



The Definitive Guide to Grafting: *Lace*

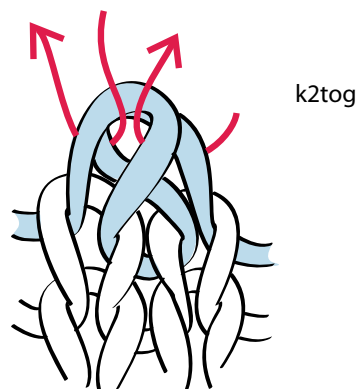
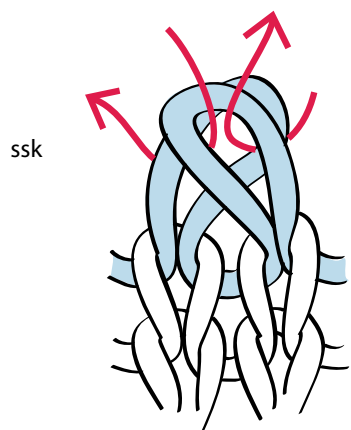
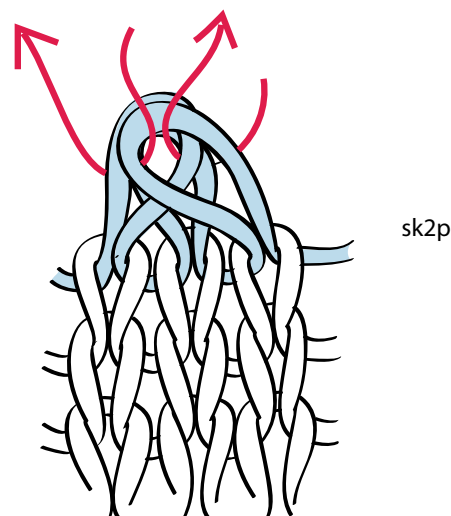
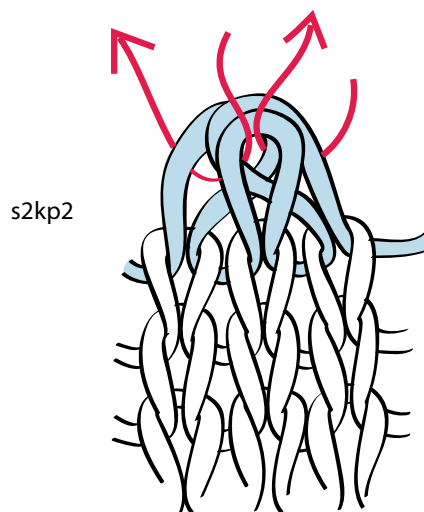
Excerpted from *How to Graft Your Knitting Invisibly* by Joni Coniglio.



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Chapter 4: Grafting Lace in Two Directions

Creating Stitches on the Front Needle



In the last chapter, we saw that knitting direction is a significant factor when it comes to grafting rib patterns. It is also a factor when grafting lace, but probably even more so. Each of the patterns in the next chapter was grafted both top-to-top and top-to-bottom. The lace motifs shown in Patterns 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 have a very distinct direction to them, so when grafted top-to-top form different shapes altogether where they meet in the center. This can be a feature of the design, as when the chevrons form eyelet-encircled diamonds, for example. Patterns 4 and 6 have less directional motifs so the difference between grafting them top-to-bottom and top-to-top is less apparent

(despite the half-stitch jog in the pattern at the point where the two halves meet head-to-head).

Another thing to consider when grafting lace (and something that isn't a factor with grafted ribbing) is how to decide which two pattern rows to allocate for the grafting. As we saw when we broke down the grafting in previous chapters, two distinct pattern rows are created when the grafting yarn is drawn through stitches on the front needle with the right side facing and stitches on the back needle with the wrong side facing.

Because the invisibility of the graft is directly related to how well it blends in with the stitch pattern, one of the grafted rows in a lace pattern will most likely include decreases and yarnovers (unless the lace pattern contains two consecutive plain rows that can be used for the grafting). But many lace patterns will have decreases and yarnovers at least on every right-side row.

