The Lk2tog

A left leaning decrease that looks exactly like a k2tog

Most left leaning decreases I have tried out are looking much more sloppy and loose than their counterpart: the right leaning k2tog.

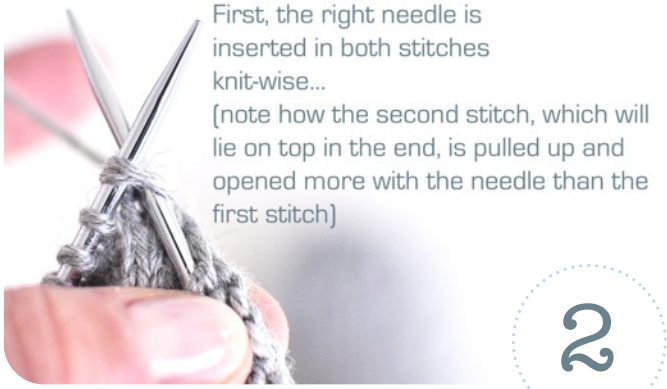
That's why I tried to study and reverse the exact movement of working the k2tog, so as to get a left leaning decrease that looks exactly the same and lies flat without any bulky loops but with a neat finish.

This is how the Lk2tog was born (although I am sure that

1

Let's look at the traditional right leaning k2tog again...

... we want to decrease the next 2 sts...



First, the right needle is inserted in both stitches knit-wise...
(note how the second stitch, which will lie on top in the end, is pulled up and opened more with the needle than the first stitch)

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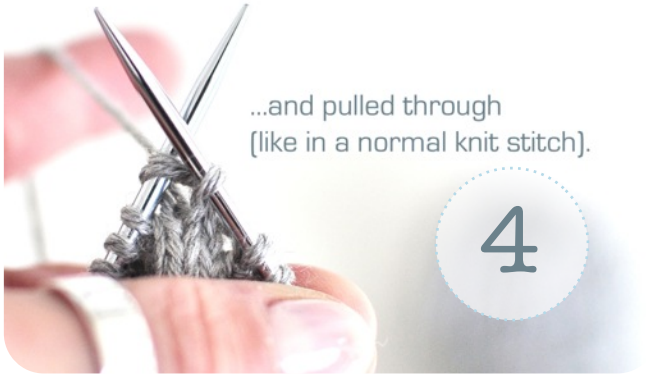
... the yarn is fetched from behind...



...and pulled through (like in a normal knit stitch).

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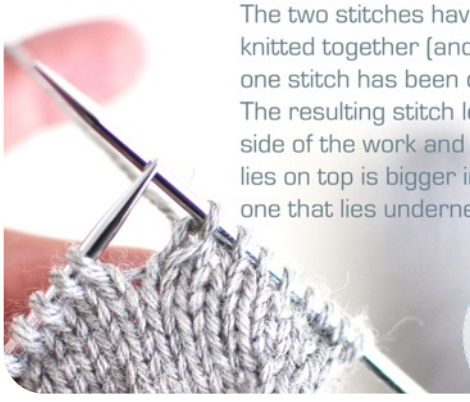

The two stitches have just been knitted together (and therefore one stitch has been decreased).
The resulting stitch leans to the right side of the work and the stitch that lies on top is bigger in size than the one that lies underneath).

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Now we will try to reproduce the exact same thing in a way that makes the resulting stitch lean to the other direction but still look the same...

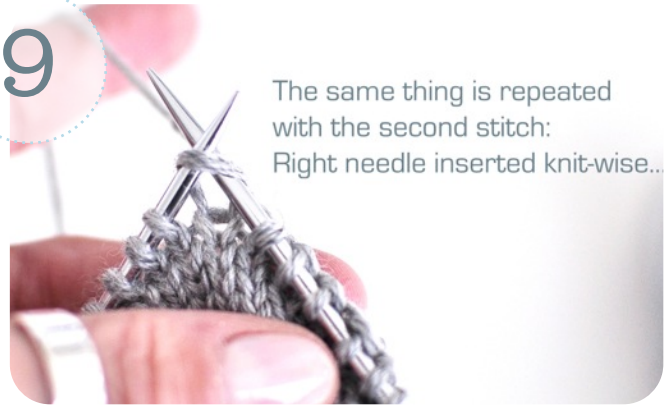
... again the next 2 sts will be decreased.

First the right needle is inserted knit wise into the next stitch...

7

...but it is NOT knitted, only slipped onto the right needle!

