

Alternate Cable Cast-on for 2x2, 2x1 & 1x2 ribbing

This tutorial demonstrates how the highly adaptable Alternate Cable cast-on can be used for 2x2 (K2, P2), 2x1 (K2, P1) and 1x2 (K1, P2) ribbings. You will need to download my tutorial which outlines Alternate Cable cast-on, as that is the basis for these techniques. You can download the tutorial as a PDF from here:

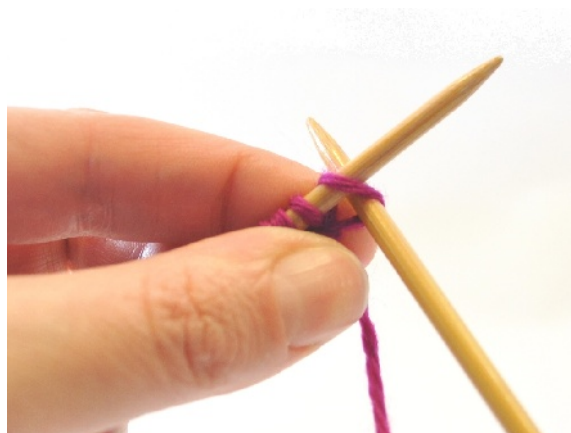
<http://www.woollywormhead.com/knit-and-crochet-1/>

Pt1 – Alternate Cable (AC) cast-on for 2x2 ribbing

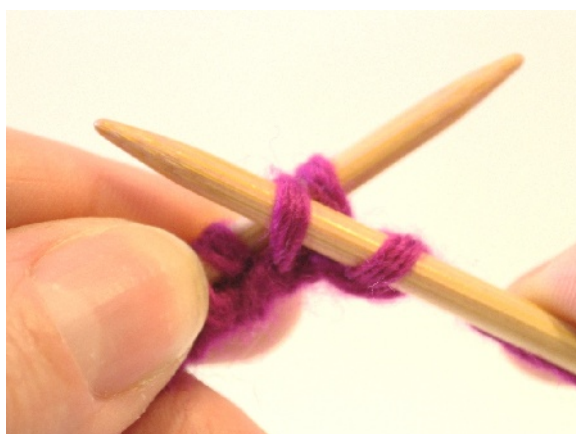
As you'll have noted from the other tutorial PDF, I treat the first slip knot of the cast-on as a purl stitch, and after casting on the required number of stitches (incl. that first knot), the last stitch cast-on will be a knit stitch. I then work the first row flat, and join after that. It makes the first round sturdier, less likely to twist, and makes a much neater rib as well as put a knit stitch at the beginning of the round, which we're most familiar with.



1. Cast-on the required no. of sts, divisible by 4, using the regular Alternate Cable cast-on for 1x1 ribbing.

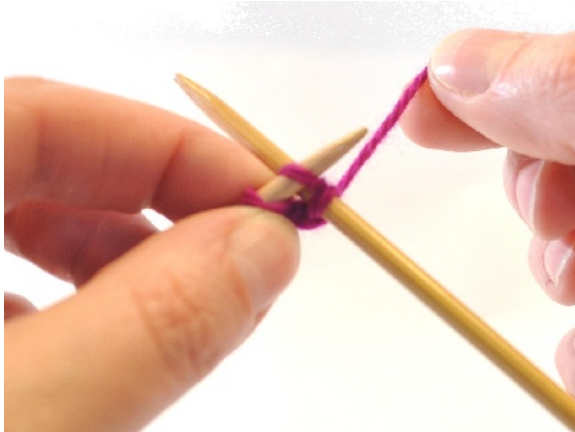


2. Our first flat row: knit the first stitch



3. The next stitch we come to is a purl stitch, so before we do anything else, we want to swap that stitch around with the knit stitch following it.

