

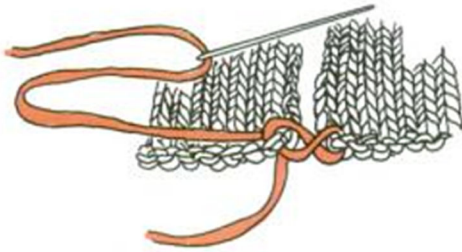


Snarky Cat Boutique

Joining Knit Fabric

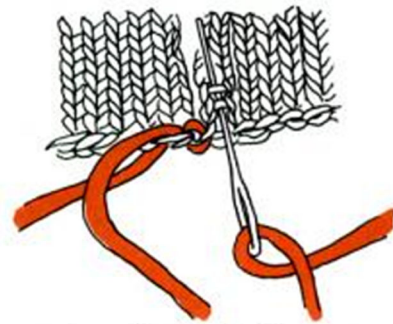
Joining Stockinette Stitch Fabric

Begin by threading a yarn needle with a length of yarn long enough to sew the entire seam, with at least another 12 inches left over. Then tack the yarn in place by pulling the needle up through the right-most corner stitch at the bottom of the left-hand piece. Secure the yarn by inserting the needle back up through the same hole. Now bring the needle up through the left-most corner stitch at the bottom of the right-hand piece, and then up through the same hole in the left-hand piece. Pull taut. You've made a little figure eight, and the two corners of **your** fabric should be right up close **together**.

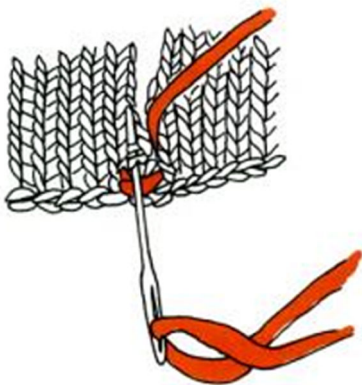


Take a close look at the side edge of a piece of stockinette fabric. If you carefully pull apart the edge stitch—which is usually a bit weird looking—and the first real row of **knit** V stitches, you will see something like a ladder of yarn bars that runs between them. Some folks call these **running bars**. You'll be sewing the two sides **together** by **stitching** around these bars. Start by pinning **your pieces together**, right sides up, and tacking the yarn in place. Then do the following:

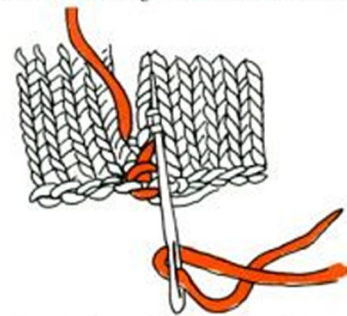
1 Pass the needle under the first two running bars of the right-hand piece of fabric, from the bottom to the top.



2 Now pass the needle under the first two running bars of the left-hand piece of fabric the same way.



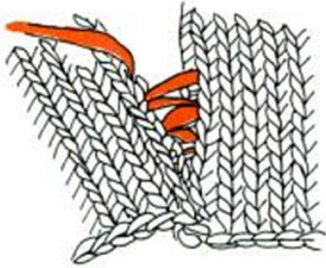
3 Insert the needle down into the same point where it came out on the right-hand piece of fabric, carry it under the next two running bars, and come back up again.





Snarky Cat Boutique

Finally, insert the needle back into the same point where it came out on the left-hand piece of fabric, and come up two bars later.



Keep repeating those last two steps until you have about two or three inches done. Then pull the yarn taut (not tight) and watch as the two pieces of fabric come together and the seam becomes almost invisible. Just like magic!

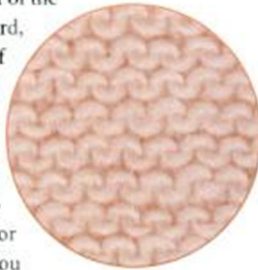
NOTE: The mattress stitch is intended to connect each row of knitting in one piece of fabric to each row of knitting in another piece of fabric. It will work out perfectly if you have the exact same number of rows in both your pieces. However, since nobody's perfect, it is very likely that you won't have the exact same number of rows in each piece. Don't let it bother you. Just pick up some of the slack by sometimes taking only one running bar from one side and two running bars from the other side. That'll even things out, and nobody will be the wiser.



Snarky Cat Boutique

Joining Garter Stitch Fabric

First, take a look at **your** reverse stockinette or garter fabric. Sure, it's wall-to-wall purl bumps, but look carefully and you'll see that half of the purl bumps are curving upward, like a smile, and the other half are curving downward, like an umbrella. The smiling bumps are called the **underbumps**, and the umbrella bumps are the **overbumps**. To sew two **pieces** of reverse stockinette or garter-stitch fabric **together**, you will pass **your** needle through an underbump from one side, and then through an overbump from the other side.



Let a smile be your umbrella

Start the same way as with stockinette fabric, by placing the **pieces** next to each other, right sides up, and tacking the yarn in place at the bottom corners of **your** fabric. Then:

- 2 Pass the needle under the bottom-most overbump on the right-hand piece of fabric.
- 3 Insert the needle underneath the next underbump on the left-hand piece of fabric.
- 4 Insert the needle under the next overbump on the right-hand piece of fabric.



NOTE: When sewing garter-stitch fabric, try to grab the overbumps as close to the fabric edge as you can.

Carry on, my wayward son. When you have a few inches done, just pull the yarn taut and watch it get sucked up like a bug in a Venus's-flytrap. Cool, isn't it?

Using The Backstitch

Unlike most seaming methods used in knitting, the backstitch makes bulky, nonstretchy seams. Still, sometimes that's just what you're looking for when you want a strong, stabilizing seam on a project like a bag or a backpack. To make it, start by pinning **your knit** fabric right sides **together**. Tack **your** yarn at the right-most end as usual, then put **your** needle down through both layers of fabric, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the top edges, and draw it back up about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the left. Pull the yarn through (figure 1). Put **your** needle back down about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to the right, and come up about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the left. Now, just keep putting **your** needle down where you came up with **your** last stitch, and up about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the left of that (figure 2).

