Knit I-Cord Two Ways with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
I-Cord
(upbeat synth music) - Hi everybody, it's Faith from Creativebug coming at you live like we do every Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, but also six months out of the year it's just called Pacific Time, no Standard. We're live, so if you know why, please write in and explain this to me. I'm particularly excited today because we're working on one of the simplest knitting techniques in tribute to one of the trickiest knitting techniques. We just released our second class in Marly Bird's three class series, Entrelac Knitting. Now, entrelac knitting is a really beautiful technique that looks like interwoven fabric, and I should admit, I had been knitting for over 20 years before I tried it, because I was too daunted. And Marly was in the studio, and she sat down, and she explained everything to me and made it crystal clear, not at all complicated, and still very intricate and fantastic. So, if you have even a passing bit of interest in entrelac, this class will explain everything to you. The first class is a shawl, which is just a rectangle, then we build the skills from there. And also in tribute to this fantastic class series, we're giving away the Entrelac Essential Guide to Interlace Knitting, published by SoHo Publishing, by Rosemary Drysdale. And this is fantastic after you've gotten the basis established of entrelac. It's a great jumping off point. So, if you want to enter the giveaway, share our post and comment below. We will be announcing the winners tomorrow, Friday. And so, if you're watching this after the fact, I'm so sorry, the books have been given away, but you'll have five chances to win, so please share and comment below. So like I said, entrelac seems super tricky, but in my mind the easiest thing to do in knitting is making an I-cord. And an I-cord is called so because Elizabeth Zimmerman who invented it, who is the sassiest broad of all of knitting, she's knitting's Dorothy Parker, said, "It's so simple, even an idiot could do it," so that's actually why it's called I-cord. You can make I-cord on double-pointed needles and also a knitting spool, so I'm going to show you both methods. We're going to be using this super bulky yarn just so you can see it at home, and two DPNs. I'll be casting on four stitches. You can cast on any way that feels comfortable to you. And what makes this a really wacky, interesting, and effective technique, is you're not working back and forth. Usually you turn around your work as you get to this end, but this time your work will always be facing you. So, you cast on your stitches and slide it to the front, and the working yarn will be on your left-hand side, and you're going into the right-most stitch, and you'll be knitting these four stitches. This is also one of those techniques where it takes a couple rows to look like a real thing. So, you have the wrong side and the right side, tug it down a little bit, move it back to the right-hand side. So think of like, a typewriter, or corn on the cob, if that's how you eat corn on the cob. I don't, because I'm not a crazy person. I eat it around the cob. But if you are a back-and-forth kind of person then that will work to help you visualize how this I-cord has to be made. So once again, sliding it to the right-hand side. This needle isn't turning around at all, and you'll see, as we progress, how this turns into a nice tube, now, you're gonna want to keep it pretty tight and after each row, tug it down, because it's closing up the stitches in the back. I'm gonna keep going. Also, if you have any questions, please let me know. I'm basically an I-cord expert. I did a full Google dive, as one does, when attempting to be an expert on any topic, and apparently the I-cord originates from the 15th century with medieval cord-making techniques that involved a two-pronged fork. Elizabeth Zimmerman was just the first person to name it, so cheerfully. Okay, so now we're at the point where you can still see the back side, so it's looks like

