

Appendix 530

ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

B

back

Bavarian knitting

a form of knitting where every knit stitch is worked through the back loop, which twists it

betw

between

BO

bind off

cable

a group of stitches worked out of order; a cable needle can be used to hold the first group of stitches out of the way while the second group of stitches is worked off the left-hand needle, then the stitches on the cable needle are worked; a cable usually knits all of its stitches (see “twist”)

cardigan

a sleeved garment that opens down the front and closes with buttons or a zipper

circ(s)

circular needle(s)

cn

cable needle

CO

cast on

crossed stitches

a two-stitch cable, often made without a cable needle by skipping the first stitch to work the second stitch first, then working the first stitch, and finally dropping both stitches off the left needle

for left-crossed stitches, work the second stitch from the back in the back loop, then work the first stitch normally; for right-crossed stitches, either (1) K2tog, then work the first stitch again, or (2) work the second stitch, then work the first stitch; for either version, work both stitches before removing them from the left needle

dec

decrease: working two or more stitches together in such a way that fewer stitches, often only one, remain

double decrease

a decrease that turns three stitches into one stitch by removing two stitches, like a K3tog, S2KP, and SK2P

DPN(s)

double-pointed needle(s)

even number

a number that can be divided by two without leaving a remainder; even numbers end in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 (see “odd number”)

F

front

frogging

ripping back, usually an entire row (or several rows) all at once by removing the needle(s) from the work; from the sound a frog makes: “ribbit” or “rippit” (see “tink”)

garter stitch

a basic knitted fabric made by knitting every stitch of every row or by purling every stitch of every row; made in the round by alternating knit rounds and purl rounds; it does not curl, so it makes a good border for knitted fabrics that curl; has a tighter row gauge than stockinette, so short rows may be needed when used as a border on an item whose central area is stockinette-based

in pattern

binding off should usually be done “in pattern,” which means working each stitch as though working the current row of the pattern instead of binding off

in the flat

working in rows, back and forth, whether with straight needles or a circular needle; to make stockinette stitch, you alternate knit and purl rows

in the round

working a seamless tube of fabric with double-pointed needles or one (or more) circular needles; for stockinette stitch, you knit every stitch of every round

jog

the off-by-one-row appearance that happens in circular knitting on either side of the line between the beginning and end of the rounds

jumper

a sleeved garment pulled on over the head; also called “sweater”

K

knit

K the K and P the P

knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches; ribbing is made this way; see also “work the stitches as they present themselves”

K the P and P the K

knit the purl stitches and purl the knit stitches; seed stitch is made this way; see also “work the stitches the opposite of how they present themselves”

K2tog

knit 2 together; a right-leaning decrease

knitting back backwards

creating new stitches on the left-hand needle from existing stitches on the right-hand needle; a useful technique for making entrelac or short rows; see “mirror-image knitting” and “purling back on the public side”

L

left

mirror-image knitting

making one row by forming new stitches on the right needle from existing stitches on the left needle, then making the next row by forming new stitches on the left needle from existing stitches on the right needle; see “knitting back backwards” and “purling back on the right side”

ndl(s)

needle(s)

odd number

a number that leaves a remainder of one when divided by two; odd numbers end in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9 (see “even number”)

P

purl

pattern repeat

the stitches and rows required to make a pattern over and over again across the width and up the length of a project; also used generically to mean “stitch repeat” or “row repeat”; which specific term is meant is usually clear from the context (see “stitch repeat” and “row repeat”)

plus rows

rows before and/or after a pattern's row repeat; generally used to make the top and bottom edges of the piece symmetrical or mirror-image (or to finish neatly an asymmetrical pattern)

plus stitches

stitches before and/or after a pattern's stitch repeat; generally used to make the left and right edges of the piece symmetrical or mirror-image (or to finish neatly an asymmetrical pattern)

private side

Maggie Righetti's term for the side of a knitted fabric that is the inside of a sweater (usually called the "wrong side"; see "wrong side")

public side

Maggie Righetti's term for the side of a knitted fabric that is the outside of a sweater (usually called the "right side"); "public side" is generally preferable to "right side," which could mean

- (1) one of the two sides of a knitted fabric
- (2) the front of a cardigan on the wearer's right
- (3) the portion of the front or back of a sweater on the wearer's right
- (4) the right edge of a chart
- (5) the right edge of a rectangular project

P2tog

purl 2 together; if worked on the private side of stockinette, it leans to the right on the public side

