

Student: _____

This condensed pamphlet is a supplement to help students track their progress over the course of several in-person lessons. It does *not* offer detail on practical techniques.

Lesson 1: One color

Single Crochet

Opposite-handed single crochet

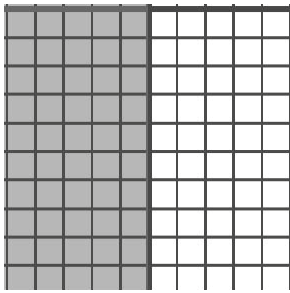
Using both left- and right-handed stitches gives the right side of a piece a very clean look. The backs of stitches tend to expose carried yarn, as you will learn in Lesson 3. To help illustrate this point, consider knitting: to make a piece that has all "Vs" on one side, a knitter must be able to knit one row, then purl the next row when the work is turned. This minimizes texture in a piece, as would alternating right- and left-handed rows.

It is not necessary to be ambidextrous to do lefty stitches with your right hand, nor righty stitches with your left. A trick to help you is always use the hook to "scoop" the yarn up and toward the front of the work.

Lesson 2: Two colors

Add/change colors

Add/change colors with opposite-handed stitch



The chart to the left is for you to practice changing colors. Each square represents one single crochet. Use two colors, one source each, and work from bottom to top. (Extra sources will be explained in Lesson 4.)

For a little extra challenge, do the pattern again from bottom to top, but changing colors in the starting chain. Sometimes all edges of a picture will have different and highly contrasting colors. Being able to chain different colors will help make the starting edge look cleaner.

Lesson 3: Fair Isle, Tapestry, and Intarsia

The next pattern is for you to practice different techniques of carrying string across the back of the work. In Fair Isle crochet, unused string is carried behind the stitches, and only anchored every 2-3 stitches. The string behind the work is called a float. It is a fine technique for work in which the wrong side is not exposed to anything (for example, floss portraits mounted to paper), but for something like a vest or a coaster, use tapestry crochet.

In tapestry crochet, the unused string is worked over, avoiding floats. It will make the fabric stiffer and heavier, but for something that expects to meet with friction and items that could pull on unwanted laces, this is a small price to pay.

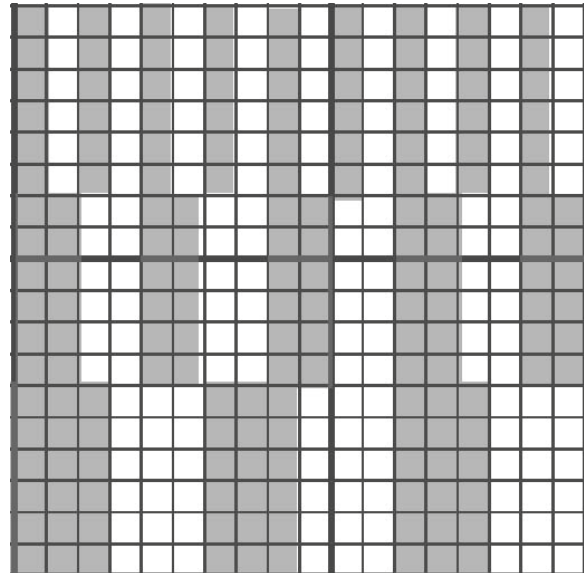
When there are large areas of color, carrying yarn either with Fair Isle or tapestry can be unnecessary work. Intarsia is the method of using different colors without carrying string—and you already used it in Lesson 2.

When working the next practice pattern, you will notice that there will be quite a bit of twisting from so many color changes in a single row. Because you have learned opposite-handed stitches, you can take consolation in the fact that, if the number of changes remains the same in the next row, it will fix itself. If there are too many twists for your comfort, you can carefully rotate the work as you go. However, when your projects get larger, you will need to "weave" the yarn sources instead.

Note from Lesson 2: Generally, changing colors in chains can be reserved for large sections of contrasting color (i.e., preventing a white chain edge on a black patch). Carrying string through chains is possible, though it can be messy. If you have to carry a string in the first row, but the chain already has a carried string, it will be much messier—essentially, you will be carrying 2 strings instead of one. I'll explain more about carrying multiple strings later.

Be aware of the tension of the carried string. If it is too loose, you will end up with laces on the back, or worse, parts of a stitch could eventually loosen into lacy loops. However, if it is too tight, the piece will be uneven and puckered.

A) Use two colors, one source each. Working from bottom to top, in rows 1-12, single crochet over each carried string so there are no laces across the back. For rows 13-18, the "lace" technique (as opposed to intarsia) would not leave unusual lengths of lace. Experiment with both lacing and working over the carried string to see the difference.



It is very important to be able to see ahead—not just to the end of the current row, but to look at what you will need to do for the next row. For example, start on the left side of the pattern and chain Gray (G) from top to bottom, then single crochet bottom to top. You'll add White (W), carry G for 6 st, then change to G. But W has stitches further down in Row 3. You have two options: {1} carry W for 6 st, finish Row 2; or {2} finish Row 2.

