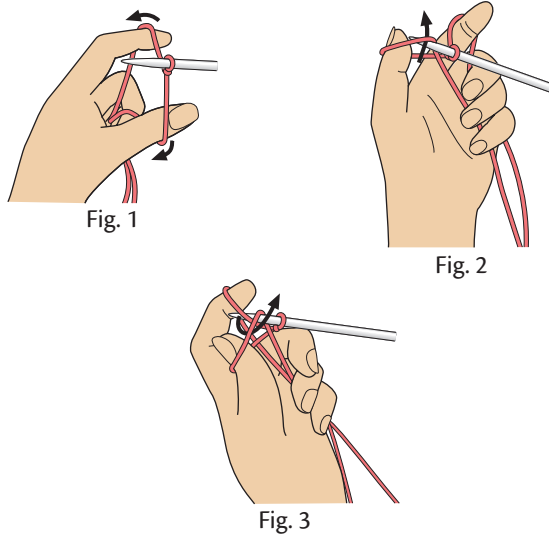


on the thumb for the next stitch. Repeat for the required number of stitches.



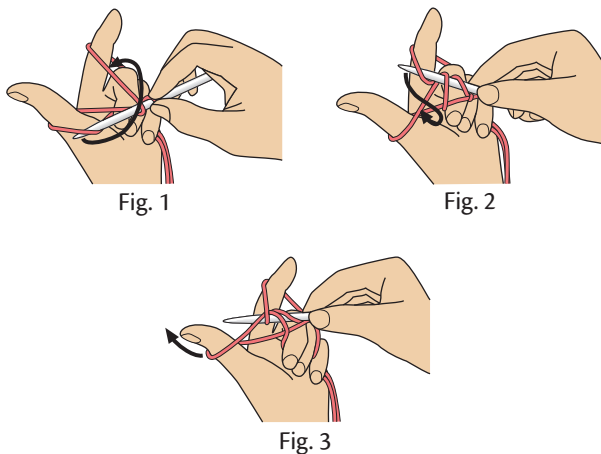
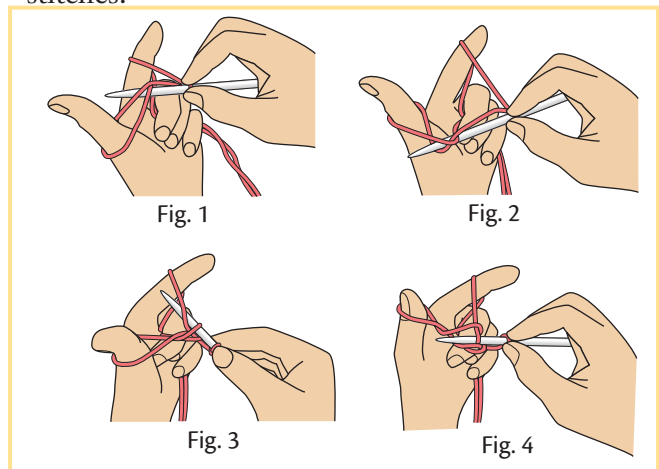
Working the knits and purls in the cast on gives you the option to work knit and purl sequences other than K1, P1 and K2, P2, such as for a five-stitch ribbing pattern like K1, P1, K1, P2.

Twisted German Cast On

This method provides more elasticity than the regular long-tail cast on. Begin as in basic long-tail cast on. Put the needle under both loops of the thumb yarn (fig. 1), pointing it toward the index finger. Bring the needle back into the loop just below the thumb and up toward you (fig. 2). Bend your thumb toward the index finger, and scoop the index-finger yarn back through the twisted loop (the loop that you just opened by bending your thumb) (fig. 3). The yarn from the index finger is now on the needle. Drop the thumb loop off the thumb (fig. 4). Snug the yarns up against the needle. Repeat for the required number of stitches.

Long-tail cast on for purl. The basic long-tail cast on essentially produces a knit stitch. However, you can also work a long-tail cast on as a purl. When you cast on in this manner for K1, P1 or K2, P2 ribbing, the cast-on edge becomes almost invisible, as the cast-on purled stitches recede into the purl stitches of the ribbing.

To cast on in purl, begin as for the regular long-tail cast on, but treat the loop on the thumb like a stitch on the left-hand needle, and the yarn around the index finger like the yarn on a continental knitter's left finger when knitting. The motion of the needle and yarn is the same as making a purl stitch. Bring the needle behind the front strands of both loops (fig. 1). Catch the index-finger loop (fig. 2) and draw it through the thumb loop to complete the purl cast on (fig. 3). Repeat for the required number of stitches.



Two-Color Cast On

This is useful when working a corrugated ribbing. Make a slipknot near the end of the yarn of each color and place the yarns on the needle. These two stitches do not count toward the number of stitches you need to cast on; they will be dropped off the needle after the stitches are cast on. Hold the yarn as for the basic long-tail cast on, with the main color over the thumb and the contrasting color over the index finger. Work as for the basic long-tail cast on.

