

Replacing a Strand

Notes

So in [Camino Bubbles](#), when I finally realized I could not spit-splice my **superwash** wool yarn, I did my usual thing: drop the old yarn and simply start with the new yarn, leaving ends about 8 inches long hanging down to deal with at the end.

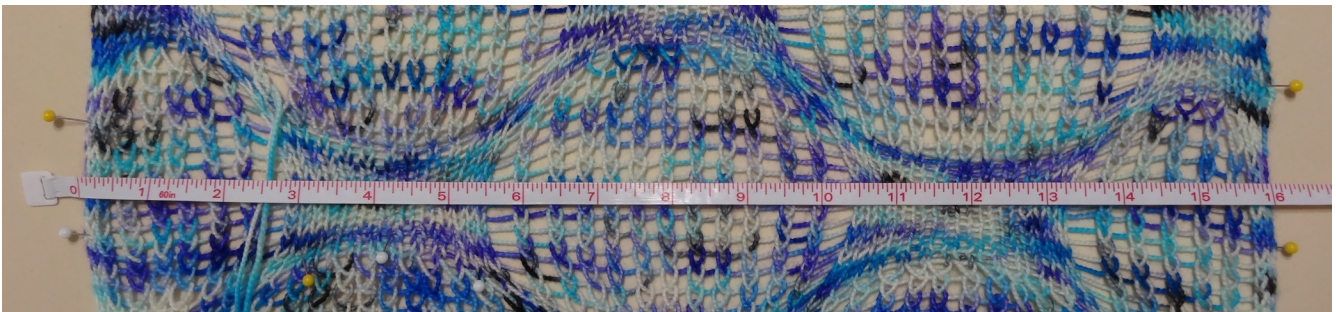
Ordinarily, that works just fine. But this time I was stupid and not paying attention, and I did the switchover in the middle of the area where I would be dropping every other stitch to form the bubble. That means there would be no real way to weave in those tails invisibly and, especially, securely.

So I gave a big sigh and finished it. Then I had to replace enough of the two tails so that the four new tails would be in the solid stockinette portions on either side of the bubble.

I routinely weave sweater underarms, so I am quite familiar with the motions. I had even done some K2togs during UA weaving on my [Triple Braid](#), but I had never done any twisted-stitch weaving. I also have never tried to weave when there was already the bottom of a row above (UAs seem more head to head to me).

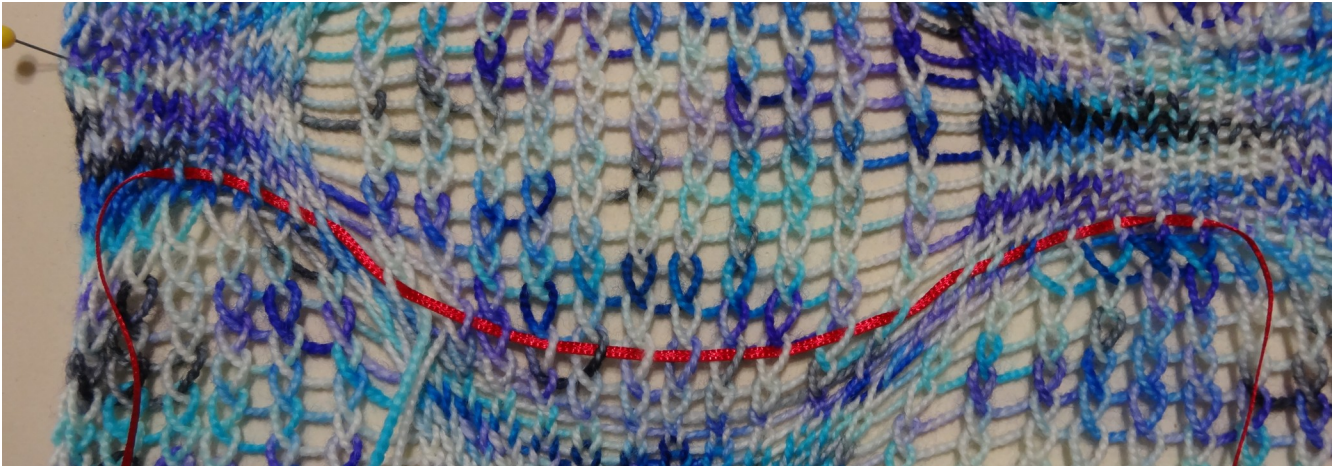
The Details

I pinned out the WIP to the width I expected to block to. Eventually I had to remove some pins so I could get my hand partway underneath, but I left the bulk of the pins in place until I was done.