8



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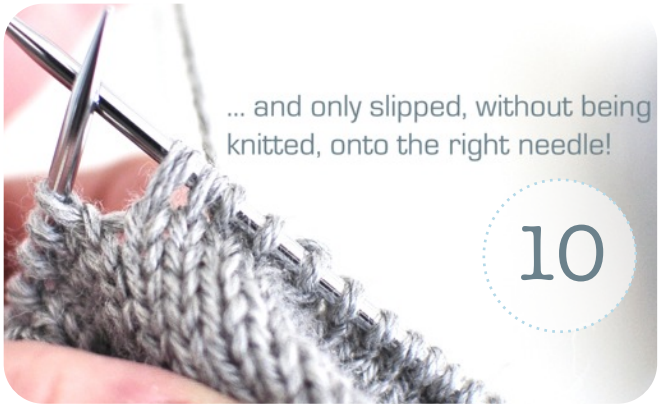
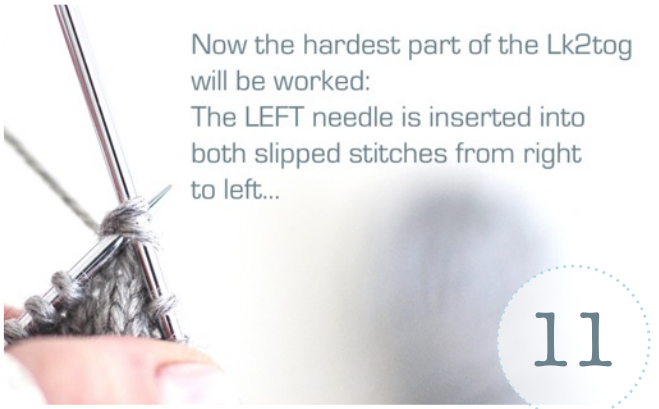
The same thing is repeated with the second stitch:
Right needle inserted knit-wise...



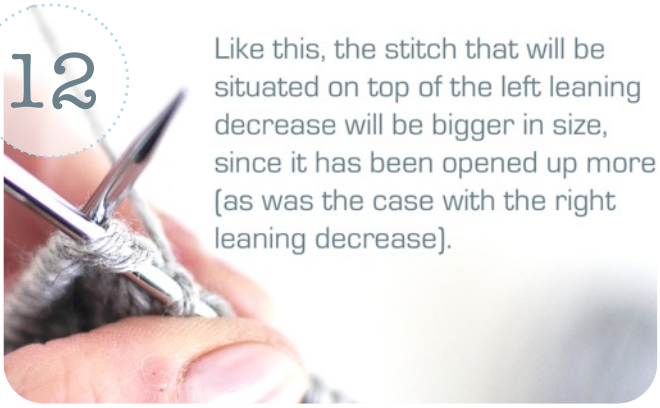
... and only slipped, without being knitted, onto the right needle!

10



Now the hardest part of the Lk2tog will be worked:
The LEFT needle is inserted into both slipped stitches from right to left...

11



12

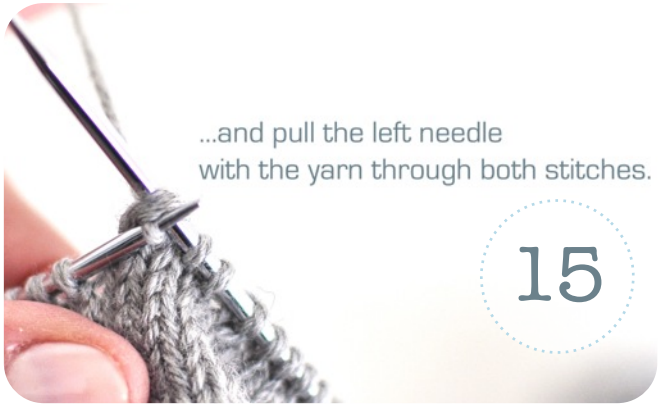
Like this, the stitch that will be situated on top of the left leaning decrease will be bigger in size, since it has been opened up more (as was the case with the right leaning decrease).

Bring the yarn to the front of the left needle, like shown in the picture...

13

14

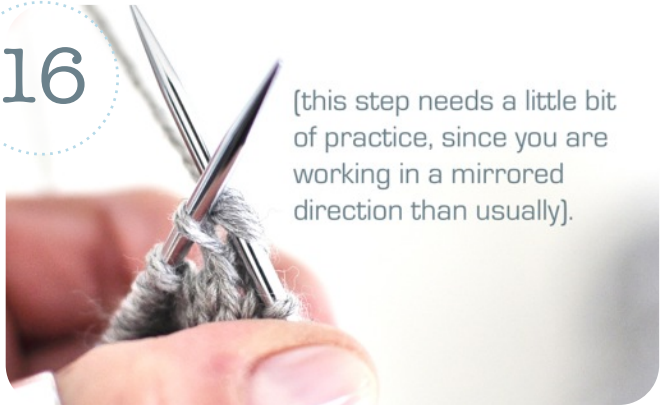
(try to keep the yarn tightly tensioned)



...and pull the left needle with the yarn through both stitches.

