

# PROVISIONAL CAST ONS

## for Picot Hems

*I'd like to review the two provisional cast ons for picot hems (CROCHET CHAIN and EXTRA CIRCULAR) I talked about on the GREAT BEGINNINGS *Knitting Daily* episode.*

### CROCHET CHAIN PROVISIONAL CAST ON

With this cast on, you pick up stitches from an already created crochet chain.

I like using this cast on for any circumstances where I don't want a dangling second needle / cord. For example, I use this cast on for my Cereus shawl, where I had to cast on a large number of stitches, work the edging, then work the short rows from the provisionally cast on stitches. I also like to use it for garter stitch tabs for top down triangular shawls.

Create a crochet chain of a few more stitches than you'll need for your cast on, using a smooth yarn in the same weight as your project yarn, in a contrasting color. Use the same (or close to the same) size crochet hook as your project needles.

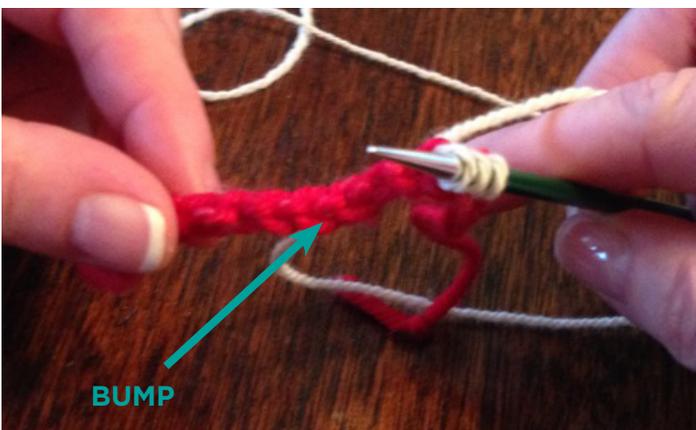
Tie a knot in the yarn hanging off the starting end so you know from which end to unzip later.

Using your project yarn, pick up the required number of stitches from the bumps on the bottom of the crochet chain (see picture, below).

Work the next row as a RS row. Continue working in pattern.

When you need to access the live stitches, unzip the crochet chain (starting with the side *without* a knot) carefully and place each stitch onto your knitting needles (spare set if the other stitches are still live). Work both the live and provisional stitches together for a picot hem.

Ensure you start unzipping at the correct end. Many references recommend tying a knot on the end from which you unzip. I've found I need to pull that yarn through the first stitch, so I prefer tying a knot on the end from which NOT to unzip.



### EXTRA CIRCULAR PROVISIONAL CAST ON

This is my preferred method when I'm planning on working a turned hem (whether picot or plain), want my stitches already on the needles, and don't need to work many rows or rounds before joining.

Use a spare needle of either a different size, color, or cord color than the working needle.

Make a slip knot to anchor your yarn on your working needles. Don't count this as a stitch.

Cast on as shown in the pictures below. With the first illustration, you scoop the yarn from underneath the cord.



FIG. 1

With the second, you loop the yarn over your working needle.



FIG. 2

Repeat until you have cast on the required number of stitches.

NOTE: *I usually cast on more stitches than I need, and just leave them unworked near the slip knot to help keep the last worked stitch anchored. I remove the extra stitches & slip knot after several rows.*

Work the next row as a RS row. Remove the slip knot when you reach it.

Work in pattern until you need to access the provisional stitches. Work the live and provisional stitches together for a picot hem.

Knitting Daily has several other resources for Provisional Cast Ons:

<http://www.knittingdaily.com/blogs/knitscene/archive/2013/11/21/video-how-to-knit-a-provisional-cast-on.aspx>

<http://www.knittingdaily.com/blogs/howto/archive/2008/05/15/invisible-provisional-cast-on.aspx>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSwG6SJ1z2I>