How to Knit a Flat I-Cord

While the idea and applications for the Flat i-Cord are new and exciting, the method is so simple you’ll roll your eyes and say “why didn’t I think of that?” We’ve added a few options so you can use it in more situations.

Click here to visit the blog for more photos and information.

Want to try something new?
Here are a few reasons you’ll love the Flat I-Cord:

1. You can knit this i-cord on straight needles!
2. There’s no need to slide the stitches to the other end of the needle again and again.
3. It’s very easy to knit.
4. You can add features like button holes and stripes.
5. You can use it to create new design elements.

Knitting a Flat I-Cord
The basic Flat i-Cord is worked on 6 stitches, half the stitches roll to the back and half to the front. It takes a few rows for the i-cord to wrap fully but it will.

- Cast on 6 stitches.
- Every Row: k3, sl3 wyif

Binding off this way will give you a cleaner result.

- Row 1: BO 2 sts, slip 3 wyif (4 sts remaining)
- Row 2: BO 2 sts, sl1 (the bind off from the other side), pass last stitch over.

Cut tail and weave in so last chain lies flat against top of the i-cord. You can hide the tail down the center of the i-cord edges. Convenient!

Pick Up Cast On
Sometimes you might like to add a Flat i-Cord from an existing edge. Simply picking up the number of working stitches will spread the stitches too wide. The Back Rolling Flat i-Cord works best since it takes a few rows for the i-Cord to close.

Note: Make 1 Purl (m1P): to make a purl st pick up the strand running between the sts and purl it.

Instructions: With right side facing, pick up 4 stitches. Work the first row (WSR) as follows:

- p1, m1P, p2, m1P, p1
Tug on that pick up tail to make sure it is tight. Continue with Flat i-Cord pattern to the right.

The Knit Only Flat i-Cord

Pattern: k3, sl3 wyif every row
Features: Wraps front & back
Benefit: Knit only, no purling

Back Wrapping Flat i-Cord

Pattern: Row 1 (RS): k3, sl3
Row 2 (WS): p3, sl3 wyif
Features: Wraps back only
Benefit: Yarn is already in place for slip stitches. Better for picking up from an edge.
The Button Hole

Now you can add a button hole to your i-cords.

- Row 3: k3, yo, sl3 wyif
- Row 4: k4, sl 3 wyif
- Row 5: k3, p1rb, sl3 wyif
- Row 6: k2, k2tog, sl 3 wyif

When selecting and sewing on your button make sure it will both fit the hole and is loose enough to stretch through the thick Flat i-Cord. Try a shank button or wrap thread around and around the button base to add height.

Fixing a Flat iCord

The Flat i-Cord uses only 6 stitches, which means it’s pretty easy to drop.

Here’s how the 6 sts sit on the needle. 3 knit sts on right and 3 slipped sts on left.

Let’s number the stitches: 3 white/green knit sts & 3 orange slip.

When they fall off, the sts will move to a flatter shape. See where #1 is?

Find st #1. Slip the first 3 on the needle. Hold and twist to get st 4 on next then 5 & 6.

Knotting a Flat I-Cord

Loop cord 1 as shown. Lay cord 2 diagonally over the top of Cord 1 Pass cord 2 under left leg and over right leg of cord 1. Weave cord 2 under right loop of cord 1 Slide end of cord 2 over itself and under top left loop of cord 1. Tighten & straighten as necessary.