

# Cast On 2008



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# Knitting Socks on Two Circular Needles by Chrissy Gardner

By admin | Cast On 2008

This [article](#) appeared in the April-July 2008 (Summer 2008) issue. It includes a pattern for a pair of socks.

# Buttonholes by Carolyn Vance

By admin | Cast On 2008



## On Your Way to the Masters May-July 2008

This [article](#) which appeared in the May-July 2008 (Summer 2008) issue is part of the On Your Way to the Masters series.

# Have You Any Wool? Part 1 by Ava Coleman

By admin | Cast On 2008

This [article](#) appeared in the May-July 2009 (Summer 2009) issue.

# Lacey Anklets by Arenda Holladay

By arendje | Cast On 2008

This [pattern](#) appeared in the February-April 2008 issue. Note that the pattern calls for strandable silk to reinforce the heels. This pattern was written for 100% wool. It is not necessary to use silk if the yarn has a nylon component.

# Blocking of Hand Knits by Binka Schwan

By admin | Cast On 2008



## On Your Way to the Masters August-October 2008

This [article](#) which appeared in the August - October 2008 (Fall 2008) issue is part of the On Your Way to the Masters series. It discusses how to block hand knits.

# How it All Began by Ava Coleman

By admin | Cast On 2008

This [article](#) which appeared in the August - October 2008 issue of Cast On discusses the origins of knitting. It provides a bibliography to other sources as well.



# Keys to Successful Duplicate Stitch by Kathryn Mates

By admin | Cast On 2008



## On Your Way to the Masters

This [article](#) which appeared in the February - April 2008 (Spring 2008) issue is part of the On Your Way to the Masters series. It discusses how to work decorative duplicate stitch which is part of Level 3.

# Seams - Part 3 by Arenda Holladay

By admin | Cast On 2008



## On Your Way to the Masters

This [article](#) which appeared in the February - April 2008 issue is part of the On Your Way to the Masters articles. It discusses how to seam bind off (or cast on) edges together as you would for shoulder seams or how to seam a selvedge edge to a bind off edge as you would for seaming sleeves to a sweater body.

