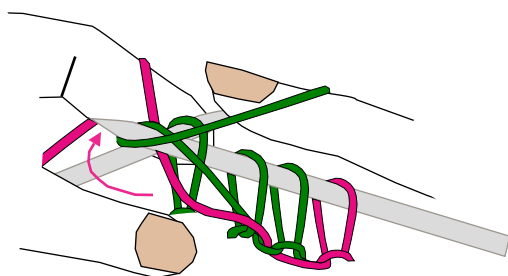
2. Fig. #2 -With your right hand, move the yarn to the left over the top of "**B**," then wrap the stitch as to purl (**English**), counterclockwise, around the tip of the right needle. Purl the stitch. This move captures yarn **B**.

Fig. #3



3. Before proceeding to the next purl, drop your "**B**" yarn forward. See **Fig. 3**

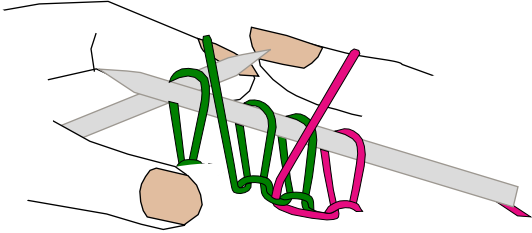
Fig. #4



4. Stick the right needle into the next purl stitch. Bring yarn "**B**" up and around to the left of the stitch you are going to purl (**Fig. 4**). Follow the pink arrow. This puts "**B**"out of the way so you can purl the stitch normally, yet controls the tension nicely . Purl the stitch.

Working Yarn is in Left Hand

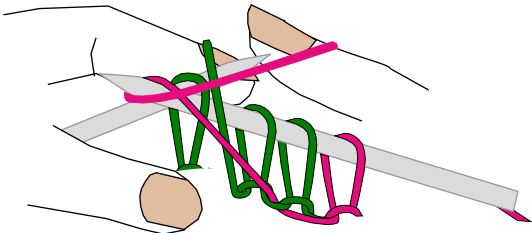
Fig. #5



Set-up - Working yarn “A” is in left hand. You are in a position to “Continental purl.”

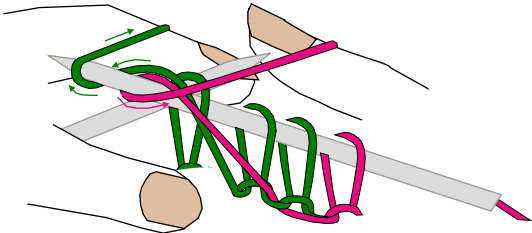
Alternate yarn “B” (the yarn you want to carry) is in right hand. Right needle has been inserted into the next purl stitch. **Fig. #5**

Fig. #6



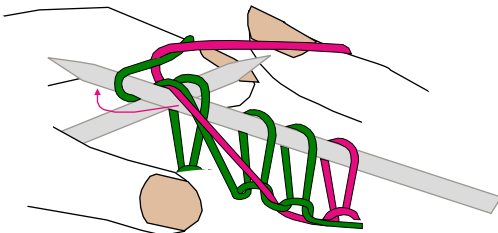
1. Wrap “B” counter clockwise around the tip of the right needle. **Fig. #6**

Fig. #7



2. Wrap “A” counterclockwise around tip of right needle, bringing it under the needle and over the top as shown in **Fig. #7**.

Fig. #8



3. Unwrap yarn “B” clockwise (**Fig. #8**).

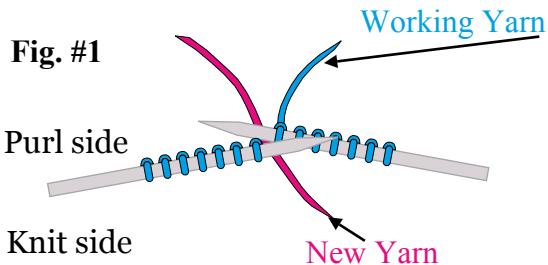
Now finish purling the stitch with “A”, pushing the right needle down and out the back of stitch with the loop that is already established on the needle.. You have now captured yarn “B,” and have a new (green) stitch on your right needle.

Combining these two techniques takes a bit of practice, but you will soon find it a **smooth move**.

* If you are uncomfortable purling “Continental”, you can switch hands at the color change and repeat the move described for the working yarn in the right hand(English).

