

CABLES

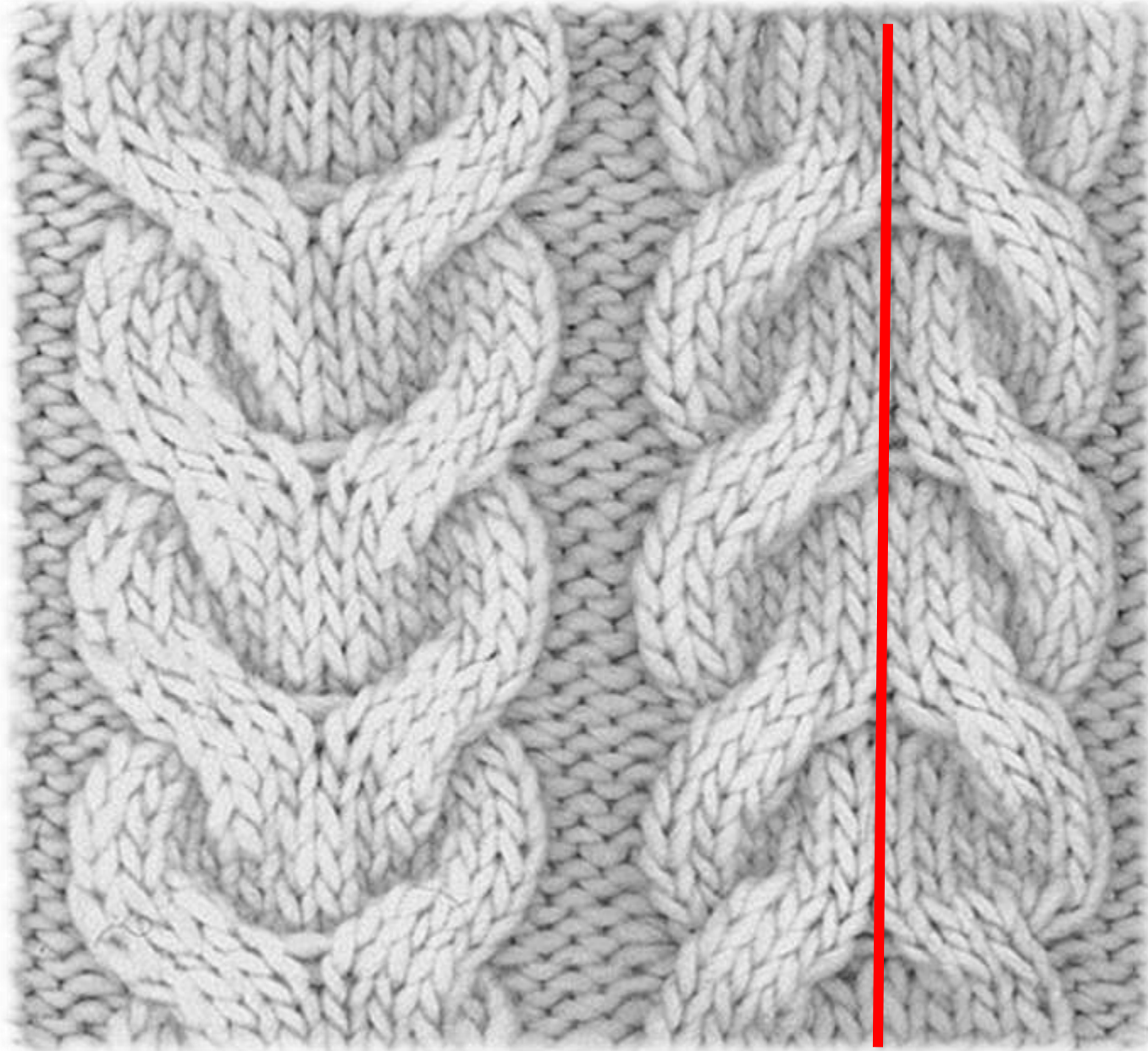
Rochester Knitting Guild

February 11, 2019



Cable Knitting

- Looks like rope or braids
- Commonly found in Aran knits and other Fisherman knits
- Wonderful texture
- Surprisingly simple to do
- It all has to do with the order in which one knits the stitches in a cable –



Two six stitch cables
next to each other;
each cabling in a
different direction.

