



Tip of the Month

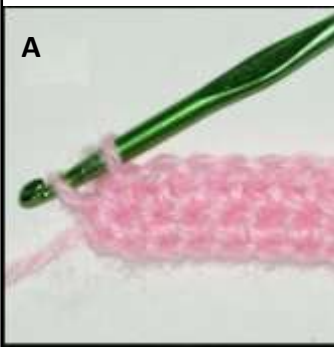
Colour Changing



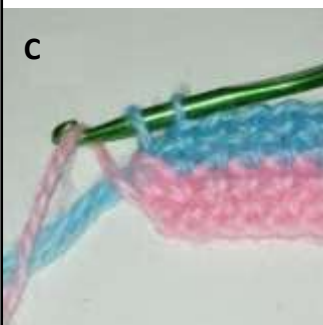
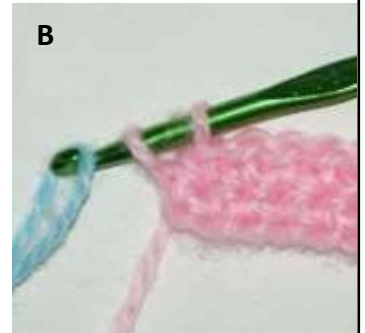
Colourful crocheted items are great to look at and use, but what about all those colour changes? Same for when you are using up your scraps. What is the most effective way of changing colours with yarn (or even adding in a new ball)?

The number one thing is to avoid tying knots! These leave bumps in your work, and it is often hard to ensure that the new colour begins in the spot you want. Below is a technique I came across that works really well, whether changing colours at the beginning of a row, in the middle of a row or even just joining a new ball of the same colour. It can also be used for any stitch, but I have illustrated it using the double crochet, and at the end of a row.

Work in the existing or first colour until the last stitch before you wish to change colours. For the last stitch, work the stitch until there are two loops left on your hook [picture A] (at this stage there is one yarn over to complete to finish the stitch). Work the last yarn over with the new colour you are changing to [picture B].



Then begin your turning chain or next stitch with the new colour. You may need to pull on the first colour yarn so it doesn't come loose as you begin the chain/next stitch. Once you've completed the row, and you don't intend to use that colour again soon, and you are happy that the pattern is right, cut the first yarn, leaving a tail and sew in that end and the end of the new colour.



If you do intend to use the first colour again and this will begin close by (eg the next row) you may wish to carry the yarn rather than cut it and have to re-join. The principle of changing colours is the same as above, but instead of grabbing a new yarn colour, you are grabbing the first colour that you used and pulling it up the side of your work [picture C] – be careful not to pull it too tight.

While you may see the colour changes up the side of your work [picture D], these will be hidden when you add an edge.

