Learn Knit and Purl on a Two-Texture Swatch

Twelve stitches, four garter rows and four stockinette rows

One swatch, two visible textures

This small original knitting exercise compares garter texture and stockinette on the same twelve-stitch rectangle. Cast on twelve loops using the knitted cast-on in F077 or another suitable method. Work four rows of knit stitches, then four rows that alternate knit on the designated right side and purl on the reverse. The different bumps and V shapes teach stitch recognition; no fixed garment dimension is intended.

Eight rows and no accidental increases

The row plan is R1–R4: knit all twelve stitches each row; R5: knit all twelve; R6: purl all twelve; R7: knit all twelve; R8: purl all twelve. Each row finishes with twelve completed stitches, and the working yarn moves to the next row after turning. Four garter rows form the first section; the final four form a stockinette panel. Keep a row counter so the texture transition can be identified.

Knit versus purl is a yarn-location change

For a knit stitch, hold the working yarn behind the needle tips, insert the right needle knitwise into the front of the next left-needle loop, wrap the yarn, pull a new loop through and let the old loop slip off. For purl, move the yarn to the FRONT *between* the needles, enter the stitch purlwise, wrap the yarn, pull a new loop back through and release the old stitch. One old stitch becomes one new stitch either way.

Materials and hands

Use a smooth light-coloured medium yarn and two knitting needles matching its label; a 4–5 mm pair may suit some medium yarns but is not mandatory. Have a blunt yarn needle, row counter or paper checklist, removable marker and closed scissors. Knitting needle tips can be sharp, loose yarn can entangle, and prolonged gripping can hurt. Keep the tools and yarn away from young children and pets.

Do not confuse diagrams with physical evidence

PATTERN 1 is an original side-by-side knit and purl needle/yarn placement key. PATTERN 2 shows a twelve-column, eight-row chart split between garter rows R1–R4 and stockinette rows R5–R8. The squares are symbolic stitch identities, not exact gauge or actual-sized fabric. The publisher has not knitted a physical swatch, tested curling, washing, durability, gauge or printer output, or certified the result for any other use.

Plan the practice

Read these dimensions and conventions before touching yarn.

Decide which face is the right side

After casting on twelve, designate the face toward you during Row 1 as the right side, RS. You will turn at each row end and work the opposite face, WS, for even rows. With garter fabric, both faces show ridges; on stockinette, the designated RS shows knit V columns while the WS shows purl bumps. Label your record before starting.

Knit anatomy: back yarn, knitwise entry

Place working yarn behind the two needles. Insert the right needle into the front of the next stitch on the left needle from the knitwise direction, wrap the yarn as instructed, draw the new loop through, and release only the old stitch. Repeat across twelve. Keep the working yarn from passing accidentally over the needle, which can create an unintended yarn-over increase.

Purl anatomy: front yarn, purlwise entry

Bring the working yarn to the front by passing BETWEEN the needle tips, not over the right needle. Insert the right needle into the stitch from the purlwise direction (opposite to knitwise), wrap the working yarn, pull a new loop through toward the back and slide the old stitch off the left needle. Return yarn between the tips when changing stitch type.

Keep every row at twelve stitches

At each end, count twelve individual live loops on the receiving needle. The new working loop formed while knitting or purling replaces, rather than adds to, the old loop. A yarn accidentally passed over a needle can make a thirteenth loop; examine the previous row before knitting into it. Do not disguise errors by pulling fabric wider or deliberately dropping an unknown loop.

Read the two original schematic pages

PATTERN 1 marks knit yarn behind and purl yarn in front using two labelled needle-stage diagrams and arrows. PATTERN 2 has eight rows of twelve cells labelled K or P, and a strong line between Rows 4 and 5. Two original 50 mm reference bars appear on each page. Print at 100% and measure with a real ruler if you use the printouts; the knit loops are visual teaching symbols, not a measured knit gauge.

Keep a measured observation, not a test claim

RECORD 1 is an eight-row count card, each row target twelve. RECORD 2 records side, yarn position, observed ridges versus Vs, any curl and any corrections. Count rows from the first worked knit row after cast-on, not from the slip-knot or cast-on loops. This is an introductory flat sample and offers no universal block/finish or curling-prevention guarantee.

Practice - steps 1 to 8

Fourteen original steps / count only actual completed crochet stitches.

1. Gather yarn and mark the sides Choose smooth yarn, safe needles and a visible row-count sheet. Cast on twelve loops following F077 or a method you already understand. Place a small note marking the face toward you as RS for Row 1; opposite rows after turning are WS. Keep loose yarn away from children and pets.

2. Prepare Row 1 as knit stitches With twelve live stitches on the left needle and the empty right needle ready, place working yarn BEHIND the needles. Check the first stitch has not slipped off and the yarn tail is not accidentally being used instead of working yarn. Count twelve before starting.

3. Knit twelve stitches in Row 1 Insert right needle knitwise into each left stitch, wrap working yarn, pull a fresh loop through and slide the old stitch off only when the new one is held securely. Repeat for all twelve. Count twelve completed live loops on the right needle and write R1=12 on RECORD 1.