R

right

reverse stockinette

a basic knitted fabric made by purling the public-side rows and knitting the private-side rows, or by purling every stitch when working in the round; top and bottom edges will curl to the knit side, and left and right edges will curl to the purl side unless bordered with a noncurling fabric like ribbing, seed stitch, or garter stitch

ribbing

a common edging on the top and bottom edges of stockinette to control its tendency to curl and to help keep garment edges in place at neck, wrists, and bottom edge; no matter the exact number of knits and purls, all ribbing is simply alternating columns of stockinette and reverse stockinette; once the first row is made, subsequent rows work the stitches as they present themselves

ridge

two garter-stitch rows, across and back; for most knitters, a piece of garter stitch with the same number of stitches and ridges will be almost perfectly square

right side

an ambiguous term (see “public side”)

rnd(s)

round(s); a complete circuit in circular knitting

row repeat

the sequence of rows that must be repeated over and over up the length of a project (see “stitch repeat,” “pattern repeat,” “plus rows”)

rpt(s)

repeat(s)

RS

right side (see “public side”)

S2KP

“slip 2 tog–knit–pass”: slip 2 together knitwise (as though starting to K2tog), knit 1, pass the two slipped stitches over; a double decrease whose one resulting stitch stands straight up

seed stitch

a basic knitted fabric that alternates knits and purls by both stitches and rows; lies flat, so it makes a good border for flat projects whose central area is essentially based on stockinette; its stitch and row gauge usually match a knitter’s stockinette gauges; once the initial row of K1–P1 is complete, in subsequent rows the stitches are worked the opposite of how they present themselves

short rows

turning back before completing an entire row, then working either all the way back to the beginning of the piece or stopping short, then turning to work in the original direction; part of the work will be taller because of the two partial rows; short rows can make left and right garter-stitch borders as tall as the flat piece they’re worked on

single decrease

a decrease that turns two stitches into one stitch by removing a single stitch, like a K2tog, SSK, and SKP; see “double decrease”

SKP

“slip–knit–pass”: slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over; a left-leaning single decrease

SK2P

“slip–K2tog–pass”: slip 1, knit 2 together, pass slipped stitch over; a left-leaning double decrease

sl

slip, meaning to insert the right needle into a stitch and remove it from the left needle without actually forming a new stitch from it; stitches can be slipped knitwise or purlwise; slipping purlwise keeps the right leg in front of the needle, which is its normal location; slipping knitwise puts the stitch’s right leg behind the needle

SSK

“slip–slip–knit”: slip one stitch knitwise, slip a second stitch knitwise, put the left needle into the fronts of the two slipped stitches, and knit them from this position (some knitters get a better result by slipping the second stitch purlwise); a left-leaning decrease that usually matches a K2tog reasonably well

SSP

“slip–slip–purl”: slip one stitch knitwise, slip a second stitch knitwise, put both stitches back to the left needle purlwise (so the right legs stay behind the needle), put the right needle into the back of the two stitches by going into the second stitch first, then purl from that position; if worked on the private side of stockinette, it leans to the left on the public side

st(s)

stitch(es)

stitch repeat

the sequence of stitches that must be repeated over and over across the width of a piece (see “row repeat,” “pattern repeat,” “plus stitches”)

stockinette/stockinette stitch

a basic knitted fabric made by knitting the public-side rows and purling the private-side rows, or by knitting every stitch when working in the round; top and bottom edges will curl toward the knit side, and left and right edges will curl toward the purl side unless bordered with a noncurling fabric like ribbing, seed stitch, or garter stitch

sweater

a sleeved garment that is pulled on over the head; also called “jumper”

symbol key

a small list that shows exactly what each chart symbol means when working public- and private-side rows

tbl

through the back loop(s)

tink

ripping back, usually one stitch at a time so that each freed stitch is immediately put on a needle; from spelling the word *knit* backwards (see “frogging”)

tog

together

traveling stitches

usually a two-stitch twist consisting of a single knit stitch moving side to side across reverse stockinette

twist

this word can have two meanings, depending on context:

(1) a stitch worked in the back loop, that is, through the left leg, which is normally behind the left-hand needle, instead of the right leg, which is normally in front of the left-hand needle; twisted stitches are tighter than normal stitches

(2) a cable whose background stitches are purled, so that the knit stitches move side to side across reverse stockinette (see “cable”)

work even

usually used in the context of shaping with decreases and/or increases, which are generally done only every other row or round; on the in-between rows or rounds, the stitches are simply worked in pattern without doing any shaping

work the stitches as they present themselves

if the next stitch on the left needle is a knit, knit it; if it's a purl, purl it

work the stitches the opposite of how they present themselves

if the next stitch on the left needle is a knit, purl it; if it's a purl, knit it

WS

wrong side (see “private side”)

yo

yarnover