

READY, SET, KNIT

Air Date: July 12, 2008

Color Work Series: workshop II

The Dreaded Intarsia, part 6

Note 1: If you need to add a new butterfly on the purl side, proceed as follows: Lay the new yarn under the old yarn, keeping a 6" tail to the left as before. Purl with the new yarn. Place the right needle tip under the next stitch on the left needle as if to purl, move the tail up and over the left needle and purl with the working yarn but do not draw the tail through. Purl the next stitch. Repeat this process for about an inch whenever possible.

Note 2: If you use up your butterfly and have to add a new one, be sure to add it at the beginning of a color block. Use the same interlock and tail up/tail down technique as before. Always add new butterflies at the beginning of a color block because if you do it after you have begun the block it will show on the right side.

We stopped last time with row 3, so here's row 4:

(WS), purl 20 stitches with color A, pick up color B from underneath color A and purl 16 stitches. There will be a gap between A and B. This is normal and will fix itself automatically when you knit the next row. Now, because you have knit 6 stitches in color B into color A territory, you have to make a decision...do you just pick up the color A butterfly and purl with it or do you start another butterfly? My rule of thumb is this: if you use the color A butterfly and the loop you make across the back of the work by doing so is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long, you should start a new butterfly. Long loops on the back of the work can catch on things and should be avoided. (If you are working a pillow cover or a purse that will be lined or an object that will be felted, don't worry too much about the loops.) So, I would start a new butterfly at this point on row 4. Add the butterfly as indicated in Note 1 and purl the last 19 stitches with it.

Continue working the chart using the techniques we have discussed. If you have a question on a specific row, please email me.

When you get to row 53, you will see that there is one stitch to knit in your color D. This happens on several other rows, including the rays of the sun. You can certainly add a new butterfly for one stitch, but I think the best way to deal with a single stitch is to work them in duplicate stitch after you finish knitting the motif.

When the piece comes off the needles the real artistry begins. It's time to work in the ends and close up any holes there might be. Remember, the back will determine how good the front looks. You will need a good tapestry needle...Clover's size 15 tapestry needle works really well for finishing Intarsia.

READY, SET, KNIT

Air Date: July 19, 2008

Color Work Series: workshop II

The Dreaded Intarsia, part 7

There are 3 basic objectives to keep in mind when securing tails:

1. Secure the tail so that it will not cause distortion to the stitch from which it is coming nor to the adjacent stitch of the color change. Pull gently on the tail to see which way it would have wanted to go if it hadn't been nipped off. You want the tail to replicate the structure of the interlock from the adjacent row, so turn the work to the right side to see if you are accomplishing that goal before you work in the tail. Be very careful not to distort the stitch by over pulling.

2. Cause the least amount of disturbance as possible to the surrounding area. Split the yarn of the purl bumps (pierce with the needle) for 3 to 5 inches and pull the tail through. The less of the strand picked up, the better. Then fish hook the tail back, parallel and in the opposite direction for 3 to 5 inches. Do not pull tightly!

3. Maintain the flexibility of the knitted fabric. Run the tails on the diagonal, not vertically or horizontally. This prevents constriction of the fabric and also prevents the tail from showing through to the front side of the knitting. Whenever possible, run the tail through an area of the same color. However, this is not always possible. By running the tail through on the diagonal, it will not show through regardless of the color area through which it passes.

For illustrations and more complete details about finishing Intarsia, please check *Intarsia: A Workshop for Hand and Machine Knitting*, by Sherry and Keely Stuever.

If you wish to work in tails each time you finish a section, be sure to check your work for errors before you do so. If you have to rip back an area where the tails have already been secured, you will be very unhappy as the worked in tails seriously complicate the ripping back process.

Please don't let any of this intimidate you! Just give it a try; it can be great fun.