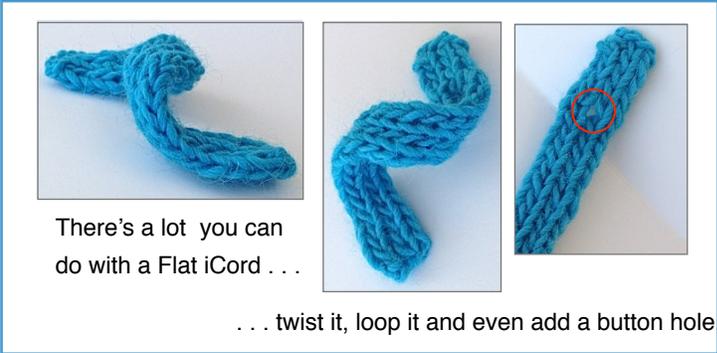# The Flat i-Cord

What if you could knit an i-cord using straight needles?
How about eliminating all that sliding to the other end? Oh, and one more thing … what if it were flat?

Not only are Flat i-Cords easier to knit on straight or circular needles they can be more useful too! How about on a shell that hides a bra strap, a purse strap that lies flat on your shoulder or as a belt and you can add a button hole for sizing flexibility. We also like to braid or twist them for a completely new feature. The ideas are as unlimited as your imagination!

There's a lot you can do with a Flat iCord . . .

. . . twist it, loop it and even add a button hole.

The Knit Only Flat i-Cord

This version of the Flat i-Cord is very easy to knit. 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, don't worry. When weaving in the cast on tail, do it in a way that wraps the i-Cord in toward the center.
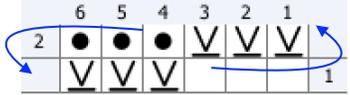
Cast on 6 stitches.

‣ Every Row: k3, sl3 wyif

Binding off isn't tricky but this 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!

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.

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.

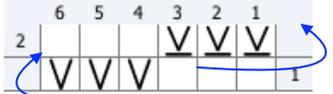Make 1 Purl (m1P): to make a purl st pick up the strand running between the sts and purl it.

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.

Fixing a Flat i-Cord: Did you drop your i-Cord? Picking up again is not hard but is not intuitive. You can find a photo tutorial on our web site in the Techniques area.

The Knit Only Flat i-Cord

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

Back Wrapping Flat i-Cord

Pattern: **1)** k3, sl3 **2)** p3, sl3 wyif
Features: Wraps back only
Benefit: Yarn is already in place for slip stitches. Better for picking up an i-Cord from an edge.