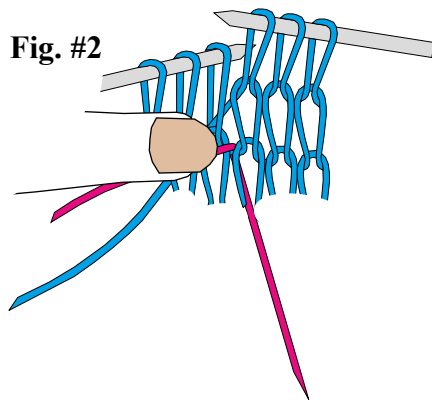
How to Insert a New Yarn

Single Strand on the Knit-side



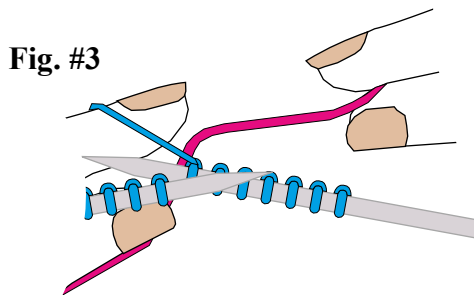
1. Fig. #1 -Leaving about 6 inches for a tail on the knit side of your work, lay the new strand over the bar between the last stitch of the working yarn, and stitch in which you are going to begin your new color.

2. Place your thumb on the short tail that is lying on the front of your work, (the knit side). **Fig. #2**



3. Swing the working yarn on the back of your work to the left over the new yarn. Hold it in place with the index finger of your left hand.

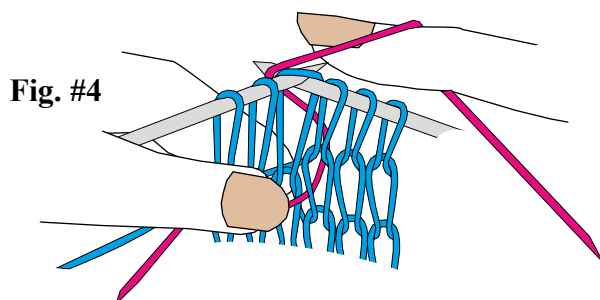
4. Grab hold of the long tail of the new color on the back side of your work , and lift it up, making sure to bring it under the working yarn, and to the right. See **Fig.#3**.



5. With your thumb on the tail of the new strand, and you index finger holding down on the tail of the working yarn, knit the next stitch with the new color. **Fig. #4.** Once the new stitch is complete, release the pressure on the previous color yarn.

7. The same procedure works for the purl row.

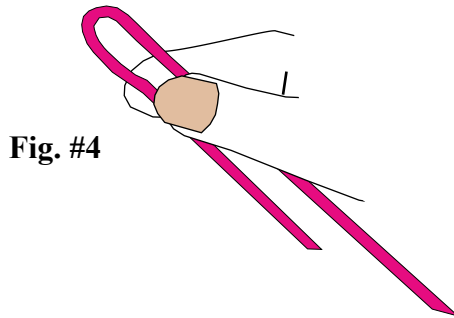
Drape the 6 inch tail over knit side of your work bring it between the stitches(Fig. #1), with the long tail laying on the purl side.(the side facing you. Pass the working yarn to the left, over the new tail and hold it down with your thumb. With the index finger of the left hand securing the short tail on the front of your work, and the thumb holding pressure on the working yarn, purl the next stitch with the new color.



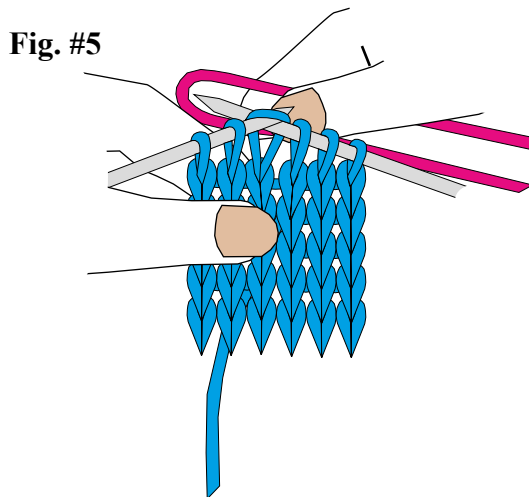
** In both cases I leave the working yarn in my left hand for a couple of stitches before I drop it. This seems to help me maintain a better tension on the first few stitches of the new color.*

How to Insert a New Yarn-Cont.

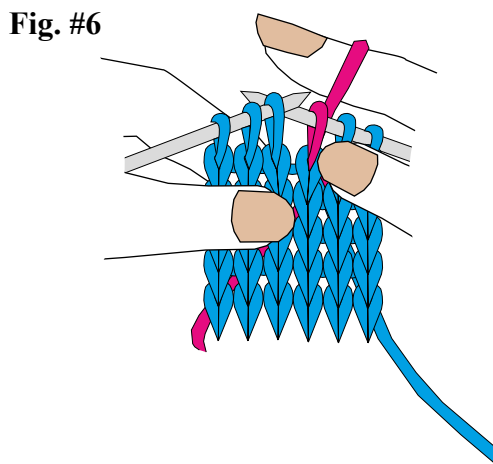
Inserting Single Strand with the “Loop” Method



1. Make a loop in your new strand, leaving about a 6 inch tail on one side. **Fig. #4**



2. Stick your right needle into the next stitch, put the loop over the needle. **Fig. #5**



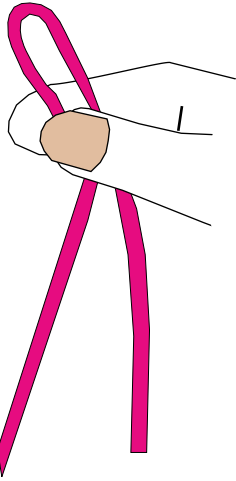
3. Bring the loop through to form a knit stitch. **Fig.#6**

**Before you proceed to the next stitch, it is a good idea to secure the end of the new yarn in your left hand for a few stitches. Also, be sure to check that you have picked up the long end of the new strand to continue with your work. If not, you will run out of yarn shortly.*

How do I know- guess!

