

**WOOL
AND THE
GANG**



Bill's Beanie

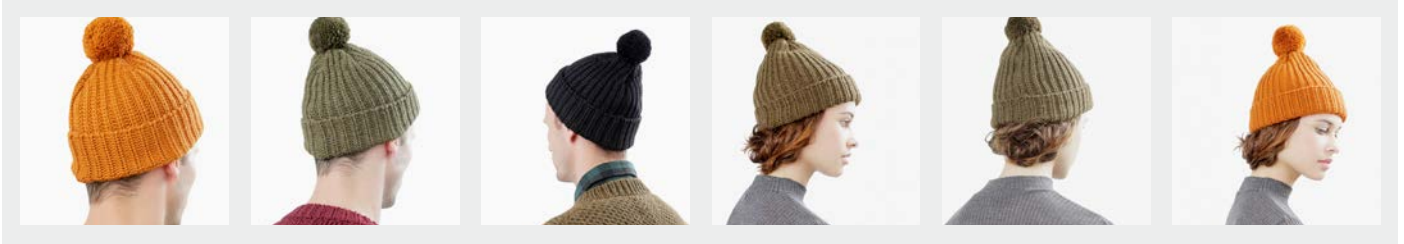
Wool and the gang

www.woolandthegang.com



THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL
Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales





LET'S GET KNITTING

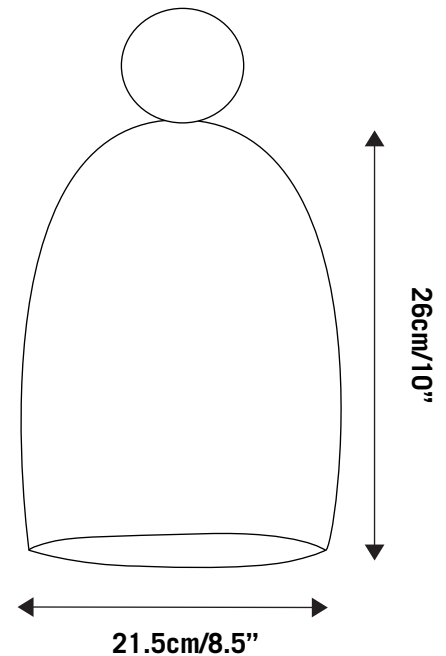
Tool kit

- 2 balls of WATG's Sheepaca
- 1 Bill's Beanie pattern
- 1 pair of 5mm (US8) knitting needles
- 1 sewing needle

Tension

To ensure your knitting has the same measurements as the pattern, it is a good idea to make a tension swatch before you start knitting your project. A tension swatch is a small sample of your knitting where you count the stitches and rows and check them against the tension given in the pattern. If you get MORE stitches/rows than the pattern's tension, it means your knitting is **tighter**. If you get FEWER stitches/rows than the pattern, your knitting is **looser**. Sometimes, it works to knit tighter or looser to compensate.

When you make your swatch, make sure it is large enough for you to measure 10 cm/4" without including the stitches/rows closest to the edges (as these often have a slightly different tension). When you're done swatching, simply unravel and re-use the yarn to start knitting your Bill's Beanie.



Mock fisherman's rib stitch with 2 strands held together

- 10 cm/4" = 16.5 stitches
- 10 cm/4" = 32 rows

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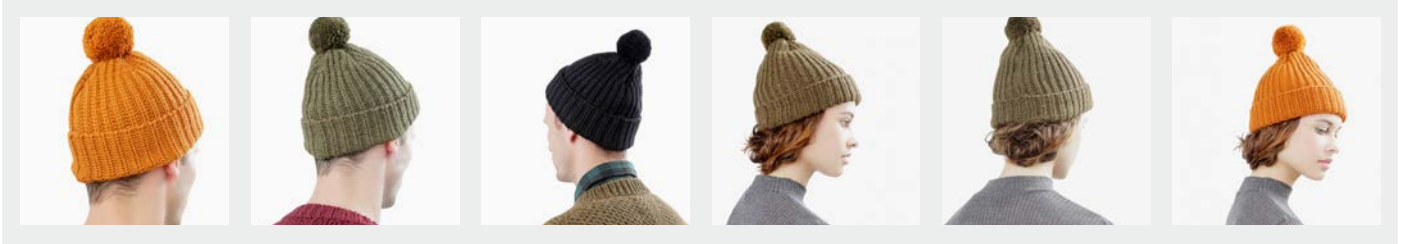
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HOW TO KNIT YOUR BILL'S BEANIE

