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THE HATTERNIQUE CROCHET TECHNIQUE PRIMER

DESCRIPTION

The basis of the Hatternique Crochet Technique is simple. The crochet hook is inserted into both loops of your working stitch, color-change yarns are carried along as you crochet, and you must work very tightly with a smaller gauge. This technique eliminates the banding you get when only inserting your hook through one lower loop, giving your finished piece a very smooth look. This look is ideal for caps and hats.

BOBBINS OR CARRY ALONG

The advantage of carrying along your color-change yarns is you achieve a very versatile, weighted crocheted piece. The disadvantage is color-change yarns carried along prevent the normal stretch you may obtain if you work with bobbins.

I advise you to use your best judgement when beginning a Hatternique pattern. If you are making a Hatternique cap as a gift, can not accurately measure a test around the recipient's head, and require maximum stretch, I would advise working with bobbins. However, you will not have a finished piece with maximum durability and the ideal weight for a hat or cap.

I prefer to crochet a test band, say the first 2" or 3" inches of a Hatternique cap, try it on, and work with the Hatternique Crochet Technique, which involves carrying along your color-change yarns.

THE BASICS

The Hatternique Crochet Technique is a simple single crochet where the hook is always inserted from the front of the piece to the back, under both loops of the lower crochet stitch. Because you always want any threads carried along as color-change yarns, you must work with a slightly smaller crochet hook than any particular yarn weight would recommend as its gauge.

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THE HATTERNIQUE
CROCHET
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In Diagram 1 you see the crochet hook being inserted through both loops of the lower stitch with the base color of yarn. The orange yarn is a new color being readied for introduction into your piece.

Diagram 2 illustrates the technique for “carrying along” your color-change yarn. I would recommend never carrying along more than two strands of color-change yarn.

To change the color of the working strand of yarn, as Diagram 3 shows, you must pull through the color-change yarn just previous to the stitch where your color pattern indicates a color change. This will ensure a smooth transition between colors.



Diagram 1



Diagram 2

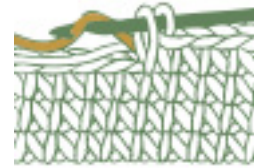


Diagram 3

ROUND OR FLAT

The Hatternique Crochet Technique is ideal for working in the round as you can always work with the front of your piece facing you. Working on a flat piece, such as in our Glasses Case Patterns, requires some practice. Because the Hatternique Crochet Technique requires the hook to be inserted from front to back, you must literally work backwards on alternate rows of a flat piece. That is, when you are working on a row where the front of the piece is facing you and you reach the end, you must turn the piece so the back is facing you. Then you must reach around the back of the piece (which is technically the front of the piece) and insert the hook from the “public” side through to the “private” side. Working backwards on alternate rows takes practice to achieve the correct tension through a color change.

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