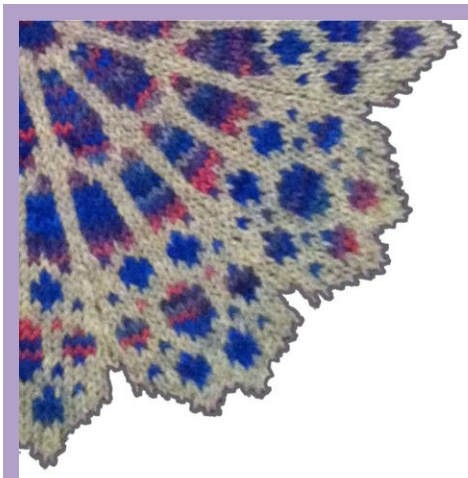
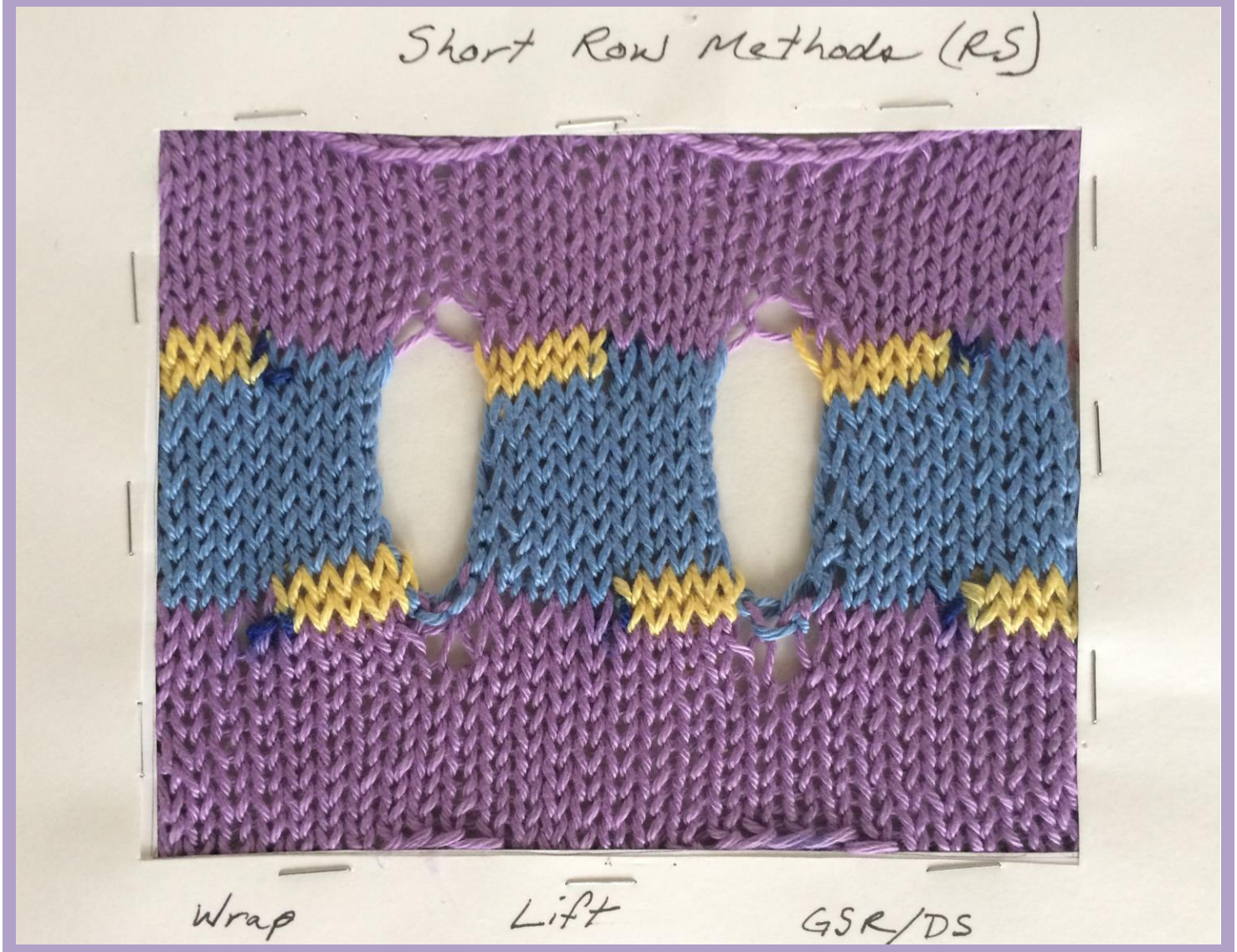