This hat is knitted with the yarn held double throughout. It is knitted as a flat piece from the bottom up and then sewn together. The section at the bottom is worked 'inside out', so the right side of the fabric will face out when you fold the brim up.

1 With 2 strands of yarn held together, cast on 72 stitches using the long-tail cast on technique. Leave a tail approximately 50cm/20" long, you will use this later for sewing up your beanie.

2 Knit 1 row.

3 Work in mock fisherman's rib stitch until your piece measures 6cm/2.5" from the cast on edge - approx. a further 18 rows. (Your last row should be a wrong-side row.)

You have now finished the brim of your hat.

4 Starting with another wrong-side row, work in mock fisherman's rib stitch until your piece measures 22cm/8.5" from the cast on edge - approx. a further 53 rows. (Your last row should be a wrong-side row.)

5 Decrease row: Knit 1 stitch into the row below. ★ Work 12 stitches in mock fisherman's rib stitch, purl 2 stitches together. ★ Repeat the section inside the stars a further 4 times, purl 1 stitch. (67 stitches.)

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- 6 Knit 1 row.
-
- 7 Decrease row: Knit 1 stitch into the row below. ★Work 11 stitches in mock fisherman's rib stitch, purl 2 stitches together. ★ Repeat the section inside the stars a further 4 times, purl 1 stitch. (62 stitches.)
-
- 8 Knit 1 row.
-
- 9 Decrease row: Knit 1 stitch into the row below. ★Work 10 stitches in mock fisherman's rib stitch, purl 2 stitches together. ★ Repeat the section inside the stars a further 4 times, purl 1 stitch. (57 stitches.)
-
- 10 Knit 1 row.
-
- 11 Decrease row: Knit 1 stitch into the row below. ★Work 9 stitches in mock fisherman's rib stitch, purl 2 stitches together. ★ Repeat the section inside the stars a further 4 times, purl 1 stitch. (52 stitches.)
-
- 12 Knit 1 row.
-
- 13 Decrease row: Knit 1 stitch into the row below. ★Work 8 stitches in mock fisherman's rib stitch, purl 2 stitches together. ★ Repeat the section inside the stars a further 4 times, purl 1 stitch. (47 stitches.)
-
- 14 Knit 1 row.
-
- 15 Decrease row: Knit 1 stitch into the row below. ★Work

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7 stitches in mock fisherman's rib stitch, purl 2 stitches together. ★ Repeat the section inside the stars a further 4 times, purl 1 stitch. (42 stitches.)

16 Knit 1 row.

17 Decrease row: Knit 1 stitch into the row below. ★ Work 6 stitches in mock fisherman's rib stitch, purl 2 stitches together. ★ Repeat the section inside the stars a further 4 times, purl 1 stitch. (37 stitches.)

18 Knit 1 row.

19 Decrease row: Knit 1 stitch into the row below. ★ Work 5 stitches in mock fisherman's rib stitch, purl 2 stitches together. ★ Repeat the section inside the stars a further 4 times, purl 1 stitch. (32 stitches.)

20 Knit 1 row.

21 Decrease row: ★ Knit 2 stitches together. ★ Repeat the section inside the stars to the end of the row. (16 stitches.)

22 Cut the yarn, leaving a tail approximately 20cm/8" long. Thread your sewing needle with the yarn tail, and insert it through each of the stitches, starting with the stitch farthest away from the tip of the knitting needle. Remove the knitting needle, and pull on the yarn to close up the top of the hat.

