



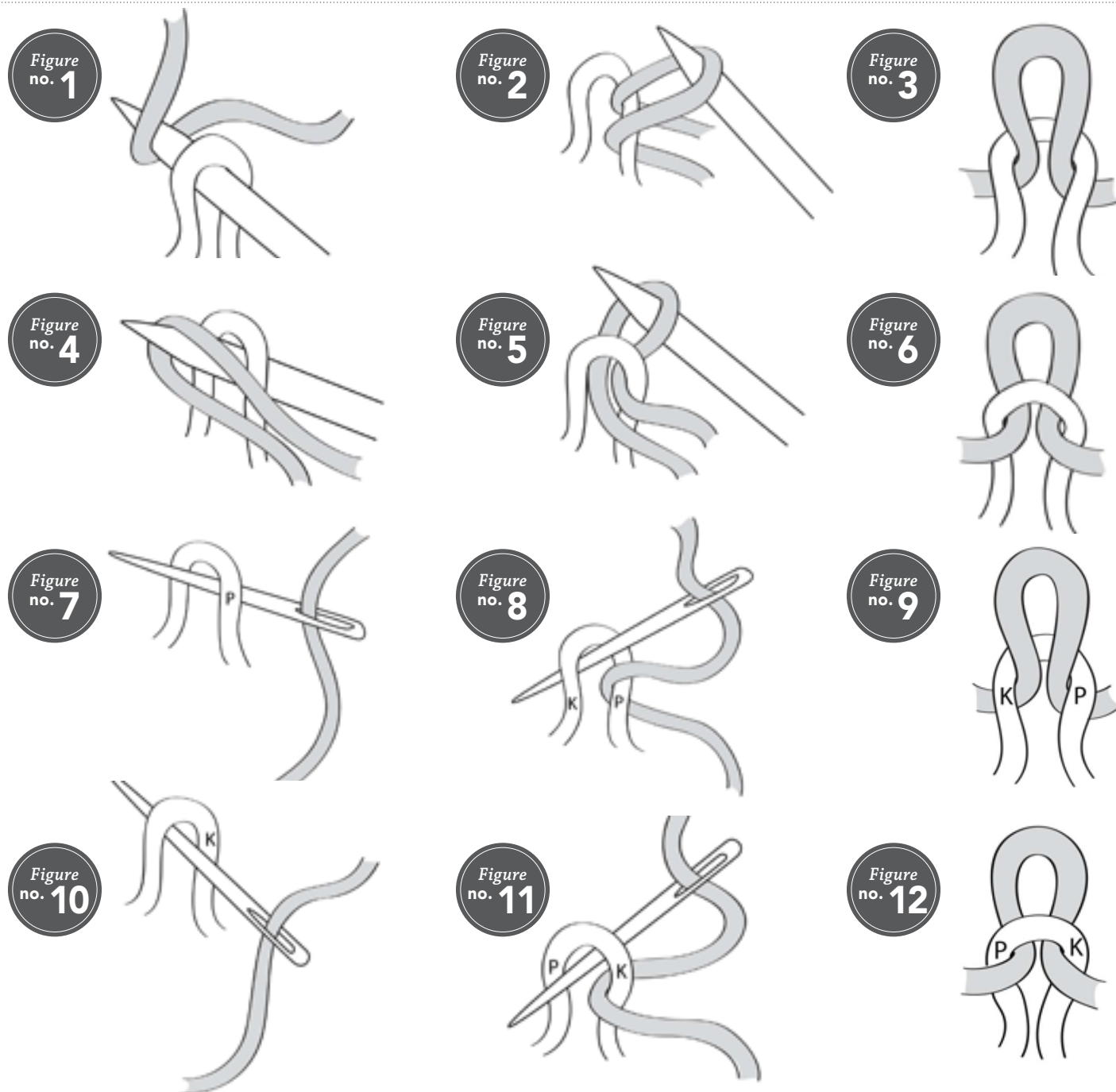
The Definitive Guide to Grafting: *Fundamentals*

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



Interweave®

Grafting Terminology



To create a knit stitch when using two knitting needles (Figures 1, 2, and 3), the knitting needle is inserted into a stitch from front to back to draw a loop of yarn through for the new knit stitch. To create a purl stitch (Figures 4, 5, and 6), the knitting needle is inserted into a stitch from back to front to draw a loop of yarn through for the new purl stitch. Basically, “knitwise” means “from front to back” and “purlwise” means “from back to front.”

