

## ***HOW TO BLOCK YOUR KNITS*** ***With Patty Lyons***

### **It's Not Finished until it's Blocked!**

Blocking is an important step to making your project look perfect. It serves many purposes:

- "Kills the stitch"
- Makes stitches even and perfect
- Sets the size of pieces
- Sets straight lines or curves to the sides of pieces
- Molds cables or textured stitches
- Creates pieces that are ready to seam

### **Blocking Tips:**

- Experiment with blocking techniques on a swatch
- Block right side up
- Weave in your ends before blocking
- Block pieces BEFORE seaming (you can still steam out seams after seaming)
- Use wires to straighten edges
- Gently stretch ribbing to "resting" measurement
- Gently mold cables & textured stitches
- Use flexible blocking wires for curved edges or to create shaping
- Don't block highly textured or novelty yarn
- Don't Wilt fuzzy yarns with steam (Mohair, Angora)
- Don't remove pins & wires before your knitting is dry
- NEVER press iron to knitting
- NEVER Wring out your knitting.

### **Blocking Methods:**

- Wet blocking (soaking your piece)
- Steam blocking (using a steamer or iron on dry or damp piece)
- Spray blocking (using a spray bottle)

### **Tools for Blocking:**

- T-pins
- Blocking board
- Blocking wires
- Thin crochet cotton or thread (instead of wires)
- Blocking cloth
- Tape measure
- Pattern schematic
- Steam producing iron or steamer
- Spray bottle
- Large sink or wash basin

### **Other tools:**

- Woolly Board (for blocking sweaters knit in the round)
- Blocking Frame (for blocking lace – HARD to find)
- Objects around your house – plates, bowls etc. (unusual shapes)
- To block out seams after finishing:
  - Tailor's Ham
  - Seaming Roll

### **How to Choose Your Blocking Method:**

- Fiber Content
- Stitch Pattern
- What you need out of blocking (add more length, even out stitches etc.)
- Dyeing method (color fast or not)

## **Wet Blocking**

Wet blocking should not be used on fibers that can stretch out easily. Water is very heavy !

Wet blocking is good if you need to add length to bodies or sleeves. Good for:

Acrylic

Wool

Linen

Cotton / Acrylic blend (must be a 50/50 blend to not stretch out)

## **Dry Blocking w/steam**

Dry blocking uses the heat and steam of an iron to shape the knitting. You'll need an iron with a good steam output

- Use steam to loosen up stitches on:

Wool & wool blends

Cotton

## **Spray bottle blocking**

This is the gentlest form of blocking. This method is good for fibers that are weakened or stretched out by water (Alpaca, Merino, Cotton) fuzzy fibers that can wilt by steam (Angora, Mohair), delicate fibers (Cashmere, Silk)

Spray blocking good for:

Alpaca

Angora

Cashmere

Superwash merino

Mohair

Silk

## Blocking Unusual Shapes

- Use curved blocking wires to assist any edge that is not straight - Use straight wires to run through side stitches of a piece so you can use minimal pins
- Block tams and berets over small plates or wide soup bowls
- A small beach ball is a great blocking tool for hats
- You can stuff rags or paper into plastic bags and use them to fill out any shape (bags, mittens etc.)
- Use Wooly board for sweaters knit in the round

## Blocking Lace

- Use thread or wire to pull out lace points.

1. Put thread on tapestry needle, pull through points and pull out an extra loop of thread and double back into point and move to next point
2. Continue around the entire piece, if it's round, cut thread and tie it in a loop
3. If it's a square or rectangle, do it on each
4. - Work piece out from center pulling out opposite sides in quarters, pulling out the loops of thread on each point and pin them out

## Contact Patty Lyons:

**Please stay in touch and let me know how your work is going Don't hesitate to ask me questions:**

Website: <http://pattylyons.com/>

e-mail: [brooklynknitchick@earthlink.net](mailto:brooklynknitchick@earthlink.net)

Facebook:

Name: Patty Lyons

<https://www.facebook.com/pattyjlyons>

Ravelry:

Name: PattyLyons

<http://www.ravelry.com/people/PattyLyons>

Twitter

Name: Patty\_Lyons

[https://twitter.com/Patty\\_Lyons](https://twitter.com/Patty_Lyons)

Instagram

Name: pattyjlyons

<http://instagram.com/pattyjlyons>