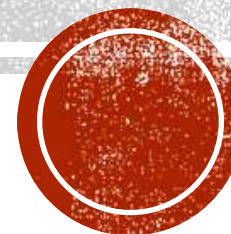
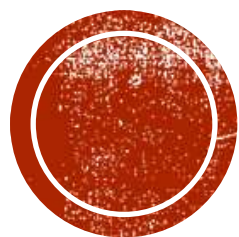


FIVE EASY FIXES

Rochester Knitting Guild

November 8, 2021





FIVE EASY FIXES OR, WHAT DO I DO NOW???

Dropped stitches, near and far / “Join, being careful not to twist” / Ladders /
Lifesaving LifeLines / The Ups and Downs of Grafting



IT'S ESCAPING

It's happened to every knitter, one time or another. A stitch hops off the needle and tries to make a run for it.

It's a easy fix, just pop it back on the left needle, just check that it's mounted on the needle as it should be.





Okay, it's back on the needle but not mounted the same way the other stitches are with the right leg of the stitch to the fore and the left to the rear.

Remount the stitch.





Now the stitch is on the left needle as it had been to begin with, and exactly as the rest of the stitches.

The goal here is to avoid a twisted stitch where you might not want one and returning the stitch to its original position is the easy way to do that.



Nut
s!



WE HAVE A RUNNER

What to do when you look over your knitting and notice that a stitch managed to hop off the needle several rows below where you are???

Personally, I cuss a bit then reach for two things:

Locking stitch marker or safety pin

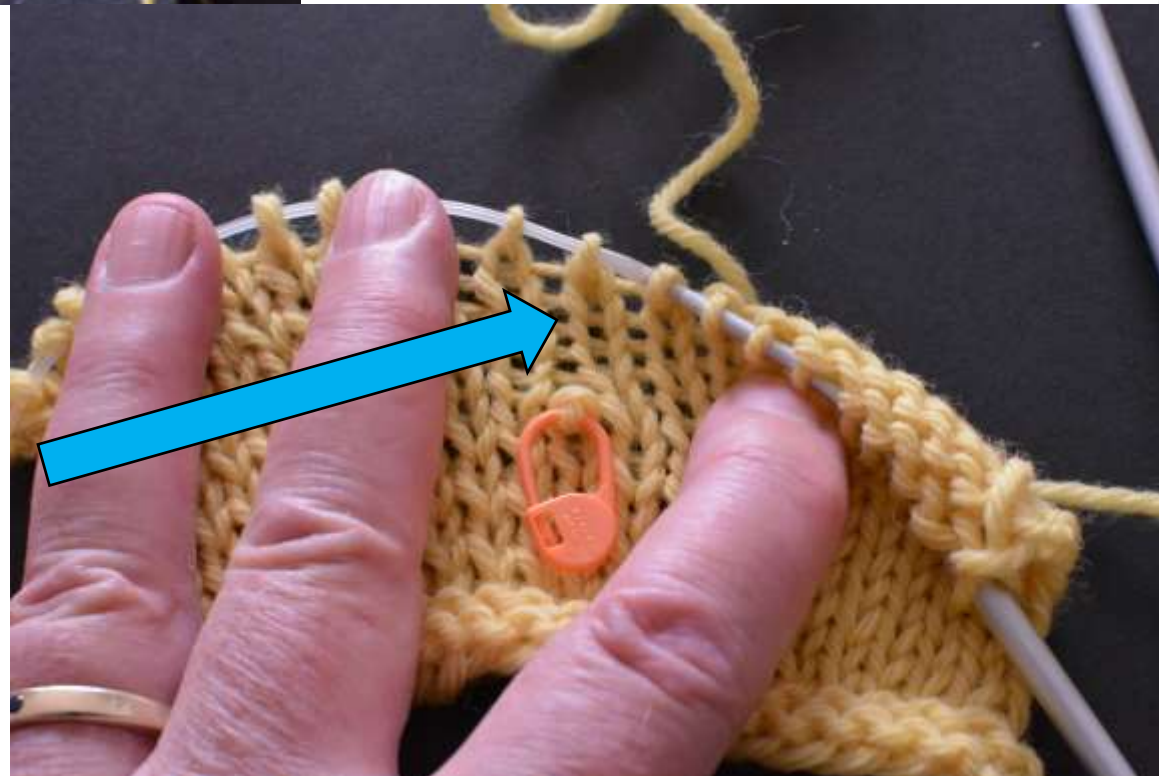
My trusty crochet hook

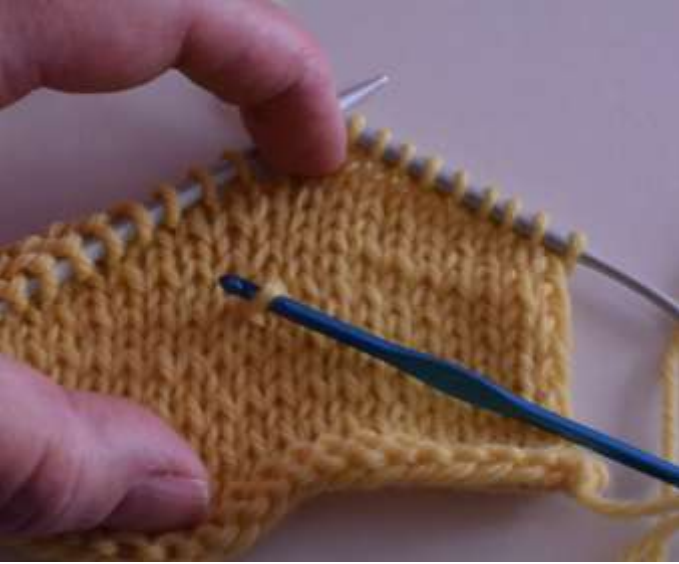




First – secure the stitch with a safety pin or locking stitch marker so it can't go any further.

You can see the space where it ought to be





NOW, ROUND IT UP

If you've ever wondered why a crochet is an essential part of a knitter's gadget bag, this is it.

Knit to the point of the row where that stitch ought to be.

Use the crochet hook to pull each ladder through the loop of the dropped stitch, one at a time, until it's back up even with the current row on the needle.



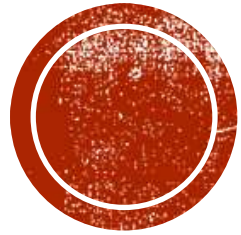
LADDERS

And how to avoid them when working in the round



Whether knitting on DPNs, Two Circular Needles, or Magic Loop, ladders can develop in the areas when you shift from knitting on one needle to the next. Honestly, pulling the first stitch on the new needle isn't the best solution.

What to do? Snug the SECOND stitch on the new needle up a bit and *that* will help secure the looseness between the needles.



**JOIN IN THE ROUND, BEING
CAREFUL NOT TO TWIST**

Easier said than done, pal



WELL, MAYBE IT IS...

The easiest way I know to avoid twisting the cast on stitches when joining in the round is quite simple –

STITCH MARKERS

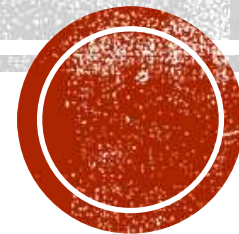
Pop a stitch marker onto the needle as you cast on, every 20 stitches or so. (every 50 if you're casting on hundreds). They help when rechecking the count and make it easy to check that the cast on stitches aren't twisted.



LIFELINES MAY SAVE YOUR KNITTING

Possibly your patience, as well. While the insertion of a lifeline can be a bit fiddly, it's well worth the time – especially when knitting lace or complicated cable patterns.

All you need is a blunt needle and some smooth, thin cord, like crochet cotton. Thread each stitch onto the cord





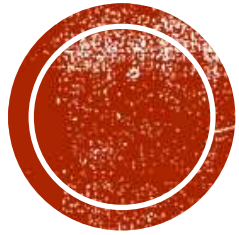
Thread the cord through each stitch and then knit those same stitches as usual, being careful not to catch the lifeline in your knitting – or split it – as you go.

Later, should the need arise, it's easy to unravel back to your lifeline and *shazam!* It's just sitting there like a stitch holder, holding your stitches ready for you.

Magic, I tell you...