In grafting, the terms refer to the direction in which the tapestry needle is inserted into a loop on the needle at any given time. For

each stitch, the grafting yarn must pass through the loop two times, first entering it, then exiting. The direction in which the tapestry needle enters and exits the loop will depend on which type of stitch is being created. For example, if the grafting yarn enters purlwise (from back to front; Figure 7) and then exits knitwise (from front to back; Figure 8), the resulting stitch will be a knit stitch (Figure 9). If the grafting yarn enters the loop knitwise (Figure 10) and then exits purlwise (Figure 11), a purl stitch will be the result (Figure 12).

Other terms you will hear in grafting tutorials are “off” and “on,”

or “remove” and “leave.” When the grafting yarn first enters a loop, the loop stays on the needle because the grafted stitch is not yet complete. It is on the second pass through the loop (when the yarn exits) that the stitch is completed and the loop can be removed.

TOOLS USED IN GRAFTING

The tools used in grafting are pretty simple. You just need something to draw the grafting yarn in and out of the live loops on the two knitting needles. I prefer to use a tapestry needle for this, but some knitters like to use a third knitting needle.

Whichever tool you use is a matter of personal preference. Keep in mind, however, that if you use a knitting needle and the grafting instructions weren’t written specifically for it, the instructions will have to be reversed.

When you use a tapestry needle, the grafting yarn and tapestry needle follow the same path through the loops, so “purlwise” and “knitwise” mean the same thing for both. But when you use a knitting needle, you pull the grafting yarn through the loop from the opposite side, so the instructions for inserting the knitting needle into the loop are the opposite of the path of the grafting yarn. Let’s say, for example, that you’re grafting a knit stitch. For the first pass, you’d insert the knitting needle into the loop knitwise to pull the grafting yarn through the loop purlwise. For the second pass, you’d insert the knitting needle into the loop purlwise to pull the grafting yarn through the loop knitwise.

STOCKINETTE STITCH GRAFTING (KITCHENER STITCH)

For this exercise, we’re going to practice creating stitches on each needle individually before putting the needles together. This is a very useful exercise, especially if you’re new to grafting, because it will give you a sense of where you’re going when you’re grafting, rather than blindly following the instructions. Use a worsted weight or slightly heavier yarn and use a contrasting yarn to create the stitches so that you can see the path the yarn takes through the loops. Don’t use a yarn that is too slippery so that the stitches will stay in the loops. If you want, you can place the stitches on waste yarn or another type of holder to keep them in place. The point of the exercise is to become familiar with the movements necessary to create knit and purl stitches, so don’t worry too much about whether or not the stitches are all the same size.

Cast on any number of stitches and work in stockinette stitch for a few inches. Break the yarn and thread a contrasting color yarn onto a tapestry needle. Hold the needle with the live stitches with the knit side facing and, using the tapestry needle, create a row of knit stitches as follows:

Step 1 - First pass: Insert the tapestry needle into the stitch on the needle purlwise (Figure 13) and draw the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.

Step 2 - Second pass: Insert the tapestry needle into the same stitch knitwise (Figure 14) and remove the stitch from the needle without drawing the yarn through.



Repeat Steps 1 and 2, drawing the yarn through only on Step 1 and pulling the yarn just enough so that the size of the stitches remains roughly consistent (Figure 15). As you work, it might help to repeat the steps in an abbreviated format, like this: Purlwise, on; Knitwise, off.

