

"SweaterBabe.com's Fabulous & Flirty Crochet" by Katherine Lee is available at www.Amazon.com and bookstores nationwide!

Techniques used in SweaterBabe.com's top-down cardigan patterns

#SWB-K000TDT











TECHNIQUES INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT:

- 1) **m1** – make 1 st by picking up the strand between sts and knitting it
- 2) **yo** – yarn over AND **skp** – slip 1 knitwise, knit 1, pass slipped st over knit st for making Buttonholes
- 3) **m1-L** – make 1 st by picking up the left side of the st 2 rows below the one just worked and knitting it AND **m1-R** – make 1 st by picking up the right side of the st below the next one (on your left needle) and knitting it for working the raglan increases with a finished look
- 4) **single strand cast on**
- 5) **sewing on patch pockets for invisible seams (only for patterns #72 and 73)**







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1) To "m1" = make 1 stitch:

		
<p>STEP 1: Using right needle, lift up the strand between sts from back to front as shown.</p>	<p>STEP 2: Slip it onto the left needle by just transferring it over as shown.</p>	<p>STEP 3: Now, knit the picked-up strand through the back by inserting your right needle into the back of the strand (just like knitting into the back of a stitch).</p>
		
<p>STEP 4: Here is a better view of the right needle tip being inserted into the BACK of the stitch/strand.</p>	<p>STEP 5: Yarn over as usual to knit the stitch.</p>	<p>STEP 6: Pull-through the new knit stitch and drop the "strand" off the left needle. You have now completed a "make 1" or "m1".</p>
		
<p>A slightly faster way to do STEPS 1 to 4 is to lift the strand with your right needle tip.</p>	<p>Then insert your left needle tip into the front of the lifted strand. Then, continuing from Step 5 above, knitting it to make the new stitch.</p>	







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2) To "yo, skp" or "yarn over, slip – knit -- pass slipped st over knit st" to make a Buttonhole:

		
<p>STEP 1 – the "yo": Bring yarn to the front between your needle tips to do a yarn over.</p>	<p>STEP 2 – the "s" in "skp": Slip the next st by inserting your right needle into the next st (as if you were to knit it) and just transferring it over to the right needle. (Don't knit it!)</p>	<p>STEP 3 – the "k" in "skp": Now, knit the next st as usual. In doing this, the yarn, which was sitting in front and is now in back after your knit the 1 st, will create a "yarn over" or a strand laying on top of your right needle that will form the "hole".</p>
		
<p>STEP 4 – the "p" in "skp": Use your left needle tip to pass the slipped st (from STEP 2) over the knit st (from STEP 3). This is the same move as binding off a st.</p>	<p>Finish slipping it over by lifting it over the knit st and. . .</p>	<p>. . . and off the needle as shown. On the next row, you will knit the yarn over as a regular st and complete the buttonhole.</p>

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3) To "[m1-L, slip marker, m1-R]" = make 1 st into the LEFT side of a stitch 2 rows below, slip your st marker (not shown here), then make 1 st into the RIGHT side of a stitch 1 row below. This is the technique used to make the nice raglan increases (that mimics the look of a seam).








		
<p>One new st will be made by knitting into the LEFT strand of a st 2 rows below (see the black line on the right) the last st on the right needle) and into the RIGHT strand of a st 1 row below the next st sitting on the left needle (see the black line on the left).</p>	<p>STEP 1: First do the "m1-L" by using your left needle tip to pick up the LEFT strand from the st 2 rows below the last st on the right needle. Pick it up from left to right as shown.</p>	<p>STEP 2: Knit it by inserting your right needle into the BACK of the lifted stitch.</p>
		
<p>STEP 3: Yarn over and use the right needle tip to pull through the new stitch.</p>	<p>STEP 4: After knitting the st, you can see that the new st looks like it is "coming out" from the LEFT of another st.</p>	<p>STEP 5: Now, do an "m1-R" by inserting your right needle tip into the RIGHT strand of the st 1 row below the next st on the left needle.</p>

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<p>STEP 6: Yarn over to knit this picked up strand. (Similar to picking up sts along a neck edge)</p>	<p>STEP 7: Use your right needle tip to pull through the new stitch. The st sitting on your left needle is still the NEXT st to be knit. Be careful not to let it come off and forget to work it.</p>	

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4) To do the single strand cast on, i.e. "cast on X sts", in this example 2 sts.

		
<p>STEP 1: Wrap the yarn around your left thumb as shown.</p>	<p>STEP 2: Use the right-hand needle tip and pick up the FRONT strand on your thumb from the bottom up as shown.</p>	<p>STEP 3: Let go of the loop on your thumb and a loop will have been created on your right-hand needle. This is the 1st cast on st.</p>
		
<p>STEP 4: Wrap the yarn around your thumb again and slightly tighten the 1st cast on st.</p>	<p>STEP 5: Again, use the right needle tip to pick up the strand on the front of your thumb.</p>	<p>STEP 6: This creates a loop on your right needle.</p>
		
<p>STEP 7: Let the loop on your thumb drop and pull on the yarn a bit to tighten the 2nd cast on st.</p>		

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4) sewing on patch pockets for invisible seams



For the bottom and top edges of the pocket, you can sew using a "duplicate stitch" sort of method, to give you an "invisible" seam. See how the orange seaming stitches mimic the knit stitch, which basically looks like a "V"?



To do this, insert the needle around the base of the next knit stitch along the edge of the pocket. See the close up here:



This creates the right half of a "knit stitch".



This is what the completed right strand looks like after you've pulled the needle through.



Next, create the 2nd half of the "knit stitch" by inserting the needle into the center of the next stitch and then out through the center of the next adjacent stitch. See the close up here:



Now the left half of a "knit stitch" is completed.

The above shows the seam after 3 of these "knit stitches" have been made. Ignoring all the different colors used to illustrate this technique, you can see how this method of seaming will make the pocket look like it was truly knit in.



To sew the side edges of the pocket so the seam is "invisible", a different technique is used. See above, the orange seaming yarn is not visible and the far right column of stitches on the pocket lines up exactly next to a column of stitches on the front the cardigan.

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To do this seam, line up the pocket edge to a column of stitches. Alternate picking up a horizontal strand from the pocket with picking up a horizontal strand from the cardigan. Here is a close-up:



One strand is picked up with the needle along the edge of the pocket.

Then, continuing up, one strand is picked up with the needle right against the edge of the column of stitches on the cardigan.

Here is the close-up:



Continue to zigzag up, picking up one strand from the pocket, then one from the cardigan being very careful to maintain the seaming stitches along the same, consistent columns of stitches on the pocket as well as the cardigan.



As you tighten a little, the seaming strand will disappear and the pocket will look like it was knit in.