

Crochet Extra

135th Edition- August—2017

How many men do you know who knit and crochet and undertake other fibre arts? Historically many men were involved in these arts for practical purposes—such as fishing and hunting. I recently attended the Kureelpa Spinners, weavers and fibre artists group where many men are members participating in these crafts and inspiring others with beautiful shawls and afghans. So don't leave men/boys out of your activities.

Do you belong to a craft group and are looking for an outing? A visit to Crochet Australia and other surrounding craft shops and tourist attractions make a great day out. We've had quite a few groups in the last month come from as far afield as the Gold Coast and next month coming from Maryborough. Small groups are welcome any day, but Wednesdays are set aside for larger groups. Please call ahead to book your group in. Other stops you can add to your day out include: the Ginger Factory, and Feathers Nest (beading shop), Coolum Beach, Patchwork Angel, Sewing Mill, Craft Villages in Mapleton, Montville and Maleny, Cheese Factory and Magic Patchwork and Quilts. And of course there's plenty of cafes nearby.

Our workshop this month is using a whirl cake to make the Stormy Day Shawl. Tuesdays 9.30—11.30 or 5.30—7.30 and Saturday 5th August 9.30—11.30. Book your spot now.



And don't forget our special one day Get Squared workshops being run by Jenny King—Saturday 26th August and Wednesday 23rd August. People have moved from the Saturday workshop to Wednesday, and there are now spaces available on both days—get in quick if you missed out the first time around.

Next month we will feature our customer corner—send in pictures of your creations and be in the running to win a \$25 voucher to spend with us. [creations to be in yarn purchased and/or using a pattern purchased from us].

Until next time
Lynda

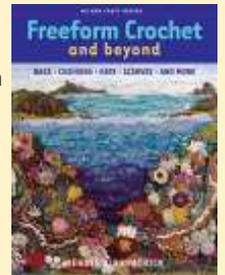
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Theme: Freeform Crochet and Knitting

Freeform is a seemingly random combination of crochet, knitting and in some cases other fibre arts to make a piece that is not constrained by patterns, colours, stitches or other conventions. Essentially there are no rules! It allows you to express your artistic creativity working with different fibres and techniques, can look incredibly awesome and be fun to make. This technique dates back to the 1960's and 1970's and probably had it's origins in Irish Crochet.



Traditionally focused on knitting and crochet—tattening, macramé, embroidery or beading can be added into the mix to create unique items.

A panel of freeform crochet is made up of many smaller 'patches' or 'scrumbles' (the word coined by Sylvia Cosh and James Walters) which are then joined together. By nature the scrumbles are irregular shapes and sometimes as the scrumbles are joined up, gaps appear and require small irregular mini-patches to be made or a few impromptu crochet stitches to be added into the piece (it's all part of the fun of freeform).



A great starting point if you've never tried before, is motifs - particularly those that have gone wrong! Use different fibres and colours and then join them together to create wearable art, bags, jewellery, or wall art - the possibilities are endless. It is also a great way of using up different bits of leftover yarns.

There are some brilliant Australian designers who have authored books to help you get started and allow you to explore your creativity - Renate Fitzpatrick, Prudence Mapstone and Jenny Dowde (some of them live here on the Sunshine Coast). While it is patternless there are patterns available to help learn the basic skills of planning a project, combining techniques and joining scrumbles in interesting ways.

See what patterns we have available and other tools to help you with your Freeform journey. Try making this freeform [purse](#) using our freeform starter yarn kits available in this month's specials.





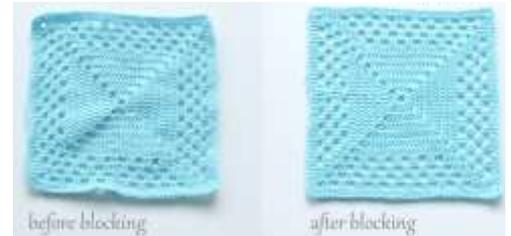
Tip of the Month

To block or not to block?



To block or not to block? Knitters and crocheters often have strong opinions on the subject. But what is it and why do some swear by it? I myself had never blocked any of my work until a few years ago and now I block most of what I do.

In essence, blocking is a method of shaping and molding your finished pieces to match the measurements and shapes on the schematics (or pattern). When you are making a garment, it's best to block the individual pieces to get them to the right size and shape before sewing them together.



