

Discover the Seasons week 0

If you already have participated with the Cal Star Blanket of Mouse you just have to crochet a test patch. Can you already Tunisian crochet but you haven't done anything with entrelac crocheting, take a look at the second part. That is a general explanation of the entrelac method. I wish you good luck with the blanket and questions can always be asked on the Cal-page.

Testpatch

We start with a testpatch! Everyone should definitely do this because otherwise you don't know whether you have the right hook thickness used. What works for me does not mean that it has to work for you. You should try, tighter, not to crochet too tight. Take the time to learn the stitches well!!

You should use a crochet hook that 1 or 3 sizes bigger is than the wool shows.

And then to learn you a few common stitches, the first 4 stitches. Practice these already, because the first week will be a large block. These are also the stitches for the small ones; 10stx10t cubes.

THESE STITCHES ARE NO LONGER EXPLAINED IN THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BLOCKS!!!

Tunisian Simple Stitch (TSS)

The Foundation Row

Create a chain of 15, don't do this too tight. Turn the chain around so that the back is visible.



You see here a loop in the middle of the chain. You start right away in the first chain.



You take this one on the hook YO (yarn over) and pull through. You have now 2 chains on your hook.



Repeat this till the end of the chain. You have 16 stitches on your hook!



Now we start the return pass. YO and pull **through 1 loop**, this is your turning chain. The rest of the stitches will be done as follow. YO and pull **through 2 loops** ! Repeat this until you have just 1 loop on your hook. **This is the foundation row** this is **ALWAYS** the same and **ALWAYS** the beginning of each tunisian crochet.



ROW 2

When you look you see vertical bars. We are going to work with those. ALWAYS skip the first vertical bar. We start with the second vertical bar.



You use the front bar only as shown in the photo.

Insert your hook from right to left under the second bar, YO and pull through the loop. 2 stitches on the hook.



Repeat this till the end. But watch out at the last stitch. To get a nice border the last stitch is different. You pick up 3 threads on your hook.



YO and pull through the loop. 16 stitches on the hook. Now you do the return pass. YO and pull through 1 loop of the hook. YO and pull through 2 stitches of the hook. 1 row exists in a forward pass and a return pass.

Repeat this 5 till 10 rows. If it gets too hard or it gets too tight then you better stop and start all over again.

This is an example that is too tight! I used hooksize 4 as told on the yarnlabel. Your work curls and it feels like wood. This curl doesn't go away if you block.



This is an example of work that is done with a hooksize which is too large. There will be large holes in your work. But it doesn't curl any longer.



This is how my testpatch looks like.



Your work can curl a little bit, this is normal with tunisian crocheting but everything will be fine. A round of single crochet (SC) will solve this.

Make your testpatch as large as you like. But you don't have to crochet yourself a shawl!! Your experience will come as you go! **The most important thing is to find the right hooksize for yourself!!!**

In this Cal all common tunisian single stitches will be shown. With common stitches I mean the single crochet (SC), Triple Crochet etc with the regular crocheting.

In this week you will learn already the 4 common stitches. The TSS have you learned here above and now we go on with the TPS (Tunisian Purl Stitch) and the TKS (Tunisian Knit Stitch) and the TTKS (Tunisian Twisted Knit Stitch)

De Tunisian Purl Stitch (TPS)

The TPS looks very much like a reverse knitting stitch. I don't call it that way because there are more stitches with this technique.

The TPS looks very much like a TSS (Tunisian Simple Stitch) you only work every time with your thread to the front of your work, this is also the biggest trap in your work. That applies only for the forward pass. The return pass works exactly the same as in the TSS. It is a bit laborious, but this is the stitch that is going to be used less in the blanket.

Procedure

Put your thread to the front of your work.



Insert your hook from right to left by the 2nd sc (Single Crochet) with your previous row (as in the TSS).



YO and pull thread through the loop. You have now 2 loops on the hook.



