

Stitch 10 – Ladder Stitch

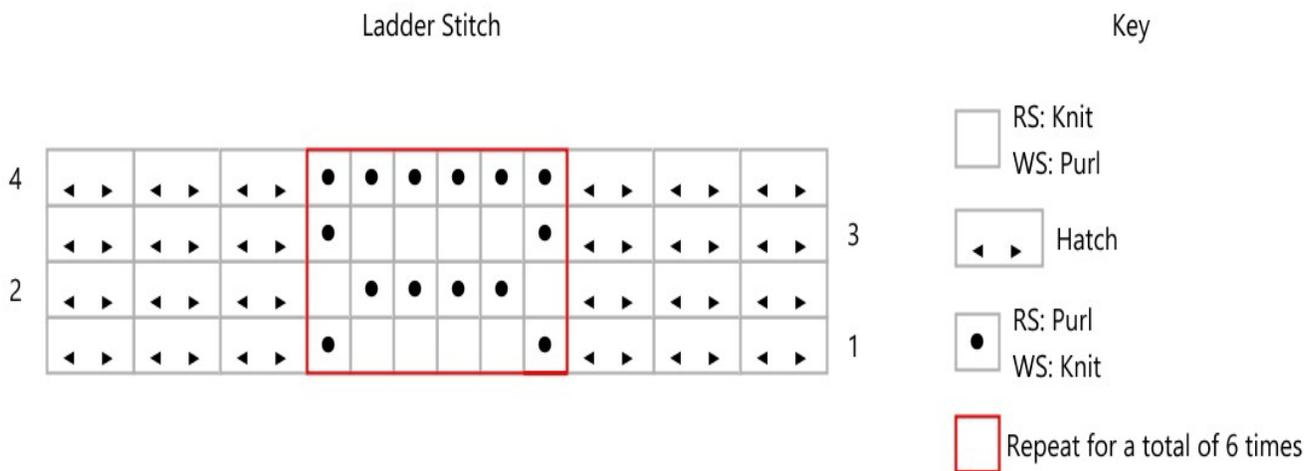
The Ladder Stitch is one of the less well-known stitches from the Aran knitting family of stitches.

Both the Ladder of Life and Tree of Life represent the different stages in life. It is also thought to symbolize the path of a pilgrim and was given a religious or spiritual meaning.

It has some references to health; it is thought to mean good health.

Purl stitches worked to form the poles and rungs of the ladder of life against a plain stitch background. It is often used for a filler stitch alongside cables.

Now days, this unique Irish Aran pattern is often featured as a decorative stitch in Aran home wear designs such as throws and cushions.



Written Instructions:

Row 1: (RS): HS/RS, SM, *P1, k4, p1 repeat from * to the marker, SM, HS/RS.

Row 2: (WS): HS/LS, SM, *K1, p4, K1 repeat from * to marker, SM, HS/LS.

Row 3: Repeat Row 1.

Row 4: HS/LS, SM, purl to marker, SM, HS/LS.

Repeat Rows 1-4 for a total of 3 to 3 ½ inches ending with Row 4.

Knit 6 rows (garter stitch).

Knit 6 rows of seed stitch. Row 1: K1, P1 across and Row 2: P1, K1 across, with Hatch Stitch on Both sides of the scarf.

Bind off all stitches using your favorite bind off stitch. See additional information sheet on optional bind offs.

Stitch 10 – Ladder Stitch Continues

Hatch Stitch Written Directions:

HS/RS is referencing the right-hand side of the scarf facing you. HS/LS is referencing the left-hand side of the scarf.

Row 1 (RS): K1, *Sl1, k1, yo, pass slip st over both the knit and yo sts* repeat 1 time, p1. Place marker and work stitch pattern until last 6 stitches. Place marker, p1 *Sl1, k1, yo, pass slip st over both the knit and the yo sts* repeat 1 time, slip last stitch with yarn in front.

Row 2 (WS) K1, p4, k1, slip marker and work stitch pattern until last 6 stitches and maker. Slip marker, K1, p4, sl 1 with yarn in front.

Finishing Notes:

When blocking, you'll want to turn your scarf over, run your fingers between the 2 – 6 stitch repeats of the Hatch Stitch border to open them up. Turn scarf so that the right side is up lying flat while drying. Pinning the edges of the scarf while drying will hold the edges straight and will help to open up the edge stitches.

Weave in any ends after blocking.

The history and heritage of the Aran Islands woollen garment may have had humble beginnings. As the traditional islanders pass down their skills through the generations, crafting out of raw materials and hard work they have left a legacy that goes on throughout the world and is still very recognized and respected today.

Poem by Mairtin O Direain, Inis Meain (1910-1988)

Their memory lives on in my mind;
White bawneen coats and gleaming shirts,
Blue shirts and grey waistcoats,
Trousers and drawers of homespun tweed
That old and honoured men used to wear
As they went to Mass on Sunday morning
Making the long journey by foot,
When I was young, they turned my thoughts
To purity, freshness, and also to piety.
Their memory lives on in my mind;
Long stately skirts coloured crimson,
Blue skirts that we dyed with indigo,
Heavy shawls down from Galway,
That neat and well-dressed women used to wear
As they went to Mass in the selfsame manner;
And though they're rapidly going out of fashion
Their memory lives on in my mind
And will still live on till I go to the graveyard.