

## Picking Stitches up on the Fly

### Tutorial Key

**SN** = Straight needle ( I used a #5)

**PUN** = Pick-up needle, or needles ( I used a #1 circles )

**KBL** = Knit in back loop

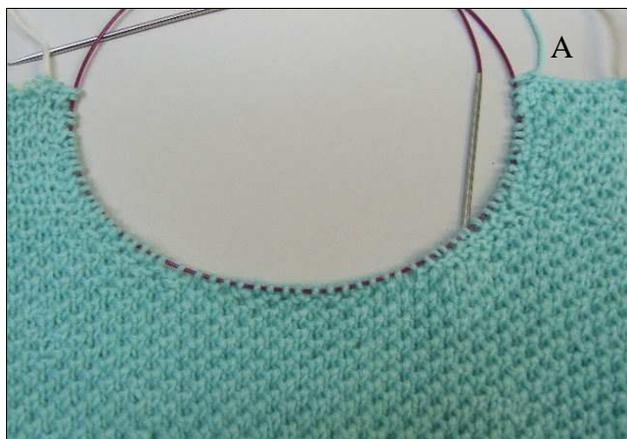
**ST** = stitch

**LH** = left hand

**RH** = right hand

**WS** = wrong side

**RS** = right side



“A” is a picture of the stitches I picked up around the neckline edge of my project. You will notice that they are already on a circle needles or **PUN’s**. There they will remain, ready for whatever neck edging I decide to make.

You will also notice that there are no decreases to spoil the continuity of the pattern. The shaping is done with my version of short rows.



Here in “B” you see the armhole stitches I picked up, each placed on a piece of yarn ready to be put back on a circle needle to complete edging.

You can also leave these stitches on the circle needles. I use Knitpick’s needles that are at least 4 sizes small than the larger needle called for in my pattern.

In this pattern, I used size 5 for the Waffle Stitch, and three, size # 1, 24 inch , circle needles.



“C” is a close up of my sample. You can see that the #1’s knits up quite nicely. I finished it off with the Kitchener stitch BO, which makes a lovely finished edge.

## OK! Here we go!



For the purposes of this tutorial, I am going to use a practice swatch (D) to introduce you to my new system. Yes, it does take a bit of practice, but I think it is worth it. See what you think.

We will begin by casting on 40 sts. Work at least an 1 in. or 1 1/2 in stock st. End with wrong side row.

*This would be a great time to practice knitting backwards, J's way.*

**These next two rows will be our set-up rows.**

**1.** Beginning with the **RS** row, knit 5 sts onto the PUN (circle needle).

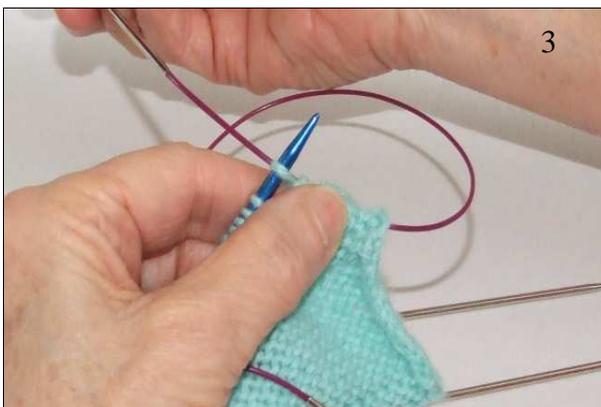
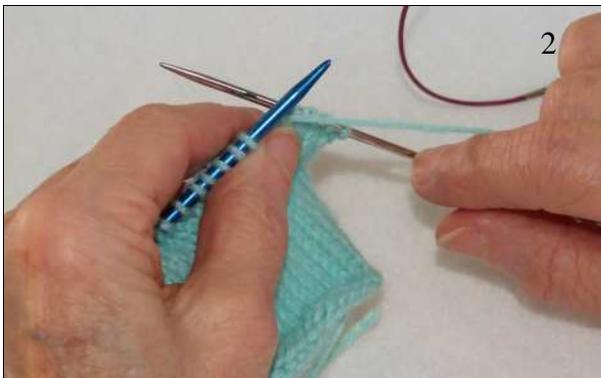


**2.** Bring yarn to front, between the needles.

*\* Note. This is NOT a YARN OVER. This move is to eliminate the necessity of lifting the yarn around the end of the PUN to knit the next stitch on the LH (blue) needle. Once the PUN has been pulled through you can then lay the yarn back to knit the next stitch on the SN.*

