

# TEN THINGS THE PATTERN MIGHT NOT TELL YOU


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## A NOTE ABOUT PATTERNS

1. ANYONE can sell a pattern on Ravelry or Etsy
  2. Look at Pattern Reviews
  3. Look at finished projects and project notes
- 





Pattern

Details

Yarn Ideas

Projects (1401)

Blog Posts (6)

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Forum Posts (224)



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### Songbird Mittens

by Erica Heusser

Published in [Erica Heusser's Ravelry Store](#)

Craft [Knitting](#)

Category [Hands](#) → [Mittens](#)

Published [September 2015](#)

Suggested yarn [madelinetosh Tosh Sock](#)  
[madelinetosh Tosh Merino Light](#)

Yarn weight [Fingering \(14 wpi\) ?](#)

Gauge [10 stitches and 10 rows = 1 inch](#)

Needle size [US 2 - 2.75 mm](#)

Yardage [300 - 320 yards \(274 - 293 m\)](#)

Sizes available [Women's medium](#)

Languages [English](#)

- adult
  - chart
  - female
  - gusset
  - in-the-round
  - ribbed
  - seamless
  - stranded
- search patterns with these attributes

- in favorites
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**\$6.00 USD** [send as gift](#)

**About this pattern**

[Songbird Mittens](#)  
by [Erica Heusser](#)

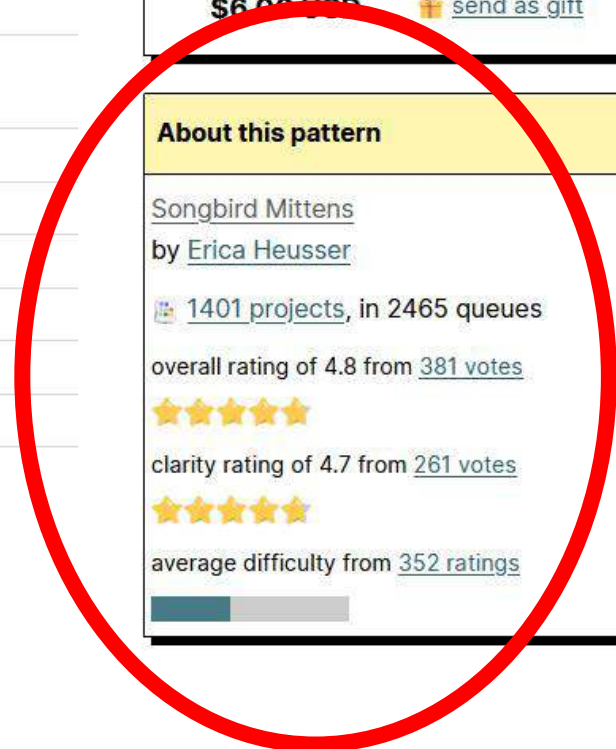
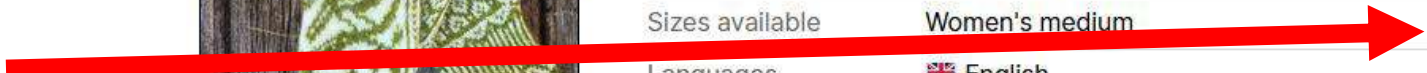
[1401 projects](#), in [2465 queues](#)  
 overall rating of [4.8](#) from [381 votes](#)  
 ★★★★★

clarity rating of [4.7](#) from [261 votes](#)  
 ★★★★★

average difficulty from [352 ratings](#)

Look at Project Notes

Look at Pattern Reviews





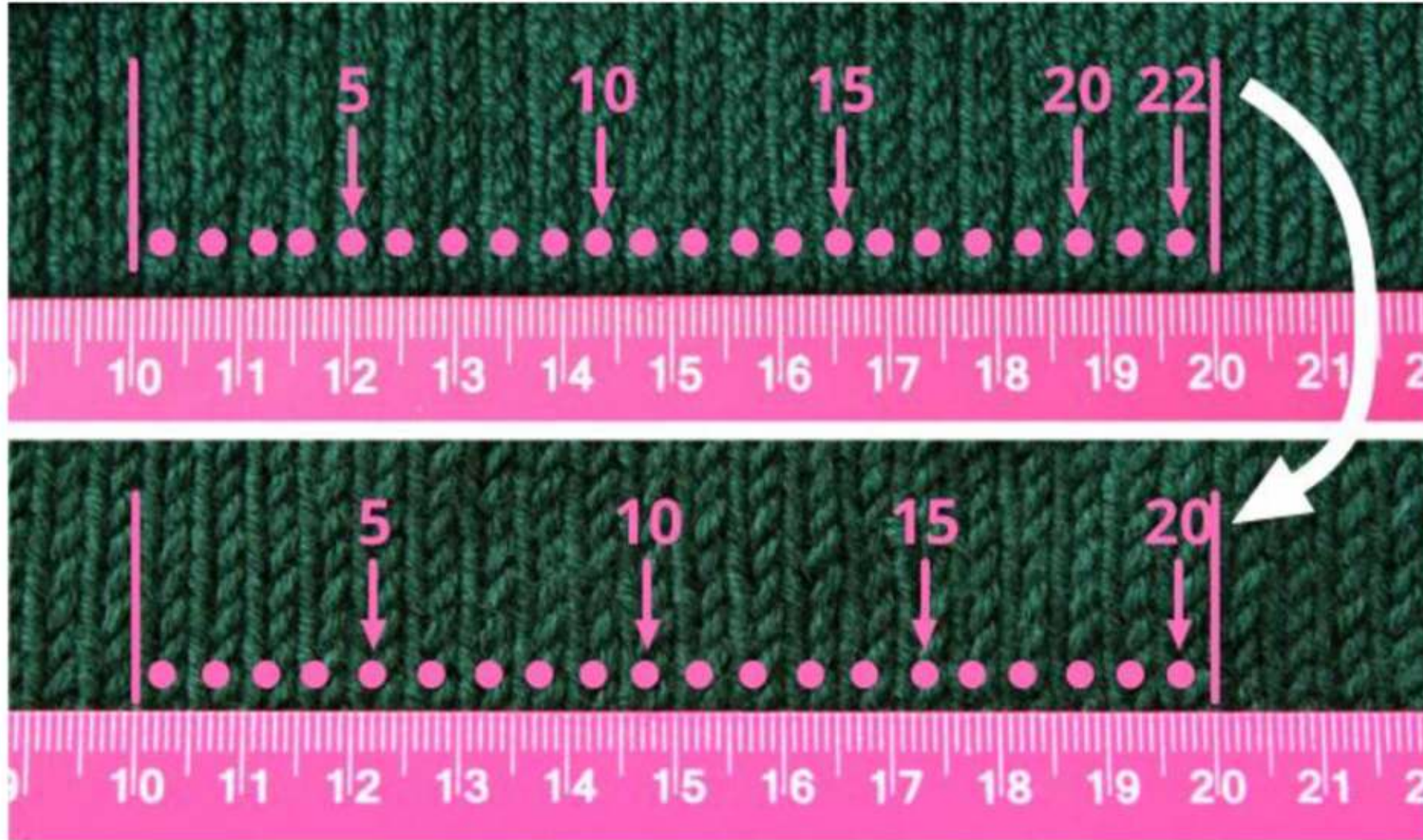
What the pattern might say...

“Check gauge to save time.”

What the pattern DOESN'T tell you:



# 1. Always Block Your Gauge Swatch



22 sts per 10 cm before blocking, 20 sts per 10 cm after blocking.



2. Use the same technique for your swatch as is used for the garment.



COLORWORK SWATCH

3. The pattern might say, “Using a Long Tail Cast On, CO 20 sts” or “Bind Off in pattern.”

LTCO and BO in pattern are Industry Standards

Almost all knitters understand how to do these.

LTCO and standard BO are usually satisfactory.



There are dozens of options, many of which are better than “satisfactory.”