Cathedral Knits

finely crafted patterns for elegant hand knitting

Short Row Smorgasbord

Laura Barker



Short rows are an important tool for any knitter who wants to move beyond working flat pieces. They are probably most often used for turning the heels of socks, but can also be used for bust darts, shaping toys, or even creating interesting patterns in flat pieces. For those of you who sew, a short row creates a small horizontal dart. Except that in sewing, we are removing fabric that's already there. In knitting, we are creating the fabric, so we stop working anywhere the dart would

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have removed fabric. Another way of thinking of short rows is as the vertical equivalent of working increases and decreases, which alter knitting horizontally. To change the width of a piece as you knit, use increases and decreases. To change the length in individual portions, use short rows. Just as increases can lead to undesirable holes in your work, and knitters have preferred methods of camouflaging increases, the same is true of short rows. And, as with increases, some may work better than others in specific locations.

Working a short row is just what it sounds like; you work partway across a row and then turn your work. This results in an uneven number of rows at the turn, and without remediation, a hole. There are many methods for decreasing the visibility of the turn; slipping, wrapping, lifting, and combinations of these methods. More recently, there are other methods which don't fit any of these categories. We will use the following terms:

1. Turning point is the place where the knitting changes direction between one row and the next.
2. Turning yarn is the section of working yarn that marks the turning point which is used to decrease visibility of the hole on a subsequent row.
3. Stitch mount is the direction that the stitches lie on the needle. In British and Continental knitting, and in this class, Standard stitch mount has the right (leading) leg of the stitch on the front of the needle. Reverse stitch mount has the right (leading) leg of the stitch on the back of the needle.

When short rows are worked as mirrored pairs, the fabric created is not flat, and has a type of pouch; think sock heel. In this class will cover them sequentially, creating a flat fabric. CO 12 sts.

SLIPPING (or Not): Slipping the first stitch decreases the difference in rows at turn from two rows to one. We will work one turn with a slip and one without to compare results.

Row 1 (WS): K12; turn. (garter ridge)
Row 2 (RS): K12; turn.
Row 3: P12; turn.
Row 4: K8; turn.
Row 5: P8; turn.
Row 6: K4; turn.
Row 7: Sl1p, p3; turn.
Rows 8, 10: K12; turn.
Row 9: P12; turn.

Row 11 (WS): P8; turn.
Row 12: Sl1k , k7; turn.
Row 13: P4; turn.
Row 14: K4; turn.
Row 15: P12; turn.
Row 16, 17, 18: K12; turn.

As you can see, just turning your work leads to a large hole and some wonky looking stitches. The slipped stitches are a big improvement, but still leave a hole that would be noticeable in many fabrics. There are various ways of camouflaging this hole; many involve using the turning yarn to create a loop that connects to the first stitch beyond the turning point. If this loop will be worked as a stitch, it's stitch mount will eventually be revealed as standard or reverse. A reverse stitch mount leads to an extra twist when you work the stitch. Working a stitch through the back loop creates a twist as well. When working m1 increases, I like adding a twist to close the hole, either by picking up the new stitch through the back for a reverse mount, or by working through the back loop. With

short rows, I find that most methods are sufficient to close the hole without a twist, and that adding the twist can make the stitch too tight and create a pucker. Accordingly, I work my short row methods so that any stitched created are standard mount. If you find your short rows have stitches at the turning point that are too loose, you may want to add the twist back in. This should all make more sense as we work actual short row methods.

WRAPPING or Wrap & Turn, w&t:
Traditionally the most common method of short rows knitting, the turning yarn is wrapped around the first stitch past the turn.
On the RS:

1. Work the required number of stitches to the turning point
2. Slip the next stitch purlwise to the right needle.
3. Bring the yarn between stitches to the opposite (RS) side of your work.
4. Return the slipped stitch to the left needle
5. Bring yarn between stitches to original (WS) side of work.
6. Turn work.
7. On a subsequent row, when you work the wrapped stitch, you may ignore the wrap (usually in garter stitch, or you may decide to **lift** the wrap to make it less visible.

We'll look at WS w&t's later.

