



Tip of the Month—August 2015



A collection of tips for knitting and crochet

Over the months I've received a number of general tips from people, to share with you in this section. I hope you'll find some of these of use, and thank you to all who have contributed your tips to help others.

1. To count rows when knitting in stockinette stitch, count the ridges on the reverse side. To count rows in garter stitch count each ridge as two rows.
2. Counting rows between cables can be tricky. Slip a marker or contrast yarn between stitches on the cable row and pull it out afterwards.
3. Often circular needles become stiff and curly when in storage. To ready them for use, soak the needles in warm water for a few minutes, then straighten them between your fingers.
4. When knitting, instead of joining shoulder seams by casting them off separately and sewing them together, try casting off the two sets of stitches together to make a softer join. This is done by working on the wrong side (right sides together). If you want the join to be a feature, put the wrong sides together. This requires three needles.
5. Re-usable peel-off stickers are ideal for keeping you place in a chart or pattern. If positioned above the row you are working on, you can see how it relates to what you've already done.
6. Use bobbins to knit/crochet small areas of colour, to avoid tangles in your yarn.
7. When designing, knitting or crocheting with natural-fibre yarns and you need to unravel a section of work, you can steam out the wrinkles in the yarn by holding yarn over a recently boiled kettle – making it easy to reuse. Always wind it loosely.
8. For longer life, store your hooks and needles so that they don't rub together, as this will cause them to scratch and develop burrs. And clean them regularly so the yarn continues to slide on the hook and needle.