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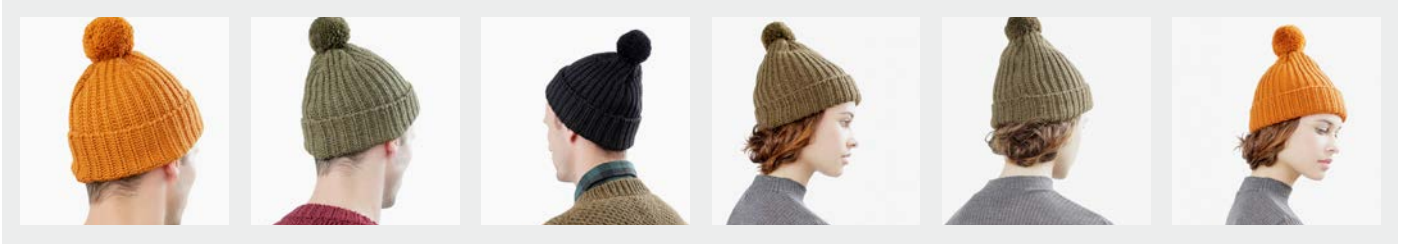
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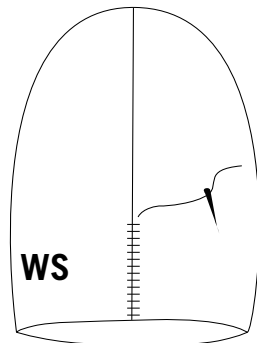


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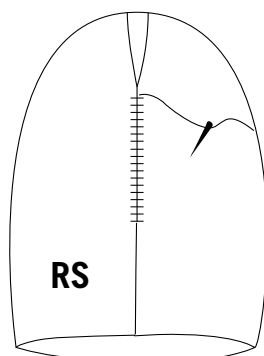


ASSEMBLY AND FINISHING

- 1 Lay your beanie flat with the right side facing out. With the yarn tail from the cast on edge of your hat, use the vertical invisible seam technique to sew the back seam for 7cm/3".



- 2 Turn the beanie inside out, so that the right side is facing out. Use the vertical invisible seam technique to sew up the rest of the seam.



- 3 Weave in the loose ends.

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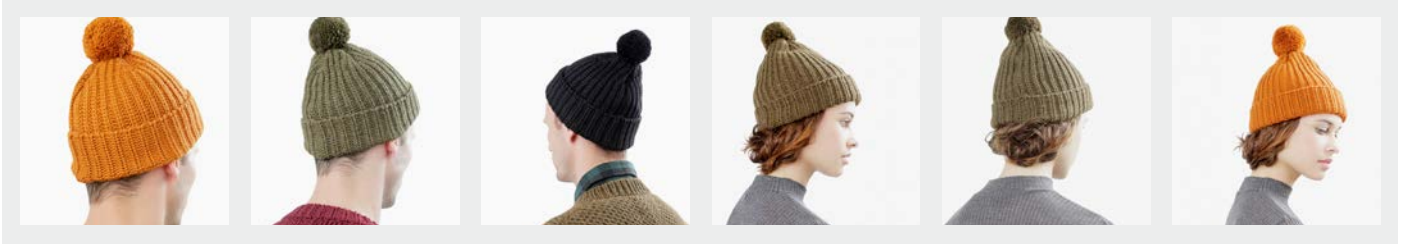
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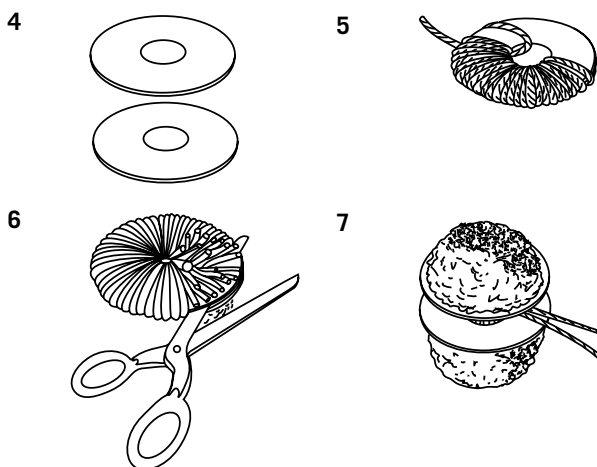


