

Hints from Deb

To Slip or Not to Slip?

Many knitters routinely slip the first stitch of every row to get a neater edge on their work. While that is a great idea for a shawl or scarf, it may not work out so well in other places. Recently I met someone who couldn't pick up the number of stitches needed on the edge of her work--turned out she had slipped the first stitch every row, and was left with one half the number of places to pick up.

So, Do Slip when the edge will be your finished edge, but Don't Slip it if you will be picking up stitches or joining the edge, unless directed to do so in the pattern. The heel of a sock comes to mind.

For those who are not familiar with the technique, you simply move one stitch at the start of each row to the right hand needle without working it and then proceed as usual. Be sure to move them all the same way and to keep your yarn from wrapping around the stitch. The slip stitch edge is tighter, and has a nice cabled appearance.