

Jeannette's Stash-Buster Blankie

This pattern is partly knitted and partly crocheted. It was inspired by looking at a plastic bag with 4 skeins of “ugly” yarn and wondering how it could be “rescued.” It started as a scarf, then became something else as I continued to rescue unwanted yarn. The pattern can be tweaked, changed or morphed into something uniquely yours. To be true to my concept, though, it must involve yarn that nobody else wants.....

Needles: Size 35 (a size nobody knows what to do with)

Hook: Size S-35

(again, an abandoned item, though its bright red color shouts out USE ME!!!)

Yarn: 5 strands of yarn, thick, thin, blingy, worsted, chunky, sport, DK, fingering.....

Cast on 7 stitches. Work in garter stitch until you get tired of doing it. Bind off, leaving the last stitch on the needle.

Switch to the crochet hook. You now have a knitted rectangle with 2 short sides and 2 long sides. Place a marker to indicate this is where a row begins. Now you start crocheting. You can chain 1, then start a round of single crochet stitches. I put my hook through each horizontal on the long sides and through the cast off/bound off stitches on the short sides. When you get to a corner, make 3 single crochet stitches, putting a marker in the middle stitch. On the first round, count across the short sides, making sure you don't have any more than 7 stitches to keep the blankie from lurching out of shape. I did 2 rows of single crochet, then switched to double crochet (you could do half-double crochet) starting at the beginning marker (use a different colored marker from the other 3 end markers). Chain 2 to establish the edge. Crochet across to the next corner, double crochet, chain 1, double crochet, putting your marker in the chain 1 stitch. After 3 rounds or so you'll notice the length is much more than the width in size, so when you come to the end of a short side, start working rows back and forth across a long side. I worked 4 rows, finished off and repeated on the other long side.

Details: 5 strands is a standard. Sometimes you'll use 4, sometimes 6 or 7 depending on the thickness of the yarn. Too much yarn – too difficult to work with – too little yarn – full of holes. When mixing various weights of yarn be sure the resulting work is pliable, not stiff.

Challenges: working with 5 strands can be cumbersome, but remember....you're making something that will be put to good use by someone who is in need. When you come to the end of a yarn, pick up another ball, tie in on with a knot and keep on going. When you have something that looks big enough or when you're sick of doing it, stop at any corner (preferably the end of a row) and finish off as you would any crocheted.

piece. No need to weave in ends. If you still have some yarn to be rescued, maybe an edging , picot or something. Happy knitting/crocheting!!!!

An afterthought: I pick colors that compliment each other. But how about using all that black yarn, or offwhite, or white?