

# Alternating Long Tail Cast On

## The Technique

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 ...

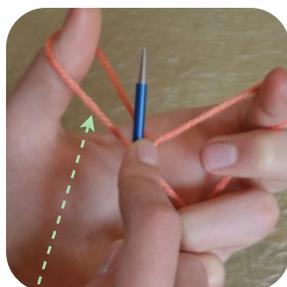


After ...

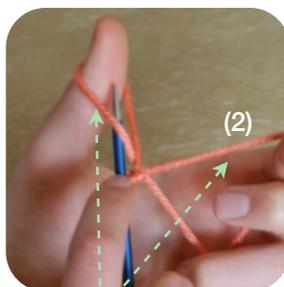


*Shown above is a 1 by 1 rib with the traditional long tail cast on and the Wavy Tail cast on. The effect is even more dramatic in the 3 by 2 rib up top.*

### Traditional Knit Cast On

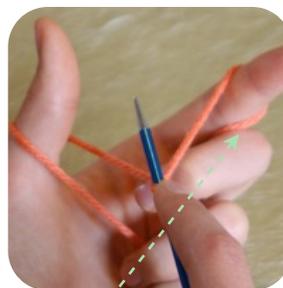


Thumb Loop

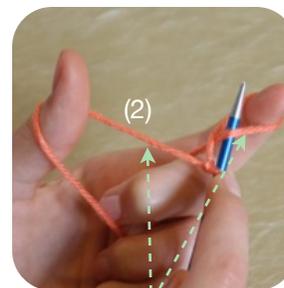


Around and through the thumb loop from left to right then grab finger yarn (2) and bring it through the thumb loop.

### The Purl Cast On



Finger Loop



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