

# A Basic Introduction to Knitting Abbreviations

## Quick Reference

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I compiled this reference chart for common abbreviations used in knitting patterns from around the world. This reference tool is primarily for identifying those abbreviations and, although I have included specific instructions as I found them, it is not intended as an instructional tool for the stitches themselves.

This is not intended to be a complete or comprehensive list of all abbreviations you may encounter in your knitting experiences. As part of this ever growing global community, we often see patterns from designers in other countries or designers who use abbreviations that make sense to themselves. An abbreviation can represent two very different stitches, particularly in twist/cable stitches, and a stitch can be identified by more than one abbreviation. Where I found 2 different set of instructions for the same abbreviation they are marked with 1) and 2).

**Please be sure to refer to the stitch key, index or glossary for your specific pattern to determine the correct abbreviation and stitch technique used before you begin your project.**

Abbreviation      Description      Additional Instructions

-	The number of sts that should be on your needles or across a row is given after a dash at the end of the row. (ths serves as a check point mostly after a section of increasing or decreasing).	
"	Inch(es)	
()	Work instructions within parentheses in the place directed	
*	Repeat instructions following the single asterisk as directed	
**	Repeat directions between ** as many times as indicated	
[]	Repeat instructions within brackets as many times as indicated	
+	Plus signs indicate that you should repeat something between the plus signs.	
alt	Alternate	
approx	Approximately	
b	Bobble	K1, p1, k1 into next stitch. Turn work. P3, turn work. K3, turn work. P3, turn work. Slip1, k2tog, psso.
beg	Begin(s); beginning	
bet	Between	
bo	Bind off	
bobble #1	Smaller bobble	[k1, p1, k1, p1] into next st, turn, p4, turn, k4, turn, p2tog twice, turn, k2tog
c2b	Cable/Cross 2 to back	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k1 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle
c2bw	Cross 2 back (on ws)	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in back of work (RS), p1 from left-hand needle, p1 from cable needle.
c2f	Cable/Cross 2 to front	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k1 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle
c2fw	Cable 2 to front (on WS)	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in front of work (WS), p1 from left-hand needle, p1 from cable needle.
c2l	Cross 2 left	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k1 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle
c2pl	Cross 2 purl left (work on WS)	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in front of work (WS), p1 from left-hand needle, p1 from cable needle.
c2pr	Cross 2 purl right (work on WS)	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in back of work (RS), p1 from left-hand needle, p1 from cable needle.

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c2r	Cross 2 right	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k1 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle
c3b	Cable/Cross 3 to back	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k2 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle
c3f	Cable/Cross 3 to front	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k1 from left-hand needle, k2 from cable needle.
c3l	Cable/Cross 3 left	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k2 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle.
c3r	Cable/Cross 3 right	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k1 from left-hand needle, k2 from cable needle.
		Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold behind work; p1, k1 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle.
c4b	Cable/Cross 4 to back	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k2 from left-hand needle, k2 from cable needle.
c4f	Cable 4 to front	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k2 from left-hand needle, k2 from cable needle.
c4l	Cable 4 left	Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k1 from left-hand needle, k3 from cable needle.
c4r	Cable 4 right	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k3 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle.
c5b	Cable 5 to back	Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k2 from left-hand needle, k3 from cable needle.
c5f	Cable 5 to front	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k3 from left-hand needle, k2 from cable needle.
c5l	Cable 5 left	Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k2 from left-hand needle, k3 from cable needle.
c5r	Cable 5 right	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k3 from left-hand needle, k2 from cable needle.
	Cross 5 right	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k4 from left-hand needle, p1 from cable needle.
c6	Cross 6	Slip 4 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k2, sl2 from cable needle to back to left needle, pass cable needle with 2 remaining knit sts to back of work, p2 from left-hand needle, k2 from cable needle.
c6b	Cable 6 back	Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k3 from left-hand needle, k3 from cable needle.
c6f	Cable 6 front	Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k3 from left-hand needle, k3 from cable needle.
c6l	Cable 6 left	
c6r	Cable 6 right	
c7b	Cable 7 back	Slip 4 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k3 from left-hand needle, k4 from cable needle.
c7f	Cable 7 front	Slip 4 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k3 from left-hand needle, k4 from cable needle.
c8b	Cable 8 back	Slip 4 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k4 from left-hand needle, k4 from cable needle.
c8f	Cable 8 front	Slip 4 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, k4 from left-hand needle, k4 from cable needle.
c9b	Cable 9 back	Slip 5 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k4 from left-hand needle, k4 from cable needle.
c9f	Cable 9 front	Slip 5 onto cable needle and hold in front work, k4 from left-hand needle, k5 from cable needle.
c10b	Cable 10 back	Slip 5 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k5 from left-hand needle, k5 from cable needle.
c10f	Cable 10 front	Slip 5 onto cable needle and hold in front work, k5 from left-hand needle, k5 from cable needle.
c12b	Cable 12 back	Slip 6 onto cable needle and hold behind, k6 from left-hand needle, k6 from cable needle.