# Cable Stitch Lesson by Arenda Holladay

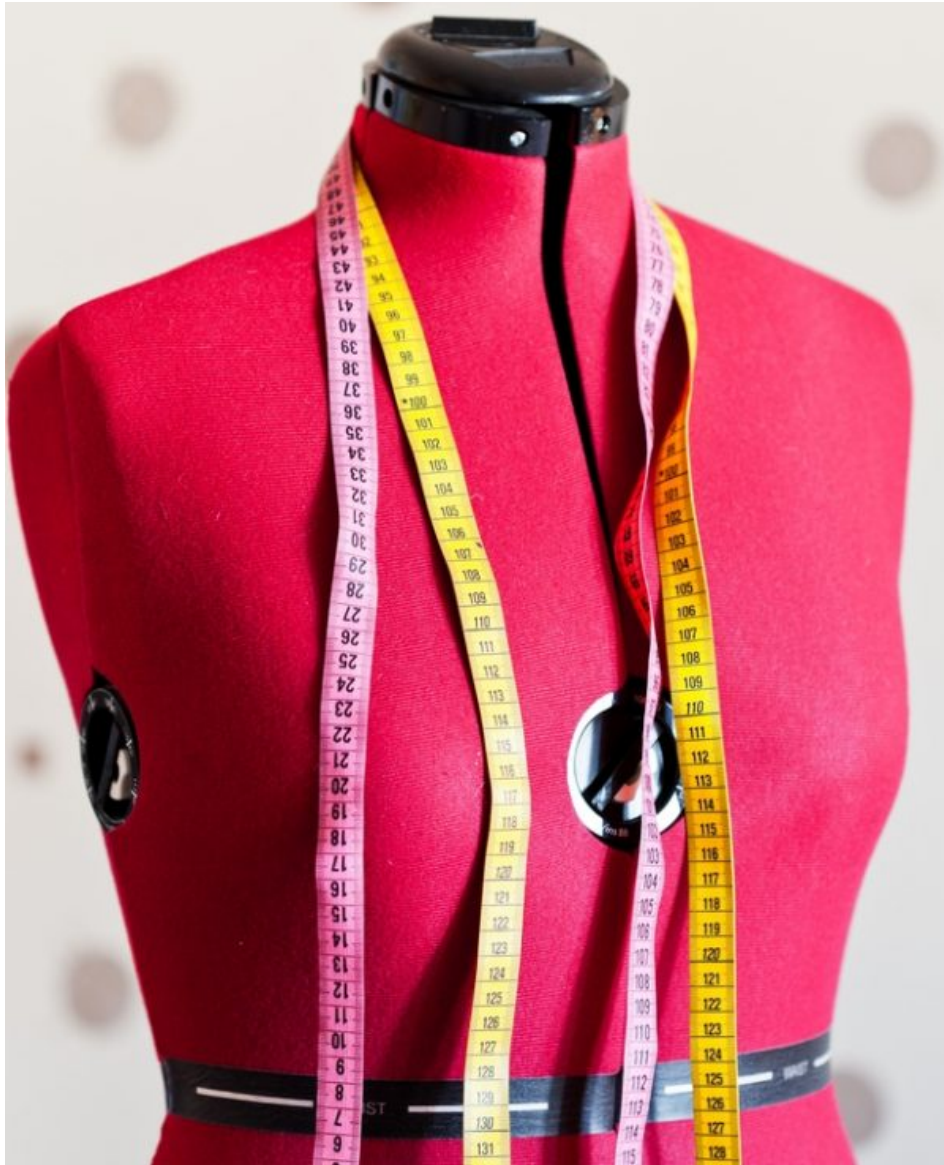
By admin | Cast On 2008

## Stitch Anatomy November 2008-January 2009

This [article](#) which appeared in the November 2008-January 2009 (Winter 2008) is part of the Stitch Anatomy series. It discuss elements of cable stitches, including instructions, charts, potential problems, and tips to improve their appearance. Patterns for two pillows using cable stitches are provided.

# Mitten Lesson by Arenda Holladay

By admin | Cast On 2008



## Fashion Framework November 2008-January 2009

This [article](#) appeared in the November 2008-January 2009 (Winter 2008) as part of the Fashion Framework series. It discusses the basic elements of mitten patterns and provides a sample pattern for a basic mitten.

# Basic Knit and Purl Stitches

By admin | Cast On 2008

This [article](#) from the November 2008-January 2009 (Winter 2008) issue was part of the For the Knitting Novice series. It discusses the basic stitch patterns with knit and purl stitches.

# Level 2 Pocket Swatch by Molly Ferrante

By admin | Cast On 2008



## On Your Way to the Masters November 2008-January 2009

This [article](#), published in the November 2008-January 2009 (Winter 2008) discusses how to do a pocket for Level 2 of the Masters. In the 2009 instructions, this was Swatch 22. In the current instructions, it is Swatch 19.

# Lace Sampler Throw by Bobbie Smith

By arendje | Cast On 2008

This [pattern](#), designed by Bobbie Smith, appeared in the February - April 2008 issue.

# Fringed Latvian Mittens by Carolyn Vance

By arendje | Cast On 2008

This [pattern](#) appeared in the November 2008-January 2009 issue.



# Shrinking Cable Skirt by Arenda Holladay

By arendje | Cast On 2008

The [pattern](#) for this skirt appeared in the November 2008-January 2009 issue of Cast On.

# Mitten Patterns (for Mitten Lesson) by Arenda Holladay

By arendje | Cast On 2008

The two mitten and one fingerless mitt pattern can be found here: [Mitten Patterns.](#)

To see photographs of the mittens, refer to the Fashion Framework article here: [Fashion Framework-Mittens](#)

# Frogs by Charles D. Gandy

By arendje | Cast On 2008



## Five Contemporary Closures



**Braided Frog**



**Circle Frog**





**Curlicue Frog**



**Toggle Frog**



### Wraparound Frog

When it comes to finishing your garment, especially a sweater, the question always arises of just how to do it: buttons, a zipper, nothing? Well, what about using a fancy frog?

Using a cording of some kind, formed in decorative ways, on either side of a garment with some knot or clasp to keep it closed, has been around for centuries. Silk robes from Asia offer countless examples of these highly decorative frogs. It seems that the name *frog* comes from the *frogging*, or rows of corded closures, that adorned seventh-century European military garments. Why the term *frogging* has been attached to these closures is a bit unclear; however, if you look up the word, every reference will refer to these elegant and decorative uniform tunics.

## I-Cords

Each of these contemporary frogs is made with I-cords. Not wanting to spend all my time handknitting these I-cords, I chose instead to use one of several small gadgets—or machines—that allowed me to crank out long lengths of I-cord with little effort. A quick Google search will reveal any number of different machines. (I have, for years, used a rather inexpensive machine, called Embellished Knit.)

For the yarn, I chose Cascade Yarns Ultra Pima to make these I-cords, for a couple of reasons. First, the I-cord machines require a DK (or finer) weight yarn, and Ultra Pima is a DK weight, so it is perfect. Second, Ultra Pima is a mercerized cotton yarn that provides a nice sheen to the finished frogs. When attaching your finished frog to your garment, consider using the color of the garment to attach the frog to avoid an unsightly color on the reverse side.

Four-stitch I-cords are used for all of these frogs, and there are a couple of basic skills or techniques that will be used in most of these closures: wrapping and rose knots.

## Wrapping

Wrapping adds a different texture to the finished frog and provides a nice way to conceal joins. A couple of simple tips and tricks will make wrapping easier. To begin the wrap, use a strong, non-textured yarn, such as cotton, to create a “finishing loop” by placing a loop of yarn with open ends at the end where you want to finish your wrap. Lay the loop over the I-cord as shown below.



