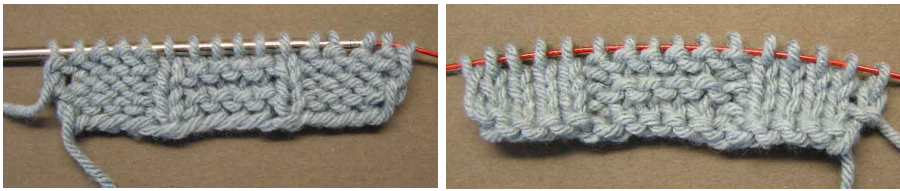


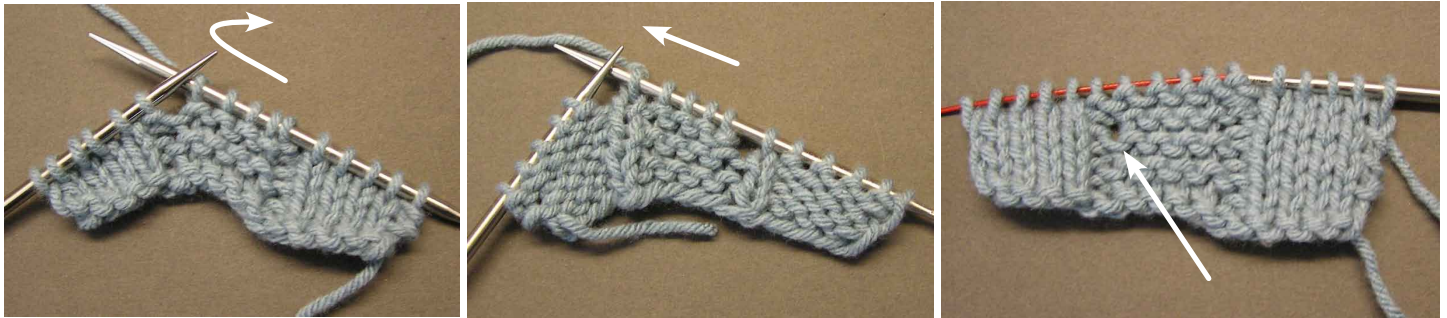
Theory and Practice: Short Rows

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January 2015

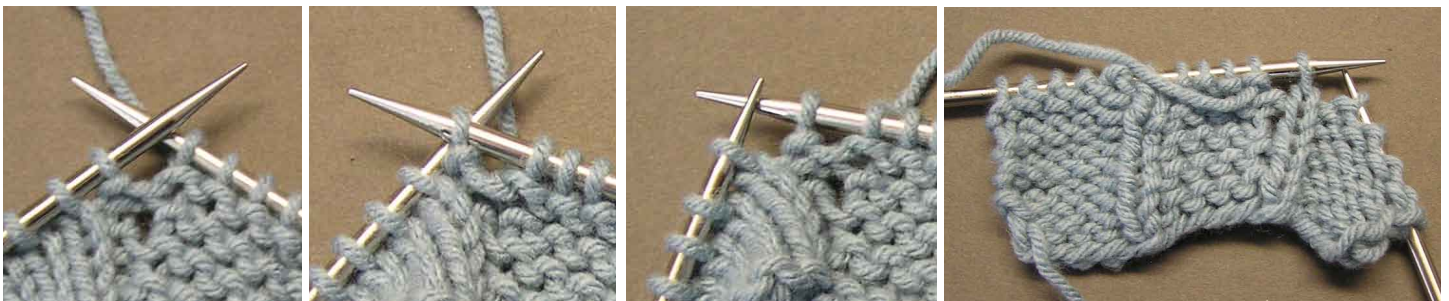


Here is a sample swatch we'll use as a base. The outer sections are stockinette, the center is garter defined by two lines of knit stitches (on the purl side).



A short row stops partway through a row. The work is turned, and after slipping the first stitch the pattern continues back the way it came. The middle photo is after working five stitches back. In the third, the right side is now longer from those two extra rows. If you only turn your work before reversing, you'll get a hole. People have come up with various ingenious methods to deal with the hole. All of them involve tying the two sides of the stitches together.

Turning or pivoting can happen on either a knit or purl stitch. Here it'll happen on the stitch at the end of the garter column. All start the same way. If your work goes to the edge, that side will be longer. If you work a centered section, you'll get a bulge - like a sock heel.