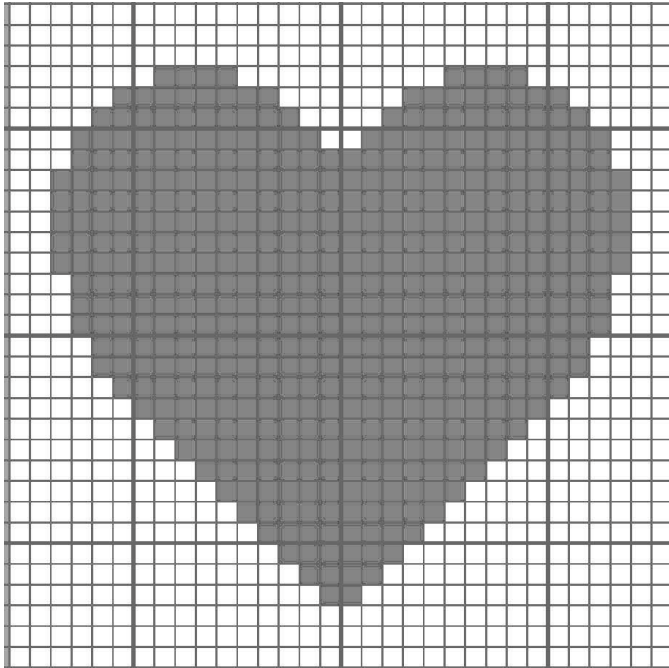
Option 1 leads to: sc G, pick up W, carry G, carry W.

Option 2 leads to: sc G, lace and pick up W, work over laced W and G, carry W.

You should always try to carry as few strings as possible; the more you carry, the less they hide. Option 1 results in fewer strings carried in each stitch. Sometimes you will forget to "carry ahead," and rather than undo an entire row, you might simply choose Option 2. Carrying two strings is not usually too different from one, but in large projects, you might already be carrying three or four when you find out you need to pick up another.

B) Practice the same pattern, but read it from side to side. This will give you practice in carrying over medium distances, and learning how to deal with distance puckering. Long-distance carrying can be a big source of fabric warping, and should generally be solved by adding another source. When that recourse is not practical, knowing how to distance carry will be very useful.

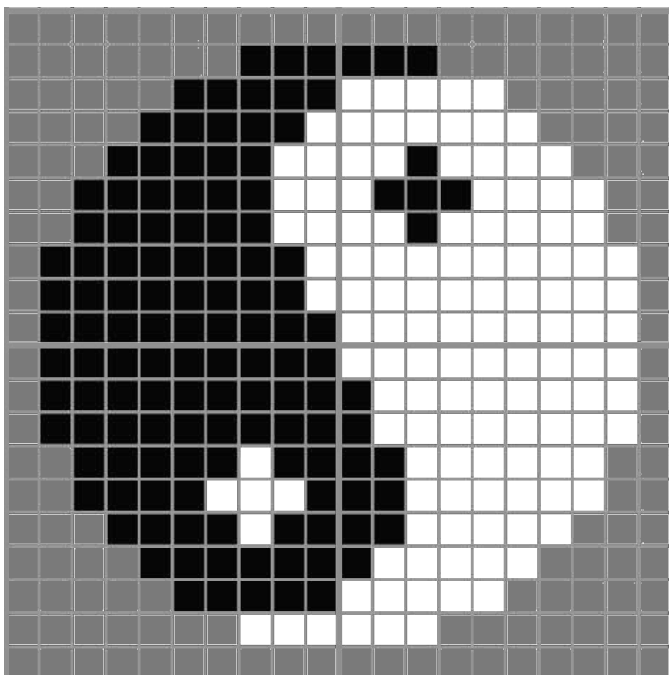
□ Lesson 4: Source count



This is a pattern with only two colors, but which will require you to use 3 different string sources. Hint: you can use both ends of the same skein to make the background.

Choosing to use more sources can help you save on materials, and avoid the hassle of carrying string over excessively long distances. However, in projects with many color changes, it can create the hassle of keeping large numbers of strings in order. As you practice, you will figure out how far you will generally carry string and when you'll make exceptions.

Bonus Pattern: Three colors!



Often, portraits will have tiny patches of color that do not justify monopolizing and maneuvering an entire source. A trick to handle these is to:

- 1) Use the source to work the first row;
- 2) Crochet the number of stitches you will need for future rows;
- 3) Lay the source string along the number of stitches you will need to carry it throughout the patch;
- 4) Leave 3-4 extra inches for tying off;
- 5) Cut the string, and undo the "future" stitches.

This leaves you with a "source" string exactly the length you need, with much less twisting and tangling.