

stitchlinks **xxx** Guide
to
Knitting Socks
for complete beginners!



Dos

- ✓ Start with an even number of stitches divided equally onto two knitting needles.
- ✓ Find a quiet time where you won't be interrupted so that you can concentrate.
- ✓ Gently adjust the tension as you go along and after you've finished, for a truly seamless finish.

Don'ts

- ✓ Don't be put off by thinking it's difficult – it just needs a bit of concentration over a short period of time.
- ✓ Don't break off in the middle as you'll forget where in the process you are. Give yourself enough time to complete.

congratulations!



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CONTACT US

Email – betsan@stitchlinks.com
Post – PO Box 3679, Bath BA2 4WS, UK
or chat to us online at
www.stitchlinks.com

Grafting for stocking stitch

We decided to dedicate a full section to grafting (or Kitchener stitch) as it's easier to show how it's done with lots of pictures. We'd heard whisperings about 'hmm... grafting' and various allusions to its difficulty, but even first time around we found it fairly easy when following pictorial instructions. It must be the name that makes it sound harder graft than it really is.

For those of you who've never come across it before it's a way of weaving together two rows of stitches to give a seamless finish. This is essential for socks as a thick seam around your toes would be very uncomfortable.

At the end of Part two we mentioned that to graft successfully it's essential to finish with an even number of stitches as you will be working in pairs. If, for any reason you find yourself with an odd number, cheat! Unpick the last row of stitches, which should have been a knit row without decreasing, then on the row before, knit the last stitches without decreasing, so you're left with one extra stitch. You could also just slip the second of your final stitches over the first, but this method might cause an uneven area, depending on the thickness or your wool. Try it out to see.

You'll need a tapestry needle (a needle that has a big eye and blunt end) and a period of time where you won't be interrupted, not because it's particularly difficult, but because you need to concentrate. The idea is to thread your needle with your sock yarn and to weave this in and out through your stitches so that the pattern mimics that of stocking stitch. This joins the stitches in a seamless blend which is not only great to look at, but comfortable to wear. Ideally you'll already have a tail end of yarn attached to your sock. It needs to be at least twice as long as the piece you're grafting. If it isn't long enough, take a spare length of yarn and weave it in to secure it after you've finished. Thread your needle then follow our instructions...

When it's done you'll have a great feeling of achievement!



Make sure your stitches are divided evenly onto two needles. This step and the next will only be repeated once. Insert your tapestry needle as if to purl the first stitch on the needle closest to you. Pull the needle and its thread through, but leave the stitch on the knitting needle.



Part three: Now you're going to work on the first two stitches on the back knitting needle in a similar way. Insert the tapestry needle into the first stitch on the back needle as if to purl. Slip this stitch onto the tapestry needle exactly as you did in Part one.



Next insert your tapestry needle into the first stitch on the back needle as if to knit that stitch. Pull the tapestry needle and yarn through the stitch as before and again leave the stitch on the knitting needle. You have now prepared your stitches for the next step...



Part four: With the first stitch on the tapestry needle insert it, as if to knit, into the next stitch. Leave this stitch on the knitting needle and gently pull the yarn through. Repeat parts 1-4 until you get to the last two stitches where you need to do Part one followed by Part three.



The next step is in four parts, which you will repeat until you've grafted all your stitches. Part one: Insert your tapestry needle into the first stitch on the front needle as if to knit. This time slip the stitch off the end of the knitting needle and onto the tapestry needle.



As you're weaving your way along gently pull on the yarn to tighten up the stitches. When you get to the end it should look something like this. Now you need to gently tighten the stitches so that the tension matches the tension in the rest of your sock for a truly seamless finish!



Part two: With the first stitch on the tapestry needle insert it into the next stitch as if to purl. This time you need to leave the stitch on the knitting needle. Now pull the tapestry needle and yarn slowly through. This will secure the first stitch and stop it running.



And voila, look no seam! The completed toe with the grafting tension adjusted to form a perfect finish. Now you've finished your first sock, you can use the same basic principles for all the socks you knit in the future. So good luck and enjoy a healthy addiction!