*You will not need to do this on the purl (WS) side.*

**3.** Secure with yarn left hand and pull PUN through so that sts rest on the flexible cord.

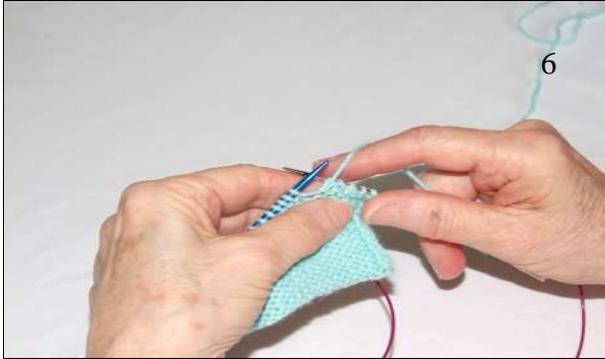




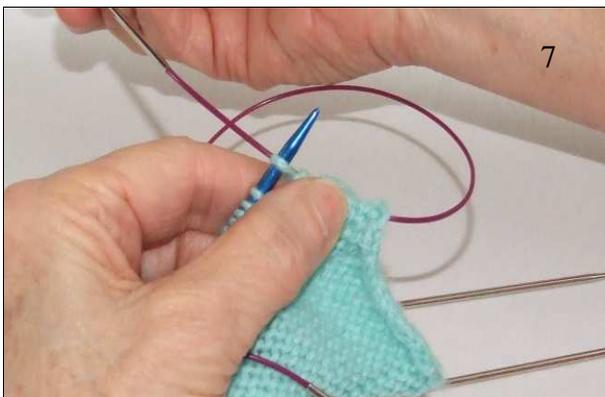
**4.** With SN, KBL in first st on LH needle. Tighten down st. to PUN.



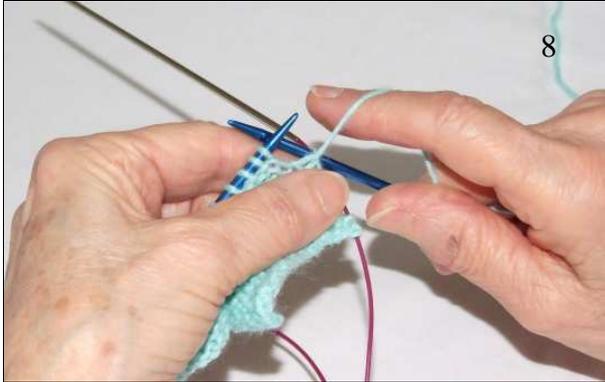
**5.** Knit across to the last 6 sts on the LH needle. KBL in the next st. Knit across the next 5 sts; turn.



**6.** With a second PUN, purl 5 sts.



**7.** Secure yarn with left hand and pull PUN through to flexible cord.



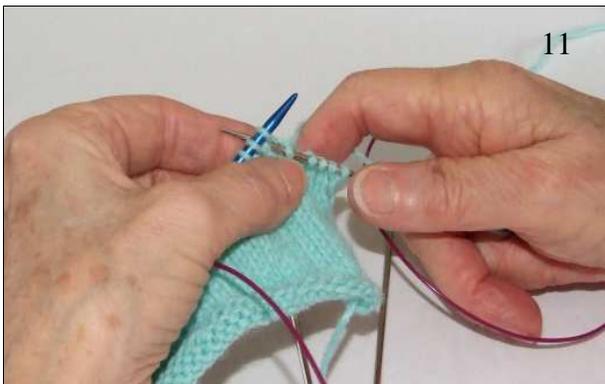
8. With SN, purl in first st on LH needle. Tighten down to PUN. Purl across.



9. Purl in the last stitch on PUN.



10. Then slip that stitch back onto PUN as shown. Turn.



11. **(RS) You should still have 5 sts on the PUN.**

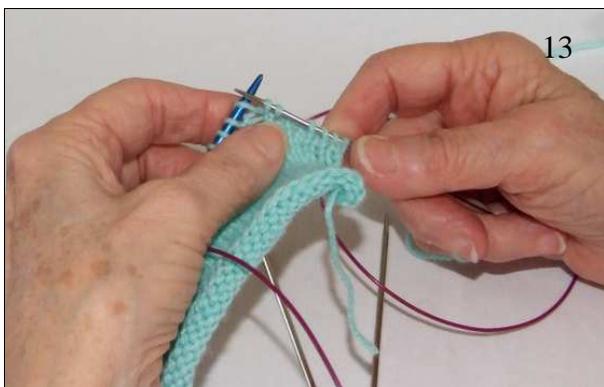
This completes the two set-up rows.