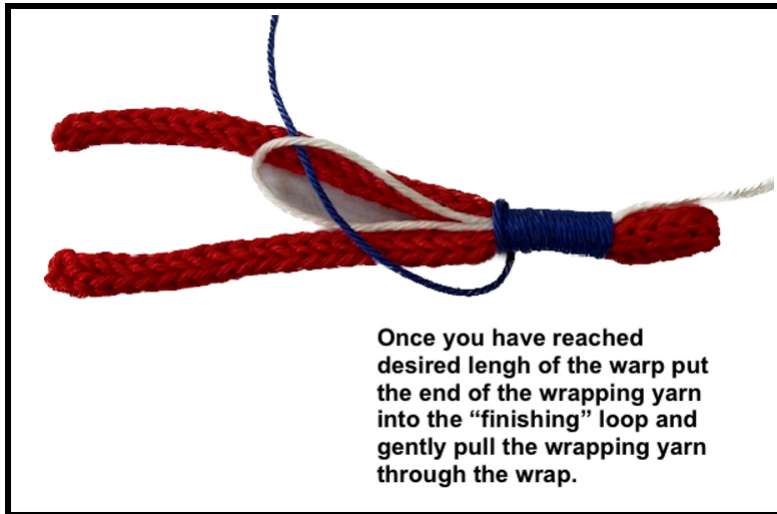
Next, tightly wrap the working yarn around the yarn tail to secure it in place and begin wrapping around the I-cord and the finishing loop.



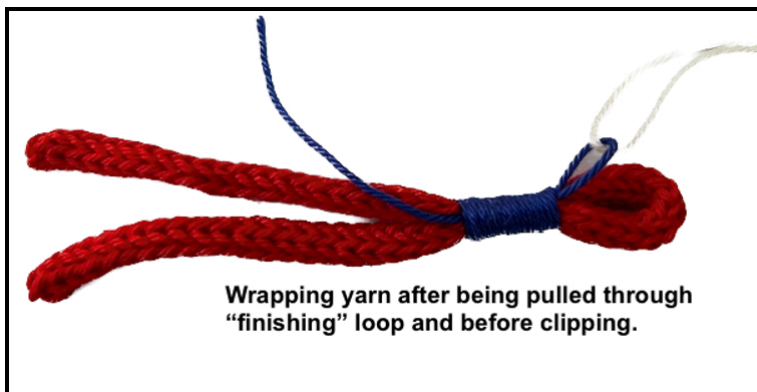
### **Begin wrapping**

Continue to wrap, tightly and evenly, until you have reached the desired length of your wrapping. Cut the working yarn, leaving a tail that is longer than the wrap, and thread the end of the yarn into the finishing loop as shown below.

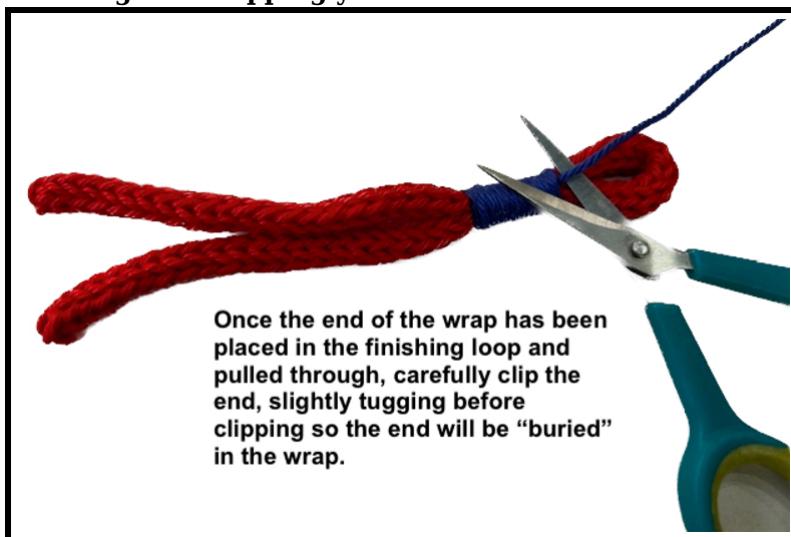




Then, gently and carefully pull the end of the wrapping yarn back through the wrap, thus securing it in place. By gently tugging on the end of the wrapping yarn, you can hide the end, thus creating a nice and tidy wrapped section, secured upon itself.



### Securing the wrapping yarn



### Clipping the end

The finished wrapped I-cord will look like this:



## Rose Knots

The knots—I call them rose knots—are the “buttons,” or ways of securing most of these frogs. A trick for making a successful rose knot is to not bind off the I-cord, which may be much longer than needed for the knot. Once the finished knot is the size you want, simply unravel the I-cord to the desired finished length, bind it off, and secure it in place. Note that in some examples, the knot will be made in the middle of a loop, so in that case you will not bind off but merely secure the knot in place and then finish the loop before binding off.



