

Seam Your Knits

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Originally presented to Twisted Stitches Guild, Baldwinsville, NY on November 8, 2014.

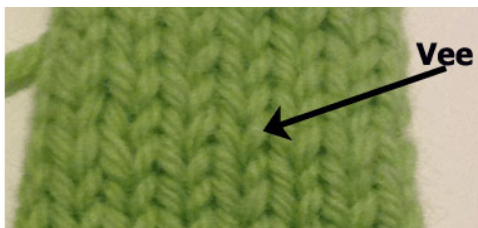
Needed:

- Yarn needle
- Swatches in a light-color worsted weight yarn.
- A few yarns of worsted weight yarn in a contrasting color.
- Stockinette seam: Work two (2) strips 10 stitches by 3" in stockinette stitch.
- Garter seam: Work two (2) strips 10 stitches by 3" in garter stitch.
- Vertical (Selvedge) to Horizontal (Bind Off) Seams: Work one strip 10 sts by 6" in stockinette stitch. Work another stockinette stitch strip 20 stitches by 2".
- Reverse stockinette to reverse stockinette bound off edge: In reverse stockinette, work one (1) strip 10 stitches by 3". Work another strip 15 stitches by 2".
- Swatches should be lightly blocked.

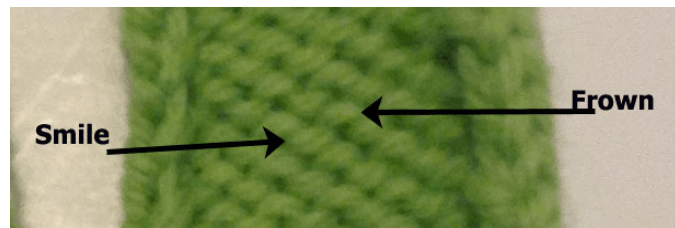
Note:

Each of the starred (*) methods is approved by The Knitting Guild Association (TKGA).

Before you begin:



A stockinette stitch looks like a "V."



Reverse stockinette and garter stitches look like smiles and frowns.

The right side of the fabric will always face you regardless of the stitches of the fabric you are seaming.

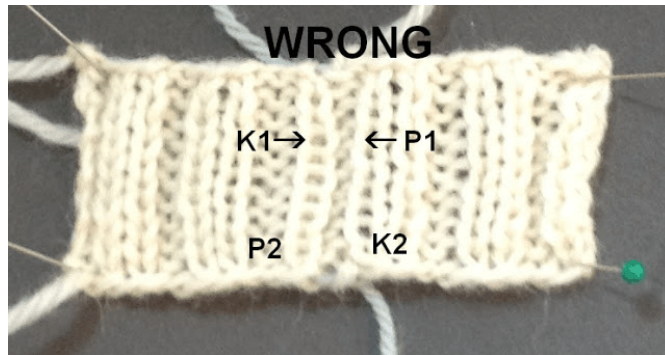
Tails:

Some people do not like leaving long tails at the beginning of their work. Either the tail seems to get in the way or it gets beat up. In the latter case, it may seem like using "used" yarn to do the seaming. To avoid either of these issues, put the tail in a small, sealable bag.

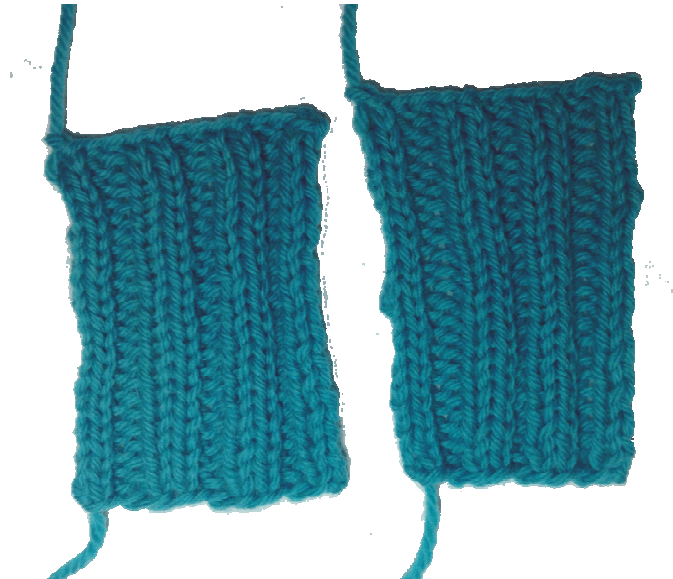


Plan your knitting:

Often a pattern will instruct the knitter to *K2, p2,” repeat to end. When you join the pieces together, one piece ends with the p2 column which you have to seam to a k2 column on the second piece. Once seamed, you end up with columns like these: p2, k1, p1, k2.



Here you have 2 columns of knit to be joined with 2 columns of knit.



*Stockinette stitch seams:

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJ7KEGUTIJM>



Step 1: Begin with a figure 8. Come up through the first stitch between the first two columns of V's on the left piece.



