

Knit and purl



tips - finishing - blocking

Finishing

Off course after all that hard work everybody wants to have a finished garment as quickly as possible, but when you take a little more time for the finish your garment will even look better! Here are a few tips on how and why.

Blocking

Blocking is drying your damp or wet project, sometimes you dry it relaxed sometimes you dry it stretched and pinned down.

Why blocking:

While knitting you probably have pulled the knitwear from time to time, it has been lying rolled up in a bag, in short, it generally looks a bit wrinkled.

For example a stockinette stitch has a tendency to roll at the sides which makes it difficult to assemble and some structure stitches completely shrink

When you moisten or wet all loose parts and let them dry at the air you ensure all stitches come back in their natural form and shape. The texture and shape of your garment will be more neat and visible. You can leave it lying without pinning the pieces or with pinning the pieces out (use rust-proof safety pins).

In case of a scarf or garment in a lace pattern you also can choose to stretch it more heavily and pin the pieces out. By stretching it heavily and pinning it down the pattern you knitted will get a cleaner shape.

Because a lace pattern often is knitted with a larger needle than necessary for the yarn, the pattern looks more 'messy' after knitting.

How to block:

1. Blocking moist: wet all parts separate (cold), be careful, do not rub or twist, squeeze gently most of the moisture out but do not wring. Roll the parts gently in a towel 'wet-dry'.

For most pieces the following applies: place them on an ironboard or empty mattress and pin them to the size you need. Taking care to lay them as gently as possible without excessive pulling. You can however pull gently to make small corrections. If you for example used many different techniques in a garment, you may have noticed, during the knitting, the front and back pieces do not fit together although you have used an equal number of rows. With blocking can you ensure that after drying the front and back pieces will fit together well.

2. Blocking wet - the clamping of lace knitwear: wet all parts separate (cold), be careful, do not rub or twist, squeeze gently most of the moisture out but do not wring. Use lots of pins, with small regular distances from the edge, to pin down your scarf.

While doing this, gently pull at your knit until you have a nice and uniform shape and the size you need (and the knitted lace pattern emerges nice and neat).

For rectangular shapes sometimes a frame of wood with nails (with small round cups) is used to pull the knitted piece over it (mostly used with scarves).

There are also stainless steel wires up you can use to weave in at the outside of your lace knit and just fix it with only a few map pins. Soon also available at law and Averech!

You can also watch this film on how to use Lace blocking wires YouTube.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMxm_fWdymM

Advantage of Blocking:

1. easier, better and faster to assemble.
2. the structure, pattern looks better
3. the shape of the knitwear is better.

