

2,680 reasons to not turn your work

While editing **Éclair** (page 14), I found myself itching to knit the piece to get a better grasp on the process. Laura Barker suggests working back and forth without turning your work which perfectly fits my approach to all knitting. I figure I saved about 380 turns while working the body sections and over 1800 turns while working the entrelac rectangles.

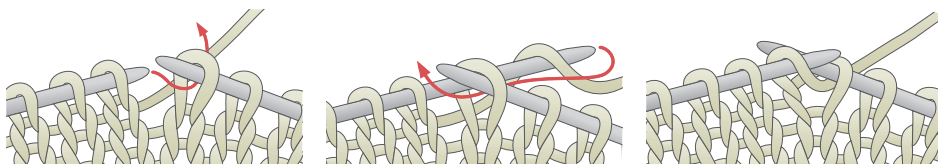
Rising Tides (page 38) is all short rows. Knitting from right to left and purling from left to right saved me 2,680 turns! Yes! I am finishing that piece as well.

Berry Patch (page 22) isn't on my list yet, but I am sure the time saved by learning to purl from left to right would benefit anyone. The same goes for **Blue Ridge** (page 56). These are all projects with lots of relatively short rows of knitting — lots of turns.

A note No, I don't usually count turns; I just wanted to make a point. And the numbers are revealing: even if I saved as little as 5 seconds at each turn of *Éclair*, I saved 150 minutes — that's over 2½ hours of potential knitting time! Not to mention the grief of flipping the work, swapping the needles and hands, and keeping multiple strands of yarn sorted.

— Rick Mondragon

Knit from L to R



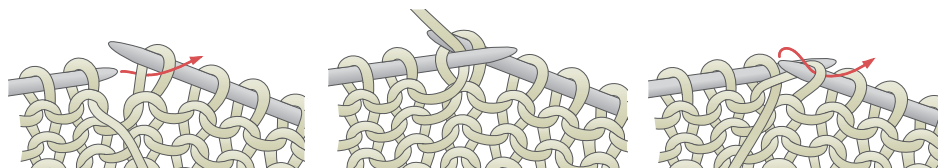
1 With yarn in back of work, insert left needle into stitch on right needle from front to back and move left needle behind right needle.

2 Bring yarn over left needle tip from back to front.

3 While lifting right needle tip, bring yarn through stitch and onto left needle to form new stitch. Pull stitch off right needle.

— *Entrée to Entrelac* (XRX Books)

Purl from L to R



1 With yarn in front of work, insert left needle into stitch on right needle from back to front.

2 Wrap yarn counterclockwise around left needle.

3 Bring yarn under right needle and through stitch...

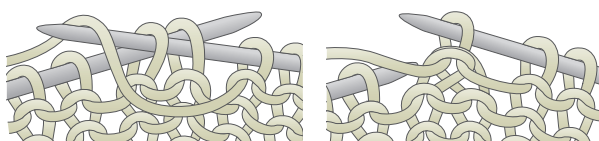
4 ... to form a new stitch on left needle. Pull stitch off right needle.

— *Entrée to Entrelac*

Left-handers and proponents of knitting in both directions — whether you are left- or right-handed — Gwen Bortner (author of *Entrée to Entrelac*) and Rick Mondragon recommend learning to do any WS operation on the RS by first turning your work to the WS and seeing what you do. Then mimic that placement of needles and movement of yarn on the RS.

Here's looking at p2tog both ways:

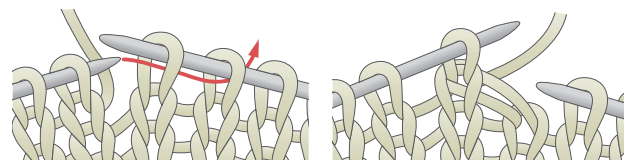
...worked from R to L (on WS)



1 Insert right needle into first 2 stitches on left needle.

2 Purl these 2 stitches together.

...worked from L to R (on RS)



1 Insert left needle into first 2 stitches on right needle and move left needle behind right needle.

2 Bring yarn over left needle tip from back to front and pull yarn through these 2 stitches. Pull both stitches off right needle.

— *Entrée to Entrelac*