German Short-Rows
Quick, Easy and almost invisible Short-Row Method

Short-rows allow you to produce a 3D shaping in knitted fabric (for shoulder shaping or the heel of a sock for example). One can also make a rounded, wider part in one division of a project for decorative purposes, usually by using contrasted yarn for different sections.

The technique presented in this tutorial (called "Verkürzte Reihen" in German) is a very quick and simple method to work short-rows.

1. Turn work to the WS...
2. On a knit row: Work to the instructed stitch of the pattern.
3. Slip the next stitch purlwise with the yarn in front...
4. ...and start pulling the yarn over the top of stitch and needle towards the back.
5. The stitch will start to look distorted while the yarn is pulled to the back, creating two loops out of the same stitch.
6. In this way a "double-stitch" (ds) has been made out of the slipped stitch.
7. While keeping a tight tension, pass the yarn between the needles to the front of the work again.
   Keep the yarn taut when purling the next stitch, so that the ds remains firm & neat.
8. Continue working with a tighter tension for the next 1 to 2 purled stitches, then work to the next instructed stitch as usual.
Bring the yarn to the front, in between the needles...

...and slip the stitch purlwise, with the yarn still in front.

Pull the yarn over the needle to the back, to create a ds out of the slipped stitch as before.

...and knit the next stitch as usual. (Since the yarn stays on the back when knitting the next stitch, these double-stitches are usually tighter than the ones worked on the WS).

Continue knitting until the instructed sts before the ds (in this sample I worked until 2 sts before the ds). Then work steps 1-8 again.

And just turn your work to the RS this time.

Again there are 2 sts before the ds in this picture, this time seen from the WS of the work. Continue with steps 10-15.

When you want to work the double-stitches on a RS, knit to the ds as instructed.

Continue working back and forth in this fashion until all the short-rows are finished.
In this close-up of the worked double-stitch you can see that it almost looks like a normal knit stitch.

Continue working the ds for the remaining RS row in the same manner...

Following the same principle as before, work both loops of the ds by purling them together.

On the RS this technique produces nearly invisible, neat short-row sections.

The two loops should be treated as a single stitch: Insert the needle knitwise carefully into the double-stitch...

...and knit both loops together (like in a k2tog).

Turn work to the WS and purl to the next double-stitch.

Work all the WS and purl the ds as one stitch, when you come to them.

While still visible on the WS, the turning points of these short-rows remain quite small and discreet.