



Blog Bonus Materials: Dramatic Hat Brims

Welcome blog readers! I'm so glad you are interested in adding some interest to your hat brims.

This 4-page tutorial is a supplement to our [hat brims blog post](#) and starts with the alternating long-tail cast on. Once I started using this cast on several years ago, I never used the standard long-tail cast on again. Others have also figured out how to do this, so it's not one of our "Nuances", I'm just showing you how it's done.

The Woven Cast On adds a second strand for even more interest and give. You'll find that on page 2. And finally, you'll learn how to merge the Woven Cast On into a Showy Rib with two patterns that will change how you think about hat brims. Enjoy and let me know if you have any questions. *Laura*



The Alternating Long-Tail Cast On

The Alternating Long Tail Cast On alternates a traditional long-tail cast on with a reversed long-tail cast on that mimics the purl stitch. There are several benefits. First, it looks more interesting than the standard chain edge but it's more functional also. The cast on has more give and in enhances the flow of the rib stitch. Here's how it works ...

Set up just as you would for a long tail cast on with plenty of yarn for the tail. This cast on uses approximately the same length. The tail is on the left over the thumb as usual.

- ▶ **Knit stitch (standard):** the needle travels behind and through the thumb loop from left to right, over to grab finger yarn, and bring it back through the thumb loop.
- ▶ **Purl stitch:** the needle travels to the outside of the finger loop, through the loop from right to left, then over to the thumb yarn. Grab the thumb yarn from beneath and bring it through the finger loop.

Snuggle the yarn up to the needle, but don't pull too tightly. You do not want to "cast on loosely" for this technique or you'll lose the structure. You can combine knit and purl cast-ons to match your rib pattern (1x1, 1x2, 3x3 etc.).



Before ...

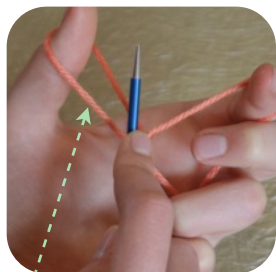


After ...

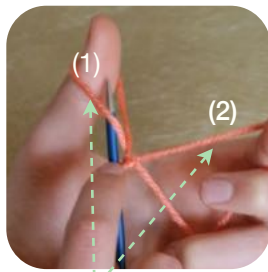


Shown above is a 1 by 1 rib with the traditional long tail cast on and the Wavy Tail cast on. The effect is even more dramatic in the 3 by 2 rib up top.

Traditional Knit Cast On

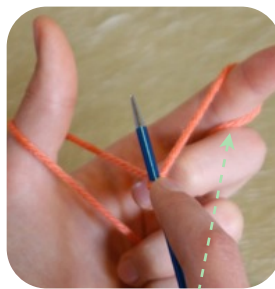


Thumb Loop

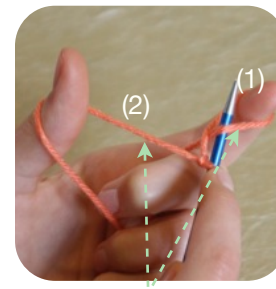


(1) Around and through the thumb loop from left to right: (2) grab finger yarn and bring it through the thumb loop.

The Purl Cast On



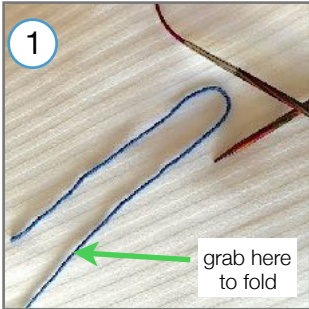
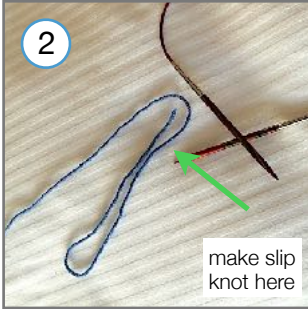
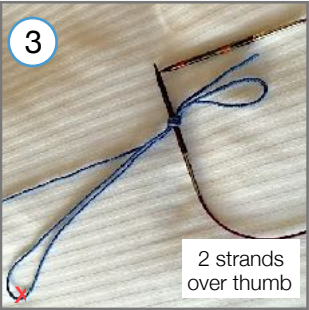
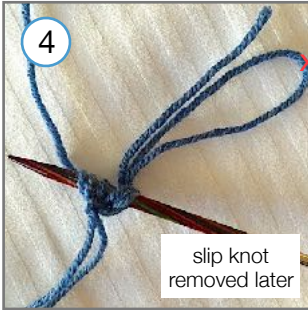
Finger Loop



