

The Woven Cast On starts with the alternating long-tail cast on. Once I started using this cast on several years ago, I never used the standard long-tail cast on again. Others have also figured out how to do this, so it's not one of our "Nuances", I'm just showing you how it's done. The Woven Cast On adds a second strand for even more interest and give. You'll find that on the next page.

## The Alternating Long-Tail Cast On

The Alternating Long Tail Cast On alternates a traditional long-tail cast on with a reversed long-tail cast on that mimics the purl stitch. There are several benefits. First, it looks more interesting than the standard chain edge but it's more functional also. The cast on has more give and in enhances the flow of the rib stitch. Here's how it works ...

Set up just as you would for a long tail cast on with plenty of yarn for the tail. This cast on uses approximately the same length. The tail is on the left over the thumb as usual.

- ▶ **Knit stitch (standard):** the needle travels behind and through the thumb loop from left to right, over to grab finger yarn, and bring it back through the thumb loop.
- ▶ **Purl stitch:** the needle travels to the outside of the finger loop, through the loop from right to left, then over to the thumb yarn. Grab the thumb yarn from beneath and bring it through the finger loop.

Snuggle the yarn up to the needle, but don't pull too tightly. You do not want to "cast on loosely" for this technique or you'll lose the structure. You can combine knit and purl cast-ons to match your rib pattern (1x1, 1x2, 3x3 etc.).



Before ...

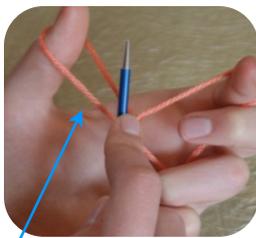


After ...

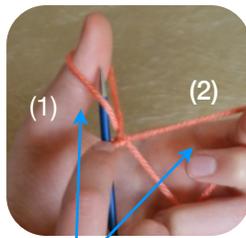


*Shown above is a 1 by 1 rib with the traditional long tail cast on and the Wavy Tail cast on. The effect is even more dramatic in the 3 by 2 rib up top.*

### Traditional Knit Cast On

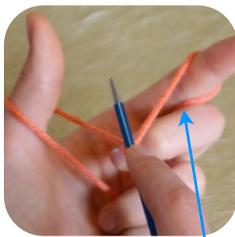


Through Thumb Loop

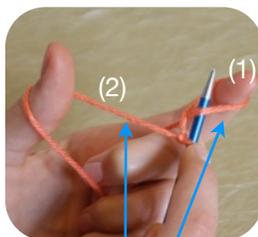


(1) Around and through the thumb loop from left to right:  
(2) grab finger yarn and bring it through the thumb loop.

### The Purl Cast On



Through Finger Loop



(1) Around and through the finger loop from right to left:  
(2) grab thumb yarn from underneath and bring it through the finger loop.

### More Help Online

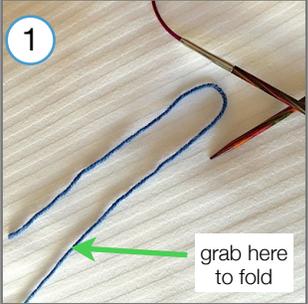
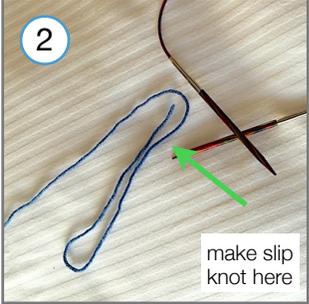
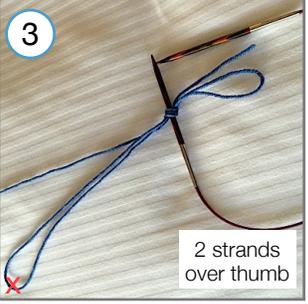
Resources to help learn this new technique:

- ▶ Tutorial at end of pattern.
- ▶ [A blog post](#) with more background and photos
- ▶ A 2-part how-to video:
  - Part 1: [Alternating Long Tail Cast On](#)
  - Part 2: [Woven Cast On](#)

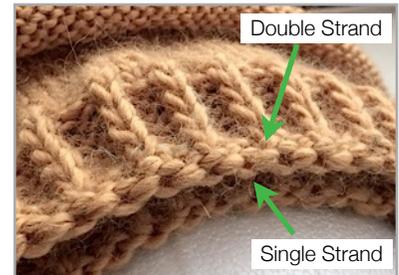
*The password for Blog Bonus page is Nuances.*

## The Woven Cast On

Here's an easy twist to the Alternating Long Tail Cast On, that gives you a cast on edge perfect for when stretch is important - like socks, hats and sweater bottoms. It works with most types of yarn but a dense, bulky yarn might result in a flare which you might or might not want depending. *(All tails are extra short for photos purposes.)*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Establish length of tail as normal  | Fold over so tail has 2 strands   |
|    |    |
| Make slip knot w/enough tail to sew in later.                                       | Start Alternating Long-Tail CO. Slip knot will be removed.                          |
|  |  |
| See note on alternate tail set up below. <b>X</b> Cut loop.                         |   |

Perfect for hats & socks!



Shown here w/Cascade Highlands Duo and 2x1 Showy Rib ([blog](#)).

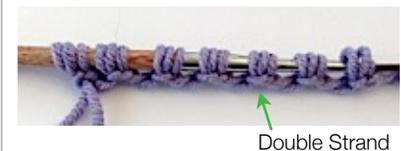
The first row (WS) is worked in an alternating knit/purl pattern to create the woven look.

*Note: If you are knitting in the round, the first row is knit before joining (cast on, turn and knit WS row) so the instructions are the same as flat.*

- A standard (knit) cast on results in 1 strand on the needle.
  - Purl this stitch on the next row.
- An alternating (purl) cast on results in 2 strands on the needle.
  - Knit these 2 strands as 1 stitch on the next row

**Alternate Tail Set Up:** If you have 2 balls of the same color (this cast on does not look good in 2 colors) you can use one strand from one ball and grab a two strands (inside and out) from the other. No need to measure and fold the tail (great benefit!). Just add a temporary slip knot at the end and cast on.

## Counting Stitches



- Alternating co sts will group as shown. Count each group as 2 sts.
- The double purl co is on the left, you can see the purl bump.
- The cast on looks better if the 2 purl co strands are not twisted and lie flat next to each other on the needle. Untwist your tail from time to time.