The two tails that need to be moved cross the tape measure at the 2.5-inch mark.

The red lifeline is through the row below the one I was replacing.

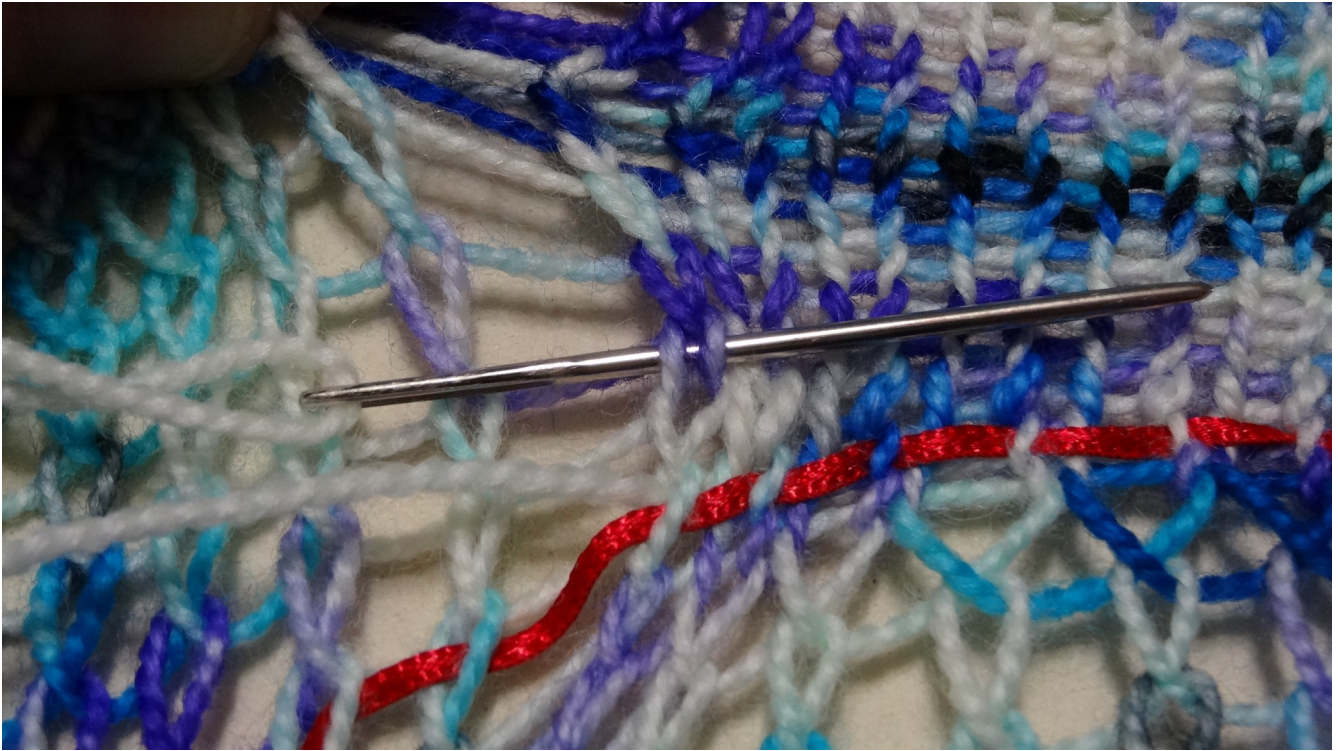


I cut about a yard of yarn even though the affected area was only about 8 inches wide. Between needing to allow enough length for the dropped stitches' rungs, I am paranoid, and better too much than too little--which would have required starting all over again.

Since I'm right handed, I worked right to left. The most important thing in weaving is to put the needle into the correct place from the correct direction. The other most important thing is to not split the plies but to go **through** the loops and **beside** the strands. In this case, the twisted stitches and the lifeline made both parts trickier, but it actually was easier than I expected.