GRAFTING SIMPLIFIED

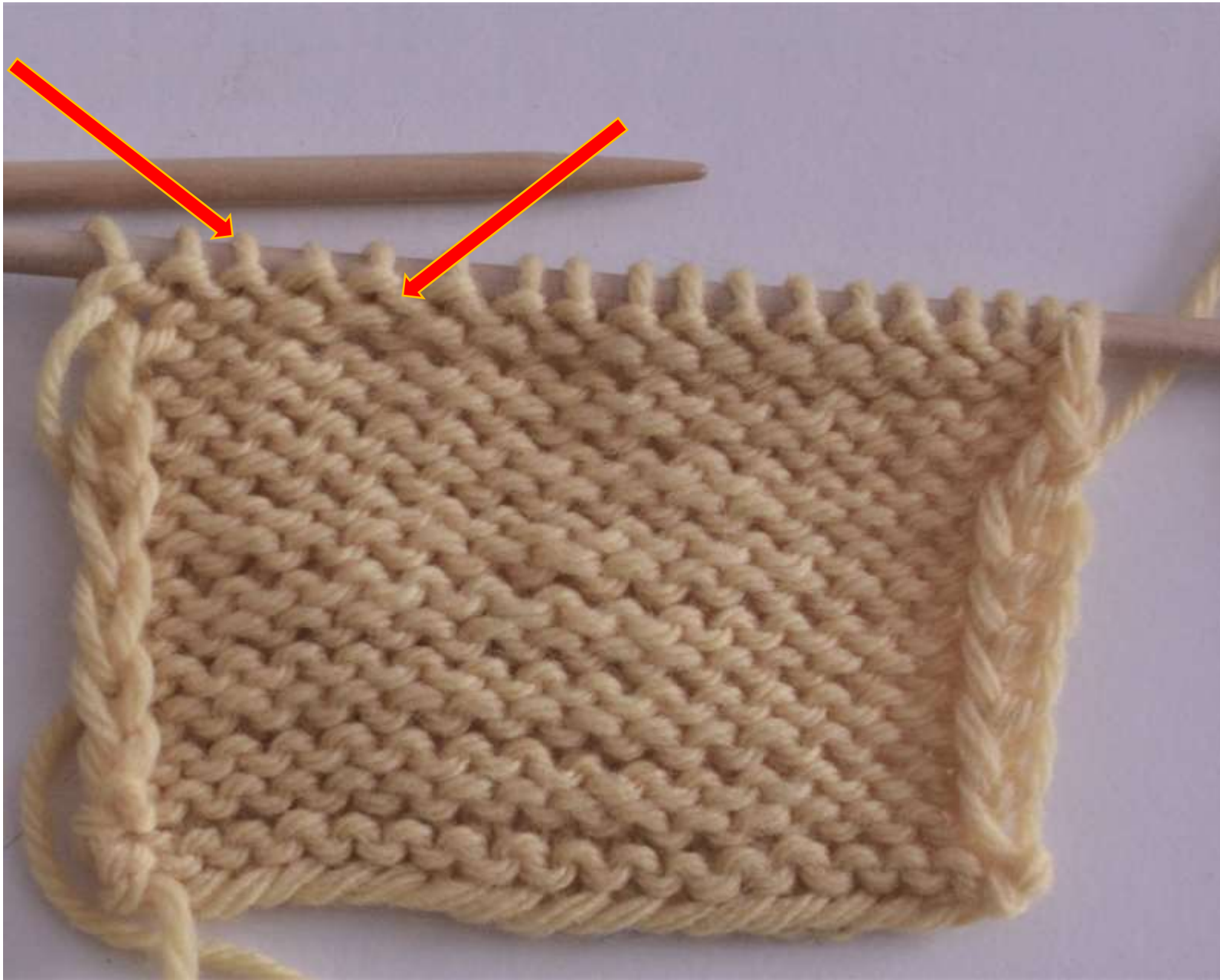


It seems that many knitters dislike grafting or they don't feel confident in their grafting and oftentimes avoid it as much as they possibly can.