How to Insert a double-tailed Strand of Yarn

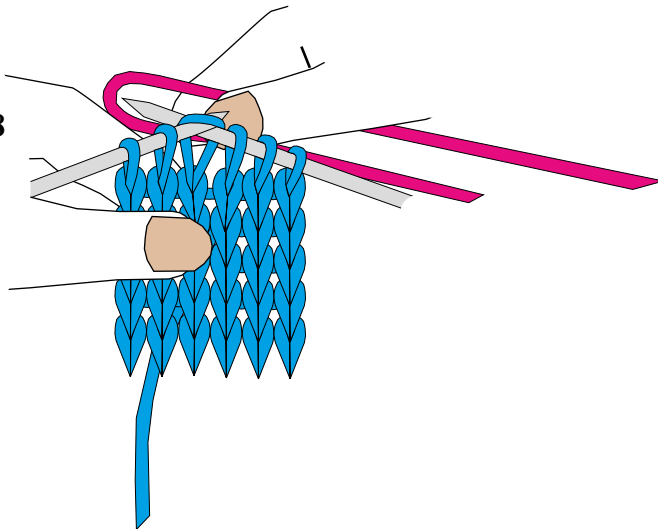
Fig. #7



1. Divide a long strand of yarn in the middle (**Fig. #7**).

2. Using the loop that is created at the fold, loop it over the needle as you did in the original “Loop method” instructions on the previous page. **See Fig. #8**

Fig. #8



2. Bring the loop through forming the “knt” stitch. As before. **See Fig. #9**

3. Using the left tail only proceed with your row, following your chart.

This technique is especially helpful if you have a single row of stitches going in opposite directions, as in the example below in **Fig. # 10**.

Fig. #9

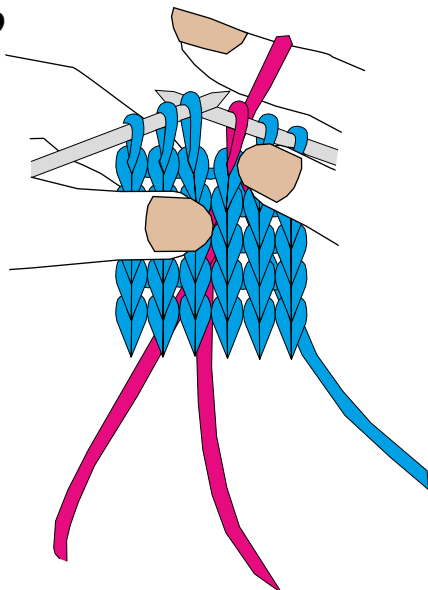
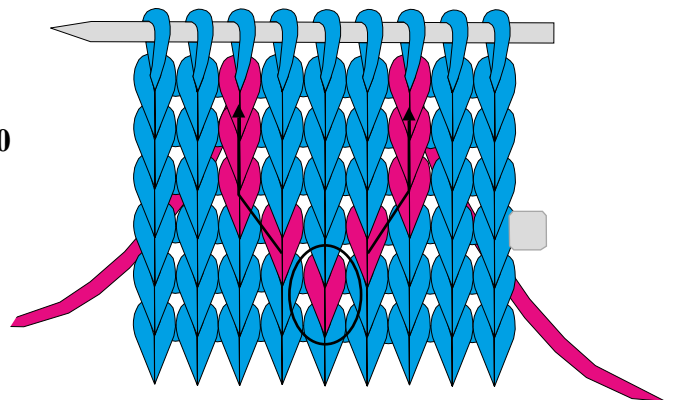


Fig. #10



Check out the next two pages for more details on this technique and it's applications.

When can I use a DTS (double tail strand)?

Below is an example of how you can apply the “Double-tailed” strand technique to your designs .