(1) Around and through the finger loop from right to left: (2) grab thumb yarn from underneath and bring it through the finger loop.

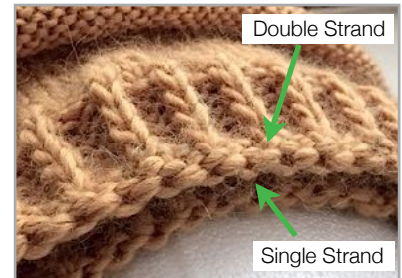
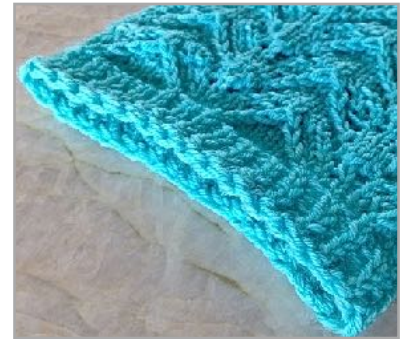
The Woven Cast On

Here's an easy twist to the Alternating Long Tail Cast On, that gives you a cast on edge perfect for when stretch is important - like socks, hats and sweater bottoms. It works with most types of yarn but a dense, bulky yarn might result in a flare which you might or might not want depending. *(All tails are extra short for photos purposes.)*

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Establish length of tail as normal</p>  <p>1 grab here to fold</p> | <p>Fold over so tail has 2 strands</p>  <p>2 make slip knot here</p> |
| <p>Make slip knot w/enough tail to sew in later.</p>  <p>3 2 strands over thumb</p> | <p>Start Alternating Long-Tail CO. Slip knot will be removed.</p>  <p>4 slip knot removed later</p> |

See note on alternate tail set up below. ✗Cut loops.

Perfect for hats & socks!



Shown here w/Cascade Highlands Duo and 2x1 Showy Rib ([blog](#)).

The first row (WS) is worked in an alternating knit/purl pattern to create the woven look.

Note: If you are knitting in the round, the first row is knit before joining (cast on, turn and knit WS row) so the instructions are the same as flat.

- A standard (knit) cast on results in 1 strand on the needle.
 - Purl this stitch on the next row.
- An alternating (purl) cast on results in 2 strands on the needle.
 - Knit these 2 strands as 1 stitch on the next row

You are now perfectly set up to continue in a 1x1 rib pattern or perhaps, one of the Showy Rib patterns shown on the next page.

Alternate Tail Set Up: If you have 2 balls of the same color (this cast on does not look good in 2 colors) you can use one strand from one ball and grab a two strands (inside and out) from the other. No need to measure and fold the tail (great benefit!). Just add a temporary slip knot at the end and cast on.

Counting Stitches



Double Strand

- Alternating co sts will group as shown. Count each group as 2 sts.
- The double purl co is on the left, you can see the purl bump.
- The cast on looks better if the 2 purl co strands are not twisted and lie flat next to each other on the needle. Untwist your tail from time to time.



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1x1 Showy Rib Multiple of 2 sts.

