

Sisters in Christ for the Needy

October 5, 2009



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therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open
thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to
thy needy, in the land. Deut. 15:11

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Married to a Crocheter -- A Husband Speaks Out

The following is from a gentleman who simply felt the need to speak up for all the husbands of crocheters. I think you'll find it both funny and charming.

From **Robert**: "I'd like to take a stand for all of us husbands who live with a crocheter. From years of experience gained from being married to one, there are several bits of advice I feel qualified to give:

1. Learn not to attempt to communicate with her when a new crochet magazine has arrived until she has scanned it at least twice.
2. Adjust to all the leftover yarn from all those projects, as it will be stored anywhere available. No place is sacred.
3. Learn how to buy yarn on your trips to the store, as you do not buy by color alone -- you buy by lot numbers.
4. Be prepared to be totally amazed at the results of your wife's handiwork with hook and yarn, especially with all the money she saves in gifts.
5. Learn to show the appropriate sympathy and compassion as she unravels hours of labor after finding out that a mistake has been made either by herself or the pattern publisher.

"My wife is a person who loves life, has a vibrant personality and receives much happiness from her crochet. These traits have made our marriage of 25 years as colorful as her myriad shades of yarn, and filled with love, excitement and joy. All men should be so lucky."



Crochet Tip for Afghans

The longer they get, the more trouble to maneuver so I stuff them into a pillowcase and turn it as I work. Keeps afghans neat and less cumbersome, cleaner too. When I suspend working, the yarn goes in the pillowcase too and I fold the top down and secure with a safety pin. I also keep scrap paper clipped to my pattern and keep a running row count, whether I am knitting or crocheting.

What Is Crochet?



For those of us who love crochet, there is likely a variety of reasons why, but I'm sure the one common thread (pun intended) that ties them all together is the pure enjoyment and deep satisfaction it gives us. Crochet not only allows us to express our individual creativity, but we can share it with others through our handmade heartfelt gifts.

I was reminded of this recently when I came across a wonderful piece written by Jean Leinhauser, a leader in the needlecrafts publishing industry for many years and former editor and publisher of *Crochet!* magazine. Jean wrote the following editorial in the March 2004 issue of *Crochet!* I think you'll agree that it strikes a true chord with anyone who appreciates the beautiful art of crochet.

The man seated next to me on the airport bus asked why I had come to Chicago. I told him I was going to a crochet conference. He looked rather perplexed, and then asked, "What is crochet, anyway?"

I said, "It's a method of forming knots with a hook and thread to create a fabric." He stared at me, so I added, "It's making doilies."

He smiled and nodded, "Oh yes, my grandmother used to do that." I realized later that I had given him a pretty poor definition. Here's what I should have said:

Crochet is a warm hat and scarf in bright colors worn on a gray winter day or a soft, cuddly teddy bear clutched in a crying child's arms or a cozy lapghan covering the ailing in a wheelchair.

Crochet is a glittery shawl thrown over a shoulder to accent a little black dress or a sleek little evening purse encrusted with beads. Crochet is a fluffy blanket that welcomes a new baby to the world or a pair of socks with a zingy heel treatment for a teenager to wear with clogs. It's a Christmas stocking, a gift from one generation to another.

Crochet is thoughtfully creating something from nothing. It's the love one pair of hands give to another.

It's probably a good thing I didn't say all this; he would not have understood. But if you are a crocheter, you understand.

Until next time,

Carol Alexander



Crocheters Chat on Line

Name: Amy

Subject: Old-New Crochet-er

Comment: I am almost 50 and learning to crochet. I have bought about 100 different yarns and have made one scarf - ha! I think I am afraid of failure. I now have about 10 books on learning to crochet. Maybe I'll get past the single chain one of these days! :

Name: Jess

Subject: crochet

Comment: I love to crochet! My mom taught me when I was four and had to spend a lot of time at the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Chicago. Once I got better, I kept it up here and there. Then I got cancer, had a baby, and a hysterectomy in about a three year time frame. Crocheting is a better painkiller than morphine! I got to be so accomplished that now that I'm in remission and a stay-at-home-mom, I crochet in my spare time and sell my projects! when I'm not doing family stuff. My dad, husband, brothers, and father-in-law all demand new sweaters for Christmas every year. I'm even teaching my four-year-old son to crochet! He's using scrap blocks to make his own school sweater this year. But he still wants the dinosaur one we saw on this chat line, too..

