

Patty Lyons' KNITTING ER

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patty Lyons is an internationally recognised knitting instructor, designer, and technique expert. Known for her engaging classes and deep technical knowledge, Patty has taught thousands of knitters how to fix, finesse, and fall back in love with their projects. She is the author of *Patty Lyons' Knitting Bag of Tricks* and *Patty Lyons' Knitting Bag of Tricks The Official Workbook*, and she's a regular contributor to leading knitting publications and events.



KEY INFO

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Foundations of Fabric: Your Guide to Healthy Living

In my *Knitting Bag of Tricks* book, I mentioned that my brother, who rehabs houses, was studying home building. When I asked him if he was planning to branch out into new home construction, he said, "No, but you can't fix something if you don't understand how it's built."

When I was a new knitter, one of the things that drove me batty about my first knitting books was that they only gave instructions on how to make the stitch; none of them explained the actual structure of knitting. I had no understanding of how the yarn formed interlocking loops. And what's worse, the books only showed one way — their way. Even when I looked for ways to fix mistakes, all the books used the same drawings of how to make a knit stitch and a purl stitch. They all gave the same advice, which didn't help me learn, often tired nuggets like *don't stop in the middle of a row*. "But what if I have to?" I yelled to the heavens. I couldn't find anything to help me understand my knitting.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Knitting emergency? Get help, STAT. Fix every knitting mistake with skill and confidence with this expert guide.

Patty Lyons' *Knitting ER* is a one-of-a-kind reference packed with step-by-step repair tutorials, clever solutions, and insider tips for rescuing knits at any stage — from dropped stitches to post-bind-off regrets. With a playful medical theme and clear illustrations throughout, this book is your emergency room for all yarn-related accidents.

From the simplest snags to complex structural errors, expert knitting teacher and bestselling author Patty Lyons leads you through a wide range of techniques. You'll find essential fixes for every stitch type — including hard-to-source repairs for brioche and half fisherman's rib — alongside innovative methods for updating finished garments, such as adding a missing

cable or adjusting sleeve lengths. This is the book knitters didn't know they were missing: practical, empowering, and fun.

Covers both in-progress and finished knit repairs, from beginner to advanced

Includes fixes for specialty stitches rarely addressed in other books

The clear, easy-to-follow structure makes even complex techniques accessible

Featuring charming illustrations by Franklin Habit, in addition to detailed technical drawings

Includes QR codes for access to video tutorials to bring the step-by-step instructions to life

Feel like your knitting is on life support? Don't frog it — fix it with this essential knitter's handbook.

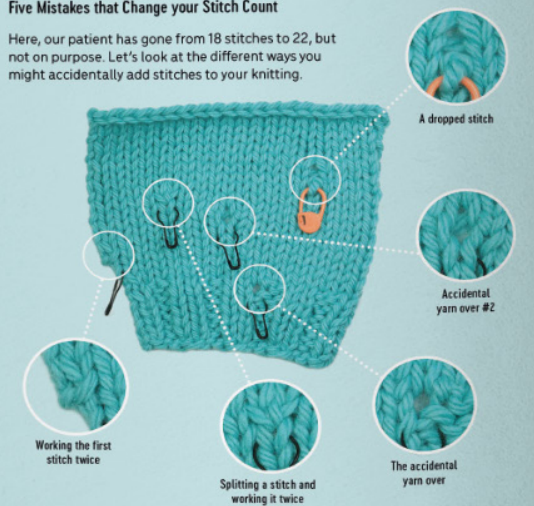
Our first two Frankenswatch patients are in the waiting room, ready for assessment. We'll use them to practice our diagnosis and for each mistake, we'll examine preventive medicine and treatment plans. You can return to this section anytime you notice something unusual with your knitting. (We'll cover the treatment plans in the next chapter.)

And remember, every mistake in knitting is an advanced knitting technique you didn't mean to use at that moment. Take heart; today's mistake could be tomorrow's brioche, short rows, or lace!

FRANKENSWATCH #1:

Five Mistakes that Change your Stitch Count

Here, our patient has gone from 18 stitches to 22, but not on purpose. Let's look at the different ways you might accidentally add stitches to your knitting.



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MISTAKES RELATED TO THE POSITION OF THE WORKING YARN

1 The Accidental Yarn Over

DIAGNOSIS

How can you tell? Well, there's a hole. But what about this particular hole indicates an accidental yarn over (YO) rather than other mistakes that lead to the same dreaded abyss?