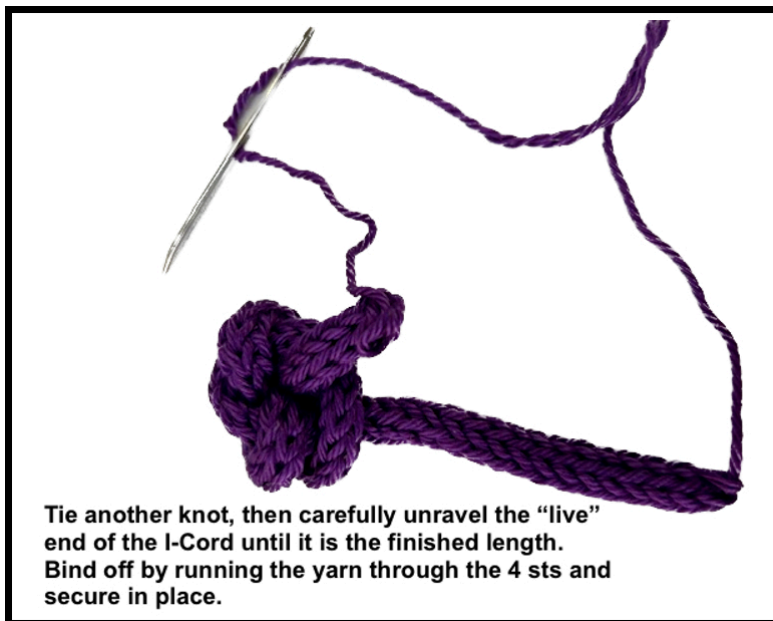
**Beginning the rose knot**





Tying a second knot

Tie another knot and then unravel the live stitches of the I-cord to the desired length and secure the remaining stitches, as shown below.

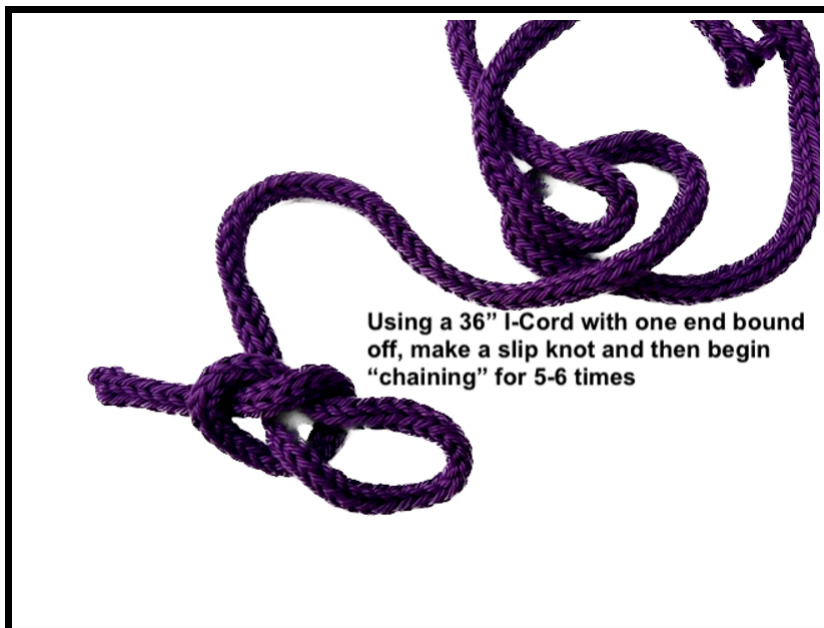


This is the finished Rose Knot, with the yarn tail secured.



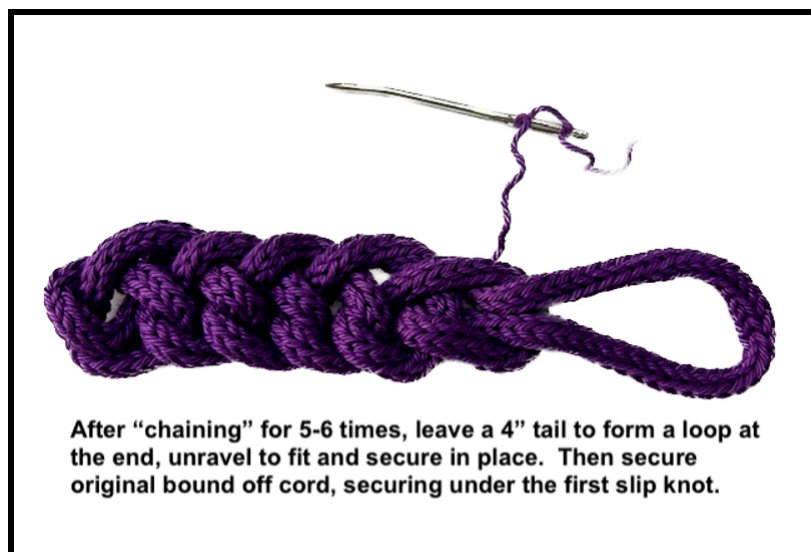
## Braided Frog

The Braided Frog is created by simply making a slip knot and then "chaining" to create a braid. Start with a 36" I-cord and make a slip knot near the end that is bound off. To "chain," pull a loop of I-cord through the existing loop of I-cord; repeat for each chain.