Now work another swatch and hold it with the purl side facing. Using the tapestry needle and contrasting yarn, create a row of purl stitches as follows:

Step 1 - First pass: Insert the tapestry needle into the stitch on the needle knitwise (Figure 16) and draw the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.

Step 2 - Second pass: Insert the tapestry needle into the same stitch purlwise (Figure 17), and remove the stitch from the needle without drawing the yarn through.

Repeat Steps 1 and 2, drawing the yarn through only on Step 1 and pulling the yarn just enough so that the size of the stitches remains roughly consistent (Figure 18). As you work, it might help to repeat the steps in an abbreviated format, like this: Knitwise, on; Purlwise, off.

PUTTING THE NEEDLES TOGETHER

Remove the stitches you just created on the previous two swatches and return the live stitches to the knitting needles. Hold the needles with the wrong sides together (Figure 19), and with the contrasting yarn threaded on a tapestry needle, follow the steps for grafting in stockinette stitch below. To save space, two steps on each needle have been combined into one step each. As before, draw the yarn through the stitch after each “on” step only.

Set-Up Steps

(Figure 20) **Step 1, Front Needle (FN):** Pwise, on (first pass).

(Figure 21) **Step 2, Back Needle (BN):** Kwise, on (first pass).



Figure
no. 16



Figure
no. 17



Figure
no. 18

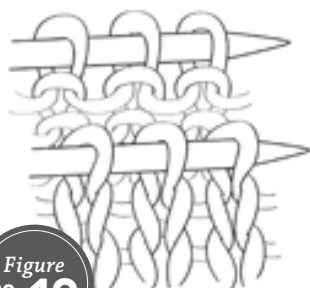


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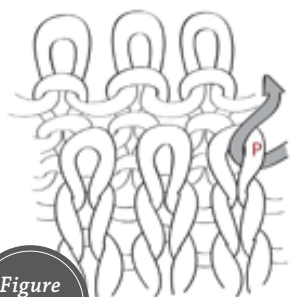


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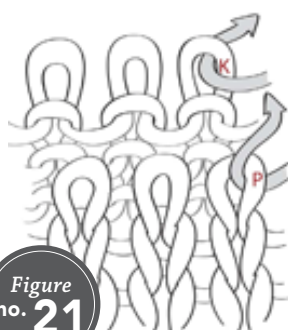


Figure
no. 21

Repeated Sequence

(Figure 22) **Step 3 FN:** Kwise, off (2nd pass); Pwise, on (first pass).

(Figure 23) **Step 4 BN:** Pwise, off (2nd pass); Kwise, on (first pass).

(Figure 24) Rep Steps 3 and 4 until 1 st rem on each needle.

Ending Steps

(Figure 25) **Step 5 FN:** Kwise, off (2nd pass).

Step 6 BN: Pwise, off (2nd pass).

This illustration (Figure 26) shows the completed graft with the stitches laid out flat and the right side of the work facing, with the grafting steps noted on each stitch. The red arrows indicate the direction in which each piece was worked. Notice that, even though the grafted row is a single row, two pattern rows were created by drawing the grafting yarn through both sets of live loops. The tops of the grafted stitches on the back needle form the running threads between the grafted stitches on the front needle, and vice versa. In this illustration (Figure 27), the Xs on the upper row indicate the knit stitches that were created on the front needle by going into each loop purlwise and knitwise, and the Xs on the lower row indicate the purl stitches that were created on the back needle by going into each loop knitwise and purlwise.