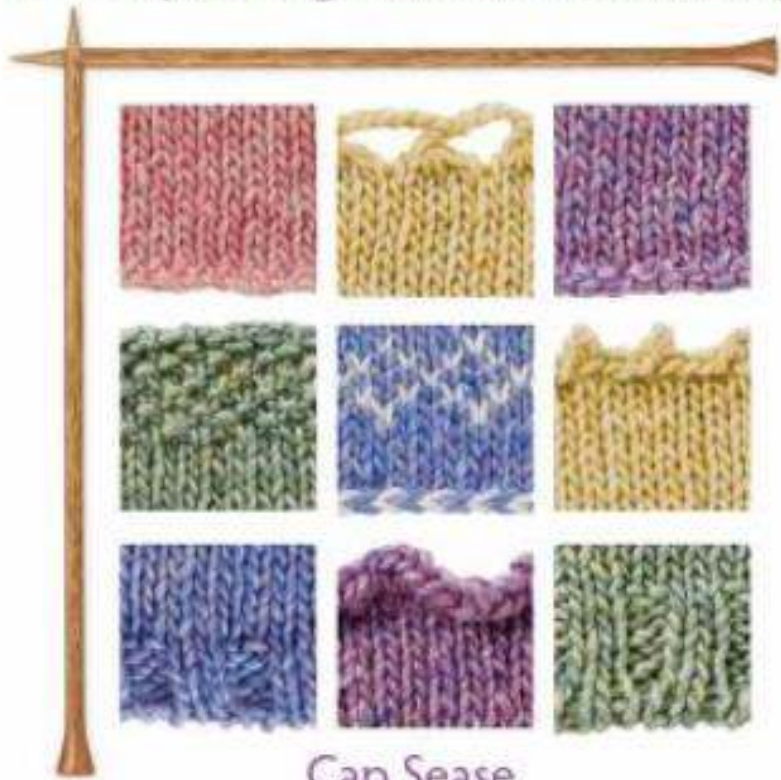
Ex: Alternating Cable CO vs Standard Long Tail CO



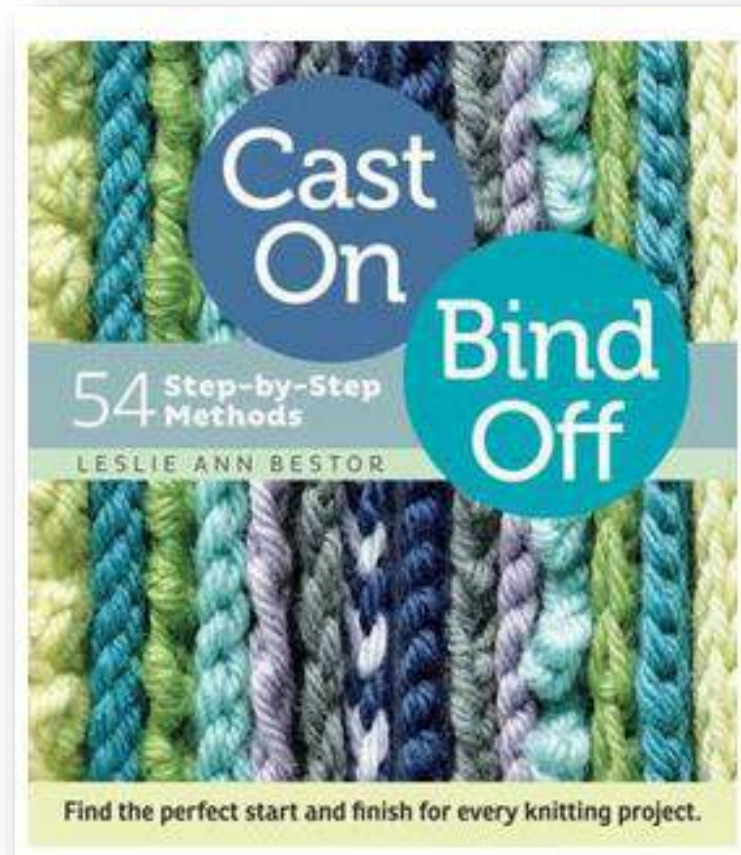
# Cast On, Bind Off



211 Ways to Begin and End Your Knitting

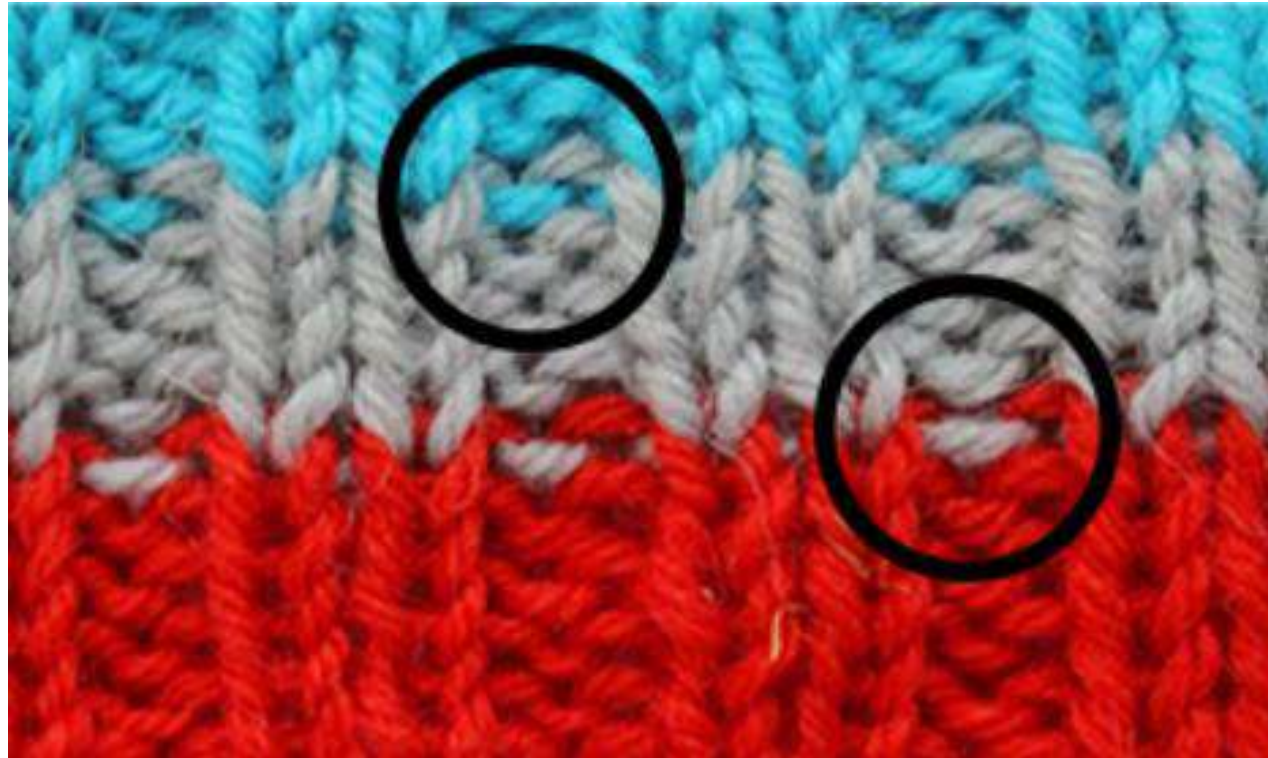


Cap Sease

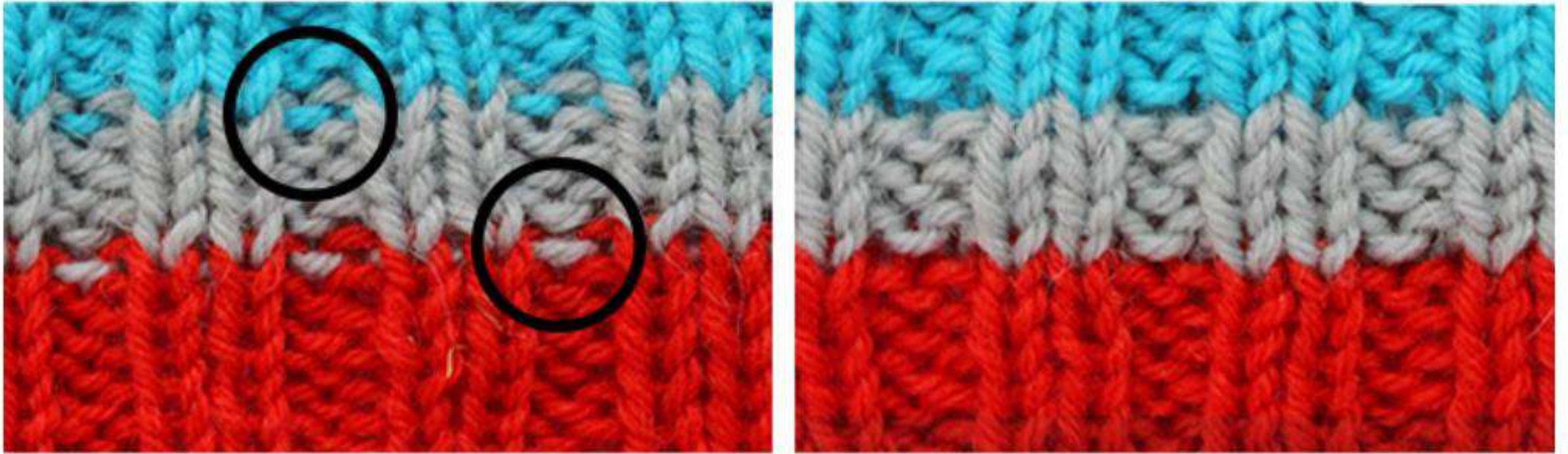


Decorative? Stretchy? Rigid? Multi-colored?  
There are many, many options!