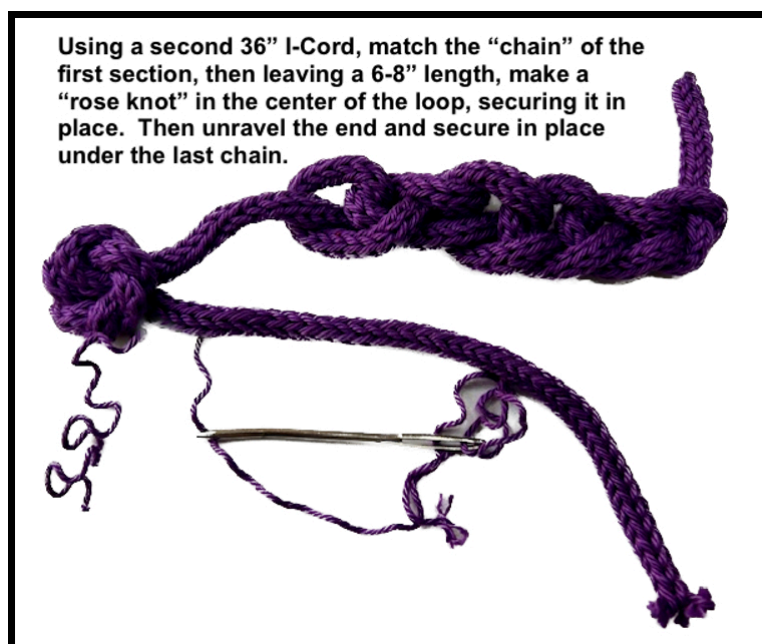


**I-cord with slip knot**

After chaining for desired length and leaving a 4" tail of I-cord to form a 2" loop, unravel the I-cord to this length and secure the end. See photo below.

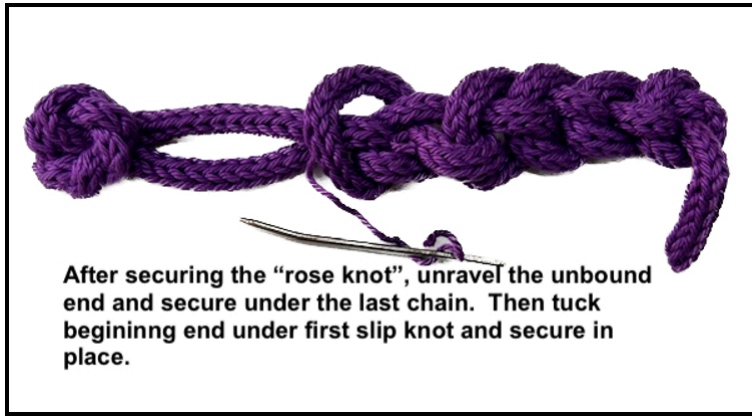


For the other side of the frog, use another 36" I-cord and repeat the above to form a matching braid, but instead of a 2" loop at the end, leave a 6-8" length to make a rose knot in the center of the loop to form the "button" of the frog.

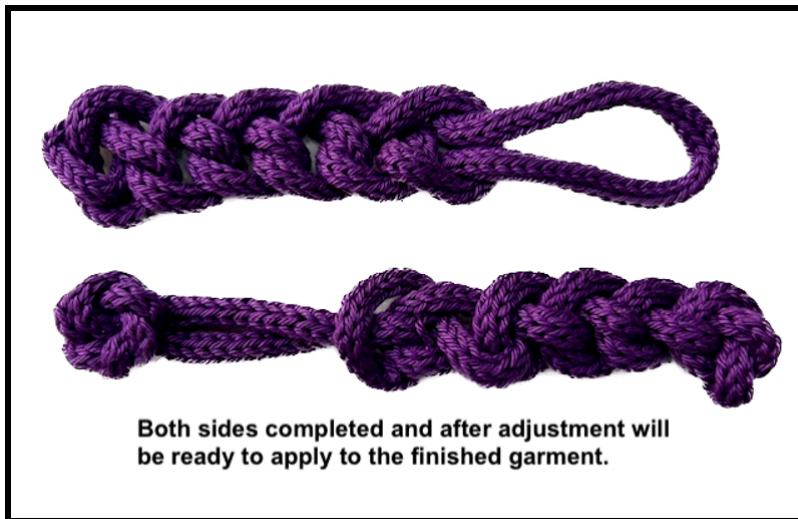


### **Braided Frog with "button"**

Finish the second loop by unraveling to the proper length, binding off, and securing in place.



**Finishing the knotted loop side**



**Finished Braided Frog**

## Circle Frog

The Circle Frog is created by simply circling, or winding, a length of I-cord around itself, securing it in place, and creating a loop for one side and a rose-knotted loop for the other. Use a 20" I-cord for the first side with the loop and a 24" I-cord for the second side with the rose knot "button."



**Creating the circle**



**Circle Frog with loop**

Using a 24" I-cord, form the circles to match the original. Then create a "rose knot" in the middle of the remaining I-Cord. Then unravel the open end and secure in place to form a 2" knotted loop.



**Circle Frog with rose knot**

To finish the Circle Frog, make two rose knots and secure in place over the joins of the loops.