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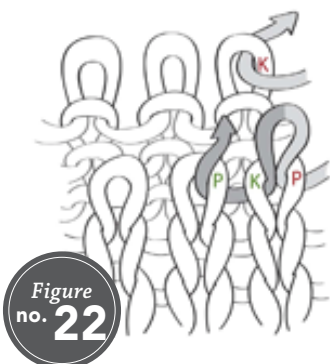


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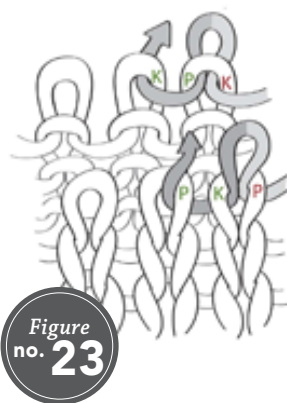


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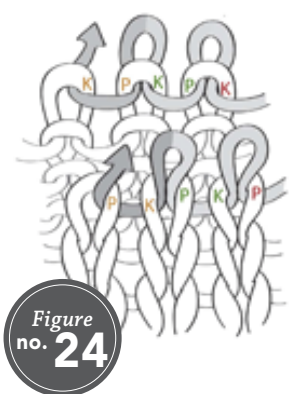


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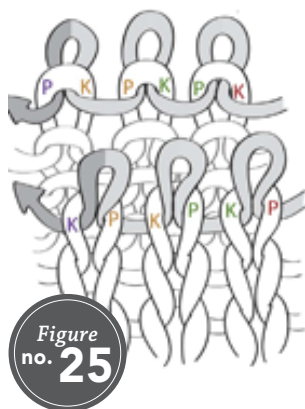


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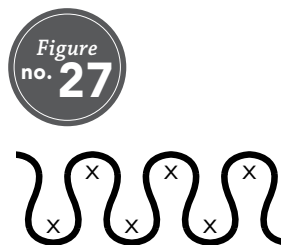


Figure
no. 27

CHARTING THE GRAFTED STITCHES

Each stitch created by drawing the grafting yarn through a loop on the front and back needle can be represented by a chart symbol (Figure 28). As with any chart symbol, the symbols used in grafting charts represent the stitches as they're viewed from the right side of the work. The grafting steps to create each type of stitch are also included.

Two symbols are required for a grafting chart for stockinette stitch: the symbol for a grafted knit stitch on the front needle and the symbol for a grafted purl stitch on the back needle (worked with the wrong side facing so that it looks like a knit stitch from the right side).

The arrangement of symbols in two rows, with the back row shifted to the left a half-stitch, represents the relationship of the loops on the front and back needles in top-to-top grafting. The arrows show the path the grafting yarn takes through the live loops, beginning with the first front needle stitch.

In Figure 29, the repeated sequence is outlined in red. The repeat begins and ends in the middle of a symbol because it begins with the second pass on each needle and ends with the first pass. Compare the chart to the written instructions for grafting stockinette stitch above: the two set-up steps to the right of the repeat are worked first. The repeated sequence, consisting of two steps on the front needle followed by two steps on the back needle, is worked until one stitch remains on each needle, and then the ending steps to the left of the repeat are worked last.

REVERSE STOCKINETTE STITCH GRAFTING

For this exercise, you'll need to work two more swatches in stockinette stitch. Because we practiced creating knit and purl stitches on individual needles in the last exercise, we'll skip that part of the exercise and start with the needles held together. But this time, you'll hold them with the knit sides together and the purl sides facing out. When the stitches are grafted, you'll be creating purl stitches on the front needle with the right side facing and knit stitches on the back needle with the wrong side facing.

Follow the steps for grafting in reverse stockinette stitch below. As before, draw the yarn through the stitch after each "on" step only.

Set-Up Steps

Step 1 FN: Kwise, on (first pass).

Step 2 BN: Pwise, on (first pass).

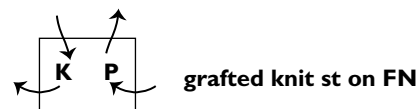
Repeated Sequence

Step 3 FN: Pwise, off (2nd pass); Kwise, on (first pass).

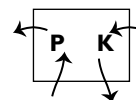
Step 4 BN: Kwise, off (2nd pass); Pwise, on (first pass).

Rep Steps 3 and 4 until 1 st rem on each needle.