Finish the figure 8. Come up through the first stitch between the first two columns of V's on the right piece.



Step 2: Find the bar between the two V's on the left piece; insert the needle down under the bar and bring the needle back up.

Repeat on the right side.

Now repeat on the left piece going down through the same place where the yarn is coming up and bringing the yarn up catching one bar. Repeat on each side seaming one row at a time. If you leave a bit of slack, it will be easier to see where the yarn is coming up.



Step 3: Repeat until you have several rows seamed together.



Step 4: Gently tug, bringing the sides together and you now have an invisible seam. You may want to leave the last stitch worked a little slack to aid in ascertaining where the stitch comes up.

Joining yarn:



On the left piece, insert the needle directly into the stitch where the “old” yarn last went in to the fabric from the front and bring it up under the bar between the stitches.



On the right piece, insert the needle directly into the stitch where the “old” yarn last came up from the front.



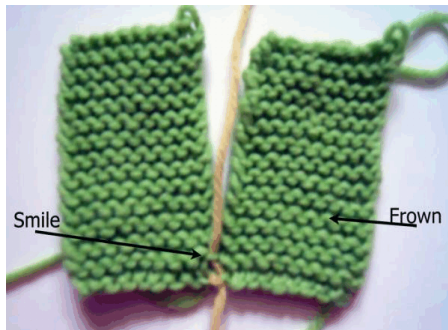
When completed, bring the tails to the back and weave into the seam.

Garter Stitch Seams:

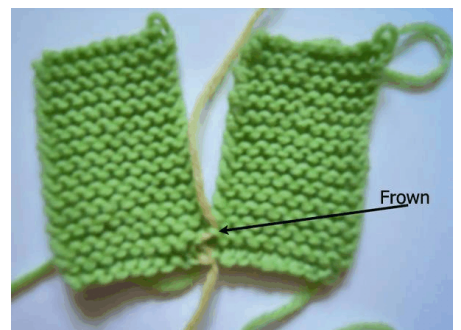
Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsQsJZtNN_s&noredirect=1



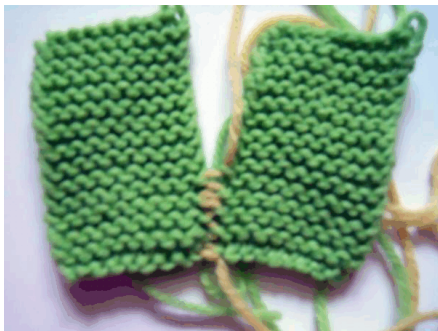
Step 1: Begin with a figure 8.



Step 2: Come up through the smile of the first stitch on the right piece.



Step 3: Come up through the frown on the left piece.



Step 4: Repeat Steps 2 and 3 several times.



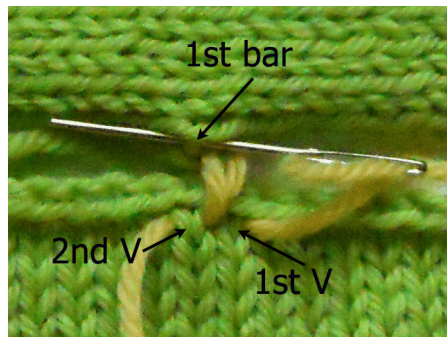
Step 5: Gently tug, bring the two sides together.

*Horizontal to Vertical Seaming—Stockinette

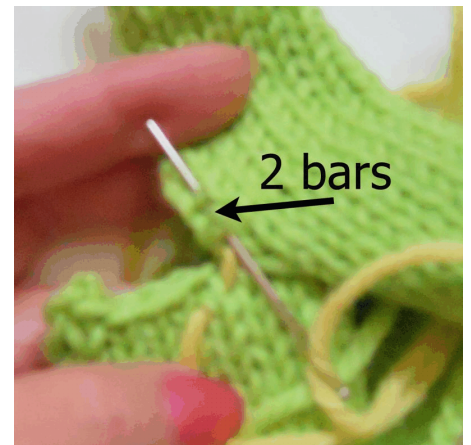
In this example, the stitch gauge is 5 sts per inch and the row gauge is 6 rows per inch. We have to ease in the extra row every inch.



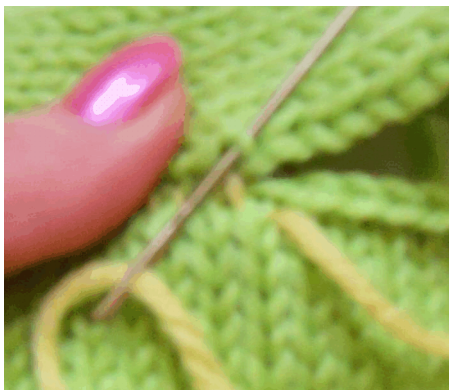
Step 1: Fold each piece in half to find the center point. You will begin your seaming from the middle.



