



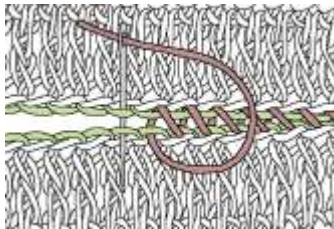
Tip of the Month Oct 2018— Joining Crochet/knit Pieces Together



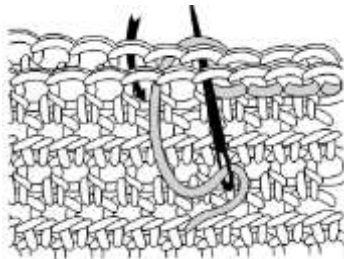
There are all sorts of crochet projects that are crocheted in multiple pieces, such as blankets, toys, bags, clothes, etc. There are a number of different ways to join pieces together, and the method used will be dependent on a personal choice and the method to give the best finish to your project. In all cases, blocking each piece before sewing them together will enhance the finished look.

Sewing

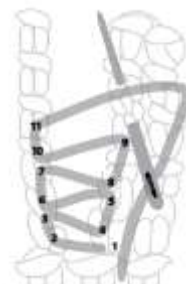
Sewing with a yarn/tapestry needle and a scrap of yarn is one of the most popular methods for joining pieces together. There are different stitches you can use to sew—whip stitch is the most common and most universal method suitable for all items. Mattress stitch provides an almost seamless join perfect for clothing—and is done by matching rows flat together. Back stitch is another method creating a strong seam—great for heavy wear.



Whip Stitch



Back Stitch



Mattress stitch

Crochet Together

Rather than sewing, pieces can be crocheted together. The most popular stitches to use to crochet pieces together are slip stitch or double crochet, although almost any stitch can be used. By inserting your hook through both of the pieces you want to join together and making your crochet stitch, the new stitch will create a seam. The seam is raised off the work, which can create an unwanted (or wanted) “bump”. This needs to be used with caution as it can pull the pieces together and become tight.

The effect of the bump can be diminished by crocheting an ‘Asian seam’ - double crochet through both pieces then crochet 2 or 3 chain, missing 2 stitches and double crochet into the next stitch. This seam has the added benefit of some stretch.



Slip Stitch seam

Join As You Go (JAYG)

This is the most clever of all methods, but can be a bit tricky to do. Joining as you go is usually done with motif type pieces. The last round on the motif is used to join it to other motifs. The last round may include slip stitches or lacy chains that are attached to the edges of other motifs. The JAYG method is a very convenient technique, but determining the stitches to use are dependent on the pattern.

As I hate sewing items together I personally crochet pieces together or use the JAYG technique with motifs. And the JAYG technique once understood can be easily adapted for any type of stitch pattern.