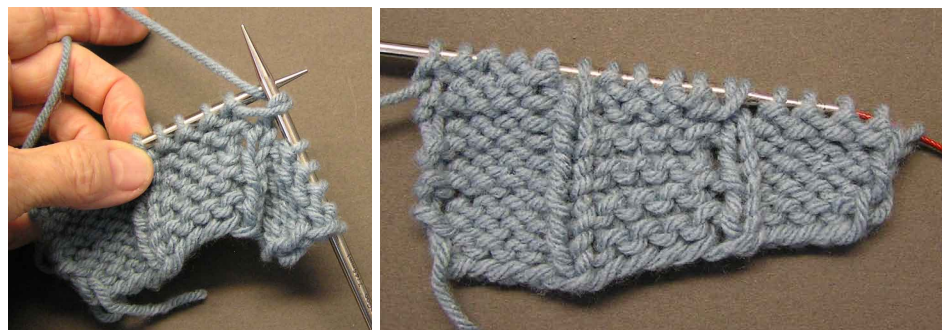


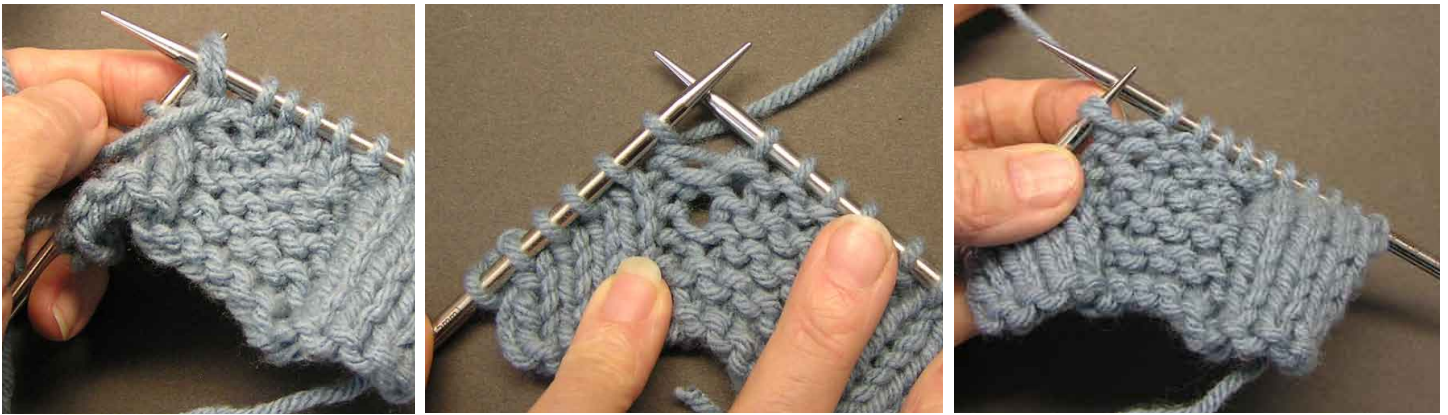
Go to the pivot or turning stitch and without working it, slide it purlwise to your right needle. Turn your work.

German Short Row

Slip that stitch back to your right needle and wrap the yarn around it from **back** to front. I've done it the wrong way to show the bar this goof makes.

Snug it up. As you work back, the crossed stitches are obvious.





All short row methods involve treating the doubled stitches as one. Here it's being purled.

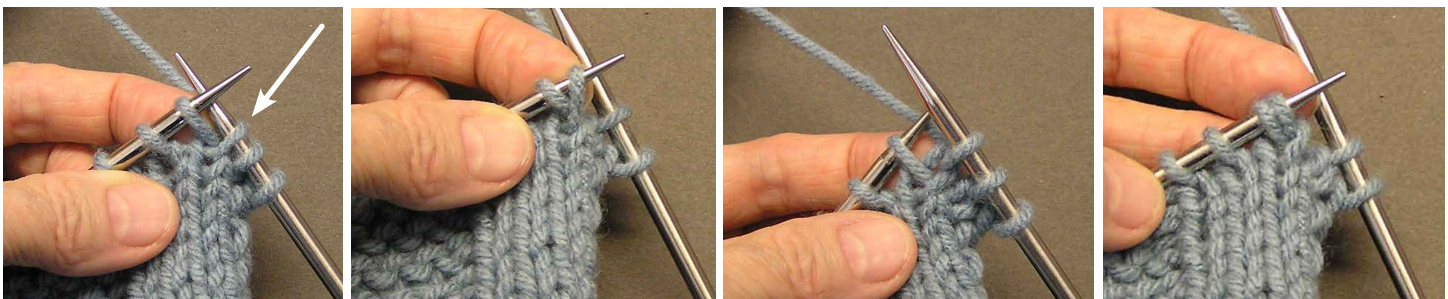
The "Wrap and Turn" method wraps the yarn not over the top of the needle, but around the base of the pivot stitch. When you get back to the stitch, you must lift the loop up to cross its twin before working it.



