Möbius cast-ons

e-wrap cast-on

1 Using smaller needle, place a slipknot on the needle and e-wrap cast-on the desired number of stitches.

2 Slip the stitches to the flexible cable portion of the needle, then turn them so the stitches are facing down and the connecting loops are on top (see illustration).

3 Without using the working yarn, take the needle tip closest to the slipknot in your right hand. Starting with the stitches at the opposite end, place all of the loops onto the right needle (stitches remain on cable as shown in photo).

You now have double the number of stitches cast on + the slipknot on a needle that wraps through the knitting twice. The cable portion of the needle doubles around itself, crossing over at just one point, which gives the Möbius set-up its unique twist. You might have to tuck the cable portion of the needle down into the stitches to get the needle tips into the correct position for knitting.

4 Arrange your knitting so the working yarn is coming from the right needle. Place marker for beginning of round on the right needle and knit; when you reach the slipknot, knit into the slipknot. The remaining stitches have a twist at their base and need to be remounted as follows: slip each stitch knitwise to right needle, then purlwise back to left needle, then knit.

> **Rick sez:**
> - I have never been a fan of the e-wrap cast-on. I find that the strand between the stitches invariably gets longer as I work across the next row.
> - As I placed the loops onto the right needle, they became tighter as I proceeded. I had to reorient each stitch in the second half of the first round before I worked it.

> **Candace counters:**
> Rick, you haven't been a fan of the e-loop — me too, except in this case. The long strands between the stitches have no bearing on this cast-on. In fact, the longer the strands, the easier it is to pick up all those top loops. If you cast the e-loops on too tightly it does become tighter and more difficult as you proceed. By using a smaller needle for the cast-on, but casting on very loosely, it is easy to pick up all the stitches without struggling.
> I never found reorienting each stitch to be a hassle, but some people may. Its like doing one row of slip stitch, and after it's done, it never has to be done again.

> **Rick sez:**
> Point taken and I'm sold!

Circle cast-on using needle cable

1 With smaller needle, arrange needle as a big loop with one end in the right hand ready to work, and the other end held underneath hanging from the right-hand pinky (pointing in the opposite direction).

2 Place a slipknot on the right needle. Treating the flexible cable loop as a replacement for the yarn loop in a standard circle cast-on (see illustration), bring yarn through the cable loop forming a knit stitch, then make a yarn-over, and repeat for the desired number of stitches (each k1-yo combo creates 2 stitches on the needle).

The loops that are caught around the cable part of the needle will be treated as stitches once you join to work in the round. Those loops will be alternately oriented properly and improperly due to the knit/yarn-over sequence in the cast-on.
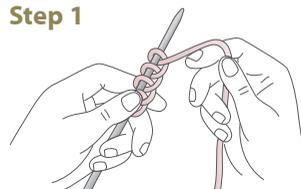
3 Next round Spread the stitches around the length of the needle to join in the round, knit into the slipknot (which is on the cable rather than on the needle tip), place marker (pm), **[k1, k1 tbl]** around to the slipknot, continue to knit to the marker.
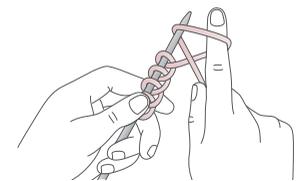
> **Rick sez:**
> - I began with a slipknot and automatically built loops around the needle cable as I made each stitch. It was fast and easy!
> - The first half of Round 1 is worked into loops that originally wrapped the cable. Rather than reorient them I can knit into the back loop when necessary.
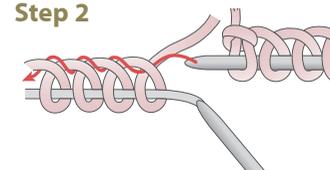

Step 1

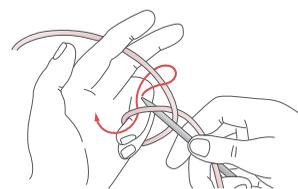**a** Bring right index finger under yarn, pointing toward you.

b Turn index finger to point away from you.
c Insert tip of needle under yarn on index finger (see above); remove finger, and draw yarn snug, forming a stitch.
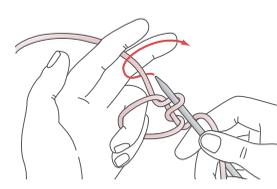Repeat until all stitches are on needle.

Step 2

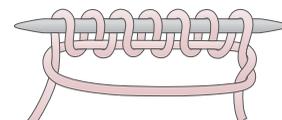### Standard circle cast-on

a Holding tail in right hand and working yarn in left hand, make a circle as shown.
b Insert needle in circle and draw working yarn through, forming a stitch on the needle. Do not remove fingers from loop.

c Bring needle under and then over the working yarn, forming a yarn-over on the needle.
d Repeat Steps b and c, end with Step b.

Cast on with waste-yarn tab

1 With waste yarn and smaller needle, cast on the desired number of stitches and work 4 rows stockinette, end with a RS row. Cut waste yarn and turn work.

2 *Set-up row* With purl side facing, change to main yarn (MC), make a slipknot on right needle, then knit 1 row.

3 Place marker. Slide the knitting onto the cable portion of the needle and arrange the tab so it is above the needle, revealing the 2-color purl ridge just created.

4 Arrange the needles and tab into a circle, then pick up and knit (PUK) 1 into each MC purl bump of the purl ridge.

After working the first few stitches, make sure to remove the slack between the last knit stitch and the first PUK.

You now have double the number of stitches cast on + the slipknot on a needle that wraps through the knitting twice.

5 Knit to the marker.

You can remove the tab any time after the first few rounds or wait until the end of the project.

> **Rick sez:**
> • The waste-yarn tab gives me something to hold onto, so it's easier to get even stitches right away.
> • Each main-yarn loop is easily visible in the garter ridge, and all I need to do for the first half of Round 1 is PUK into each main-yarn purl bump.
> • The tab marks the beginning row for ease in counting rows, and can be easily removed.

Step 2

Step 4

Cast on from a crochet chain

1 With waste yarn and crochet hook, make a chain with the same number of chains as the number of stitches to be cast-on. Cut waste yarn.

2 With smaller needle and main yarn, make a slipknot on right needle, then pick up and knit (PUK) into the purl bump of each chain (see illustration).

3 Slide the knitting onto the cable portion of the needle and arrange the crochet chain so it is above the needle, revealing the 2-color purl ridge just created.

4–5 Work as for Waste-tab cast-on.

> **Rick sez:**
> • Making a crochet chain is fast and easy; you can make it longer or shorter in just seconds.
> • Each main-yarn loop is easily distinguishable from the purl bumps, and all you need to do for the first half of Round 1 is PUK into each main-yarn purl bump.
> • The crochet chain marks the center row, and is easily removed.

Step 2

Chain cast-on