# **Basic Double Knitting Instructions**

by Cassie Castillo

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Double Knitting creates a reversible fabric made up of two layers. It is thick and warm, a perfect choice for winter outerwear and blankets. It is not nearly as difficult as it appears, if you can knit and purl then you can work double knitting!

## **ABBREVIATIONS:**

CO: cast on k: knit p: purl rep: repeat RS: right side WS: wrong side

### **NOTES:**

For the purpose of this tutorial, I will refer to the side made of color A as the "Right Side" and the side made of color B the "Wrong Side". Both sides look equally nice, but this seems to be the easiest terminology to use.

#### **MATERIALS:**

Two colors of yarn in the same weight, one light color (A) and one dark color (B). Appropriate needles for the weight of the yarn

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

#### **Plain Double Knitting**

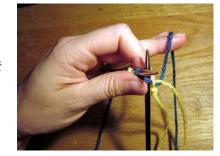
Using color A, CO 20 sts. For my sample in the photos, I used a knitted cast on. Long tail, tubular, and backwards loop cast ons may all be used. Experiment and see what kind of edging you like best.

Row 1 (RS): \*with both yarns in back of work, k1 with color A. Bring both yarns between the needles

to the front of the work and p1 with color B. Rep from \* to end of row.

Row 2 (WS): The first st is to be worked with color B. *Bring up color B underneath color A, effectively twisting the yarns. This is very important, it will create the closed edge at the side of the fabric.* \*With both yarns in back of work, k1 with color B. Bring both yarns between the needles to the front of the work and p1 with color A. Rep from \* to end of row.

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Repeat Rows 1-2 a few more times until you feel comfortable working in Double Knitting. As you will see, all the knit stitches create one layer of fabric and all the purl stitches create the other layer of fabric. The color A layer will be the Right Side and the color B layer will be the Wrong Side. The picture to the left shows the Right Side.

# **Double Knitting with a Charted Motif**

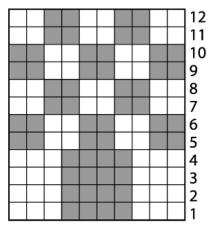
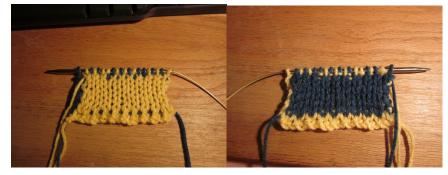


CHART SHOWING RIGHT SIDE

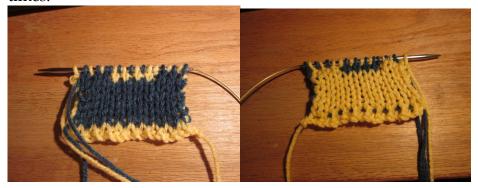
- Right Side: knit color A, purl color B Wrong Side: knit color B, purl color A
- Right Side: knit color B, purl color A Wrong Side: knit color A, purl color B

When working from a chart in Double Knitting, it is best to think of each square in the chart as a pair of stitches, one knit and one purl. The chart will show the "Right Side" for all rows.

Let's begin the first row of the chart. Continue to twist the yarns together at the edge and bring both yarns to the front and back of the work as necessary. The first three squares show color A. \*k1 with color A, p1 with color B\* three times. The next four squares show color B. \*k1 with color B, p1 with color A\* four times. The last three squares show color A. \*k1 with color A, p1 with color B\* three times. See below for photos of the Right Side and Wrong Side after this row is worked.



The hard part is done! Row 2 is worked as it appears on the needle. \*k1 with color B, p1 with color A\* three times. \*k1 with color A, p1 with color B\* 4 times. \*k1 with color B, p1 with color A\* three times.



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Continue working all rows of the chart. See below for photos of the Right Side and Wrong Side after all rows of the chart are worked.



## **Binding Off**

Simple Bind Off: Using color A, k1. \*k1, pass first st on right ndl over second st. Rep from \* until all sts are bound off.

K2tog Bind Off: Using color A, k2tog. \*k2tog, pass first st on right ndl over second st. Rep from \* until all sts are bound off.

Try both bind offs and see which one is more appealing to you. In the photo I used the Simple Bind Off.



Have fun experimenting with different stitch motifs! I hope this tutorial was helpful.

Cassie is a fashion designer living in southern California. Her designs have been published in Knitscene, Knotions and Popknits. She also self-publishes through Ravelry, Etsy and Patternfish. Along with knitting, her interests include spinning, weaving, dyeing and sewing. You can read her blog at: http://www.azaleaandrosebudfiberworks.blogspot.com