Stockinette St Grafting



grafted knit st on FN



grafted purl st on BN

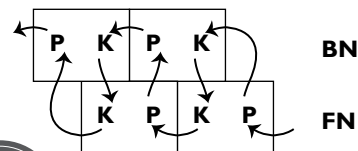


Figure
no. 28

Stockinette St Grafting Chart (top-to-top)

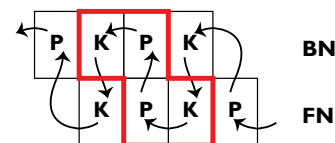


Figure
no. 29

Ending Steps

Step 5 FN: Pwise, off (2nd pass).

Step 6 BN: Kwise, off (2nd pass).

Notice that all the steps are the complete reverse of those for stockinette stitch grafting because we're creating purl stitches where before we created knit stitches, and vice versa.

CHARTING THE GRAFTED STITCHES

As with stockinette stitch, each stitch created by drawing the grafting yarn through a loop on the front or back needle can be represented by a chart symbol (Figure 30).

Two symbols are required for a grafting chart for reverse stockinette stitch: the symbol for a grafted purl stitch on the front needle and the symbol for a grafted knit stitch on the back needle (worked with the wrong side facing so that it looks like a purl stitch from the right side). The symbols are shaded gray to represent purl stitches as viewed from the right side of the work.

The symbols are arranged just as they were for grafting stockinette stitch top-to-top, with the back-needle loops shifted to the left a half-stitch.

The repeated sequence is outlined in red (Figure 31), with the two set-up steps at the right of the repeat and the ending steps at the left.

GARTER STITCH GRAFTING (TWO VERSIONS)

Garage stitch has a two-row pattern repeat (Figure 32): knit "valley" rows alternate with purl "ridge" rows. When working back and forth, garage stitch can be created in two different ways, by knitting every row or by purling every row. For knitted garage stitch, the gray rows in the illustration would be right-side knit rows and the white rows wrong-side knit rows. For purled garage stitch, the white rows would be right-side purl rows and the gray rows wrong-side purl rows. It can also be grafted in two different ways, by creating a knit row on the front needle and a knit row on the back needle (a purl row as viewed from the right side of the work), or by creating a purl row on the front needle and a purl row on the back needle (a knit row as viewed from the right side). Both versions are described below.

Reverse Stockinette St Grafting Chart (top-to-top)

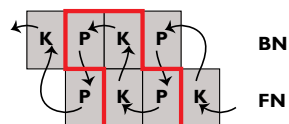


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Reverse Stockinette St Grafting

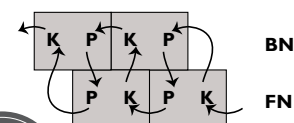
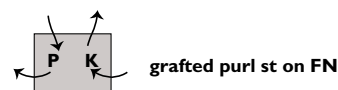


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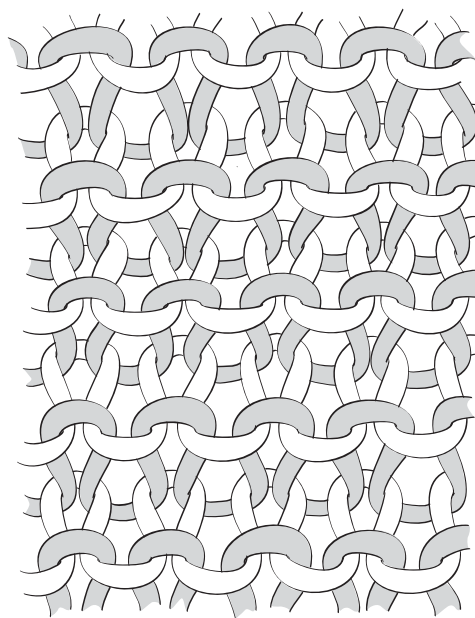


