



Advanced casting on

Let's knit together

Learn new ways to start your projects, including methods for circular knitting

PROVISIONAL CAST ON WITH CROCHET CHAIN

This is a quick and easy provisional cast on that requires basic crochet skills

Step 1: using a smooth waste yarn, make a crochet chain that has the same number of chain stitches as need to be cast on, plus three more at each end, then fasten off



Step 2: missing the first three crochet chain stitches, insert your knitting needle into the bump along the reverse side of the chain, wrap the yarn around the needle and pull through loop



Repeat Step 2 until all your cast-on sts are picked up, then start knitting as instructed



When you're ready to knit back the other way, undo the fastening off knot of the crochet chain and slowly unravel the chain, placing the knitted stitches on to the needle as you go



Once you've picked up your stitches, just work in the other direction (shown here in purple)



In addition to the five basic cast-on methods in Casting On, another of our printable downloads, we now demonstrate some other techniques that could be

called for in a pattern. Read on to find out how to do a provisional, tubular, double-sided or circular cast on

PROVISIONAL CAST ON WITH WASTE YARN

This is another type of provisional cast on that could also be worked with two circular needles. Just replace the words "waste yarn" with "second needle cord" as you work. The example below is for an even number of stitches, skip Step 2 if you have an odd number of sts

Step 1: knot the ends of your waste yarn (green) and working yarn (yellow) together. Hold waste yarn over your thumb and the working yarn over the index finger. This is known as the 'slingshot' position



Step 2: move the needle over the top of the waste yarn then underneath the working yarn from back to front



Step 3: Move the needle under the waste yarn from front to back coming up in front of the working yarn. Then take the needle under the working yarn from back to front, coming up in front of the waste yarn



Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until all stitches have been cast on, then start knitting as instructed



When you're ready to work in the other direction, pick up the stitches by inserting your needle through the loops of working yarn and remove the waste yarn



Once you've picked up your stitches, just work in the other direction (shown here in blue)





TUBULAR CAST ON

This is an invisible cast on for 1x1 rib that is worked over an even number of stitches

Step 1: using waste yarn (pink), cast on half the needed number of stitches using any basic cast on. Beginning with a purl row, work four rows in stocking stitch



Step 2: on the next row, purl one stitch, then insert the RH needle through the side loop of the first stitch on Row 1 of the main yarn section, going from bottom to top. Place this loop on to the LH needle, knit this loop



Step 3: Purl the next stitch, then insert the RH needle through the purl 'bump' on Row 1 of the main yarn section, going from top to bottom. Place this loop on LH needle, knit this loop



Rep Step 3 across the row, then continue in (p1, k1) rib



Remove the waste yarn



JUDY'S MAGIC CAST ON

This double sided cast on is great for toe-up socks

NOTE: this cast on is used with an even number of sts

Step 1: hold two double-pointed needles parallel and, leaving a long tail, sandwich yarn between needles



Step 2: hold yarn in the 'slingshot' position with the tail around your index finger and the working yarn around your thumb. The yarns should now be twisted



Step 3: using your index finger, wrap the yarn tail around the bottom needle from front to back



Step 4: using your thumb, bring the working yarn between the needles and wrap it around the top needle from front to back



Repeat Steps 3 and 4 until all your stitches have been cast on, ending after Step 3



Turn the needles so the bottom needle is now on top and hold them in your left hand. Bring the working yarn in front of the yarn tail



Insert a third double-pointed needle into the first stitch on the uppermost needle, knit this stitch, pulling the yarn tail tight to secure the stitch



Keeping the right side facing you at all times, work in the round over these two needles



INVISIBLE CIRCULAR CAST ON

Used when knitting in the round. Ideal for tubular bags, top-down hats or teacosies, or knitting flat circles. It's similar to the idea of a magic ring in crochet.

Step 1: make a loop with the working yarn in front and going to the left, and the tail going behind and going to the right



Step 2: tension loop with thumb and middle finger of left hand and hold the tail securely in place with your right hand



Step 3: tensioning the working yarn with your left index finger, insert needle through loop, wrap the yarn around the needle from front to back and pull through loop



Step 4: without inserting needle through loop, wrap working yarn around needle from front to back



Using right index finger to hold loops in place, repeat Steps 3 and 4 until the correct number of stitches have been cast on



Transfer your stitches on to double-pointed needles, join in the round and start knitting. When you're ready, pull the yarn tail to close the centre hole