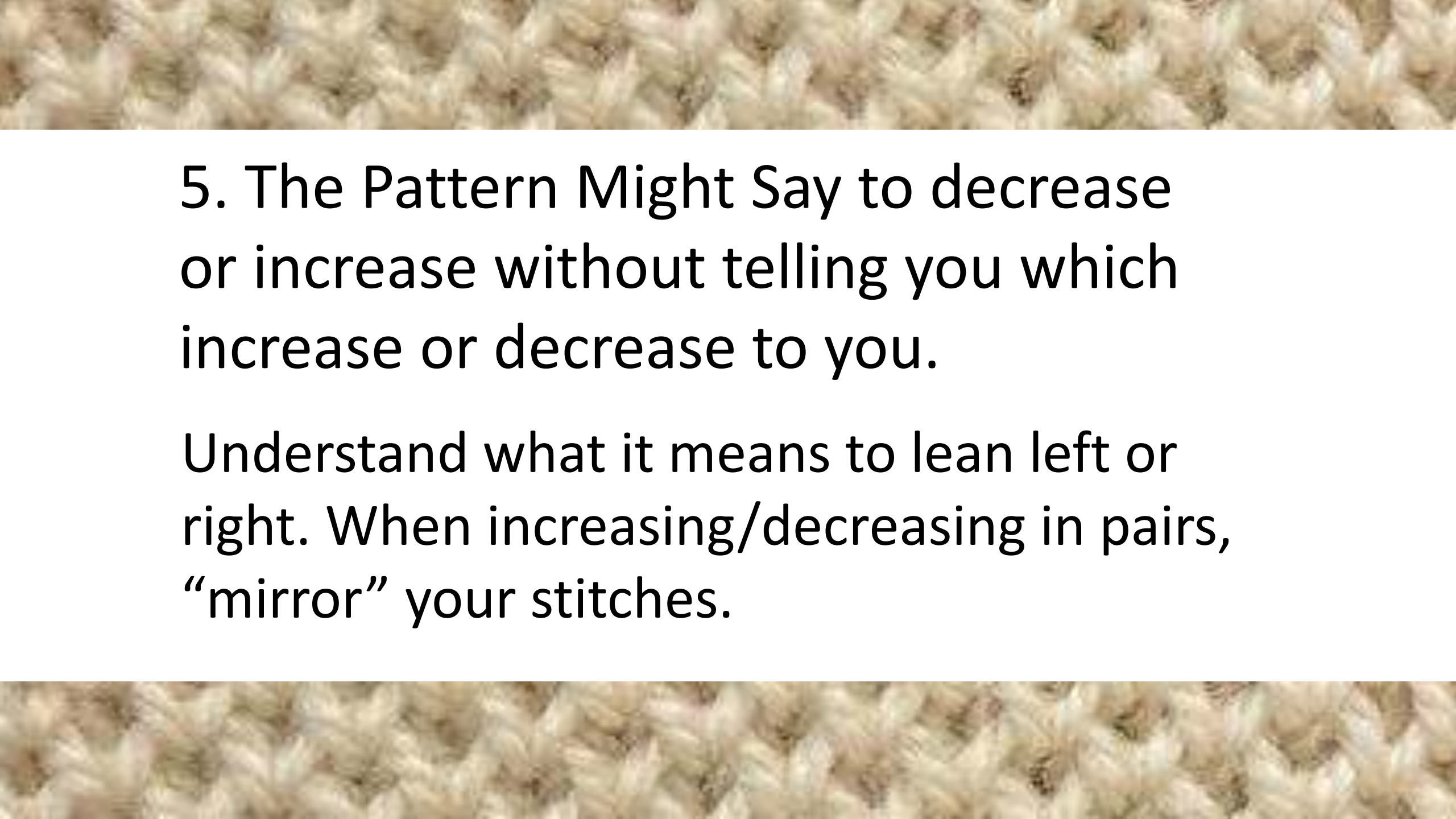
4. For stripes in ribbing – what the pattern might say, “Change to color B and continue in rib for 1”







The bi-colored purl bump is easily eliminated by knitting all the way across the first (RS) row of a color change, then resuming the rib pattern on the next (WS) row. The rib pattern will appear continuous.

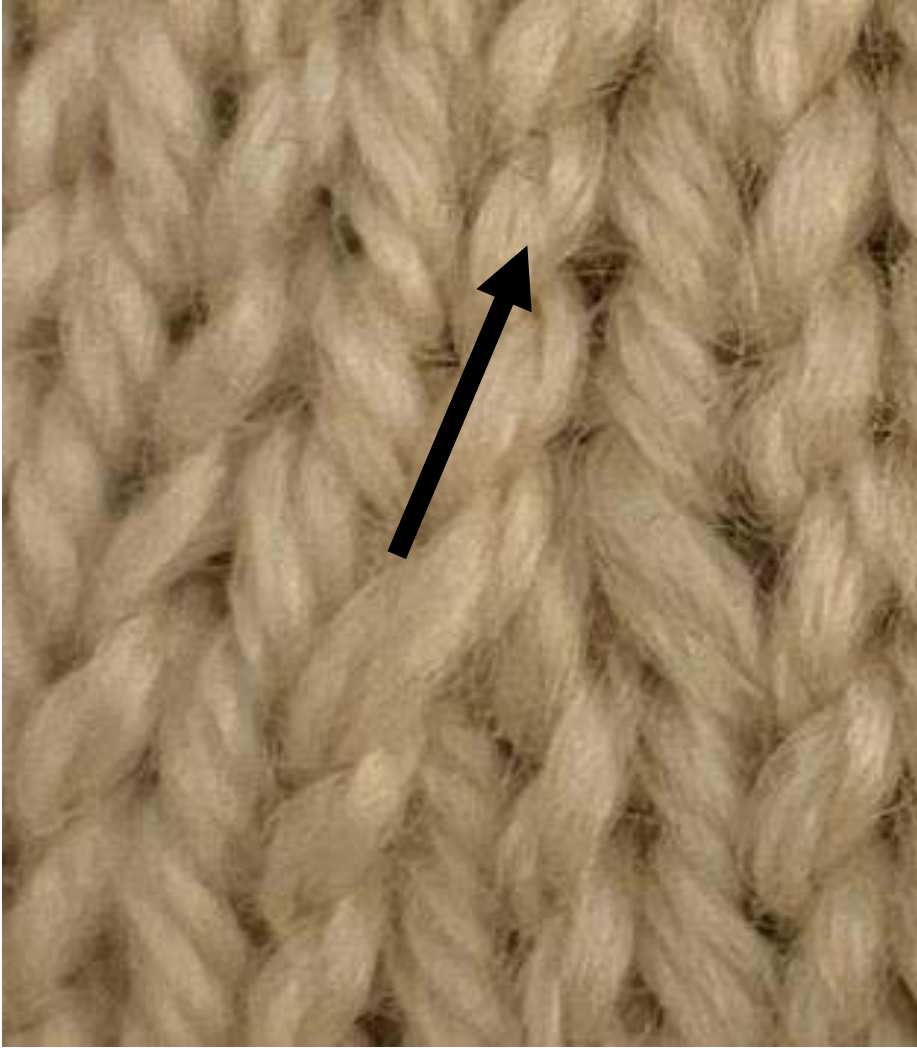


5. The Pattern Might Say to decrease or increase without telling you which increase or decrease to you.

Understand what it means to lean left or right. When increasing/decreasing in pairs, “mirror” your stitches.

