

STEEKS ✂ ✂ ✂

*CUT
YOUR
KNITTING*

On purpose

Rochester Knitting Guild January 14, 2019

Why steek in the first place?

Steeks are Plan Ahead Places to Cut a tube of knitting open.

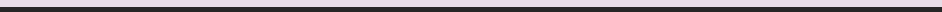
Cut so that the tube opens up to either lie flat, as in a cardigan

OR to allow for an opening in the tube, as in a sleeve hole or neck opening.

PLAN AHEAD

5 stitches seems to be standard for most steeks although I prefer 7, which is what the sample uses.

No reason not to have 9 or even 11 stitches in your steek if you want to have a particular width facing on the inside of your knitting, especially if working at a fine gauge.

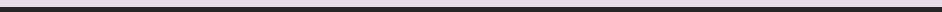


Crocheted Steek

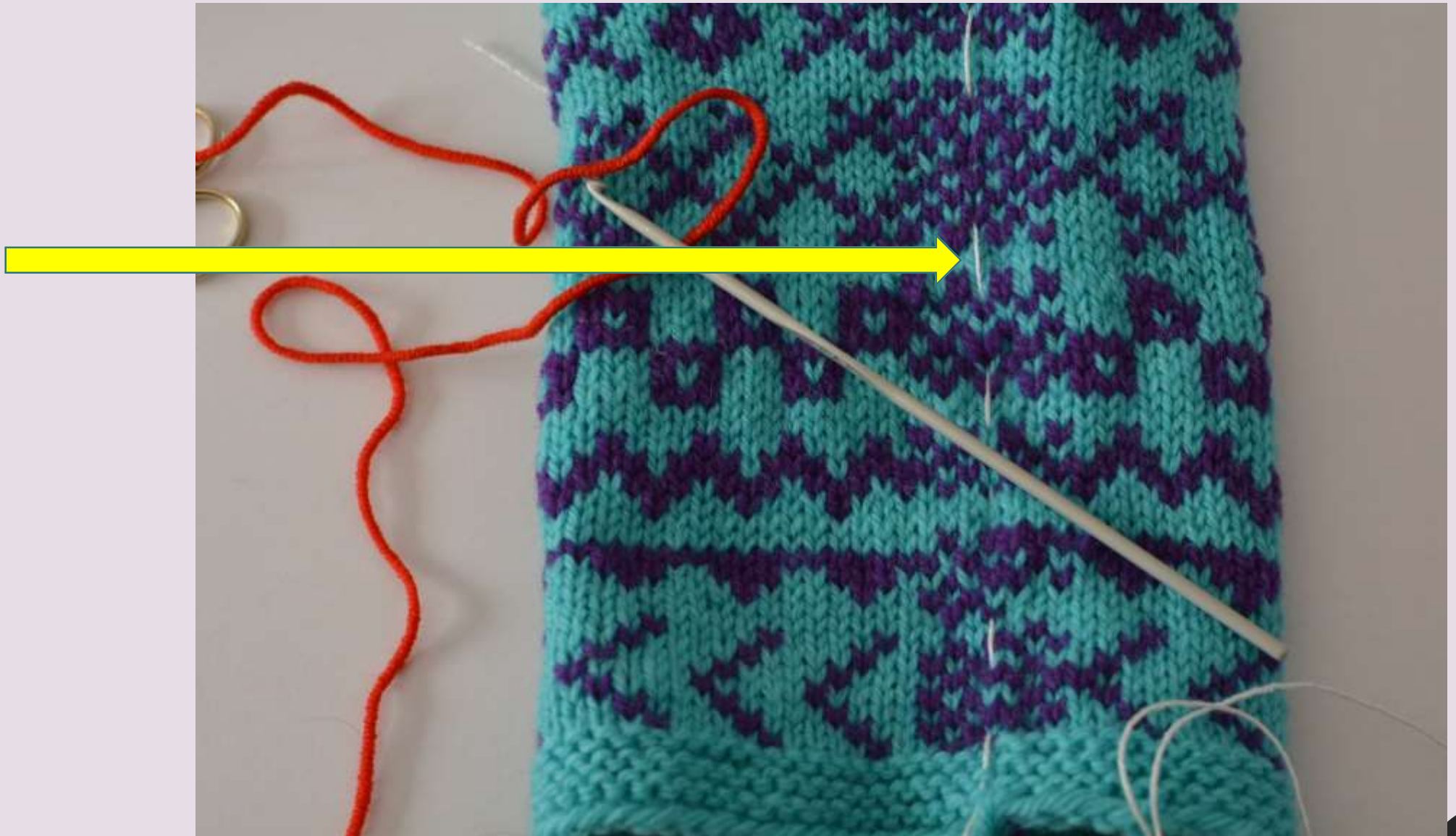
Use a hook smaller than your garment needle size.