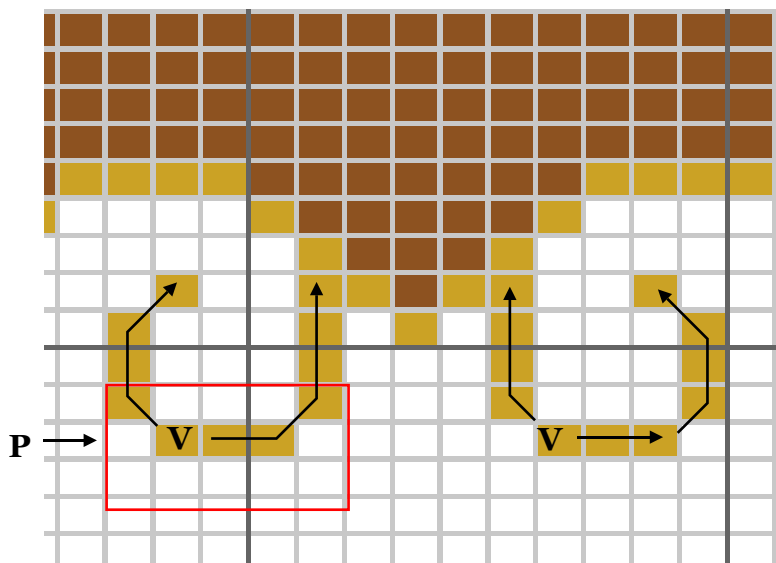


Chart Key

V = double tailed strand (DTS)

= end yarn strand

= begin yarn strand

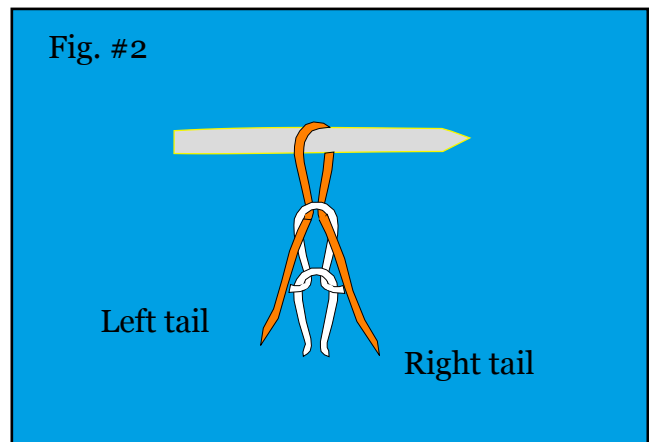
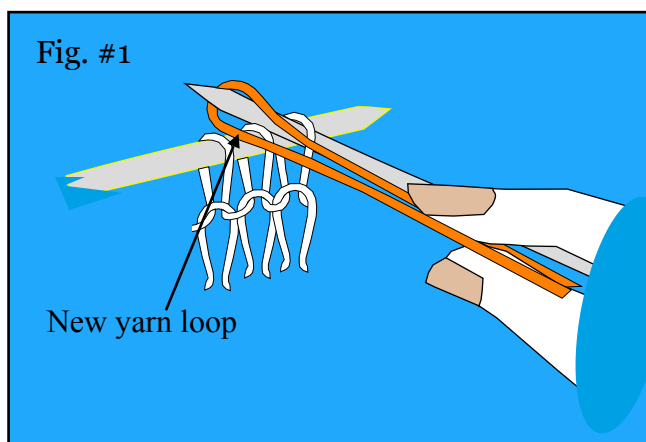
The arrows are simply to show you the direction to work the yarn tails.

The brown yarn with the green circle is added as a single strand.

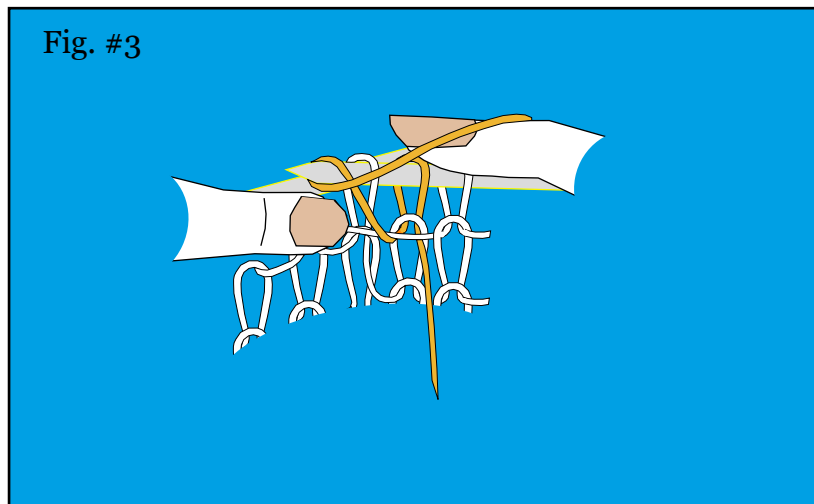
In the chart above, the **DTS** is inserted on the **purl row** , where I have marked a “V.” The illustrations on the next couple of pages will walk you through the process.

Beginning on Purl side!

1. Grab your yarn strand in the middle and form a loop. Use this loop to make your first stitch with the new yarn as is **Fig. #1**. The result should give you a stitch with 2 long tails. See **Fig. #2**.

