

Those lovely bobbles or “nupps” in Estonian lace knitting can be daunting to work if you’ve never done them before. Here I’ll show you how it’s done. These instructions show how to create a nupp with seven stitches, but depending on the yarn choice and pattern directions, it could be more or fewer stitches.

The steps below correspond to the photographs on page 2.

Step 1: To begin a nupp, insert your needle into the stitch as if to knit. Pull the stitch through but do not slide it off the needle. Notice how loose the stitch is (this is crucial!).

Step 2: Now work a yarnover on the same needle. Again, it is *very loose*. Insert the needle into the stitch again and pull another loop through, but do not slide it off the needle. Work another yarnover.

Step 3: Repeat this process another time (stitch and yarnover), then work one last stitch without the yarnover and slide them all off the needle. You should have created seven extra stitches from one stitch. It is extremely important to keep these stitches as loose as possible.

Step 4: Continue knitting the row in pattern. Step 4 shows the nupp on the needle after you have knit a few more stitches in the row. On the return row you will purl through all seven stitches, and if they are too tight on the needle, it will be difficult to accomplish!

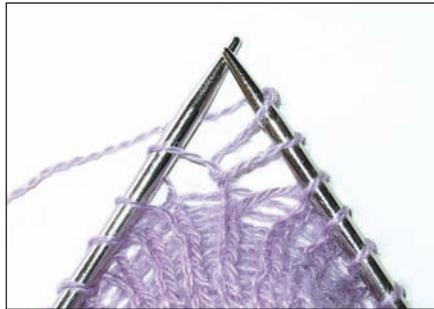
Step 5: To purl through the stitches on the return row, insert the needle purlwise through all seven stitches. If your loops are loose enough, you should be able to count each thread as you place it on the needle, making sure you have only the seven stitches of the nupp, and not an extra stitch or yarnover beside it. Also, make sure the needle is inserted through the stitch loops and that you haven’t missed any, as these will unravel.

Step 6: As you finish each nupp, double-check it to make sure it is secure and that no loops have been missed.

Step 7: If your nupp is loose enough, it will make a nice, puffy little bobble. You’ll find that as you gain experience knitting nupps, they will become much easier and faster to do. If you do happen to miss a strand and only notice it later on, simply tie it in.



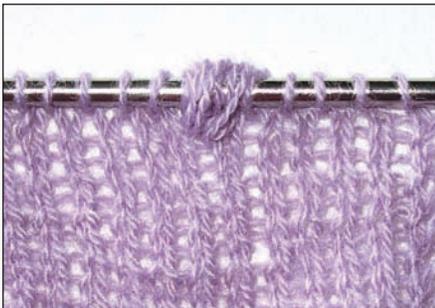
Step 1: Insert your needle as if to knit a stitch. Pull the stitch through but do not slide it off the needle.



Step 2: Work a yarnover on the same needle. Notice how loose the stitches are.



Step 3: Repeat the stitch and yarnover 2 more times, then work 1 last stitch without the yarnover and slide them all off the needle. There will be 7 extra stitches.



Step 4: Seven new loose stitches.



Step 5: Purl through all 7 stitches on the return row. Count each thread as you place it on the needle to make sure you have only the 7 stitches of the nupps.



Step 6: As you finish each nupp, double-check it to make sure it is secure and that no loops have been missed.



Step 7: The finished nupp, a nice, puffy little bobble.