

# TUBULAR CAST ON AND BIND OFF FOR A K1 P1 RIB

by **Barbara Scott**

The tubular cast on with its matching bind off forms a beautifully rounded edge useful when working with cotton or other non-elastic fibers. It is also an edge to consider when working with bulky and other heavy yarns\*. The matching bind off edge is nice change from a regular bound off edge, although slower to work. A tube is formed on the edges if you wish to insert elastic. I have always felt that all edges of a garment should match, so a matching bind off becomes an important element in the garment's construction.

These cast on and bound off edges are sometimes called invisible. For our purposes, we will "call them as we see them" - tubular edges.

## TUBULAR CAST ON

With waste yarn, (a smooth cotton works very well) cast on half the required stitches + 1 using the method you prefer. It will be removed later. I generally use the long tail (half hitch) cast on. Note: Slip all stitches purlwise. You will end up with an odd number of stitches – this is good. When you join the ribbing seams, you will be joining a knit to a knit or a purl to a purl – much easier than seaming a knit to a purl.

Row 1: K1 \*yo, k1; rep from\* to end. (You are one stitch short of doubling your stitches.)

Rows 2 & 4: K1 \*ytf, sl 1, ytb, k1; rep from\* to end.

Row 3 & 5: Ytf, \*sl 1, ytb, k1, ytf; rep from\* to end.

Row 6 & even # rows: K1 \*p1, k1; rep from\* across.

Row 7 & odd # rows: P1, \*k1, p1 rep from\* across.

Work rows 6 & 7 until desired length of ribbing is reached. Pick out the waste yarn used for the cast on. The ribbing will appear to be running under the edge.

Do you see how you are double knitting on rows 2 – 5? Every other stitch is being knitted, while the others, which will become the purls in the rib, are slipped with the yarn in front – kind of a pseudo purl! It takes 2 passes across the needle to work one row.

For a project worked in the round, cast on half the number of desired stitches and:

Rnd 1: \*K1, yo; rep from\* around.

Rnds 2 & 4: \*K1, ytf, sl 1, ytb; rep from\* around.

Rnds 3 & 5: \*Ytf, sl 1, ytb, k1; rep from\* around.

Rnd 6 and all rnds to desired width: \*K1, p1; rep from\* around.

## TUBULAR BIND OFF

When the work is 1 row less than desired length, work rows 2 & 3 of the cast on. Cut yarn leaving a tail about 3 times the length of the edge to be bound off. Place the knit stitches of the rib on a double point needle and the purl stitches on another double point needle. When the work is facing you, the knit stitches should be on the front needle, and the purl stitches on the back needle. The yarn tail is coming off the right end of one of the needles. Thread a yarn needle (yn) with the tail, and **Kitchener** weave (graft) the stitches together.

**Preparation:** Bring the yn through the first stitch on the front needle as if to purl and leave the stitch on the needle. Bring the yn through the first stitch on the back needle as if to knit, and leave the stitch on the needle.

**Then:**

**Step 1 - Front needle:** Bring the yn through the first st on the front needle as if to knit and slip the stitch off the needle. Bring the yn through the next stitch on the front needle as if to purl and leave the stitch on the needle.

**Step 2 – Back needle:** Bring the yn through the first st on the back needle as if to purl and slip the stitch off the needle. Bring the yn through the next stitch on the back needle as if to knit and leave the stitch on the needle.

Repeat Steps 1 and 2 until all stitches have been worked off.

An easy way to remember the process is to think:

Front needle: Knit off, purl on

Back needle: Purl off, knit on

**SWATCH:** Now, try the techniques yourself. Look at my swatch. A portion of the waste yarn cast on has been left on the swatch to indicate which edge was the cast on and which the bind off. Our swatch is planned for 21 stitches. With waste yarn, CO 11 sts. Change to the project yarn and the work the cast on. After a few rows of k1, p1 rib, work some stockinette stitch, followed by a few rows of k1, p1 rib, then rows 2 & 3 of the cast on. Bind off using Kitchener stitch.

If you pull the needle out of the stitches when they are being placed on the 2 dp needles, you can see how the knit stitches fall to the front, and the purls to the back – that is what happens in double knitting!

The tubular cast on and bind off is one of the requirements for Level 3 of the Master Hand Knitting Program.

\* When using bulky yarns, it is advisable to use a needle 1 or 2 sizes smaller on the first 4 rows of the cast on.