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POMPOM

- 4 Cut 2 cardboard circles, 8cm/3" in diameter, with a 1.5cm/0.5" hole in the centre.
- 5 Using the sewing needle threaded with a long strand of yarn, hold the circles together and wind the yarn around the circle until the it runs out. Cut another length of yarn, and continue winding yarn around the cardboard circles until the card is covered and the hole closes up.
- 6 Using a pair of scissors, cut the yarn between the two pieces of card around the edge of the circle.
- 7 Tie a strand of yarn between the two cardboard circles to secure the centre of the pom-pom, and fasten with a tight knot. Now remove the cardboard.
- 8 Tidy up your pom-pom by trimming the shape with scissors.
- 9 Sew the pom-pom to the top of the hat.



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KNITTING TECHNIQUES

Work! Work! Work!

There are two main ways to 'work' stitches: they can be knitted or purled. When the pattern asks you to 'work' a number of stitches/rows/cm, it will always specify which stitch pattern to work in.

Working with multiple strands of yarn

Sometimes, a pattern will tell you to work with two or more strands. To do this, just hold all the strands together and knit with them as if they were a single, thick yarn!

Long-tail cast on

This creates a nice elastic edge, suitable for stretchy items like ribbed edges. To make sure that the edge isn't too tight, you can cast on over two knitting needles held together.

1. Start by making a slipknot - the 'yarn tail' needs to be quite long for this cast on, hence the name! Place the slipknot on your knitting needle, and hold the needle in your right hand, with the yarn hanging straight down.
2. Now insert the thumb and index finger of your left hand between the two strands of yarn hanging from the needle, and then close your ring finger and little finger around the yarn to trap it.

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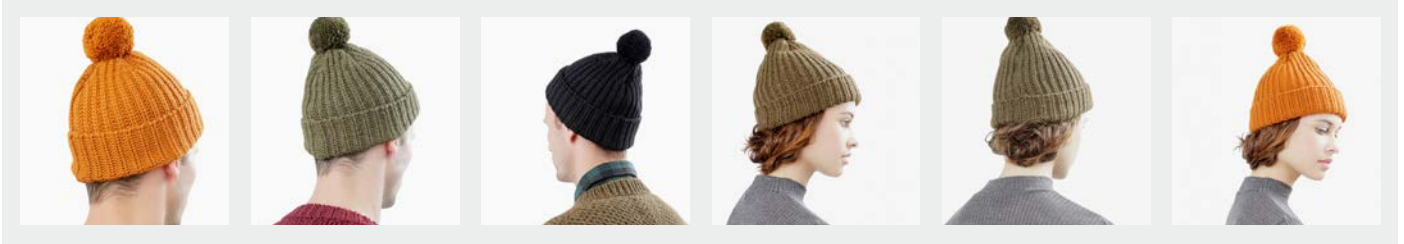
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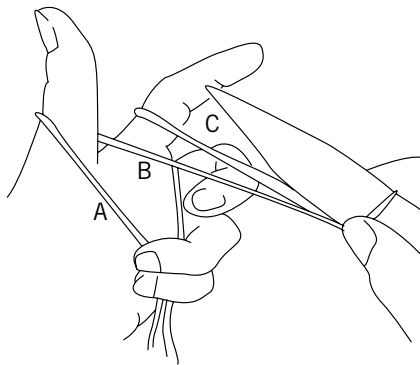
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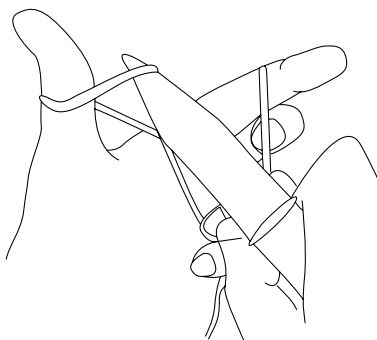
Stretch out your thumb and index finger as far from each other as possible, stretching the yarn taut.



