

Susan Rainey's I-Cord Cast On

By Susan Rainey

Lv2knit on Ravelry; Lv2knitmn on Instagram; [The Rainey Sisters Blog](#)

Many blankets, including my own Surrounded Afghan pattern, use a built-in i-cord border to finish the edges. This is usually accomplished by starting with an i-cord cast on. Most methods result in a very enlarged set of stitches (sts). This can be avoided by knitting a length of i-cord and then picking up sts along the i-cord. However, this is cumbersome, and the i-cord rows are difficult to count. The following method eliminates these problems.

Materials Needed:

- Circular needle the size needed for the project, based on gauge swatch, and dpn one size smaller (opt.)
- Waste yarn (smooth, cotton yarn the same size as the working yarn is preferred)
- Crochet hook for doing provisional cast on
- Project yarn
- Clip on marker (opt.)

Click [HERE](#) for full video tutorial (*Susan Rainey's I-Cord Cast On*) showing each step!

Getting Started:

I-cord edging is typically set up as follows: i-cord sts, the main sts in the body of the piece, i-cord sts.

Instructions below are written for **3 st i-cord** along both sides. **See next page for 4-stitch i-cord cast on.**

The cast on starts with a crochet provisional cast on. The number of sts needed equals one set of i-cord sts plus the number of sts needed for Row 1 of the main body of the piece (excluding i-cord sts).

1. Using crochet hook and waste yarn, and crochet method, cast on number of sts equal to one set of i-cord sts plus the number of sts needed to work row 1 of the pattern.
Write down the number of sts to be cast on here: _____
2. Purl across these sts with project yarn.
3. Cont. working with main yarn, using a dpn in right hand if preferred (see NOTE above about size):
Make corner: [k3, slip these sts back to left needle], repeat between [] once more
4. Start i-cord bind off:
[k2, slip 1 st as to knit, k1, pass over (PSSO), slip 3 sts back to left needle]; repeat between [] until last st is bound off. 3 i-cord sts remain. Place these sts on a clip-on marker or short piece of waste yarn. NOTE: SSK can be substituted for slip 1, k1, PSSO.
5. Carefully release provisional cast on chain and place sts on right hand needle. The number of sts will equal the original number of cast-on sts. The final st will be a "funny looking" st that should be placed last on the needle. Slide sts to other end of the needle – where working yarn is located.
6. Return original i-cord sts to beginning of row. St count now equals original count plus 3.
7. Make corner: [k3, slip these sts back to left needle], repeat between [] once more
8. Work Row 1 of pattern, including beginning 1-cord edge, across row to **last 3 sts**. Set up i-cord edge sts as described in pattern:
 - a. If **both** i-cord edges are knit on RS rows, knit the last 3 sts. Turn work and continue Row 2 per instructions.
 - b. If i-cord edges are knit at the beg of the row and slipped at the end of the row on **both RS and WS rows**, bring yarn forward, place rem 3 sts on dpn, rotate clockwise 180° and place sts on righthand needle. Turn work and continue Row 2 per instructions.

The following instructions are for **4-stitch i-cord**:

Getting Started:

I-cord edging is typically set up as follows: i-cord sts, the main sts in the body of the piece, i-cord sts. Instructions below are written for 4 st i-cord along both sides.

The cast on starts with a crochet provisional cast on. The number of sts needed equals one set of i-cord sts plus the number of sts needed for Row 1 of the main body of the piece (excluding i-cord sts).

1. Using crochet hook and waste yarn, and crochet method, cast on number of sts equal to one set of i-cord sts plus the number of sts needed to work row 1 of the pattern.

Write down the number of sts to be cast on here: _____

2. Purl across these sts with project yarn.
3. Cont. working with main yarn, using a dpn in right hand if preferred (see NOTE above about size):
Make corner: [k4, slip these sts back to left needle], repeat between [] once more
4. Start i-cord bind off:
[k3, slip 1 st as to knit, k1, pass over (PSSO), slip 4 sts back to left needle]; repeat between [] until last st is bound off. 4 i-cord sts remain. Place these sts on a clip-on marker or short piece of waste yarn.
NOTE: SSK can be substituted for slip 1, k1, PSSO.
5. Carefully release provisional cast on chain and place sts on right hand needle. The number of sts will equal the original number of cast-on sts (162). The final st will be a “funny looking” st that should be placed last on the needle. Slide sts to other end of the needle – where working yarn is located.
6. Return original i-cord sts to beginning of row. St count now equals original count plus 4 _____.
7. Make corner: [k4, slip these sts back to left needle], repeat between [] once more
8. Work Row 1 of pattern, including beginning 1-cord edge, across row to **last 4 sts**.
 - a. If **both** i-cord edges are knit on RS rows, knit the last 4 sts. Turn work and continue Row 2 per instructions.
 - b. If i-cord edges are knit at the beg of the row and slipped at the end of the row on **both RS and WS rows**, bring yarn forward, place rem 4 sts on dpn, rotate clockwise 180° and place sts on righthand needle. Turn work and continue Row 2 per instructions.