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Knitting with the Yarn in Your Right Hand (English Style)

If you’ve chosen to knit with the yarn in your right hand, known as the English style, here’s how to proceed. When you have finished casting on, hold the needle with the cast-on stitches in your left hand, pointing to the right. Make sure that the first stitch is no more than 1 inch from the tip of the needle.

1. Insert the tip of the empty (RH) needle into the first stitch on the LH needle from left to right and front to back, forming a T with the tips of the needles as shown in Figure 1-5.

2. With your right hand, hold the ball yarn 2 or 3 inches from your needles and bring the yarn to the front on the left side of the RH needle, and then over the RH needle to the right and down between the needles.

3. Keeping a slight tension on the wrapped yarn, bring the tip of the RH needle with its wrap of yarn through the loop on the LH needle to the front. The RH needle is now in front of the LH needle, as shown in Figure 1-6b. Keep the tip of the left forefinger on the point of the RH needle to help guide the needle through the old stitch and prevent losing the wrap of yarn.

When you bring the new loop through the old, bring the RH needle up far enough that the new stitch forms on the large part of the needle, not just on the tip. If you work too close to the tips, you will form new stitches on the narrow part of your needles, and your stitches will be too tight to knit with ease. Tight stitches have brought many a new knitter to a frustrated halt. By the same token, don’t knit too far from the tips.

4. Slide the RH needle to the right till the old loop on the LH needle drops off.

You now have a new stitch/loop on the RH needle—the old stitch hangs below it.

Does it look like Figure 1-7? Congratulations! You’ve just made your first knitted stitch!