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reverse stockinette, and the front side that looks like reverse stockinette, but as we pull it down, it is a seamless tube. So, I've actually done several yards of this, one skein. That's 109 yards, gave us about 28 feet of cording, and I'm probably going to coil this into some kind of mat. Now I'll move on to our knitting spool. Here's an example of a manufacturer-made knitting spool. It has these nails at the top and a hole on the inside. These are called French knitters, Knitting Nancy's, knitting spools, it has a bunch of different names. Please comment below what you like to call yours. So for our spool, we're gonna be using a cardboard tube. I got this from a ribbon roll, but a toilet paper tube works great, and four clothes pins. You can use tongue depressors, or Popsicle sticks. Or pencils, if you're in a pinch. I've been known to MacGyver knitting tools out of almost anything. And then we'll poke them on the top, like so. And then you can use a rubber band, or tape, to secure it. I'll use washi tape, 'cause it's adorable, and also you can reposition it easily. And I'm gonna do it on the top and on the bottom. Also, when I first started with these spools, they were a little bit rough, so I sanded them down a bit. You can see some of the fuzz is still sticking to it. Just gives it extra flair. And this knitting spool works quite similarly to how knitting looms work. I saw some great versions on Etsy that had Johnny Cash's face painted on it. If you need to buy me a Christmas present, I would certainly not object to a Johnny Cash knitting spool. So... Here's the one we made. We're taking this end and dropping it down the center. Have it long enough so that you can grasp it in your fingers. If this is too frustrating for you, or if you're showing it to a small kid, you can even clip it to the side with a paper clip or tape it down. It just needs to be down in the bottom. Now, we're going to wrap it around each pin counter-clockwise, and then we're going to do, we're going to move clockwise. It sounds more complicated than it is. Wrap it around counter-clockwise, counter-clockwise, counter-clockwise. You'll end up with... That. What's that sign called? It's on the telephone. Okay, and then we do it one more time. Wrap it around. So, each peg should have... Two... Things on it. So, we have this end secured, we're gonna secure this end, and we're going to lift it over the bottom, over the top. You do all four. Technically it does not matter which order you go in, but I like to follow the pattern. We tug this down a little bit. - [Crew Member] We have our first question. - [Faith] Yes, please. - [Crew Member] Ursula asks, "How does it not have an end or beginning? "It's just round coming off the needles?" - [Faith] That's a very good question. Well, I can, you can see the ending would be as if you cast on four stitches and then just kept knitting around, and then when you want to finish it off, you'll thread the needle through each loop. So, technically it has an end and a beginning, and it does have a certain amount of directionality. So, the bottom is the bottom. But that's... And then there are some ways of beginning it that are a little more specific that lead to a nice crisp edge, but I like to just go in and begin and have a pointy end that also, if you're coiling it up, works better for, instead of having a blunt end, to have the pointy end. So, I hope that answers your question. - [Crew Member] And for those just joining us, can you again tell everyone at home about the giveaway. - [Faith] Oh yes, the giveaway is for Entrelac: Essential Guide to Interlace Knitting. We have five copies available. Please to win, comment in the comment section and share it with somebody else, and we're just doing a random drawing, and we have five copies to give away. So, I could do the second row or I could have more questions? Okay, good. - [Crew Member] But we do have a comment. Mary Ellen said when she was a kid, she called that corking. Exactly, so there's so many different things to call it. Thank you so much for writing in, I really appreciate that. I always called it a Knitting Nancy, but then spool knitting seems to be really popular, also it's a French knitter, or an English knitter. A Corker, I wonder where that comes from. Maybe it was made from cork, you'll have to let me know. I have moved on to the second row, and it's gonna get a little tedious for a while so we'll have plenty of time for smalltalk. We, once again,

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pull the bottom over the top. Oh also, if you have any suggestions for what you do with long lengths of I-cord, I'd love to hear it. I've mainly coiled it into things and sewn that together, or used it for arm knitting, or for braiding together and braiding it into a rug. So, this is like the first one. It's gonna take a couple rows to look like anything. And we're just gonna keep going. I remember when I was a kid, I would just do this for hours. I don't know if I even did anything with the I-cord. It's just very meditative, especially if you have a variegated yarn and the new colors pop up, it's so exciting to see the next color. Here we go. I do have, I've been joking that this would make a great sweater for snakes, but now that I think about it, I do know some people with snakes and I should give them some I-cord to test it out and it would be really easy to do a crew neck or a turtle neck, it's just the difference of a centimeter, isn't it? - [Crew Member] Um, like the snake from the Disney movie, Sword in the Stone? - [Faith] Was he wearing a sweater? - [Crew Member] I think he was wearing a sweater! Or, Bedknobs and Broomsticks. - [Faith] Sure, I bet it was made out of I-cord. Alright, so we're just at the point where the bottom is peaking out, so I'm gonna do a few more rows, or more stitches. Sorry. And then, if you were finishing this off, you would do so while there is only, oh, one more point actually, is if you're gonna set it down and walk away from it, which you should, nobody should I-cord for... Hours on end, you'll get finger cramps. Here's the point where you should leave it. So, don't leave it while there's two stacks on the needles, just leave it when there's one. And so now I'm just gonna pull it off. So, you would thread it through each loop and pull it tight and you'd get the same effect here. And you'll see this big hunkin' chunk of I-cord. Ta-da! So, it's kind of sculptural. And this is the same as... So, this is like super bulky, and then we have this chunky, and then this is more of like a fingering weight, but you can use, you know, size two needles and do fingering. It can go as small or as large as you'd like. And as for projects, I did make one final project which, if I had googly eyes, he'd be even better, this is... This is my new worm friend. And it was suggested that I could give it to a child but i don't wanna give it to a child, I wanna keep it forever, with googly eyes. Thank you so much for joining us. We hope that you enter the giveaway, share and comment. We love spending time with you every Tuesdays and Thursdays, Pacific Standard, or just Pacific Time. Thanks so much, see you next week. (upbeat synth music)

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