Rows 1, 3 (WS): P12; turn.
Row 2 (RS): K12; turn.
Row 4: K9, w&t.
Row 5: P9; turn.
Row 6: K6, w&t.
Row 7: P6; turn.
Row 8: K3, w&t.
Row 9: P3; turn.

Let's take a moment to look at the collars we have created.

LIFTING: Lifting methods involve lifting the turning yarn (either on the row with the turn, or on the row when you work across the turning point) onto the needle creating an extra stitch which is then decreased with the adjacent stitch on a subsequent row. The goal is for the extra stitch, or turning yarn, to vanish completely behind the regular stitch.

Lifted or "unwrapped" Wrap & Turn, w&t (RS):
Many directions say to knit to the wrapped stitch, insert the tip of the right needle into both wrap and the wrapped stitch, and k2tog. I find this makes the wrap too visible.
A neater method is to:

1. Slip stitch with wrap purlwise.
2. Lift wrap onto right needle.
3. Slip both stitch and wrap back to left needle.
4. Knit two together.

The "hack" method:

1. Slide right needle under wrap.
2. With wrap on needle, knit wrapped stitch.
3. Pass wrap over stitch just worked.

Row 10: K6, sl1p; lift wrap and place on needle, slip sts back, k2tog, k2; work "hack, k2, turn.
Row 11: P12; turn.

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Row 12: K12; turn.

Looking at the results, on the RS, the unlifted wraps are clearly visible, and both lifted wraps are nearly invisible. On the WS, where the wraps were lifted, you can see the little bar of turning yarn where the wrap was pulled behind the adjacent stitch, but it's not overly noticeable. Weighing the work involved, I prefer the hack.

WRAPPING or Wrap & Turn, w&t (WS Rows):

On the WS:

1. Work the required number of stitches to the turning point
2. Bring the yarn between stitches to the opposite (RS) side of your work.
3. Slip the next stitch purlwise to the right needle.
4. Bring yarn between stitches to original (WS) side of work.
5. Return the slipped stitch to the left needle
6. Turn work.
7. On a subsequent row, when you work the wrapped stitch, you may ignore the wrap (usually in garter stitch), or you may decide to **lift** the wrap to make it less visible.

Row 13 (WS): P9; w&t.
Row 14: K9; turn.
Row 15: P6; w&t.
Row 16: K6; turn.
Row 17: P3; w&t.
Row 14: K3; turn.

Before working these stitches, let's look at the wraps or collars.

Lifted or "unwrapped" Wrap & Turn, w&t (RS):

Because of stitch orientation and order, lifting the wrap on the WS is more complicated.
The standard method is to:

1. Slip stitch with wrap purlwise.
2. Lift wrap onto right needle and over stitch.
3. Slip both stitch and wrap back to left needle.
4. SSP; slip collar knitwise, slip stitch purlwise, purl 2 together through the back loop.

The "hack" method:

1. Slide right needle under wrap from the back.
2. With wrap on needle, knit wrapped stitch.
3. Pass wrap over stitch just worked.

Row 15 (WS): P3; sl1p; lift wrap over stitch and place on needle, slip sts back, SSP; p2, work "hack", p3; turn.

Row 16: K12; turn.

Row 17: P12; turn.

Rows 18, 19, 20: K12; turn.

Rows 21, 23: P12; turn.

Row 24: K12; turn.

Looking at the results, on the RS, the unlifted wraps are clearly visible; the SSP is nearly invisible; and the "hack" has a little bit of wrap showing on the right side which looks a bit like and extra leg of a knit stitch. On the WS, where the wraps were lifted, you can see the little bar of turning yarn where the wrap was pulled behind the adjacent stitch, but it's not overly noticeable. Weighing the extra work involved, I still think the SSP is better than the hack.

Because the result of a lifted short row is beautiful, but the process of wrapping and unwraping can be fiddly, knitters continue to create new methods of creating and working the lift. Like w&t's, it is a process worked on two rows; when you first work to the turning point, and later when you work across the turning point. I'll look at YO, Digging, Sunday, Japanese, and Twin or Shadow Methods.

Yarn Over "YO" (another Lifting Method): A yarn over is worked at the turn.

Part 1 - first time at the turning point (RS or WS):

1. Work the required number of stitches to the turning point.
2. Turn work.
3. Work a YO.
4. Complete row according to pattern directions.