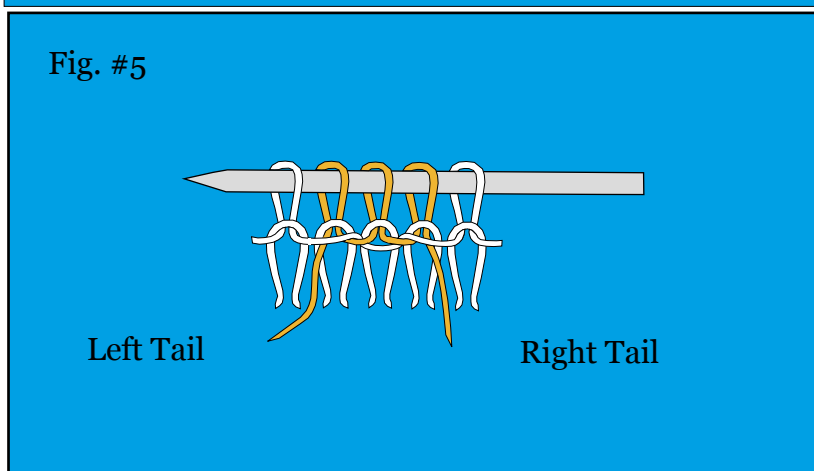
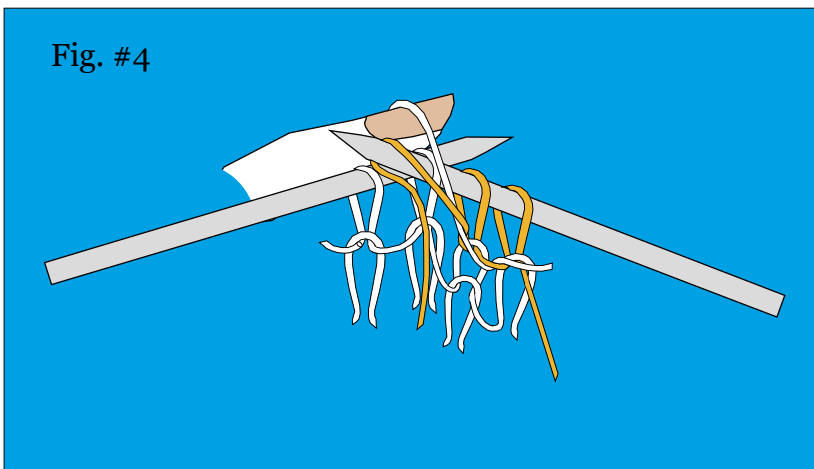


2. (*Second stitch of the trio*) Using the left tail ONLY, bring the working yarn (in this case, the white) on your right over the left tail. Holding the working yarn firmly beneath the thumb of your left hand, lift the gold strand and purl the 2nd stitch. See **Fig. #3**.



3. The last stitch of the trio, again **captures**(traps) the “white” yarn, preparing it to be used for the remainder of the row.

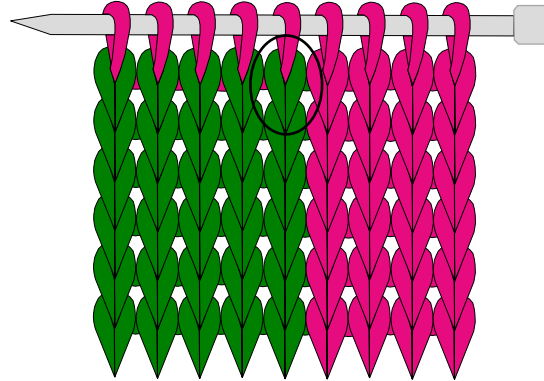
To do this, insert your needle into the next stitch. Bring the working yarn(white) up from under the gold, then over the right needle to the right of the stitch you are going to knit (see **Fig. #4**). Next, wrap the gold as to purl. Purl the stitch. Drop the left tail of your DTS (double tail strand) and continue with the white. See **Fig#5** for results. *Repeat this process at the “V” indicated on the chart.*



How to End a Yarn Strand

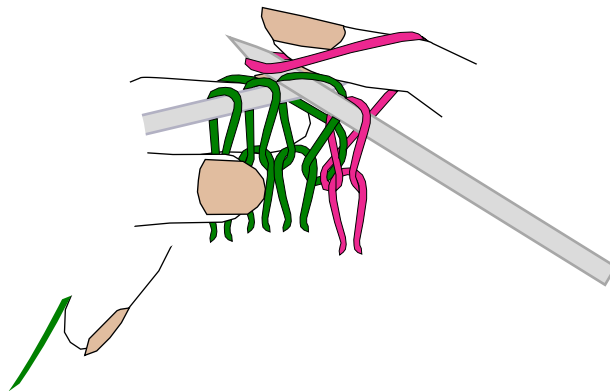
When you are ready to END a color (like the **green** yarn in the illustration “A “below), don’t just drop it. If you do, the stitch will get loose, and you will have to be very careful to anchor it in the right position and adjust the tension before you weave in the ends when you finish your project . Instead, follow the steps below.