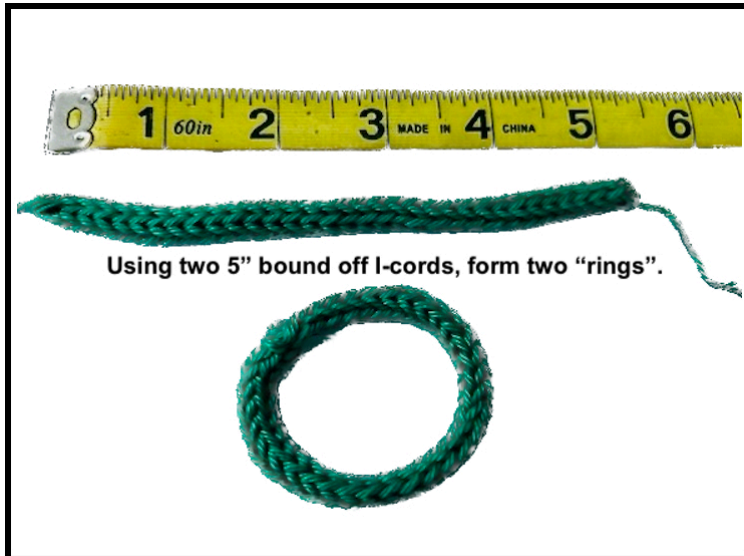
Individual Rose Knots are made and attached at the "joints" of the loops, thus concealing the join and adding a bit of extra embellishment.



**Finished Circle Frog**

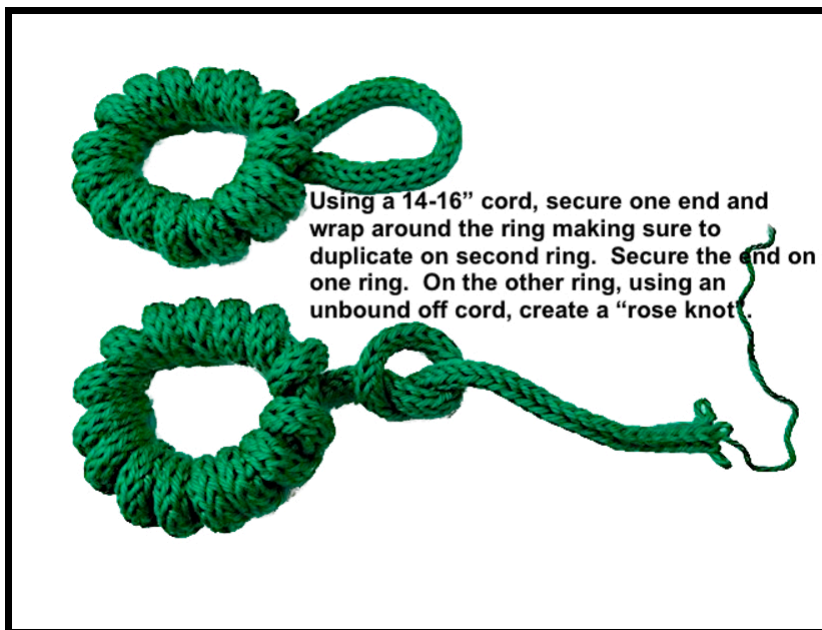
## **Curlicue Frog**

The Curlicue Frog is a very simple and effective closure. To start, create rings from two 5" bound-off I-cords.



### Make two rings

Using a 14-16" length of I-cord, carefully wrap around each ring, securing one bound-off end and then unraveling the other end to form a loop on one piece and a rose knot in the loop of the other.



### Wrapped rings





**Creating the rose knot**

The finished frog can be as large or as small as the finished project requires.



**Finished Curlicue Frog**

## **Toggle Frog**

The Toggle Frog is a bit different in that it closes by securing two toggles on each side of the finished project and then, with a wrapped loop, securing it in place.

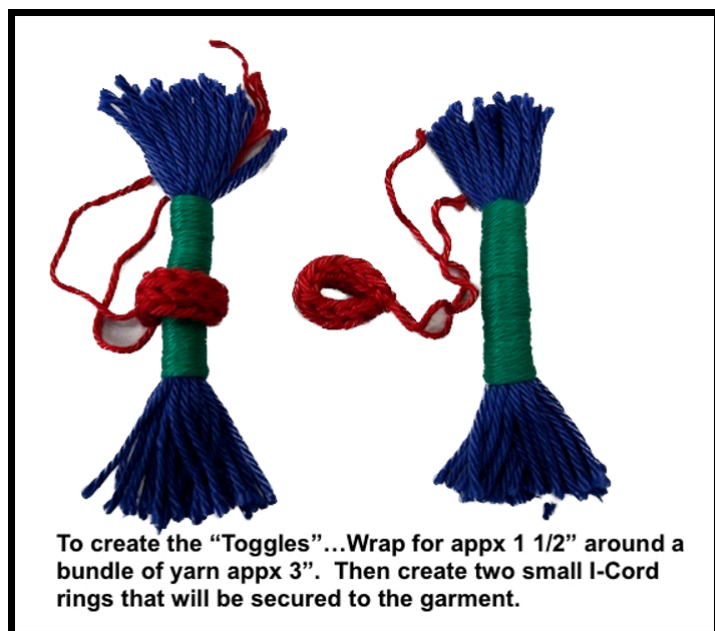
To begin, use a 14" I-cord to create a 7" circle. Then wrap for approximately .75" around each end, leaving open loops of approximately 1.5" and hiding the join of the circle under one of the wraps. See below.