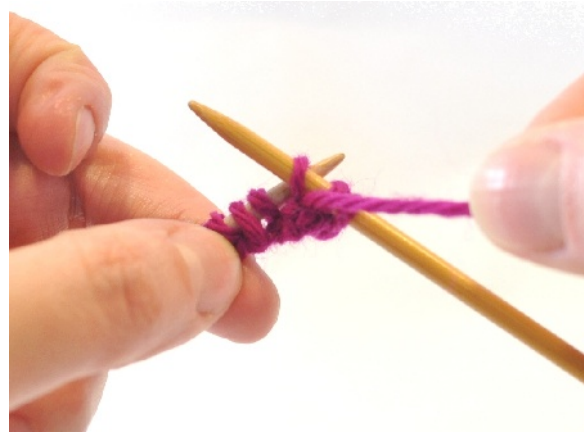
Simply insert the tip of the right needle into the 2nd stitch along (the knit st), from the front, and slip both stitches off the needle. As you do this, use the tip of the left needle to grab the purl stitch from behind as it falls off the needle - once that's safely back on, we can slip the knit stitch back onto the left tip, where it will now be in front of the purl stitch.



4. knit what is now the next stitch after the swap,

Repeat steps 2 to 5 until all of the stitches are now in pairs of 2. You will notice that all of the stitches resemble 2x2 ribbing.

This rearranging of stitches counts as your first flat row and it's now safe to join the work in the round, with the first 2sts as knit stitches.



5. then purl the following 2 sts.

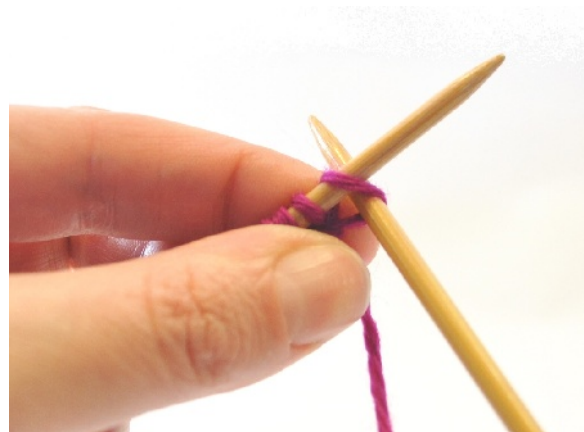


Pt2 – Alternate Cable (AC) cast-on for 2x1 ribbing

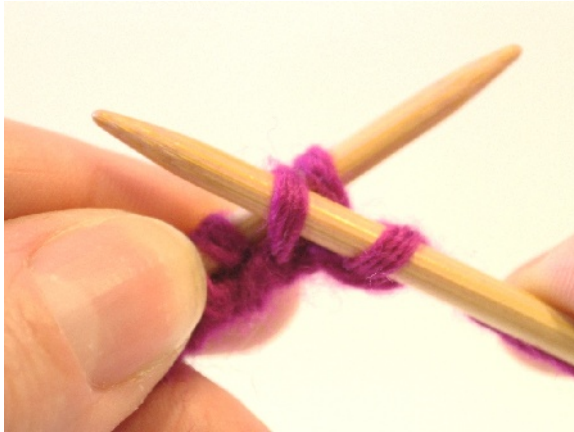
This method follows on from the 2x2, in that it starts in almost exactly the same way. Just like before, we'll start with our 1x1 Alternate Cable cast-on. Except this time, you need to cast on 1/3 more stitches than you need. So if you need 60 sts (a 2x1 or 1x2 works on a multiple of 3) then you'll want to be casting on 80 sts. Which means we'll always be casting on in a multiple of 4, and that is just how we want it.



1. Cast-on the required no. of sts, divisible by 4, using the regular Alternate Cable cast-on for 1x1 ribbing.

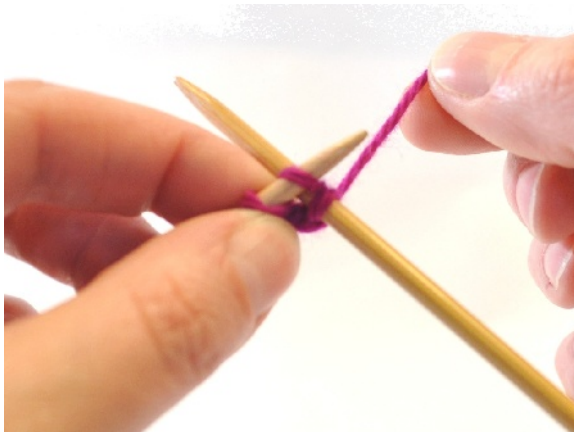


2. Our first flat row: knit the first stitch



3. The next stitch we come to is a purl stitch, so before we do anything else, we want to swap that stitch around with the knit stitch following it.