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c12f	Cable 12 front	Slip 6 onto cable needle and hold in front work, k6 from left-hand needle, k6 from cable needle.
ca	Color A (main color)	
cab	Cable	
cb	Color B (secondary color)	
cc	Contrasting color	
cdd	Centered double decrease.	Sl2 tog, K1, pass the slipped stitches over together
cdi	Central double increase	[p1 tbl, p1] in next st, insert lh needle into strand between 2 sts just made and p into (total of 3 sts)
ch	Chain (using crochet hook). Start with a slip knot.	
cm(s)	Centimeter(s)	
cn	Cable needle	
co	Cast on, cast off	
cont	Continue(s); continuing	
dc	Double crochet	
dd	Double decrease	Slip 2 sts knitwise, k1, pass 2 slipped stitches over
dec	Decrease(s); decreasing	
dec 4	p2tog, p3tog, pass the p2tog over the p3tog and drop off needle	
dk	Double knitting weight yarn.	
dp	Double pointed	
dpn(s)	Double pointed needle(s)	
ea	Each	
eon	End of needle	
eor	Every other row	
est	Established	
fc	Front cross (in working a cable)	
fl	Front loop(s)	
fo	Finished object	
foll	Follow(s); following	
frog	To rip out stitches	
g st	Garner stitch	Knit every row
g(s)	Gram(s)	

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g.st.	Garter stitch	Knit every row
gr(s)	Gram(s)	
grp(s)	Group(s)	
hdc	Half double crochet	
hk	Hook	
in(s)	Inch(es)	
inc(s)	Increase(s), increasing	
inc 1	Knit into front and back on next stitch. Also called a bar increase	
inc 1 p-st	Purl into front and back of next stitch.	
inc 2	Knit, purl and knit into the next stitch. A double increase.	
incl	Including, inclusive	
inst	Instructions	
join	Attach yarn	
k	Knit	
k tbl	Knit stitch through the back loop	
k.w.	Knit wise (insert point of right-hand needle into the front of the stitch as if to knit)	
k1 f&b	Knit into front and back on next stitch. Also called a bar increase	
k1, s1, pss0	Knit one, slip one, pass slipped stitch over	
k1b	Knit stitch through the back loop; or Knit one below	Insert needle into stitch below next stitch on left needle and knit, slipping the stitch above off the needle at the same time.
k2tog	Knit 2 stitches together	
k2tog tbl	Knit 2 stitches together, through the back loops	
k3tog	Knit 3 stitches together	
k3tog tbl	Knit 3 stitches together, through the back loops	
kal	Knit a-long	
kb	Knit stitch in row below. (Sometimes used for knit through the back loop)	
k-b	Knit stitch in row below. (Sometimes used for knit through the back loop)	
kfb	Knit into front and back on next stitch. Also called a bar increase	
kfbf	Knit 1 stitch in the front, back and front of the next stitch. A double increase	
kll	Knit left loop. An increase	