Using a 14" I-Cord, form a 7" loop.  
Secure both ends to form a 1.5" loop at  
each end. Then wrap around the joins  
for approximately .75"



To create the toggles, wrap 25–30 wraps around the end of a credit card (or anything that will not bend with the wraps). Then wrap around these loops for approximately 1.5". Clip the ends of the loops to make a tassel at each end of the toggle. Create two small I-cord rings that will be slipped over the wrapped section of each toggle. Then use the rings to attach each toggle to the finished garment, equally spaced.



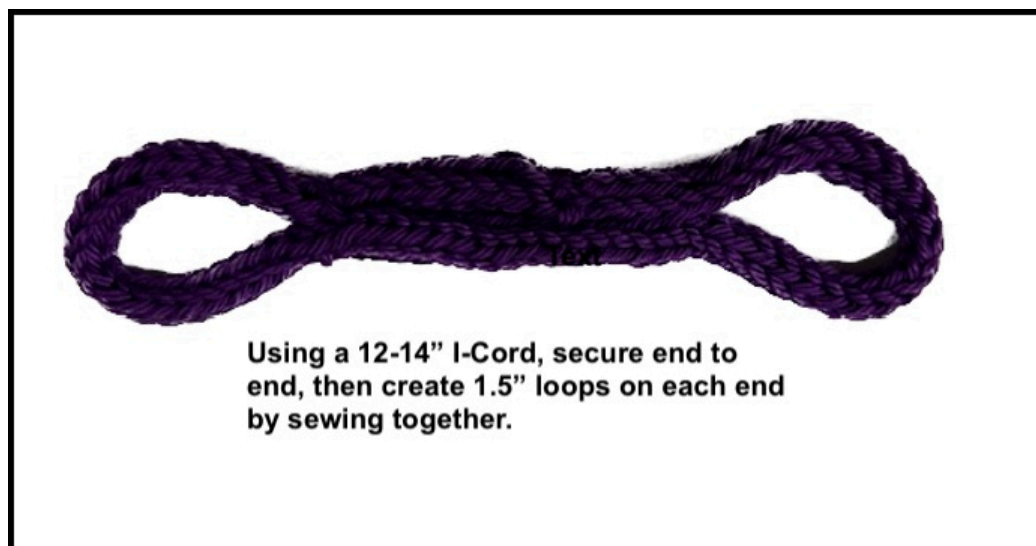
To create the "Toggles"...Wrap for appx 1 1/2" around a  
bundle of yarn appx 3". Then create two small I-Cord  
rings that will be secured to the garment.

## Toggles

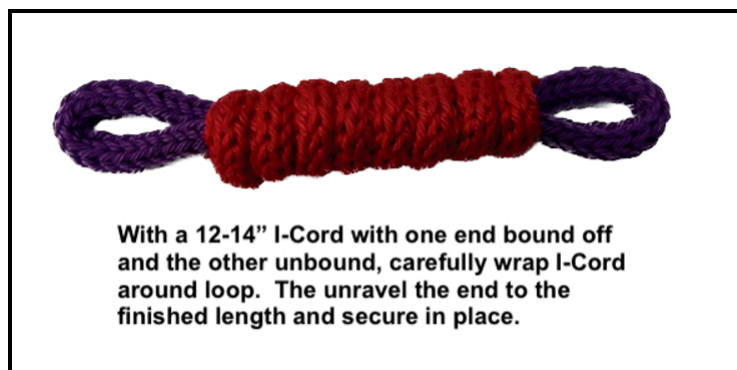
## Wraparound Frog

This frog is a bold and striking closure that somewhat simulates the frogging on those military tunics that have inspired frog closures for years. By changing the fibers used—for instance, using a gold cording—this frog is easily transformed into an extra special closure.

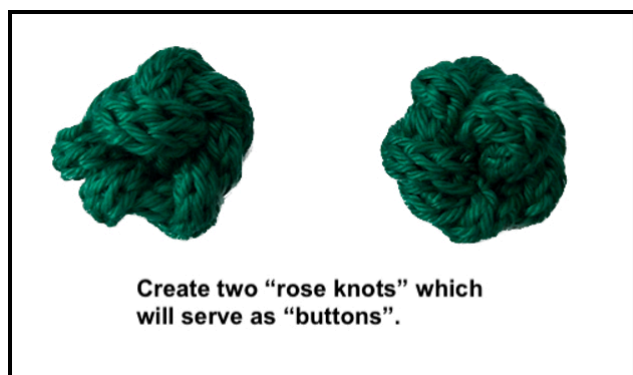
Using a 12–14" I-cord, form a large circle. Then secure end to end, leaving open loops of approximately 1.5" on each end. See below.



Next, with a 12-14" I-cord, attach the bound-off end at the base of one loop and gently and evenly wrap the I-cord around the base cord until reaching the opposite join. Unravel this wrapping cord to the finished length, bind it off, and secure it in place. See below.



Create two rose knots that will be attached to the garment and serve as buttons for the wrapped looped piece.



**Rose knot buttons**

## Aesthetic Considerations

Hopefully, the examples of the different frogs showcased above will serve as inspiration for your frogs. Here are other suggestions for creating your own unique frogs:

- Consider using more than one or two of these frogs on a garment.
- Change the yarn or cording to add extra “glitter” or something special.
- Experiment with different colors.
- Experiment with different weights of yarn.
- Finish the edge of the garment with an attached I-cord bind off.