If using the same yarn as the body of the garment feels too bulky, switch to a thinner yarn that is also wool or mostly wool.

Just go down ONE weight --- If your worsted yarn is giving too thick an edge for your liking, use sport weight.



The center stitch is marked with cotton crochet thread to make it easier for me to keep track of it.

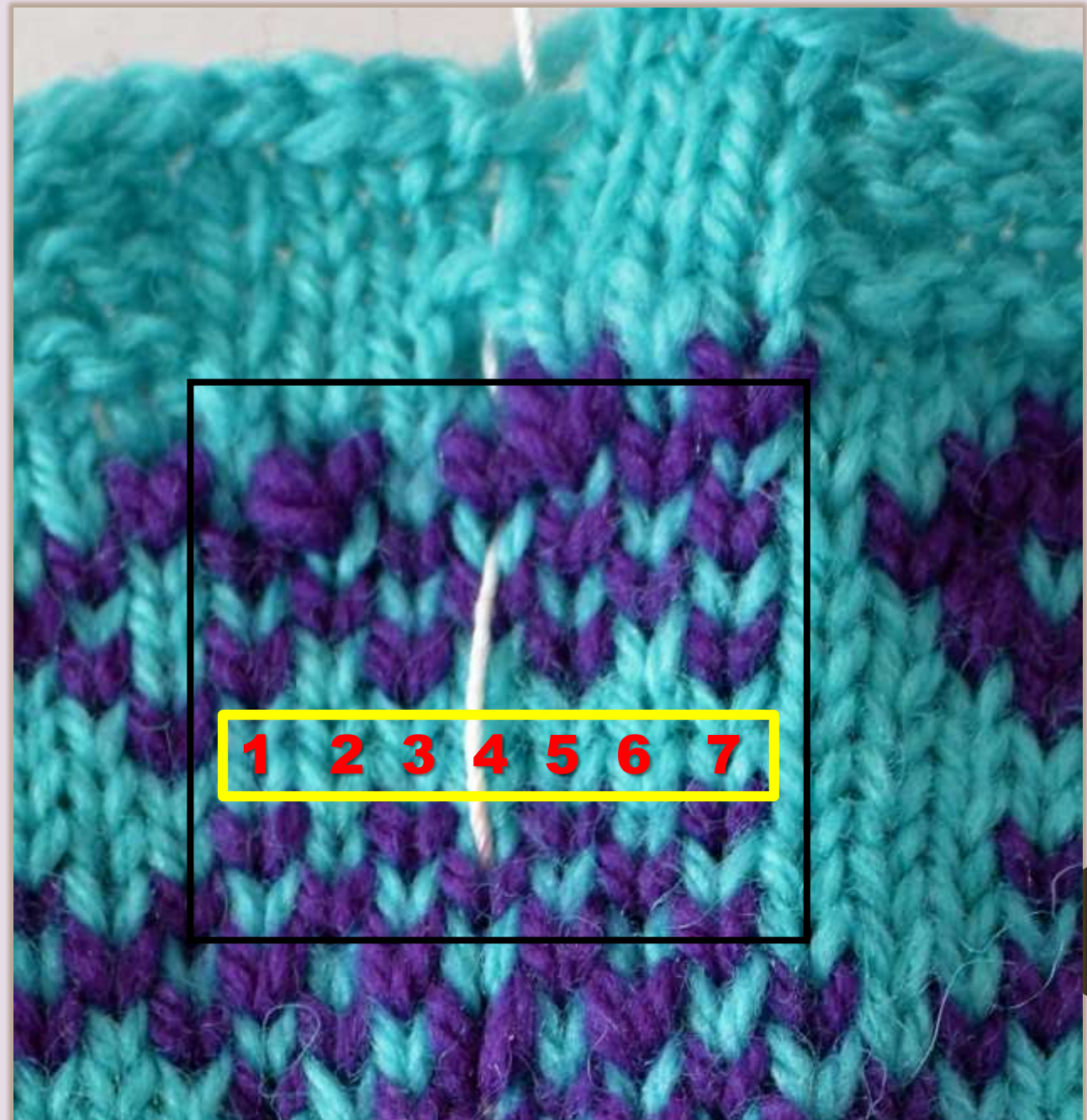


The Steek Stitches

Number them left to
right

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

#4 is the center stitch



Start crocheting by
slip stitching into
bind off – left leg of
center stitch
and right leg of
stitch # 3



