

Waste Yarn Openings



In this quick tutorial, I'll show you how to use waste yarn to create openings in your knitting projects. This technique is versatile and can be used for various purposes like adding pockets to a sweater, thumb openings on mittens, heel openings on socks, or armholes for a dog sweater.

Step-by-Step Guide:

1. Knit your garment to the point where you want to place the opening
2. Prepare Your Waste Yarn:
 - Choose a piece of waste yarn in a contrasting color to your working yarn so it's easy to see.



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3.

Knit with Waste Yarn:

- You will now knit with your waste yarn.
- Insert your right needle into the next stitch.
- Make a loop with the waste yarn and place it over your right needle.
- Pull up a stitch with the waste yarn and slide it off your left needle.
- Knit the number of stitches required by your pattern using the waste yarn. For instance, my dog sweater pattern calls for eight stitches.



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4. Manage the Waste Yarn:



- Once you've knitted the required stitches, tie the waste yarn into a small bow or knot at the back of your work to keep it out of the way.



5. Transfer Stitches Back:



- Slip the stitches you just knit with the waste yarn back onto your left needle.
- Knit these stitches again, but this time with your main yarn.



6. Continue Knitting:



- Continue knitting the rest of your round with your main yarn.

7. Repeat for Additional Openings:

- If your pattern requires another opening, repeat the process on the other side.

Picking Up Stitches:

1. Use Double-Pointed Needles:

- To pick up the stitches around the opening, use double-pointed needles slightly smaller than your working needles.



2. Pick Up Stitches:



- Insert the needle into the right leg of each stitch on the bottom half of the opening and the top half.

3. Flip work over and insert the second needle into the same stitches on the other side.



- Ensure you have an even number of stitches on each needle.

4. Remove Waste Yarn:



- Carefully remove the waste yarn using a darning needle to pull it out stitch by stitch. Make sure all live stitches are on your double-pointed needles to avoid dropped stitches.



5. Opening Hole:



- Once you remove the waste yarn, you'll have a neat, open hole in your knitting with the stitches securely held on two needles.



6. Continue with your pattern to finish:



- Attach your main yarn and using your double-pointed needles knit around the picked-up stitches to create a neat edge.
- You can also use circular needles or the magic loop method.
- For a pocket, you would work the pocket edging on the lower needle and the pocket lining from the upper needle, knitting top-down.
- For a sock heel, you would work the stitches from the heel flap on the lower needle and pick up stitches for the gusset on the upper needle.
- For mittens, you would work the opening stitches from the thumb in a circle to finish the thumb.
- For my dog sweater I created a ribbed cuff on each arm hole.



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This method of using waste yarn to create openings is simple yet effective, providing flexibility and a professional finish to your knitting projects. Whether you're making armholes for a dog sweater or thumb openings for mittens, this technique ensures clean, well-defined openings that are easy to work with.

If you're interested in learning how to knit custom-fit dog wear, [download my free workbook](#) to discover how to measure your dog like a pro.



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