Fig A



- 1.** Bring the yarn you are discarding up and over the new color yarn (Fig B), placing it firmly in your left hand. Knit the first stitch of the **new color**.

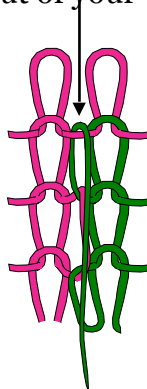
Fig B



This procedure lifts the last stitch of the yarn you are ending, and helps it stay in line (vertically) with the row below. It also helps you to maintain the correct tension when you begin to weave in your ends later.

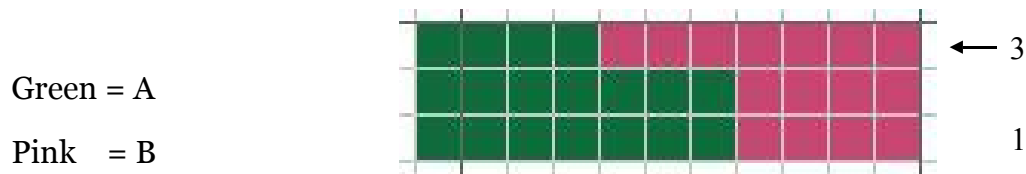
- 2.** Still holding the green (or yarn you’re going to end) in your left hand to maintain even tension, knit the next stitch to your left. Now, drop the yarn. Knit a couple more stitches of the new color. Break off yarn strand of the yarn you are ending, leaving a 6 inch tail (back view , Fig. C). Remove the remainder of the strand and get it out of your way.

Fig C



How to Carry Working Yarn to a New Position in the Same Row

In the chart below, you will notice that green stitches in row #3 begin 3 stitches to the left of where they started in the previous row. If I just pick up the green yarn where I left it in row #2, and drag it across to begin knitting those 3 stitches, it might distort the last stitch of green in the previous row. What to do? Follow the steps below, for a smooth transition. You can use this procedure for Fair Isle or Intarsia.



1. When you get to the first green stitch (boxed in red in Fig. A) of the knit row, **LIFT** the tail of **A** from underneath **B**, pull it to the right and drop it over the top of **B** (working yarn). Place **A** in your left hand as shown in Fig. B.

Fig A

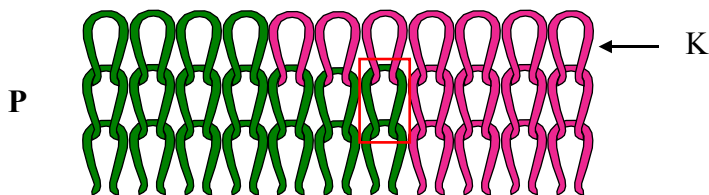
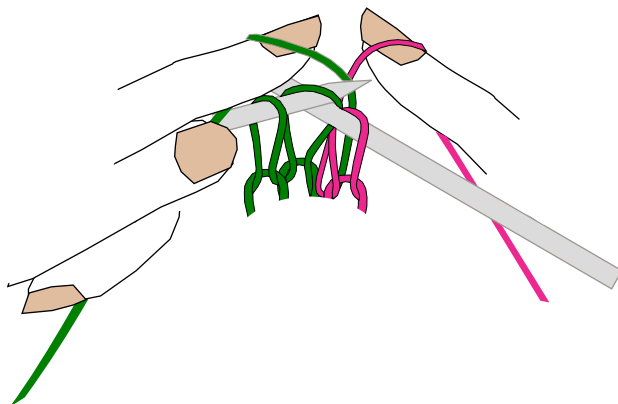


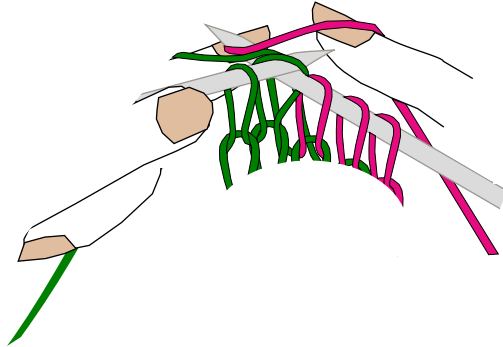
Fig. B



2. Knit two stitches with **B**.

3. With green remaining in your left hand, knit the next stitch to your left by putting the tip of your needle under the yarn you are going to carry.(Fig C).

Fig C

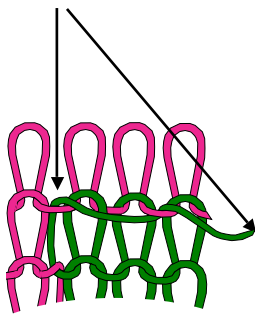


Wrap the new color yarn around the tip of the right needle as to knit. Bring B (new) yarn through only, knitting the stitch.