A Front Cross over 6
stitches and then a
Back Cross over 6
stitches

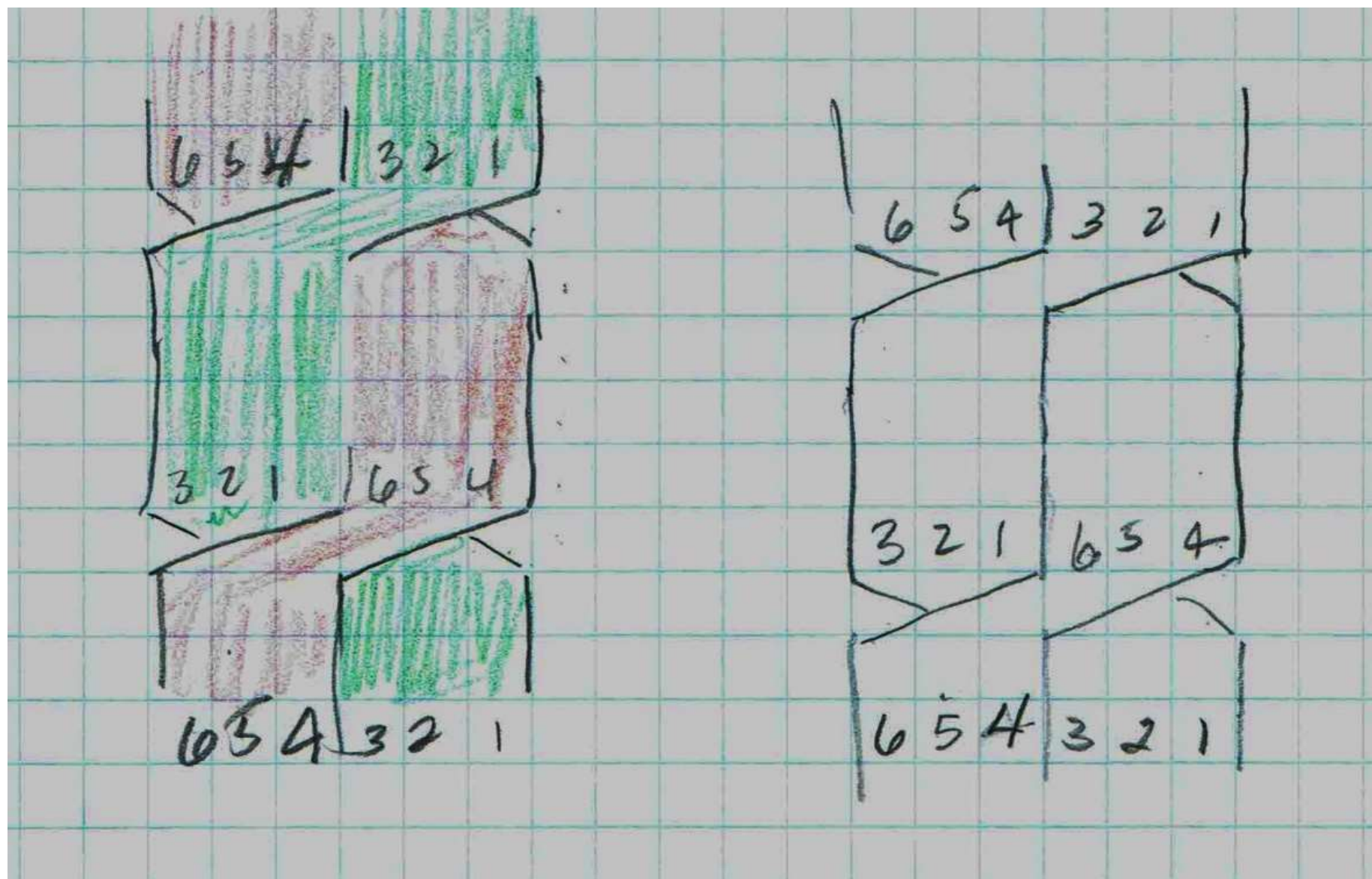
Which way am I cabling?

- Easy test
- Hands out, fingers up
- Which direction is your right hand moving?
 - A Front Twist or Twist to the LEFT has your right hand crossing **in front** of your left
 - A Back Twist or a Twist to the RIGHT has your right hand crossing **behind** your left
- Try it

IMAGINE:

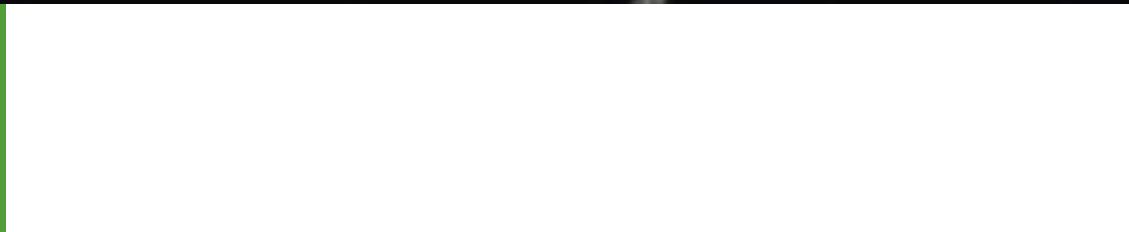
Your right hand
is green and
stitches 1, 2, & 3

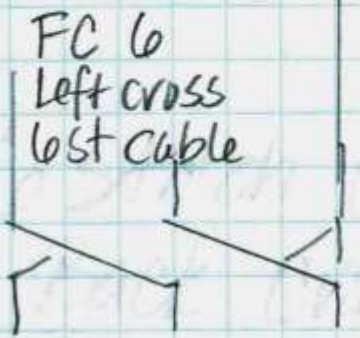
Your left hand is
pink and
stitches 4, 5, & 6