Name: PHYLLIS CRUTCHMAN

Subject: CROCHET ADDICT

Comment: I THINK I'M A CROCHET ADDICT! I CAN'T SEEM TO LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT BRINGING A BAG OF YARN & HOOKS WITH ME. WE WENT ON A TRIP & I HAD TO STOP AT BEN FRANKLIN'S STORE TO BUY SOME YARN & HOOKS! IT'S NOT THAT I'M GOOD AT IT, I JUST LOVE TO CROCHET. IF I'M IN A RESTAURANT & MY "STASH" IS IN THE CAR OUTSIDE, I THINK ABOUT IT AT LEAST TWO OR THREE TIMES. AM I WEIRD OR WHAT? I USED TO BE A KNITTER, BUT RECENTLY SWITCHED TO CROCHET AND I'M GLAD I DID! I MADE UP ANOTHER NEW STITCH: IT'S AS TALL AS A TRIPLE C. BUT THICKER SO THERE IS NOT AS MUCH SPACE BETWEEN THE STITCHES. ALSO I DO A DOUBLE, HALF DOUBLE. IT WOULD BE PERFECT FOR A WARM BLANKET/LAPGHAN. THANKS SO MUCH FOR READING MY TWO CENTS.

Name: Karen Warren

Subject: Thanks

Comment:

I love to crochet. I have a serious back problem and I find that crocheting helps me to forget my pain. Thank you so much for the encouragement

Name: RT

Subject: Crochet is fun!!!:-)...

Comment: I taught myself to crochet a long time ago with an old crochet book from my grandmother. I LOVE crocheting because it is fast, simple, and relieves my stress. I love making things for my family members. I've made scarves, hats, shawls, even a small ripple afghan for my dorm room. My interest in crochet has led me to other pursuits as well- I taught myself to knit and to make beaded jewelry. Crochet is a great way to relax and to make gifts for family members on a budget. I am interested in trying my hand at an antique pattern, possibly from the Victorian era. My advice to anyone trying out crochet for the first time:- 1. Use good lighting when reading the patterns 2. Get books that come with illustrations 3. Use a simple acrylic yarn for your first couple of projects- the fancier yarns with fuzzies and ribbons can be tricky to work with, and you may not be able to see your stitches. 4. I recommend starting off with a simple project, like a scarf or a dishcloth- don't try to do too much at once. 5. Use a plastic yarn needle for finishing off projects- metal ones tend to snag on yarns that are like 4 ply worsted weight. 6. Keep your hooks organized (you can probably even crochet a case for your hooks) 7. Keep your odds and ends of yarn; you never know when they may come in handy for making a pom pom or something 9. Have a healthy imagination!

Name: Kristan

Subject: Yay! Crochet!

Comment: I just learned how to crochet in November 2008 using this site while stressed out about college finals. I'm so glad I did too. I've been making hats, gloves, mittens, vests, tops and scarves ever since. As a student, I especially can't afford to buy a lot of the pretty sweaters I see in stores, but now I've discovered the fun in making them. All my friends want me to teach them. This site is bookmarked on my computer. I love it, thank you so much!

Name: Sweetiepiecrazywoman

Subject: giving back

Comment: I enjoy crocheting but often have no place for my crafts once they are done. My solution is to get yarn that has been donated to my church, use it to make hats, mittens and scarves all year long, then donate the finished product back to the church for their Christmas charity drive. I get to have fun crocheting and helping others, without the expense of yarn or accumulation of crafts I don't know what to do with.

Name: Sherry Blain

Subject: Encouragement

Comment: I am 53 years old and have been crocheting since I was 18 up until about 8 years ago I was crocheting on and off well I was in an accident and was in the hospital for 3 1/2 months and I was happy I had my yarn and hook to keep me company. What I have to say is don't ever give up and if you want to learn you will



Just Another Quilt Tip 1

Bobbins are rarely seen and taken care of; but with a little attention; your bobbin will be a friend.

Every time you change your bobbin, clean out the bobbin case in the machine with a q-tip or cleaning brush.

Check the area just under the feed dogs for fabric lint. This can also be cleaned with a q-tip or brush.

A few drops of rubbing alcohol on the q-tip will attract the lint and get it out easier. The alcohol will evaporate quickly; no need to worry about rusting any parts on your machine.

Before you begin sewing a major project, wind several bobbins. That way, when you run out of bobbin thread, you will be ready to replace it, and not take time to un-thread the machine to wind a bobbin.

Check your machine to see if you can wind a bobbin while you sew. Some machines are set up that way, making it painless to get fresh bobbins.

Use the same type of thread for both top sewing and in your bobbin. If you use 100% cotton thread in your bobbin, use 100% cotton for your top stitches. If you use poly-cotton blend thread, use it both places.

Use the same color bobbin thread for all of your quilt sewing. Typically the thread won't show through the fabric, and by using the same color thread and pre-winding your bobbins, you will always have bobbins ready to go!



ANOTHER CROCHET TIP

Use an over the door shoe hanger to store small balls of scrap yarns and threads.

You can store similar colors in the same pocket and so you can see at a glance the color you need.



A suggestion from a QUILT WORLD reader: "This morning I went to Lowe's and bought one piece of plexiglass (30x36) for \$14.47. Then I had them cut me 3 templates, 18 1/2" square, 10 1/2" square and 8 1/2" square. Now I have my "Fun and Done" templates for a reasonable price. I already had a 12 1/2" square template that I paid \$20 for alone! This still gave me big leftovers. They said I could bring it back and they would cut again for free (with receipt). What a great deal!"



