

NORWEGIAN PURL METHOD

An alternative to the basic Continental method of purling is the less-known Norwegian method in which the yarn is held behind the work for knit stitches *and* purl stitches (instead of in the front). This method requires a little more hand movement, but it's surprisingly quick and easy to execute because the working yarn is held at an angle more conducive for completing the stitch. Because the yarn is held at the back of the work, seed stitch and ribbing—and corrugated ribbing in particular—are simple to work and involve less hand or wrist strain: there's no need to move the yarn from back to front (or vice versa) after every stitch. This is the method Beth Brown-Reinsel used for the corrugated ribbing in the Nordic Mittens on page 58 of the Winter 2004 issue of *Knits*.



Figure 1

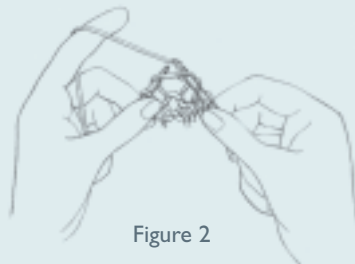


Figure 2

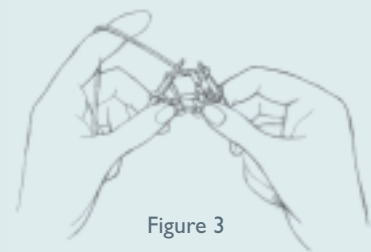


Figure 3

Basic Norwegian Purl

Holding the yarn in back of the work, bring the right needle behind, then under the yarn, then bring it forward and enter the stitch from back to front (Figure 1). Rotate the right needle around and behind the left needle tip, reaching over and

behind the yarn (Figure 2), then bring the needle (with yarn) to the front above the stitch, push the tip back through the old stitch (from front to back) to form the new stitch (Figure 3), and pull the old stitch off the needle.



Figure 1

Holding two yarns in the left hand.



Figure 2

Knit with the front yarn.

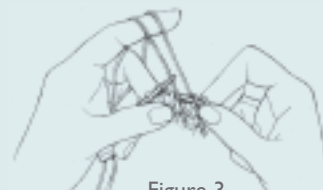


Figure 3

Purl with the front yarn.



Figure 4

Purl with the back yarn.

Corrugated Ribbing with Two Yarns Held in the Left Hand

Corrugated ribbing is a special type of color-stranded knitting in which the knit stitches are worked in one color and the purl stitches are worked in another. Knitters who can hold both yarns in the left hand and who can purl in the Norwegian method can switch colors effortlessly and don't have to move the yarns from front to back (or vice versa) at every color change. The instructions that follow are for the method used for the corrugated ribbing in the Nordic Mittens. (Note that these mittens are worked in the round so that the right side of the work is always facing the knitter. The technique is slightly different when the wrong side is facing.)

Hold and tension the two yarns in your left hand as for the basic Continental method shown (Figure 1), with one yarn (the front yarn) over your index finger and closest to your wrist, and the

other yarn (the back yarn) over the middle finger and closest to your fingertips.

To knit: Holding both yarns in back of the work, bring the right needle into the stitch, scoop the desired yarn (bring the needle over the front yarn to scoop the back yarn) in a counterclockwise motion (Figure 2), then bring the new stitch through the old.

To purl with the front yarn: Holding both yarns in back of the work, bring the right needle in front of the back yarn, behind the front yarn, then into the stitch from back to front (Figure 3), and purl the stitch in the Norwegian method described above.

To purl with the back yarn: Holding both yarns in back of the work, bring the right needle behind the back yarn, in front of the front yarn, then into the stitch from back to front (Figure 4), and purl the stitch in the Norwegian method described above.



RISK-FREE TRIAL OFFER

Discover knitwear designs that will capture your imagination.

You don't have to be a designer or a knitting pro to make beautiful knitted garments and accessories, and you don't have to hunt all over for inspiring designs.

From cover to cover, *Interweave Knits* magazine gives you great projects, from the beginner to the advanced. Every issue is packed full of captivating smart designs, step-by-step instructions, easy-to-understand illustrations, plus well-written, lively articles sure to inspire.

Take advantage of this special risk-free offer today!

www.interweave.com/go/knitsJPDT6