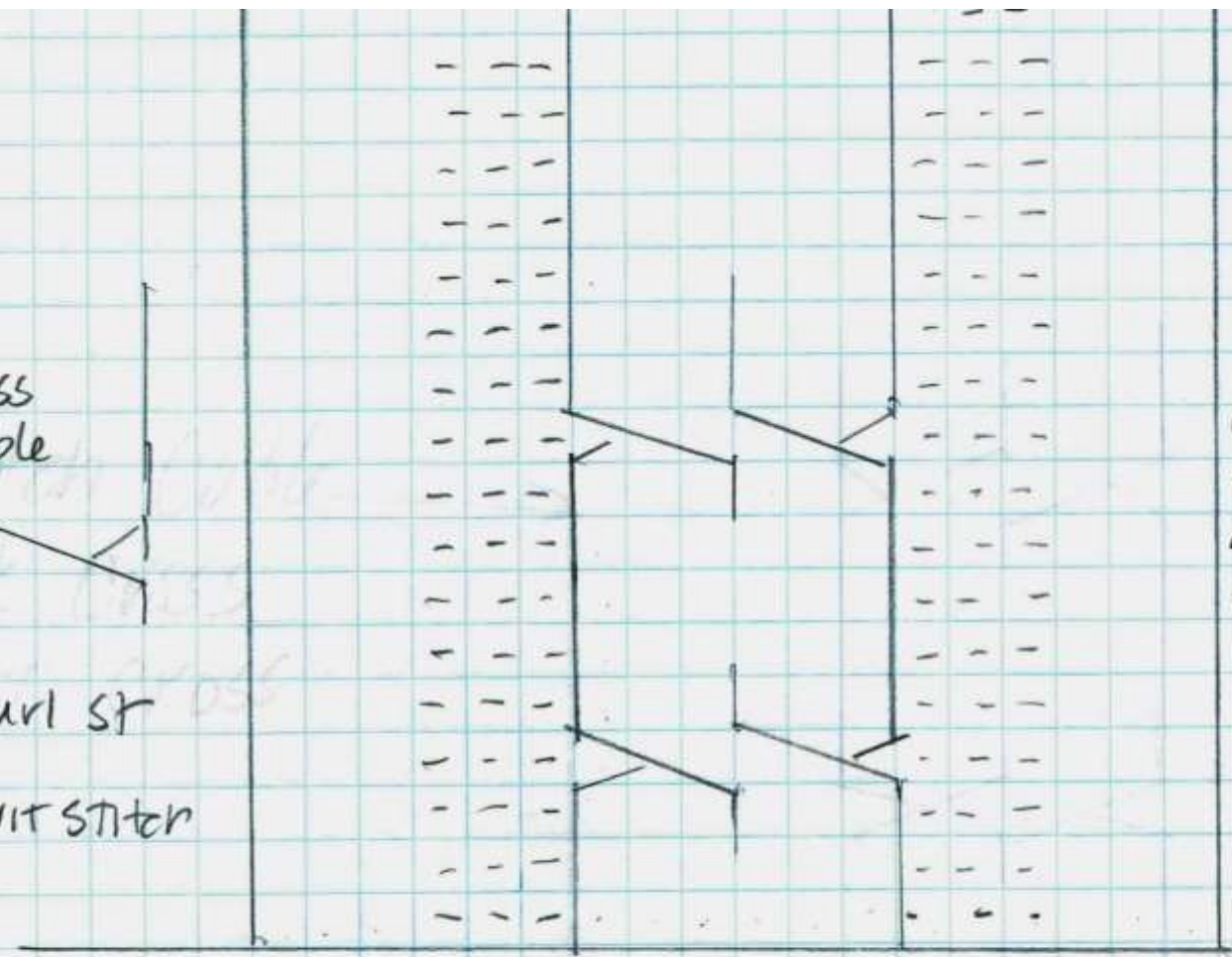
Written directions and Charts

- Words or pictures: Upick
- Basic 6 stitch cable
- Slip 3 stitches to cable needle and hold in **front**, K₃, then K₃ from cable needle