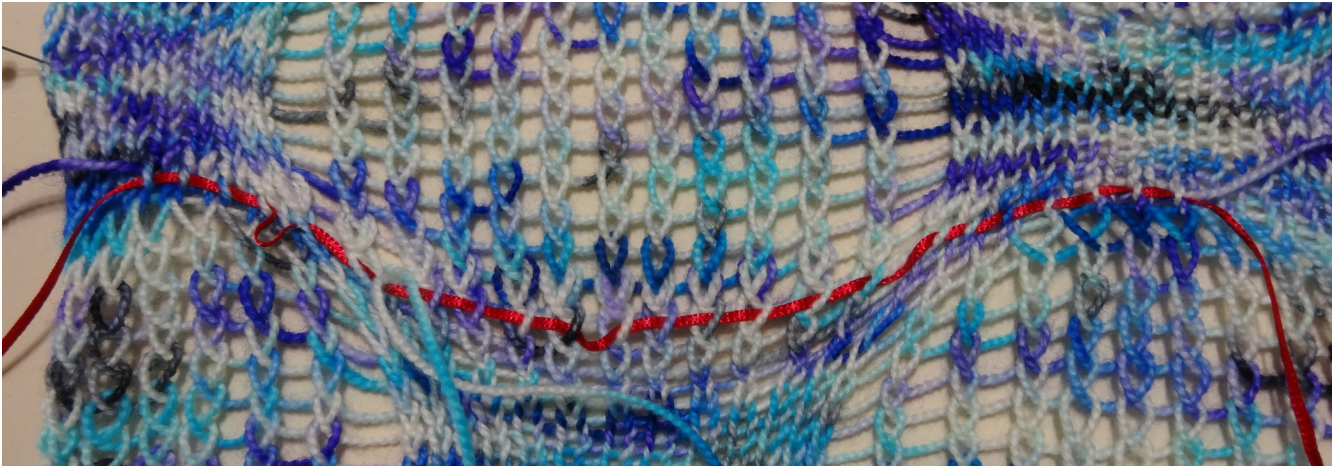
Duplicating a non-twisted stitch



Duplicating a twisted stitch



Dodging the lifeline



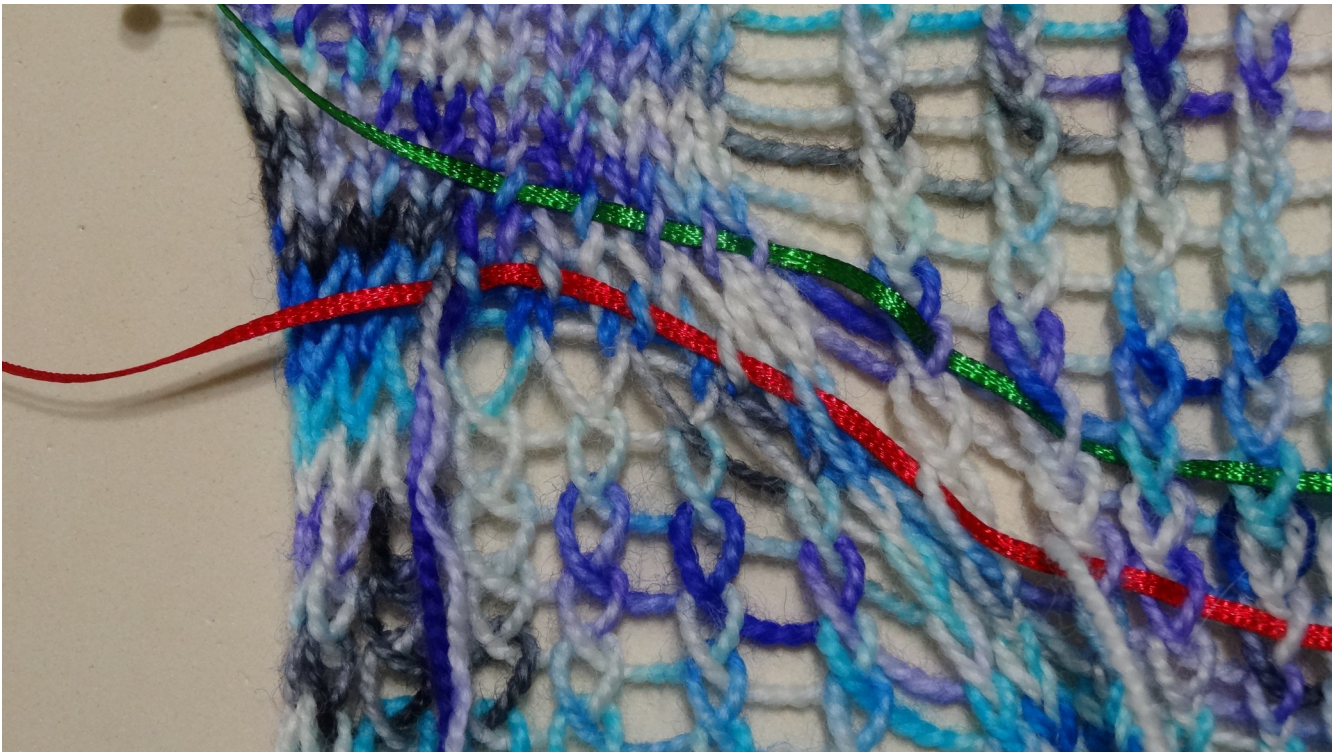
New strand fully duplicated in

When I went to remove the old strands, I had a moment of panic and decided to run a second lifeline through the row above the row I had just replaced. When I realized that if I had made any kind of mistake that I was going to have to undo the new strand and reveal **two** raw edges, I had a little shudder. So I ran the green lifeline and double-checked the new strand again. And again. Then I took a deep breath.



Added a second lifeline, in the row above the one I was replacing--just in case

I started removing the old strand on the left, since it was so much shorter. It looked good, so I took courage and removed the one on the right. Near the right end, I had just barely caught a few fibers of two stitches that were being removed. I tugged them gently, and they came loose. Phew!



Removed left strand



Both old strands removed

When I finished weaving the new strand in, I put all the blocking pins back in and adjusted tension as well as possible, which was hampered somewhat by the lifelines. I knew I'd have more chances to fix it, so I didn't sweat it too much.