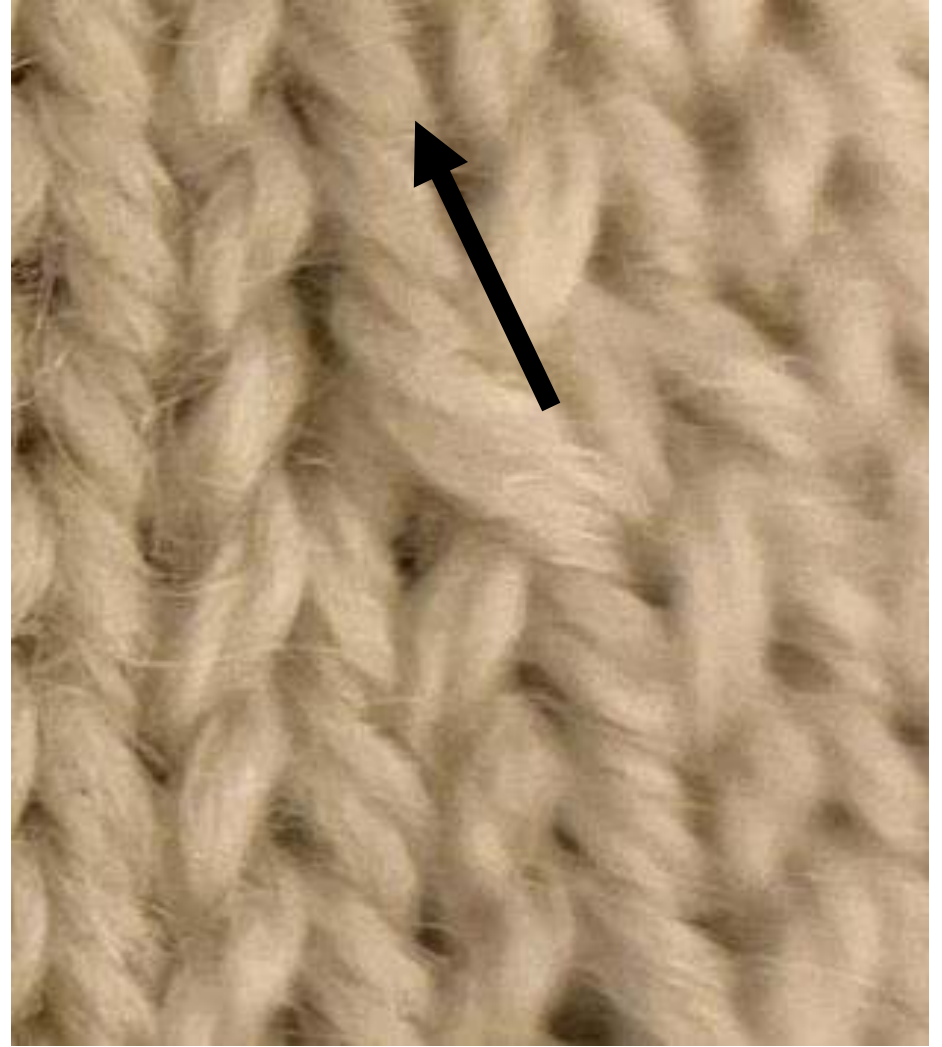


Right leaning

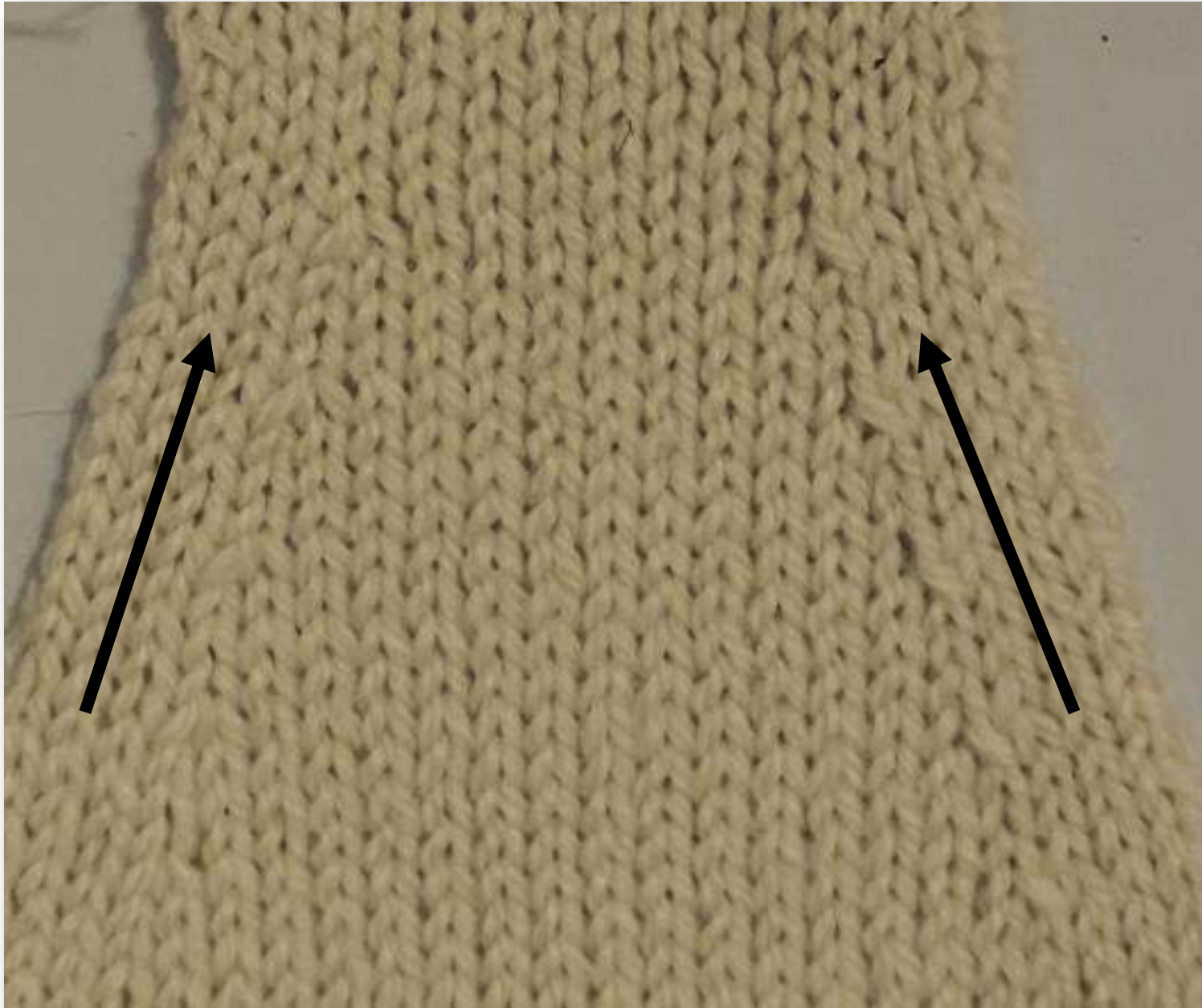


k2tog

Left leaning



ssk



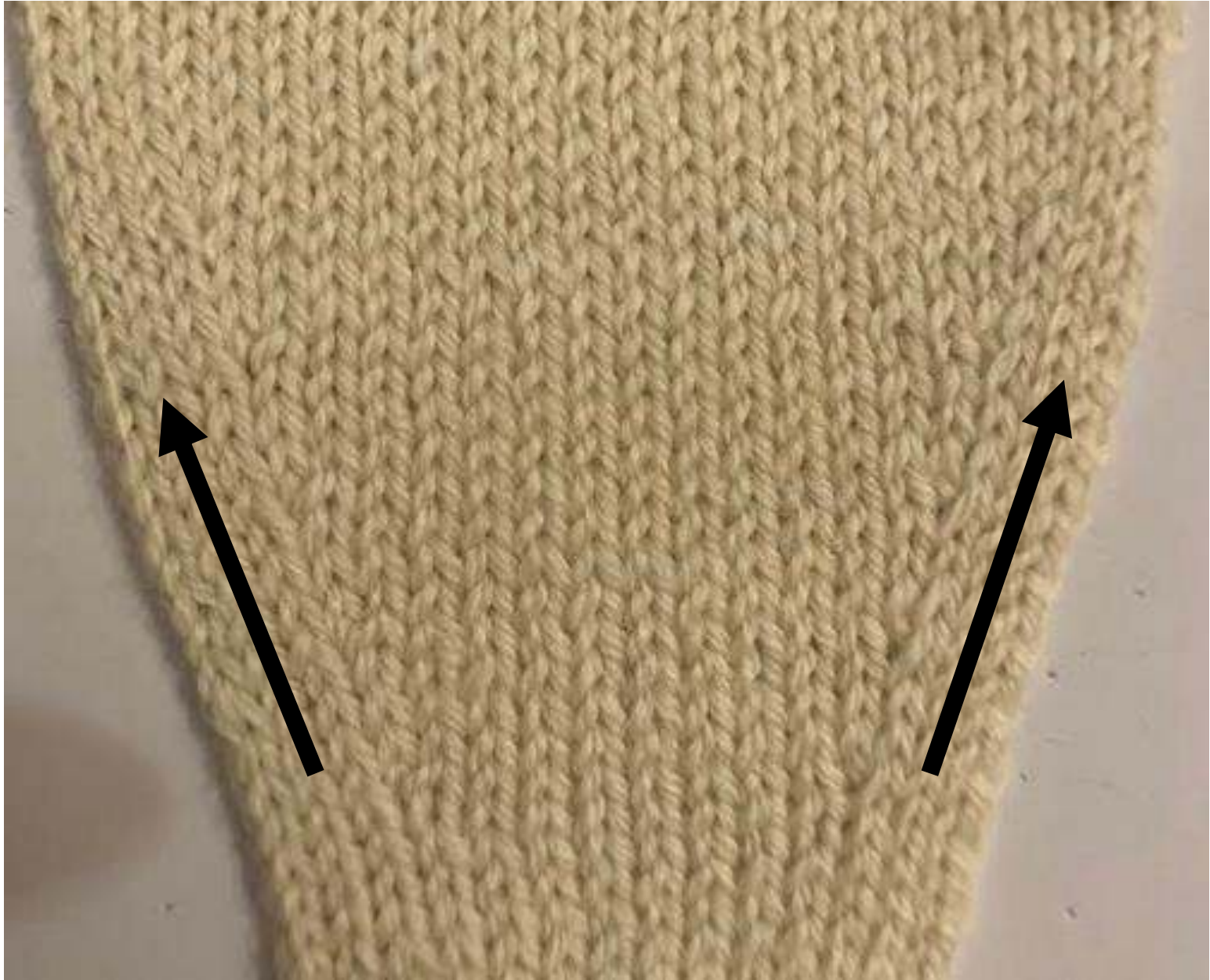




Lli – L leaning increase



Rli - R leaning increase





Other paired Increases:

