



Yarn Skein Change

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No Knot, No Hiding Ends



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by Sandy Marie

A Yarn Skein Change is needed when one skein runs out and you need to add the next one.

When I started crocheting I didn't know what I'm about to teach you. All I did was tie the next skein on and then kept crocheting. However, this left a little knot in the work, and I had to go back and hide the loose ends. What a pain! I wish I would have known this at the beginning. I didn't learn this until I was in highschool, and I made a small change (that I still use today) when I had children.

There's an easy way to do a Yarn Skein Change, with no knot, and no loose threads to hide at the end.

Imagine you're making a 600 stitch afghan, and in the middle of a row you run out of a skein of yarn. Frustrating! Especially for someone who ties on the next skein. Not only will there be a knot in the center of your work, you'll also have to go back and hide those ends.

Lesson - Yarn Skein Change in the Middle of a Row

I know a lot of crocheters that try to leave the shortest ends possible. The opposite is what you should be doing, even if you don't use this method. If you leave long tail ends, anywhere from 3 - 6 inches (depending on the project, and yarn type), you will have plenty of yarn to thread a needle and weave the ends in until you can't see them anymore. And, if you're making a project that's going to get tugged on, washed a lot, or rung out to dry - the better you hide the ends, the better your finished project is. That's the small change I made from my teacher's instruction. When I had children I started leaving longer tail ends so I could really secure them inside the work. And with this method of yarn skein change, you get rid of the knot as well.



When you're getting close to the end of the skein (and leaving a long tail end) start the next stitch and stop just before you pull the last loop through.



Make a loop of yarn with the beginning of your next skein.



Bring that loop through to finish the stitch.



Now, fold your ends over the work, so they lay on top of the row you're crocheting into, and crochet around them.

**** Note:** *The only time this doesn't work is if you have a few chains between stitches. You can still change skeins this way, but you'll have to hide the ends manually.*



Here you see the two ends inside the stitch.

Stagger where you drop your ends off. For example you could crochet around both for about 10 stitches, drop one end, and crochet around the last end for about another 6 stitches.



When you drop the last thread (I usually crochet another few stitches first), pull the ends tight, one at a time.



Snip it as close to your work as you can. Then straighten out the row. Your snipped end will slip inside the row and be nice and secure.



No ugly knot in your work.
No loose ends to hide later.
The ends have slipped into the work and are pretty much invisible.

Lesson - Yarn Skein Change at the end of a Row

What about at the end of the row? Basically you do the same thing, except your loose ends will fold up and over the next row.



Work the rows last stitch and stop just before you pull the last loop through. Don't forget to leave that long tail end.



Just like before, make a loop with the new skein of yarn and finish the stitch with the new yarn.

Chain the number of stitches the pattern calls for, and turn your work.



Wrap the loose ends over the next row and crochet around them.

Then finish as described above.



Here you see the finished item. It has thread hidden in the middle, and threads hidden at the end.

No ugly knots.
No loose ends (well, except the first and last ones).
The ends have slipped inside the rows and are pretty much invisible.

**** Note:** Using variegated yarn? Pull the yarn out of the skein and get to the same color you ended with. Make sure and account for the extra yarn to make the loose end after the loop. This will make it extra hard for anyone to tell where you did a yarn skein change.

Before I end this lesson I want to tell you what I did with my Children's items, especially one of them. I had one child that used to pull, twist, and tug on their clothing. I would follow the instructions above, but I wouldn't snip the ends. I would thread a needle and hide the end again, one row up or down, going in the opposite direction. Then I'd make a sharp turn back, and one more row away I would hide the end again. Overkill? Maybe so, but the ends never came out of the sweaters or blankets.

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