The bottom line is to remember to be creative and have fun!

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# **Tweed Hooded Jacket by Lisa Gentry**

By arendje | Cast On 2008

This [pattern](#) appeared in the February-April 2008 issue.

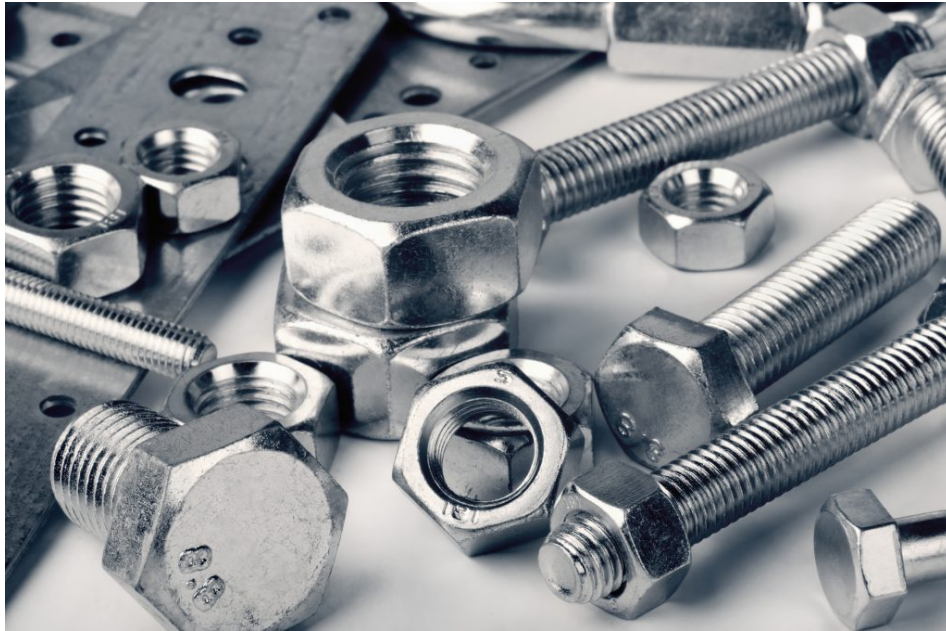
# Oversized Fisherman's Rib Jacket by Valentina Devine

By arendje | Cast On 2008

This [pattern](#) appeared in the August-October 2008 issue of Cast On.

# Short Rows by Arenda Holladay

By admin | Cast On 2008



## Technical Article

This [article](#) appeared in the May-July 2008 (Summer 2008) issue.

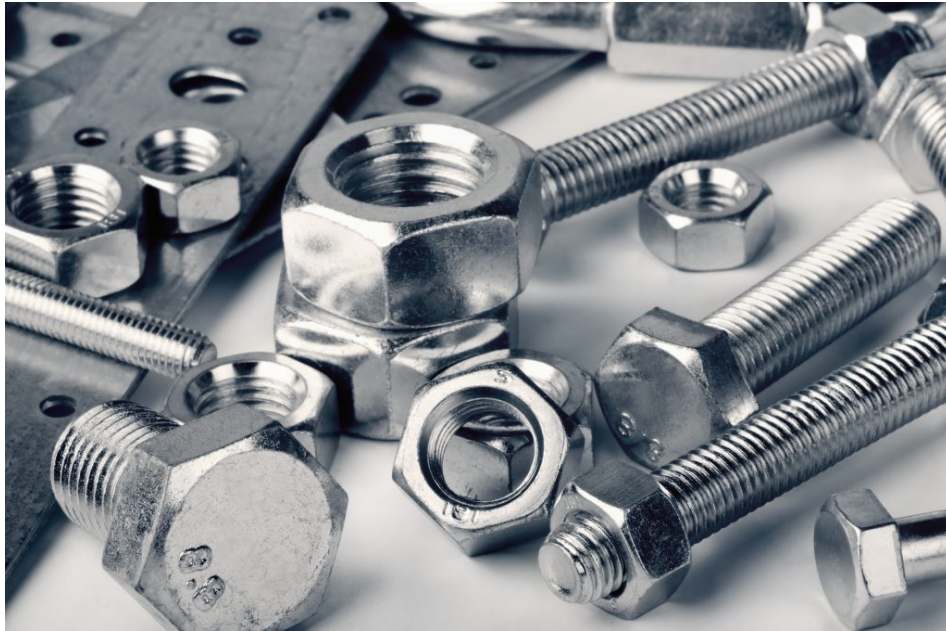
# The Purl Stitch by TKGGA Staff

By admin | Cast On 2008

This [article](#) which appeared in the May-July 2008 (Summer 2008) issue is part of the For the Knitting Novice series.

# Sock Solutions-Part 2 by Arenda Holladay

By admin | Cast On 2008



## Technical Article February-April 2008

This [article](#) appeared in the February-April 2008 issue.



# Basic Cable Lesson by Arenda Holladay

By admin | Cast On 2008

[Cable Stitch Lesson](#)