

A GUIDE TO

Joining Crochet Shapes Together

Four Easy Options and Tips for Success



Welcome

FROM HANNAH

Hi! I'm Hannah and I used to avoid crocheting anything with motifs because I couldn't stand joining them together!

That all changed a number of years ago when I discovered my new favourite ways to join my crochet together and I am delighted to share them with you in this guidebook.

Joining squares and motifs together is an essential skill to learn in crochet with so many options! This guide is aimed to help you learn different methods, decide which is best for you and your project and give you a truly professional finish to complete your work!



Hannah



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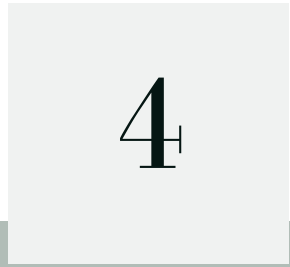
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Introduction



Why is choosing the right join so important?

Before thinking about the technicalities of each join it's important to first think about your project and which method will suit it best. This is crucial to consider both from an aesthetic point of view (what it will look like) and from a practical point of view (will that seam actually work well for your item?).

We will be focussing on four joining techniques in this guidebook but there are many, many more to choose from! These are my go to joins but once you have these mastered I'd encourage you to branch out and try others too! Let's begin by looking at them and seeing what they look like and how they work in projects:



FLAT SLIP STITCH SEAM

Can be worked on the right or wrong side for a really stunning seam that is especially good in a contrast colour!

It is nice and flat so comfortable for garments and offers a good amount of flexibility to the seam too.



REGULAR SLIP STITCH SEAM

Can be worked on the right or wrong side for lovely textured seam that creates a slight ridge to the project.

The slip stitches are secure but flexible so great for accessories and blankets but think about the comfort if using in garments.



SINGLE CROCHET SEAM

A real stand out seam that adds a large ridge of stitches to the right or wrong side of the work.

Great for using on things like bags or blankets that need a good and sturdy seam. Quick and easy to do and perfect for contrast colour.



WHIP STITCH SEAM

Rather than crochet your seams use a whip stitch to add interest. It is visible so best in co-ordinating or matching colours.

A really flexible seam that is also great to use along the sides of rows or rounds where you don't have stitches that match up easily.

Preparing your Crochet to Join

PREPARATION IS KEY

Once you've considered the options and decided on which method to use there are a few key things that you need to do before actually joining your crochet together.

I promise the whole piece will look so much better for it and you will save time in the long run. I've had to undo seams many times because I thought I could get away without preparing!

BLOCKING

Block all of your motifs before you join your crochet shapes together – this will make sure they are all the same size and keep them from becoming 'wobbly'.

CHECK STITCH COUNTS

Check your stitch counts – make sure you have the same amount of stitches on each motif so they match up nicely.

If you are working along the sides of rows or rounds then lay it's a great idea to place a stitch marker or two along the edge to keep on track.

PLAN BEFORE YOU START

There's nothing worse than starting to join motifs and then realising after a while that you have one (or even a few) facing the wrong way!

Lay everything out before you start, make sure you are happy with the placement of your motifs and check that they are all facing the right way.

Each time you pick up a motif to join just do a quick check to make sure it's still the right way around. I find that holding it away from you at arms length or even putting it down in front of you helps you to 'zoom out' and see if it's right.

VIDEO TUTORIALS

Crochet Seams: https://youtu.be/RJeU4_uZl_k Whip Stitch Seam: <https://youtu.be/lvwpSHJ-Pg0>



TOP TIPS FROM HANNAH

1. Try out a couple of different joining methods and keep them. This will let you see the flexibility of the seam and keep them as reference to look back on.
2. Experiment with colours and have fun! Who said that everything has to match?!
3. Decide on your layout of your motifs before you start and take a photo. I've lost count of the times I haven't done this and then regretted it as I can't remember!

BLOCKING AND MEASURING TOOLS

Blocking your crochet pieces before you join them is essential to getting the very best finish that you can to them.

These are the tools that I use to block mine:

Blocking mats
Blocking pins
Measuring tape
Gauge Measuring Tool

Flat Slip Stitch Seam

STEP BY STEP TUTORIAL

INTRODUCTION

A flat slip stitch seam has to be my favourite crochet joining method, especially for blankets.

As the name suggests it is brilliantly flat and can be worked on either the right or wrong side to create a really different look!

The quick and easy technique uses loops from both sides of your work joined by a slip stitch to create the seam.

You can either use the same colour yarn to blend in or go for a contrast to give a real pop of interest!

