

Benefits of Crochet

Copyright © 1997-2007 by Sandra Petit of Crochet Cabana
<http://www.crochetcabana.com/> All rights reserved.
Adapted with permission.

What are some benefits one can receive from crochet, you might wonder. Well, Sandra Petit of Crochet Cabana thought of quite a few. If you think of others, let her know. Who knows? Maybe you'll find it listed on <http://www.crochetcabana.com/> next time you visit. :-)

- 1) Crocheting keeps your stress levels down by keeping your hands and heart busy (the love which shows through those hand-made gifts)
- 2) Crochet travels well. Bring those 7" squares and put-together projects with you on long road trip, doctor visits, hospital stay (hope you don't have many of those!)
- 3) Keep expenses down with gifts hand-made with love
- 4) Increase your home library with beautiful crochet books. If I live to be 150 years old, I could never make everything in all the books I have, but I love to just flip through and look at all the beautiful pictures.
- 5) Save for the future - collect crochet hooks. One day they'll be worth more, right? Especially those wonderful wooden hooks!
- 6) Okay a silly one: when you get angry with your spouse or kids, you can throw yarn. It won't hurt but they'll know you're pouting!
- 7) Crochet makes TV watching time seem less frivolous. After all, you're making something useful! AND you can search your favorite shows for crocheted items.
- 8) Crocheting for charity helps others and helps yourself!

Sandra Petit happened upon another site by a very talented 12-year-old named Casey who's been crocheting since she was five. She has a different list for why it's great to be a crocheter. Go visit her web site: <http://www.caseyscrochet.com/>.

~ * ~

With Sandra's permission, the Kitsap Fancy Crocheters Guild of Washington State adapted the following "List of the Things a Crocheter Should Know" into a Self-Assessment Tool. Please read the Elements and check one box for each item listed. We all learn in different ways. Some of us will research and read, or watch videos, or ask for instruction. Sandra's tutorials are an excellent first step. If you learn best by personal instruction, please search for a qualified instructor in your area. Your local Crocheters Guild, yarn shops or crafts stores may be helpful. Above all, have patience. Learning a new skill takes time.

Things a Crocheter should know, understand or learn.

Copyright © 1997-2007 by Sandra Petit of Crochet Cabana

<http://www.crochetcabana.com/> All rights reserved.

Adapted with permission.

No Interest	Want to Learn	Know it!	Crochet Element [Not necessarily in order of importance]
			1. Why crochet is important. Hint: It's not only entertainment, but a valuable, worthwhile craft, useful for ministering to others.
			2. Copyright laws.
			3. Have at least a rudimentary knowledge of the Internet and especially e-mail as you can get answers to your questions easily through forums and message boards and just surfin'.
			4. If you're taking a class, make sure you have all the required materials and show up on time, ready to work.
			5. How to read patterns and understand instructions, preferably both written instructions and symbols - don't get frustrated. This comes in time.
			6. How to make a slip knot and also the adjustable ring start.
			7. Try different ways of holding the hook to find the way that is most comfortable for you.
			8. How to make the foundation chain and be able to count your chains correctly.
			9. How to make the foundation chain AND first row of sc or dc simultaneously.
			10. How to make the basic stitches -- slip stitch, single crochet, double crochet, half double crochet, triple crochet, and double triple crochet ... not necessarily in that order.
			11. How to count stitches and rows.
			12. How to keep even tension.
			13. How to tell the right side from wrong side or front from back.
			14. What it means to work on right side only.
			15. How to turn work, including how many to chain-up for height, whether to count the turning chain as a stitch, and how to crochet into the turning chain.
			16. How to crochet the first stitch of the turning row, instead of using chains.
			17. What is meant by front loop only and back loop only.
			18. What the "post" of your stitch is, and what is meant by front post and back post.
			19. How to increase and decrease stitches at beginning or end of row.
			20. Very important: How to finish off and weave in ends properly with a tapestry needle or crochet hook. See: Exhibit 1.
			21. How to tie a holding knot or use stitch markers when you set-aside your work before you're done. See: Exhibit 2.
			22. Gauge - when it's important and when it's not and what happens if you don't follow it.
			23. How to take proper measurements in order to select pattern sizes and gauges.