Simply insert the tip of the right needle into the 2nd stitch along (the knit st), from the front, and slip both stitches off the needle. As you do this, use the tip of the left needle to grab the purl stitch from behind as it falls off the needle - once that's safely back on, we can slip the knit stitch back onto the left tip, where it will now be in front of the purl stitch.



4. knit what is now the next stitch after the swap,



5. and then we have 2 purl sts to work, and this is where we reduce them to 1st



6. purl the next 2sts together through the backs of the loops (p2togtbl). I found this to be the best decrease for the job, though you may wish to experiment

Repeat steps 2 to 6 until all of the stitches have been worked and you're left with a multiple of 3 sts.

Pt3 – Alternate Cable (AC) cast-on for 1x2 ribbing

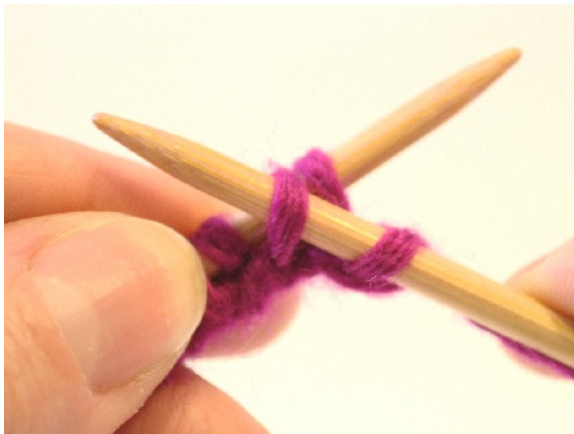
This method follows on from the 2x2, in that it starts in almost exactly the same way. Just like before, we'll start with our 1x1 Alternate Cable cast-on. Except this time, you need to cast on 1/3 more stitches than you need. So if you need 60 sts (a 2x1 or 1x2 works on a multiple of 3) then you'll want to be casting on 80 sts. Which means we'll always be casting on in a multiple of 4, and that is just how we want it.



1. Cast-on the required no. of sts, divisible by 4, using the regular Alternate Cable cast-on for 1x1 ribbing.



2. our first flat row – instead of knitting the first stitch, we slip it, purlwise, and left it on the right hand needle for a while.



3. The next stitch we come to is a purl stitch, so before we do anything else, we want to swap that stitch around with the knit stitch following it.

Simply insert the tip of the right needle into the 2nd stitch along (the knit st), from the front, and slip both stitches off the needle. As you do this, use the tip of the left needle to grab the purl stitch from behind as it falls off the needle - once that's safely back on, we can slip the knit stitch back onto the left tip, where it will now be in front of the purl stitch.



4. once the stitches have been swapped, slip the knit stitch being held on the right hand needle back to the left needle, so that it's now in front of the other knit st.



5. and now we want to decrease – I found the decrease that gave the neatest finish on the cast-on edge was a k2togtbl



6. then purl the following 2 sts normally.

Then repeat steps 2 to 6 to give you this lovely 1x2 edge and a multiple of 3sts. This photo shows more clearly how the stitches lay once a few rounds/rows have been worked.

More information about these cast-on methods can be found in these blog posts:

<http://www.woollywormhead.com/blog/2012/1/5/alternate-cable-cast-on-for-2x2-ribbing.html>

<http://www.woollywormhead.com/blog/2012/1/14/alternate-cable-cast-on-for-2x1-1x2-ribbing.html>

As has been said in the posts above, the 2x2 ribbing is highly effective and looks really good on the edge of a Hat or other garment. It is as effective as the 1x1, and both are so much quicker than their tubular cast-on cousins.



The 1x2 and 2x1 are perhaps a little more clunky, as decreasing in the cast-on edge isn't ideal, but it works perfectly well. I would however advise caution of the weight of yarn used with these latter two methods – the decreased stitch is still there in the very edge, even if it's well hidden, and it does add a little bulk. I wouldn't want to use anything heavier than a worsted weight, maybe an aran weight, with the 2x1 and 1x2 methods.

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