

Fragments

While I acknowledge that providing patterns for freeform knitting and crochet could seem a contradiction, feedback from students and from readers of my first book indicates that they are useful not only for the beginner who might be struggling to understand the concept of freeform, but also for the experienced artist who might be suffering from the dreaded 'creative block'. Thus at the request of many I include more fragment patterns here.

Knit fragments

WHY DOESN'T MINE LOOK LIKE YOURS?

There are a few reasons why your finished fragments may not resemble the samples in this book. The most obvious is that you will almost certainly have used different yarns, in varying textures and thicknesses. This may cause variables such as fragments with shorter or longer sides, so that where I might say to pick up and knit 10 stitches, you may be able to pick up only 8, or conversely, have to pick up a few more than 10 in order to reach the end of the section you are working on.

Or you could misinterpret my instructions completely, forget to change yarn, or lose your place in the pattern and therefore work more or less rows than the pattern suggests. Any number of things could happen and there is absolutely no reason to worry about it because, in all honesty, I'd prefer you to do all of the above! These knit patterns and those in the Crochet Fragment section are simply starting points—a means to an end—and the more dissimilar your fragments are to mine, the better.

Therefore, if there *are* any rules in freeform, Rule #1 is that you shouldn't rip out your fragments in order to replicate mine!

YOU WILL NEED

a selection of 3 yarns of different textures

needles: you may choose to use a pair of needles of the same size, or one 4.5 mm and one 6.00 mm needle (US 7 and 10)

stitches used: garter stitch throughout





KNIT FRAGMENT #1

Cast on 12 sts, knit 3 rows.

4th Row: k2 tog, k to end.

5th Row: Knit to last 2 sts, k2 tog.

6th Row: k2 tog, k to end.

Rep rows 5 and 6 until 2 sts remain, k2 tog, leaving remaining st on needle. *Change yarn*, then pick up and knit 8 sts along dec edge (9 sts).

Knit 5 rows, *change yarn*.

Next row: Knit 4 rows, cast off leaving last st on needle, pick up and knit 7 sts along side of work (8 sts).

Knit 3 rows, cast off leaving last st on needle. *Change yarn*.

Pick up and knit 10 sts along side of work (11 sts).

Knit 2 rows, *change yarn*.

Knit 2 rows, *change yarn*.

Knit 5 rows, cast off leaving last stitch on needle.

Pick up and knit 9 sts along side of work (10 sts).

Knit 2 rows, *change yarn*.

Knit 2 rows.

Next Row: k2 tog, knit to end.

Knit 1 row.

Rep last 2 rows until 8 sts remain.

Cast off, leaving last stitch on needle, *change yarn*.

Pick up and knit 14 stitches along side of work (15 sts).

Knit 5 rows, cast off.

Fig. 57
Knit fragment #1



KNIT FRAGMENT #2

Garner stitch is used throughout.

Cast on 16 sts, knit 4 rows partial knitting (short rows—see How To chapter) as follows.

Next row: k13, bring yarn to the front, sl 1 purlwise, take yarn back, turn work, transfer sl st back to RH needle, take yarn back to other side of work and knit to end of row.

Next row: k10, work short row as before.

Next row: k7, work short row.

Next row: k4, work short row. *Change yarn.*

Next row: Knit across all stitches, picking up the loop below each sl st and knitting it with the st above it (see How To chapter) to prevent a hole.

Knit 3 more rows. *Change yarn.*

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Dec 1 st each end of next row.

Rep last 2 rows twice. *Change yarn.*

Knit 2 rows, then cast off leaving last st on needle, pick up and knit 8 sts along side of work (9 sts). Remember, if you have more than that, it's okay ... keep going.

Knit 2 rows, then knit short rows as follows:

Knit 6, work short row.

Knit 5, work short row.

Knit 4, work short row. *Change yarn.*

Cast off, leaving last st on needle.

Pick up and knit 13 sts, k1 row.

Knit short rows over 11 sts, 10 sts, 9 sts, 8 sts as before.

