

For new [Continental] Knitters

Welcome to the world of knitting. This page is intended as a follow up for KnitKnight members who are either new to knitting, or who have come back after an extended hiatus. I hope you will find it helpful.

Designer/teacher, Annie Modesitt, like me, is basically self-taught and we share the same knitting style which she calls “[Combination Knitting](#)”. She holds her yarn in a very unique way. She drops the yarn and picks it up with every stitch. Still, she is an extremely fast knitter. Here is her [comprehensive intro](#). She will repeat herself often in the videos that follow so don't worry too much if you don't grasp everything at first.

This video (series) happens to show [exactly the way I knit](#). Notice how she slips the first stitch of every row whereas Annie Modesitt does not. I learned to slip the first stitch from the book that first hooked me on knitting: [Knitting Without Tears](#) by Elizabeth Zimmermann. It is available in our libraries & from [Schoolhouse Press](#).

My [Beginning to Purl](#) sheet addresses both purl wrap methods. I purl like Annie & Larisa. Many people say it's wrong. Rather it is less common in the US. It is wrong only if your stitches are inadvertently twisted. Here is Annie's Part 3: [learning to purl](#). clearly demonstrating twisted and untwisted stitches.

Digression: Twisted stitches form a warmer fabric, essential in the coldest parts of the world! The [history of knitting](#) is fascinating. My favorite reference book [Mary Thomas's Knitting Book](#) features twisted stitches on the front cover!

This is Annie showing [two cast on methods](#). This video shows the "[knit cast on](#)" which is illustrated in my [Beginning to knit](#) lesson. Note: you have already viewed THREE cast ons and TWO different ways to knit.

In this video Annie delves into the [knit and purl stitch](#). Back to Larisa, my Russian twin, [showing purling](#). Traditionally many Russians earned their living as production knitters and so it was imperative to knit & purl as efficiently possible.

Here Larisa and her husband show how to [knit in the back loop](#), on the row after purling. Annie & I have had discussions about the efficiency of knitting this way. Since we knit with the yarn in the back it's logical to grab the loops from the back as well. Annie says, “let the stitches tell you how they want to be knit.”

I've thrown too much at you all at once. Please take your time with these lessons. Return to the videos occasionally. I do. And I learn something new with each viewing.

Nothing beats learning from others! We hope you will enjoy networking with us on Monday nights. We each have favorite tips and tricks — and we're always happy to share.