4. Turn and knit Row 2 Turn the needles so the full needle becomes the left working needle again. Keep yarn behind for another knit row; do not move it over the needle as a separate yarn-over. Knit all twelve actual stitches, count and write R2=12.

5. Work garter Rows 3 and 4 Turn at each end and knit all twelve stitches in R3 and R4. Count twelve at each edge, noting any yarn-over loop or dropped stitch immediately. The garter section has four completed knit rows, not five including cast-on. Mark the transition after recording R4.

6. Inspect the garter texture Gently lay the swatch flat and look for the horizontal ridges on both faces. These ridges reflect knitting every row while alternating faces. The print chart marks R1–R4 with K cells; these are stitch instructions, not a promise of a certain physical width.

7. Work Row 5 as knit on RS After Row 4, turn so the designated right side is facing you for R5. Keep working yarn behind and knit twelve real stitches. Count R5=12. This is the first row of the alternating stockinette section, even though it uses the same knit action as the garter section.

8. Bring yarn to the front for Row 6 Turn the work so the wrong side faces you. Move the working yarn from back to front BETWEEN needle tips, never over a needle. Prepare to purl. The thread tail from cast-on is not the active strand; the working yarn must pass freely.

Practice - steps 9 to 14

Finish the original project and record the measured result.

9. Purl twelve stitches across Row 6 For each stitch insert the right needle purlwise, wrap the yarn with yarn in front, bring the new loop through and let the old loop slip from the left needle after the new one is secure. Work exactly twelve and count R6=12. Do not knit with the yarn left at the front by accident.

10. Turn and knit Row 7 on RS Turn so RS faces you. Move yarn to back BETWEEN the needles, then knit twelve stitches. Look for vertical V shapes beginning on the designated right side of this stockinette section. Record R7=12, remembering that the chart is schematic and cannot prove physical stockinette gauge.

11. Turn and purl Row 8 on WS Turn to wrong side, move yarn to front between the needles and purl all twelve. If a yarn-over or accidental extra stitch appears, stop and identify it rather than working a thirteenth stitch. Record R8=12 to complete the eight-row sample.

12. Compare knit Vs and purl bumps Place the work gently on the table and compare the garter section with the newer stockinette section. On RS the stockinette tends to show knit Vs; on WS the corresponding purl bumps are visible. A small fabric may curl naturally; it is not proof you knitted the wrong stitch.

13. Secure the last loop without claiming durability If you plan to keep a sample, use a suitable knit bind-off method you know or leave the stitches safely held for a later bind-off lesson; do not simply pull the needle out of live stitches. A temporary life line can protect practice stitches. This guide does not claim to teach a finished bind-off edge or tested washing.

14. Fill out both records and store tools Write R1 through R8 counts and K/P commands on RECORD 1, then note the RS/WS textures and any correction on RECORD 2. Review the original schematic before trying a longer project. Keep needles, yarn tails and scissors stored out of reach of children and pets.

Fix, care and preserve

Thirteen stitches appear after a row. Check for yarn brought over a needle rather than moved between the tips, especially when switching between knit and purl. Count old stitch tops before the suspected change; do not work an accidental yarn-over into a new stitch simply to preserve the error.

The purl stitch creates an unusually tight loop. Keep the working yarn in front during the purl operation, pull a new loop through without forcing the needle and then release the old left stitch. If yarn twists or the loop is too tight, undo that stitch and remake it; change tension only gradually.

The stockinette area curls more than garter. A tendency to curl is common in stockinette because the two faces have different structures. This small lesson does not teach a stabilising border or assert that blocking will prevent curling. Record the observation, and follow a later project pattern if a flat finished edge is required.

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ORIGINAL VECTOR TEACHING SCHEMATIC / NOT A PHYSICAL GAUGE

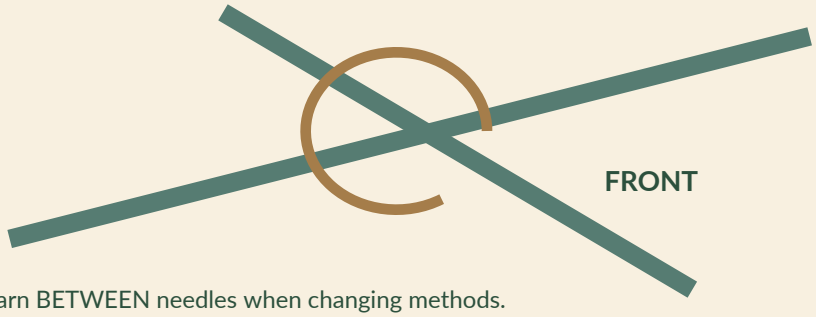
KNIT VS PURL / WORKING-YARN PLACEMENT

KNIT / YARN BEHIND



Move yarn BETWEEN needles when changing methods.

PURL / YARN IN FRONT



Move yarn BETWEEN needles when changing methods.

One old loop becomes one new loop; count remains 12.



50 mm BAR A



50 mm BAR B

PRINT AT 100% / verify both original 50 mm bars with a ruler.