Part 2 - working across the turning point/gap (RS):

1. Work to turning point.
2. Work YO and next stitch as a K2tog.

Part 2 - working across the turning point/gap (WS):

1. Work to turning point.
2. Work YO and next stitch as an SSP.

Sunday Short Rows (a Pinning and Lifting Method):

Part 1 - first time at the turning point (RS or WS):

1. Work the required number of stitches to the turning point.
2. Turn work.
3. Place a (bobby) pin, removable stitch marker, or scrap yarn around working yarn.
4. Complete row according to pattern directions.

Part 2 - working across the turning point/gap (RS):

1. Work to turning point.
2. Use (bobby) pin, removable stitch marker, or scrap yarn to lift turning yarn onto left needle
3. Work lift and next stitch as a K2tog.

Part 2 - working across the turning point/gap (WS):

1. Work to turning point.
2. With yarn in front, slip next stitch purlwise from left needle to right.
3. Use (bobby) pin, removable stitch marker, or scrap yarn to lift turning yarn onto left needle.
4. Slip unworked stitch back to left needle.
5. Work lift and next stitch as a P2tog. Carol Sunday tool advantage of the fact that the lift occurs in Part 2, making it easy to place it to the left of the first stitch past the gap, enabling us to work a P2tog rather than the more fiddly SSP.

Digging or Catching (another Lifting Method): At the original turn, do nothing to minimize the turn. When working across the turn, insert needle into turning yarn between rows, lift yarn onto needle, and work together same as lifted w&t. This has the advantage of not needing pins, but may be hard to find.

Part 1 - first time at the turning point (RS or WS):

1. Work the required number of stitches to the turning point.
2. Turn work.
3. That's it!

Part 2 - working across the turning point/gap (RS):

1. Work to turning point.
2. Use left needle to dig and lift turning yarn (just below right leg of stitch under stitch just worked) onto right needle.

3. Slip turning yarn just lifted back to left needle.
4. Work lift and next stitch as a K2tog.

Part 2 - working across the turning point/gap (WS):

1. Work to turning point.
2. Use left needle to dig and lift turning yarn lift turning yarn (just below right leg of stitch under stitch just worked) onto right needle. You may need to partially turn your work to see this.
3. Slip turning yarn just lifted back to left needle.
4. Work lift and next stitch as an SSP. While in theory we might be able to use Carol Sunday's method of placing the lift after the first stitch past the gap, in reality, the lift is too tight.

Japanese Short Rows (a Pinning, Slipping, and Lifting Method):

Part 1 - first time at the turning point (RS or WS):

1. Work the required number of stitches to turning point. (Be careful, turning point is past pin.)
2. Turn work.
3. Slip one stitch purlwise.
4. Place a (bobby) pin, removable stitch marker, or scrap yarn around working yarn.
5. Complete row according to pattern directions.

Part 2 - working across the turning point/gap (RS):

1. Work to turning point.
2. Use (bobby) pin, removable stitch marker, or scrap yarn to lift turning yarn onto left needle
3. Work lift and next stitch as a K2tog.

Part 2 - working across the turning point/gap (WS):

1. Work to turning point.
2. Use (bobby) pin, removable stitch marker, or scrap yarn to lift turning yarn onto left needle.
3. Work lift and next stitch as an SSP. You could also use Carol Sunday's method of placing the lift after the first stitch past the gap to change the SSP into a P2tog.

Twin or Shadow Short Rows (an Unusual and Innovative Lifting Method):

Part 1 - first time at the turning point (RS):

1. Work the required number of stitches to the turning point.
2. Work a RLI (A right lifted increase is created by working a new stitch into the stitch below the stitch on the left needle). This new stitch is the lift.
3. Slip RLI to left needle.
4. Turn.

Part 1 - first time at the turning point (WS):

1. Work the required number of stitches to the turning point.
2. Slip next stitch purlwise with yarn in front.
3. Bring left needle up through stitch below slipped stitch on needle.
4. Purl lifted stitch. This new stitch is the lift.
5. Slip lift and stitch back to left needle.
6. Turn.