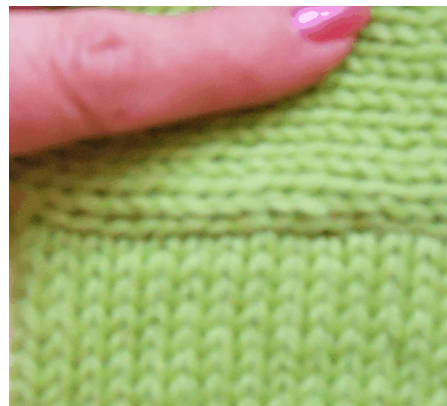
Step 2: Bring the yarn under the first V on the bottom piece then through 1 bar between the rows on the upper piece. Repeat 3 times, alternating between the bottom V's and the upper bars. Every few stitches, pull the yarn so that it is snug, not tight.



Step 3: After going through the V on the bottom piece, go through 2 bars on the upper piece. (Remember the stitch vs. row gauge.)



Step 4: When you have reached the end of the bottom piece, you now have to go back to the center, thread the yarn into the needle and work from left to right.



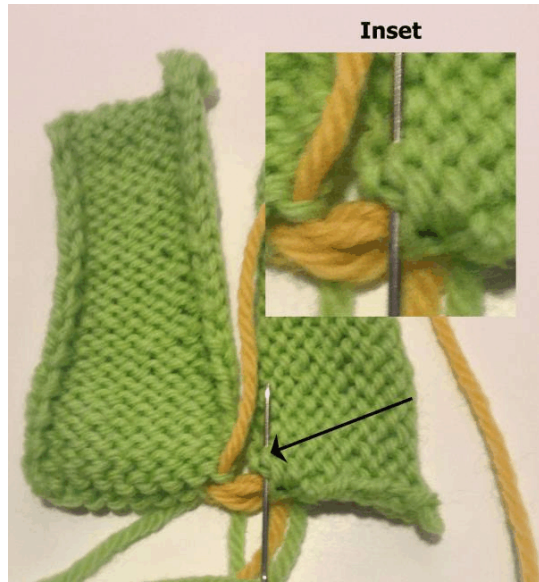
Step 5: Complete the seam.

Horizontal Reverse Stockinette to Vertical Reverse Stockinette Seaming

Step 1: Begin with a figure 8.

Step 2: Insert the needle under one of the bumps of the vertical piece. (It does not matter whether it is the "frown" or the "smile"; just be consistent.) Bring the needle up and pull the yarn through.

Repeat these two steps. It is important to note that you will have more rows than bound-off stitches. So every three or four times, go through two of the bumps on the vertical piece. Counting your stitches and rows will aid in letting you know what the ratio of stitches to rows is.



Step 3: Step 1: Insert the needle under one of the upper bumps (the "frown") of the right-hand piece. (It does not matter whether it is the "frown" or the "smile"; just be consistent.) Bring the needle up and pull the yarn through.



This image shows the seaming after completing Steps 2 and 3 several times.



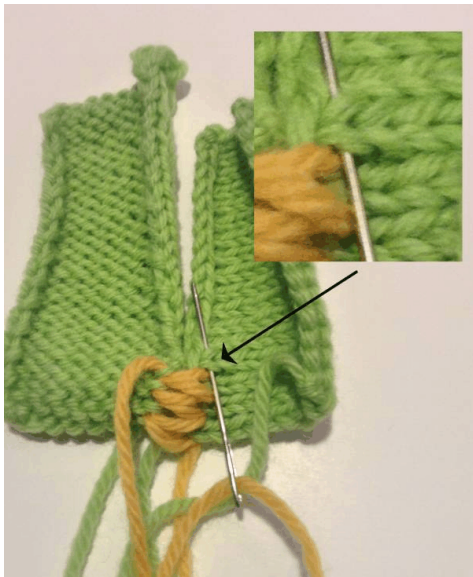
Step 4: Pull the ends snug, not too tight and watch an invisible seam emerge.

Horizontal Reverse Stockinette to Vertical Stockinette Seaming

Step 1: Begin with a figure 8.

Step 2: Insert the needle under one of the bumps of the vertical piece. (It does not matter whether it is the “frown” or the “smile”; just be consistent.) Bring the needle up and pull the yarn through.

Repeat these two steps. It is important to note that you will have more rows than bound-off stitches. So every three or four times, go through two of the bumps on the vertical piece. Counting your stitches and rows will aid in letting you know what the ratio of stitches to rows is.



Step 3: Insert the needle under the V of the bound-off stitch on the bound-off edge and bring the needle up on the other side of the V. Pull the yarn through.



Step 4: Pull the ends snug, not too tight and watch an invisible seam emerge.

Repeat Steps 2 – 4 until the entire seam is completed.



This image shows the seaming after completing Steps 2 and 3 several times.

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