STEP BY STEP IMAGES



1. Place your pieces of crochet you want to join in front of you.



2. Put your yarn for joining in between the pieces of crochet ready to start.



3. Insert your hook into the back loop of the first stitch of the first piece of crochet.



4. Insert your hook into the back loop of the first stitch of the second piece of crochet.



5. Keeping the joining yarn behind your work, yarn over hook.



6. Pull through both loops on the hook.



7. Continue along the stitches from steps 3-6.



8. Break your yarn at the end and weave in as usual.



Keep checking your tension and don't let your slip stitches get too tight. Relax your grip on the hook and even go up a size if you feel you need to.

Regular Slip Stitch Seam

STEP BY STEP TUTORIAL



INTRODUCTION

I love the regular slip stitch join because it's such a quick and easy way to join crochet shapes! It adds a little texture to the fabric – but not too much.

That makes it a more subtle option than the single crochet join but more obvious than the flat slip stitch.

It looks great in a contrast yarn colour and depending on whether you choose the right or wrong side can look knitted too!

This type of seam is great for adding a little bit of flexibility and 'give' to a crochet project I find.

STEP BY STEP IMAGES



1. Working with the wrong sides facing each other, line up your motifs. We will be working in the back loop of the first motif and the front loop of the second motif. Attach yarn to the corner, pull up a loop.



2. Insert hook through the back loop of the next stitch in the first motif, and the front loop of the next stitch of the second motif.

Slip stitch.

Repeat this step for each stitch. Try to keep your tension loose while doing these slip stitches so your seam is not too tight.



back loops and front loops

Finding the back loops and front loops of your stitches is super important when working any seams - this is where to find them:



BACK LOOP ONLY



FRONT LOOP ONLY

Single Crochet Seam

STEP BY STEP TUTORIAL



INTRODUCTION

The single crochet join (aka double crochet join in the UK) is a great crochet seam to add texture and make a project more robust.

I often use this method on the right side of my crochet in the same colour as the edges of the motifs.

It adds a really lovely ridge that is great fun! My children love their blankets with this seam as it is really tactile and lovely to play with.

The ridge it creates makes it a little impractical for garments but have a go and see what you think!

STEP BY STEP IMAGES



1. Once you line up your motifs/shapes, you will start at a corner (a ch3 in this example). Insert your hook through both motifs in the last chain in your corner, attach yarn and chain 1.



2. Work a single crochet stitch in the same place.



3. Next you will insert your hook through the back loop of the next stitch on the first motif and the front loop of the second motif and create a Single Crochet.



4. For each stitch, you will insert hook through the back loop of the first motif and front loop of the second motif creating a Single Crochet as shown.



5. Continue until the end of the motif. Then add another motif or break yarn if finished.

top tip!

If you find that your stitches aren't giving you as firm a seam as you'd like then you can try using a smaller hook.

Just be careful not to pull the stitches too tight as this will cause your seam to pucker.

It's also a good idea to make sure that your seams always face the same way so that the texture is consistent.

Whip Stitch Seam

STEP BY STEP TUTORIAL

INTRODUCTION

Learning how to neatly whip stitch crochet together is easily overlooked as an important crochet skill to master.

A whip stitch is a simple sewing technique that you can use to join any fabric together.

It works especially well for crochet and knitting as you have stitches and loops to go through to stay nice and level!

It's great for joining delicate crochet fabrics I think and creates a wonderfully sturdy seam.

STEP BY STEP IMAGES



1. Thread your needle. Find the very first stitch on the piece of crochet furthest away from you and insert your needle through it.