~ Self-Assessment Tool ~

No Interest	Want to Learn	Know it!	Crochet Element [Not necessarily in order of importance]
			24. How to enlarge or reduce a pattern by using (a) a different hook, (b) a different weight yarn, and (c) adjusting the number of pattern stitches.
			25. How to read the labels on yarn and have a passing familiarity with the different manufacturers.
			26. How to recognize the different types of yarn, including how to identify dye lots, choose equivalent yarns for a project, and clean or wash the specific fiber.
			27. Know when and how to find the center pull thread of a skein.
			28. Understand colors and how they affect the appearance of your pattern: hues, primaries, secondaries, tertiaries, complements and split complements, shades, tones and tints. For assistance see: http://www.heritageyarns.com/COLORBASICS.htm
			29. Be familiar with hooks made of different materials, sizing of hooks, and how to choose an appropriate hook for your yarn.
			30. Know the general uses of the different weights of crochet thread and the preferred size hook for working with each.
			31. How to filet crochet.
			32. Different methods of joining squares such as whipstitch, single crochet, braid, join-as-you-go.
			33. How to work in the round, including spirals.
			34. How to work into a ring.
			35. How to change colors at the beginning, middle or end of a project worked in rows, and in a project worked in the round.
			36. How to carry colors.
			37. How to work a graph.
			38. What it means to work in a space, skip a stitch, work between stitches, work in same stitch.
			39. How to figure multiples.
			40. How to correct a mistake when necessary and to know when it's okay to leave it in.
			41. Know that a knot in the yarn is not a good thing, even if it is in the manufacturer's yarn skein. Cut it out.
			42. Understand the difference between American and European pattern terms, and know which one your pattern uses.
			43. How to make the basic granny square.
			44. How to create a 7" square.
			45. How to make different shapes besides the granny square such as the triangle, half granny, rectangle granny, hexagon, octagon.
			46. How to do special stitches like picot, popcorn, puff, box stitch, reverse single crochet, V- stitch, X-stitch, post stitches
			47. How to do motif stitches; i.e., brick stitch, butterfly stitch, cables, cross-trebles, herringbone double crochet, moss stitch, shell stitch, star stitch, shell stitches.
			48. How to do advanced stitches; i.e., the bullion stitch
			49. Be acquainted with specialty crochet like broomstick lace, hairpin lace, Tunisian (afghan) stitch, ripple stitch, Irish crochet.

~ Self-Assessment Tool ~

No Interest	Want to Learn	Know it!	Crochet Element [Not necessarily in order of importance]
			50. How to finish your work with a border, fringe, pompoms or other crocheted embellishment.
			51. How to add beads, buttons and other ornaments to your work.
			52. How to create your own free form scrumple, apparel or art pieces.
			53. How to design an item and produce accurate pattern instructions.
			54. How to label and store unused yarn [your stash].
			55. Whether to use project sheets and/or photograph completed items.
			56. Have a list of measurements for different sizes of whatever item you like to make. For example, for afghans you might have measurements for different size beds.
			57. How to store your finished pieces.
			58. Compile a list of national crochet organizations, local crochet clubs, forums, e-mail lists, magazines and other support systems for the crocheter and choose which, if any, fit in with your lifestyle.
			59. Before selling sell your work, understand your targeted market and obtain all necessary permissions from designers.
			60. Know where to go for help when you have a question.
			61. How to promote the art and craft of crochet.
			62. How to teach others to crochet.
			63. How to document your teaching credentials in some way, perhaps by becoming a certified crochet teacher or get a crochet masters certificate.

~ * ~

My Notes and Comments