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[k1,p1,k1]	Knit, purl and knit into the next stitch. A double increase.	
kpk	Knit, purl and knit into the next stitch. A double increase.	
krl	Knit right loop. An increase	
ktbl	Knit through back loop	
kwise	Knit-wise.	Insert right needle into the stitch as if to knit
k-wise	Knit-wise.	Insert right needle into the stitch as if to knit
lc	Left cross (to work a cable). As in: C2L	
lh	Left hand	
lp(s)	Loop(s)	
lt	1) Left twist (where two stitches cross each other, as in the smallest cable stitch possible)	
	2) K second st on left hand needle tbl, knit first st and slip both sts off left needle	
m(s)	Meter(s)	
m.	Make	
m1 p-st	Make 1 purl stitch	
m1	Make 1 stitch	Pick up strand between last stitch work and next stitch and work into the back of it
m1l	Make 1 front.	From the front, lift strand between stitches with left needle, knit into back of loop
m1a	Make 1 away. An Increase	
m1f	Make 1 front. An increase.	From the front, lift strand between stitches with left needle, knit into back of loop
m1p		With left needle, lift strand between needles from back to front, and purl it through the front loop
m1r	Make 1(right). An increase.	From the back, lift strand between stitches with left needle, knit into front of loop
m1b	Make 1 (back). An increase.	From the back, lift strand between stitches with left needle, knit into front of loop
m1t	Make 1 towards. An Increase	
m3	Make 3 stitches	(k1, p1, k1) into the next stitch
mb	Make bobble	kfbf into next st, turn, k3, turn, p3, turn, k3, turn, sk2p
mb#2	Make bobble (#2)	[k1, p1] twice into next st, turn, p4, turn, s2k2p2
mb#4	Make bobble (#4)	[k1, p1] twice into next st, [turn, p4, turn, k4] twice, turn, p4, turn, s2k2p2
mb#7	Make bobble (#7)	[k1, p1] twice into next st, [turn, p4, turn, k4] twice, turn, k4, turn, s2k2p2
mb#8	Make bobble (#8)	[k1, p1] three times into next st, pass 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th sts over first st and off needle
mc	Main color	
meas	Measures	

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ml	Make loop	k1, wrap yarn over needle, wrap yarn over 1-2 fingers of hand and then over needle again, draw both loops on needle through the st and place on lh needle, k the 2 loops tog tbl.
mm(s)	Millimeter(s)	
mult	Multiple	
ndl	Needle	
no	Number	
o	Yarn over	
opp	Opposite	
oz(s)	Ounces	
p	Purl	
p tbl	Purl through the back loop	
p1 f&b	Purl the front of a stitch, then purl the back of the same stitch	
p1 tbl	Purl through the back loop	
p1b	Purl through the back loop	
p1-b	Purl one through back loop	
p2sso	Pass 2 slipped stitches over	
p2tog	Purl 2 together	
p2tog tbl	Purl 2 together through the back loops	
p3tog	Purl three together	
p3tog tbl	Purl three together through the back loops	
pat(s)	Pattern(s)	
pb	Purl stitch in the row below. (Sometimes used to mean purl stitch through the back loop)	
p-b	Purl stitch in the row below. (Sometimes used to mean purl stitch through the back loop)	
pfb	Purl into front and back of stitch	
pm	Place marker	
pns	Pass next stitch over	
pop	Popcorn stitch or popcorn bobble	
prev	Previous	
psso	Pass slip stitch over (decreasing)	sl1, k1, then lift the slipped stitch over the knit stitch and drop off the needle
pu	Pick up stitches	

