



STITCH MARKERS, A QUICK GUIDE

What exactly are stitch markers, and why would you need them? They're essential when knitting in the round on either double pointed needles or a circular needle, to mark the beginning and end of the round. They can also be used when using both conventional straight needles and circulars to mark things like the beginning of a pattern repeat, or increase/decrease points. Your knitting will be so much easier, and you won't need to keep copious notes on odd pieces of paper. Many patterns will tell you to "add a marker" at certain points. You could use odd loops of spare yarn, but these have a habit of coming loose at the wrong moment and they can fray after a while. How much nicer would it be to use what is essentially a small piece of jewellery instead.

How to Use your Stitch Markers

Some have a plain ring that will slip over your knitting needle and will always be at the top of your knitting, others have a clip at the end that can either slip over your needle as normal, or they can be used to permanently mark an individual stitch or row. These multi-purpose markers will be very useful, and will make it very easy to either count your knitted rows or keep track of shaping. They can also be used in crochet, and machine knitters would find them useful to mark rows when shaping etc.

Conventional Ring Markers



Here I'm using a conventional ring marker to mark the end of the round on a circular needle. The marker is slipped from the left needle to the right needle as you knit, and it will always be as shown here at the top of your knitting. You could also use a marker with a clip in the same way.



If you're working a knit row, keep the marker at the front of your work as shown here, otherwise you'll find you'll have knitted the marker in. Don't panic if you make a mistake and do this, as some markers use a split ring. You can gently prise open the ring using a small pair of pliers to release the yarn.

© jigsawknits 2013

This free document is for personal use only, and must not be sold, copied or distributed, uploaded to any electronic system or website, nor included in any disk, CD-ROM, or collection of any type.

Any prohibited use will be a violation of international copyright law. All rights reserved.

<http://www.jigsawknits.co.uk> | sales@jigsawknits.co.uk



STITCH MARKERS, A QUICK GUIDE



If you're working a purl row, keep the marker at the back of your work as shown here, otherwise you'll again find you'll have knitted the marker in. Again, don't panic if you do, because you can release the marker with your small pair of pliers.

Stitch and Row Markers with Clips or Clasps (Multi-Purpose Markers)

These can be used in exactly the same way as the conventional stitch markers above, but they also have a dual purpose which is extremely useful.



Here I have marked an individual stitch, useful if you need to keep track of (for instance) the first stitch of a pattern repeat, or the last time you decreased or increased a stitch. The marker can stay here until you move it; most markers are very lightweight and won't distort your knitting in any way.



And here I've marked the last knitted row. I'm needing to decrease on every 5th row, so I'm moving the marker up each time I decrease. This makes it extremely easy to keep track of row counts.

© jigsawknits 2013

This free document is for personal use only, and must not be sold, copied or distributed, uploaded to any electronic system or website, nor included in any disk, CD-ROM, or collection of any type.

Any prohibited use will be a violation of international copyright law. All rights reserved.

<http://www.jigsawknits.co.uk> | sales@jigsawknits.co.uk