3. You will be using three separate strands of yarn:

- A: the strand which sits closest to you, in front of the thumb
- B: the strand that goes from the thumb to the slipknot on the needle
- C: the strand that goes from the needle to your index finger

4. Place the needle in front of A, then bring it under A and let it come up between A and B.



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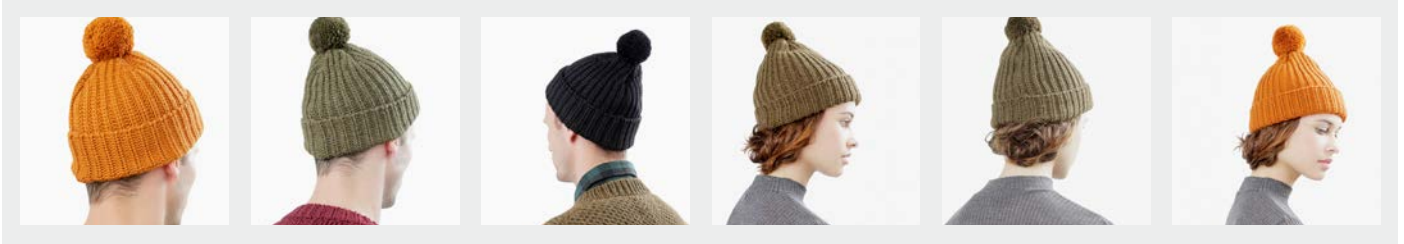
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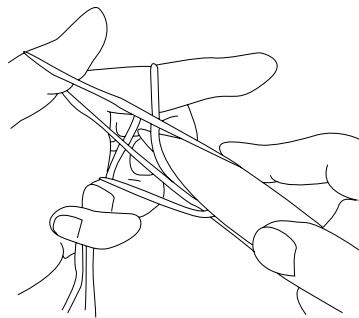
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5. Now bring the needle over and behind C, and scoop the yarn (C) up with the tip of your needle.



6. Bring the needle tip with the yarn back between A and B (the same way you came before), so that it ends up in front of A. Now pull your thumb out from the yarn that's looped around it. Tug on the yarn to tighten up the new loop on your knitting needle, then insert your thumb again between the two yarn strands hanging down from the newly formed loop on your needle.

7. Repeat steps 4-6 to continue casting on stitches.

Mock fisherman's rib

This is a chunky, cool rib pattern that looks rather complicated - but is actually quite easy to achieve! The two sides of the fabric are slightly different - for this design, the more 'crisp' side is used as the 'right' side. Worked over an even number of stitches, simply repeat the following two rows:

Row 1 (right side): to work the first stitch, don't insert the needle through the loop on the left needle - instead, insert

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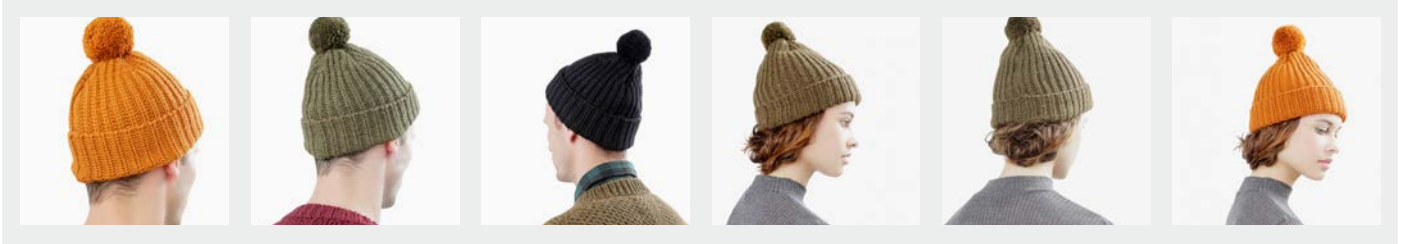
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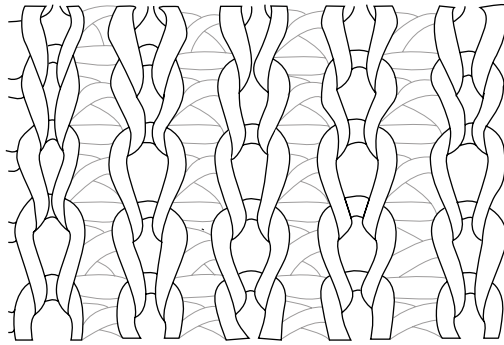