Next Row: Cast off, leaving 1 st on needle. *Change yarn.* Pick up and knit 13 sts.

Knit 3 rows, cast off.





Fig. 58
Knit fragment #2

TIP:

If you like, you can ‘grow’ your knit fragments by continuing to knit in any direction, using short rows or other methods of shaping, remembering to change yarn after several rows have been worked.



KNIT FRAGMENT #3 USING 5 YARNS

Cast on 10 sts.

Knit 5 rows, *change yarn*.

6th Row: Dec 1 st at beg of row, k to end.

7th Row: Knit.

8th Row: As 6th row.

9th Row: As 7th row.

Repeat last 2 rows once more.

12th Row: Cast off all but last stitch.

13th Row: Pick up and knit 1 st between each garter st ridge along the sloped (decrease) edge of the fragment—about 7 sts.

Rows 14 and 15: Knit. *Change yarn*.

Rows 16 and 17: Knit.

18th Row: Work a short row as follows: knit to last 2 sts, take yarn to front, slip 1 st purlwise, take yarn to back of work, turn, slip first stitch on LH needle back to RH needle, take yarn to back of work, knit to end of row.

19th Row: Knit to last 3 sts, complete short row as before.

20th Row: Knit to last 4 sts, complete short row as before.

21st Row: Knit to last 5 sts, complete short row as before.

22nd Row: Knit across all stitches. *Change yarn.*

23rd Row: Knit.

24th Row: Cast off all but last stitch.

25th Row: Pick up and knit about 7 or 8 sts along side of work.

Knit 5 rows of 1 x 1 rib (or 2 x 2 rib if you have an even number of sts).

31st Row: Cast off all but the last stitch. *Change yarn.*

32nd Row: Pick up and knit about 9 sts down side of work. This should bring you to the very end of the edge you picked the stitches up from.

Rows 33–36: Knit. Cast off.



Fig. 59
Knit fragment #3





Crochet fragments

Remember, as I said in the Knit Fragments section, that if you follow the patterns as given it is not necessary that your fragments be exact replicas of mine. Consider them a learning exercise, one that will help you understand the concept of the freeform technique.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR ALL CROCHET FRAGMENTS

Unless specifically instructed, only *one* stitch is worked in *any previous* stitch. For example, 'work 3 tr(dc)' means you work 1 tr(dc) in each of the next 3 sts.

If multiple sts are required in *any one stitch* it will be specified. For example: Work 5 tr(dc) in next st ...

You will need

a selection of yarns in different textures in your chosen colourway

crochet hook size 5 mm (H)

CROCHET FRAGMENT #1

As used in the Fancy That tea cosy project (Fig. 117a). This fragment requires three yarns of different texture.

Make 8 chain.

1st Row: 1 htr(hdc) in 2nd ch from hook, then work 2 htr(hdc), 2 tr(dc), 2 dtr(tr), 5 dtr(tr) in last stitch, *change yarn*, 1 ch, turn.

2nd Row: 2 htr(hdc) in 2nd st from hook, 2 tr(dc) in next st, 3 dtr(tr) in next st, 1 tr(dc), 2 tr(dc) in next st, 1 htr(hdc), 4 dc(sc). At the very end of this row work 3 dc(sc)—this will help turn the corner smoothly—do not turn. *Change yarn*.

3rd Row: Along the other side of the original starting chain work as follows: 2 dc(sc) in first st, 2 htr(hdc) in next st, 1 tr(dc), 1 dtr(tr), 1 tr(dc), 1 htr(hdc), 1 dc(sc), 1 ch, turn, 4 tr(dc), 3 tr(dc) in next st, 1 tr(dc), 1 htr(hdc) 1 dc(sc), *change yarn*, do not turn.

Work 2 tr(dc) in each of the next 5 sts, 1 tr(dc), 3 dc(sc). Fasten off.

OPTIONAL ADD-ON

If you like you can add a ruffle for extra texture and interest. At the end of the row just worked, change yarn to one that isn't too chunky and work 6 tr(dc) into each of the next 10 sts. Fasten off.