

STITCH PATTERNS

OPENWORK PATTERNS

Most traditional shawls contain at least a little openwork, if only a narrow edging. Yarn-overs are the easiest of all increases to make, and they are the basis of all openwork stitch patterns.

You will nearly always find the yarn-over coupled with a decrease: k2tog; k2tog tbl; sl 1, k1, pss0; or ssk. P2tog (on right, or more often wrong side of work) is also common. Some patterns pair two yarn-overs with a double decrease: sl 1, k2tog, pss0. The aim of the paired increase and decrease is to create an openwork pattern while keeping the number of stitches the same. Sometimes the stitch numbers don't return to the starting number for a row or two, perhaps not even until a full repeat of pattern rows has been completed.

When working openwork, be aware that it will “open up” your stockinette or garter-stitch gauge, giving you fewer stitches to the inch and making the knitted fabric looser. But because openwork does not use more yarn—the yarn-overs take up space—openwork patterns are economical to knit.

Try a sample of the stitch pattern you're thinking of using to see just how much the gauge is affected. It is wise to knit at least two repeats of a small pattern, and at least twenty stitches for your swatch. You'll become familiar with the pattern very quickly while knitting a swatch, and if you decide you don't like the pattern, you haven't lost much time.

See page 111 for abbreviations and symbols. When possible, the lace patterns are presented as charts.

MESH STITCH OPENWORK PATTERNS

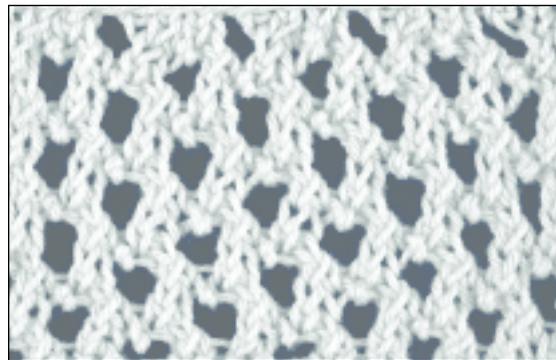
Cat's Eye or Eyelet

Multiple of 4 sts

Note: End pattern with Row 2 or 4.

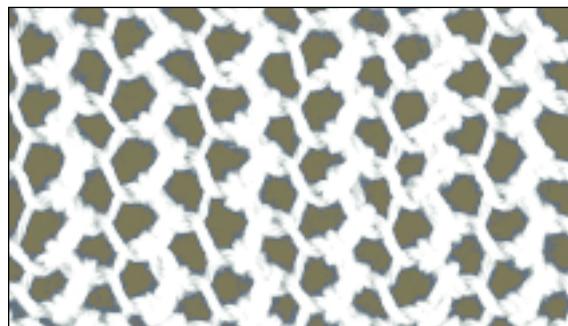
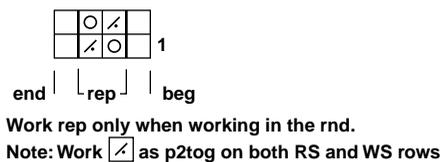
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Work rep only when working in the rnd.



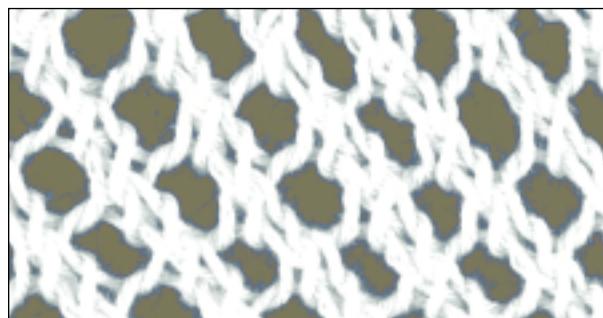
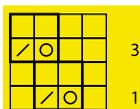
Purse Stitch

Multiple of 2 sts + 2.



Bias Openwork

Multiple of 2 sts.



Madeira Bias

Multiple of 4 sts + 4.