Work single
crochets – always
into the left leg of
center stitch
and right leg of
stitch # 3



Work your way down the steek in single
crochet



When you get to the garter stitch – ignore the purl bumps and pay attention to the LEGS of the stitches

That's where you want to work the single crochet stitch





Finished crochet!

How it looks from the other side



A knitted up steek

Knit up in every row of the steek when you use this method.

If you need to adjust for stitch to row gauge later on, you can do that later on while knitting your edging or sleeve.

The goal here is to lock in the steek stitches not to have a gauge perfect pick up.

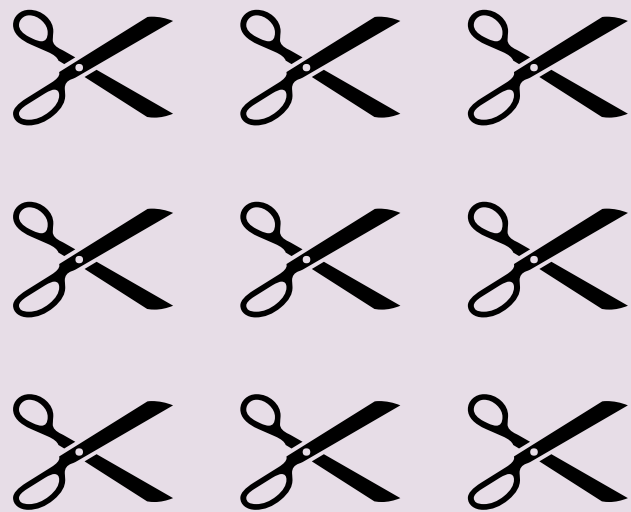




Knit up in the right leg of the last stitch in the steek, #7 - the half of the stitch closest to the body of the garment



READY TO RUMBLE



CUTTING



Cut right down the middle of the center
stitch, #4
Marked here with a silver needle and a
long black arrow



SNIP



*Oh the first cut is the deepest, baby, I know
The first cut is the deepest*





The knitted up side rolls to the inside like a facing.

The crocheted side is stable and lies flat.





The crocheted side of the steek, on the right, lies flat



On the KNITTED UP side:

Roll the cut edge under with the side of your sewing needle and tack the roll down, skimming the surface of the body of the fabric



OR, plan ahead and use a herringbone stitch (or long armed cross stitch) to cover the edge - Herringbone is worked from LEFT to RIGHT for righties and I forgot. It's been a while. I'd still tuck the raw edge under before stitching.



To pick up along the edge of the crocheted steek side, find the #1 stitch, closest to the body fabric and knit up in the left leg of that stitch.



TUTORIALS & Videos online

There are wonderful resources available online

Quince & Co <https://quinceandco.com/blogs/news/techniques-steeking>

Euny Jang http://eunnyjang.com/knit/2006/01/the_steeking_chronicles_part_i.html

Kate Davies <https://katedaviesdesigns.com/2012/04/29/steeks-2-reinforcing-and-cutting/> especially good photos

Tin Can Knits <https://blog.tincanknits.com/2014/09/18/steek/>

Interweave <https://www.interweave.com/article/knitting/learn-something-new-steeking/>

A few thoughts on steeks –

✂ A tremendously useful technique to have in one's repertoire

✂ Nothing to be avoided

✂ PRACTICE on sample knitting - the only way to master a new skill is to practice

✂ I prefer the knitted up steek as the “locking in” action is the same as the crocheted method but saves a step as the new stitches are already knitted up & ready to be worked perpendicularly to the body of the tube.

✂ A keen eye and a steady hand are invaluable. Take deep breaths.

✂ As Elizabeth Zimmermann once said, “...cut on basting, then lie down in a darkened room for fifteen minutes to recover. You will never fear to cut again. (But always be sure to cut at the right place.)” [Knitting Without Tears]
