



Tip of the Month—September



Taking the curl out of Tunisian Crochet

With our Tunisian tie kits last month I had a couple of you ask – how do you take the curl out of tunisian crochet? Thanks to Olga W for her hints for dealing with this issue.

Knowing why it curls helps to identify techniques to take out the curl. Tunisian crochet (also know as afghan stitch) curls because of physics. Unlike ordinary crochet where the stitches are located on the top of the work, tunisian stitches are located on the front of the work. Every time you make new stitches, they are slightly forward and not exactly on the top of your previous row. This is why your work will end up curling forward.

To take the curl out of Tunisian Crochet, here are some helpful tips:

- 1. Blocking.** Blocking crochet is the one simple step to “mould” your work into the way you want it. Whether you choose to steam it with an iron or wet it and let it dry, blocking can be fast and easy to do.
- 2. Use a bigger hook.** Larger hooks reduce the amount of tension in your work. The less tension, the less curl there will be.
- 3. Alter foundation chain.** Turn your foundation chain upside down and pull up your loops through the back ridge of each chain instead. The back ridge is located behind the two loops of the chain that makes the “V” shape. This also gives a much neater finish to the edge of your work.
- 4. Use different stitches in beginning rows.** Purl stitches create less curl than other tunisian stitches. Some do the first row or even the first two rows in tunisian purl before starting on the pattern stitch.