Gauge: The Showy Rib is slightly wider than a standard rib, however, because of the great elasticity I usually don't need to decrease the number of cast on stitches. *Please swatch first.*

- Start Woven Cast On with the **purl cast on** (opposite of standard long-tail and results 2 sts on the needle). There is no need to "cast on loosely", keep it snug.
- Do not join. Turn (WSR): *p1, k1* to end (see notes on previous page).
- Row 1: *p1, k1* Join at end of row.
- Rnds 2 and 3: Work 2 setup rounds once
- Rnds 4 and 5: Work 2 pattern rounds to desired length
- Rnds 6 and 7: Transition to hat body, continue in stockinette or your pattern.

Showy Rib Note

The partner stitch in a Showy Decrease slides completely beneath the raised stitch, that's why a stitch is added for each raised rib. Multiple repeats are shown so you can see the flow.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|
| | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 8 | Stockinette |
| | | | | | | | | | | 7 | Finish |
| | | | | | | | | | | 6 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 5 | Repeat |
| | | | | | | | | | | 4 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 3 | Set Up |
| | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |

R1 : p1, k1
 R2: p1, m1, sl1
 R3: p1, YOr, k2tog
 R4: p1, k1 to close, sl1
 R5: p1, YOr, k2tog
 R6: p1, k1tbl, sl1
 R7: p1, k2tog
 R8: k2

Woven Cast On & 1x1 Showy Rib



Seismic Rib Multiple of 4 sts.

Gauge: The Showy Rib is slightly wider than a standard rib, however, because of the great elasticity I usually don't need to decrease the number of cast on stitches. The beauty in this rib is lost if stretched out too much. *Please swatch first.*

- Start Woven Cast On with the **knit cast on** (standard long-tail and results 1 st on the needle). There is no need to "cast on loosely" keep it snug.
- Do not join. Turn (WSR): *k1, p1* to end (see notes on previous page). Row 0 on chart.
- Row 1: (RSR) *k3, p1* Join at end of row.
- Rnds 2 and 3: Work 2 setup rounds once
- Rnds 4 and 5: Work 2 pattern rounds to desired length
- Rnds 6 and 7: Transition to hat body, continue in stockinette or your pattern.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| □ | knit |
| ⌘ | knit to close |
| ⧚ | k2tog |
| M | make 1 Loop |
| ● | purl |
| V | slip |
| ⊘ | yarn over reversed |
| ■ | No Stitch |

Please see next page for some stitch notes

Woven Cast On & Seismic Rib



This brim is 1.25" deep from cast on edge. I'll knit the next one a bit deeper for more impact.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 8 | Stockinette |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 7 | Finish |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | Repeat |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | Set Up |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | Row 0 is part of Woven CO |

R0 (WS): *k1, p1*
 R1: k3, p1
 R2: p1, m1, sl1, p2
 R3: k1, YOr, k2tog, k1, p1
 R4: p1, k to close, sl1, p2
 R5: k1, YOr, k2tog, k1, p1
 R6: p1, k to close, sl1, p2
 R7: k1, k2tog, k1, p1
 R8: k4



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Stitch Notes

ryo (reverse yarn over)

A reverse yarn over increase is paired with a k2tog to create vertical Showy Decreases without an eyelet. When you yarn over in this direction, you can knit it normally on the next round to close the eyelet (instead of knitting it through the back loop).

- To yarn over in reverse, wrap the yarn over the top of the right needle so it sits like this / on the needle.
- When following a purl st, first move the yarn to the back under the needle then wrap as above.



This also prevents the rib from stretching out so don't ignore this step ([see blog post](#) September 2015).

m1 (make 1 loop increase)

Add a twisted loop of yarn to the right needle to add 1 stitch. Twist clockwise so the yarn tail sticks out the back.

Use this in place of a lifted make one increase which would pull yarn from the adjacent Showy Decrease. It is used in place of a reverse yarn over on the set up row only.

Woven Bind Off

This is all well and good for hats,
but what if I have to bind off?
Mmmm, good question!
Coming soon to a blog near you...