Your green yarn(A) has now been lifted and carried across to where you need it. See back side view(Fig. D).

** The goal here is to keep the yarns as level with the row you are working on as possible. This also helps to maintain correct tension and minimize loose stitches.*

Fig D



How do I Preset Yarn Position for Use in Next Row

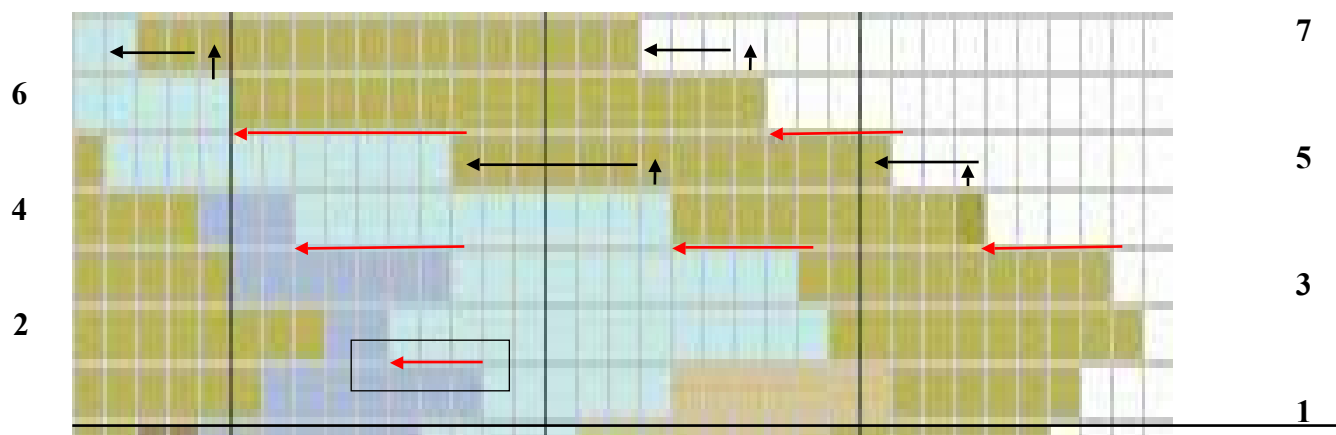


Chart Key
 = pick up and carry to knit in same row. = pick up and carry to use in next row.

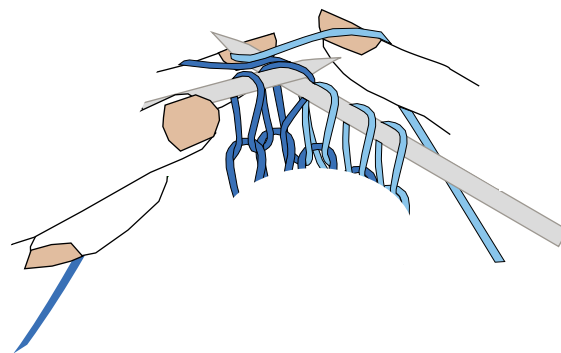
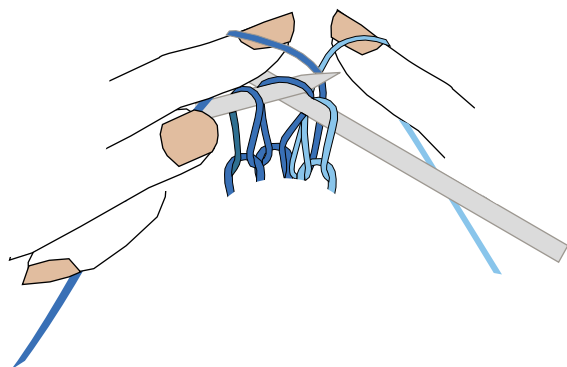
In the sample chart above the **KNIT** rows are odd numbers and the **PURL** rows are even.

LB = light blue

DB = dark blue

In row #2 of the chart (reading left to right) you will notice that the light blue yarn starts 3 stitches sooner than the previous row. To prepare for this we are going to use the same procedure as described on [page 38](#).

row #1. Lift LB and drop it over DB (**Fig.#1**). Holding LB in your left hand, knit two DB stitches. To make the last stitch of the trio, hold LB in your left hand, slip the tip of the needle under DB, **Fig.# B.** Knit the stitch bringing LB only through the loop. This last move traps or captures the yarn you need holding it in position for the next purl row.