- = Purl st
□ = Knit stitch

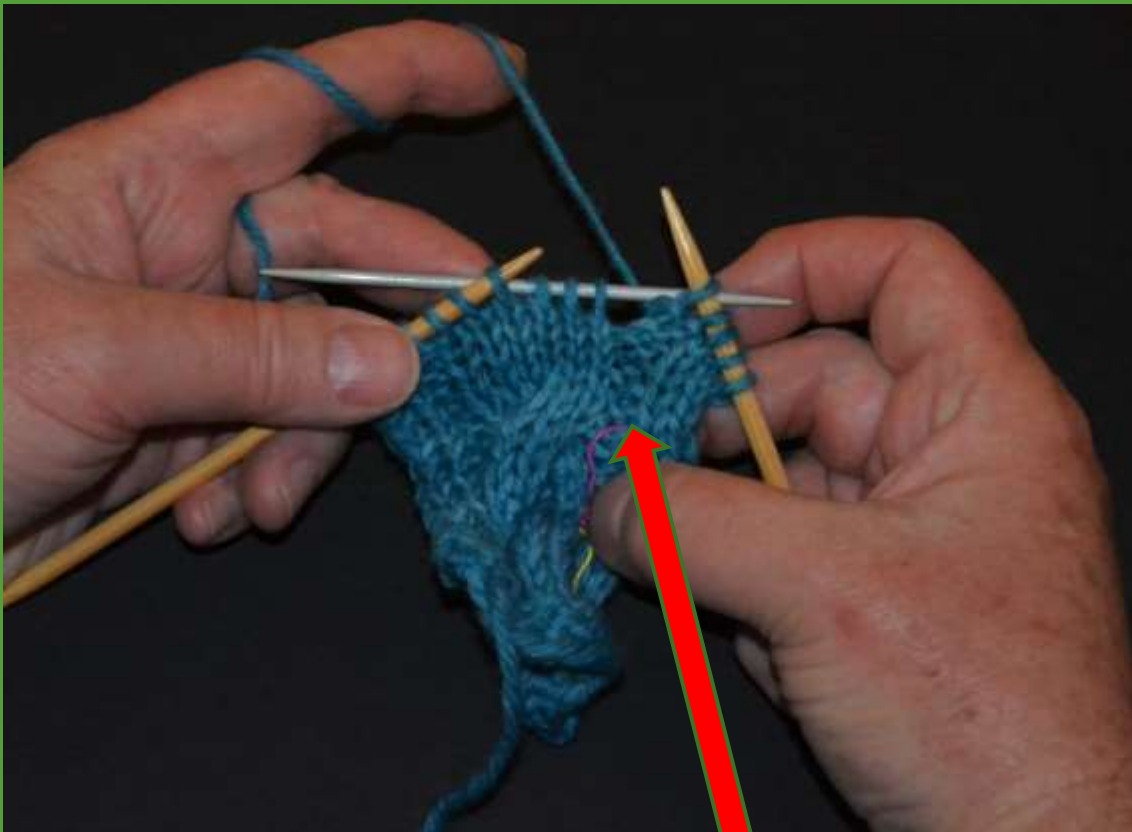


3k 3p 6k 3p 3k

6 CABLE R
5
4
3
2
1
6

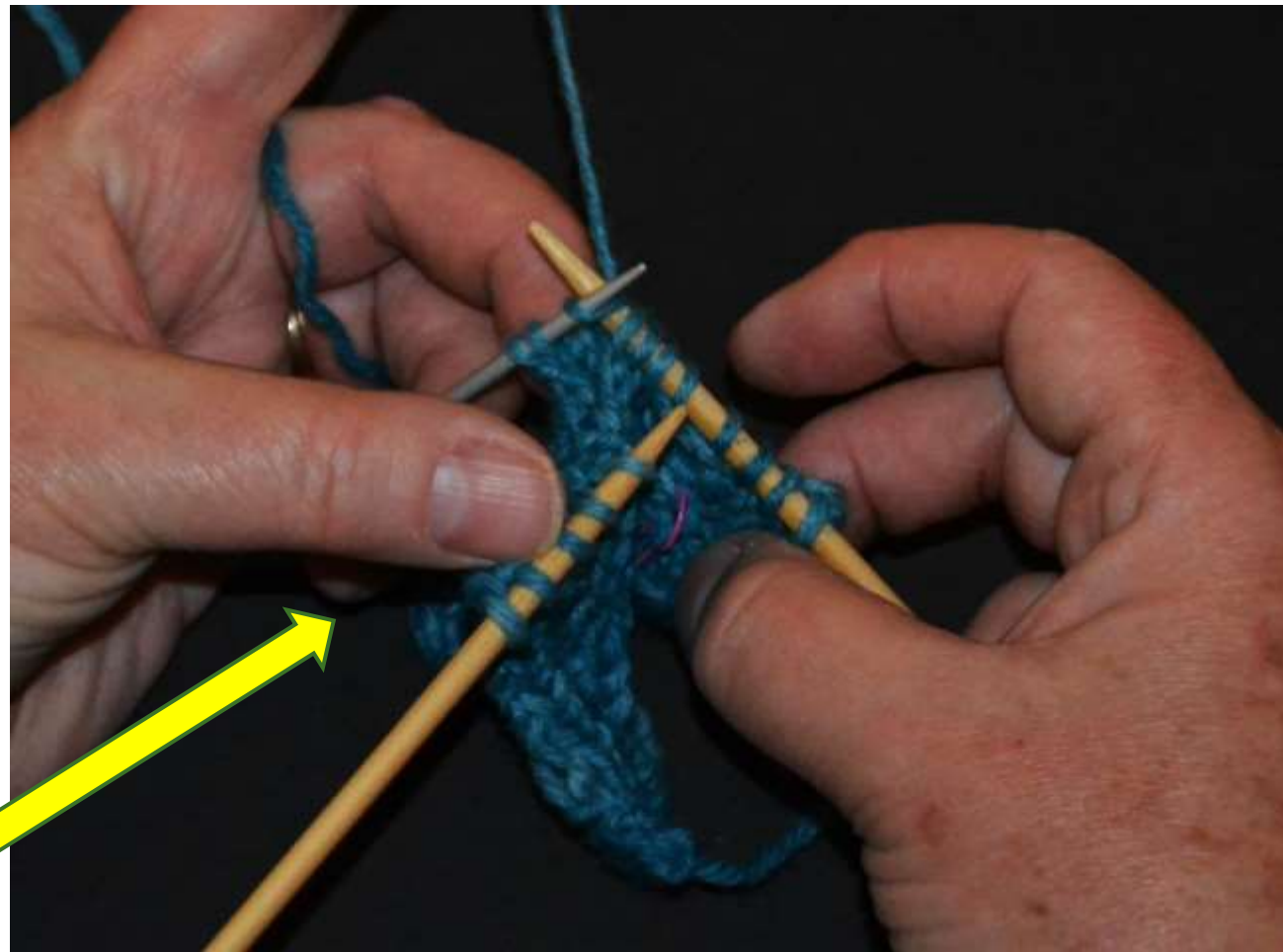
Written directions and Charts

- Words or pictures, Upick
- Basic 6 stitch cable:
- Slip 3 stitches to cable needle and hold in **back**, K₃, then K₃ from cable needle