Part 2 - working across the turning point/gap (RS):

4. Work to turning point.
5. K2tog.

Part 2 - working across the turning point/gap (WS):

6. Work to turning point.
7. P2tog.

GERMAN SHORT ROWS: I was first introduced to German Short Rows at a knitting convention

early in 2013. A student visiting from Germany, Heidrun Liegmann (MagischeMaschen on Ravelry) showed us how she worked short rows. Even the teacher, Cat Bordhi, had never seen anything like it. At the short row turn, the yarn is slipped to create a double stitch. This double stitch is a real ugly duckling, visibly bigger than all the surrounding stitches. However, when worked in a subsequent row, this ugly duckling transforms, filling the short row gap beautifully on the front and back of your work. It should be noted that Germans do not call this method *German Short Rows*; they call it *Doppelmasche*, which translates to double stitch. Almost all information I've found in English refers to the method as *German Short Rows*, and I will continue to do so. There does not seem to be any consistent way to abbreviate this technique in patterns, and often it is written without any abbreviation. For reasons that I hope will make sense once you've learned this technique, I will use the abbreviation ***DS*** (double stitch). The directions for working the double stitches and their appearance vary slightly when working them in garter stitch and stockinette, and also when worked from the knit side or the purl side. I'll use the general abbreviation ***T&DS,*** turn and DS. On WS & RS they share the same general traits:

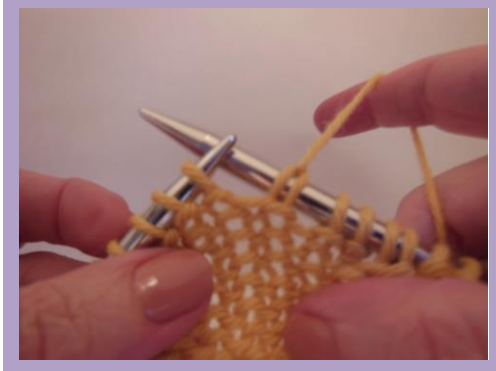
- The final stitch of a row is worked, and then work is turned.
- The working yarn needs to be in front.
- The last stitch worked is slipped purlwise from left to right.
- The working yarn is pulled up and over the work to the back, creating a DS (double stitch).
- The DS is always counted as a single stitch.
- On subsequent row, DS is worked as a k2tog or p2tog.

1. Working GSR in Stockinette, Knit to Purl:

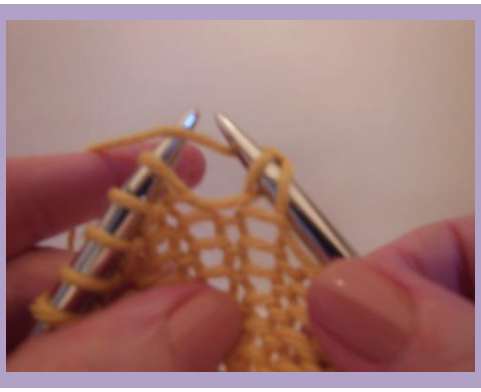
1a. On RS, knit final stitch before the turn.

1b. Turn work to WS. Yarn is in front.

1c. Slip last stitch worked from left to right purlwise.



1d. Pull working yarn up and over, exposing 2 legs.



1e. Move yarn forward for purling; finish row.

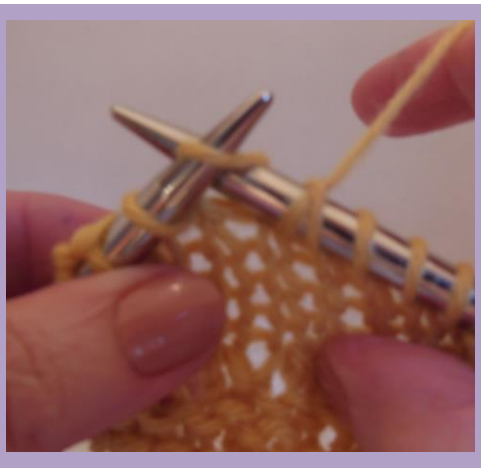
1f. On subsequent row, work DS as k2tog.

Rows 1, 3 (WS): P12; turn.
Row 2 (RS): K12; turn.
Row 4: K8.
Row 5: T&DS, p7; turn.
Row 4: K4.
Row 5: T&DS, p3; turn.
Rows 8, 10: K12; turn.
Row 9: P12; turn.

3. Working GSR in Stockinette, Purl to Knit:

3a. Purl final stitch before turn. 3b. Turn work. Bring yarn to front. 3c. Slip last stitch worked from left to right purlwise.

3d. Pull working yarn up and over, exposing 2 legs.



3e. Yarn is at back, ready to knit next stitch; finish row.

3f. On subsequent row, work DS as p2tog.

Row 11 (WS): P8.
Row 12: T&DS, k7; turn.
Row 11 (WS): P4.
Row 12: T&DS, k3; turn.
Rows 15, 17: P12; turn.
Row 16: K12. Turn.

