



# EMBELLISHED CABLES

a class with joji locatelli

## EMBELLISHING CABLES

Join us for a hands-on workshop on embellishing knitted cables. This class will explore various techniques to enhance cable designs and add creative elements to your knitting.

To join this workshop, it is best if you understand the basic cabling techniques, although it is not strictly necessary.

Get ready to take your cables to the next level!

### **Goals of this workshop**

- Understanding different methods of cable embellishments.
- Exploring various stitch patterns to enhance cable designs without affecting your existing work.
- Learning how to incorporate simple embroidery into cables.

## I - C O R D   W E A V I N G

This is a fantastic and fun way to embellish and enhance the appearance of your cables. It adds an extra layer of texture and interest to your knitted fabric, making your designs look intricate without too much extra work.

We are going to use the i-cord in the same manner as you would use a ribbon or a shoe lace. This i-cord can be in the same yarn as your cables, or you can use a different color or yarn weight to add some contrast.

### **I-cord instructions**

Cast on a small number of stitches, around 3 to 6.

If you are using double pointed needles: Knit all the stitches. Switch needles in your hands, so the needle with the stitches is in your left hand again. Slide the stitches to the other end of the needle and pulling the yarn across the back of the stitches knit the row again. Continue this way, sliding and knitting, until the cord is the length you wish.

If you are using circular needles: Knit all the stitches. Slip them back to the left needle and pulling the yarn across the back of the stitches knit the row again. Continue this way, slipping and knitting, until the cord is the length you wish.

Give the cord a tug to make the little carry across the back disappear.

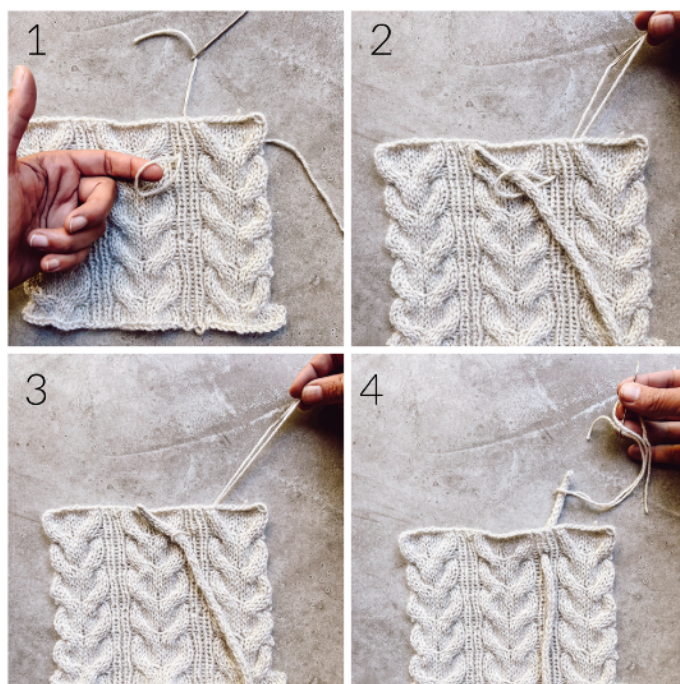
### Weaving in the i-cord

You can use your fingers or a very big crochet loop to weave the i-cord across your cables.

When you knit cables, you normally use a cable needle to put sts on hold (on the front or back of your work) while you work the next sts, and then you place them back onto your left needle to knit them. While doing this, a little space is created between both groups of sts, and you can use this space to thread your i-cord.

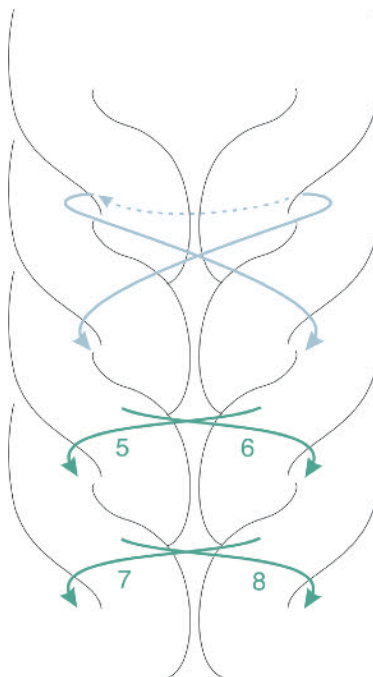
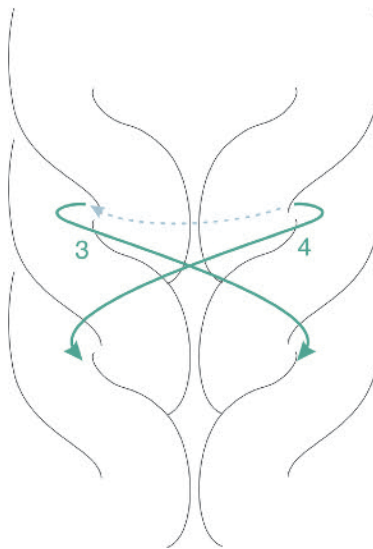
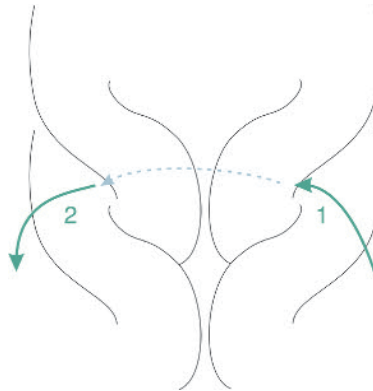