You are now ready to start your “**shaping rows.**” You are going to “knit off” or “purl off” onto PUN the stitches needing to be decreased. These stitches, coupled with a support stitch for each row, will hopefully give you ample stitches to do any edging you desire. **Now, let’s get started.**



**Row 1- (RS)**

**12.** With PUN, knit in st below first st on SN.

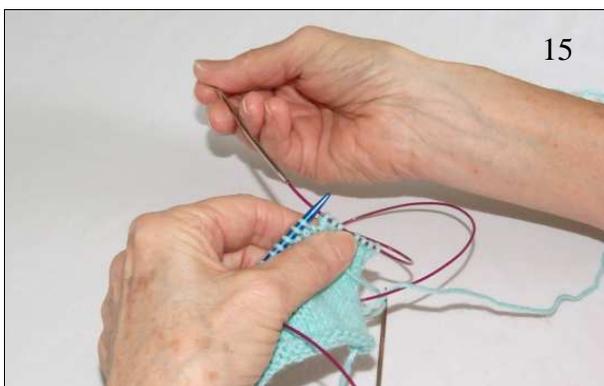


**13.** Leave this stitch on PUN. This is our **support stitch** for the RS.



**14.** Next, with PUN, KBL in 1st st of SN. Leave on PUN.

You have just “knitted off” your first **decrease stitch** to the PUN, where it will remain.



**15.** Now, bring yarn to front between needles, and holding the yarn firmly with your left thumb. Pull the PUN through, allowing sts to rest on the flexible cord.

*You should now have a grouping of three sts. on your PUN . One from the purl side, a support st. and the st you “knitted off” for your decrease.*

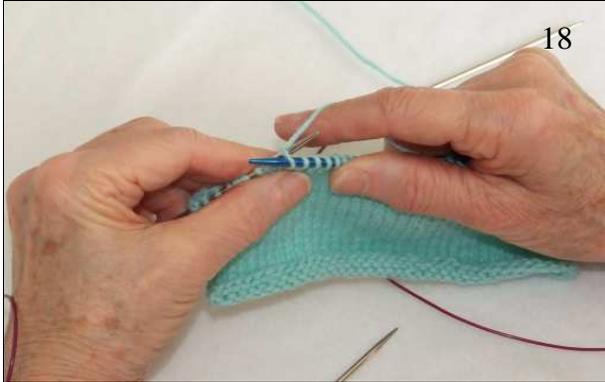


**16.** With SN, KBL in first st on LH needle. Snug down to PUN. Knit across. KBL in last st on LH needle.

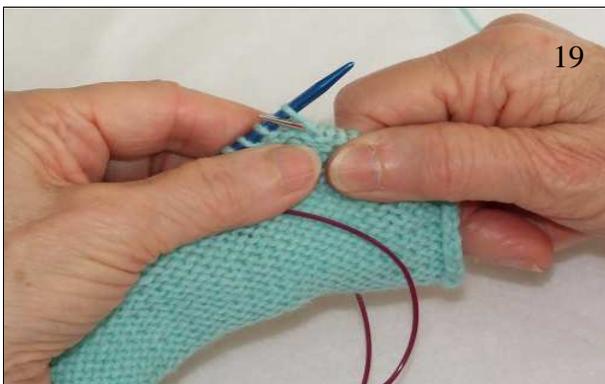
*This is done on every RS row.*



**17.** Knit last st on PUN onto SN.

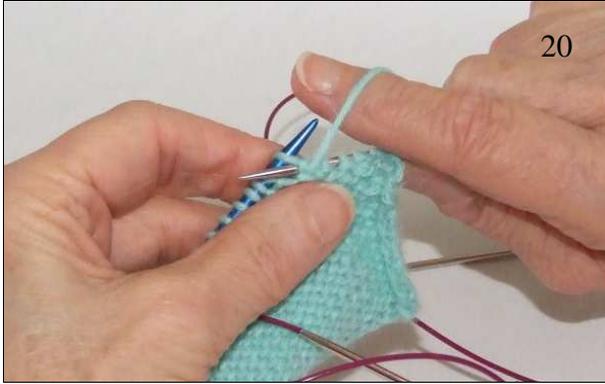


**18.** Slip st just made back onto PUN. Turn.



## **Row #2**

**19. (WS)** With PUN, purl in st below first st on SN( this is our twisted stitch). Leave on PUN. This forms our **support stitch** for the WS.



**20.** Next, with PUN, purl in first st on SN. Leave this st on your PUN, as it is your **decrease stitch** for that row. Pull PUN through, as shown in #6.