Knitted Lapghan

(Note: to those few of you who knit, this is a fast and easy pattern to complete.)

Size 15 (10.00mm) straight knitting needles and 2-4 skeins of Medium weighted yarn

Whole lapghan is worked holding 2 strands of yarn together as one.

Cast on 35 (50, 65) Work in garter stitch until 21 (26, 32) inches

Quick and Easy Tips for Successful Machine Quilting



To control your stitches:

- Use [quilting gloves](#) to help control the quilt as it feeds under the needle.
- Put your hands down on the area you are quilting, like a frame, with your thumbs touching. The area between your hands is the only area to pay attention to as you work.
- Have in your mind where you will be stitching, and what kind of shape you will be making. Then watch the fabric where you want to stitch - **not** the needle as it is stitching.
- Practice stitching on a fabric sandwich (2 layers of fabric with a piece of batting between) about 24 inches square. Practice stitching various shapes, and pay attention to the sound of your needle. The goal is to move your fabric about 1/8 of an inch as your needle goes up and down.
- Make sure that the [tension on your sewing machine is set](#) correctly.

About thread:

- As a beginner, it is better to use light thread on light fabric. As cool as it sounds to use dark thread on a light fabric, every stitch will be magnified - and every mistake will look worse. If you want your stitches to show, you could use light thread on a dark fabric. For some reason, that combination does not show the mistakes.
- A lot of thread for machine quilting comes on a cone. That saves money and time (having to re-thread your machine). If your sewing machine does not have a built-in thread stand, you could put the cone in a glass measuring cup, and let it bounce around in there.
- Be sure that the thread is coming off of the cone from the top, not un-rolling from the side. (I use this method, and have found that I need to place the measuring cup on the side of my machine, instead of behind it. For some reason the angle that it feeds into the machine makes a difference.)



Maybe you've heard this, but it was new to me: Should you starch your fabric before you sew your blocks together - or not? I guess some quilters are waaaay more creative than I, because it never occurred to me to starch fabric to sew patches together.

I am one who pre-washes fabric to get all of the stiffness out, so it is an interesting thought that it might be easier to sew patches together when they are starched and stiff.

Pam Bauer, a guest for an Eavesdrop on a Telephone Conversation, talked about starching the backing and quilt top after they were finished so the quilt sandwich was stiff for machine quilting on your home sewing machine. That came as a new idea to me, and made all kinds of sense as a great way to keep the puckers and tucks out of the fabric as you are feeding it through the tight space of a home sewing machine.

But, starching fabric to sew patches? As I read on, I could understand some of the benefits:

- * Your fabric won't stretch when you sew on the bias
- * Starch helps keep the fabric stable as you sew narrow strips (That makes sense and maybe I'll try it.) So, now - what kind of starch and how does it work? It turns out that there a few different ways to starch your fabric:
 - * Traditional spray starch bought off the shelf in an aerosol can
 - * Make your own spray starch by mixing plain ole' liquid starch with water and spraying it on your fabric using a spray bottle
 - * A spray starch alternative like Mary Ellen's Best Press Starch Alternative that leaves no residue or flaking

And when should you starch the fabric? Turns out that it's best to starch right before you use the fabric, not just after you wash it and then fold it and put it on the shelf. I've heard that some starch attracts bugs that will eat your fabric, too, as it sits on the shelf. Nasty!

Quite a debate?



AUTUMN

C C D V S C Y L N R O C A A W
P P O J W A B D F F I P E H N
X S T N E M G I P O P W B T V
C H L O R O P H Y L L A F W L
E Q U I N O X E E Q S I D O J
O X S T U N T S E H C N A R B
B S C A R E C R O W G A E G C
H Q S R E B O T C O G W Y T E
T J Q G O F H U S G Q Z F W I
G S N I K P M U P O Q C F B V
Y D E M Q E S V J U R O Z Q G
D E V V U S I Z H R P F F C Z
R E K A R T T T O D J N Y U R
U S Q D P A U P V H F V I J P
D D W M O Z H A I Q R Y V A W

ACORN
BRANCHES
CORN
FALL
GOURD
MIGRATION
PUMPKINS
SEEDS

APPLES
CHESTNUTS
CROPS
FOLIAGE
GROWTH
OCTOBER
RAKE

AUTUMN
CHLOROPHYL
EQUINOX
FROST
HARVEST
PIGMENTS
SCARECROW

ANATOMY

The study of the structure and function of the human body. It is a branch of biology that deals with the organization of living organisms. The human body is a complex system of organs and tissues that work together to maintain life. Anatomy is the study of these structures, and physiology is the study of their functions.

ANATOMY
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 SURGERY
 PHYSIOLOGY
 PATHOLOGY
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