M1R (make one R) M1L (make one L)

Other paired Decreases

KSP (leans R) SKP (leans L)

SSP (leans L on RS) and P2tog (leans R on RS)

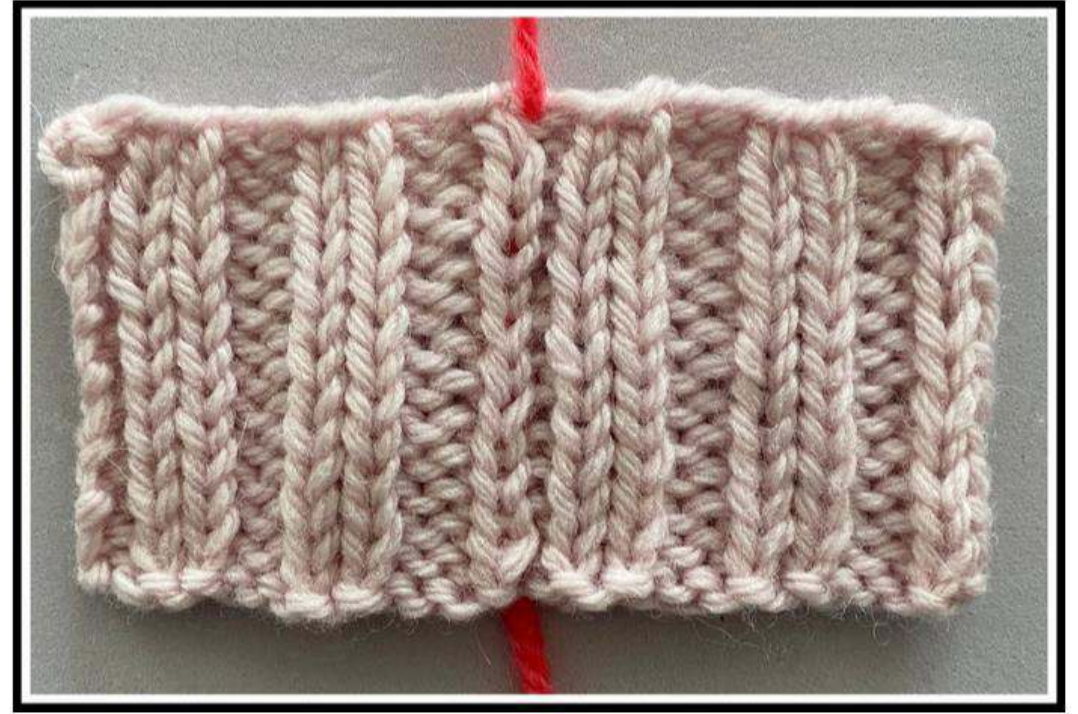
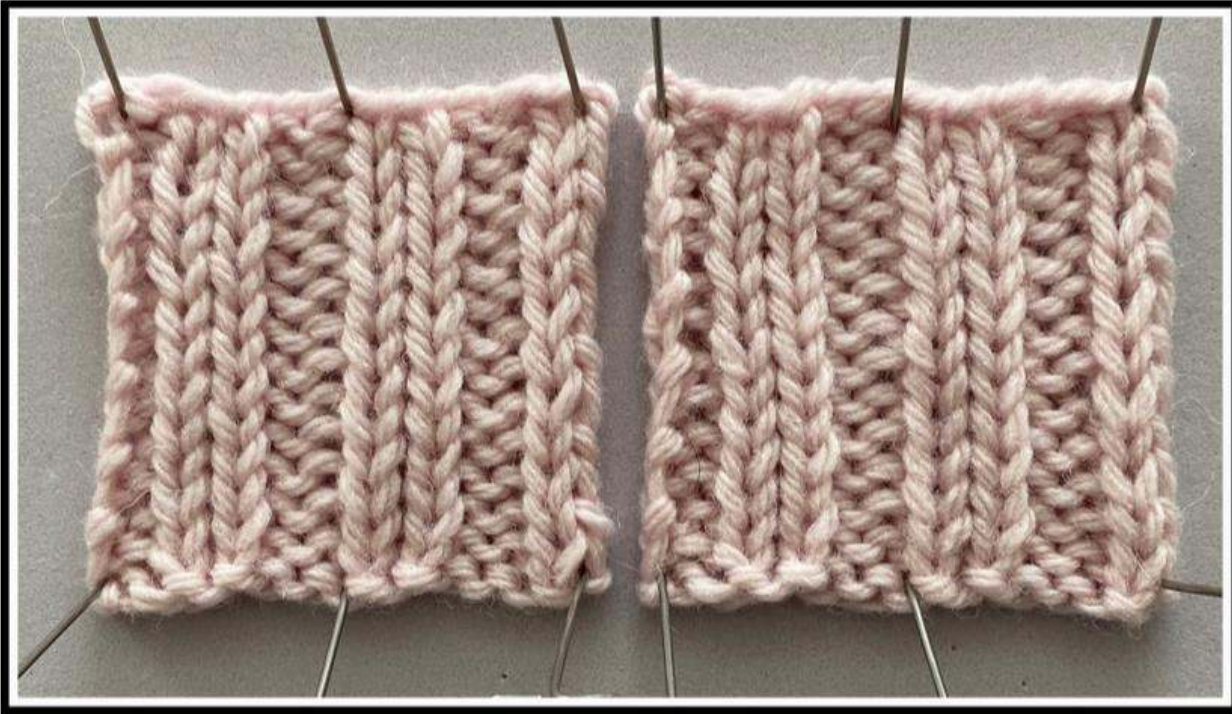
6. The pattern may say, “Work in 2x2 rib”  
(or some other rib pattern)



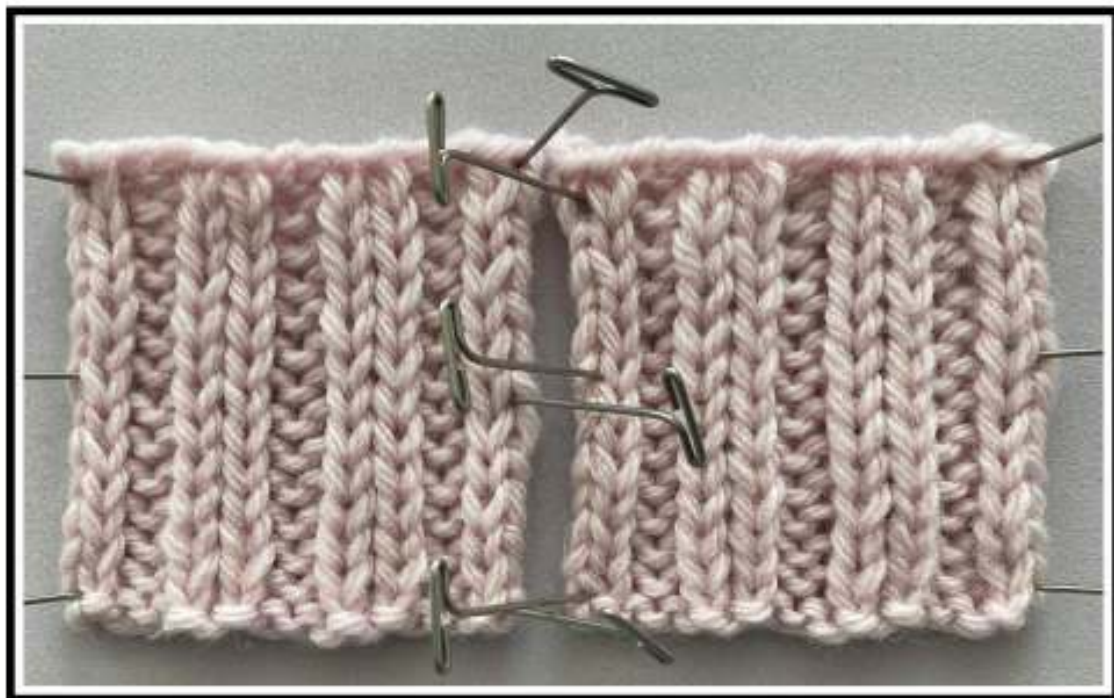
But wait!  
Questions to consider



# Will you be seaming?



Binka Schwan samples from TKG  
Article





Will you be picking up stitches  
from the edge of the ribbing?



Are you making a band that you want even on both ends?