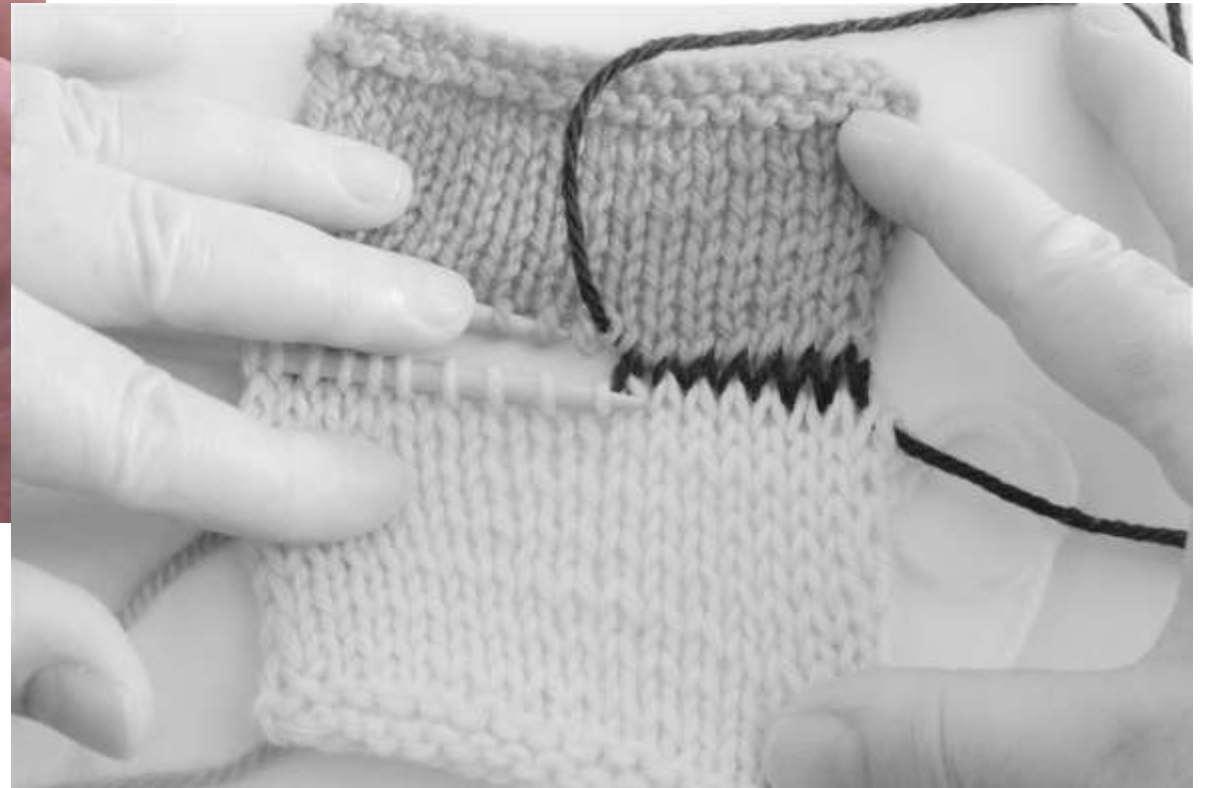
I look at grafting two pieces of knitting together in terms of where the grafting yarn travels, rather than how the stitches are approached.

I'm limiting this to grafting stocking stitch to stocking stitch from the knit side for both simplicity and brevity. Fingers crossed.

Look at a piece of stocking stitch knitting – see where the working yarn travels from stitch to stitch.



If you look a grafted piece of stocking stitch



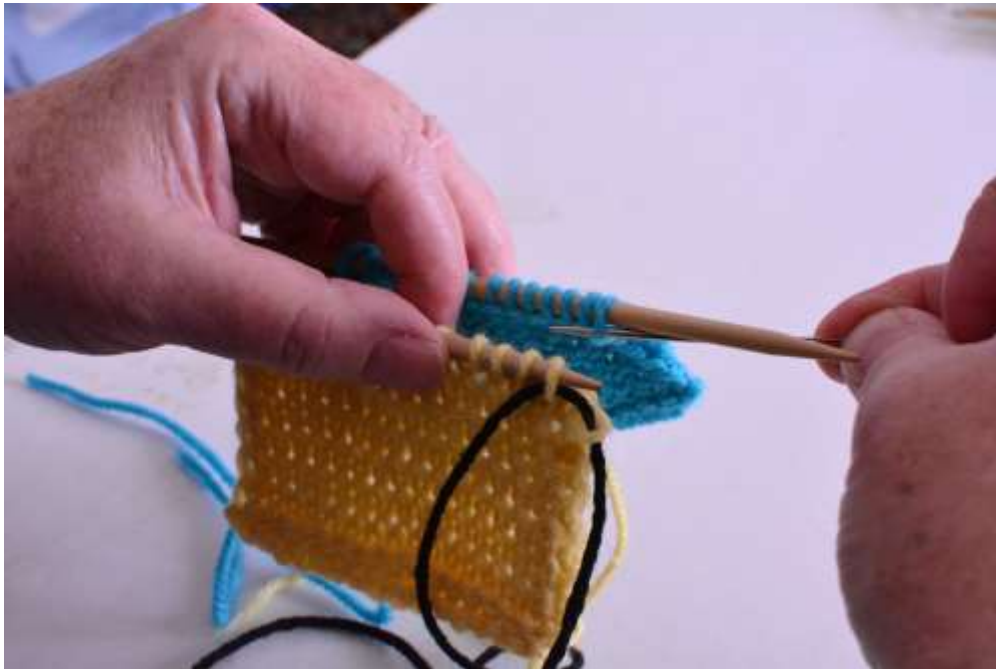
Keeping the grafting yarn in the same path as the working yarn is the essence of grafting. For stocking stitch to stocking stitch, the grafting yarn travels from stitch to stitch on the purl side.



DOWN AND UP



Down in 1st stitch



Up through the 2nd

