

Knitting and Crochet: NOT Mutually Exclusive

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World in a Spin

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What Happens if you mix Crochet and Knitting?

The knitting police will not come and take away your subscription to your favorite knitting publication! The crochet police will not take away your crochet hooks and melt them down for dixie cups or ballpoint pens!

Most of us have combined these two mediums at one time or another — you may have crocheted an edging on your knitted shawl, or knitted an icord for your crocheted vest.

I love knitted ribbings, so I learned to knit first so that I could put those ribbings on my crocheted sweaters, hats and shrugs. I am a faster crocheter and my grandchildren tend to outgrow the knitted things before I finish them, so I started crocheting the main parts of sweaters, blankets and hats and added knitting to accent or finish them.

There are a few tricks I use in my crochet which I have learned from different teachers over the years.

- I leave extra long tails when I begin, so that if I need 1 or 2 extra chains when I get to the end of the foundation, or first, row, I can simply pick it up and add a few.

- I also leave off a few chains at the end if I have made too many beginning chains and unpick them afterwards.

- When changing colors or adding a new thread at the beginning of row or round, I put the loop on the hook as if I was beginning all over again and start the new row that way — there is less of a “bundle” of yarn at that spot.

- I always leave a long thread when I change color or start a new thread so that I can weave a good amount to prevent the unraveling problem. When weaving in your ends, weave the end in for an inch or so and then reverse in the same spaces to create a drag to prevent “pull-out”.

- When picking up a new thread (when it is the same color), I hold it under the stitches for a couple of inches and then at the switching point, make half the stitch with the old thread and half the thread with the new thread, and then carry the old thread along, under the stitches for a couple of inches ---- and then I weave in both the threads back on themselves to prevent unraveling.

- Whenever I weave in the ends, I use a tapestry needle to prevent the crochet hook from “catching” and pulling loose threads.

- I do not like making a long chains, so if possible I design things with a single crochet foundation that is produced by this method:

*chain 3, dc in very first chain, *dc in bottom loop of 1st dc, dc in bottom loop of next dc, and repeat from * until you have the number of stitches you want for the foundation row.*



Over the years I have adjusted my projects not only for using my handspun yarns, but also in order to finish them in a reasonable amount of time. When you work with crochet and knit in a garment, you may have adjust the yarns and needles to make the knitted part the same density of the crocheted. Experimentation is the word and there are no hard and fast rules for projects.



Often on knitted projects, there is a crocheted edging; for a creative twist, do a knitted edging on a crocheted project. My least favorite stitch is the single crochet, and it is the one most used for edgings – there are so many options. Play, Play, Play.



Project for Class

To inspire and introduce you to the concept of mixing these two mediums, we are going to make a scarf – you can turn it into a hat, a mitten, a sweater, nearly anything



Motif and Stockinette Scarf

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Materials: 2-3 ounces of your favorite yarn, crochet hook and double pointed needles to match yarn

I used 1 ball of Diamusse, F hook, size 6 or 7 double pointed needles

Gauge: gauge is not so important, but you want a fabric that drapes nicely, but is not too flimsy.



Pattern:

Motif: (You can use any motif you like and adjust the knitted pieces to fit the motif pattern.)**

Foundation: Ch 4. Join with slst. 8 sc in ring. Join with slst with 1st sc. Ch 3, do not turn.

Rnd 1: Ch 6. 2 dc in same stitch as join. Ch 1, skip 1 sc, *(2dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next st, ch 1, skip 1 sc. Repeat from * twice. 1 dc in same stitch as ch 6, join in 3rd chain from bottom, slst into ch 2 space. Do not turn.

Rnd 2: Ch 6 and 2 dc in same space as ch 6. Ch 1, 2 dc in ch 1 space. Ch 1, *(2dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in ch 2 space, ch 1 2 dc in ch 1 space, ch 1. Repeat from * twice. Dc in space next to ch 6, slst in ch 3 of ch 6.

Measure off 4 yards before cutting thread.

Make 2nd motif. You can make all your motifs now, or work them as you need one.

Pick up 11 stitches using the 4 yards of saved yarn along same edge as join and knit in stockinette for 11 rows.

Cast off, holding the 2nd motif at the opposite end from the 4 yard tail to join without sewing. To end off you can simply end at the motif, add fringe on the ends of the motifs, or knit a tail on each end as you like. I knitted two tails on each end tapering the ends to a slanted point.

**Many different motifs can work, here is another that could be fun to experiment with:

Two-color diagonal granny: Rnd 1 (wrong side): With color A, ch 4, join with a slst to form a ring; ch 3, 2 dc in ring; ch 2, 3 dc in ring; drop color A, but do not cut off; draw color B through loop on hook (1 ch made), continuing with color B, ch 1, 3 dc in ring; ch 2, 3 dc in ring; ch 2 join with slst to top of starting ch of color A; turn work.

Rnd 2 (right side): 2 slsts into ch2 sp, ch 3, 2 dc in same sp; ch 1 (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) all in next ch2 sp; ch 1; 3 dc in next corner ch 2 sp; ch 2, drop color B; with color A, 3 dc in same corner sp; ch 1 (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in next corner ch2 sp; ch 1; in next corner sp where starting 2 slst of color B were worked, over the slsts work 3 dc, ch 2 join with a slst to top of color B starting ch; finish off A and B.