3 sts to cable needle, hold in back

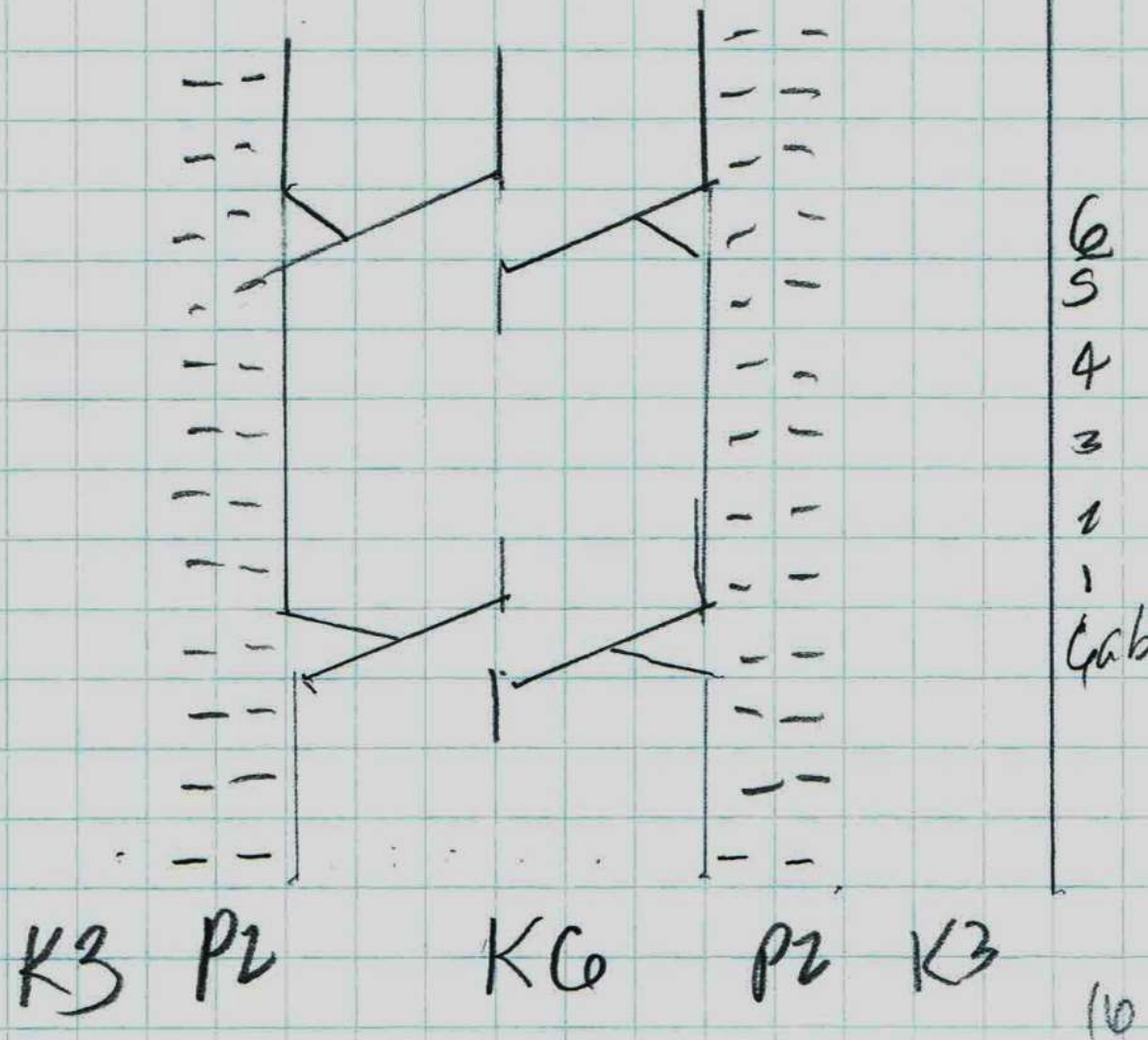
*Knit next three from left needle, then
knit three from cable needle*





