

HOW TO: Decrease

From Interweave:

There's a lot of talk about left-leaning and right-leaning in the world of decreases. When I first started knitting I only used one decrease, knit two together. It's easy and it looks good. When I started doing garments, though, the options for decreasing really increased!

I learned about right- and left-leaning decreases and how using the correct decrease when shaping the waist, sleeves (especially when working a raglan design), socks, hats, and so on, really makes a difference in the finished product. There are two decreases that are used most often: knit 2 together (K2tog) and slip, slip, knit (SSK).

Here they are:

Knit two together = right-leaning increase, which is done on the left side of the row. Most often seen in patterns as "K2tog."



Slip, slip, knit = left-leaning decrease, which is done on the right side of the row. Most often seen in patterns as "SSK."



These examples of decreases create really professional-looking shaping. I like the pronounced look shown here, which is achieved by doing the decreasing a few stitches in from the edges, which makes them more pronounced. If you want a less visible line of decreases, you can work them on the edge stitches so they'll end up hidden in the seam.