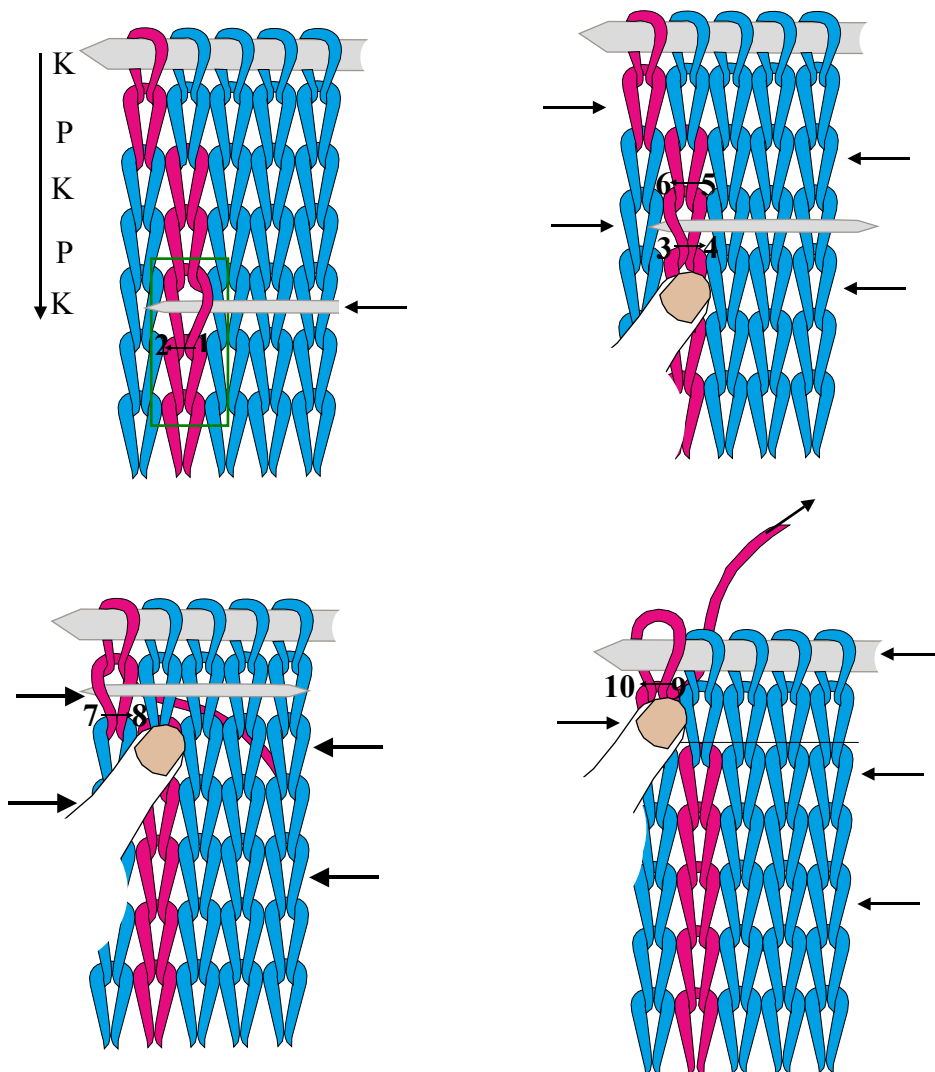


Drop LB (the yarn you carried across).

The same issue is apparent in rows 3 and 4. Carry the necessary color across in row 3, so it is ready to purl in row 4. Once the original stitch is lifted, you can simply drop it over the working yarn on the last stitch before the color change. This works just fine, provided you don't have a really long span to cover. If you do, then I would suggest adding another strand of the same color, so as to avoid the bulk of the float behind your work, or in the case of a dark color behind a light color that might show through.

How can I fix a loose Stitch without Taking Out All My Knitting?

Just follow the numbers in the diagrams below. First determine whether the loose stitch is in a knit or purl row. The example below shows you a loose stitch in a knit row, several rows below there I stopped my knitting. I inserted my needle into the right leg of this knit stitch., Then pulled out the slack. I then moved to the left leg (2) of the same stitch and took the slack out of it. Next, mover to #3 leg, the one directly above #2. Pull out the slack, then move on to #4. Follow the numbers, moving the slack toward the top of your work. It is a good idea to place you thumb just below where you have tightened the stitch as it can slip back if you are not careful.



How Do I Join a New piece of Yarn?

There are many methods for joining new yarns, but for the purposes of this tutorial, I will only describe the one I use .

First, always allow yourself plenty of room to work. What does that mean? It means add your new strand when you have about 12 inches left on the one you are working with.

For a smooth transition from one strand to another, divide the plies of yarn. Break off about 2 inches of one ply. Repeat the process for the new strand you are going to join. Next, overlap the ends, making sure that you have at least ½ inch extended into the main part of the strand.

Lay the yarn in your left hand. Lay your thumb over the let end securing the two pieces. Wetting your palm with your spit(I lick my right palm with my tongue). Pressing my right palm on my left palm, I rub the two palms together to felt the fibers. I always work from the left to right, so as to feather out the join. When I see that the right portion of the join is the same fullness as the main strand, I turn the join around and work the opposite end the same.

When you are satisfied that the strand looks even, you are ready to continue knitting your project.

* If you need to see an illustration, use go to my website at www.idahosstixandstrings.com, and type “ yarn join” in the search box.