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no. 32

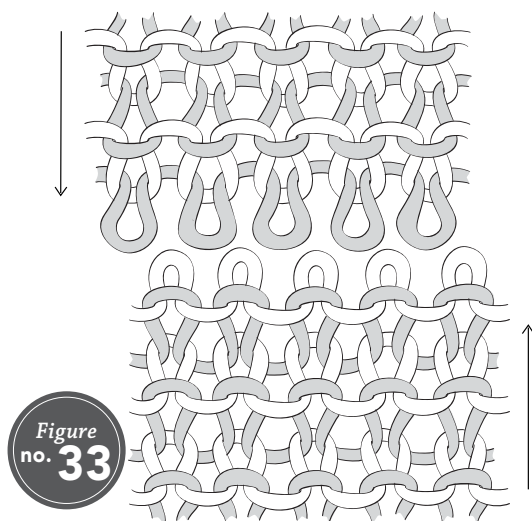


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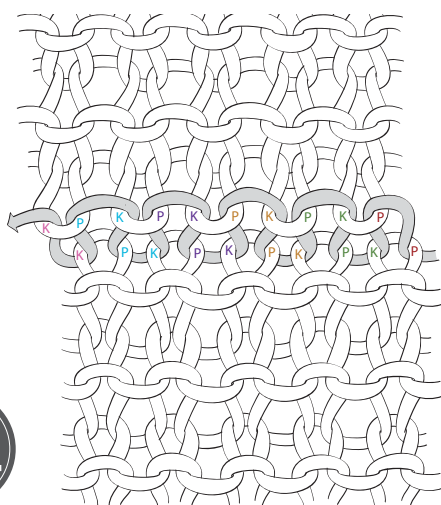


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KNITTED GARTER STITCH GRAFTING

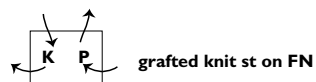
For this exercise, work two swatches in garter stitch by knitting every row. For the front-needle swatch, end with a wrong-side row (appears as a purl ridge row on the right side), and for the back-needle swatch, end with a right-side row (Figure 33). You will be creating knit stitches on the front needle with the right side facing and knit stitches on the back needle with the wrong side facing by drawing the grafting yarn through each loop on each needle purlwise and knitwise (Figure 34). The grafting steps on both needles are identical, but because one needle is worked from the right side and the other is worked from the wrong side, the resulting pattern rows as viewed from the right side are different. Hold the needles with the wrong sides together and follow the steps for knitted garter stitch grafting below.

Set-Up Steps

Step 1 FN: Pwise, on.

Step 2 BN: Pwise, on.

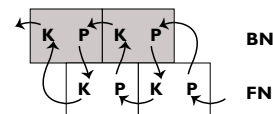
Knitted Garter St Grafting



grafted knit st on FN



grafted knit st on BN

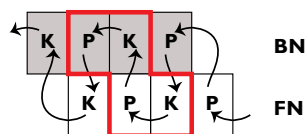


BN

FN

Figure
no. 35

Knitted Garter St Grafting Chart (top-to-top)



BN

FN

Figure
no. 36

Repeated Sequence

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

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

Rep Steps 3 and 4 until 1 st rem on each needle.

Ending Steps

Step 5 FN: Kwise, off.

Step 6 BN: Kwise, off.

CHARTING THE GRAFTED STITCHES

To create a chart for grafting knitted garter stitch (Figure 35), we need to combine the symbol for a grafted knit stitch on the front needle (for stockinette stitch) with the symbol for a grafted knit stitch on the back needle (for reverse stockinette stitch).

As before, the symbols are arranged with the back needle stitches shifted to the left a half-stitch, and the repeated sequence is outlined in red (Figure 36). The two set-up steps are at the right of the repeat, and the ending steps are at the left.