You can also thread a the i-cord through a regular column of stitches by using a length of yarn and a darning needle, like shown in the photos below:



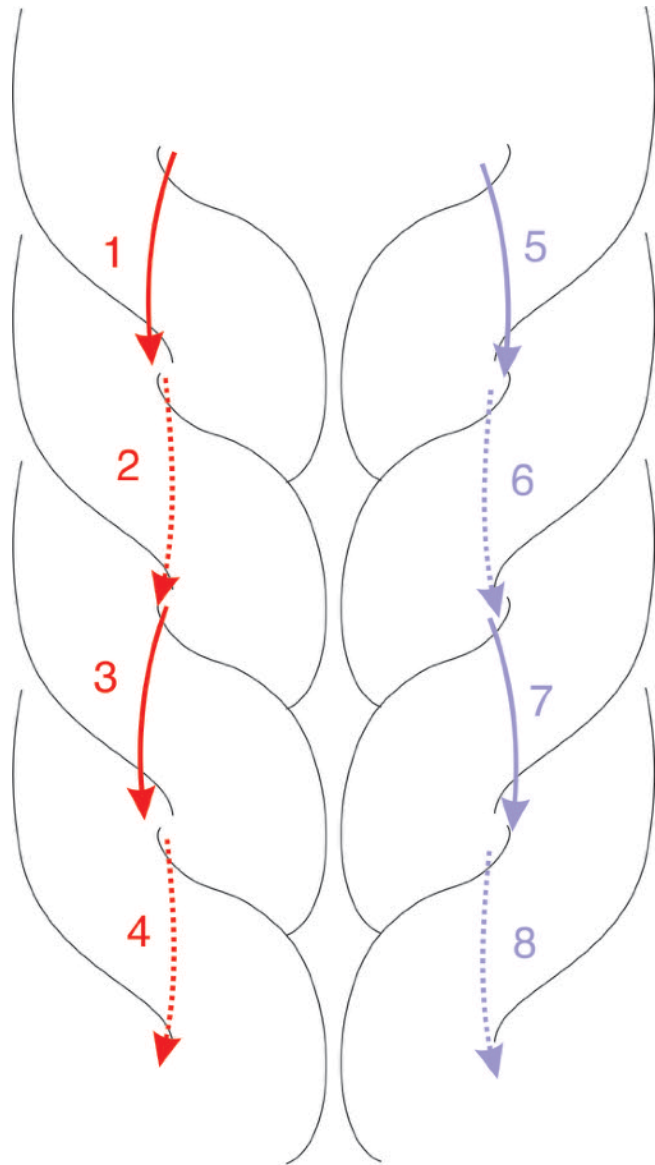
## SOME IDEAS FOR I-CORD WEAVING

### *Double Crossing*



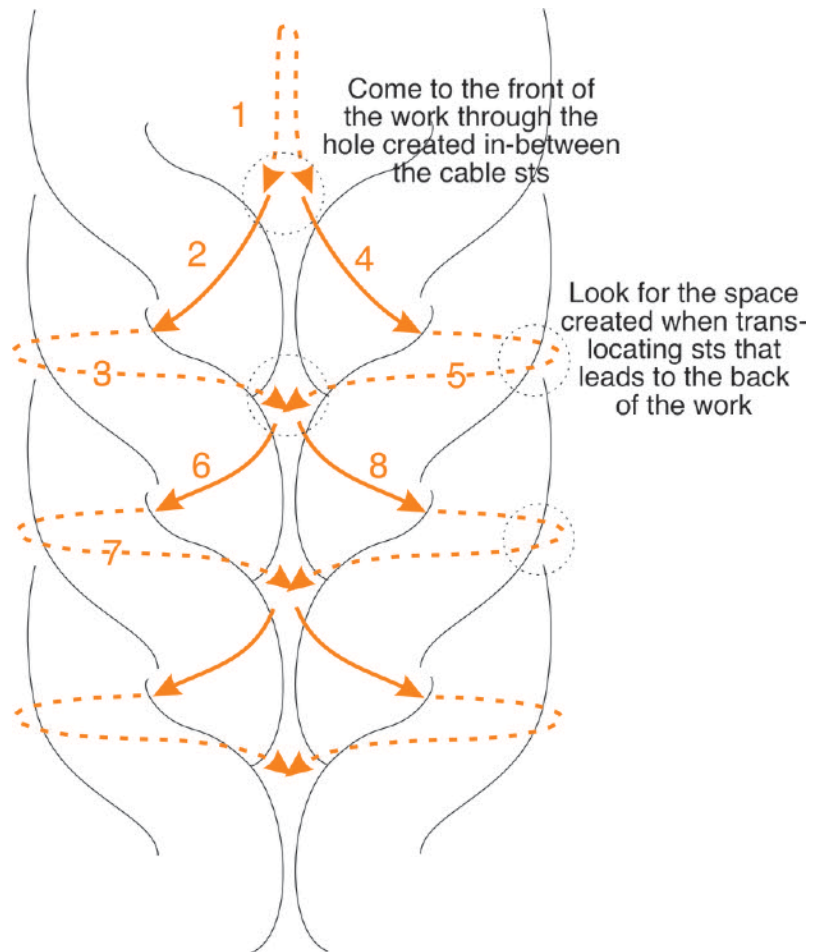
***In and Out***

It can be done with 2 separate i-cords or just one, folded in half. You'll need to use a darning needle to thread the i-cords this way.



## Arrowhead

Start by folding the i-cord in half and secure it to the centre back of the cable.



*I-cord weaving in RTW fashion*



## S I M P L E   E M B R O I D E R Y

The goal of this workshop is not to teach you a whole new craft... And I am afraid I would do a terrible job at teaching you anything like