There are two main categories of blocking: wet and steam. The use of each being dependent on the fibre content and the type of project. Whilst most fibres can be wet blocked, caution is needed before steam blocking as heat can affect fibres differently. This is where the care instructions on the yarn labels come in handy. The following is a general guide to the type of blocking with common fibres;

Angora Wet block by spraying

Cotton Wet block or warm/hot steam press

Linen Wet block or warm/hot steam press

Lurex Do not block

Wool blends Wet block by spraying; do not press unless pretested first

Mohair Wet block by spraying

Novelties Do not block, unless there are specific blocking directions

Synthetics Carefully follow instructions on ball band—usually wet block by spraying, do not press

Wool and all wool-like fibers- (alpaca, camel hair, cashmere) Wet block by spraying or warm steam press

Wool blends Wet block by spraying; do not press unless pretested first

If you are going to block, some essential tools are: a flat, covered, padded surface large enough to hold one piece of crochet and thick enough to insert and hold pins (such as a carpet or mattress covered with plastic and a towel*); rustproof pins (blocking or t-pins are great for this); tape measure; sink for immersion or a spray bottle and towels.

There are two ways to wetblock your crocheted pieces. Both techniques work equally well, so choose the one that appeals to you most. The first is to immerse the pieces in cool water, then squeeze out the water, taking care not to wring or twist your items. Working one at a time, place the pieces on your prepared surface (or a blocking board), then stretch and mold the piece into the same size and shape shown on the schematic and pin. Leave to dry.

The second method is to pin the pieces first (following the schematics), then wet them down using a spray bottle filled with cool water. And leave them be until they are dry.

To steamblock, pin the pieces on a flat surface following the measurements on the schematics. Use an Iron on the lowest setting that will still produce steam, or a handheld steamer. Once you have a good steam going, hold the iron or steamer close to the fabric, then work in a circular motion over the entire piece until every inch is evenly dampened. DO NOT touch the iron to the fabric! If you find that you must lightly press the piece, cover it with a colorfast towel or a pressing cloth to protect the fabric from the hot metal plate. Allow to dry thoroughly before unpinning it. Drying after steaming takes a lot less time than wet blocking, but you still must allow the pieces to dry thoroughly before unpinning.

The problem with steam blocking is that it has to be done bit by bit, area by area, whereas wet or damp blocking allows you to work on the entire project at the same time. The steam method is great for touching up trims and removing the “fold line” from previously blocked garments. Drying after steaming also takes a lot less time than wet blocking.



*Alternatively you can invest in a blocking board, which is easier to use and more convenient (although a little pricey). Interlocking play mats can also be used or you can make your own.



Book of the Month



871071 Learn to Freeform Crochet \$15.90

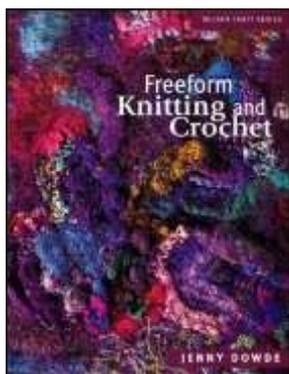


Free form is like a painting. The hook is the brush and the yarn is the palette. It is a method of creating a fabric by using many stitches, in a variety of yarns, in a multidirectional manner.

This book uses three methods - the template method, the lining method and the mesh method. Lots of helpful hints on the way. There are pages of ideas and patterns for motifs and shapes that would make ideal scrambling pieces. Followed up with projects and step by step instructions to make a bag, stunning pillow, sweater, mesh vest, hat and scarf, the most brilliant necklace and the capelet shown of the front cover. 40 pages. US terminology

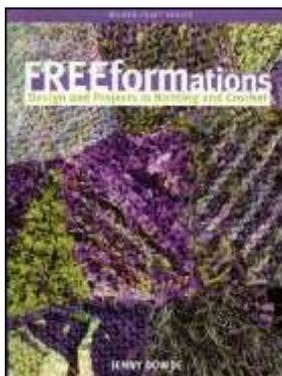


Look What We Found



SM3272 Free Form Knitting & Crochet \$44.95

**** Very Heavy**



SM3582 Freeformations Knit & Crochet \$42.00

**** Very Heavy**



LA4475 I Can't Believe I'm Free Form Crocheting \$22.00

Visiting hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9am—3.00pm

Sat: 1st Saturday of each month 9am—12pm

Wed: Group visits (6 or more) by appointment

Workshops: Tuesdays 9.30am—11.30am bookings recommended

Order three ways (See front page for contact details):

Secure shopping cart, phone or mail.

We ship Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We endeavour to ship all orders received before 12pm on these days, and orders received after this are shipped on the next day we ship.