I examined the new strand along both top and bottom to make sure everything went through the places it was supposed to, and it all looked good. I also debated with myself how willing I would be to accept an error. I decided that as long as no stitches were in danger of running (none were), then I wasn't going to worry about any, er, infelicity of weaving (like twisting a stitch that shouldn't be or not twisting one that should be). Who was ever going to get close enough to look? Nobody, not even me!!!

I left the lifelines during blocking (after soaking some spare bits of the ribbons in the Soak soaking bath, just to make sure the ribbon was indeed colorfast), just in case.

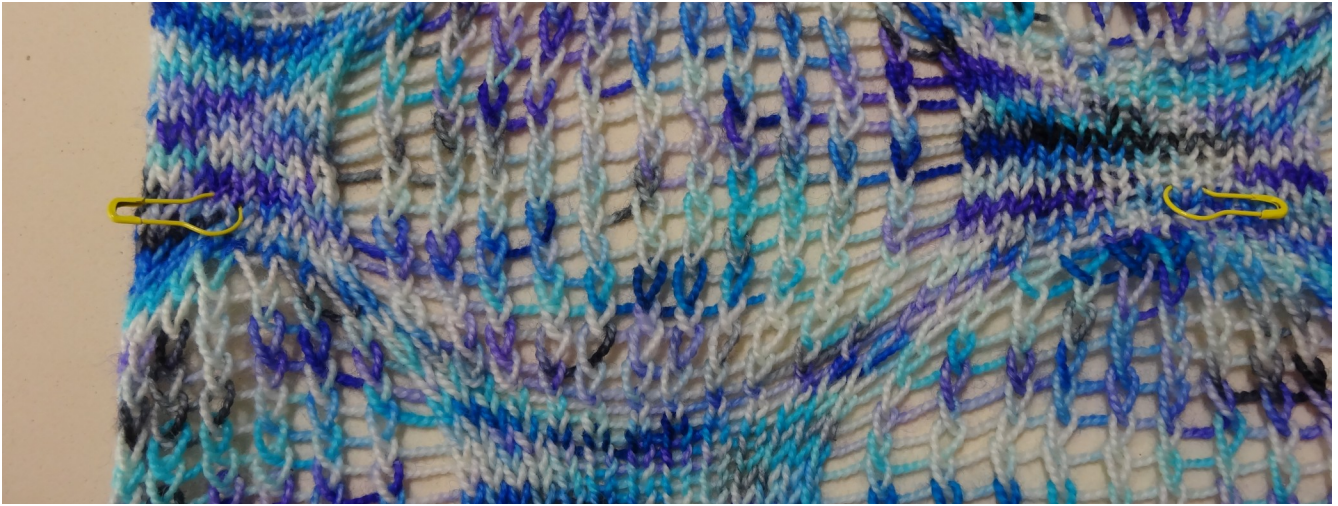


After blocking. Stitches at ends need tightening.

After I blocked the project, I finally removed the lifelines after one last inspection to make sure there would be no inadvertently dropped stitches. I had to tighten the plain stockinette at each end a little bit.



Lifelines removed



Ends woven in--yay!!

I'm glad to have been successful, but I would really rather not **ever** do this again!