

How To Join Knitted Squares With Crochet



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Joining knitted squares with crochet is a delightful way to create a beautiful, textured blanket or project. The crochet technique adds an extra dimension to your work, allowing for a variety of stylish finishes. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced crocheter, this method can enhance your creations and provide a seamless look to your knitted squares. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the materials needed, different joining methods, and tips to ensure your project comes out beautifully.

Understanding the Basics of Knitted Squares

Before diving into the joining process, it's crucial to understand the basics of the knitted squares. Typically, knitted squares are made from yarn using either the garter stitch or stockinette stitch.

Common Knitting Techniques for Squares

1. **Garter Stitch:** This is created by knitting every row. The result is a squishy, textured square that lies flat.
2. **Stockinette Stitch:** This involves alternating between knitting one row and purling the next. The front side has a smooth texture, while the back is bumpy.
3. **Seed Stitch:** A combination of knit and purl stitches that creates a lovely textured square.
4. **Cable Knit:** This technique adds intricate patterns to your squares, providing visual interest.

Knowing the technique you used to knit your squares will guide your joining process, as some stitches may require different approaches.

Materials Needed

To join knitted squares with crochet, you will need the following materials:

- Knitted Squares: Make sure all squares are of the same size for a symmetrical look.
- Crochet Hook: Choose a size that matches your yarn weight. A medium-sized hook (like a size H/8 or I/9) works well for most worsted weight yarns.
- Yarn: Use the same yarn as your knitted squares or a complementary color to enhance the aesthetic.
- Scissors: For trimming yarn ends.
- Tapestry Needle: For weaving in ends and securing your work.

Preparing Your Squares for Joining

Before you start joining your squares, it's essential to prepare them properly.

Blocking Your Squares

Blocking is a process that helps shape your squares and can improve the final appearance of your project. Here's how to block your squares:

1. Soak: Gently soak your squares in lukewarm water with a small amount of wool wash.
2. Gently Squeeze: Remove excess water by gently squeezing, avoiding wringing or twisting.
3. Lay Flat: Lay your squares on a flat surface, shaping them into perfect squares.
4. Pin: If necessary, use pins to secure the corners while they dry.

Blocking helps even out any discrepancies in size and ensures that the edges are straight for easy joining.

Joining Methods

There are several techniques to join knitted squares with crochet. Each method provides a unique finish, allowing you to choose the one that best suits your style.

1. Slip Stitch Join

The slip stitch join is a simple and effective method for joining squares.

Steps:

1. Align Squares: Place two squares right sides together.
2. Insert Hook: Insert your crochet hook through the corner stitch of both squares.

3. Yarn Over: Yarn over and pull through both stitches on the hook.
4. Slip Stitch: Pull the yarn through the loop on the hook.
5. Repeat: Continue this process along the edge of the squares until you reach the end.

This method creates a flat seam, making it ideal for a clean look.

2. Single Crochet Join

The single crochet join is a sturdier option and adds a decorative element.

Steps:

1. Align Squares: Position two squares with right sides facing each other.
2. Insert Hook: Insert your hook into a stitch on the first square and the corresponding stitch on the second square.
3. Yarn Over: Yarn over and pull through both stitches.
4. Complete Single Crochet: Yarn over again and pull through both loops on your hook.
5. Continue: Repeat this process along the edge of your squares.

This method creates a more textured seam and can be used with various yarn weights for different effects.

3. Whip Stitch Join

The whip stitch is a hand-sewing technique that can also be adapted for crochet to join your squares.

Steps:

1. Thread the Yarn: Using a tapestry needle, thread a length of yarn.
2. Position Squares: Place two squares together, right sides facing.
3. Insert Needle: Starting at the corner, insert the needle through both squares, catching the edge stitches.
4. Whip Stitch: Pull the needle through and bring it back out just above where you entered.
5. Repeat: Continue along the edge until complete.

The whip stitch gives a more rustic look and can be a great choice for a handmade feel.

4. Granny Square Join

If your squares are made in a granny style or have a similar texture, you can use the granny square join technique.

Steps:

1. Align Squares: Place the squares so that they are touching.

2. Chain: Make a chain stitch that connects the corner of one square to the corner of another.
3. Single Crochet: Work a single crochet into the next stitch on the adjacent square.
4. Continue: Repeat until all squares are joined.

This method leaves a lacy edge, enhancing the overall appearance of your project.

Finishing Touches

Once you've joined your squares, it's time for the finishing touches.

Weaving in Ends

Use a tapestry needle to weave in any loose ends from your joining yarn. This step will help your project look polished and professional.

Adding a Border

Consider adding a crochet border around the entire project for a finished look. A simple single crochet border or a more intricate shell stitch can add a beautiful frame to your work.

Tips for Success

- Choose the Right Yarn: Ensure that the yarn for joining matches the weight and texture of your knitted squares.
- Test Your Method: Before committing to the entire project, practice your joining method on a couple of sample squares to see how the techniques work with your yarn.
- Maintain Tension: Keep an even tension while joining to avoid puckering or stretching.
- Experiment: Don't be afraid to try different joining methods to find the one that suits your project best.

Conclusion

Joining knitted squares with crochet is an enjoyable and rewarding process that allows you to create beautiful, cohesive projects. With various methods at your disposal, you can choose the one that fits your style and the needs of your project. By following the steps outlined in this guide, along with some practice, you'll be well on your way to crafting stunning knitted square creations that showcase your skills and creativity. Whether you're making a cozy blanket, a unique wall hanging, or a lovely gift, the art of joining squares with crochet will undoubtedly elevate your work. Happy crocheting!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best stitch to join knitted squares with crochet?

The whip stitch is commonly used for joining knitted squares, as it creates a flat seam and is easy to execute. You can also use slip stitch or single crochet for a more decorative edge.

Do I need to block my knitted squares before joining them?

Yes, it's a good idea to block your knitted squares before joining. This will help even out the stitches and ensure that all squares are the same size for a neat finish.

Can I join squares using different yarn types?

Yes, you can join squares made from different yarn types, but make sure the yarns are compatible in terms of weight and care instructions to ensure consistency in the finished product.

How do I maintain tension while joining knitted squares with crochet?

To maintain tension, use a hook size that matches your yarn and practice keeping your stitches loose. It helps to join squares on a flat surface to avoid pulling the yarn too tightly.

Is it necessary to use a specific crochet hook size for joining knitted squares?

While there is no strict rule, using a crochet hook one size larger than what you used for knitting can help create a looser join, making it easier to work with the knitted fabric.

Can I join squares with a crochet border instead of a seam?

Absolutely! You can crochet a border around the squares and then join them by stitching through the borders. This adds a decorative touch and can make the joining process easier.

What are some common mistakes to avoid when joining knitted squares with crochet?

Common mistakes include using an incompatible yarn weight, not blocking the squares, pulling seams too tight, and not matching the tension. Take your time to ensure a neat finish.

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Thanks to @Andrew, I was able to filter down to just one record by adding the PK!! In my case, I had multiple records, for the same date, which also shared the same reference id. My aim was to take the latest inserted record. I was able to do so by modifying the query above and adding order by date desc, PK_id desc) as Andrew suggested. Many thanks!

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The fact that when it says INNER JOIN, you can be sure of what it does and that it's supposed to be just that, whereas a plain JOIN will leave you, or someone else, wondering what the standard said about the implementation and was the INNER/OUTER/LEFT left out by accident or by purpose.

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