

Fast Fix: Picking Up a Dropped Stitch in Knitting

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Hi iFixit team,

For my Fast Fix Project, I would like to document the process of picking up a dropped stitch in knitting. A dropped stitch can begin to unravel a person's progress and even unravel the finished product. A sweater or pair of socks that comes unraveled is of little use and is likely to end up in a landfill. I hope to teach people how to fix this problem while knitting so that it doesn't become an even bigger problem once the knitted garment is finished.

Title

The title of this guide is, "How to Pick Up a Dropped Stitch (Knitting)."

Procedure

Picking up a dropped stitch is fairly straightforward. The steps are as follows:

1. Locate the dropped stitch.
2. Insert the left needle through the loop of the dropped stitch. You may use the right needle to grab the dropped stitch, but the dropped stitch must end on the left needle.
3. Locate the "bar" of yarn behind the dropped stitch. Depending on how many rows the stitch has unraveled, there may be multiple bars of yarn. If the stitch has unraveled more than one row, locate the bottom bar.
4. Insert the right needle beneath the bar and lift it onto the left needle.
5. Use the right needle to slip the dropped stitch over the bar of yarn.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 for each row that the dropped stitch has unraveled.
7. Once the dropped stitch has been picked up all the way to the current row, proceed in pattern.

Tools and Supplies

I will use my iPhone SE camera to take quality photos for the instructions. I need one set of knitting needles of any size as well as one ball of yarn of any weight. I already have many sets of both lying around.

Why This Guide is Necessary

Knitting is my main hobby and one of my favorite ways to decompress. Knitting clothes is a historical craft, and knitted garments will last decades if taken care of. When working on a project, a dropped stitch can unravel a person's work if not fixed in time. If a finished object, like a sweater or a sock, begins to unravel, it may seem easier to discard the garment altogether if the maker does not know how to fix it. I propose documenting this fix to ensure

the finished object keeps its shape without unraveling, maintaining its durability and integrity for years to come.

Existing Repair Information.

I have come across several existing tutorials for fixing a dropped stitch. However, many of them either over- or under-explain. Written instructions tend to lack visual aids, and video instructions sometimes lack detail or are poor visual quality. Finally, many tutorials are written for people who have lots of experience knitting. I hope to produce a concise, well-written tutorial that is suited for complete beginners as well as experienced knitters.

Alternative Topics

If this proposal does not meet the requirements, I'd like to pitch the following alternatives:

- How to make a knitted sweater fit more snugly
I would measure and pin equal amounts of sweater from the sides running down from the armpit to hold them in place. Then I would use a ladder stitch to sew up where the sweater is pinned. Ladder stitching is a sewing technique that is almost invisible when done correctly.
- How to replace a tub spout
This is completely unrelated to textiles, but I had to replace tub spouts at a maintenance temp job at an apartment complex. I would unscrew the old spout a couple rounds before twisting the spout to face upwards so it's easier to see. After unscrewing, I would pull the spout off and place the new one on facing upwards (the wrong way). I would screw it almost into place before rotating the spout to face down and finish screwing the spout.

Repair Experience Inventory

I had no idea my experience with knitting could translate into textile repairs and hobby fixes. I gained a whole new perspective on repairs. I approached the form mostly thinking of household fixes and other similar repairs. After browsing iFixit, I discovered very little documentation on knitting and knitted garments. I hope to contribute a meaningful fix for those in the fiber arts community.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I look forward to producing something useful for the iFixit community, and I hope to share information in a more niche field. Please let me know if this proposal is fit to move forward or if there are any changes I can make.

Best,

[Jillian G](#)