PURLED GARTER STITCH GRAFTING

For this exercise, work two swatches in garter stitch by purling every row. For the front-needle swatch, end with a wrong-side row (appears as a knit valley row on the right side) and for the back-needle swatch, end with a right-side row (Figure 37). You will be creating purl stitches on the front needle with the right side facing and purl stitches on the back needle with the wrong side facing by drawing the grafting yarn through each loop on each needle knitwise and purlwise (Figure 38). As with knitted garter stitch grafting, the grafting steps on both needles are identical, but because one needle is worked from the right side and the other is worked from the wrong side, the resulting pattern rows as viewed from the right side are different. Hold the needles with the wrong sides together and follow the steps for purled garter stitch grafting below.

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.

Rep Steps 3 and 4 until 1 st rem on each needle.

Ending Steps

Step 5 FN: Pwise, off.

Step 6 BN: Pwise, off.

CHARTING THE GRAFTED STITCHES

To create a chart for grafting purled garter stitch (Figure 39), we need to combine the symbol for a grafted purl stitch on the front needle (for reverse stockinette stitch) with the symbol for a grafted purl stitch on the back needle (for stockinette stitch).

The symbols are arranged with the back needle stitches shifted to the left a half-stitch, and the repeated sequence is outlined in red (Figure 40). The two set-up steps are at the right of the repeat, and the ending steps are at the left.

Purled Garter St Grafting Chart (top-to-top)

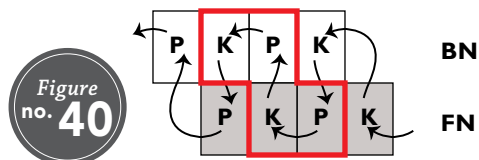


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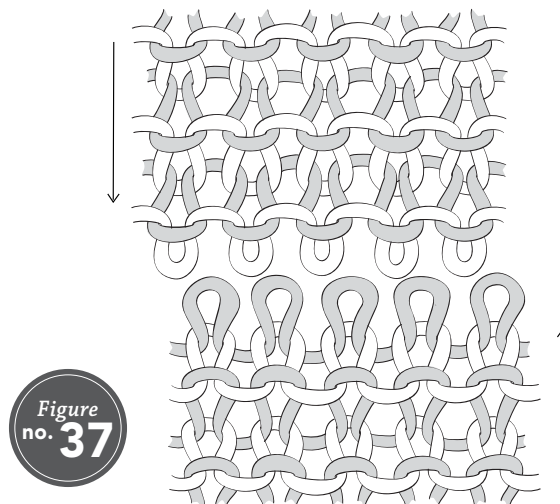


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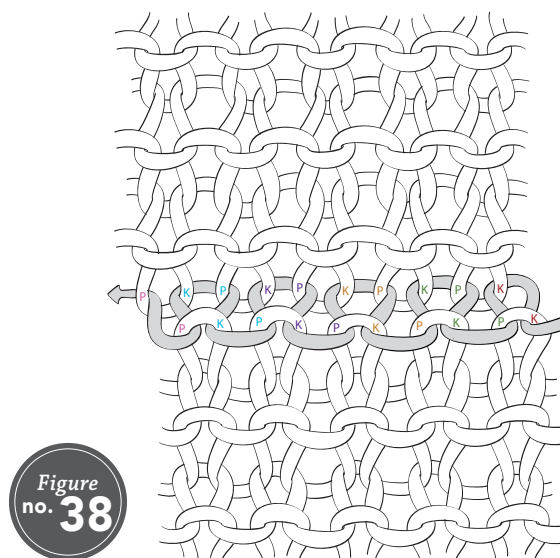
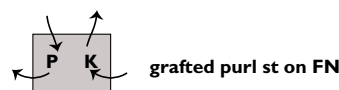


Figure
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Purled Garter St Grafting



grafted purl st on FN



grafted purl st on BN

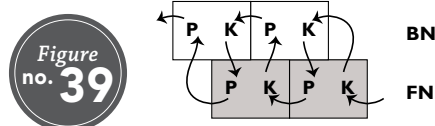


Figure
no. 39