*\*Note. You should now have a grouping of three sts. on your PUN . One from the knit side, a support st. and the st you “purl off” for your decrease.*



**21.** With SN purl 1st st on LH needle. Snug stitch dow to PUN. Purl across.



**22.** Purl in last st of PUN.



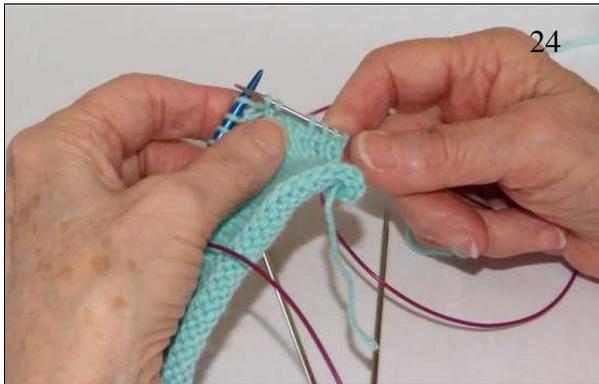
**23.** Slip this st back onto PUN. Turn.

Repeat these last two rows till you have 20 sts left on SN. Ending on the WS.

We have knitted and purl off 5 st on each end for our set-up rows (10sts). We have “knitted and purl off” 5 sts at each end of our “shaping rows. Now we should have 20 sts remaining on our SN.

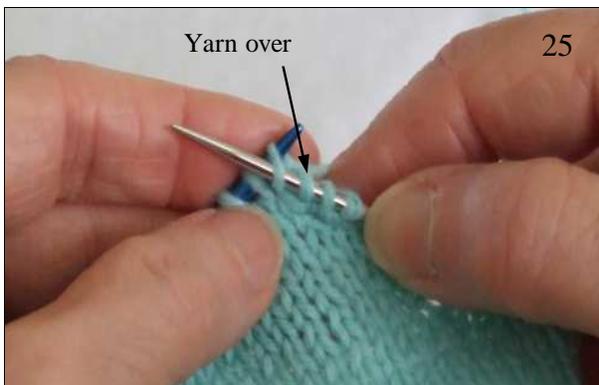
## Working the Straight Rows

We work the straight rows just the same as the previous two rows, except for the fact that we are going to be adding an extra “support stitch” so that our stitch count will remain the same, (20 sts). This extra stitch will be a YARN OVER.



We begin with the RS row.

**24.** With PUN, K in st below first st on SN, as demonstrated in #12.  
Leave on PUN.



**25.** Next, bring yarn forward (YO) and KBL into the first st on the SN .

Leaving the YO on the PUN, slip the knit stitch just made onto the SN.

Pull PUN through as before.

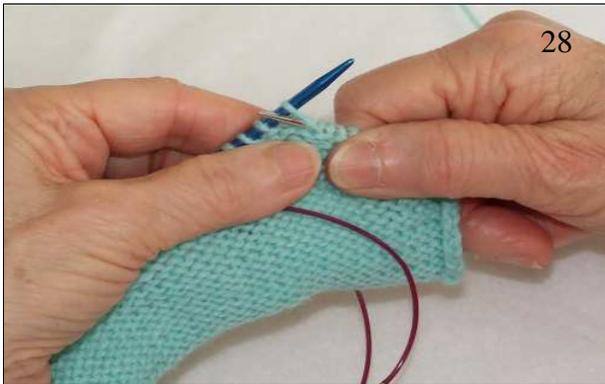


**26.** With RH (SN) slip st off LH needle (purlwise). Snug down st. as before and knit across to next to last st. KBL in last stitch, as before.

*\* This YO adds the necessary support stitch to allow you to maintain the same st count, thus, no decrease is made.*



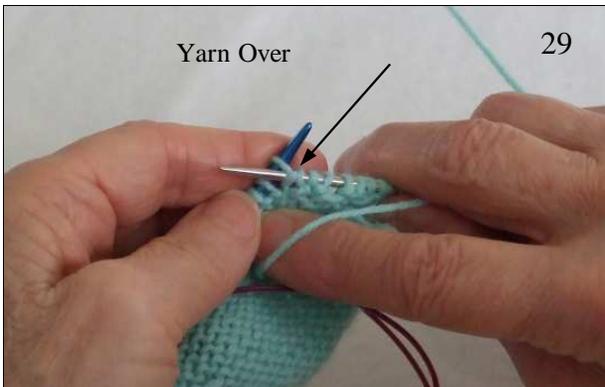
**27.** Knit in last st on PUN. Slip that st back onto PUN as you did on “shaping” rows. Turn



**WS** rows.

**28.** Purl in stitch below first st on LH needle. Leave st on PUN.

Yarn back.

