

FIRST LESSONS IN KNITTING.

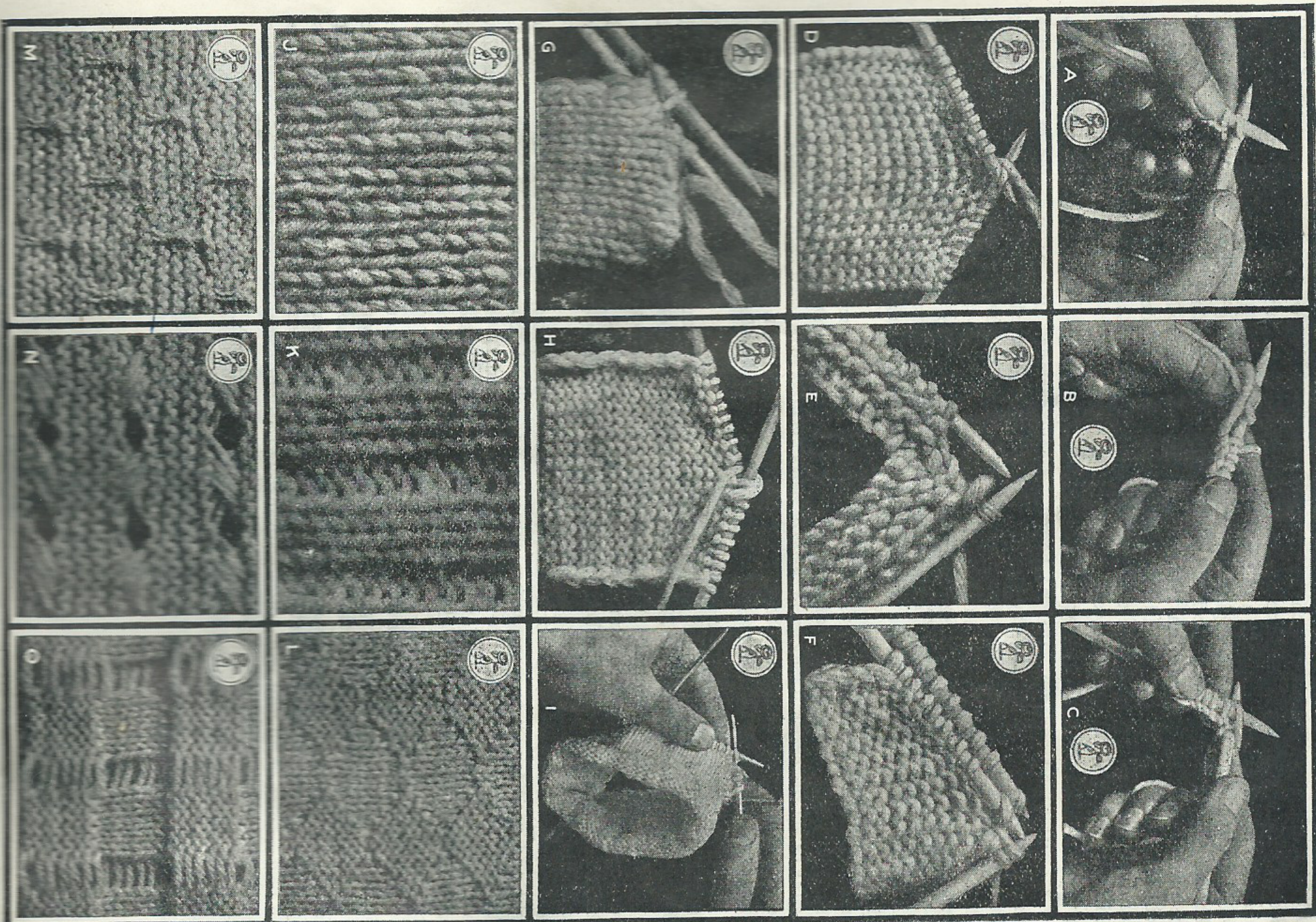


Fig. 2.—A, Position of Hands; B and C, Casting-on (1st and 2nd methods); D, Plain Knitting; E, Casting-on; F, Casting-on; G, Casting-on; H, Casting-on; I, Casting-on; J, Casting-on; K, Casting-on; L, Casting-on; M, Casting-on; N, Casting-on; O, Casting-on.

