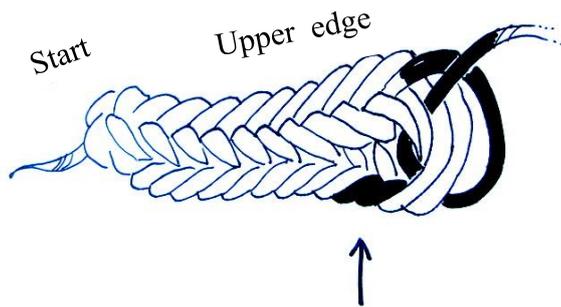


Nalbinding

How to pivot – mitten top

In Finland the top of the nalbound mittens has traditionally been square shaped. You will get square shaped mitten top when you start at the top, and make first a chain of stitches almost as wide as the finished mitten will be, and then increase at the mitten sides only a few times. To get more rounded mitten top, make the chain of stitches a bit shorter, and increase more often at the mitten sides.

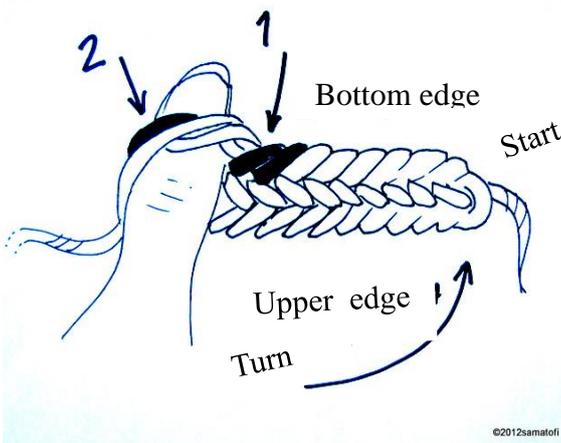
This pdf shows how to pivot using Finnish Stitch 2+2, but the principle is the same for other stitches, too.



1. Nalbinding proceeds from left to right, and the new stitches accrue on the left hand side.

When starting to pivot, the connection stitches are picked up at the bottom edge of the chain of stitches. (see arrow)

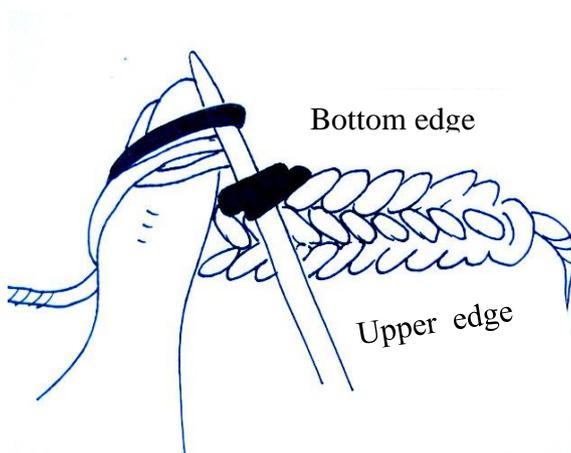
At the pivot first two new stitches are connected to the loops pointed by the arrow.



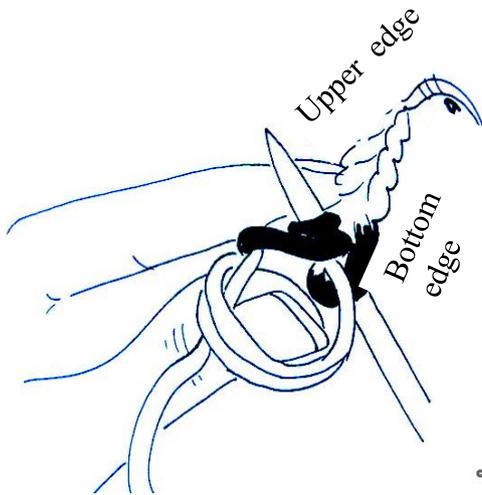
2. Turn the beginning of the chain of stitches to the right so that the upper edge of the chain will be at the underside, and the bottom edge at the upside.

1 – Pick up onto the needle two edge loops (marked black)

2 – Pick up onto the needle also the oldest/topmost thumb loop.



3. There are two edge loops (from the original bottom edge) and the oldest/topmost thumb loop on the needle.

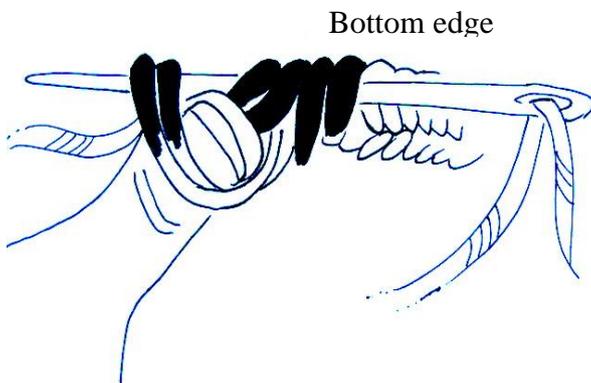


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4. Next, pick up one small loop behind the thumb (the topmost of the loops marked black).

NOTE. This step of pivoting is the most challenging one. Next stitch is already easier!

Picking up the small loop behind the thumb may be easier at this point, if you temporarily drop off the two loops that are around your thumb. Then find the small loop behind the thumb onto the needle, and finally lift the two thumb loops back onto the thumb.



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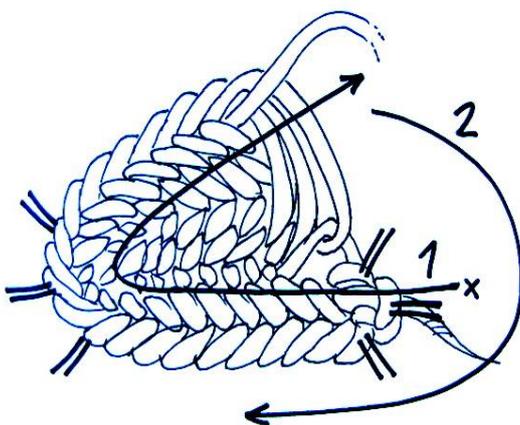
5. There are now on the needle:

- two edge loops
- oldest/topmost thumb loop
- one small loop behind the thumb

... and the needle in position ready to finish the stitch, ie the needle has been pushed under two thumb loops and under needle yarn.

When pivoting, make the first two stitches into the same edge loops (use the same edge loops twice).

After that do the connection stitches as usual (pick up the edge loops as usual).



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X = Starting point

In this picture, the original upper edge of the chain of stitches is at the bottom.

At pivoting point (bend of arrow #1) no increases are made yet, but when you turn around the starting point (bend of arrow #2), increase 1 to 3 stitches (places marked //)

From now on the work proceeds in spiral.

Increase at the mitten sides/edges 1 to 3 stitches until the mitten top (or sock top) is wide enough. After that try the mitten (sock) on after every couple of rows, and if necessary, increase 1 to 2 stitches at sides/edges.

Note. If your first chain of stitches was shorter, increase more often at the mitten sides/edges, maybe 5 stitches per side..