The fact that the hole is between a knit and a purl is the clue we need.

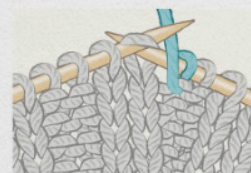
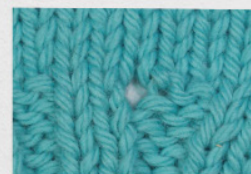
PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

If you are purling with your yarn in front and then insert your needle into the next stitch to knit, your yarn will move over the top of the needle to the back, resulting in a YO. Think of the two needles as goalposts: your yarn must go between the posts to be ready for success. Remember to always move your yarn into position before inserting the needle into the next stitch.

TREATMENT PLAN

Option 1 - Tink: If you notice it on the same row, you can tink back to the extra stitch and drop it.

Option 2 - Drop: If you notice it just a few rows above, knit to the extra stitch and drop it. You will have some slack that you'll need to work back into the surrounding stitches.



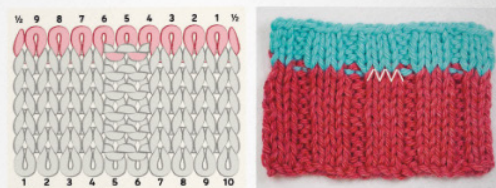
KNITTING HEALTHY HABIT:
For both mistakes related to yarn position, the Knitting healthy habit is the same: move your working yarn into position before inserting your needle into the stitch to be worked.

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LENGTHENING ANYTHING (WITH A CHEAT!)

I know what you're thinking: what about non-stockinette patterns? Well, that's when things get tricky. Ask me how I know.

My second sweater had a simple cable design on the sleeve that ran all the way to the cuff. This time, when I tried to lengthen the sleeves, it looked all wrong. I could see as clear as day that I was not knitting into stitches, but into the space between two stitches.



Here you can see that when purls are in the mix, you'll have a bigger problem than just losing a stitch: In many cable patterns, your cable sits between columns of knits and purls. When you start to knit in the opposite direction, your pattern will not line up. In the last stitch of every column of knits or purls, you will always have the dreaded half-knit, half-purl monster. It's not pretty.

There is no perfect fix for this, but there is a cheat! You'll need to trick the eye with a series of increases and decreases that visually stack your stitches.

We'll use a little cable swatch for our example. The stitch pattern is:

K4, p2, 3/3RC, p2, k4.

Once you cut and transfer the loops onto the needle, you can see those not-so-scary half-knit, half-purl monsters. You can fix them!

Your mission is to cleverly cover those half-stitches using a SSK or K2TOG. Remember, whatever needle your stitch first enters ends up on top. If there's a full stitch before the half-stitch, it's an SSK; if there's a full stitch after the half-stitch, it's a K2TOG. Since we are tricking the eye with a decrease, you'll have to compensate with an increase.

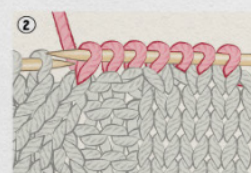
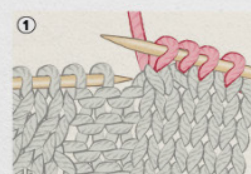
Here's our K4, p2, K6 (cable column), p2, k4 back on our needle.

1. Half-stitch between columns of knits and purls: Knit to one full stitch before the half-stitch monster. Now put in an increase: a M1K. One stitch has been added; time to cover up our first half-stitch. Using the full stitch and half-stitch, work a SSK. In this example: K2, M1K, SSK. This tricks our eyes into seeing a K4.

2. Half-stitch between columns of purl and knits: Purl to the half-stitch monster, and put in your increase: a M1P. One stitch has been added; time to cover up the next half-stitch. This time, since you have a full stitch AFTER the half-stitch, work a K2TOG with the first full knit stitch and half-stitch, in this example: P1, M1P, K2TOG. Now our eye sees K4, P2, and the first stitch knit of the cable column.

Repeat those two steps. In knit columns, work to one full stitch before the half-stitch, M1K, SSK. In purl columns, work to the half-stitch, M1P, K2TOG until you reach your last section of knits and add one more M1K following your final decrease. The extra increase will restore your stitch count to the original K4, p2, k6, p2, k4.

It's not perfect, but if you don't point it out, nobody will notice.



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