

SLIP STITCH EDGING FOR STOCKING STITCH

If you attended July's Heart of England meeting, you will have seen Jill Brownjohn demonstrated this simple edging. It is good for strips, or any knitting where a seam is involved. It can be joined easily by putting needle, either knitting needle or sewing needle, or crochet hook, through both loops of the slipped stitch and then joining as desired by 3-needle bind off or any other method.

MACHINE INSTRUCTIONS.

Cast on required number of stitches. RC 000. Knit one row (CL) Put machine to HOLD position

Pull end needle opposite carriage to HOLD and k1 row.

* Pull end needle opposite carriage to HOLD. Push needle nearest carriage to KNIT position. K1 row*

Repeat from * to * for required number of rows.

NB. When joining seams by any method pick up both loops of slipped stitch for a firm edge.

(Hand knit version is Sl 1, knit to end, Sl 1 purl to end)

3-NEEDLE BIND-OFF

3-needle bind off is worked two ways according to whether it is joining knitting without a cast off edge, such as the stitches still on needles for the front and back shoulder of a sweater, or whether it is joining already cast off edges or side seams.

First envisage the shoulder join where you have not cast off the stitches. If you want a sturdy but hidden seam, then place your knitting right side to right side with both needle points to the right (you may have to knit one more row to make this possible). For a feature ridged seam then place wrong side to wrong side. Ensure you have exactly the same number of stitches on both needles. Place the needles one behind the other.

With a third needle put the needle in the front stitch of the front needle as if to knit, and then into the back stitch as if to knit. Now knit those two stitches together and carefully drop them off the two needles (one stitch on your spare needle). Again, needle into the stitch on the front needle, then into the back needle, knit and drop off the two needles (two stitches on your spare needle). Now pull the first stitch on your spare needle over the second stitch and you have cast off one. Continue to end and you have completed your seam. A refinement of this, if you can manage it, shown by Bob Morley, is to knit into the front of the stitch on the front needle, and into the back of the stitch on the back needle - this makes the ridge exactly in the middle of the seam. Thanks Bob.

To join two side seams, or two strips of knitting where you have slipped the edge stitches, you will need one or even two circular needles and one straight needle. Align your strips, wrong side showing if you want the ridge on the inside, or right sides showing for a feature seam. Using the same colour, or a contrast to emphasise the join, and a circular needle, pick up and knit every slipped stitch from the top of the strip to the bottom on the left-hand side of strip one. Here it can be useful to safety pin the two strips together at the bottom edges. If you are using one circular needle, then pull the cord out so you can use the point to work up the right-hand side of the adjacent strip bottom to top, making sure you pick up exactly the same number of stitches. (I often use a second circular needle for the second strip). Once you have picked up all your stitches, align the points one behind the other and proceed with your 3-needle bind off.