Short Rows
Wrap & Turn Short Rows

There are several ways to do short rows and I've probably tried most of them. The one that I prefer has changed over the years. For the past several though, I've been a wrap and turn girl. Why? It just seems to be the simplest method for me and never produces a hole.

If you have a different preferred method by all means continue using it! If it looks good and it works for you then that's all you need.

WRAP & TURN ON A KNIT ROW

If your pattern says “knit 10, w&t” you would knit 10 sts and then perform the w&t on the 11th stitch as follows:

Step 1: Slip the next stitch purlwise.

Step 2: Bring the working yarn to the front.

Step 3: Return the slipped stitch to the left needle.
You've now wrapped your stitch (in our example it is stitch number 11) and the working yarn is in the correct place for you to begin working the next row.

**WRAP & TURN ON A PURL ROW**

If your pattern says “purl 10, w&t” you would purl 10 sts and then perform the w&t on the 11th stitch as follows:

*Step 1: Slip the next stitch purlwise.*

*Step 2: Bring the working yarn to the back.*
Step 3: Return the slipped stitch to the left needle.

Step 4: Turn your work.

You’ve now wrapped your stitch (in our example it is stitch number 11) and the working yarn is in the correct place for you to begin knitting the next row.

**IMPORTANT:** You DO NOT pick up wraps if you’re working in garter stitch.

**PICKING UP A WRAP ON A KNIT ROW**

Knit until you’ve reached the stitch that has been wrapped. The wrapped stitch will be unworked and on the left needle. Take your right needle and put the tip underneath the wrap and then through the knit stitch in the same way you always insert a needle when doing a knit stitch.
Pull the yarn through to make a stitch. Note that this may take a little finessing to get it working.

Slip the stitch off the left needle. Wrap has been picked up and worked—you’re done!

PICKING UP A WRAP ON A PURL ROW

Purl until you’ve reached the stitch that has been wrapped. The wrapped stitch will be unworked and on the left needle.

Take your right needle and put it underneath the wrap. Lift the wrap and place it on the left needle.
Purl both the wrap and the stitch it was wrapping as one—just as you would do a p2tog. Slip both the stitch and the wrap off the left needle. Wrap has been picked up and worked—you’re done!
Japanese Short Rows and the Catch Method

One of the things I really like about knitting is that there is next to never, only one way of performing a technique. Take short rows for example, ask several different knitters and you will find several different ways of adding fabric to your work without adding overall length. (Particularly useful if you want to add more ease in the front of a pullover or are working fitted sleeves, top down having picked up sts around the armhole.) Today we will look at Japanese Short Rows and the Catch Method.

MATERIALS

Two hands
Some Knitting
Removable Stitch Markers for Japanese

SHORT ROWS: THE JAPANESE METHOD

Step 1 (RS): Work in pattern to the st specified in your pattern (for my swatch I worked to 5 sts from the end).

Step 2: Turn your work.
Step 3: Place a removable stitch marker on your working yarn before working the next st.

Keep performing Steps 1 – 3 until you have completed your short row section.

CLOSING THE GAP
Step 1: Work to the st before the turning yarn marker and sl that st. (Shown on wrong side so marker is visible.)

Step 2: Pull up on the marker and place the yarn on the LH needle, remove marker, replace turning st on LH needle and work together with the turning yarn. (SSK on RS, P2tog on WS)

Repeat Steps 1-2 until all gaps have been closed.

SHORT ROWS: THE CATCH METHOD

This method starts the same way as the Japanese method of creating short rows (above), but does not use a marker.

Step 1: Work up to and including your turning stitch. Turn your work.
If a knit side is facing you, slip the turning stitch with the yarn in the back of your work.

If a purl side is facing you, slip the turning stitch with the yarn in front of your work.

**CLOSING THE GAP**

Work to turning stitch,
pick up the strand of yarn below the slipped stitch (like a lifted increase
http://knotions.com/techniques/how-to-knit-lifted-increases/)
and work it together with the turning stitch.
German Short Rows

This is another great method for adding short rows to your project. Many knitters prefer this method.

Note that when using this method, you will work up to and including the turning st. In the w&t method, you're technically working to one st before the turning st. There are no wraps to pick up, instead we will create and then reduce doubled sts.

MATERIALS

Two hands and some knitting.

