

Knotty Lady YARN S

Blocking Tips!

The idea of blocking can be intimidating to some and second nature to others. The idea behind blocking is to give your item a more finished look. Blocking helps flatten and straighten edges, gently stretch out an item, and even out the stitches. You can over-block an item and easily ruin an item if not blocked correctly. If you are new to the idea of blocking, let me give you a quick run down! First, don't be scared! Secondly, know that not all fiber contents are blocked the same way and certain fibers can be rather temperamental. There are three main blocking methods wet, steam, and spray blocking.

Spray blocking is nice for pickier fibers, such as bamboo, angora, mohair, and silk yarns, or an item that needs a little blocking. Simply pin your project down to mats in the desired shape. Use a spray bottle filled with water to gently dampen the project. Once completely dry, unpin and enjoy!

Steam Blocking is nice for mixed yarns and items that are in need of moderate blocking. Steam blocking will help refresh a project, give it shine and take out any creases. Similar to how you would iron a shirt for an important occasion. The shirt is clean, but needs quick spruce. Steam can be accomplished in two ways. First, a damp towel over the dry project and a quick touch with a hot iron. Secondly, a steamer or iron on the steam setting being held a few inches away from the project and steadily moving the steam. In this method, you want to be sure not to hold the steam too long in one spot.

Fibers that are safe for both steam and wet blocking are cotton, linen, wool blends, alpaca, and cashmere. Deciding between the two methods will vary on the project and the specific fiber content. Don't be afraid to ask your local yarn store for advice on the best method to use!

Wet Blocking is more universally done and it gives a better result on thicker items or items that need to be stretched out a lot. Fill a basin with tepid water and a no-rinse wash and leave for 20 - 30 minutes. Once completely saturated drain water being careful to fully support your project. Don't worry if the water is colored. It is common for certain yarn dyes to bleed the first wash. Gently squeeze the water out by pressing it against the side of the basin, roll in a dry towel, or place in a washer on the SPIN CYCLE ONLY! Lay the item out on blocking mats and start pinning the project down to the desired look.



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See, no need to be scared of blocking! Here are a few blocking tips:

- Don't be afraid to adjust the pins....you won't get the pin placed in the proper spot the first time.
- You can always stretch out the project so start conservatively.
- You can overstretch your stitches!
- Make sure you have plenty of pins.
- For long straight edges consider getting blocking wires...it will save you on pins.
- Multi-prong blockers are AMAZING and help with straight lines!
- Do Not put a pin in a single strand of yarn of a stitch, use the whole stitch.
- Try not to split the yarn with the pin
- Try not to be obsessive over perfecting every pin....walk away!

Below are a few stunning examples of how blocking can make your project shine!