ABBREVIATIONS.—K. = Knit plain; P. = Purl; * . . . * = a sign of repetition—when the portion between the stars has been worked once, commence again at the first * and work the directions until the second * is reached, while repeating it as often as instructed.

MAKING A SLIP LOOP—the method by which all knitted fabric is commenced. Holding the wool between the first finger and thumb of the left hand, with the end hanging inside the fingers, pass it round 2 fingers, back between the first finger and thumb and over the first thread; then, with a knitting needle, draw a loop through the ring thus formed and make it firm on the needle by gently pulling the 2 ends.

HOLDING THE WOOL AND NEEDLES (see Fig. 2A). Taking the needle (on which the slip loop has been made) in the left hand, hold it near its point, with the other end under the hand. With the first finger and thumb of the right hand hold the second needle in similar fashion, but with the other end standing out over the hand.

The wool is held with the right hand, so as to form a ring round the third finger, from which it passes under the second finger and over the first to the knitting. It should be held in such a position as to allow it to pass easily through the fingers as the knitting proceeds.

CASTING-ON—1st Method, with one needle (see Fig. 2B), used when a firm edge is required, as in the case of a Coat, Cap, etc. Leaving an end of wool sufficient for the number of stitches required to be cast on, make a slip loop on the needle. Hold the needle and wool (from the ball) in the right hand. With the left hand take the loose end (near the needle) and, twisting it over and round the left thumb to form a loop, pass the point of the needle through the loop, then v

round through tighter thus b until a 2nd N 2C),—

Make a slip-loop near the end of the wool and place it on a needle. Hold this needle in the left hand, with a second needle and the wool from the ball in the right hand (as described at the beginning of the Chapter). * Inserting the point of the right-hand needle from left to right through the front of the loop, pass the wool (from the ball) round the point of the right-hand needle and draw it through to form a new loop, pass this from the right to the left-hand needle, repeat from * until there are the required number of stitches.

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KNITTING PLAIN (see Fig. 2D).

Cast on the required number of stitches. 1st row.—Hold the needle containing the stitches in the left hand. Insert the right-hand needle from left to right through the first loop, pass the wool (which in plain knitting is always at the back of the work) round the point of the right-hand needle and draw a new loop through (in the same manner as for casting-on a stitch), retain this loop on the right-hand needle and slip the 1st loop (which is now caught up with the knitting) off the left-hand needle.

Work into each loop in this manner until all the loops are worked on to the right-hand needle. Turn, take the right-hand needle (containing the stitches) in the left hand and work the 2nd and each following row like the 1st row. After the 1st row, always slip the first stitch from the left-hand on to the right-hand needle without knitting it. This is the usual method for making a neat, firm edge to knitted fabric.

TENSION—All knitting, unless specially directed otherwise, should be done at a medium tension, i.e., the stitches should just grip lightly on to the needles, allowing them to be moved easily along the latter without in any way dragging the work. Stitches worked too loosely will give a ragged, uneven effect, and such fabric, besides being likely to stretch in washing, is nearly certain to be disappointing in its resistance to wear. Right tension for a given purpose is a matter of the utmost importance.

SLIPPING A STITCH, a term applied to the transference of a stitch from the left-hand needle to the right-hand one without knitting it. It is used a good deal in the making of fancy patterns, or in shaping, while if the first stitch of each succeeding row (after the first) is slipped the fabric will possess a neat, firm edge, 1st, and most usual, method (sometimes known as "knitways"):—Inserting the point of the right-hand needle through the front of the first loop on the left-hand needle from left to right, draw the loop off the left on to the right-hand needle without knitting it. A slipped stitch should always be slipped "knitways," unless otherwise directed.

2nd method (known as "purlways"):—Inserting the point of the right-hand needle through the front of the first loop on the left-hand needle from right to left, draw the loop off the left on to the right-hand needle without knitting it.

CASTING-OFF (see Fig. 2E). Knit the first 2 stitches, * insert the point of the left-hand needle from left to right through the first of these 2 stitches, slip this stitch over the 2nd one (and therefore off the right-hand needle, thus leaving one stitch on the latter); knit the next stitch and repeat from * until

there are the required number of stitches.