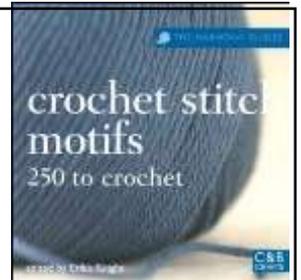
A1384 Freeform Style \$39.95
**** Very Heavy**



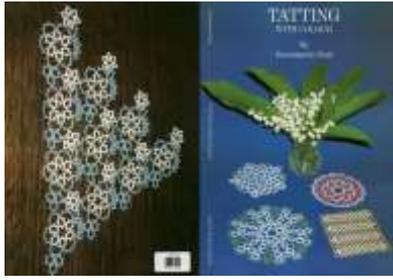
871388 Go-To-Book Irish Crochet Motifs \$26.50
*** Heavy**



STO20396 Beyond the Square Motifs \$37.50
**** Very Heavy**



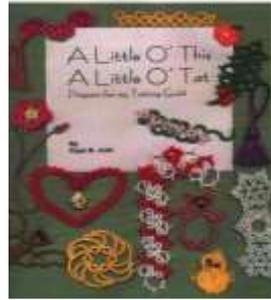
HC4262 Harmony-Crochet Stitch Motifs \$29.95
**** Very Heavy**



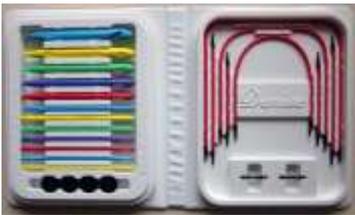
HHT73 Tatting with Colour \$27.95



HHT491 Tat Mats \$21.25



HHT349 A Little O'This/ Tat \$29.50



HOOKSETDENISECOL Denise interchangeable hook set \$98.50



HOOKSETCRVARAL10 \$101.00 Clover crochet hook set of 10 (Arthritic)



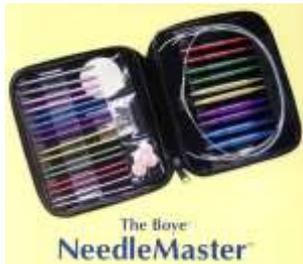
HOOKSETCVAMOUR9 \$92.90 Clover Amour Hook set of 9



HOOKSETCHANGE \$42.95 Boye interchangeable hook set



HOOKTRICOTSET \$43.80 Tunisian Hook set of 8



ACCKNITMASTER \$135.00 Boye Needle Master Set



ACCKNITLITESET \$69.00 Liteflex knitting Needle Set



HOOKTATCLOSET5PA \$21.00. Set of 5 pastel coloured Clover shuttles



ACCYRNBOB6 \$1.65 Yarn Bobbins set of 6



YARN NEEDLES
Bent Tip (2) \$4.50
Straight Tip (2) \$1.50
Set of 4 bent and straight (2 each) \$7.15



ACCPURSE \$6.50 Purse frame



STITCH MARKERS
Clover Locking markers \$10.25
Susan Bates split ring \$3.20
Birch split ring \$1.90



121032 Easy Knit Squares \$15.00



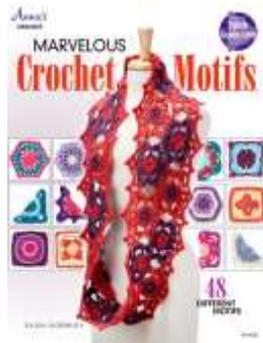
LA5630 –50 Fab Knit Bobbles, Popcorn & Puffs Knit \$21.50 * Heavy



LA4530– 50 Fabulous Knit Aran Stitches \$32.20 *Heavy



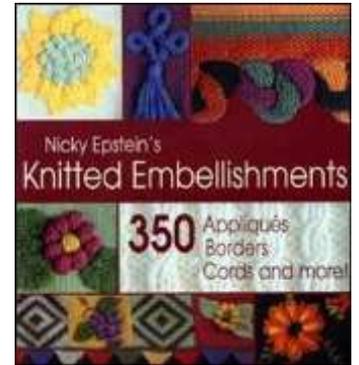
LA3903 –280 Crochet Shell Patterns \$46.95
** Very Heavy



871422 Marvellous Crochet Motifs \$22.50



GC08105 Floribunda Scarf \$10.00



KA1039X Knitted Embellishments \$51.95
** Very Heavy



LA4178 Breit Little things in Thread crochet \$20.25



CL3755 Knitting Over the Edge \$49.95
** Very Heavy



A096015 Knitting on the Edge Soft Cover \$29.92 ** Very Heavy



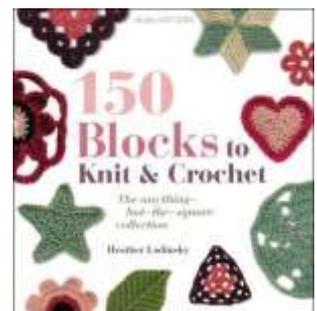
CDV11D Learn to Crochet Flowers \$45.50



LA75140 Small & Sassy Purses \$9.30



NMTA07761 Crocheted Hearts & Flowers \$19.75



S4187– 150 Blocks to Knit & Crochet \$39.95 ** Very Heavy



SP4935 Knitted Flowers 20 to Make \$11.95



SP7066 Crocheted Flowers 20 to Make \$15.60



LA4421 –50 Fabulous Crochet Thread Motifs \$25.10 * Heavy