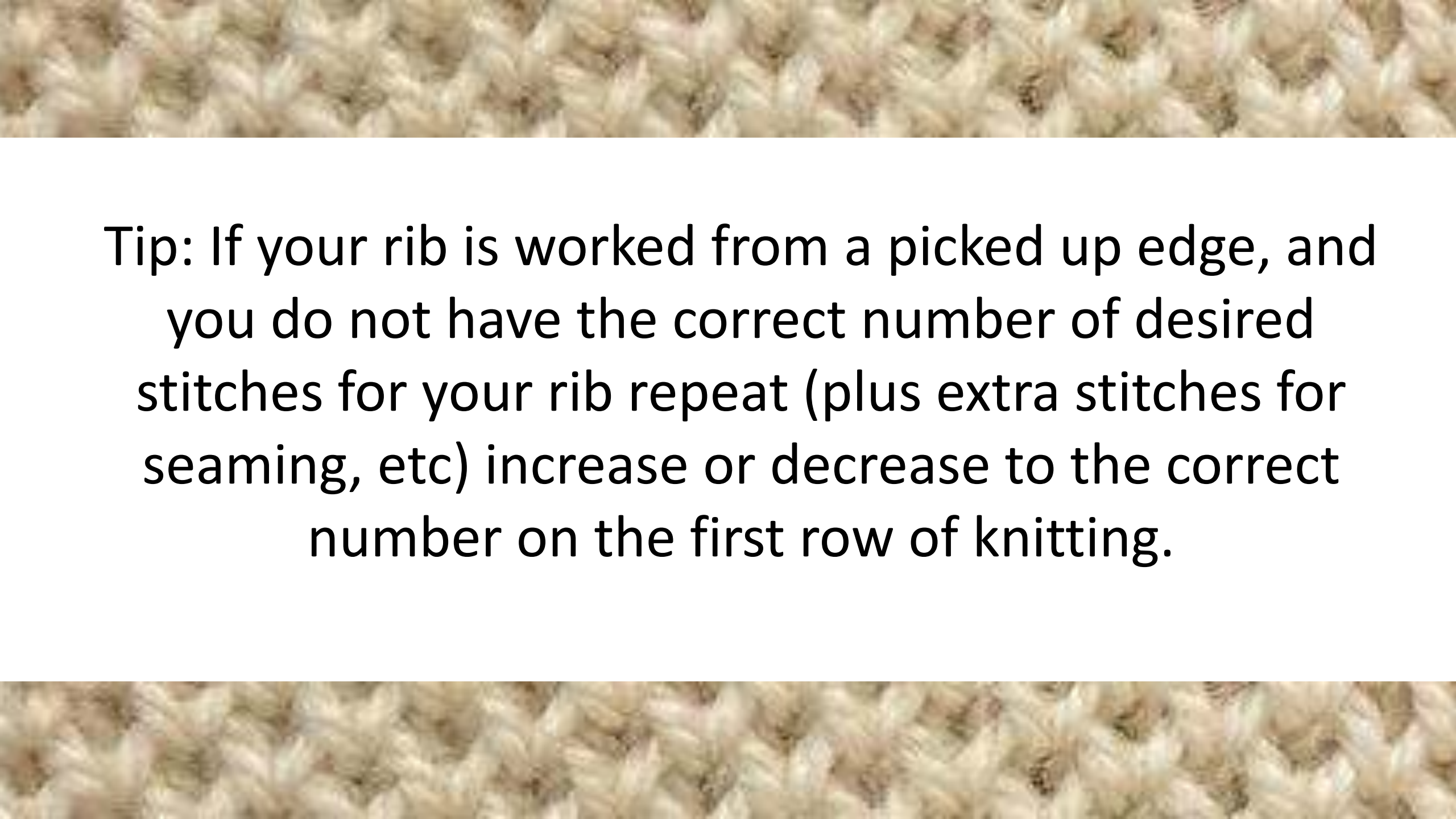




Other times to be plan out your ribbing:

Mitered  
Corners

Collars &  
Armholes



Tip: If your rib is worked from a picked up edge, and you do not have the correct number of desired stitches for your rib repeat (plus extra stitches for seaming, etc) increase or decrease to the correct number on the first row of knitting.



7. What the pattern might say,  
“Work first and last 5 sts in Garter St.”



Also called a “Work As You Go” Buttonband or Border.

The problem is that stockinette and garter have very different row gauges.



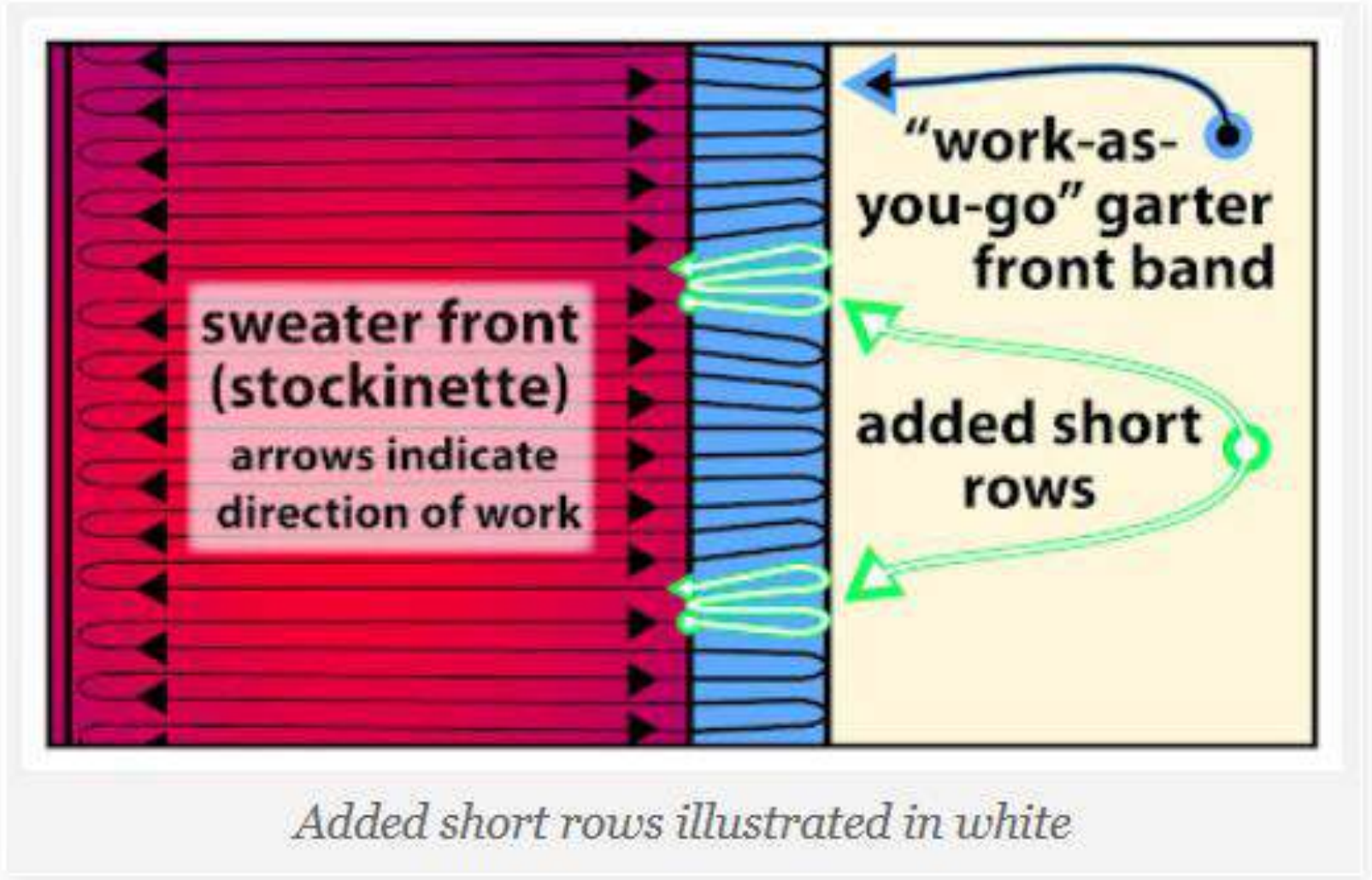
Same # of rows in each swatch







The fix is to work extra short rows of garter stitch every few rows.







Worked according  
to pattern



Worked with added  
shortrows on garter  
buttonband

8. What the pattern might say, “Pick up x number of stitches for button band and work in a (1x1 or 2x2) rib.”





Pick up the  
number of desired  
stitches.

On first WS row,  
pfb in first and last  
stitch.





Work the first and last section of the rib on the RS a k3 instead of a k2.



Because  
stockinette st curls  
in on itself, the  
extra columns of  
stitches wrap  
around to the  
back.