2. Pull your yarn through the first loop and leave a tail to weave in.



3. Insert the needle into the first stitch of the second crochet piece



4. Pull the yarn through the stitch making sure that it is taut.



5. Insert needle into the next stitch on the first piece of crochet.



6. Pull the yarn through to create your next whip stitch.



7. Insert your needle through both pieces of crochet for the next stitch.



8. Pull the yarn through the stitches.



9. Repeat the process until you have joined all the stitches.



Joining Other Shapes

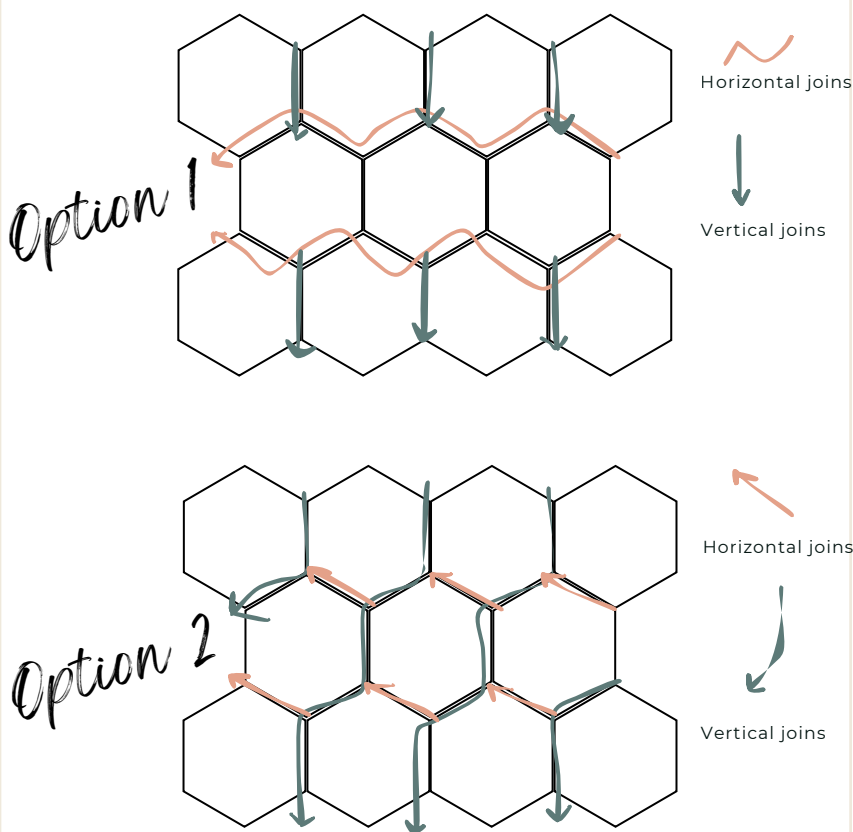
MORE THAN JUST A SQUARE

Figuring out how to join squares or rectangles is one thing but what about shapes that don't follow easy, straight lines to join? How do you go about that?

The simple answer is to lay out your shapes and plan your route before you start!

There are plenty of ways that you can zigzag along a project to join any shape you like - triangles, pentagons and hexagons to name a few.

Let's take some hexagons and plan some routes as an example:



There are no hard and fast rules about which way to work these seams and you might find it depends on the seam that you choose to use.

My top tip for joining any shapes together (but especially ones that don't involve 90 degree corners) is to make sure that all of your seams are facing the same direction.

It will make the world of difference to the finish of the project and look far neater that way.

TOP TIPS FROM HANNAH

- 1 Always make sure to block your shapes before you join them (even if you don't think they need it!).
- 2 Try out a couple of different seams before you commit to one. You might be surprised by how your fabric changes!
- 3 Don't be afraid to experiment with colour. A contrast seam can be incredibly impactful on any project.
- 4 Take your time. You've spent all those hours creating the shapes so don't rush the joining. It's just as important to get right.
- 5 Check and check again. I have joined the wrong motif in the wrong place back to front more times than I can remember! It is worth checking each one as you start and finish.



Troubleshooting and Tips

STITCHES DON'T MATCH UP

If your crochet shape is worked in the round it will mean that you have stitches around all of the edges of your work.

This is amazing when you are seaming them together because if they are all the same then the number of stitches should match up!

However, I've found that it's very easy to get off track so if that happens to you make sure to check:

- did I start in the same stitch for each shape?
- have I missed any stitches along either shapes (this is easy to do where you slip stitch to join)
- have I added stitches in that shouldn't be there?
- have I made my shape wrong in the first place?
- have I gone through the wrong loop and got confused?

If you have large shapes with lots of stitches the I would place stitch markers every 5 or so stitches before you join to make sure you keep on track.

ROW ENDS DON'T LINE UP

What if your crochet shapes have row ends to match up? This can be much trickier than stitches to seam and so using stitch markers to plan it out first is a must!

Pop a marker in every 5 rows to begin with and stop regularly to check it looks good.

As a general rule you need to use 1 stitch for a sc, 1.5 for a hdc, 2 for a dc.

SEAM IS TOO BULKY

If you are finding that your seam is too bulky then it might be that you've not chosen the right one for your project.

I wouldn't abandon right away though, try going down a hook size perhaps to see if that helps (but beware that might make it too tight!).

If it's still too bulky then perhaps try one of the flatter joins like the flat slip stitch seam or whip stitch.

SEAM IS VISIBLE

This might be a good thing! If you want to be able to see your seam then happy days :) Often I love to make a feature of a seam and that works beautifully.

If you can see your seam but you don't want to then perhaps try using it on the wrong side so that it will be hidden, and also make sure you use the same colour yarn as the main piece.

A flat slip stitch seam in a matching colour blends in perfectly.

SEAM IS TOO TIGHT

If you're struggling with the seam being too tight and puckering then it might be the seam you've chosen. If you're working any kind of slip stitch seam then make sure to keep your tension loose and give each stitch the space it needs.

Going up a hook size can help but often I find that just relaxing your shoulders, wrists and hands can make the world of difference!

More About HanJan

I am delighted to have been able to share this guide with you!

Being creative has always been so important to me and being able to do it as a full time career is beyond anything I could have dreamed of.

My mission is to support everyone and anyone in achieving anything they'd like to with crochet through writing, designing and teaching. I'd be honoured if you'd like to join me in my adventures!



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