

Design Resource

Woollen Crochet - Yadgiri, Karnataka

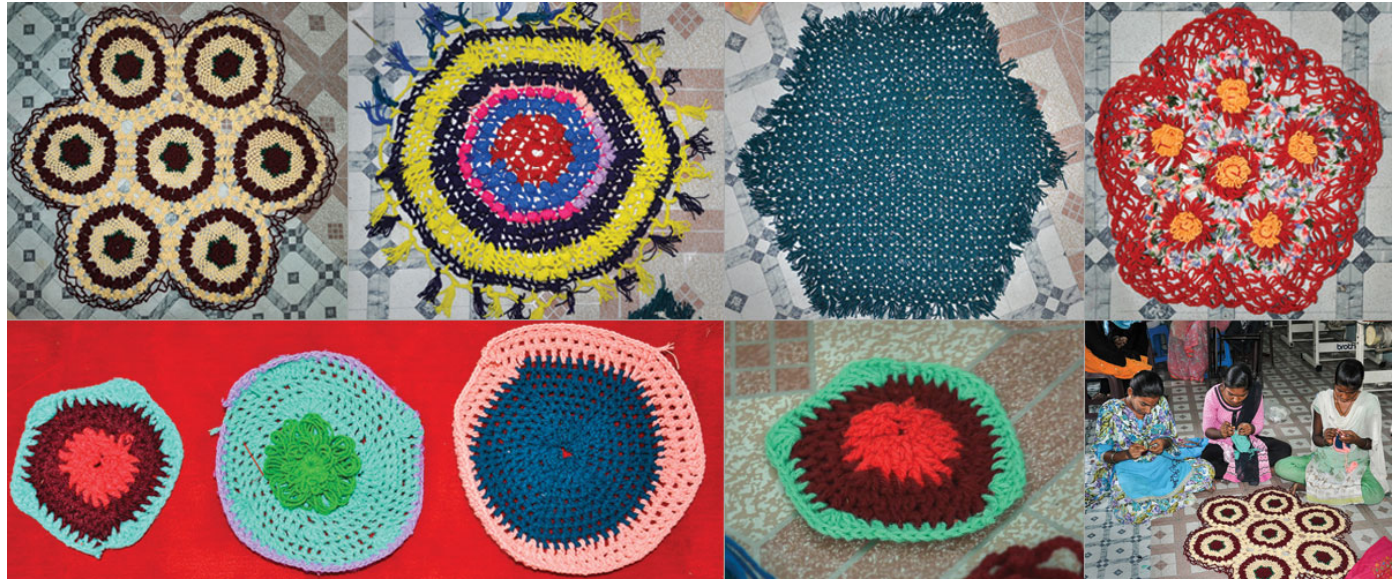
Crafts from Woollen Yarn

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baraland Srikanth B.
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://www.dsource.in/resource/woollen-crochet-yadgiri-karnataka>



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Introduction

Wool is a natural fiber gleaned from sheep and goats, and at some places even from camelids and angora rabbits. It is a filament that thoroughly absorbs moisture and insulates against rough climate. Hence we prefer clothes, blankets, and other things made out of wool cloth, to keep ourselves warm and comfortable. As long as there is grass to graze on the fields, every year sheep will produce a new fleece, making wool a renewable fiber source. It also exhibits a property of extreme flexibility because it can bend 20,000 times without breaking, unlike cotton, silk, or rayon. Ability to absorb upto 30% of its weight in moisture without feeling muggy or sticky, also presents wool's unique nature of soaking up. It also acts as a temperature regulator in cold as well as warm conditions by wicking moisture away from the body. They are fairly resistant to stains and greasy substances too. When exposed to continuous flame, it scorches or gives out smoke, while when the flame is removed, the combustion subsides on its own, making it a good flame repellent. Hence recommended for baby clothing and blankets.

Crochet is a textile product made from a single thread that is inter-looped into a particular pattern using a hook. The name crochet is derived from the French word 'croc' or 'croche', meaning hook. According to Annie Potter, an internationally acclaimed crochet expert, the true examples of crochet art were noted back in 1916 by Walter Edmund Roth during his interaction with Guiana Indians. Researchers also refer to China, South America, and Europe for related traces found in different ages. As per hand art history, a similar kind of art was practiced in 1500 Italy under the name 'nun's lace', a product range for church textiles. Different kinds of materials have been put into use since its origin; like hair, grasses, fiber yarns, jute, plastic stripes, and even metals like copper, gold, and silver wires. All these are crocheted with a wooden, aluminum, or steel hook coming in various sizes. Historically, they were found to be made with animal bones and horns, used mainly for the purpose of hunting, fishing, catching animals, and birds. Later taking shape into a decorative element for religious events, celebrations or funerals. Nowadays they are also used for ornamental accessories to be worn on arms, ankles, and wrists. Hence traders approach artisans with market trends, and Developmental organizations or Self Help Groups try meet the demand. Tirumala Garments Training Center is one such non-profit organization from the district of Yadgiri, Karnataka. It is a training center, employing a large number of women into crochet making, helping them earn a living from the art. While also taking steps to preserve the Portuguese art of crochet and embroidery. The works done here are molded to incorporate modern designs to suit the market trend.