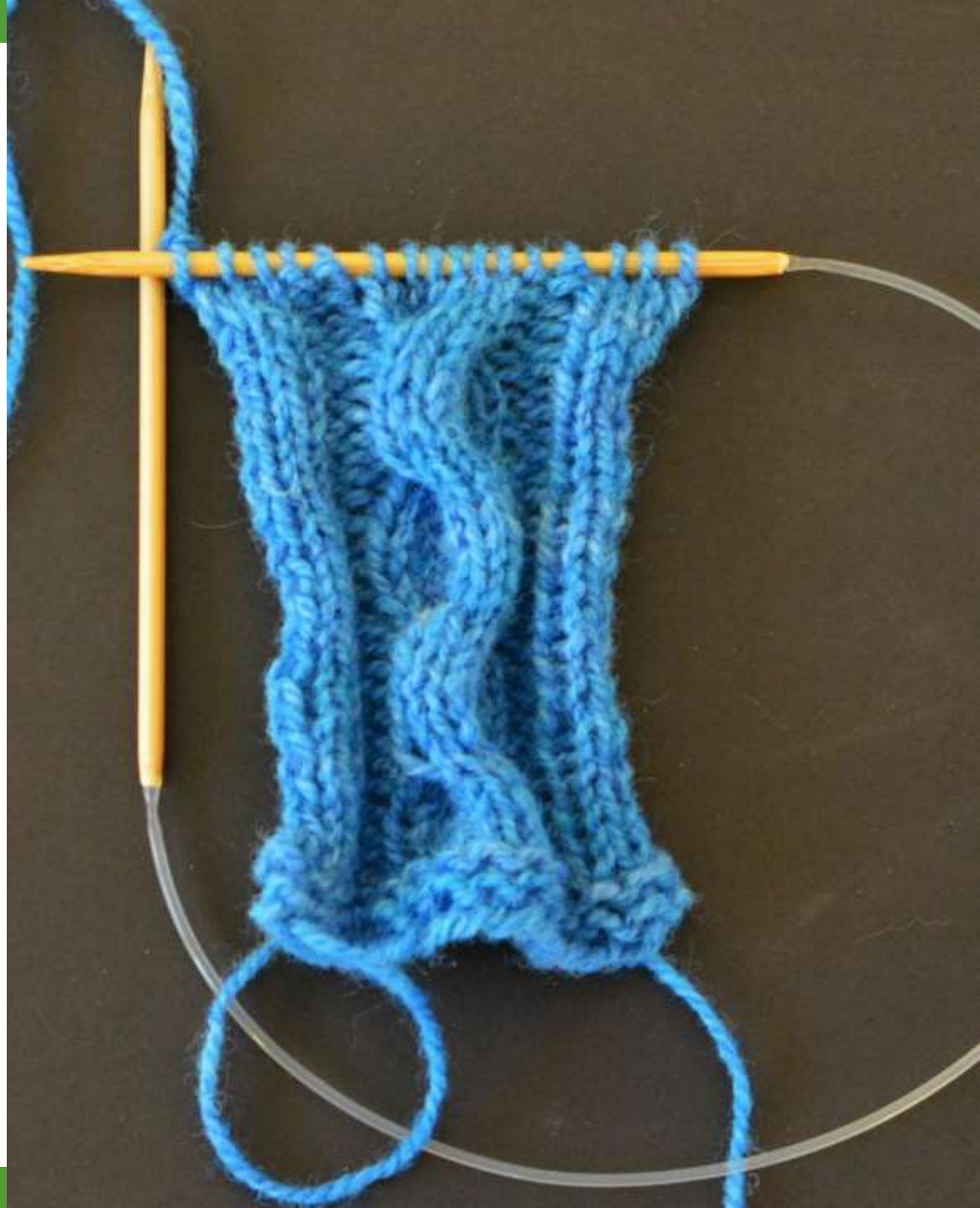
Cable complete

6 strand cable
Back cross
Right cross



Serpentine Cables

- Twists alternate
Front Cross and
Back Cross
- Also called Ribbon
Cable, Snaky
Cable



Charts

- *Make your own charts from written directions*
- *All you really need is graph paper and a pencil*
- *A good eraser is handy to have on hand, too.*

Written directions and Charts

- Words or pictures
- It's all a matter of personal preference
- Use both as a safety net
- Familiarity breeds comfort with the pattern
 - If you've got a chart, read it aloud to yourself
 - If you've got written directions, chart them