Repeat this for all stitches (put the thread in front, single crochet, YO and pull through the loop). To get to the last stitch, make sure that you include 2 threads instead of 1 (see explanation TSS week 1). The return pass is again the same as by the TSS. Remember at your testpatch that you pull your first thread through 1 loop and then through 2 loops.



Repeat this again 5 to 10 rows, until you get the hang of the stitch.



Watch out, don't pull your thread through 2 loops on the forward pass because then you decrease. Also, remember your thread to pick up to the front AND don't pull your thread too tight. But also don't make it too loose. Because then you get loops on the front side of your work.

Tunisian Knit Stitch = TKS (Tunesische BreiSteek)

This stitch is very simple. The reason that I first did the TPS is because the TKS will appear a lot more and works a lot quicker. The only difference with the TSS is the way how you work with the stitch. Skip the first bar, then you go from front to the back of your work between the front and the bar in the back. **So across the V!!** NOT between 2 stitches!!!!



Finish the tour, don't forget that when you start your return pass that you first pull through 1 loop and then through 2 loops. When you look at your work there will be v-stitches. You need to go through the stitch.



Repeat this several rows so you can see how the pattern develops. When you look close it looks like knitting. The TKS is also a little bit more compact.

TTKS Tunisian Twisted Knit Stitch

This stitch is based on the TKS you only need to insert different from front to back. Follow word for word the description because it is hard to see on the picture!

You pick up the vertical thread with your hook from the front of the needle. You pull this to the right until you see the backside thread. Now you stick front to back through your work. Basically you should go from left to right, diagonally by sticking through the back.



YO and pull thread through. 2 loops on the hook. Repeat this for all the stitches. The return pass starts again with your thread by pulling through 1 loop and then increasingly by 2. Repeat this again a number of rows.

Don't fasten off your thread! Because then you can practice here every new stitch, so that your blanket has no errors.

ENTRELAC CROCHET

This is the basis of the entrelac-crochet. It is worked in the round, but we don't do that. This basis is from my previous Cal the Star Blanket of Mouse.

What matters is that you know how you should tie the square next together. And how you need it between square to crochet.

You start with a chain of 11.

ROW 1

Again turn your chain so that you work at the backside (see testpatch). You are going to start as the testpatch but you **stop wenn you have 7 stitches** on the hook.



Now the method will be different from the testpatch. The 7th stitch will be already your turning chain. The square exists only out 5 stitches and 5 rows. So there will be a piece of chain over. This is for the border of the square.

Now you will do the return pass: YO and pull your thread **as through 2 loops** on the needle. Do this until you have 1 loop on the hook. This again is the foundation row. This is for all stitches ALWAYS the same!!

ROW 2

Make the forward pass. Start with the second bar from right to left, YO and pull through.



Work all the vertical bars, 6 loops on the hook. Now take the next stitch of the chain on the hook.



This is the return pass. YO and pull through the chain, 7 loops on the hook. YO and pull through 2 loops on the hook. Work all loops until you have only 1 on your hook.



ROW 3 + 4 + 5

Repeat row 2.

This is what you should have.



And now the tie-off row. Start with the 2nd vertical bar. Pick it up like you used to, YO and pull through **both loops** on the hook!! **WATCH OUT: MAKE SURE THAT THE STITCHES ARE LOOSE**, this will be the start of a next square. You can prevent this, slide your stitch over the thick part of your hook.



Do this with all vertical bars.



Pick up the last chain on your Hook, YO and pull through both loops on the hook. YO and pull through the last loop on your hook and pull it tight! This is a tie-offknot. It prevents you from getting holes on the corners of the squares.

DON'T CUT THE YARN!!!

Your first square is a fact, only a few to go!



The foundation row

Chain 5 at your square. Turn the chain again so that you work on the backside.



Crochet like the first square. For the 7th stitch you use the stitch of the side of your first square. Insert from **front to back** (stick the hook through the V from the return pass, the square will be closing together prettier). YO and pull thread through the loop (this will be your turning chain).