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pw	Purl wise (insert point of right-hand needle into the front of the stitch as if to purl)	
pwise	Insert needle as though to purl	
p-wise	Insert needle as though to purl	
rc	Right cross (to work a cable), as in: C2R	
rem	Remain/remaining	
rep	Repeat(s)	
rev st st	Reverse stockinette stitch	
rh	Right hand	
rib	Ribbing: vertical columns of knit and purl stitches, side by side, as in K1, P1 ribbing	
rnd(s)	Round(s). In circular knitting, a "row" is called a "round."	
rs	Right side	
rt	1) Right twist (where two stitches cross each other, as in the smallest cable stitch possible) 2) K2 tog, leave sts on left hand needle, k first st again and slip both sts off needle	
s	Slip 1 stitch	Slip next stitch onto the right hand needle without knitting it. If not specified, slip the stitch purl-wise.... Unless decreasing: then, slip it knit-wise on the knit rows, and purl-wise on the purl rows.
sable	Stash acquirement beyond life expectancies	
sb1	Slip bead	Slip 1 bead as close as possible to LH needle
sc	Single crochet	
sex	Stash enhancement expedition	
s2kp	Slip 2, knit 1, pass 2 slipped stitches over (double decrease)	
s2k2p	Slip 2, knit 2 tog, pass 2 slipped stitches over (triple decrease)	
sk	Skip(ped)	
sk2p	Slip 1, knit 2 tog, pass slipped stitch over ( double decrease)	
skp	Slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over — (single decrease)	
skpo	Slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over — (single decrease)	
skpsso	Slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over - (single decrease)	
sl	Slip 1 stitch.	Slip next stitch onto the right hand needle without knitting it. If not specified, slip the stitch purl-wise.... Unless decreasing: then, slip it knit-wise on the knit rows, and purl-wise on the purl rows.
sl1 k-wise	Slip a stitch knit-wise	
sl1 p-wise	Slip a stitch purl-wise	

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sl1, k1, pss0	Slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over (single decrease)	
sl1, k2tog, pss0	Slip 1, knit 2 tog, pass slipped stitch over (double decrease)	
sl2k1p	Slip 2, knit 1, pass 2 slipped stitches over (double decrease)	
sl2, k1, pss0	Slip 2, knit 1, pass 2 slipped stitches over (double decrease)	
sl2k2p	Slip 2, knit 2 tog, pass 2 slipped stitches over (triple decrease)	
sl2, k2tog, p2sso	Slip 2, knit 2 tog, pass 2 slipped stitches over (triple decrease)	
sl st	Slip 1 stitch	Slip next stitch onto the right hand needle without knitting it. If not specified, slip the stitch purl-wise.... Unless decreasing: then, slip it knit-wise on the knit rows, and purl-wise on the purl rows.
sl1k	Slip 1 stitch as if to knit	
sl1p	Slip 1 stitch as if to purl	
slip knot	An adjustable loop, used to begin many cast-on methods	
sl-k	Slip 1 stitch as if to knit	
sl-p	Slip 1 stitch as if to purl	
slp	Slip 1 stitch as if to purl	
sm	Slip marker	
sp(s)	Space(s)	
sp2p	Slip 1 stitch knitwise, p2tog, pss0	
ss	Slip stitch (Canadian)	Slip next stitch onto the right hand needle without knitting it. If not specified, slip the stitch purl-wise.... Unless decreasing: then, slip it knit-wise on the knit rows, and purl-wise on the purl rows.
ssk (improved)	Slip k-wise, slip p-wise, knit	Slip 1 k-wise, slip 1 p-wise, insert the left needle through the front of both loops and knit together.
ssk	Slip, slip, knit	Slip 2 stitches k-wise, insert the left needle through the front of both loops and knit together.
sso	Slip p-wise, slip p-wise, purl	Slip 2 stitches p-wise, insert the left needle through the front of both loops and purl together.
ssp	Slip p-wise, slip p-wise, purl	Slip 2 stitches p-wise, insert the left needle through the front of both loops and purl together.
sssk	Slip 3, knit 3. A double decrease	Slip 3 stitches k-wise, insert the left needle through the front of all loops and knit together.
st st	Stockinette, stocking stitch	Knit 1 row, purl 1 row. Continue in 2-row pattern.
st(s)	Stitch(es)	
t2b	Twist 2 back	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k1 from left-hand needle, p1 from cable needle.
t2f	Twist 2 front	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p1 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle.
t2l	Twist 2 left	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p1 from the left-hand needle, k1 tbl from cable needle.
t2pl	Twist 2 purl left	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p1 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle.