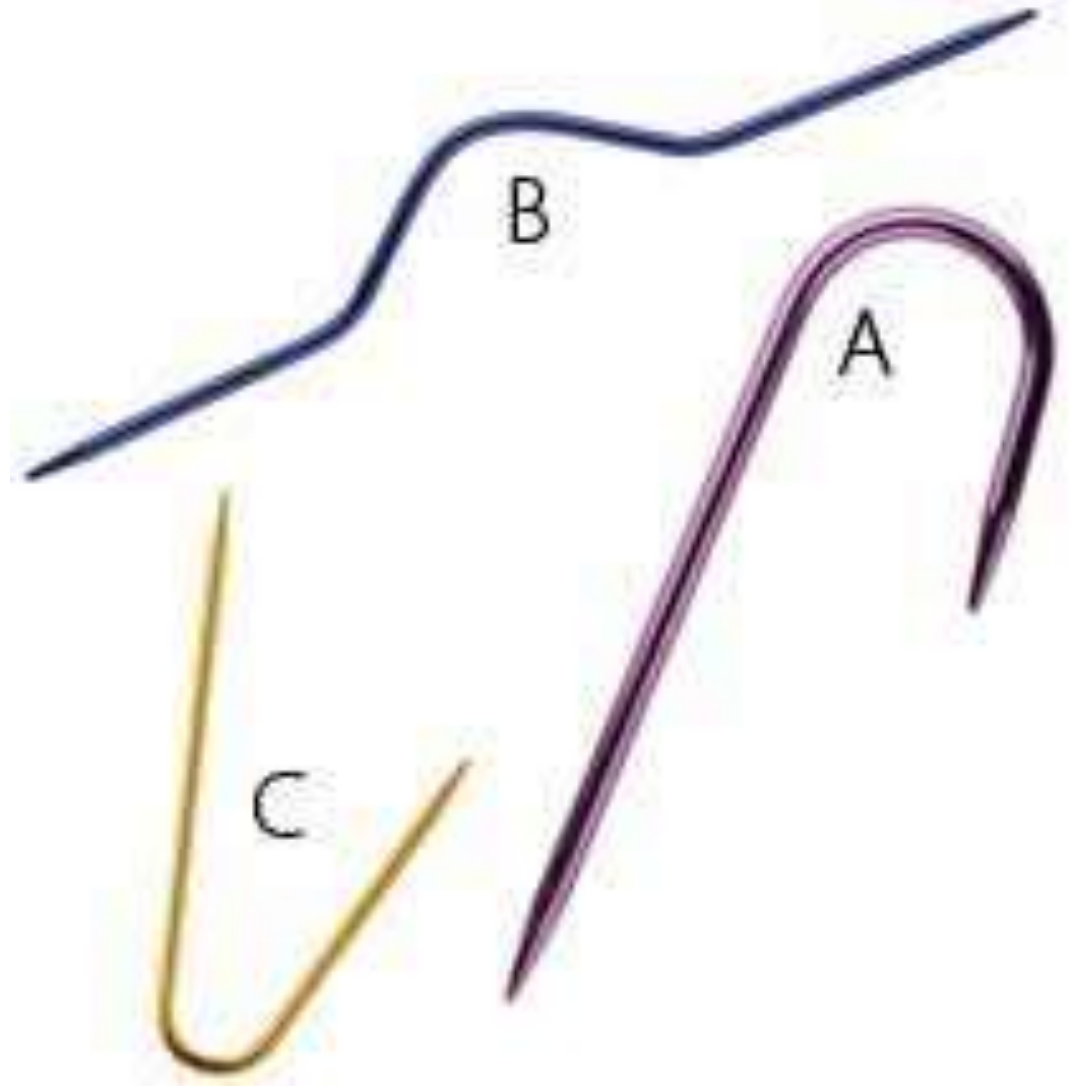
Cable needles

Straight (look like mini-dpns)

A. The Hook

B. Blip

C. The Flying V thingie



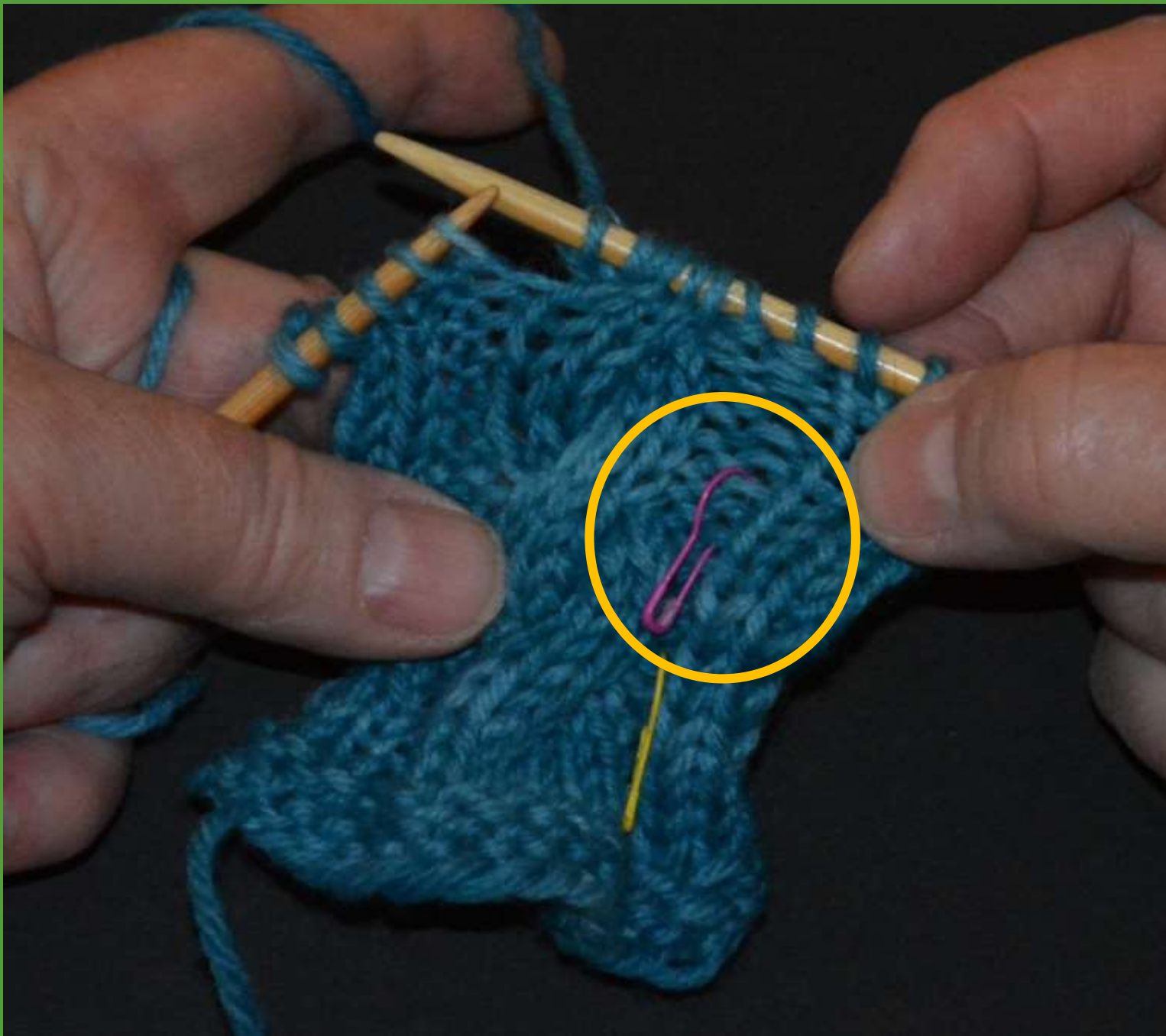
Cable needles

- Sizing?
 - Match your needle? Just get close
- Sets of three sizes 3, 6, 9
- Metal – one size works for most gauges
- Substitutions are as many & as varied as knitters.