15

16



(this step needs a little bit of practice, since you are working in a mirrored direction than usually).

After pulling the right needle out of the stitch, the LK2tog is still on your left needle.

17

18

Insert the right needle purlwise into this new stitch...

19

...and slip it back onto the right needle, where it belongs. (You can tighten the stitch up at this point if it is a little bit loose)

The result is a nice & neat left leaning increase, that lies flat and looks just like it's fraternal twin: the k2tog

20

In this sample a whole line of decreases are worked on every RS row and you can see how similar the Left leaning Lk2tog and the right leaning k2tog look.

mirrored & left leaning k2tog (Lk2tog)

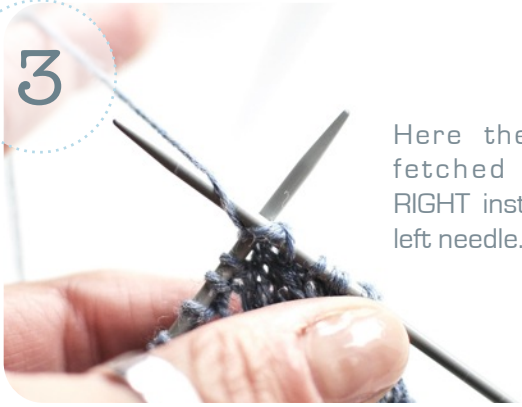
traditional, right leaning k2tog.

21

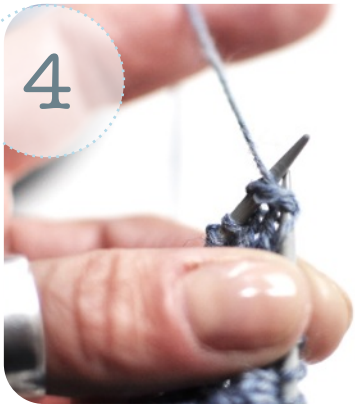
...And here is a quicker version for the Lk2tog:

After the 2 sts have been slipped knitwise from the left to the right needle and the left needle has been inserted into these 2 sts (following the same movement from right to left) as described in Steps 7-11 on page 2)

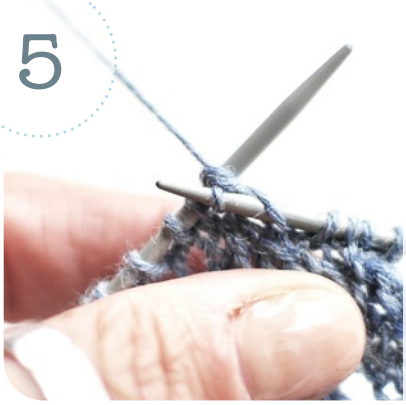
... the yarn is positioned in front of the left needle (as in Step 13 on page2).



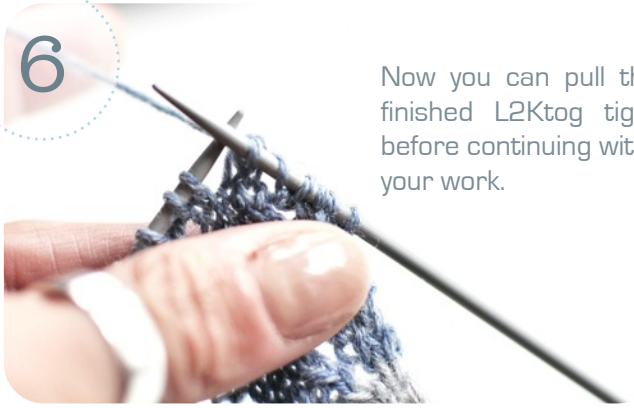
Here the yarn is fetched with the RIGHT instead of the left needle...



...and passed through both stitches (try not to open up the stitches too much when passing the right needle through them).



In this Variation the new stitch is knitted directly out of the 2 slipped stitches onto the right needle (so you don't need to pass it from the left to the right needle later on).



Now you can pull the finished L2Ktog tight before continuing with your work.

With a little bit of practice the LK2tog can now be worked quicker (by eliminating steps 15-19)...

...but with the same neat results!