STEPS FOR THE DOUBLE STITCH

**Step 1 (RS):** Work in pattern to the st specified in your pattern (*for my swatch I worked to 4 sts from the end*).

**Step 2:** Turn your work so the WS is facing you.
Step 3: Sl the turning st from the left needle to the right needle p-wise, with your yarn in front.

Step 4: Pull the yarn to the back of the work OVER TOP of the right needle - in this example you're bringing the yarn to the RS. (This will distort the st, making it look as if there are 2 sts instead of 1.)
Step 5: Bring the yarn to the front (the WS in this case) BETWEEN the needles to begin purling. (This st is now “doubled” it has two loops of yarn, the actual st and the yarn you placed over the top of the needle.)

Step 6 (WS): Keeping a slightly tighter tension than usual for the first few sts work to the next turning st specified in your pattern (again I worked to 4 sts from the end).

Step 7: Turn the work so the RS is facing you.

Step 8: Bring the yarn to the front BETWEEN the needles.

Step 9: Sl the turning st from the left needle to the right needle p-wise with the yarn in front.

Step 10: Pull the yarn to the back of the work OVER top of the right needle. This will distort the st making it look as if there are 2 sts instead of one.
Keep performing Steps 1 – 10 until you have completed your short row section.

**STEPS FOR REDUCING THE DOUBLE STITCH**

**Step 1 (RS):** Work to the doubled st.

**Step 2:** K both strands of the doubled st together (like a k2tog).

**Step 3 (WS):** Work to the doubled st.
**German Short Row Decrease Step 3**

**Step 4:** P both strands of the doubled st together (like a p2tog).

Repeat Steps 1-4 until all doubled sts have been used.
Yarn Over Short Rows

Another way of working short rows in a pattern that calls for them is the Yarn Over Short Row (or YO short row). It can be substituted anywhere the w&t method is used, just “turn, yo” instead of “wrap and turn”. Read below for step-by-step pictures of how to do it.

MATERIALS

- Your knitting
- Two hands

DIRECTIONS

**Step 1: (RS)** Work the required number of stitches to the turning point,

**Step 2:** Turn the work and make a yarn over.
Step 3: Work to the next turning point.

Step 4: Turn work, yarn over before proceeding to knit.
You should be able to see a yarn over and a gap at each short row turning point.

CLOSE THE GAP

When you're done creating the short rows above, close the gap by using a k2tog or p2togtbl when you get to each gap.

RS: Work to the YO. Knit the yarn over with the turning point stitch to its left as a k2tog
**WS:** Work to the YO. Sl the yarn over and the turning point stitch separately as if to knit, slide those two sts back onto the LH needle and purl together through the back loops. (This keeps the yarn over on the back side of your work.)
Shadow Wrap Short Rows

Expand your knitting with yet another method of working short rows with the Shadow Wrap Method. It's another way to work short rows without a wrap and turn.

Even if you love one particular method, it's good to know other options because sometimes one method looks better in a yarn than another.

MATERIALS

Some knitting
Two hands

RIGHT SIDE

Step 1: Knit to where you want to turn your short row.

Step 2: Work a lifted increase [http://knotions.com/techniques/how-to-knit-lifted-increases/](http://knotions.com/techniques/how-to-knit-lifted-increases/) by lifting the stitch one row below the next stitch and placing it on the left hand needle and knitting it.

Step 3: Place that stitch back on the left hand needle and turn you work.
WRONG SIDE

Step 1: Purl to where you want to turn your short row.

Step 2: Slip the next stitch from the left needle to the right and insert the left needle up through the purl stitch to make a purl but do not drop the original stitch.

Step 3: Slide both those stitches together back to the left needle.
Step 4: Turn your work and proceed.

See the twinned stitches?

Close the gap using the instructions below.

CLOSING THE GAP

When you come back to those twinned stitches either knit or purl them together.
Short Rows in Garter Stitch

Garter stitch behaves differently than stockinette stitch. Both are beautiful; you just need to know how to treat them.

We’ve talked about lots of different ways of performing short rows in your knitting. In each tutorial we showed how the method worked in stockinette stitch, but with the popularity of garter stitch shawls and scarves, how do they work in garter stitch?

We swatched them all, so you don’t have to, and here is how they stacked up!

A: German Short Rows.
B: Japanese Short Rows.
C: The Yarn Over Method
D: The Catch Method
E: Shadow Wraps
F: Wrap and Turn (note, we did not pick up the wraps!)

http://knotions.com