The good news is that grafting decreases is not that much more difficult than grafting knit stitches in regular Kitchener

stitch. The grafting yarn takes the same purlwise, knitwise passes through the stitches; the only difference is that the yarn is drawn through two or three stitches at the same time, rather than just one, as can be seen in the illustrations of grafted decreases on page 22. Some of the decreases require rearranging the stitches first, but this only takes a few seconds. Creating yarnovers is even easier because you simply skip steps; you don't have to do anything at all.

All the lace patterns in this eBook have plain wrong-side rows (with only knit or purl stitches, but no decreases or yarnovers). The right-side rows are always grafted on the front needle so that the trickier maneuvers, such as decreases, are facing you as you work.

CREATING DECREASES (SINGLE AND DOUBLE), TWISTED STITCHES, AND YARNOVERS ON THE FRONT NEEDLE

So, before venturing into lace grafting in the following two chapters, it is necessary to know how to create the following stitches on the front needle: k2tog, k3tog, ssk, s2kp2 (a centered double decrease), sk2p (a left-slanting double decrease), k1tbl, and a yarnover. You'll only need to knit one swatch because you won't be joining stitches. I recommend using a yarn that is worsted weight or heavier, and one that isn't too slippery. Work a swatch in stockinette stitch (adding a garter stitch border so the edges won't roll), casting on as many stitches as you will need to practice all the stitches at least two times (about 30–35 stitches total). Break the yarn and thread a strand of contrasting yarn about four times the width of the swatch onto a tapestry needle. As you complete each stitch, secure it with a piece of waste yarn or a stitch holder. Start the row by creating a couple of knit stitches (as described on page 8), inserting the tapestry needle purlwise into the stitch, drawing the yarn through, then going into the same stitch knitwise and removing it from the needle.

The k2tog and k3tog are worked the same way as the grafted knit stitch, except that you go through two (or three) stitches at the same time instead of one. Before working the ssk, s2kp2, and sk2p decreases, reorient the stitches on the left needle as described. Note that when working these three decreases and inserting the tapestry needle into the loops from back to front for the first (purlwise) pass, the tip of the tapestry needle will point to the right, instead of to the left as it did for the k2tog. When the tapestry needle is inserted into the loops from front to back for the second (knitwise) pass, the tip of the tapestry needle will point to the left, instead of to the right as for the k2tog.

In addition to decreases, the practice swatch includes a twisted knit stitch (k1tbl), which is created by twisting the stitch first, then working it the same as for a knit stitch.

A yarnover is included in the practice swatch, even though it doesn't require any passes through stitches on the front needle, because it is helpful to see how it relates to the other stitches on the front needle.

Each grafted stitch is shown with its corresponding chart symbol. See page 57 for the Master Key for all the grafting charts used in this eBook.

GRAFTING TIPS

- Keep the grafted stitches a little loose as you're working across the grafted row. After a few stitches have been grafted (and stopping after a grafting repeat has been completed so you'll know where to pick up again), adjust the tension so that the stitches are the same size as the neighboring stitches.
- Because it can be difficult to tell which are the grafted stitches, place a lifeline in the stitches on the front needle before grafting and leave it in until the grafting is complete and the stitches have been adjusted.
- It can be easier to adjust the tension of the grafted stitches with a pattern that contains yarnovers and decreases than it is to adjust stitches that have been grafted using Kitchener stitch because lack of uniformity in stitch size won't be as noticeable.
- Make sure to keep grafted yarnovers as open as possible. When you're adjusting the tension of the stitches and need to make the stitches between the yarnovers smaller, use the excess yarn to make the yarnovers larger.
- Leave a length of yarn for grafting that is about four times the width of the knitting.
- If you're not confident about how long to cut the grafting yarn, start out with a longer length than you think you'll need and double it (making sure the end of the yarn clears the grafted stitches). As you get closer to the end of the grafted row, cut the excess yarn.
- When choosing two chart rows of a lace pattern for the grafting, designate the plain row for grafting on the back needle and the patterned row for grafting on the front needle so the trickier maneuvers will be in front of you as you work.

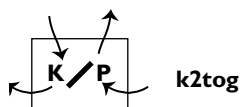
K2tog



Figure 1 - First pass: Insert tapestry needle pwise into first 2 sts on needle, draw the yarn through, leave both sts on needle.

