
Magic Loop Knitting with Edie Eckman

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1

Magic Loop Knitting

(light music) - Hi, I'm Edie Eckman. I'm a knit and crochet designer and teacher, and I'm going to show you how to do the magic loop technique in knitting. To start with, you're going to want to have a long cable needle, at least a 40-inch cable needle, with a nice, flexible cable and a smooth join. We're going to be putting a small circumference knitting on this giant, long cable needle. I'll cast on a few stitches to get started, using the long-tail cast-on. Here I have two, four, six, eight, 10, 12, 14, 15, let me do 16 stitches. And I am going to knit in the round on these 16 stitches, using this long cable needle. I have to take my 16 stitches and put them onto the cable, and I am going to fold the cable at the halfway point, so between, putting eight stitches on each side. Two, four, six, eight. I'll just bend the cable here and bend the knitting, and pull out a piece of cable to divide the stitches evenly. I want to be careful not to let the stitches twist as I do this, and I'll turn the work so that the working yarn is coming off the back needle, and I'm going to slide half the stitches onto the front needle. So you can see I have the needles parallel, but I have the back stitches on the cable, and the front stitches on the needle. Taking my working yarn over the back needle, so I'll have access to it. I'm going to use this free needle tip to knit the stitches off this front needle. So I'll pull the cable out so I have two loops, one here and one on this side, and I'll just begin knitting. The working yarn is coming from the back stitches toward the front stitches, but not over a needle anywhere, and I'll just knit these stitches. This first round is really the trickiest round. And it doesn't matter if you are a thrower or continental knitter, it's the same technique either way. Now, when I reach the end of the stitches on that front needle, I have only done half a round of stitches. I need to turn my work and then slide those stitches that were the back stitches, they're now the front stitches. I'll slide those stitches onto my front needle, and pull the back needle tip out so that those stitches slide onto the back cable. Now I have a free needle tip to use to knit these stitches. Once I have knit across the stitches on this needle, I have knit one entire round. And I have to be careful that I haven't twisted my stitches, which you can see there, they're working fine. To begin the next round, again, I turn my work, and I can pull this cable to allow that free needle to hold the stitches in the front, and then I pull the back needle out to slide the back stitches onto the cable and prepare to begin working my next round. And of course you can work these stitches in pattern. I'm just knitting every round, but you can be knitting or purling or doing whatever your stitch pattern says. Here I finished with half the stitches on the round. I'll turn my work, pull this cable. Now, be careful, because you don't want to pull the wrong cable. If I pulled here, these stitches would fall off the needle. You have to be very careful which part of the cable you're pulling on. We've all at one time or another pulled the wrong side of the cable, and had the stitches fall off the needle, and it will only take you a few times for that to happen to know that you have to be really careful. But here I am, ready to pull this back needle out and work the second half of my stitches. And there I've finished my second round. If I wanna see what it looks like, I can just slide everything onto the cable. You can see, I have a small circumference fabric done on a long cable needle. And that's magic loop.