

# Debajo un botón...

## Six Paired Symmetrical Increases

There are a few things to know about paired increases before we start:

- ❖ Most of them involve one center stitch (all six of my favorites do) but they can involve two or more, which is something to take into account when you calculate how many stitches to cast-on if you want symmetry.
- ❖ Each center stitch will have one increase on each side of it. For the cleaner look, the increase to the right of the CS will be right-leaning and the one to the left, left-leaning. But often they will be the same on both sides.
- ❖ Some are very simple, and some require a little more work, but the more work they involve, the nicer the results are.
- ❖ The same increase can look very different depending on the yarn used and at what gauge you are working. I find that a relatively tight gauge (say, 5sts to an inch for a worsted weight yarn) yields better results with the firmer increases (nº 3 and 4) and with nº1, which can be too loose if worked on large needles.
- ❖ It is always useful to work a small sample with a few different options before using them in your project. A total of about 11 sts and about 4 increases of each kind should be enough to see the effect with your yarn and gauge.
- ❖ When you use paired increases near the cast-on edge, remember that they will create a sharp, arrow-like indentation. Near the cast-off edge, they will produce a gentle outward curve. (It shows very clearly on the picture in the next page.)

KEY	CS:	Center stitch
	LN:	Left needle
	RN:	Right needle
	st:	Stitch

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*The numbers follow the direction of the knitting, with the cast-on edge at the bottom.*

**6.** This increase makes small openings on each side of the CS. It is the same as n°5, but without twisting the st. Knit to the st before the CS and knit into the bar between sts without lifting or twisting it. Knit CS and repeat into the next bar between sts.

**5.** This is a simple M1 increase. Knit to the st before the CS and lift the bar between sts onto the left needle with the right loop in front. Knit it through the back so as to twist it. Knit the CS and repeat into the next bar between sts.

**4.** This is a very clean increase but it requires a little more skill. It is worked exactly as n°3, but twisting the CS by knitting it through the back loop. Before you start, you may want to hang a stitch marker from the stitch below the CS to make it easier to find after you have twisted the CS, since this pulls everything tighter together.

**3.** This inc looks very similar to n°2, but it is a lot neater. Knit to the st before CS. With RN lift the st directly below CS and place it on the LN keeping the right loop of the st on the front. Knit the new st and the CS. With LN, lift the same st as before (now two rows below RN) keeping *left* loop on the front. Knit the new st through back loop.

**2.** This is a simple and decorative inc. To make it, simply work the following into the CS: K1, yo, K1. On consecutive rows, make sure to work the sequence into the previous yo. If you are using markers, you will need to drop them and replace them on either side of the yo.

**1.** This is the simplest paired increase and it looks lovely with any lacy pattern. Work to CS, yo, K CS, yo.