Figure 2 - Second pass: Insert tapestry needle kwise into same 2 sts; remove both sts from needle.

Figure 3: Completed k2tog.



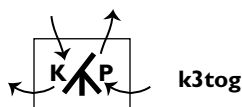
K3tog



Figure 1 - First pass: Insert tapestry needle pwise into first 3 sts on needle, draw the yarn through, leave all 3 sts on needle.

Figure 2 - Second pass: Insert tapestry needle kwise into same 3 sts; remove all 3 sts from needle.

Figure 3: Completed k3tog.



Ssk



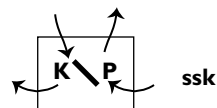
Figure 1: Using the tapestry needle, sl next 2 sts kwise, one at a time.

Figure 2: Return sts to left needle in new positions.

Figure 3 - First pass: Insert tapestry needle pwise into first 2 sts on needle, draw the yarn through, leave both sts on needle.

Figure 4 - Second pass: Insert tapestry needle kwise into same 2 sts; remove both sts from needle.

Figure 5: Completed ssk.



S2kp2



Figure 1: Using the tapestry needle, sl 2 sts as if to k2tog.

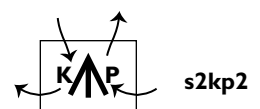
Figure 2: Sl next st kwise.

Figure 3: Return all 3 sts to left needle in new positions.

Figure 4 - First pass: Insert tapestry needle pwise into first 3 sts on left needle, draw the yarn through, leave all 3 sts on needle.

Figure 5 - Second pass: Insert tapestry needle kwise into same 3 sts; remove all 3 sts from needle.

Figure 6: Completed s2kp2.



Sk2p



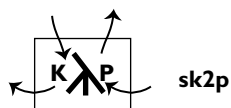
Figure 1: Using the tapestry needle, sl 1 st kwise.

Figure 2: Sl next 2 sts as if to k2tog.

Figure 3: Return all 3 sts to left needle in new positions. **First pass:** Insert tapestry needle pwise into first 3 sts on left needle, draw the yarn through, leave all 3 sts on needle.

Figure 4 - Second pass: Insert tapestry needle kwise into same 3 sts; remove all 3 sts from needle.

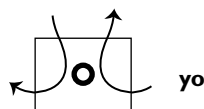
Figure 5: Completed sk2p.



Yarnover



Figure 1: The yarnover won't pass through any stitches on the front needle, so in order to add it to the practice swatch, simply loop it over the stitch holder and go on to the next stitch. In the grafting instructions, both the "on" and "off" steps where the yarnover occurs will be skipped.



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Lace Pattern No. 2

(multiple 20 sts + 1)



Top-to-Top

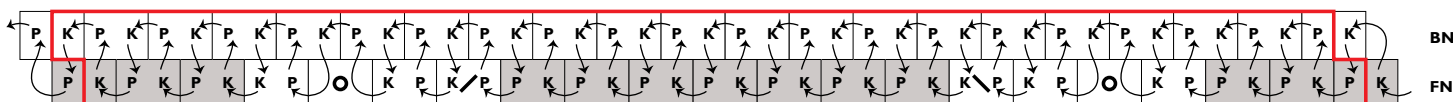
Pattern 2

15	*	*	*	\	o	*	*	*	*	o	/	*	*	*	*
13	*	*	*	\	o	*	*	*	o	/	*	*	*	*	*
11	*	*	*	\	o	*	*	o	/	*	*	*	*	*	*
9	*	*	*	\	o	o	/	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
7	*	*	o	/	*	*	*	*	*	\	o	*	*	*	*
5	*	o	/	*	*	*	*	*	\	o	*	*	*	*	*
3	*	o	/	*	*	*	*	*	\	o	*	*	*	*	*
1	o	/	*	*	*	*	*	\	o	*	*	*	*	*	*

20 st repeat

- k on RS; p on WS
- * p on RS
- o yo
- / k2tog
- \ ssk
- pattern repeat

Pattern 2 Grafting Chart (top-to-top)



TOP-TO-TOP INSTRUCTIONS

BACK NEEDLE HALF

CO 41 sts. Rep Rows 1–16 of Pattern 2 chart as desired, then work Rows 1–7 once more. Break yarn, leaving a long tail for grafting.

