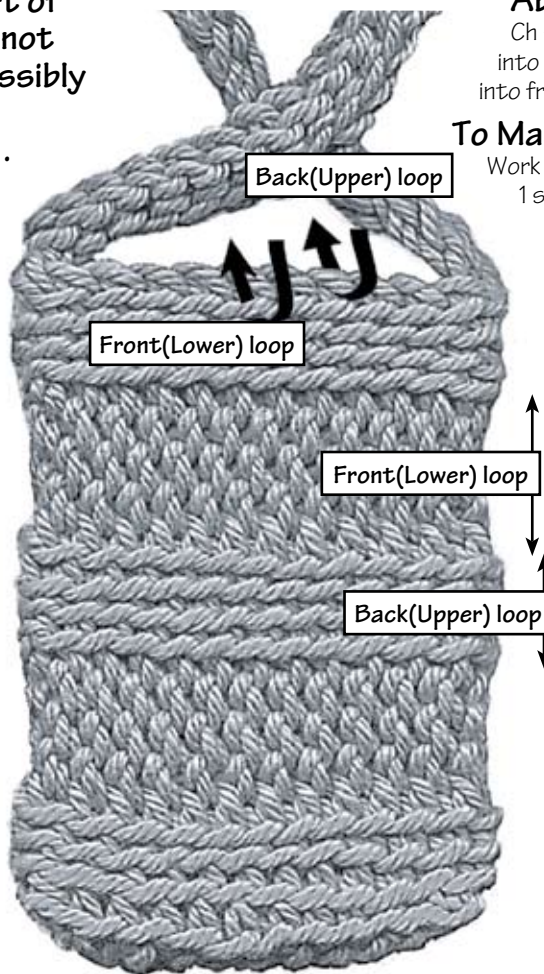


13: 'Bosnian' Crochet - Neckpurse

'Bosnian' Crochet - actually part of the wider Islamic tradition and not confined to Bosnia alone - is possibly the earliest and globally most widespread form of the craft ...

... It is also the simplest, consisting, apart from chains, of slip stitch only! To make a slip stitch, insert the hook into a chain or slip stitch, wrap the yarn around it and draw a new loop through both the stitch and the loop on the hook in a single movement. The interest comes from exactly how/where the hook is inserted: the two basic options being from front to back and under either the back (upper) or the front (lower) loop. Picking up the back (upper) loop leaves the lower (front) loop of the stitch you are going into visible on the surface as a horizontal ridge; picking up the lower (front) loop exposes the body of the stitch and creates a smoother, but gritty texture (see picture).

Unaccountably Slip Stitch as a fabric-making technique has so far been largely ignored in the Western crochet tradition, although it offers us, with our highly textured and imaginatively coloured modern yarns, new and exciting opportunities and challenges. Working with Slip Stitch puts us, intriguingly, in closer touch with our forefathers, giving us insight into a subtle level of mental and manipulative skill, which we, in our race towards ever more technology, seem to be allowing to slip



Abbreviations/Symbols

Ch - chain; ss - slip stitch; ss/BU - slip stitch into back(upper) loop only; ss/FL - slip stitch into front (lower) loop only

To Make Neckpurse

Work 13 ch. **Row 1 - right side:** Miss 1 ch, work 1 ss/BU into each ch to end, then rotate the work 180° so that the underside of the same base chain is uppermost and continue along this with 1 ss/BU into each ch - 24 sts in Round. Do not turn, but cont working in spiral on these sts with 1 ss into each st as indicated. **Note:** Check that the original 'right side' remains outside as the fabric grows and that you have *really* completed each round by laying the fabric flat and noting that you are in line with the side seam.
Next 4 Rounds: ss/BU
Next 4 Rounds: ss/FL
Next 4 Rounds: ss/BU
Next 4 Rounds: ss/FL
Next 3 Rounds: ss/BU
 Do not fasten off but make a **Neck Cord** thus: work 100 ch (or as required for length of Neck Cord), ss into top of Purse at opposite side. Turn and work 1 ss/BU into each ch of Neck Cord, ss into top of Purse at top of side seam. Turn again and work 1 ss/BU into each ch along underside of same chain, ending ss into top of Purse on opposite side. Fasten off. Insert credit card into Neckpurse, pop Neck Cord over head, speed to your favourite Retail Therapy Centre and prepare to "shop 'til you drop!"

Counting Rounds of Slip Stitch

Every stitch you work (ss/BU or ss/FL) leaves two horizontal loops in view, but, depending upon what you do next time around, one or both of these loops will apparently disappear at the same time as two new horizontal loops are laid over them. After the first 5 rounds of ss/BU in this pattern, for instance, there are 6 rounds of horizontal loops to view, but after the next round, when you switch to ss/FL, these have dwindled to 4 rounds! If you compare your work with the picture, innocently assuming you have done enough rounds of ss/BU when you can see 4 rounds of horizontal loops, you will find they have apparently been reduced to only 2 rounds as soon as you switch to ss/FL!

By the same token, if you switch to ss/BU following some rounds of ss/FL, after only 1 round you will already be able to see 3 rounds of horizontal loops!

Slip Stitch Variations

Switch colours ... but notice that, if you're following a charted design, you always need to switch **one stitch in advance of where you would expect!** - can you work out why?

In SS it's just as easy to work from left to right as from right to left [Try it!] ... it is not obvious whether righthanded people should necessarily choose to work from right to left, as they have to do for any other crochet stitch, except Corded Double Crochet (also known as Crab or Shrimp Stitch) even when working in the round! When you are working 'to and fro', this enables you to keep nearly the same surface texture on the 'right' side without having to fasten off and rejoin every row. SS can also be worked in the 'purl' manner, ie by inserting the hook from behind and drawing the new loop through from front to back