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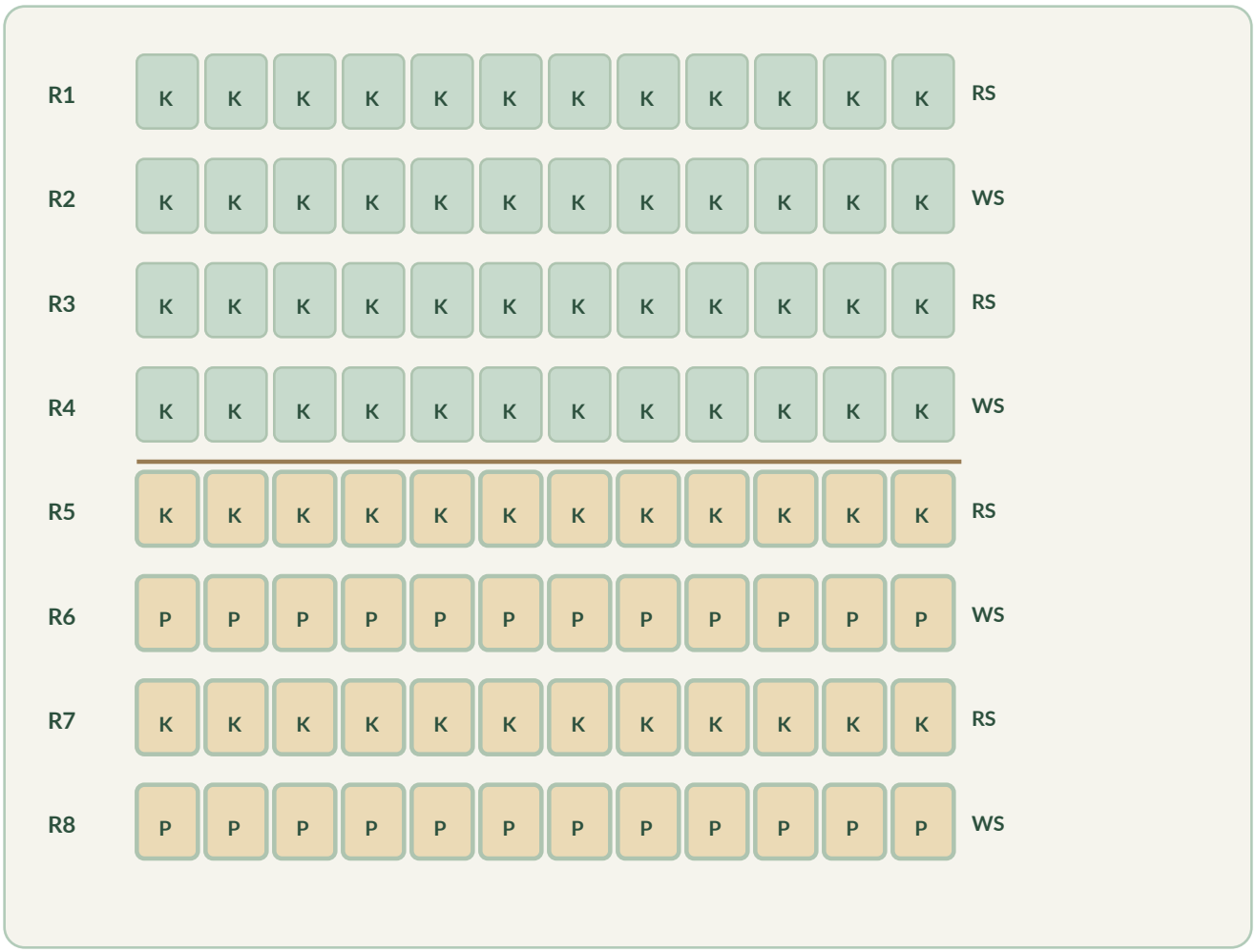
ORIGINAL VECTOR TEACHING SCHEMATIC / NOT A PHYSICAL GAUGE

EIGHT ROWS / TWELVE LIVE STITCHES EACH ROW



R1-R4: garter / knit each row

R5 knit, R6 purl, R7 knit, R8 purl

50 mm BAR A

50 mm BAR B

PRINT AT 100% / verify both original 50 mm bars with a ruler.

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Maker setup / count checklist

Date / maker:

Yarn, fibre and care label:

Hook or needle size:

Practice location / note:

EIGHT ROWS / TARGET 12 LIVE STITCHES

- [ ] R1 / K / target 12
- [ ] R2 / K / target 12
- [ ] R3 / K / target 12
- [ ] R4 / K / target 12
- [ ] R5 / K / target 12
- [ ] R6 / P / target 12
- [ ] R7 / K / target 12
- [ ] R8 / P / target 12

Actual counts / corrections / notes: _____

_____

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Observations, correction and care limitations

R1-R4 texture on RS / WS:

R5-R8 texture on RS / WS:

Knit working yarn position:

Purl working yarn position:

Counts / extra yarn-over diagnosis:

Observed edge curl (not a defect claim):

Next learning goal / tools stored:

Digital instruction only / no physical sample, safety, print or performance trials.