Tip of the Month

Joining Yarns

Whatever craft you do there is almost always a need to join yarn in the middle of a project – whether it's because you've run out of the thread/yarn you are using, changing colour, or having to cut a 'bad spot' out of the yarn. I was told when I was learning, always join yarn at the end of the row and never tie a knot. However this thinking has evolved and it is quite common to tie knots throughout a project. Thanks to Margaret N for starting this thread of discussion and helping to identifying a number of different methods that people use. Click on the technique to link to a video tutorial:

Magic Knot – Whatever the project, this knot works well. It is strong and there is no need to weave in the ends once tied – they can be cut off close to the knot. It can be easily done in the middle of a row and not be seen. There is also no need for any other tools. It involves tying two knots and pulling them together.

Weavers Knot – This is also a strong knot, that needs no tools, and once completed, the ends of the yarn can be trimmed close to the knot so there is no need to weave in the ends. Like the magic knot it can be easily done in the middle of a row and not be seen.

Reef Knot – This knot is used extensively and is very easy to do. It does require the ends to be woven in rather than trimmed. The knot is tight and strong, and lays flat, and if needed can be undone easily.

Russian Join – This is a little fiddlier and requires a darning needle that is no thicker than the yarn you are using. Like the magic knot there is no need to weave in ends once completed. It creates a very sturdy knot. However it does create a thicker looking yarn around the join, therefore needs to be used with care.

Invisible Braided Join – This is a variation of the Russian Join, but instead of using a needle to thread the ends of the yarn back into itself, the end of the yarn is split and braided back into the yarn. Compared to the Russian join, the yarn does not get that thicker appearance around the join, and is therefore great for lacy work.