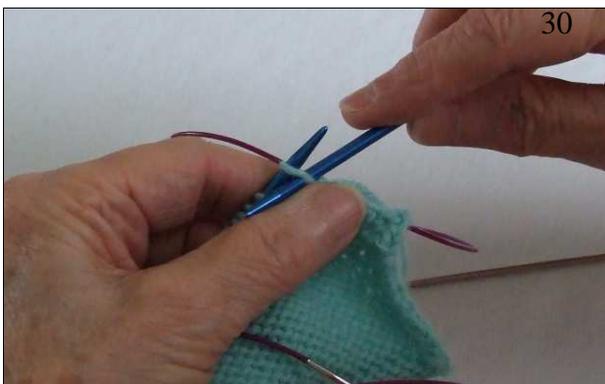


**29.** Purl in first st on LH needle.

Leaving YO on PUN, slip purl st on to LH needle.

Pull PUN through.

*\*Note. Just as before, you will notice that you have a grouping of three sts. On your PUN for each row. One from the knit side, a support st. and a YO for your second support st. This will be so for the RS rows as well.*



**30.** With RH (SN) slip st off LH needle (purlwise). Tighten stitch down to PUN cord. Purl across. Purl into last st on PUN, as before.

**Repeat steps 24-30 for straight rows.**



Repeat these two rows until you have approximately 1 1/2 inches of straight rows on your swatch.

Bind off your 20 sts, or do as I did and just put them on a piece of yarn so you can practice again with this swatch.

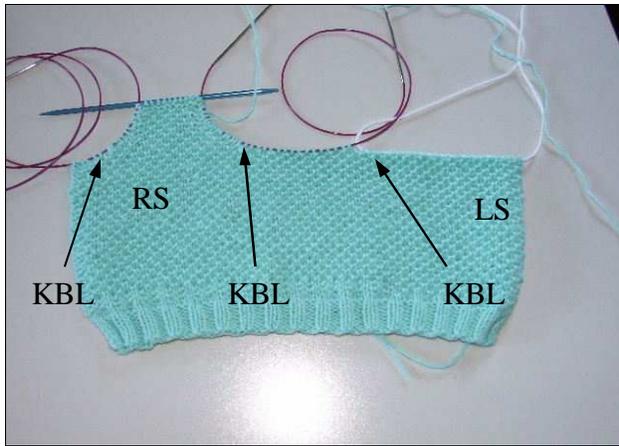
Now you are ready to knit-up your edge stitches. Using the circle needles, knit all the edge stitches, being careful to KBL in all YO's, and all loose sts. When you get to the space between the first st knitted or purled on the PUN, and the live st on the set-up row, K 2 tog. The rest is up to you.



You can knit up the first row, K 1, P 1, and establish your rib right from the start.; or you can start it on the second row. Experiment. Try different edges. I did, and it was fun. I even tried a Pico BO.

## Adapting the System to Your Patterns

Most patterns ask you to put sts on holders or BO \_# of stitches to begin armholes or openings for necklines. With my system your BO sts for necklines and armholes remain live on the PUN, or PUN's . In "E" below, you see an example of how I set up my neck and armhole shaping's using this new system.



Here I worked across 26, (or #\_\_\_, you pluck in the #) and KBL in last st before sts required to be bound off.

*The KBL is your edge st, prepared for your first pick-up st. when you begin to work your LS (left side). Don't forget it!*

Next, taking one of my PUN needles, (24 inch # 1 circle needle) I worked across the 16 sts, (or #\_\_\_), I had planned to use to

start my neck shaping.

Leaving these 16 sts on the PUN, I picked up my SN again, **Knitted in Back Loop** of next st on LH needle (SN), and continued to work across following the "set up" rows instructions (# 1-11), illustrated in this tutorial. Turning my work, I then picked up another PUN and knit up the num-

### Helpful Hints

1. It is absolutely necessary for you to keep your edge stitches firm. Loose end stitches will result in untidy holes you will not like.
2. When knitting up your stitches on your PUN's you need to-
  - a. KBL in all YO's and any loose sts.
  - b. K 2 tog to close the gap between the beginning neck edge and/or armhole st and the first decrease sts put onto PUN.

### Advantages

1. Equal stitches on each side without counting.
2. Pick-up rate is one stitch per row. Giving you plenty of stitches to work with.
3. Eliminates the need to pick up stitches after you are finished.
4. Using a much smaller needle for PUN keeps the edge nice and tidy.

*Note\* Once you have all your stitches on the PUN. You can use a slightly larger needle to make your ribbing or trim if desired.*

### Disadvantages

1. Take a bit more time, but when you are done, you're DONE.
2. Takes a bit of practice, BUT once you have it, you HAVE IT!!