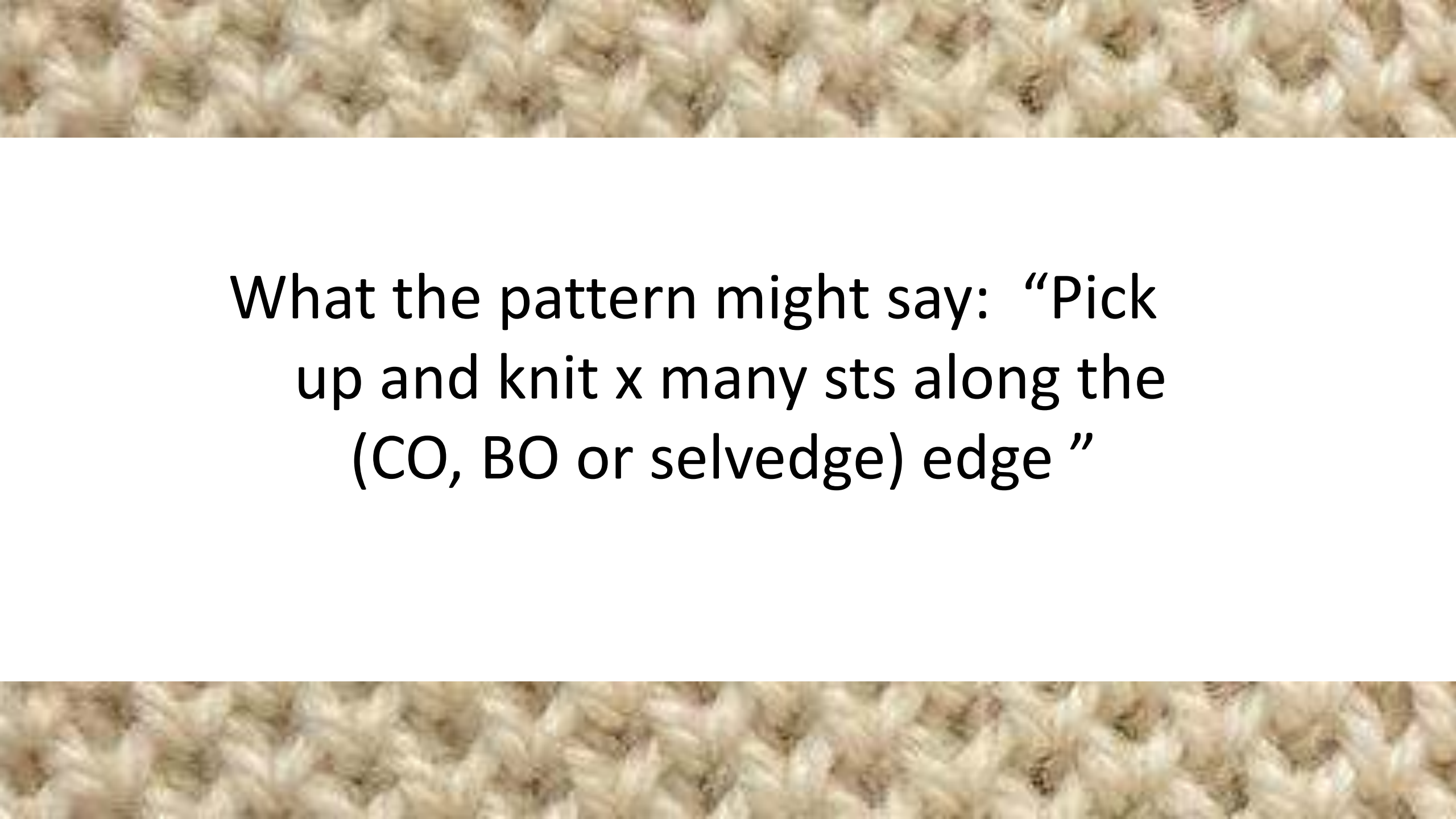


Worked per  
pattern  
instructions



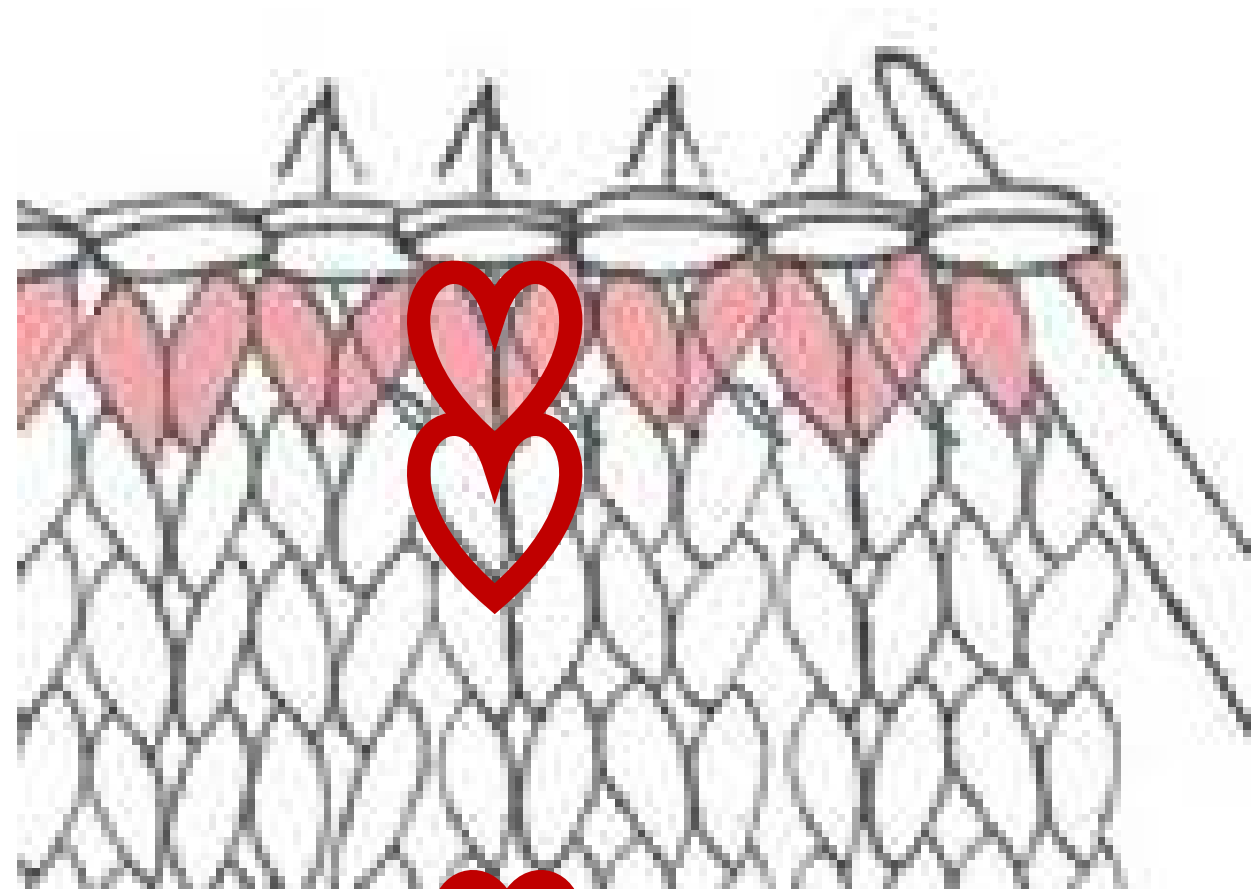
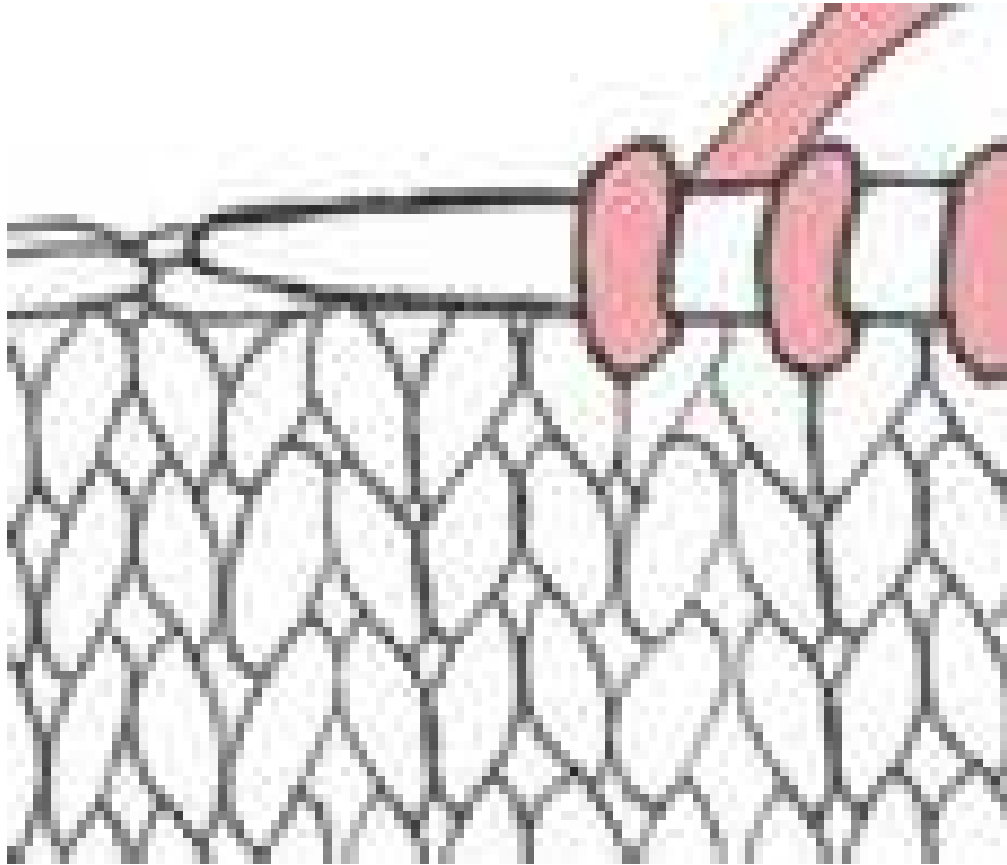
Worked with pfb  
as first and last WS  
stitch.