FRONT NEEDLE HALF

CO 41 sts. Rep Rows 1–16 of Pattern 2 chart as desired, then work Rows 1–6 once more. Break yarn.

GRAFTING

The grafting creates Row 7 of the chart on the FN and Row 8 on the BN.

Set-Up Steps

Step 1 FN: Kwise, on.

Step 2 BN: Kwise, on.

Repeated Sequence

Step 3 FN: Pwise, off; Kwise, on.

Step 4 BN: Pwise, off; Kwise, on.

Steps 5 and 6: Rep Steps 3 and 4.

Step 7 FN: Pwise, off; Pwise, on.

Step 8 BN: Pwise, off; Kwise, on.

Step 9 FN: Kwise, off.

Step 10 BN: Pwise, off; Kwise, on.

Step 11 FN: Pwise, on.

Step 12 BN: Pwise, off; Kwise, on.

Step 13 FN: Kwise, off; rearrange sts on left needle for ssk, then Pwise through 2 sts, on.

Step 14 BN: Pwise, off; Kwise, on.

Step 15 FN: Kwise through 2 sts, off; Kwise, on.

Step 16 BN: Pwise, off; Kwise, on.

Steps 17–28: Rep Steps 3 and 4 six times.

Step 29 FN: Pwise, off; Pwise through 2 sts, on.

Step 30 BN: Pwise, off; Kwise, on.

Step 31 FN: Kwise through 2 sts, off; Pwise, on.

Step 32 BN: Pwise, off; Kwise, on.

Steps 33–36: Rep Steps 9–12 once.

Step 37 FN: Kwise, off; Kwise, on.

Step 38 BN: Pwise, off; Kwise, on.

Steps 39–42: Rep Steps 3 and 4 two times.

Rep Steps 3–42 until 1 st rem on each needle.

Ending Steps

Step 43 FN: Pwise, off.

Step 44 BN: Pwise, off.



Top-to-Bottom

TOP-TO-BOTTOM INSTRUCTIONS

BACK NEEDLE HALF

Using a provisional method, CO 41 sts. Work Rows 9–16 of Pattern 2 chart once, then rep Rows 1–16 of chart as desired. BO all sts.

FRONT NEEDLE HALF

CO 41 sts. Rep Rows 1–16 of Pattern 2 chart as desired, then work Rows 1–6 once more. Break yarn, leaving a long tail for grafting.

GRAFTING

The grafting creates Row 7 of the chart on the FN and Row 8 on the BN.

Remove waste yarn from CO sts and place sts on BN as described on page 19—42 sts.

Sequence A (purl st on FN, knit st on BN)

Step 1 FN: Kwise, on.

Step 2 BN: Pwise, off.

Step 3 BN: Kwise, on.

Step 4 FN: Pwise, off.

Sequence B (knit st on FN, knit st on BN)

Step 1 FN: Pwise, on.

Step 2 BN: Pwise, off.

Step 3 BN: Kwise, on.

Step 4 FN: Kwise, off.

Sequence C (yo on FN, knit st on BN)

Step 1 FN: Skip.

Step 2 BN: Pwise, off.

Step 3 BN: Kwise, on.

Step 4 FN: Skip.

Sequence D (ssk on FN, knit st on BN)

Step 1 FN: Rearrange sts on left needle for ssk, then Pwise through 2 sts, on.

Step 2 BN: Pwise, off.

Step 3 BN: Kwise, on.

Step 4 FN: Kwise through 2 sts, off.

Sequence E (k2tog on FN, knit st on BN)

Step 1 FN: Pwise through 2 sts, on.

Step 2 BN: Pwise, off.

Step 3 BN: Kwise, on.

Step 4 FN: Kwise through 2 sts, off.

*Work Sequence A 3 times, work Sequence B once, work Sequence C once, work Sequence B once, work Sequence D once, work Sequence A 7 times, work Sequence E once, work Sequence B once, work Sequence C once, work Sequence B once, work Sequence A 2 times; rep from * until 1 st rem on FN and 2 sts rem on BN. Work Sequence A once.

Pattern 2 Grafting Chart (top-to-bottom)