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t2pr	Twist 2 purl right	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k1 from left-hand needle, p1 from cable needle.
t2r	Twist 2 right	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in back of work, k1tbl from left-hand needle, p1 from cable needle.
t3b	Twist 3 back	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k2 from left-hand needle, p1 from cable needle.
t3f	Twist 3 front	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p1 from left-hand needle, k2from cable needle.
t3l	Twist 3 left	1) Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p2 from left-hand needle, k1 from cable needle.
		2) Slip 1 onto cable needle, hold in front, then k1 tbl, p1 from left-hand needle, k1 tbl from cable needle.
t3r	Twist 3 right	1) Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k1 from left-hand needle, p2 from cable needle.
		2) Slip 2 onto cable needle, hold behind, k1 tbl from left-hand needle, then p1, k1 tbl from cable needle.
t4b	Twist 4 back	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k2 from left-hand needle, p2 from cable needle.
t4bp	Twist 4 back purl	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k2 from left-hand needle, then p1, k1 from cable needle.
t4f	Twist 4 front	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p2 from left-hand needle, k2 from cable needle.
t4fp	Twist 4 front purl	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, then k1, p1 from left-hand needle, k2 from cable needle
t4l	Twist 4 left	Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p1 from left-hand needle, k3 from cable needle.
t4r	Twist 4 right	Slip 1 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k3 from left-hand needle, p1 from cable needle.
t5b	Twist 5 back	1) Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k2 from left-hand needle, p3 from cable needle.
		2) Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k3 from left-hand needle, p2 from cable needle.
t5bp	Twist 5 back purl	Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k2 from left-hand needle, then p1, k2 from cable needle.
t5f	Twist 5 front	1) Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p3 from left-hand needle, k2 from cable needle.
		2) Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p2 from left-hand needle, k3 from cable needle.
t5l	Twist 5 left	Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p2 from left-hand needle, k3 from cable needle.
t5r	Twist 5 right	Slip 2 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k3 from left-hand needle, p2 from cable needle.
t6b	Twist 6 back	Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold behind work, k3 from left-hand needle, p3 from cable needle.
t6f	Twist 6 front	Slip 3 onto cable needle and hold in front of work, p3 from left-hand needle, k3 from cable needle.
t6l	Twist 6 left	
t6r	Twist 6 right	
tbl	Through the back loop	
thru	Through	
tink	To take out your stitches one at a time, most often used to fix a mistake	
tog	Together	
ufo	Unfinished object	

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w&t	Wrap and turn	
w.b.	Wool back	
w.o.n	Wool over needle (used to make a stitch between a purl and a knit stitch - take wool from front, over the needle to the back)	
w.r.n	Wool round needle (used to make a stitch between purl stitches - take wool from front, over the needle and back to the front)	
wip	Work in progress	
wl.	Wool	
wl.bk	Wool back	
wl.fwd or wl.fd.	Wool forward (used to make a stitch between knit stitches - bring wool under the needle to the front)	
won	Wool over needle	
work even	To keep in pattern across the row	
wpi	Wraps per inch	
wrn	Wool round needle	
ws	Wrong side	
wyb	With yarn in back	
wyf	With yarn in front	
wyib	With yarn in back	
wyif	With yarn in front	
x	Times - 3x would mean three times	
yb	Yarn between needles to the back	
ybk	Yarn between needles to the back	
yd(s)	Yard(s)	
yf	Yarn forward and over needle to back. Same as yarnover or yarn between needles to the front	
yfon	Yarn forward and over needle to back. Same as yarnover	
yfrn	Yarn forward and over needle to back. Same as yarnover	
yfwd	Yarn forward and over needle to back. Same as yarnover	
yo	Yarn over: wrap the yarn around right needle	
yo twice	Yarn over twice	
yo2	Yarn over twice	
yon	Yarn forward and over needle to back. Same as yarnover	
yrn	Yarn forward and over needle to back. Same as yarnover	