What the pattern might say: “Pick up and knit x many sts along the (CO, BO or selvedge) edge ”

9. The pattern writer assumes that the knitter knows how to do this correctly. For CO and BO edges...



Pick up from inside the V or  of each stitch.



Columns aligned

vs



Columns askew



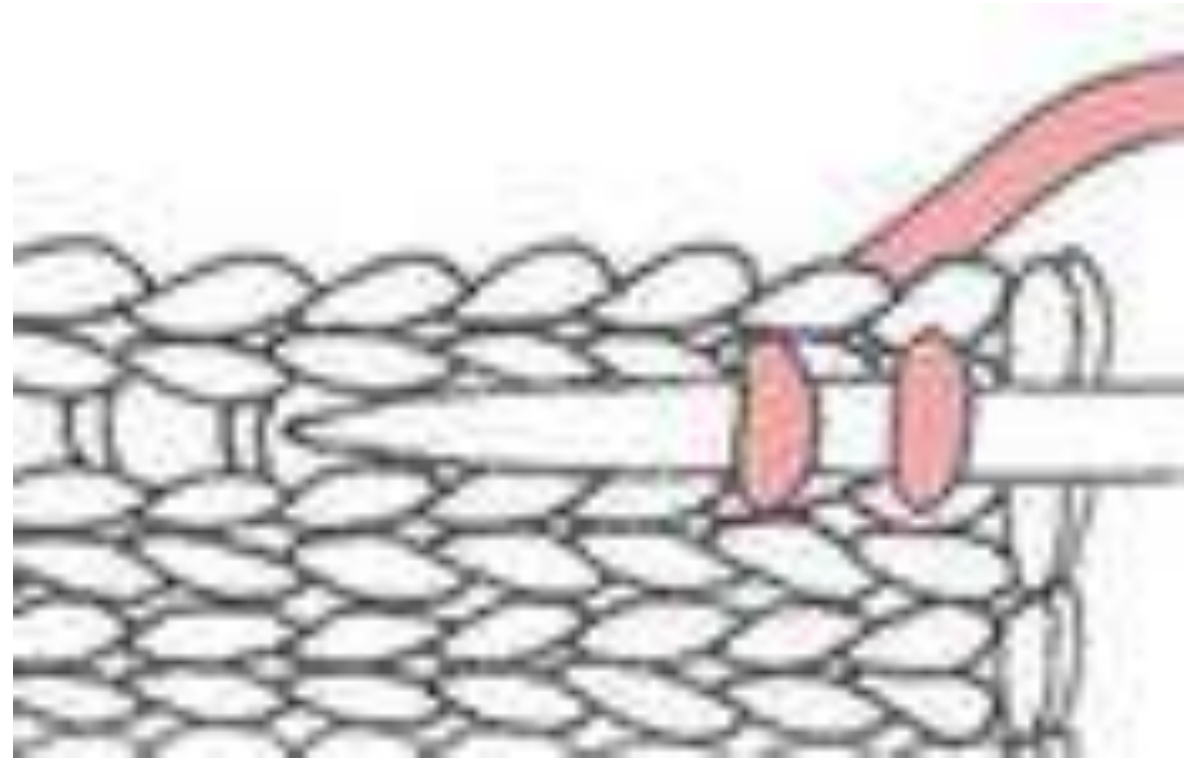
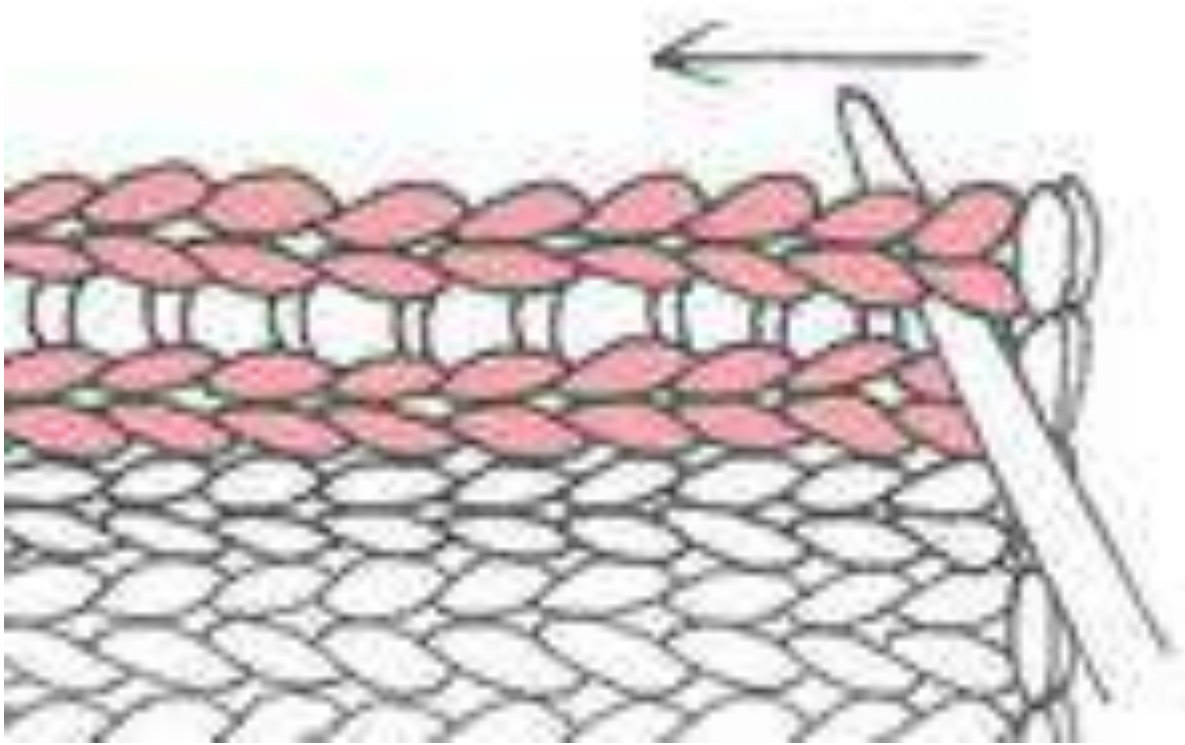


Columns aligned

vs



Columns askew



10. Pick up in the spaces between the bars that separate the selvedge from the adjacent column.



Consistent pickups vs Random pickups



## 1. Wet Blocking Your Swatch

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## 3. Alternate CO and BO Techniques

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Bestor, Leslie Ann. “Cast On Bind Off, 54 Step-By-Step Methods.” Storey Publishing, 2012.

## 4. Avoiding Bi-Colored Purl in Ribbing

Knit and Crochet Blog. Clean Stripes in Knitted Ribbing. <https://www.knit-crochet-blog.com/how-to-knit-straight-stripes-in-ribbing/>

## 5. Increases and Decreases

The Editors of Vogue Knitting “Vogue Knitting The Ultimate Knitting Book”

## 6. Planning Your Ribbing

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My Big Comfy Ribbed Cardigan <https://www.mamainastitch.com/my-big-comfy-ribbed-cardigan/>

## 7. Garter Stitch Short Rows in As You Go Borders

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Bryan, Suzanne. “Adding Short Rows in Garter Stitch Borders” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XO1pCsWimI>

## 8. Tidy Ribbed Button Bands

Bryan, Suzanne. “Perfect Button Bands.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfU-6QHNIDw&t=1170s>

## 9 and 10. Picking Up Stitches from CO, BO and Selvedge Edges

Quince and Co. “Techniques – picking up stitches” <https://quinceandco.com/blogs/news/techniques-picking-up-stitches>