

Russian Grafting Supplies List

This class is a stand-alone techniques class. Russian Grafting is an alternative to mattress stitch for joining knitting pieces together, such as afghan blocks, sweater front and back, underarm seams, etc. I do not recommend this technique for shoulder seams.

Reasons to use Russian Grafting:

1. No sewing, except to tack down the final loop. The technique is done with your knitting needles.
2. No additional yarn required. You pick up stitches and graft them together.
3. The technique is the same for any stitch pattern. We will graft garter stitch, but the technique works the same for stockinette, elongated stitch, lace, colorwork, etc.
4. The technique produces a flatter seam than most seaming techniques. Looks great for afghans or any item where the back is visible.

Skill Level:

Easy. Students should be able to knit, purl, cast on, bind off, and pick up stitches.

Supplies:

Double-pointed needles (same size as you used for your swatches), scissors, locking stitch markers.

Homework:

Two swatches in contrasting colors. Using worsted weight yarn, and needles that will give you a gauge of 4.5 to 5 stitches per inch, cast on 20 stitches. Knit 20 rows (garter stitch). Do not slip the first stitch in each row. Do not bind off. Leave a tail of about 5 inches, and cut or break the yarn. Leave your stitches on your needle or put them on a holder. Make your second swatch exactly the same, but in a contrasting color.