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the right needle through the middle of the stitch on the row directly below it, then wrap the yarn and complete as a normal knit stitch. As you slip the stitch off the left needle, it may feel as if you're about to drop it - but don't worry, it's completely safe! Purl the next stitch. Repeat these two stitches to the end of the row.

Row 2 (wrong side): knit all stitches.



Decreasing

Instead of knitting only one stitch at a time, knit two stitches together. Insert the front of your right needle through the first two stitches of the left needle, then knit them together as a single stitch. For decreasing on purl rows, insert the needle through the two stitches from right to left and purl together as a single stitch. You can also do a double decrease by knitting or purling three stitches together in the same way.

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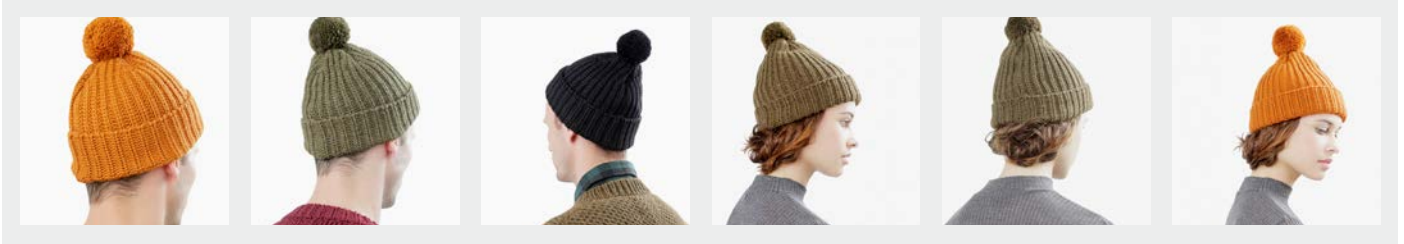
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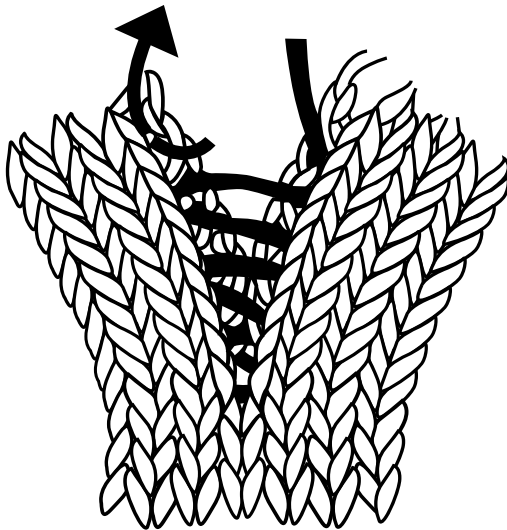
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FINISHING TECHNIQUES

Vertical invisible seam

This technique is used to join two side edges. Line up the edges side by side with the right side of the fabric facing up. Insert your sewing needle under the first horizontal bar between the first two stitches on the edge you want to join. Pull the yarn through and insert the needle through the opposite horizontal bar on the other piece. Sew back and forth through the horizontal bars along the edge. To tighten the stitches, pull the yarn gently - and they will disappear.



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