Place: Yadagiri, historically known as Yetagiri, is dotted for its cultural importance evident with the number of monuments and rich history. Its name is derived from its early medieval rulers, 'Yadavas', who ruled from their establishments on a mountain known as 'Giri' in Kannada. The place is adorned with a hill fort, ancient temples, medieval mosques, primeval tanks, and well designs, highlighting the architectural zeal of the place for ages. In the 10th and 12th centuries, the town was one of the important cities of the Western Chalukya Empire. Later it came under the reign of the Bahamanis, the Bijapur Sultanate, and finally, the Nizams of Hyderabad. Two important rivers of south India, River Krishna, and Bhima, travels through the region along with few other tributaries, making it a promised land for agro related occupations. Hence there are famous Agriculture College in the Bheemarayana Gudi area. Yadgiri is also well known for its cement, textile, leather, and chemical industries.

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Trainees named Kausalya, Venkatamma, and Sangeetha, being trained at the Tirumala Garments Training Center.



Trainees working on a Table mat, which takes around an hour to finish.



Individuals engaged in learning new stitching patterns on woollen crochet.



Different sized tablemat knitted with multi-coloured woollen threads.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials used for Woollen Crochet:

- **Wool:** Woollen threads are used for crochet.
- **Crochet Hook:** A crochet hook is used to make loops and form crochet stitches.
- **Scissors:** Scissors are used to cut threads.
- **Measuring Tape:** It is used to measure the length of crocheted work.
- **Large-eye Needle:** It is used to sew or knot crocheted work.



The multi-coloured woollen yarns are used for knitting.

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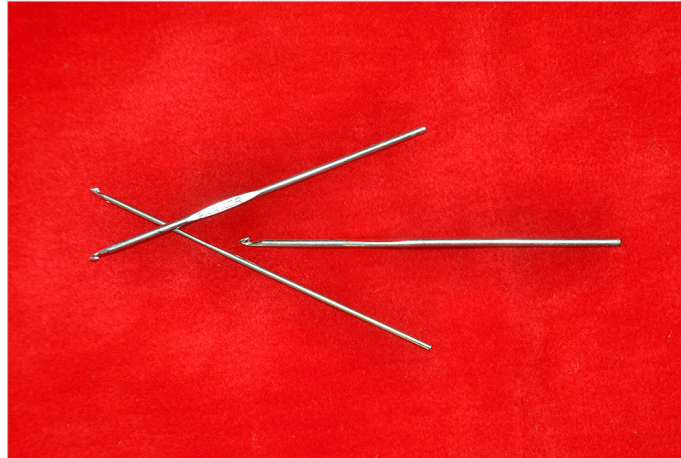
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Crochet hooks used to knit woollen products.



Scissor are used to cut the extra woollen threads.

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Making Process

Crochet is slightly different from knitting. Crochet completes stitches and then proceeds to the next one while knitting has many stitches open at a time. Here geometrical and floral motifs are mostly preferred.

Basic steps for Crocheting is as follows:

- **Gathering the needed materials:** To crochet, a crochet hook, yarn, scissors, and large-eye needle are needed.
- **Holding the crochet hook:** The crochet hook has to be held in the dominant hand. A slipknot has to be created and placed over the end of the hook.
- **Creating stitches:** The slipknot loop is placed on a hook from a single thread and is inter-looped in such a way that a new stitch is made. Here the drawn thread is passed through the previous stitch, to create a chain of stitches until the intended length is attained.
- **Forming a shape:** The chain is either built in rows or joined to the beginning knot of the row to form a sphere or circular shape.

The woollen threads used here are mostly bright colours, used in single colour or contrast mixing. Hooks are selected on the basis of yarn thickness; therefore, the larger the thickness, the bigger the diameter of the hook. Thicker yarns give faster end result than thinner ones, as it marks fewer stitches and hence lesser the time to complete the design. While thinner yarns make beautiful delicate patterns though the process is time-consuming and demands patience.



Artisan using a crochet hook and red colour woollen thread to start knitting woollen table mat.

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Artisan knitting red colour woollen thread in round shape.



After completing the red colour circle, artisan tying brown colour woollen thread.



Artisan trimming the extra woollen thread with a scissor.



Then knitting brown woollen thread over the red thread.

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A final touch to the brown thread shape, making the pattern look bigger.



After brown thread, artisan attaching green woolen thread to continue knitting.



Artisan knitting green woolen thread over the brown woolen thread.



Artisan adding an extra design to make the final round look thicker.

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The final touch to the green circle formed by knitting.



Artisan tying a final knot after knitting the circle.



The extra thread being snipped with a scissor by the artisan.



The completed table mat was displayed on the floor.

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Products

The products made out of woollen crochet designs include sweaters, tablemats, curtains, caps, socks, bags, hand purses, etc. The cost of the items ranges from Rupees 70 to 800, rates varying as per the detailing done and the design used.



A phenomenal crochet tablemat is done in multi-coloured woollen threads.



Single colour woollen table mat, completed in a simple design.



A star-shaped table mat depicting flowers floating on water.

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A hexagon-shaped tablemat adorned with woollen roses.

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Video



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Contact Details

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