YO and pull the thread through 2 loops on the hook for the return pass. Repeat this for the following 4 rows.



When you have done 5 rows (=5 vertical bars), you make a tie-off row. Pick up the second vertical bar, YO and pull the thread through the 2 loops. When you reach **the end** you pick up **the first stitch** of the first square, YO and pull through both stitches, YO and pull through and make a tie-offknot and make sure that you fasten the last one .



Chain 5 again. Turn clockwise, so you use the side of first square again. Make this square like the previous square. Watch out that you choose the right stitch of the first square to connect your new square. This must be the same stitch which you picked up for the tie-offknot.

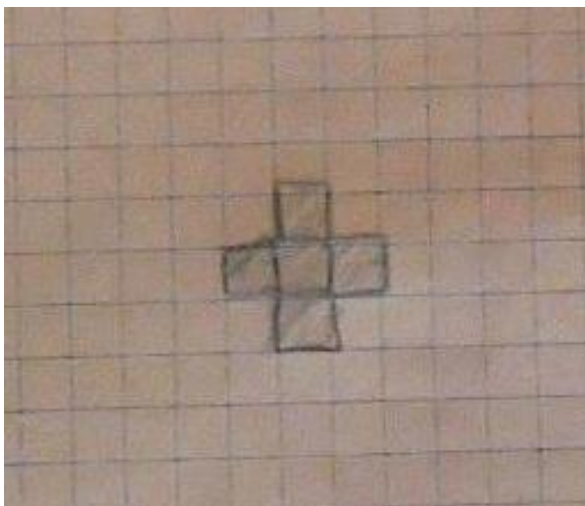


Crochet 5 rows and the last fasten off row. Don't forget to make the tie-offknot on your last stitch. Repeat the above all or square nr. 3 and nr. 4. It will look like a big +. After the 4th square you can cut off the yarn. When you are smart you finish off all your threads right away. Make a double knot in your start- and end thread. Weave the threads in. Now there are only 2 but it will be many more later.



TIP

Take a piece of papers with small squares and draw in the pattern each round. My paper is with squares of a half centimeter. Start in the middle of the paper with drawing.



There are a few things to consider when you do tunish entrelac crochet. To make sure that you work is clean and tide.

TRAPS

Keep counting your stitches! Even I forget to make 1. Or I pull the return pass row through 3 loops instead of 2 loops. If you noticed that this happened, than don't go all the way back. You easily can make that extra stitch.

Also note the number of rows per square Let ook op het aantal toeren per vierkantje, want ook hierin maak je gauw fouten.

Beware that the first stitch is not too large, that also gives holes at the connection of the next square.

TIPS

Sometimes you won't see at once what stitch you need to pick of the side of the square. Count from top to bottom from the square till the 5th stitch and pick that up. It's seems a bit cumbersome but this is faster than froggin' 5 rows because you have the wrong stitch again.

Make sure that you tighten your tie-offknot. If you forget this, it will make big holes on the crossingpoints of the squares, and that is less pretty.

Insert your hook through the V of the return pass and pull this stitch slightly, hereby the connection with the next square will be prettier without large spaces.

Round 2

We start simple with the next round but now with in **color 3**. It doesn't matter where you start, as long as it is on a corner of a square as shown below on the picture!!



Just create the square as you learned the last round. So you chain 5, make the foundation row. Don't forget the tie-offchain because this is gonna be really very important. For the next square you start in the same stitch as you ended with the last square (see blue crochethook).



This is the reason of the tie-offknot, you get here otherwise a large opening. You now will be crocheting the first row of the square, to do this you take the entire V, as with the regular crotchet of SC.

When you reach 6 loops on the hook, you insert your hook from front to the back of the first tour of the square. Look at the blue hook in the picture. Be sure this is the 5th stitch from the top of the square.



Crochet the return pass. Finish the complete square, using the next stitch at the side. Don't forget to make the tie-off knot very tight.



It is possible that it isn't completely straight, but that will be fine. Also a curly tip doesn't matter.