Important Safety Tips

- Cables are a lot like ribbing and will PULL IN
- WATCH to make sure you're getting gauge
- Count rows/rounds between cable crossings
 - Row Counters are your friends
 - I use safety pins in the purl stitches alongside the cable

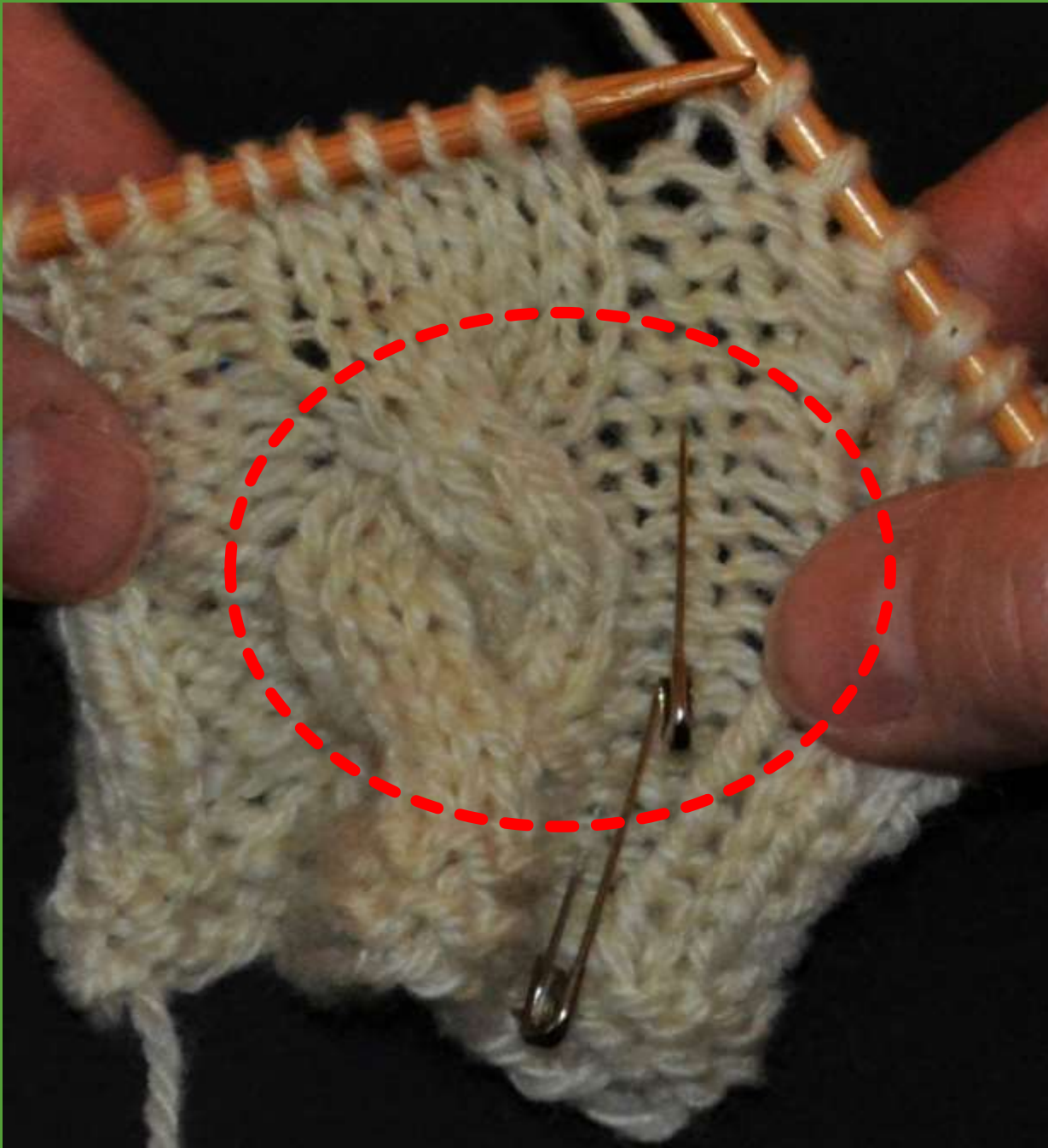


Cable Row

Plain, wrong side row

Next Front side row, put safety pin in so that the purl from the cable row is inside the pin.

When counting rows, you'll count the purls going up above the pin.



This way I know exactly where and when the cable crossing was and can count “Cable plus one, two, three...” and know exactly when to cable again.

Plus, I lose both row counters and scraps of paper with alarming regularity.

Chart for Trek Cowl by
Channyn Quinn
Free on Ravelry

This is a great pattern
with clear written
directions but no chart.
So, I charted it.
I did NOT chart every
row of the broken rib or
the purl stitches that
frame the cable but I did
enough to have a very
good idea of where and
when to twist, the repeat
– both horizontal and
vertical – and what the
cable should look like.

Broken Rib
Continues up
Body of cowl

Cable twists
Every 15 rounds, in alternating
directions