fancy embroidery techniques. But I want to show you how using a darning needle and a bit of scrap yarn you can completely change the look of your cables.

### ***Wrapping the cables***

You can use any kind of yarn for this technique. I've seen it used by so many designers, and it is such a simple way of personalizing or up-cycling your existing cabled sweaters.

To start, thread one or more threads of yarn onto a darning needle. I like to secure the yarn with a knot to the back of my knitting at first. If I want to, once I finish embroidering I can undo this knot and weave in the end more neatly.

Then simply choose one of the 'legs' of the cable and start wrapping this leg with yarn.

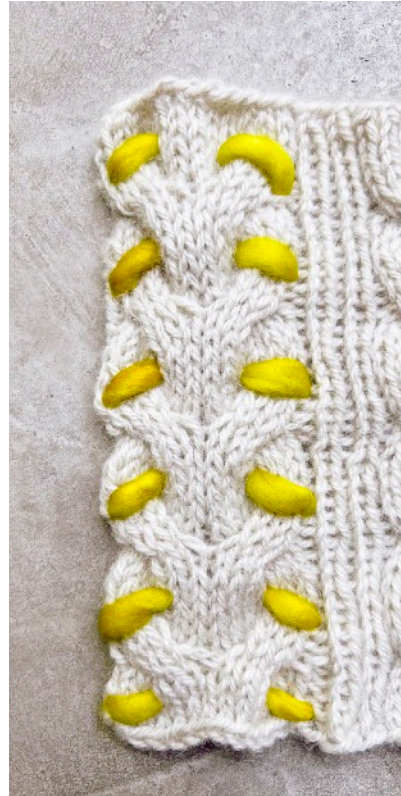
The possibilities are endless!

