



Tip of the Month



Doubling up your yarn

Have you ever tried doubling up your yarn—or using two strands at once? It does create a totally different fabric and can give some great results. However it doesn't suit everything. Using two strands together is especially beneficial when you want to create a stronger fabric—for baskets, potholders, cozies, rugs. It can also be used in afghans designed for bulky yarns, however choosing the right yarn to double up is key—to get the same drape. Two medium weight yarns, don't automatically create a super bulky yarn. Similarly two 4ply yarns together won't necessarily equate to an 8ply yarn. There is no specific formula to follow, and a gauge swatch is the only way to determine whether you will get the look you are looking for.

Using two strands together can also create some great colour effects, and help to blend colours together by changing one strand at a time. Your colour combinations can truly be unique. Here are some tips I picked up from using several strands together and reading the web:



1. Keep an even tension on both strands of yarn. It is quite common for one ball to pull /unravel easier than others. To help keep tension, pull out more yarn from each ball than you need.
2. To avoid the yarns tangling, keep them in separate balls, or on either side of you. As you use them they can and should twist together so that they feel like one yarn. Alternatively, you can use a winder to rewind the two balls together into one ball.
3. The increased thickness will make your hands tired, so have frequent breaks. You'll also likely need to experiment with the hooks to get the right hook size. If your hook is too small, this can put additional strain on your hands/wrist you don't need.

I love using two strands together when I'm joining different weights/fibre content. For example cotton with metallic. It adds strength to the metallic yarn and softens the look of the sparkle.

Some novelty yarns look great but are awful to work with—adding a second yarn, even if a thin cotton, in similar colour can help to see the stitches better.