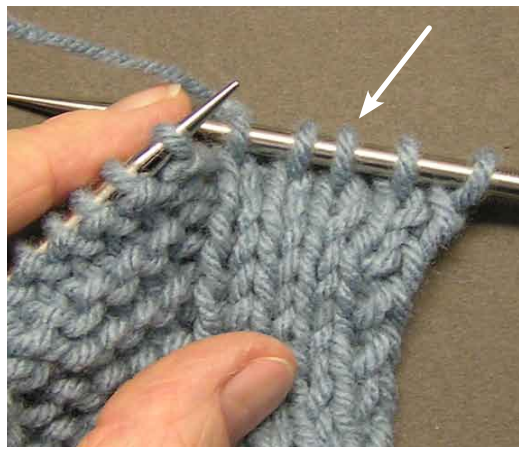
Though both "Wrap and Turn" and the "German Short Row" have their fans, as far as I can see the difference is fussing with lifting the loop. They make a much smaller hole than turning without wrapping the stitch.

The best short row I've ever found is from socktopus, who calls it "Twinned" or "Shadow Wrapped" short rows. It's completely invisible from the knit side and hardly noticeable from the purl; no hole either. It's fabulous for sock heels.

I'll show you first on the knit section, a few stitches in.



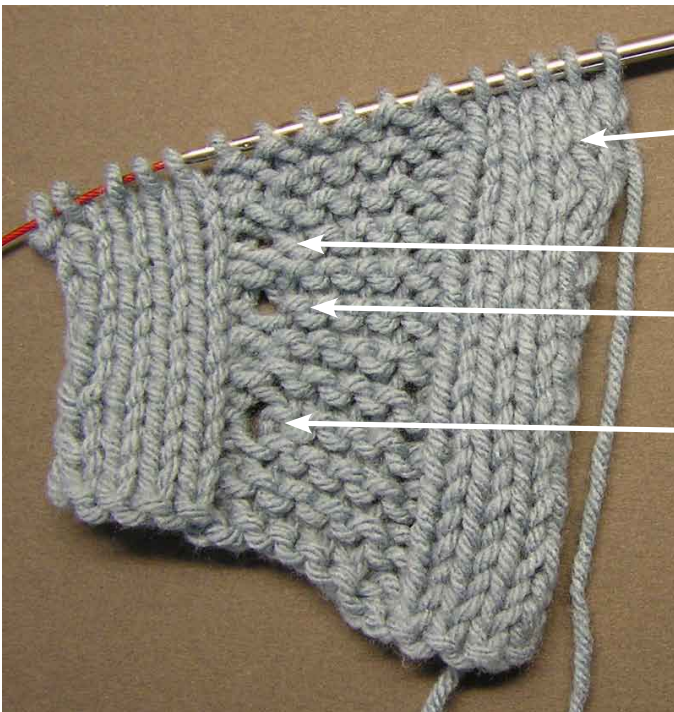
The stitch under the active stitch is called its mother. Lift the mother onto your left needle, then knit into it and drop the mother stitch. You will have two loops, one from each side, going through one stitch. The twin stitch must sit exactly the same as the original. It's easy to see if you've made a mistake.



The twinned stitches don't slide around or off of each other, they're easy to keep track of, require no fussing when you're ready to work them, and you have to have eagle eyes to see them once you're past them.



A twinned shadow wrap on a purl stitch is a little trickier. It's less trouble using a crochet hook to work the loop. The result is the same: one stitch from each side of the turn going through its mother stitch the same way.



Recap:

Twinned shadow wraps, German Short Rows & Wrap & Turns, turning without wrapping, and on right side, a prominent bar from wrapping the wrong direction.