### *2 legs wrapped, 2 legs naked*

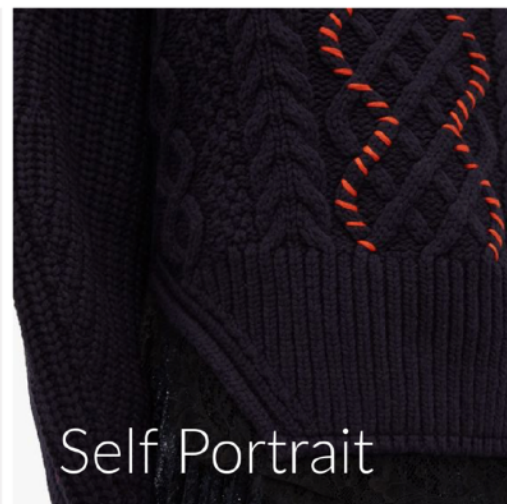
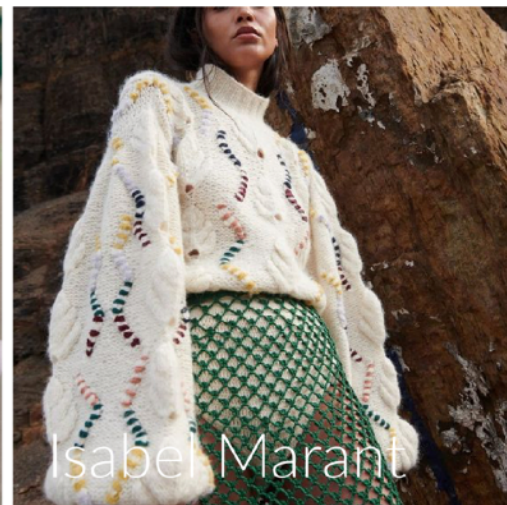
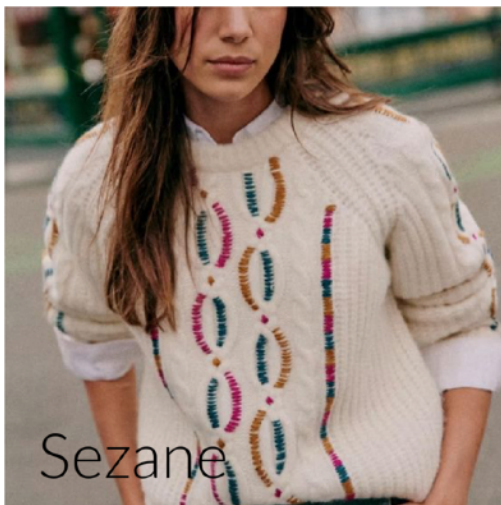
Made using 2 strands of fingering weight yarn in a contrasting colors. Choose 2 symmetrical groups of 3 sts and wrap the working yarn around this group, coming in and out of every other row, following the flow of the cable.



You can also use superbulky yarn to embroider, or as a replacement to the i-cords in the techniques we saw previously.



### ***Wrapped Cables in RTW Fashion***



### ***Duplicate Stitch***

This technique is a knitting technique that allows you to cover a stockinette stitch while making it look like the new stitches are part of the knitting. It's often used for adding details and colorwork patterns to a project.

To embellish cables, I prefer to use it in very minimal ways, and always following the curve of the cables.

In this example, instead of trying to make a solid line of embroidered stitches, I embroidered 1 out of every 2 sts, always leaving an original stitch in-between the embroidered ones.

Here's a step by step tutorial:



- 1) I prefer to duplicate stitch with my work upside-down. First of all identify the column of stitches where you'd like to place the embroidery. Now bring the yarn from back to front through the center of a stitch.
- 2) insert the needle front front to back and pull it behind the stitch that is 2 sts below the one I came out through.
- 3) Pull the yarn all the way without tugging. You will see that one leg of the stitch just formed.
- 4) Now insert the needle through the spot where you originally came out from on step 1 (front front to back) and bring the needle out 2 sts below this point.

Repeat these steps and you'll soon see your chain of stitches forming. Make sure you always follow the same column of stitches. At one point, these stitches will cross behind some other stitches from the cable. Don't worry embroidering them! Just resume your work after the cable crossing.

Look how stunning cables can look with minimal effort!



## S I M P L E F L O W E R S

There are thousands of complex designs and techniques to embroider flowers. More complex designs require a plain fabric to really show, so I find that the ones that work best with knitted cables are the simpler ones.

When embroidering flowers, it is recommended that you use a thread that has a similar thickness as the one you used for your project.



- 1) Insert your needle through the stitch you chose to be the center of the flower. Pull the yarn through, leaving several inches on the back side.
- 2) Insert the needle back through the same hole and then, with your needle, come back up through to the front side, 2-3 stitches above where your needle is inserted.
- 3) Pull your yarn through until only a small loop is left. Insert your needle through the loop.
- 4) Pull your yarn until the loop lays flat on the knitted fabric. Don't pull too hard, or the stitches will stretch and your fabric will distort. Insert your needle through the hole that your yarn is coming out of and pull the yarn through, wrapping the top of the loop.
- 5) Bring the needle to the front again through the same spot as you did for step 1.

Repeat steps 2-5, but with your stitch going in the opposite direction (to make the bottom petal) and then start making the rest of the diagonal petals. The little flower in the photo has 6 petals.

## CONCLUSION

I hope that together we have explored new possibilities for a technique that we all love: cables. There is a lot of fun to be had with knitting, and I love stepping out of the box with these ideas!

I am starting to use some of these ideas in my designs, and last year I published a pattern called Tii (you can see it on the cover of this handout), that uses an i-cord to join 2 pieces of fabric via their cables.

I'd like to offer you this pattern as my gift! You can use code EMBELLISHINGCABLES at checkout on Ravelry to get your free copy.

***And here are some more cool ideas for us to study together.***

